



5 November 2018

DJOKOVIC COMPLETES REMARKABLE RETURN TO NO. 1

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, FLORIDA — Serbia's Novak Djokovic today returned to the top of the ATP Rankings for a fourth stint at the pinnacle of men's professional tennis. Almost two years to the day since Djokovic completed his 223rd and most recent week at No. 1, he replaces Spain's Rafael Nadal in the top spot.

Djokovic is the first player to be ranked outside the Top 20 then climb to No. 1 in the same season since Marat Safin in 2000. Safin was as low at No. 38 on 28 February 2000 before becoming No. 1 on 20 November that year. When Djokovic fell to No. 22 on 21 May 2018, it was his lowest ranking since he was No. 22 as a 19-year-old on 2 October 2006.

"Reflecting on what I've been through in the last year, it's quite a phenomenal achievement," said Djokovic. "And, of course, I'm very, very happy and proud about it. Five months ago, if you told me that, I would be — I always believe in myself, but it was highly improbable at that time considering my ranking and the way I played and felt on the court... I'll probably be able to speak more profoundly about it when the season is done and hopefully if I get to finish as No. 1."



Djokovic first ascended to No. 1 in the ATP Rankings aged 24 on 4 July 2011 for a total of 53 weeks until 8 July 2012. The Serbian returned to top spot on two further occasions between 5 November 2012 and 6 October 2013 (48 weeks) and from 7 July 2014 to 6 November 2016 (122 weeks).

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Chris Kermode, ATP Executive Chairman and President, said, “What Novak has achieved this season has to go down as one of the great sporting comebacks. It’s been a phenomenal return to form that would have been hard to imagine just six months ago. He fully deserves his return to No.1 in the ATP Rankings and should be incredibly proud of his exceptional season.”

Djokovic underwent surgery on his right elbow in January after the Australian Open, which was his first tournament in six months. He reunited with long-time coach Marian Vajda at the Rolex Monte-Carlo Masters in April and entered the Internazionali BNL d’Italia in May with a 6-6 record. Djokovic has since compiled a 43-5 match record, including a 31-2 mark since the start of Wimbledon.

The 31-year-old won two Grand Slam championship crowns at Wimbledon (d. Anderson) — which represented his first major title since June 2016 at Roland Garros — and at the US Open (d. Del Potro) for the third time in the same season (also 2011 and 2015). As the World No. 21 at Wimbledon, he was the lowest-ranked major champion since No. 44-ranked Gaston Gaudio at 2004 Roland Garros. He defeated Nadal 10-8 in the fifth set of their Wimbledon semi-final, which lasted five hours and 15 minutes.

By beating Roger Federer in August at the Western & Southern Open in Cincinnati, Djokovic became the first player to win titles at all nine ATP World Tour Masters 1000 events since the start of the tournament series in 1990. He captured his fourth Rolex Shanghai Masters title (d. Coric) last month and additionally finished runner-up at the Fever Tree Championships at The Queen’s Club (l. to Cilic) in June and at the Rolex Paris Masters (l. to Khachanov) last week.

MOST WEEKS AT NO. 1 IN ATP RANKINGS (since 1973)

A list of the total number of weeks each player has spent at No. 1 in the history of the ATP Rankings (since 1973):

Player	Total Weeks At No. 1
Roger Federer (SUI)	310
Pete Sampras (USA)	286
Ivan Lendl (CZE/USA)	270
Jimmy Connors (USA)	268
Novak Djokovic (SRB)	224 (as of 5 November 2018)
Rafael Nadal (ESP)	196
John McEnroe (USA)	170
Bjorn Borg (SWE)	109
Andre Agassi (USA)	101
Lleyton Hewitt (AUS)	80
Stefan Edberg (SWE)	72
Jim Courier (USA)	58
Gustavo Kuerten (BRA)	43
Andy Murray (GBR)	41
Ilie Nastase (ROU)	40
Mats Wilander (SWE)	20
Andy Roddick (USA)	13
Boris Becker (GER)	12
Marat Safin (RUS)	9
Juan Carlos Ferrero (ESP)	8
John Newcombe (AUS)	8
Yevgeny Kafelnikov (RUS)	6

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Thomas Muster (AUT)	6
Marcelo Rios (CHI)	6
Carlos Moya (ESP)	2
Patrick Rafter (AUS)	1

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About the ATP

The ATP is the governing body of the men's professional tennis circuits - the ATP World Tour, the ATP Challenger Tour and the ATP Champions Tour. With 64 tournaments in 31 countries, the ATP World Tour showcases the finest male athletes competing in the world's most exciting venues. From Australia to Europe and the Americas to Asia, the stars of the 2018 ATP World Tour will battle for prestigious titles and ATP Rankings points at ATP World Tour Masters 1000, 500 and 250 events, as well as Grand Slams (non ATP events). At the end of the season only the world's top 8 qualified singles players and doubles teams will qualify to compete for the last title of the season at the Nitto ATP Finals. Held at The O2 in London, the event will officially crown the 2018 ATP World Tour No. 1. For more information, please visit www.ATPWorldTour.com.

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