

Preview Tennis 2018 US Open - Men

Nadal for the first US Open title defence in 10 years

- Rafael Nadal has won 17 Grand Slam singles titles of which three at the US Open - 2010, 2013 and 2017. Only Roger Federer has won more Majors among men (20).
- The last player to win back-to-back US Open men's singles titles was Federer who won a record five in a row from 2004 to 2008.
- Nadal has only been able to defend a Grand Slam title at the French Open. He won four in a row from 2005 to 2008, five successively from 2010 to 2014, and back-to-back in 2017 and 2018.
- Four male players have won the US Open singles title at least four times in the Open Era. Federer, Pete Sampras and Jimmy Connors share the record of five, while John McEnroe won it four times.
- Nadal could win multiple Grand Slam singles titles in a calendar year for the fifth time, after 2008, 2010, 2013 and 2017.
- Only Federer (30) has reached more Grand Slam men's singles finals in the Open Era than Nadal (24).
- Nadal (3) is one of four male players in the Open Era to win at least three Grand Slams after turning 30, after Federer, Rod Laver and Ken Rosewall (all 4).
- Nadal could reach the quarterfinals at all four Grand Slams in a year for the first time since 2011. This year, he reached the Australian Open quarterfinals, won the French Open and made it into the Wimbledon semifinals.

Djokovic hoping to equal Sampras

- At Wimbledon, Novak Djokovic won his 13th Grand Slam singles title, surpassing Roy Emerson (12) in fourth place all-time among men.
- Djokovic could now equal Pete Sampras (14) in third place on the men's all-time list, behind Roger Federer (20) and Rafael Nadal (17).
- The last time Djokovic won back-to-back Grand Slam singles titles was at the 2016 French Open, where he won a fourth Major in a row.
- Djokovic also won successive Major titles from 2011 to 2012, when he won Wimbledon, the US Open and the Australian Open consecutively.
- Djokovic has played the US Open singles final on seven occasions, winning twice (2011, 2015) and losing five times. In the Open Era, only Sampras and Ivan Lendl (both 8) have reached the US Open men's singles final more often.
- Lendl and Djokovic share the men's Open Era record for most lost US Open singles finals - five each. All-time, only Bill Johnston (6) finished as US Open runner-up more often.
- Djokovic has reached the US Open final in six of the last eight years (2010-2017). He lost to Kei Nishikori in the 2014 semifinals and did not participate in 2017 due to injury.
- Djokovic was a semifinalist at the US Open in each of his last 10 appearances, from 2007 to 2016. In 2006, he lost to Lleyton Hewitt in the third round.

Federer hopes to continue defying his age

- Roger Federer has won an all-time record 20 Grand Slam men's singles titles, three more than the next most prolific male player, Rafael Nadal.
- Federer's five US Open singles titles are a joint-record among men in the Open Era, alongside Jimmy Connors and Pete Sampras. Federer won his five titles in successive years, from 2004 to 2008.
- William Larned, Richard Sears and Bill Tilden all won more than five US Open titles before the start of the Open Era - seven each.
- Federer's first US Open win came 14 years ago in 2004. At the moment, the men's Open Era record of years between first and last US Open title belongs to Sampras (12, 1990-2002).

- Apart from his five wins, Federer also finished runner-up at two US Open tournaments (2009, 2015). In the Open Era, only Sampras and Ivan Lendl (both 8) have reached the US Open men's singles final more often.
- Federer will be 37 years and 32 days old on the day of the final. The Open Era record for oldest US Open men's singles winner is held by Ken Rosewall who won in 1970 at the age of 35 years and 285 days.
- Rosewall is also the only male player aged 37 or older to win a Grand Slam men's singles title in the Open Era as he won the 1972 Australian Open at 37 years and 67 days.
- Federer can become the first man to win five Grand Slam singles titles in the Open Era after turning 30. He now shares the record of four with Rod Laver and Rosewall.
- Federer has won three of the last five Majors he participated in, as many as in his 28 Grand Slam appearances prior to this run.
- The Swiss has won 98 men's singles titles in total, second-most in the Open Era behind Jimmy Connors (109).

Miscellaneous

- Andy Murray has not appeared in a Grand Slam since the 2017 Wimbledon tournament, where he was ousted in the quarterfinals by Sam Querrey.
- Murray has won three Grand Slam titles, the 2012 US Open and Wimbledon in 2013 and 2016.
- Murray is looking to reach his first semifinal at the US Open since his 2012 winning campaign. He was ousted in the quarterfinals in 2013, 2014 and 2016, and in the fourth round in 2015.
- Seven active male players have previously won the US Open singles title. Apart from the 'Big Four', Juan Martín del Potro (2009), Marin Cilic (2014) and Stan Wawrinka (2016) won at Flushing Meadows.
- At the age of 29, Cilic is currently the youngest active player with a men's Grand Slam singles title under his belt. Del Potro is only five days older than Cilic.
- The last US player to win a Grand Slam men's singles title was Andy Roddick at the 2003 US Open.
- Roddick is also the last US male player to reach the US Open singles final. He finished runner-up to Roger Federer in 2006.
- Six different players played in the three Grand Slam men's singles finals this year. On only three occasions in the Open Era, there were eight different Grand Slam men's finalists in one calendar year - in 1998, 2001 and 2002.
- The last male player to reach back-to-back Grand Slam singles finals was Rafael Nadal, at the Australian and French Open in 2017.
- Federer (Australian Open), Nadal (French Open) and Novak Djokovic (Wimbledon) won the first three Grand Slams of this year. In only two of the previous 14 seasons, from 2004 to 2017, four different male players won a Grand Slam - in 2012 and 2014.