

Serena Williams

Serena Jameka Williams (born September 26, 1981)^[1] is an American professional tennis player and former world No. 1. She has won 23 major singles titles, most by any man or woman in the Open Era. The Women's Tennis Association (WTA) ranked her world No. 1 in singles on eight separate occasions between 2002 and 2017. She reached the No. 1 ranking for the first time on July 8, 2002. On her sixth occasion, she held the ranking for 186 consecutive weeks, tying the record set by *Steffi Graf*. In total, she has been No. 1 for 319 weeks, which ranks *third in the Open Era* among female players behind Graf and *Martina Navratilova*.

Williams holds the most *Grand Slam* titles in singles, doubles, and mixed doubles combined among active players. Her 39 Grand Slam titles put her joint-third on the all-time list and second in the Open Era: 23 in singles, 14 in women's doubles, and two in mixed doubles. She is the most recent female player to have held all four Grand Slam singles titles simultaneously (2002–03 and 2014–15) and the third player to achieve this twice, after *Rod Laver* and Graf. She is also the most recent player to have won a Grand Slam title on each surface (hard, clay and grass) in one calendar year (2015). She is also, together with her older sister *Venus*, the most recent player to have held all four Grand Slam women's doubles titles simultaneously (2009–10).

Williams has won an all-time record of 13 Grand Slam singles titles on hard court. Williams holds the Open Era record for most titles won at the *Australian Open* (7) and shares the Open Era record for most titles won at the *US Open* with *Chris Evert* (6). She also holds the all-time record for the most women's singles matches won at majors with 349 matches.

Williams has won 14 Grand Slam doubles titles, all with her sister Venus, and the pair are unbeaten in Grand Slam doubles finals.^[4] As a team, she and Venus have the third most women's doubles Grand Slam titles, behind the 18 titles of *Natasha Zvereva* (14 with *Gigi Fernández*) and the record 20 titles won by *Martina Navratilova* and *Pam Shriver*. Williams is also a five-time winner of the *WTA Tour Championships* in the singles division.^[5] She has also won four *Olympic gold medals*, one in women's singles and three in women's doubles—an all-time record shared with her sister, Venus.^[6] The arrival of the *Williams sisters* has been credited with ushering in a new era of power and athleticism on the women's professional tennis tour.^{[7][8][9][10]} She is ranked at No. 9 in the world by the WTA as of September 9, 2019.^[11]

Earning almost \$29 million in prize money and endorsements, Williams was the highest paid female athlete in 2016.^[12] She repeated this feat in 2017 when she was the only woman on *Forbes'* list of the 100 highest paid athletes with \$27 million in prize money and endorsements. She has won the 'Laureus Sportswoman of the Year' award four times (2003, 2010, 2016, 2018), and in December 2015, she was named *Sportsperson of the Year* by *Sports Illustrated* magazine.^[13] In 2019, she was ranked 63rd in *Forbes'* World's Highest-Paid Athletes list.^[14]

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Early life

Williams was born in *Saginaw, Michigan*, to *Oracene Price* and *Richard Williams*, and is the youngest of Price's five daughters: half-sisters *Yetunde*, *Lyndrea*, and *Isha Price*, and full older sister *Venus*.^[1] She also has at least seven paternal half-siblings.^{[15][16]} When the children were young, the family moved to *Compton, California*, where Williams started playing tennis at the age of four.^{[17][18]} Her father home schooled Serena and her sister, Venus.^{[19][20]} While he and subsequently her mother have been the official coaches, other mentors who helped her learn the game included *Richard Williams*, a Compton man who shared her father's name and would go on to found *The Venus and Serena Williams Tennis/Tutorial Academy*.^[21]

When Williams was nine, she and her family moved from Compton to *West Palm Beach, Florida*,^[17] so that she could attend the tennis academy of *Rick Macci*; Macci began to provide additional coaching. Macci did not always agree with Williams's father, but respected that "he treated his daughters like kids, allowed them to be little girls".^[22] Richard stopped sending his daughters to national junior tennis tournaments when Williams was 10, since he wanted them to go slowly and to focus on school work. Experiences of racism also drove this experience, as Richard Williams had heard white parents talk about the Williams sisters in a derogatory manner during tournaments.^[23] At that time, Williams had a 46–3 record on the *United States Tennis Association* junior tour and was ranked number one among under-10 players in Florida.^[24] In 1995, when Williams was in

Serena Williams



Williams at the 2013 US Open

Full name	Serena Jameka Williams
Country (sports)	 United States
Residence	Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, U.S. ^[1]
Born	September 26, 1981 <div>Saginaw, Michigan, U.S.</div>
Height	5 ft 9 in (175 cm) ^[1]
Turned pro	October 1995
Plays	Right-handed (two-handed backhand)
Coach	Richard Williams (1994–) Oracene Price Patrick Mouratoglou (2012–) ^[2]
Prize money	US\$92,543,816 ^[3] <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">1st in all-time rankings (female)</div>
Official website	www.serenawilliams.com (https://www.serenawilliams.com)
	Singles
Career record	826–142 (85.3%)
Career titles	72 WTA (5th in overall rankings), 0 ITF
Highest ranking	No. 1 (July 8, 2002)
Current ranking	No. 9 (September 9, 2019)
	Grand Slam Singles results
Australian Open	W (2003, 2005,

the ninth grade, her father pulled his daughters out of Macci's academy and, from then on, took over all coaching at their home. When asked in 2000 whether having followed the normal path of playing regularly on the junior circuit would have been beneficial, Williams responded: "Everyone does different things. I think for Venus and I, we just attempted a different road, and it worked for us."^[24]

Playing style

Williams is primarily a **baseline player**, and her game is built around taking immediate control of rallies with her powerful and consistent serve,^[25] return of serve, and forceful **groundstrokes** from both her **forehand** and **backhand** swings. Williams's forehand is considered to be among the most powerful shots in the women's game,^[26] as is her double-handed backhand. Williams strikes her backhand groundstroke using an open stance, and uses the same open stance for her forehand. Williams's aggressive play, a "high risk" style, is balanced in part by her serve, which most say is the greatest in women's tennis history.^{[27][28][29]} She consistently projects great pace and placement with her serves; in the 2013 Australian Open, she had a peak serve speed of 128.6 mph (207.0 km/h) which is the third fastest all-time among female players (only **Venus's** 129 mph^[30] and **Sabine Lisicki's** 131 mph^[31] recorded speeds are faster). What makes her serve even more deadly is her ball placement and her ability to consistently place powerful shots with great accuracy.^[32] At the 2012 Championships at Wimbledon, she hit a women's tournament record of 102 aces, which was more than any of the men hit during the two weeks, a rarity given that aces are more common in the men's game.^[33] Williams also possesses a very solid and powerful overhead. Although many think of Williams as only an offensive player, she also plays a strong defensive game.^{[34][35][36]} She has stated that her favorite surface is clay because it gives her extra time to set up her shots.^[37]

Williams is known for producing exceptional comebacks, particularly on the Grand Slam level. She has won three Grand Slam singles titles after saving match points (the 2003 Australian Open semifinal versus **Kim Clijsters**, the 2005 Australian Open semifinal versus **Maria Sharapova**, and the 2009 Wimbledon semifinal versus **Elena Dementieva**), a feat achieved more often than any other player in history.^[38] She also came back from a 3–5 deficit in the third set against **Kim Clijsters** in the 1999 US Open en route to her first Grand Slam singles title.^[39] In the **2012 US Open** final against **Victoria Azarenka**, she was down 3–5 in the third set and found herself two points away from losing the match. Williams then proceeded to win the next 4 games and defeated Azarenka.^[40] In the semifinals of the **2015 French Open**, Williams was ill and barely able to walk during changeovers, yet beat her opponent, **Tímea Bacszinszky**, 6–0 in the third set.^[41] Another improbable win occurred in the third round of the **2015 Wimbledon Championships**, when she recovered from two breaks of service in the third set to defeat Great Britain's number-one female player, **Heather Watson**.^[42] Williams has bounced back from a set down to win in 37 Grand Slam matches.^[43]

In recent years, Williams has shown an ability to serve aces at critical moments. One of these instances was the **2013 French Open** final, where in the last game of the match, she fired three aces, including one which clocked at 123 mph (198 km/h) on match point.^{[44][45]} She repeated the feat similarly against **Angelique Kerber** in the finals of the **2016 Wimbledon Championships** to tie the Open Era record for Grand Slam singles titles. Williams fired three un-returnable serves in her final service game before winning the match and the title with a casual forehand volley on the next point.

Professional career

1995–1998: Professional debut

Williams's parents wanted their daughter to wait until she was 16 to participate in professional tournaments.^[46] In 1995 just after turning 14, Williams planned to make her professional debut as a **wild-card** entry in the **Bank of the West Classic** in **Oakland, California**, but was denied by the WTA due to age-eligibility restrictions of the organization.^[47] She subsequently filed an antitrust lawsuit against the women's tour, but withdrew it at the behest of her parents.^[47] Her first professional event was in October 1995 at the **Bell Challenge** in **Quebec**,^{[46][48]} where she used a wild-card entry to circumvent age-eligibility rules.^[46] She lost in the first round of qualifying to then 18-year-old American **Annie Miller**, winning just two games.^[49]

Williams did not play a tournament in 1996. The following year, she lost in the qualifying rounds of three tournaments, before winning her first main-draw match in November at the **Ameritech Cup Chicago**.^[50] Ranked No. 304, she upset No. 7 **Mary Pierce**, and No. 4 **Monica Seles**,^{[51][52]} recording her first career wins over top 10 players and becoming the lowest-ranked player in the Open Era to defeat two top-10 opponents in one tournament.^[1] She ultimately lost in the semifinals to No. 5 **Lindsay Davenport**.^[53] She finished 1997 ranked No. 99.^[54]

Williams began 1998 at the **Medibank International Sydney**.^[55] As a qualifier ranked No. 96,^[56] she defeated No. 3 Davenport in the quarterfinals,^[56] before losing to **Arantxa Sánchez Vicario** in the semifinals.^[57] Williams made her debut in the main draw of a Grand Slam tournament at the **Australian Open**,^[58] where she defeated sixth-seeded **Irina Spîrlea** in the first round,^[59] before losing to her sister, Venus, in the second round in the first professional match for the sisters.^{[59][55]} Williams reached six other quarterfinals during the year, but lost all of them,^[60] including her first match against No. 1-ranked **Martina Hingis** at the **Lipton International Players Championships** in Key Biscayne,^[61] and her second match against Venus at the **Italian Open** in Rome.^[60] She failed to reach the quarterfinals of any Grand Slam tournament the remainder of the year, losing in the fourth round of the French Open to Arantxa Sánchez Vicario,^[62] and the third round of the **US Open** to Spîrlea.^[63] She withdrew from Wimbledon two games into a match with **Virginia Ruano Pascual**, after straining her calf muscle during the first set.^[64] She did win the mixed doubles titles at Wimbledon and the **US Open** with **Max Mirnyi**, completing the Williams family's sweep of the 1998 mixed doubles Grand Slam tournaments. Williams won her first professional title in doubles in Oklahoma City with Venus, becoming the third pair of sisters to win a WTA title.^[1] Williams and her sister won two more doubles titles together during the year. Williams finished the year ranked No. 20 in singles.

Battle of the sexes: Karsten Braasch vs. the Williams sisters

A 16-year-old Serena competed in a tennis "Battle of the Sexes", along with her sister **Venus Williams**, against **Karsten Braasch** at the 1998 Australian Open.^[65] At the time Braasch was 203rd in the ATP rankings. The Williams sisters had claimed they could beat any man outside the top 200, and accepted his challenge. Braasch beat both Williams sisters, playing a single set against each. The score vs Serena was 6–1 and vs Venus 6–2.^[66] Braasch said afterward, "500 and above, no chance." The sisters later tweaked the number to beating men outside the top 350.^[67]

1999–2001: Becoming a top-10 player

	2007, 2009, 2010, 2015, 2017)
French Open	W (2002, 2013, 2015)
Wimbledon	W (2002, 2003, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2015, 2016)
US Open	W (1999, 2002, 2008, 2012, 2013, 2014)
Other tournaments	
Grand Slam Cup	W (1999)
Tour Finals	W (2001, 2009, 2012, 2013, 2014)
Doubles	
Career record	187–33 (85.0%)
Career titles	23 WTA, 0 ITF
Highest ranking	No. 1 (June 21, 2010)
Grand Slam Doubles results	
Australian Open	W (2001, 2003, 2009, 2010)
French Open	W (1999, 2010)
Wimbledon	W (2000, 2002, 2008, 2009, 2012, 2016)
US Open	W (1999, 2009)
Other doubles tournaments	
Tour Finals	SF (2009)
Mixed doubles	
Career record	27–4 (87.1%)
Grand Slam Mixed Doubles results	
Australian Open	F (1999)
French Open	F (1998)
Wimbledon	W (1998)
US Open	W (1998)
Team competitions	
Fed Cup	W (1999), record 16–1
Hopman Cup	W (2003, 2008)
Medal record	
Representing United States	
Olympic Games	
 G 2000 Sydney	Doubles
 G 2008 Beijing	Doubles
 G 2012 London	Singles
 G 2012 London	Doubles
 Last updated on: September 9, 2019.	

Williams lost in the third round of the [1999 Australian Open](#) to [Sandrine Testud](#). A month later, Williams won her first professional singles title when she defeated [Amélie Mauresmo](#) in the final of the [Open Gaz de France](#) in Paris. With Venus also winning the [IGA Superthrift Classic](#) in Memphis, Tennessee that day, the pair became the first sisters to win professional tournaments in the same week.^[68] In March of that year, at the [Evert Cup](#) in California, Williams won her first [Tier I](#) title, defeating [Steffi Graf](#) in the final. Soon afterward at the [Miami Masters](#), Williams had her 16-match winning streak ended by her sister in the first all-sister singles final in WTA history,^[55] and she then made her top-10 debut, at No. 9. She then lost in the quarterfinals of the [Italian Open](#)^[69] and the [German Open](#),^[70] and the third round of the [French Open](#),^[71] where she and Venus won the women's doubles title.^[55] Williams then missed [Wimbledon](#) because of injury. When she returned to the tour, Williams won a [Fed Cup](#) singles match and then won the [JPMorgan Chase Open](#) in Los Angeles, beating [Julie Halard-Decugis](#) in the final. She then defeated in succession Grand Slam champions [Kim Clijsters](#), [Conchita Martínez](#), [Monica Seles](#), and defending champion [Lindsay Davenport](#) to reach the [US Open](#) final, where she defeated No. 1, [Hingis](#), to become the second African-American woman, after [Althea Gibson](#) in 1958, to win a Grand Slam singles tournament.^[1] The Williams sisters also won the doubles title at this tournament. To complete her 1999 season, Williams won a doubles match in the Fed Cup final against Russia. Williams ended the year ranked No. 4 in just her second full year on the main tour.



Williams sisters at a Pam Shriver event in Baltimore, 1993

Williams started 2000 by losing in the fourth round of the [Australian Open](#) to [Elena Likhovtseva](#). She failed to defend her titles in Paris and Indian Wells, although she did win the [Faber Grand Prix](#) in Germany. Soon afterwards, Williams missed the [French Open](#) because of injury. She returned from injury at the [Wimbledon Championships](#), where she lost to Venus in the semifinals, but the pair won the doubles title at the event. Williams successfully defended her title in Los Angeles, defeating [Davenport](#) in the final. She reached the final of the [Du Maurier Open](#) where an injury forced her to retire from her match with [Hingis](#). Her defense of the [US Open](#) title ended when she lost in the quarterfinals to [Davenport](#). Williams teamed with Venus to win the gold medal in doubles at the [Sydney Olympics](#) that September. She ended the year winning the [Toyota Princess Cup](#) in Japan and she finished the year ranked No. 6.

Williams began 2001 losing to [Martina Hingis](#) in the quarterfinals of the [Medibank International](#) in [Sydney](#) and the [Australian Open](#) in [Melbourne](#). Williams and her sister won the doubles title at the latter tournament, becoming only the fifth doubles team in history to win all four Grand Slam women's doubles titles during their career, completing a "Career Grand Slam". Her next event was the [Pacific Life Open](#) in California, where she defeated [Kim Clijsters](#) in the final. The final was marred by the behavior of the crowd toward Williams and her family. Crowd members were incensed at the perceived match fixing of games involving the family after [Venus](#) withdrew before their semifinal. Neither Williams nor her sister entered the tournament for fourteen years until Williams entered in 2015 as a wildcard (and the top seed).^[72] The following week at the [Ericsson Open](#) in Miami, Williams lost to [Jennifer Capriati](#) in the quarterfinals. She then lost in the quarterfinals to [Capriati](#) at both the [French Open](#) and [Wimbledon Championships](#). This was the fourth consecutive Grand Slam tournament at which Williams had exited in the quarterfinals. During the North American hard-court season, she lost in the quarterfinals of [Los Angeles](#) against [Monica Seles](#), then captured her second title of the year at the [Rogers Cup](#), defeating [Capriati](#) in the final. Williams reached the final of the 2001 US Open, losing to sister Venus. That was the first Grand Slam tournament final contested by two sisters during the Open Era. At the 2001 season-ending [Tour Championships](#), Williams won the championship by walkover when [Davenport](#) withdrew before the start of the final due to a knee injury. Williams finished 2001 at No. 6 for the second straight year.

2002–2003: "Serena Slam"

Early 2002, injury saw Williams retire from the semifinal at the [Medibank International Sydney](#) and later withdraw from the [Australian Open](#).^[73]

Returning from injury, Williams won her first title of the year in [Scottsdale, Arizona](#), defeating No. 2 [Jennifer Capriati](#), in the final. She then won the [Miami Masters](#) for the first time, becoming one of three players in the Open Era to defeat the world's top 3 ranked players at one tournament,^[1] after beating No. 3, [Martina Hingis](#), in the quarterfinals, No. 2 [Venus](#) in the semifinals, and the top ranked player, [Capriati](#), in the final. Serena's straight set win over Venus was her second career win over her sister.



Playing [Amélie Mauresmo](#) in the quarterfinals of the tournament in [Sydney](#) in 2002

Williams played three clay-court tournaments before the [2002 French Open](#). Her first tournament was at [Charleston](#), where she was the third seed. Williams reached the quarterfinals before losing to [Patty Schnyder](#). She reached her first clay-court final in May, at the [Eurocard German Open](#) losing to [Justine Henin](#) in a third set tiebreak. Williams went on to win her first clay court title at the [Italian Open](#), defeating [Capriati](#) in the semifinals and [Henin](#) in the final.^[74] This raised her ranking to a new high of No. 3. Williams was the third seed at the [French Open](#) at [Roland Garros](#), where she claimed her first title there by defeating defending champion [Capriati](#) in the semifinals and sister Venus in the final to win her second Grand Slam tournament title (and her first in two-and-a-half years). As a result of raising the trophy at [Court Philippe Chatrier](#), Williams rose to a career high of No. 2, second only to Venus.

At the [2002 Wimbledon Championships](#), Williams won tennis' oldest championship for the first time in her life, defeating Venus to win a Grand Slam singles title without dropping a set for the first time in her career. This victory earned Williams the world No. 1 ranking for the first time, dethroning her sister and becoming only the third African American woman to hold that ranking.^[1] The Williams sisters also won the doubles title at the tournament, the fifth Grand Slam doubles title for the pair. Williams played just one tournament between Wimbledon and the [US Open](#), losing in the quarterfinals of the [JPMorgan Chase Open](#) in Los Angeles to American [Chanda Rubin](#) and ending a 21-match winning streak. The top-seeded player at the US Open, Williams reached the final where, for the third Grand Slam in a row, she defeated her sister to win the title, the second US Open crown of her career. Williams won two consecutive singles titles in the fall, defeating [Kim Clijsters](#) to win the [Toyota Princess Cup](#) in Tokyo, and [Anastasia Myskina](#) to win the [Sparkassen Cup](#) in Leipzig, Germany. She reached the final at the year-end [Home Depot Championships](#) at the [Staples Center](#) in Los Angeles, where she lost to fifth-seeded [Clijsters](#) in straight sets, ending an 18-match winning streak.

Williams finished 2002 with a 56–5 W/L record, eight singles titles, and the No. 1 ranking. She was the first African-American to end a year with that ranking since [Althea Gibson](#) in 1958 and was the first woman to win three Grand Slam tournament titles in one year since [Hingis](#) in 1997.^[1] Her three consecutive Grand Slam titles to close 2002 also made Williams only the third player in tennis history to win the "Surface Slam",^[75] three Slam titles on three surfaces in the same calendar year, after [Navratilova](#) (1984) and [Graf](#) (1993, 1995, 1996).

At the [2003 Australian Open](#), Williams reached the tournament's semifinals for the first time, where she recovered from 5–1 down in the third set and saved two match points before defeating [Clijsters](#). In the final, Serena faced Venus for the fourth consecutive Grand Slam tournament final, defeating her older sister to become the sixth woman in the Open Era to complete a career Grand Slam, alongside [Margaret Court](#), [Billie Jean King](#), [Chris Evert](#), [Martina Navratilova](#), and [Steffi Graf](#). She also became the fifth woman to hold all Grand Slam singles titles simultaneously, joining [Maureen Connolly Brinker](#), [Court](#), [Graf](#), and [Navratilova](#). This feat was dubbed the "**Serena Slam**" by the press.^{[76][77]} The Williams sisters won their sixth Grand Slam doubles title together at this event.^[78]

During the spring of 2003, Williams captured the singles titles at the [Open Gaz de France](#) and the [Sony Ericsson Open](#). Williams's winning streak came to an end when she lost the final of the [Family Circle Cup](#) to [Henin](#), her first loss of the year after 21 wins. She also lost to [Mauresmo](#) in the semifinals of the [Internazionali BNL d'Italia](#) in Rome. Despite these losses, Williams was the top seed at the [French Open](#), where she lost in the semifinals to eventual champion [Henin](#), marking Williams's first loss in a Grand Slam tournament since 2001. The match was controversial, as Williams questioned [Henin's](#) sportsmanship, and spectators applauded Williams's errors.^[79] Williams rebounded from the French Open loss a couple weeks later at the [2003 Wimbledon](#)

Championships, defeating Henin in the semifinals and Venus in the final. This was Williams's second consecutive Wimbledon title and her sixth Grand Slam singles title overall. Wimbledon was Williams's last tournament of 2003; she pulled out of three events in the US and then underwent surgery on the quadriceps tendon in her knee in early August. Williams was initially expected to be out for six to eight weeks.^[80]

2004–2007: Injuries and the comeback

After eight months away from the tour, during which time her desire was questioned,^[81] Williams began her comeback at the 2004 NASDAQ-100 Open in Miami in March, where she made a triumphant return as she won the title for the third consecutive year.

Although ranked No. 7, Williams was seeded second at the French Open, where, after winning four matches, she lost to Capriati in the quarterfinals. This was the first time that Williams had lost before the semifinals at a Grand Slam singles tournament since Wimbledon in 2001. A few weeks later, even though her ranking had dropped to No. 10, Williams was seeded first at Wimbledon. She won six matches en route to the final, where she was defeated by 13th-seeded Sharapova in straight sets. This loss caused her ranking to drop out of the top 10 for the first time since 1999. Later that summer, Williams reached her third final of the year at the JPMorgan Chase Open in Los Angeles where she lost to Lindsay Davenport which was her first loss to the American since the 2000 US Open. After missing her national championship in 2003, Williams returned for the 2004 US Open, where she was seeded third despite her No. 11 ranking. She lost in the U.S. Open quarterfinals to Capriati in three sets in controversial fashion.^[82] That fall, Williams won her second title of the year, at the China Open, defeating US Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova in the final. Williams's successful season allowed her to qualify for the Tour Championships, held again in Los Angeles. In the round-robin phase of the tournament, Williams defeated Dementieva and Anastasia Myskina and lost to Davenport, but still advanced to the elimination stage. After winning her semifinal, she lost to Sharapova in the final, where she suffered an abdominal injury.^[83] Williams finished 2004 ranked No. 7, but did not win a Grand Slam singles tournament for the first season since 2001.

At the 2005 Australian Open, Williams rejected suggestions that she and sister Venus were a declining force in tennis, following Venus's early exit.^[84] Williams saved three match points to defeat Sharapova 8–6 in the third of their semifinal. In the final, Williams defeated top seed Davenport to win her second Australian Open and seventh Grand Slam singles title, winning 12 of the last 15 games.^[85] The win moved Williams back to No. 2 but stated she was targeting the top spot.^[86]

Williams completed just two tournaments between the Australian Open and Wimbledon, losing to Venus in Miami and at Internazionali BNL d'Italia to Francesca Schiavone as Williams suffered a series of retirements and withdraws.^{[87][88]} A reoccurring ankle injury causing her to miss the French Open.^[89] She returned for Wimbledon as the 4th-seeded player, but was defeated in the third round by No. 85, Jill Craybas. At the US Open, Williams lost to her sister Venus in the fourth round. This was the earliest the sisters had met in a Grand Slam tournament since their first meeting, at the 1998 Australian Open. Williams played just one more match that fall, a loss to No. 127 Sun Tiantian at the tournament in Beijing. She failed to qualify for the year-end championship for the first time since 1998 and she finished the year 2005 ranked No. 11, her first time finishing the season outside the top 10 since 1998.

Williams made her 2006 debut at the Australian Open. Defending the title, Williams lost to Daniela Hantuchová in the third round.^[90] After the tournament, she told the press that she was injured, blaming a lack of fitness and a knee injury for keeping her off the court.^[91] In her biography, Williams claims that she was actually suffering from depression. She stayed away from pro tennis for six months during the 2006 season. After she had shut herself off from the world for a period, Williams saw a therapist daily.^[92] After a chance meeting with a young girl who idolized Williams and believed that she could still win, Williams signed up to play in Cincinnati,^[93] her first tournament since Melbourne. Williams had slipped to No. 139, the lowest ranking she had held since 1997. On her return, Williams defeated Myskina and Bethanie Mattek,^{[94][95]} before losing in the semifinals to Vera Zvonareva.^[96] She also reached the semifinals in Los Angeles, losing to Janković in straight sets. At the US Open, Williams needed a wildcard to enter the tournament, as her ranking at the cut-off time was No. 139, outside the automatic 102. Her ranking had improved to 79th by the time the tournament came around.^[97] She lost to top-seeded Mauresmo in the fourth round.^[98] Following the US Open, she did not play again in 2006, ending the year ranked No. 95, her lowest year-end ranking since 1997.

Williams began 2007 with renewed confidence, stating her intention to return to the top of the rankings,^[99] a comment 1987 Wimbledon men's singles champion and commentator Pat Cash branded "deluded".^[100]

Williams lost in the quarterfinals of the Hobart International, a warm-up for the Australian Open where Williams was unseeded because of her No. 81 ranking and was widely regarded as "out of shape".^[101] She experienced a huge amount of pressure on herself prior to the tournament, coming from her fans and the press as well as Williams herself about her weight, focus and needing a good showing.

Shortly before her first match, a representative from Nike paid her a visit in the players' lounge, informing her that if she did not perform to her accustomed level, the company might drop her. Williams claimed that Nike's ultimatum meant that she would have to reach the quarterfinals at least.^[102]

The distraction from Nike did not distract Williams, as she lost just three games to Mara Santangelo and defeated Anne Kremer in straight sets.^[103] By this point, a blister had developed on Williams's foot and she had contracted a cold. In the third round, Williams found herself two points away from going home against Nadia Petrova, but fought back to win in three sets, which was her first win over a top-10 player since defeating Lindsay Davenport in the 2005 Australian Open final. Williams then made it all the way to the final, defeating Janković, Pe'er and Vaidišová. Williams described them as "good players. Strong players. Players who certainly didn't expect an overweight, out-of-shape, has been champion like me to give them a game."^[104] Williams also found herself two points from going out against Pe'er before turning it around.^[105] By the time Williams had reached the final, the cold and blister had both left. Previewing the finals, Tracy Austin stated that, although Williams had a great tournament, she believed that the ride was over and that Sharapova would have no trouble with Williams. Williams thought it was mean and unnecessary and used it as motivation along with other criticism.^[106] In the final, Williams lost just three games against Maria Sharapova, winning her first title at any tournament since winning the 2005 Australian Open 24 months prior.^[105] Williams became the first player since Chris O'Neil to win the title while not being seeded, and claimed her third Australian Open and eighth Grand Slam singles title overall. The win elevated Williams to 14th in the rankings. Williams dedicated the title to her deceased half-sister Yetunde.^[107] Her performance in the final was described in the press as "one of the best performances of her career" and "arguably the most powerful display ever seen in women's tennis".^{[101][108]} In her post match interview, Williams took a swipe at her critics, stating that she had proved them wrong.^[109] Williams won the Sony Ericsson Open in Miami for the fourth time by defeating Justine Henin. Williams had to record a come-from-behind win after being whitewashed in the first set and saving two match points in the second.^[110] She played for her country in the Fed Cup for the first time since 2003 in a tie against Belgium, and won her opening match^[111] but withdrew from her second, because of a knee injury.^[112]

At the French Open, Williams lost in the quarterfinals to Henin.^[113] During her fourth round match against Hantuchová at Wimbledon, Williams collapsed from an acute muscle spasm at 5–5 in the second set. After a medical timeout and holding serve to force a tiebreak, rain forced play to be suspended for nearly two hours. When the players returned, Williams won the match in three sets.^[114] Williams then lost her quarterfinal match with Henin, whilst suffering from the injuries sustained in the previous round.^[115] At the US Open, Williams lost her third consecutive Grand Slam singles quarterfinal to Henin.^[116] Williams reached the final of Kremlin Cup, losing to Elena Dementieva. Williams qualified for the WTA Championships, but retired from her first match with Anna Chakvetadze with a knee injury and subsequently withdrew from the event.^{[117][118]} Williams finished 2007 as No. 7 and the top-ranked American for the first time since 2003.^[113]

2008–2010: Back to No. 1 and injuries



Delivering a serve at an exhibition in November 2004

Williams started 2008 by participating on the U.S. team that won the Hopman Cup with Mardy Fish.^[119] At the Australian Open she lost in the quarterfinals to Jelena Janković,^[113] her fourth straight loss in the quarterfinals of a Grand Slam singles tournament. In the women's doubles event, she and Venus were defeated in the quarterfinals. Williams withdrew from her next three scheduled tournaments because of an urgent need for dental surgery.^[120] Williams then won three consecutive singles titles at Bangalore and her fifth Miami title, tying Steffi Graf for the most singles titles at this tournament.

Williams won at the Family Circle Cup, her first clay-court title since the 2002 French Open. Her 17-match winning streak was ended by Dinara Safina in the quarterfinals of Berlin.^[113] Williams withdrew in Rome in the quarterfinals against Alizé Cornet due to a back injury. Williams was the only former winner of the French Open in the draw, but lost in the third round to Katarina Srebotnik.

At Wimbledon, Williams reached the finals for the first time in four years but lost to her older sister Venus in straight sets, in their first Slam final since 2003. Serena and Venus teamed to win the women's doubles title in their first Grand Slam women's doubles title since 2003. Williams played at Stanford, but retired 6–2, 3–1 down with a left knee injury from her semifinal match against qualifier Aleksandra Wozniak. The injury forced her to withdraw from Los Angeles. At the Olympics in Beijing, Williams lost to Dementieva in the quarterfinals. Serena and Venus won the gold medal in doubles, beating Anabel Medina Garrigues and Virginia Ruano Pascual in the final. At the US Open, Williams defeated sister Venus, Safina and Jelena Janković in the final. This was her third US Open and ninth Grand Slam singles title. The victory returned her to the No. 1 ranking for the first time since 2003.^[121] At the year-end championships she defeated Safina and lost to Venus in her round-robin matches, but withdrew from her match against Dementieva, citing a stomach muscle injury. She ended 2008 ranked No. 2 and with four singles titles, her strongest performance in both respects since 2003.

Williams began 2009 at the Medibank International losing in the semifinals to Elena Dementieva. At the Australian Open, she claimed her tenth Grand Slam singles title by defeating Dinara Safina in the final in 59 minutes. This win returned her to the No. 1 ranking and resulted in her becoming the all-time career prize money leader in women's sports, overtaking golfer Annika Sörenstam. In women's doubles, with Venus, they captured the title for the third time.

At the Open GdF Suez, Williams withdrew before her semifinal with Dementieva because of a knee injury. Serena then played at Dubai, losing to Venus in the last 4.

At the Sony Ericsson Open Williams, hampered with ankle and quad injuries, was upset in the final by Victoria Azarenka. This was the first of four consecutive losses for her, the longest losing streak of her career.^[122] She was defeated in her opening matches at Barcelona, Rome, and Madrid. Despite not having won a match on clay in 2009 before the French Open, she lost in the quarterfinals to the eventual champion Svetlana Kuznetsova. This ended her 18-match Grand Slam tournament winning streak. She rebounded at Wimbledon, saving a match point in defeating fourth seeded Dementieva in the semifinals. In the final, Serena defeated her sister Venus to win her third Wimbledon title and her 11th Grand Slam singles title.^[123] Serena and Venus teamed to win the women's doubles title at Wimbledon for the second consecutive year, their ninth Grand Slam title in women's doubles.

As a US Open preparation, Williams played at Cincinnati losing in the third round, followed by a semifinal defeat at the Rogers Cup. At the US Open, she lost in the semifinals to eventual champion Kim Clijsters amid controversy involving shouting at a line judge when defending match point, an offense which cost Williams the point and consequently the match. She continued in the doubles competition, teaming up with Venus to win their third Grand Slam doubles title of the year and tenth of their career.^[124] Williams won all three of her round-robin matches at the year-end WTA Tour Championships, defeating Venus, Dementieva, and Kuznetsova, saving a match point against Venus. She then advanced to the final, when Wozniacki retired from their semifinal match. In the final, Williams defeated Venus for her second singles title at this event.^[125]



Williams on her way to the singles and doubles title at the 2010 Australian Open

Williams finished the year ranked No. 1 for the second time in her career, having played in 16 tournaments, more than any other year. She also broke the record previously set by Justine Henin for the most prize money earned by a female tennis player in one year, with Williams earning \$6,545,586. For doubles that year, the Williams sisters finished the year ranked No. 2, despite playing only six tournaments together as a pair. Williams had won five Grand Slam tournament titles, putting her total of Grand Slam titles won thus far at 23, and she was consequently named Female Athlete of the Year by the Associated Press for 2009.^[126] Williams was also the ITF World Champion in both the singles and doubles events.^[127]

In 2010, Williams's first scheduled tournament was in Sydney, losing in the final to Elena Dementieva. At the Australian Open, Williams was the defending champion in both singles and doubles. She reached the final and defeated Justine Henin, who had just recently come out of retirement, for her twelfth Grand Slam singles title. In doubles, Williams and her sister, Venus, successfully defended their title by defeating Cara Black and Liesel Huber in the final.

Williams withdrew with a leg injury from her next few events, and returned at the Rome Masters, losing to Jelena Janković in the semifinals. At Madrid, she fell to Nadia Petrova in the third round but partnered Venus to win the doubles title.

At the French Open, Williams was defeated by Samantha Stosur in the quarterfinals. She and Venus were the top seeds in the doubles event and won the title, defeating Květa Peschke and Katarina Srebotnik in the final to win their fourth consecutive Grand Slam doubles title and improving their doubles ranking to No. 1.

Williams's next tournament was Wimbledon, where she defeated Russian Vera Zvonareva in the final without facing a break point and breaking the serve of Zvonareva three times.^{[128][129]} She did not lose a set in the tournament.^[130]

After the match, Martina Navratilova said that Williams is in the top five of all the women's tennis players in all of history, which she said that "it's not just about how many Slams you win or how many tournaments you win—it's just your game overall. And she's definitely got all the goods."^[129] Serena was the defending champion in doubles with her sister Venus, winning the last two years. They lost in the quarterfinals to Elena Vesnina and Zvonareva. In Munich on July 7, Williams stepped on broken glass while in a restaurant, and the injury caused her to miss the rest of the year.

Williams ended the year ranked No. 4 in singles after six tournaments, and No. 11 in doubles after four tournaments.

On March 2, 2011, she confirmed that she had suffered a hematoma and a pulmonary embolism.^{[131][132][133]}

2011–2013: Return to dominance, career golden slam

Williams finally made a return to the practice court in March 2011.^[134] She made her first appearance on the WTA tour in almost a year in Eastbourne.^[135] Williams lost in round two to Vera Zvonareva, in a match that lasted over three hours.^[136] Her next tournament was Wimbledon, where she was the defending champion. She reached the round of 16, where she lost to Marion Bartoli. After the loss her ranking dropped to 169. Williams won her first titles since her return to tennis triumphing in Stanford and Toronto. At the Western & Southern Open, Williams defeated



At the 2009 Australian Open

Lucie Hradecká, only to withdraw the next day, citing a right toe injury. She then played at the US Open going all the way to the final losing to Samantha Stosur, during a match which featured her verbally abusing the chair umpire. The US Open final turned out to be Williams's last match in 2011, and she ended the year ranked No. 12 with two titles and with a 22–3 record for the season. She only participated in six tournaments throughout the season.

Williams started the 2012 season at the Brisbane International, however, during her match against Bojana Jovanovski, she injured her left ankle when serving for the match. As a result, Williams was forced to withdraw from the tournament.^[137] Next she participated at the Australian Open where she was upset by Ekaterina Makarova in the fourth round. After a month layoff, Williams returned to competition in Miami losing in the quarterfinals to Caroline Wozniacki. Williams then won consecutive titles at Charleston and Madrid beating Lucie Šafářová and Victoria Azarenka, but withdrew from her semifinal match against Li Na in Rome citing a lower back injury. Williams suffered her first ever loss in the opening round of a Grand Slam tournament at the French Open against Virginie Razzano. Williams notched up a 33–1 record for the second half of the season winning five titles in the process.^[138] Williams won her fifth Wimbledon singles title, her fourteenth Grand Slam title;^{[139][140]} setting a serving record of 24 aces by a female in a match as well as having the most aces, male or female, during the tournament (102).^[141] Williams returned to America to successfully defend her title in Stanford beating CoCo Vandeweghe in the final.^{[142][143]} Williams then returned to Wimbledon to represent her country at the Olympic Games where she won gold, defeating Maria Sharapova in a dominating performance. Williams failed to drop more than three games per set en route to winning the medal.^[143] Williams' undefeated streak ended with a loss in Cincinnati to Angelique Kerber. In New York City, Williams went on to win her fourth US Open singles title and her 15th career Grand Slam title overall beating Azarenka in the final.^{[138][144]} Williams ended the season by competing at the WTA Championships and went undefeated throughout the tournament to win the event for her third title.^[138] Williams was voted WTA Player of the Year for the fourth time.^[145] Based on her brilliant show in 2012, Williams was also named International Tennis Federation World Champion.^[146] Williams also returned to doubles competitions with Venus; in the pair's first tournament since 2010 Wimbledon, they claimed their fifth Wimbledon doubles title and the 13th grand slam doubles title.^[147] The pair successfully defended their Olympic doubles title which meant that they became the only tennis players to win four gold medals.^[6]



Williams won the singles gold medal at the 2012 Olympic Games.

Williams's first tournament of the 2013 season was in Brisbane, where she won the title without dropping a set. Williams was upset in the quarterfinals of the Australian Open by fellow American player Sloane Stephens. By virtue of defeating Petra Kvitová in Doha, Williams returned to the No. 1 position for the sixth time in her career and became the oldest woman in the Open Era to hold the ranking.^[148] Williams went on to lose to Victoria Azarenka in the final. In the Miami final, Williams lost a set to Maria Sharapova for the first time since 2008. This setback did not stop Williams who recorded her 70th come-from-behind win. The win made Williams a six-time champion in Miami breaking the record she held with Steffi Graf and became only the fourth woman in the Open Era to have won a tournament at least six times.^[149] Williams successfully defended her Charleston title, winning it for the third time overall.^[150] Williams won her fiftieth career singles title in Madrid, defeating Sharapova in the final. Williams then played Rome, where she won the title without dropping a set, defeating Victoria Azarenka in the final to take her second title. Williams only dropped ten games in reaching the quarterfinals at Roland Garros. There, she played Svetlana Kuznetsova and lost her first set of the tournament. In the semifinal Williams only lost one game when she defeated Sara Errani, something seven-time French Open champion Chris Evert described as the finest female performance on clay she had ever seen.^[151] Williams defeated Sharapova to claim her second Roland Garros title, her sixteenth grand slam tournament title overall. She became the fourth woman in the Open Era after Navratilova, Evert and Graf to win each Grand Slam tournament title on at least two occasions. At Wimbledon, she advanced easily to the fourth round before being upset by eventual finalist Sabine Lisicki in three sets. After Wimbledon, Williams won the Swedish Open by defeating Johanna Larsson in the final, the tournament win marked the first occasion that she had won an International level title. By winning the tournament this meant that Williams had managed to be undefeated on clay during the season.^[152]



Williams winning her fifth US Open title

Williams won her 3rd Rogers Cup title in Toronto beating Sorana Cîrstea in the final.^[153] Williams reached the final of the Western & Southern Open for the first time but lost to Azarenka.^[154] At the US Open, Williams began as top seed and defending champion. She reached the final—re-match of the 2012 final against Azarenka—and won in three sets, capturing her 17th Grand Slam singles title.^[155] Williams became the oldest US Open champion in the Open Era and pushed her career prize money past \$50 million.^[155] After the US Open, Williams beat Jelena Janković to win the China Open in Beijing for her 10th title of 2013.^{[156][157]} Williams went through the WTA Championships undefeated winning the final against Li Na, to become the first person to defend the title since Justine Henin in 2007. Williams won her 11th title of 2013 becoming the 8th player to win 11 titles or more in a year and the first since Martina Hingis in 1997.^[158] Also, she became the oldest person to win the WTA Championships and 4th player to win it 4 times or more. By winning the championship, Williams became the first woman to win more than \$10 million in a season and with her total of \$12,385,572, only Rafael Nadal, in 2013, and Novak Djokovic, in 2011, 2012 and 2013, have earned more money in one season.^[159]

Williams finished as the year end No. 1 for the third time, becoming the oldest No. 1 player in WTA history.^[160] She was also named the 2013 ITF World Champion, the fourth time that she has been given the World Champion's crown.^[161] Williams received two prizes at the 2013 ESPY Awards. Williams won Best Female Athlete and Best Female Tennis Player. Williams is just the fourth person to win Best Female Athlete on two occasions and she won Best Female Tennis player for a record sixth time.^[162] In late December 2013, Williams capped off her year by receiving the Associated Press 2013 Female Athlete of the Year award, her third AP award after 2002 and 2009. Only two women, Chris Evert and Babe Didrikson, have been chosen more often as AP Athlete of the Year since the annual awards were first handed out in 1931.^[163]

2014–2015: Second 'Serena Slam'

Williams defended her title at the Brisbane International by defeating No. 2, Victoria Azarenka, in the final.^[164] At the Australian Open she ended up losing to former No. 1, Ana Ivanovic, in the fourth round. At Dubai, Williams lost her semifinal match to Alizé Cornet in straight sets. Williams next headed to the Miami Open where she won her record seventh title with a straight-sets victory over No. 2 Li Na.^[165] Williams lost to Jana Čepelová in the second round of the Family Circle Cup. She made it to the quarterfinals at the Madrid Open before withdrawing with a left thigh injury. Williams won her third title of the season at the Rome. She was then handed the worst loss of her Grand Slam tournament career by Garbiñe Muguruza at the second round of the French Open, who defeated Serena losing just four games in two sets.^[166] Alizé Cornet defeated Williams for the second time in the year in the third round of Wimbledon, thus handing Williams her earliest Wimbledon exit since 2005. Serena was then forced to withdraw from the doubles event alongside sister Venus while trailing 0–3 in the second round. A disoriented Serena hit 4 consecutive doubles faults and was having trouble with both her ball toss and movement before being removed from what has been described as one of the most unusual scenes ever seen in tennis.^{[167][168]}

Williams rebounded by winning 19 out of her next 20 matches (losing only to sister Venus in the semifinals of the Rogers Cup). This streak include titles at the Bank of the West Classic as well as her first Western & Southern Open title and her third consecutive and sixth overall US Open singles title which she won without having dropped a set.^{[169][170]} With this victory Williams tied Chris Evert for most singles titles won by a woman at the US Open in the Open Era. Williams also tied Evert and Navratilova's 18 Grand Slam singles titles won in the Open Era. By virtue of having won both the US Open and the US Open Series, Williams collected \$4,000,000 – the biggest payday in tennis history. At the Wuhan Open a viral illness forced her to retire while up a break in the first set against Alizé Cornet. Cornet thus became the first woman since Justine Henin in 2007 to record three victories over Williams in one year. At the China Open Williams retired prior to her quarterfinal match versus Samantha Stosur. At the 2014 WTA Finals in Singapore Williams advanced to the final for the third consecutive year despite having equaled her career worst loss in her

second round robin match versus [Simona Halep](#).^[171] Williams won her fifth [WTA Finals](#) title by avenging her loss to Halep in the championship match for her seventh title of the year.^[172] Williams finished the year ranked No. 1 for the fourth time in her career. She held the No. 1 ranking for the entire calendar year, a feat not accomplished since Steffi Graf in 1996. She was also voted WTA Player of the Year and ITF World Champion for a third consecutive year (sixth overall).

Williams began the 2015 season by representing the [United States](#) alongside [John Isner](#) at the [Hopman Cup](#). The American pair lost the final to the Poland.^[173] At the [Australian Open](#) Williams defeated Maria Sharapova for the 16th consecutive time to claim her 6th Australian Open singles title and 19th career Grand Slam singles title, winning the title on her third match point in the second set.^{[174][175][176][177][178]} With this victory Williams surpassed both, Evert and Navratilova, for [second most Grand Slam singles titles won](#) in the Open Era. The title was also her sixth Grand Slam singles title since turning 30 years of age, three more than the next closest to do so (Margaret Court, Martina Navratilova with three each). She is the only player in history to win all four Grand Slams at least once after having turned 30. The following weekend, Serena and sister Venus traveled to Buenos Aires to face Argentina in a World Group II tie for [Fed Cup](#). She played and won her only match against [María Irigoyen](#) to help Team USA to a 4–1 win over Argentina.^[179] Williams announced that she would be competing at the [Indian Wells Masters](#) ending her 14-year boycott of the event.^{[180][181]} Upon her return Williams received a standing ovation from the crowd and won her first match in straight sets.^[182] She reached the semifinals, where she was due to face No. 3, [Simona Halep](#), for a place in the final, but was forced to withdraw because of a knee injury. By virtue of having defeated Sabine Lisicki in the quarterfinals of the [Miami Open](#), Williams became only the eighth woman in the Open Era to record 700 match wins in her career.^[183] This also made her one of only three active players to have won 700 or more matches in singles, others being [Roger Federer](#) and [Rafael Nadal](#).^[184] In the semifinals she won against Halep to advance to her tenth final at the event^[185] where she won a record eighth title and extended her winning streak to 21 by beating [Carla Suárez Navarro](#).^{[186][187][188]}



Williams celebrating her third French Open title

As preparation for the clay court season (and to ensure her eligibility for the 2016 Summer Olympics), Williams travelled to [Brindisi, Italy](#), to face Italy's team for a place in the [Fed Cup's](#) World Group. Williams lost the decisive doubles match alongside [Alison Riske](#) to Sara Errani and Flavia Pennetta, and as a result the [United States team](#) were relegated to World Group II. It was Williams's first loss in the Fed Cup.^[189] She maintained her perfect record in singles by defeating [Camila Giorgi](#) and Errani. The week of April 20 marked Williams's 114th consecutive week ranked No. 1, the third-longest run in WTA history, behind Steffi Graf's 186 weeks and Navratilova's 156. Williams suffered her first defeat of the season in the semifinals of the [Mutua Madrid Open](#) to No. 4, Petra Kvitová.^{[190][191]} This loss ended a 27-match winning streak for Williams as well as a 50-match winning streak at [Premier-Mandatory events](#), and also a 19-match winning streak at the particular event.^[192] Williams played one match at the 2015 [Internazionali BNL d'Italia](#) before withdrawing from the tournament with an elbow injury.^[193]

By virtue of having defeated Victoria Azarenka in the third round of the [French Open](#), Williams became the first woman in the Open Era to win 50 matches at all four of the Grand Slams.^[194] Williams then defeated Sloane Stephens to reach her 40th Grand Slam singles quarterfinal.^[195] Williams won her next match easily, but had to come back from a set down in the semifinals versus [Tímea Babos](#) for the fourth time in five matches to reach the final.^{[196][197]} She would go on to defeat [Lucie Šafářová](#) from the [Czech Republic](#) in three sets to win her third French Open and 20th Grand Slam singles title.^{[198][199][200]}

The win made Williams only the third person in history to win each Grand Slam at least three times, joining Margaret Court and Steffi Graf. She is the first player to win three straight Grand Slams since she did it herself during the [Serena Slam](#). She also became the first player to win the [Australian-French Open double](#) since Jennifer Capriati in 2001.^[201]

Williams completed her second "Serena Slam" (winning all four Grand Slams in a row) by winning the [2015 Wimbledon Championships](#) – her 6th Wimbledon and 21st [Grand Slam](#) singles title overall.^{[202][203][204]} Her path to victory at Wimbledon was particularly challenging. She was down a double break in the third round versus [Heather Watson](#) and two points from defeat twice before rallying for the win^[205] and becoming the first player to qualify for the [WTA Finals](#)^[206] (the earliest that a player had qualified since the event switched to the round-robin format in 2003). Williams then defeated three former No. 1 players—Venus Williams, Victoria Azarenka and Maria Sharapova—in succession to advance to the final.^[207] Awaiting her there was 21-year-old Garbiñe Muguruza, who had previously handed Williams the worst Grand Slam tournament defeat of her career at the 2014 French Open.^[208] Williams defeated Muguruza in a tight two-setter.

The victory made Williams the oldest woman in the Open Era to win a grand slam singles title, in addition to having the distinction of being the oldest ladies' grand slam singles champion of all time.^[209] It also was her eighth consecutive victory in Grand Slam singles finals appearances, breaking Steffi Graf's Open Era record of seven from 1995 through 1999 and, on the men's side, tying [Pete Sampras's](#) Open Era record of eight from 1995 through 2000. Her 21st Grand Slam singles titles equaled the tally of the rest of the women's tour, combined.^[210] The week of July 13 marked the first time in WTA history that the No. 1 player had more than twice as many points as No. 2.^[211] Following her win at Wimbledon, Williams was awarded her 7th [ESPY](#) for [Best Female Tennis Player](#).^[212]

Williams played one match at the [Swedish Open](#) in [Båstad](#) before withdrawing with an elbow injury.^[213] She was the defending champion at the [Bank of the West Classic](#) but withdrew from the tournament in order for her elbow to get better.^[214] Williams had her 19 match winning streak ended by 18-year-old Swiss [Belinda Bencic](#), the No. 20, in three tight sets in the semifinals of the [Canadian Open](#).^{[215][216]} It was her second defeat of the year and first on hard courts since the 2014 WTA Finals. The next week Williams defended her title at the [Western & Southern Open](#) with a straight sets victory over No. 3 Simona Halep for her 69th WTA title, breaking a tie with [Evonne Goolagong](#) for standalone fifth-most WTA titles won.^{[217][218]} Williams's attempt at capturing the "Grand Slam" (winning all four Grand Slams in a calendar year) came to an end in the semifinals of the [US Open](#), where she lost to Roberta Vinci in three sets.^{[219][220][221]} The loss has been described by some as one of the biggest upsets in tennis history.^{[222][223][224]} Nonetheless, Williams secured the year-end No. 1 ranking with her results at the tournament.^[225] On October 1, Williams called an end to her season, stating that she had been injured for most of the year and wanted to address her fitness issues.^[226] Prior to the announcement, coach [Patrick Mouratoglou](#) hinted that Williams might not play again in 2015 due to a lack of motivation and disappointment following her loss at the [Open](#).^[227] On October 5, Williams surpassed Chris Evert for [third-most weeks ranked world No. 1](#).^[228] Williams held the No. 1 ranking the entire season for the second consecutive year, finishing there for the fifth time in her career. She was voted [WTA Player of the Year](#) for the seventh time in her career.^[229] On December 14, [Sports Illustrated](#) announced Williams as their [Sportsperson of the Year](#).^[230] She thus became the third solo woman, and first since 1983, to receive the award.^[231] Williams was also named [ITF World Champion](#) for the sixth time in her career.^[232] Soon after, it was announced that she was voted [Female Athlete of the Year](#) by the [Associated Press](#) for the fourth time.^[233]

2016: Open Era Grand Slam record

Williams withdrew from the [Hopman Cup](#) after retiring from her singles match against [Australia Gold](#) with inflammation of her left knee.^[234] Her next tournament was the [Australian Open](#), where she was the No. 1 seed and defending champion. She reached the final without dropping a set, including wins over No. 5, Maria Sharapova, and No. 4, Agnieszka Radwańska, and faced first time Grand Slam finalist [Angelique Kerber](#). She was considered the heavy favorite to win the title, as she had never lost an Australian Open final or semifinal. She also dominated the head-to-head against Kerber, having lost only once in six meetings and having not lost a set to her in four years. Williams lost the final in three sets and Kerber won her first Grand Slam title.^[235] This marked Williams's first-ever loss in the final of the Australian Open, as well as her first three-set loss in the final of a Grand Slam.^[236] She had previously been 6–0 and 8–0 respectively.

The week of February 15 marked Williams's 157th consecutive week ranked No. 1, passing Navratilova's mark of 156 to have the second-longest run in WTA history behind Steffi Graf's 186. She competed in [Indian Wells](#) as the No. 1 seed. She reached her first final here since winning in 2001 and before boycotting the event, by defeating Simona Halep in the quarterfinals and Agnieszka Radwańska in the semifinals. She did not drop a set en route to the final. Williams was upset by No. 13 seed Victoria Azarenka, whom she had defeated the last five times the pair had met, in straight sets. This marked the first time since 2004 where Williams lost two consecutive finals. She next played the [Miami Open](#) as the defending champion. She lost in the fourth round to Svetlana Kuznetsova. This marked her first loss here since 2012 and ended her 20 match winning streak in Miami. This was also her earliest exit here since 2000, where she lost in the same round. During

the clay court swing, Williams withdrew from Madrid but entered Rome. She beat [Anna-Lena Friedsam](#) and [Christina McHale](#) to progress to the quarterfinals where she defeated [Svetlana Kuznetsova](#) to avenge her loss in Miami. She then went on to beat [Irina-Camelia Begu](#) and [Madison Keys](#) to win her 70th career WTA title and to win her first title of the year. This was her third Rome title in four years and fourth overall.

At the [French Open](#), Williams dropped only one set en route to the final. She defeated [Yulia Putintseva](#) in the quarterfinals despite being five points away from losing. She then beat surprise semifinalist [Kiki Bertens](#) to reach her fourth French Open final where she faced [Garbiñe Muguruza](#) in a repeat of last year's Wimbledon final where Williams was victorious. The result was not the same as that Wimbledon final as Williams lost to Muguruza in straight sets. With this loss, Williams had lost two consecutive Grand Slam finals for the first time in her career. On top of failing to equal [Steffi Graf's](#) Open Era record of 22 Grand Slam singles titles, Williams also completed the Career Grand Slam runner-up set with this loss.

At [Wimbledon](#), Williams only lost one set en route to the final where she faced [Angelique Kerber](#) in a rematch of their Australian Open final earlier in the year. This time, Williams defeated Kerber in straight sets to finally equal [Steffi Graf's](#) record of 22 Grand Slams in the Open Era. This was Williams's first Grand Slam title of the year, as well as her 71st career WTA title overall. In what was a brilliant serving performance, Williams only faced one break point in the whole match against Kerber which she saved with an ace. Later that day, Williams partnered with sister [Venus](#) to win their sixth Wimbledon doubles title and 14th doubles Grand Slam title overall, keeping their perfect record at Grand Slam doubles finals intact. On July 24, 2016, Williams withdrew from [Rogers Cup](#) citing a shoulder inflammation injury.^[237] She next participated in the [Olympics](#) in [Rio de Janeiro](#), where she was the defending gold medalist in both singles and doubles and was the heavy favourite to retain those titles. Partnering with her sister [Venus](#) in the doubles, they suffered a shock exit in the first round, losing to the Czech duo of [Lucie Šafářová](#) and [Barbora Strýcová](#), which ended their career record of 15–0 dating back to the [2000 Olympics](#).^[238] In singles, after defeating [Daria Gavrilova](#) and [Alizé Cornet](#) in the first two rounds, Williams faced Ukraine's [Elina Svitolina](#) in the third round in what was a rematch of this year's French Open fourth round, but lost to the Ukrainian, bringing an end to her Olympics campaign.^[239] Days after the Olympics, Williams took a late wildcard for the [Western & Southern Open](#), where she was the defending champion, but then decided to withdraw due to concerns from the same shoulder injury/inflammation from earlier in the summer.^[240]

The week of September 5, 2016, marked Williams's 186th consecutive week ranked No. 1, equalling [Steffi Graf's](#) record for longest run in WTA history. In the semifinals of the US Open, Williams lost to [Karolína Plíšková](#).^[241] Having won the US Open, [Angelique Kerber](#) became the No. 1, ending Williams's No. 1 streak. Williams also pulled out of the WTA Finals due to a shoulder injury.

2017: Australian Open victory and pregnancy

Williams started her 2017 season by participating in the [WTA Auckland Open](#) for the first time in her career. She defeated [Pauline Parmentier](#) to win her first match since the US Open. In the second round, she lost to [Madison Brengle](#). At the Australian Open, she beat former and present top 10 players [Belinda Bencic](#), [Lucie Šafářová](#), [Johanna Konta](#) among others to reach her 8th Australian Open final. On January 28, 2017, she won the Australian Open for an Open Era record seventh time, defeating her sister, [Venus](#).^[242] It was her 23rd Grand Slam singles title, surpassing [Steffi Graf's](#) Open Era record of 22. It was the first time in the Open Era that two players aged 35 or older had competed in the final of a Grand Slam tournament. The win ensured her return to the No. 1 ranking.^{[243][244]} Williams subsequently withdrew from the [Indian Wells](#) and [Miami](#) Opens, citing a knee injury.^[245]

On April 19, 2017, Williams revealed that she was 20 weeks pregnant and would miss the remainder of the season.^[246] The timing of her announcement led to the conclusion that she would have been roughly eight to nine weeks pregnant when she won the Australian Open.^[247] In interviews, she maintained that she intended to return to tennis after her pregnancy,^[248] saying that she had an "outrageous plan" of competing in the 2018 Australian Open.^[248]

On September 1, 2017, Williams gave birth to a daughter named [Alexis Olympia Ohanian Jr.](#)^[249] She had a cesarean-section delivery due to a [pulmonary embolism](#) during labor.^[250] She suffered another pulmonary embolism after giving birth, leaving her bedridden for six weeks and delaying her return to training.^[251]

On December 30, 2017, Williams played her first match since giving birth, an exhibition match at the [World Tennis Championship in Abu Dhabi](#), losing to reigning French Open champion [Jelena Ostapenko](#).

2018: Return to tennis, Wimbledon and US Open runner up

On January 5, 2018, Williams withdrew from the upcoming Australian Open, citing a lack of sufficient preparation in the wake of her pregnancy.^[252] In February, after overcoming her pregnancy-induced health problems, she returned to the tennis court with her sister. The pair lost to [Lesley Kerkhove](#) and [Demi Schuurs](#) (Netherlands) in the Fed Cup's first round on February 11.^[253] Despite saying she was 100% ready to come back to tennis, Williams suffered back to back early exits at Indian Wells and Miami, losing in the third round at Indian Wells to her sister [Venus](#) and in the first round at Miami to 2018 Indian Wells champion [Naomi Osaka](#).



Williams at the 2018 French Open

Williams made her return to Grand Slam tennis at the [2018 French Open](#), playing singles as well as doubles with her sister [Venus](#). In the first round, she defeated [Kristýna Plíšková](#) in two tight sets before defeating 17th seed [Ashleigh Barty](#) in the second round. Then, she defeated 11th seed [Julia Görges](#) to set up a fourth-round match against 28th seed [Maria Sharapova](#), whom she had beaten 18 consecutive times since 2004. Williams withdrew due to an injury to her pectoral muscle sustained in a third-round match in doubles where she and [Venus](#) were defeated by [Andreja Klepač](#) and [María José Martínez Sánchez](#).^{[254][255]}

In July, Williams entered the [Wimbledon Championships](#) and was controversially seeded #25. With a world ranking at the time of 181,^[256] many felt that the decision showed bias and favored Williams unduly.^[257] Others argued that the [All England Club](#), who do not base their seedings on players' current world rankings – as other grand slam tournaments do – had sensibly taken Williams' excellent historic record at the tournament into account. Williams herself said: "I was pleasantly surprised. I came in here expecting that maybe I wouldn't get a seed."^[257] Her seeding meant that [Dominika Cibulková](#) lost her place as a seeded player.

By the second week of the tournament, for the first time in grand slam history, none of the top ten seeded female players had made it to the quarterfinals.^[258] On her own way to the quarterfinals, Williams had beaten [Arantxa Rus](#) of Holland in round one, [Viktoriya Tomova](#) of Bulgaria in round 2, [Kristína Mladenovic](#) of France in round 3 and [Evgeniya Rodina](#) of Russia in round 4.^[259] She had not yet lost a set in any of her matches to that point. Williams then beat Italian [Camila Giorgi](#) in the quarterfinals after yielding one set, and became the lowest ranked player to ever reach the Wimbledon semifinals.^[260] She met 13th seed [Julia Görges](#) of Germany in the semifinal and beat her comfortably in two sets to reach her tenth Wimbledon final, and her first since giving birth. She lost in the final in straight sets to [Angelique Kerber](#) of Germany in a rematch of the 2016 Wimbledon final.

Following her Wimbledon finals run, Williams entered the [2018 Silicon Valley Classic](#), her first appearance in a US Open series tournament since 2015. She recorded her most lopsided loss in her career to [Johanna Konta](#) in the first round, winning just a single game.^[261] Williams later revealed in an interview with [Time](#) that she checked [Instagram](#) ten minutes prior to the match starting, and found out that the man who had [fatally shot](#) her half-sister, [Yetunde](#), in 2003 was released on parole earlier in the year. She said in the interview, "I couldn't shake it out of my mind."^[262] She then withdrew from Toronto, citing personal reasons, which were later revealed to be [post-natal depression](#).



Serena at the 2016 Wimbledon, winning her 22nd Grand Slam title

Williams' next tournament was the Cincinnati Masters. She beat Daria Gavrilova of Australia in straight sets in the first round, but lost to Petra Kvitová in the second round in a three-set match that lasted over two hours. Her next tournament was the 2018 US Open in Flushing Meadows, New York, where she was seeded 17th, although ranked 26th in the WTA ranking at the time seeds were determined. She defeated Magda Linette in the first round, Carina Witthöft in the second round, her sister and 16th seed Venus in the third round, Kaia Kanepi in the fourth round, and 8th seed Karolína Plíšková in the quarterfinals. The match against Plíšková was a rematch of the 2016 US Open semifinal, which Plíšková had won. This was Williams' first win against a player in the top 10 (at the time of the match) since her return from pregnancy. Williams won her semifinal match against 19th seed Anastasija Sevastova of Latvia, winning a spot in the women's singles final against Naomi Osaka of Japan which she lost in straight sets. Williams was warned for illegal coaching, penalized a point for breaking her racket, and then penalized a game for verbal abuse of the chair umpire.

2019: Return to the top 10, injuries, Wimbledon and US Open runner-up

Williams started her 2019 season at the Australian Open, having not made an appearance at the tournament since winning the 2017 edition. Seeded 16th, she defeated Tatjana Maria, Eugenie Bouchard, and Dayana Yastremska in the first three rounds, before defeating top seed and world number one Simona Halep in the fourth. In the quarterfinals, she met 7th seed Karolína Plíšková. Plíšková won the first set and lead in the second, but Williams took control of the match, winning the second and rapidly taking a huge lead in the third. However, Plíšková won six consecutive games, saving four match points throughout the set, to win the match. This was Williams' earliest defeat at the Australian Open since her fourth-round loss in 2014, and broke a streak of fourteen consecutive match wins in Grand Slam quarterfinals (having last lost a Grand Slam quarterfinal at the 2013 Australian Open). Despite this loss, her ranking climbed up to number 11.

Williams went on to defeat Victoria Azarenka in the second round of the Indian Wells Masters in her 2019 campaign for a third Indian Wells crown. In the third round, viral illness caused her to retire against Spain's Garbiñe Muguruza. This was the second consecutive year she had exited at this stage. She then sustained a recurrence of a long-term knee injury which caused her to pull out of Miami and Rome after playing one match. She could not train properly until after the French Open, where she lost in the third round.^[263] At Wimbledon Williams reached a major final for the 13th consecutive year. In addition she became the oldest grand slam finalist in the open era.^[264] She lost the final to Simona Halep in two straight sets in under an hour.

At the Canadian Open, Williams defeated Czech qualifier Marie Bouzkova in three sets in the semi finals. Against Canadian teenager Bianca Andreescu, she retired in the first set after 19 minutes. She told the chair umpire of her decision to retire because of back spasms.^[265] Her back problems continued at the Cincinnati Open, where she withdrew shortly before her first-round match, stating, "Unfortunately my back is still not right."^[266]

Williams was seeded eighth at the US Open. In the first round she met Maria Sharapova for the first time since the 2016 Australian Open, defeating her in straight sets, yielding just one game in each set. She defeated Caty McNally in three sets in the second round, and Karolína Muchová and Petra Martić in straight sets in the third and fourth. In the quarterfinals she faced 18th seed Wang Qiang, who she overcame in just 45 minutes, yielding a single game. In the semifinals she defeated fifth seed Elina Svitolina, proceeding to the final where she faced 15th seed Bianca Andreescu for the second time in under a month. However, Andreescu was able to hold serve and break Williams to win in straight sets.^[267]

Rivalries

Serena vs. Venus

Williams has played older sister Venus in 30 professional matches since 1998.^[55] Overall, Serena is 18–12 against her sister.^[55] Serena has played Venus 15 times in Grand Slam singles and 13 times in other tournaments (including 11 finals).^[268] They have met in nine Grand Slam tournament finals, with Serena winning seven times.^[55] Beginning with the 2002 French Open, they played each other in four consecutive Grand Slam finals, which was the first time in the Open Era that the same two players had contested four consecutive finals in Grand Slam singles.

Williams vs. Hingis

Williams leads the series 7–6.^[269] One of Williams's first rivalries was with Martina Hingis, who turned pro less than one year before her (Hingis in October 1994, Williams in 1995). They first played each other at the 1998 Miami Open where Hingis won in three sets. All but one of their matches was played on a hard court with the exception being a contest on clay in Rome 1999, which Hingis won in straight sets. Their last match took place at the 2002 Miami Open with Williams winning in a loss of just four games.^[270] Hingis was forced to briefly retire citing ankle injuries.^[271]

Williams vs. Capriati

Williams leads the series 10–7.^[272] Once considered one of the best rivalries in women's tennis,^[273] the competition between Williams and Capriati was stiff with 12 out of their 17 meetings going to three sets. The rivalry, starting in 1999, began one sided with Capriati winning four of their first five matches. Williams would then go on to win the next eight.^[272] Williams and Capriati played with similar styles, both known for using their power and athleticism to gain quick advantages in points.^{[274][275]}

Williams vs. Henin

Williams leads the series 8–6. Henin and Williams met 14 times, five of which were in tournament finals. In grand slams they have faced each other seven times with Henin leading 4–3.^[276] Opposite personalities and styles of play are often cited as what made their rivalry entertaining.^{[277][278]}

In the semifinals of the 2003 French Open, when at 4–2, 30–0 on Williams's serve in the third set, Henin raised her hand to indicate she was not ready to receive; Williams then put her serve into the net. The umpire did not see Henin raise her hand, and thus did not allow Williams a first serve. Williams lost the game and would go on to lose the match. Their last match took place in the final of the 2010 Australian Open where Williams won in three sets, earning her 12th Grand Slam title.^[276]

Williams vs. Azarenka

Williams leads the series 18–4. The rivalry began at the 2008 Australian Open. Serena holds a 10–0 record in Grand Slams. Victoria Azarenka is the only person to ever win four WTA tour level finals against Serena. While their rivalry is heavily favored towards Serena, their matches are known for their fierce competitiveness.^[279]

Match controversies

Accusations of match fixing



Williams and Andy Murray have joined up for the mixed doubles at Wimbledon 2019

When both of the Williams sisters entered the top ten and started meeting in tournaments, rumors of match fixing started to circulate. John McEnroe, while commenting on the 2000 Wimbledon semifinal between the two sisters, said that "Serena may not be allowed to win. Richard [Williams] may have something to say about this."^[280] After losing to Venus at the Indian Wells quarterfinals in 2001, Elena Dementieva asserted during a post-match interview that Richard Williams decided the results of matches between the two sisters.^[281] Shortly thereafter, Venus Williams pulled out of her Indian Wells semifinal match against Serena Williams at the last minute, citing tendinitis; this occurrence garnered much speculation in the press, and some fans demanded their money back.^{[282][283][284]}

Indian Wells boycott

At the 2001 Ericsson Open the following week, Richard Williams stated that racist comments were made to him in the stands,^[285] and the tournament director refused to offer Williams an apology for how she was treated. As a result, neither sister played the tournament even though it had become a mandatory stop on the WTA tour since 2009. In 2015, Williams decided to end her 14-year boycott and played.^[286]

2004 US Open

In her US Open quarterfinal match against Jennifer Capriati, an incorrect overrule was made by chair umpire Mariana Alves; the video review showed that Williams's shot landed in bounds. In the same match, new technology being tested made incorrect line calls late in the third set. Williams argued with the chair over a couple of calls during the match, but was not successful. Capriati won the match, with Serena herself acknowledging that this was primarily due to her 57 unforced errors; nevertheless, she accused Alves of temporary insanity^[287] and said that she "felt cheated."^[288] In a post-match interview Capriati sharply observed that bad calls had gone against her in the past as well. Alves did not officiate for the remainder of the tournament; this was not punitive, as commonly thought, as she was not scheduled to officiate.^[289]

The controversy renewed calls for, and was widely given credit for, the adoption of technology such as the MacCAM and Hawk-Eye systems.^[290]

2009 US Open

In the US Open semifinal round against Kim Clijsters, Williams slammed her racket on the court after losing the first set. She was given a warning, with a potential second violation carrying a one-point penalty. While trailing 4–6, 5–6, 15–30, Williams's second serve was called a foot fault, resulting in two match points for Clijsters. Williams gestured with her racket to the lineswoman who had made the call and yelled at her, with profanities and a threat to shove a tennis ball down the lineswoman's throat.^[291] During the subsequent on-court conference between the chair umpire, the lineswoman, US Open officials, and Williams, a television microphone picked up Williams saying to the lineswoman, "I didn't say I would kill you! Are you serious?"^[292] The incident resulted in Williams being penalized a point for unsportsmanlike conduct—necessitated by the earlier warning for racket abuse—meaning Clijsters won the match 6–4, 7–5. The following day, Williams was issued the maximum permissible on-site fine of \$10,000 (plus \$500 for racket abuse). After further investigation, the Grand Slam Committee in November 2009 fined her \$175,000 in lieu of suspending her from the 2010 US Open or other Grand Slam events.^[293] They also placed her on a two-year probation which provided that if Williams committed another offense at a Grand Slam event in the next two years, she would be suspended from participating in the following US Open. If, however, she committed no offenses within the next two years, her fine would be reduced to \$82,500.^[293] Williams initially refused to apologize for her outburst, both in her post-match press conference^[294] and in an official statement released the following day.^[124] She eventually did apologize, stating "I just really wanted to apologize sincerely because I'm a very prideful person, and I'm a very intense person and a very emotional person", and "I wanted to offer my sincere apologies to anyone that I may have offended." She said she was humbled by the experience.^[295]

2011 US Open

In the final of the 2011 US Open against Samantha Stosur, Williams shouted "Come on!" as the Australian attempted to return a forehand Williams believed to be a winner. The chair umpire Eva Asderaki awarded the point to Stosur based on the USTA's deliberate hindrance rule, which states, "If a player commits any act which hinders his opponent in making a stroke, then, if this is deliberate, he shall lose the point or if involuntary, the point shall be replayed."^[296] As the point was 30–40 on Williams's serve, the penalty gave the break of serve to Stosur. Williams became angry with the chair umpire and made several gestures and unflattering comments toward her during the next changeover, including telling Asderaki that if the umpire ever saw Serena coming toward her, she should "look the other way."^[297] Williams initially gained momentum in the set following the penalty, breaking back in the next game, but eventually flagged and lost the match, 2–6, 3–6. At the end of the match, she declined to offer the customary handshake to Asderaki.^{[298][299]} Williams mentioned the incident in her post-match speech as the tournament runner-up, asserting, "I hit a winner, but I guess it didn't count", but added, "It wouldn't have mattered in the end. Sam played really well."^[300] A writer for ESPN suggested that Williams could avoid being found to have violated the terms of the "probation" on which she was placed following her 2009 outburst, as she did not appear to have used profanity in addressing Asderaki during the match.^[301] In the end, Williams was fined \$2,000 and was not barred from competing in the 2012 US Open because "Williams's conduct, while verbally abusive, [did] not rise to the level of a major offence under the Grand Slam code of conduct."^[302]

2018 US Open

Williams' 2018 US Open ended in controversy, with Williams falling to Naomi Osaka in straight sets following a game penalty in the second set of the final. During that second set, she was given a code violation because her coach, Patrick Mouratoglou, gave her coaching hand signals. Williams was upset by the violation, claiming that her coach was simply giving her a thumbs up, and demanded an apology from chair umpire Carlos Ramos. Mouratoglou later admitted that he had been coaching.^[303] She received a second violation for smashing her racket on the court, which resulted in a point penalty. After her third code violation for verbal abuse against the umpire, Williams was assessed a game penalty.^{[304][305]} Williams said that she believed she had been treated unfairly by the umpire because she is a woman.^[306] Williams was fined a total of \$17,000, that included \$4,000 for a coaching violation, \$3,000 for racket abuse and \$10,000 for verbal abuse towards the umpire.^[307]

Discrimination

Williams has been the focus of criticism and commentary, some of which the Williams family, news media, and scholars have stated was discriminatory against her due to her race and gender.

In the beginning years of Williams' professional career, cultural beads donned by the Williams sisters were the focus of discussion by commentators such as Chris Evert and John McEnroe, with Mary Carillo characterizing their hair as "noisy and disruptive."^[308] Scholars Nancy Spencer and Jamie Schultz have stated that commentary that dismissed the Williams' cultural hairstyles served to Other the sisters, particularly in the context of a white dominated sport where their appearance and specifically their physicality is a popular topic for discussion.^{[308][309]}

In 2000 the Williams sisters faced each other in a Grand Slam Tournament in a semifinal match at Wimbledon, the first time the sisters had faced each other in this setting. After Venus won in straight sets, questions arose as to whether or not Richard Williams fixed the match. These questions increased in 2001 when Venus withdrew from her scheduled semifinal match against her sister at Indian Wells. Two days later, in the finals of Indian Wells, Williams was booed throughout the match.^[308] When Venus and Richard Williams entered the stadium to support Williams in the finals, Richard proclaimed that a dozen fans in the stands yelled racial slurs at him and his daughter, with one fan yelling "skin him alive."^[308] Following this match, the Williams sisters boycotted Indian Wells until Williams returned in 2015 and Venus in 2016.^[310]

Following the match controversy at the 2018 US Open final between Williams and Naomi Osaka, a cartoon was released by the Herald Sun depicting Williams having a tantrum and breaking her racket while the umpire asks her opponent to "just let her win."^[311] This cartoon was met with much criticism for being racist and sexist. Complaints centered around the portrayal of Williams as the angry black women with exaggerated large lips, a broad flat nose, and positioned in an ape like pose and of Williams' opponent, Osaka, who is half Japanese half Haitian, being portrayed as white with blonde hair.^[312] Williams' husband, Reddit co-founder Alexis Ohanian, called the cartoon sexist and misogynistic.^[313] Famous celebrities, including J.K. Rowling, came to Williams' defence with similar views while the editor of the Herald Sun argued the cartoon was "unfairly" criticized on social media.^{[314][315]} The cartoonist defended his work as his contribution to "stop family from being abused," a reference to Williams defending herself as a wife and mother in her dispute with the umpire.^[315] The cartoonist says his satire was never about race or gender, but was about putting a spotlight on bad behaviour by sporting superstars.^[315]

In September of 2019, Radu Banciu compared Williams to a zoo monkey live on Romanian TV. According to a press release by the National Council for Combating Discrimination in Bucharest translated by the Business Insider, Banciu proclaimed, among other comments, that "Serena Williams looks exactly like one of those monkeys at the zoo with the red asses."^[316] Banciu was fined approximately \$1,875 for his comments.^[316] Other than the fine, no punitive action was taken against Banciu regarding his job.^[316]

Legacy

Williams is hailed by many coaches, players and sportscasters to be one of the best female tennis players of the Open Era.^[317] In 2018, a Tennis.com panel selected Serena as the greatest female tennis player in the Open Era.^[318] Her numerous victories on court have largely been a positive influence on young girls and boys who see Williams as a role model and an ambassador of tennis.^{[319][320]} However, there is a sizable percentage of people who disagree.^{[321][322][323][324]} Some commentators, players and sports writers regard Williams as the greatest female tennis player of all time.^{[a][339][340]}

For their first match of March 2019, the women of the United States women's national soccer team each wore a jersey with the name of a woman they were honoring on the back; Crystal Dunn chose the name of Serena Williams.^[341]

Personal life

Williams is married to Reddit co-founder Alexis Ohanian. They were married on November 16, 2017, in New Orleans. Guests at the wedding included Beyoncé, Anna Wintour, Kelly Rowland and Kim Kardashian West.^[342] She planned to move to San Francisco with Ohanian after the wedding.^[248]

On April 19, 2017, Williams posted a sideways picture of herself on Snapchat focused on her midsection. It had the caption, "20 weeks", sparking speculation that Williams was pregnant.^[343] Later that evening, her spokesperson confirmed that the couple was expecting.^[344] The fact that she was 20 weeks pregnant when announcing her pregnancy meant that she was 8 weeks pregnant when she won the Australian Open in January.^[345] Serena later confirmed that posting the photo on Snapchat was an accident and that she had intended to save the photo for her personal records.^[346]

On September 1, 2017, Williams gave birth to her daughter, Alexis Olympia Ohanian Jr.^{[347][348]} Williams had a cesarean-section delivery due to complications (specifically, a blood clot in her lungs, referred to as a pulmonary embolism) during the labor of her daughter and, at first, was devastated about it.^[250] She suffered another pulmonary embolism after giving birth, leaving her bedridden for six weeks and delaying her return to training.^[251] In August 2018, Serena announced she was suffering from postpartum depression.^[349] Williams gave her daughter a doll, Qai Qai that has become famous on social media.^[350]

Williams was raised a Jehovah's Witness, but says she has "never really practiced it."^[248] She often thanks Jehovah after winning matches.^[351] Williams confirmed that she follows some practices: "Olympia doesn't celebrate birthdays. We're Jehovah's Witnesses, so we don't do that."^[352]



Serena Williams' husband Alexis Ohanian in 2018

Off-court activities

Equipment and endorsements

In the early 2000s, Williams wore Puma apparel and footwear on court.^[353] She used the Wilson Hammer 6.4 Stretch Power Holes racket.^[354] Today, she is endorsed by Nike and uses the Wilson Blade 104.

Williams also has endorsement deals with Gatorade, Delta Air Lines, Audemars Piguet, Aston Martin, Pepsi, Beats by Dre headphones, Mission Athletecare, Berlei bras, OPI Products, OnePiece, IBM, Mini, Intel, Tempur and Chase Bank.

Williams is the current CSO (Chief Sporting Officer) for British luxury automobile manufacturer Aston Martin. She accepted the contract in June 2015. Williams then posted her first experience on social media service Twitter, and said: "I'm loving my first day on the job as Chief Sporting Officer and Director of Fun!", stating her optimism on the job as the CSO.^{[355][356]}

Williams is also on the Board of Directors at SurveyMonkey.^[357]

Fashion

Williams has been noted for her unusual and colorful outfits on court. In 2002, there was much talk when she wore a black lycra catsuit at the US Open.^[358] At the 2004 US Open, Williams wore denim skirts and knee-high boots—tournament officials did not allow her to wear the boots during matches.^[359] At the 2008 Wimbledon, the white trench coat she wore during warm-up for her opening match was the subject of much discussion since it was worn despite sunny weather.^[360] Some social scientists have argued that the most negative reactions to Williams' on-court fashion statements, especially in newspaper coverage of the Australian Open and Wimbledon, combines with writers' fixation upon her muscular body to distract from her on-court accomplishments and fit this commentary within centuries-old narratives of the "pornographic eroticism" and "sexual grotesquerie" of African and African-American women.^[361]

Williams formerly had a special line with Puma.^[362] In April 2004, she signed a deal worth US\$40 million for a line with Nike.^[363] Since 2004, she has also run her own line of designer apparel, "Aneres"—her first name spelled backward. In 2009, she launched a signature collection of handbags and jewelry.^[364] The collection, Signature Statement, is sold mainly on the Home Shopping Network (HSN).

In early 2010, Williams became a certified nail technician in preparation for her upcoming nail collection with a company called HairTech.^[365] In 2015, she became the first black female athlete to have a picture by herself on the cover of Vogue, which she did for the April 2015 issue.^[366] In 2015, she also presented her HSN Signature Statement collection for the second time at the New York Fashion Week Show—a clothing line exclusively made for the retailer HSN.

In May 2018 she wore a skin-tight catsuit at the 2018 French Open that was likened to a superhero outfit and helped promote her new clothing line, Serena.^{[367][368][369]} The outfit was subsequently banned by the French Tennis Federation president Bernard Giudicelli, with the explanation: "It will no longer be accepted. One must respect the game and the place." Williams then wore a black tutu to her first match at the 2018 US Open on August 27, 2018 against Magda Linette which she dominated in straight sets.^{[370][371]} In February 2019, Serena Williams was

appointed to the board of directors of online fashion marketplace [Poshmark](#).^[372]

Activism

Williams has become more involved in social change as her career has progressed, primarily using social media as a medium of expressing her views. In 2016 she posted her support of [Black Lives Matter](#) on her [Facebook](#) page, voicing her concern about her young nephew being in danger from police officers due to his skin color.^[373] During American tennis player [Tennys Sandgren's](#) breakthrough run to the quarterfinals of the 2018 Australian Open, it was revealed that he tweeted insensitive words about the [LGBT](#) community, followed members of the [alt-right](#), and referred to an article describing Williams's on-court behavior as "disgusting". Williams responded by tweeting her displeasure, saying, "@TennysSandgren I don't need or want one. But there is a entire group of people that deserves an apology. I can't look at my daughter and tell her I sat back and was quiet. No! She will know how to stand up for herself and others – through my example." Additionally, she attached an image that read, "Maturity is being able to apologize and admit when you're wrong because you know that your mistakes don't define you".^[374]

Williams has received several awards for her activism, particularly for her activism directed towards Black communities. She was listed among the 35 "most remarkable and beautiful black women" in the world by [Essence](#) magazine.^[375] The NAACP has honored Williams with the President's Award at the annual NAACP Image Awards.^[376]

Entertainment

Williams has appeared on television and also provided voice work on animated shows: in a 2001 episode of *The Simpsons* Serena joined the animation along with sister Venus, [Pete Sampras](#) and [Andre Agassi](#).^[377] She has also provided guest voice work in a 2005 episode of Playhouse Disney's animated kids show *Higglytown Heroes* and a 2007 episode of the Nickelodeon cartoon *Avatar: The Last Airbender*,^[378] which she has described as her "favorite show".^[379]

Williams has posed for the 2003 and 2004 editions of the *Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Issue*.^[380] In April 2005, MTV announced plans to broadcast a reality show around the lives of Serena and Venus, which was eventually aired on [ABC Family](#). Williams has appeared twice on MTV's *Punk'd* and in 2007, appeared in the [ABC](#) reality television series *Fast Cars and Superstars: The Gillette Young Guns Celebrity Race*. In 2002, she played *Miss Wiggins* in the season 3 episode "Crouching Mother, Hidden Father" of *My Wife and Kids*.^[381] she has also guest-starred in episodes of *The Bernie Mac Show*, *ER* and *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*.^[382] In 2007, Williams appeared in the music video of "I Want You" by the American rapper [Common](#), alongside performers [Alicia Keys](#) and [Kanye West](#).^[383]

In late 2009, Williams became the first active female professional athlete to appear in a [feminine hygiene](#) product advertising campaign. A series of online videos and print advertisements for [Tampax Pearl tampons](#) showed her hitting balls at [Mother Nature](#), played by [Catherine Lloyd Burns](#), to prevent Mother Nature giving her a red-wrapped gift, representing her [menstrual period](#). In the online videos, the two have dueling press conferences over the "bad blood" between them. "A lot of celebrities are not open to working with our brand, and we're thrilled that Serena is", said a [brand manager](#) for Tampax at [Procter & Gamble](#).^[384]

In July 2012, she appeared in the [ABC](#) comedic improv television series *Trust Us with Your Life* and as a lawyer on the [Lifetime](#) television series *Drop Dead Diva*.

To celebrate the 35th anniversary of [Pac-Man](#), Williams made a cameo appearance in the movie *Pixels*, which starred [Adam Sandler](#) and [Kevin James](#), and premiered on July 24, 2015.^[385]

Williams is known to be close to [Beyoncé](#) and made a cameo appearance dancing in Beyoncé's music video for the song *Sorry* in the hit album *Lemonade*. Williams said the director told her, "We would love for you to be in this particular song. It's about strength and it's about courage and that's what we see you as."^[386]

Language fluency

In addition to English as her native language, Williams also speaks conversational French, and knows some Spanish and Italian. At the 2013, 2015, 2016 and 2018 [French Open](#) she gave her on-court interviews in French, much to the crowd's delight.^{[387][388]}

Miami Dolphins venture

In August 2009, Williams and her sister Venus became minority owners of the [Miami Dolphins](#) after purchasing a small stake in the team. They live near each other in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida,^[248] which is about an hour's drive from the Dolphins' stadium. They are the first Black women to hold any amount of ownership in an NFL franchise.^[389]

Charity work

In 2004 and 2005, Serena and her sister, Venus, visited hospitals and played several tennis matches in predominantly black cities in order to raise money for the local Ronald McDonald House charities. An ESPN episode was dedicated to the Williams sisters' charity tour ^[375] In 2008, as part of the Serena Williams Foundation's work, Williams helped to fund the construction of the Serena Williams Secondary School in [Matooni, Kenya](#).^{[390][391][392]} The Serena Williams Foundation also provides university scholarships for underprivileged students in the United States. In 2016, the Serena Williams Fund partnered with [Helping Hands Jamaica](#) to build the Salt Marsh Primary School for Jamaican youth in [Trelawny Parish](#).^{[393][394]} She received a [Celebrity Role Model Award](#) from [Avon Foundation](#) in 2003 for work in breast cancer.^[395] Williams has also been involved in a number of clinics at schools and community centers, particularly those which have programs focusing on at-risk youth.^[1] She has also won the "Young Heroes Award" from [Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater L.A. and Inland](#) (2003) and the "Family Circle and Prudential Financial Player Who Makes a Difference Award" (2004).^[1] In response to the 2010 [Haiti earthquake](#), Williams, along with other ATP and WTA stars, decided to forgo their final day of preparation for the 2010 [Australian Open](#) to form a charity event in which all proceeds would go to the Haiti earthquake victims.^[396] Serena, along with her sister Venus, is a supporter and contributor of [First Serve Miami](#), a foundation for youth who want to learn tennis but are socially and economically challenged.^{[397][398][399][400]} She has been an [International Goodwill Ambassador](#) with [UNICEF](#) since 2011 and has helped launch UNICEF's [Schools for Asia](#) campaign.^{[401][402][403][404]}

In addition to the Serena Williams Fund in 2016, Serena and Venus collaborated on the Williams Sisters Fund to work on philanthropic projects together.^[405] Also in 2016, in their native home of [Compton, California](#) Serena and Venus teamed up to found the [Yetunde Price Resource Center](#), in honor of their late sister. The Resource Center provides services to families affected by community violence.^[405]

Williams's return to [Indian Wells](#) in 2015 was done in partnership with the [Equal Justice Initiative](#), a non-profit organization that provides legal representation to those who might have been denied a fair trial.^[406] [EJI](#) executive director [Bryan Stevenson](#) lauded her courage in supporting his organization. "It's so rare when athletes at the top of their game are willing to embrace a set of issues that, for a lot of people, are edgier", he said. "This is not aid to orphans. ... She was standing when a lot of her contemporaries remain seated, speaking up when others are being quiet."^[407]

In 2014, Williams began hosting an annual charity run named "The Serena Williams Ultimate Fun Run". The event is in support of the Serena Williams Fund, which helps underprivileged individuals and communities that are affected by senseless violence and to ensure equal access to education of youth.^{[408][405][409]}

In 2017, Williams became Ambassador for the [Allstate Foundation's Purple Purse](#) project, an initiative to provide financial empowerment to domestic abuse victims.^{[410][411]} In a press release, [Vicky Dinges](#), Allstate's senior vice president of corporate responsibility, said, "we are thrilled to welcome Serena, a longtime advocate and role model for so many, to the Purple Purse family. Her voice will bring new audiences into this critical conversation."^[411]

Other charitable organizations Williams supports include the [Elton John AIDS Foundation](#), [Great Ormond Street Hospital](#), Hearts of Gold, the Common Ground Foundation, the Small Steps Project, the [HollyRod Foundation](#), Beyond the Boroughs National Scholarship Fund, World Education, the Eva Longoria Foundation, the Caliber Foundation and the Cure for MND Foundation.^{[412][413]}

Writing

The Williams sisters, with author Hilary Beard, wrote a book titled *Venus & Serena: Serving From The Hip: 10 Rules For Living, Loving and Winning*, which was published in 2005.^{[414][415]} During the 2009 Wimbledon Championships, Williams said that she was in the process of writing a TV show storyline, which would be converted into script form by her agency. She stated that the show would represent subject matter from a mix of popular American television shows such as *Desperate Housewives* and *Family Guy*.^[416] Williams released her first solo autobiography, entitled *On the Line*, following the 2009 US Open.

Career statistics

Grand Slam tournament performance timeline

Key

W	F	SF	QF	#R	RR	Q#	A	NH
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(W) Won; (F) finalist; (SF) semifinalist; (QF) quarterfinalist; (#R) rounds 4, 3, 2, 1; (RR) round-robin stage; (Q#) qualification round; (A) absent; (NH) not held. SR=strike rate (events won/competed)

To avoid confusion and double counting, these charts are updated at the conclusion of a tournament or when the player's participation has ended.

Current through the 2019 US Open.

Tournament	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2
Australian Open	<u>2R</u>	<u>3R</u>	<u>4R</u>	<u>QF</u>	A	<u>W</u>	A	<u>W</u>	<u>3R</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>QF</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>W</u>	A	<u>4R</u>	<u>QF</u>	<u>4R</u>	<u>W</u>	
French Open	<u>4R</u>	<u>3R</u>	A	<u>QF</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>SF</u>	<u>QF</u>	A	A	<u>QF</u>	<u>3R</u>	<u>QF</u>	<u>QF</u>	A	<u>1R</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>2R</u>	<u>W</u>	
Wimbledon	<u>3R</u>	A	<u>SF</u>	<u>QF</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>3R</u>	A	<u>QF</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>4R</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>4R</u>	<u>3R</u>	<u>W</u>	
US Open	<u>3R</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>QF</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>W</u>	A	<u>QF</u>	<u>4R</u>	<u>4R</u>	<u>QF</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>SF</u>	A	<u>F</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>SF</u>	
Win–Loss	8–4	11–2	12–3	18–4	21–0	19–1	14–3	12–2	5–2	19–3	19–3	23–2	18–1	9–2	17–2	21–2	13–3	26–1	2

Note: Williams withdrew from the 2018 French Open prior to her fourth round match, which does not officially count as a loss.

Grand Slam tournament finals

Singles: 33 (23–10)

Result	Year	Tournament	Surface	Opponents	Score
Win	1999	<u>US Open</u>	Hard	 <u>Martina Hingis</u>	6–3, 7–6 ^(7–4)
Loss	2001	<u>US Open</u>	Hard	 <u>Venus Williams</u>	2–6, 4–6
Win	2002	<u>French Open</u>	Clay	 <u>Venus Williams</u>	7–5, 6–3
Win	2002	<u>Wimbledon</u>	Grass	 <u>Venus Williams</u>	7–6 ^(7–4) , 6–3
Win	2002	<u>US Open (2)</u>	Hard	 <u>Venus Williams</u>	6–4, 6–3
Win	2003	<u>Australian Open</u>	Hard	 <u>Venus Williams</u>	7–6 ^(7–4) , 3–6, 6–4
Win	2003	<u>Wimbledon (2)</u>	Grass	 <u>Venus Williams</u>	4–6, 6–4, 6–2
Loss	2004	<u>Wimbledon</u>	Grass	 <u>Maria Sharapova</u>	1–6, 4–6
Win	2005	<u>Australian Open (2)</u>	Hard	 <u>Lindsay Davenport</u>	2–6, 6–3, 6–0
Win	2007	<u>Australian Open (3)</u>	Hard	 <u>Maria Sharapova</u>	6–1, 6–2
Loss	2008	<u>Wimbledon</u>	Grass	 <u>Venus Williams</u>	5–7, 4–6
Win	2008	<u>US Open (3)</u>	Hard	 <u>Jelena Janković</u>	6–4, 7–5
Win	2009	<u>Australian Open (4)</u>	Hard	 <u>Dinara Safina</u>	6–0, 6–3
Win	2009	<u>Wimbledon (3)</u>	Grass	 <u>Venus Williams</u>	7–6 ^(7–3) , 6–2
Win	2010	<u>Australian Open (5)</u>	Hard	 <u>Justine Henin</u>	6–4, 3–6, 6–2
Win	2010	<u>Wimbledon (4)</u>	Grass	 <u>Vera Zvonareva</u>	6–3, 6–2
Loss	2011	<u>US Open</u>	Hard	 <u>Samantha Stosur</u>	2–6, 3–6
Win	2012	<u>Wimbledon (5)</u>	Grass	 <u>Agnieszka Radwańska</u>	6–1, 5–7, 6–2
Win	2012	<u>US Open (4)</u>	Hard	 <u>Victoria Azarenka</u>	6–2, 2–6, 7–5
Win	2013	<u>French Open (2)</u>	Clay	 <u>Maria Sharapova</u>	6–4, 6–4
Win	2013	<u>US Open (5)</u>	Hard	 <u>Victoria Azarenka</u>	7–5, 6–7 ^(6–8) , 6–1
Win	2014	<u>US Open (6)</u>	Hard	 <u>Caroline Wozniacki</u>	6–3, 6–3
Win	2015	<u>Australian Open (6)</u>	Hard	 <u>Maria Sharapova</u>	6–3, 7–6 ^(7–5)
Win	2015	<u>French Open (3)</u>	Clay	 <u>Lucie Šafářová</u>	6–3, 6–7 ^(2–7) , 6–2
Win	2015	<u>Wimbledon (6)</u>	Grass	 <u>Garbiñe Muguruza</u>	6–4, 6–4
Loss	2016	<u>Australian Open</u>	Hard	 <u>Angelique Kerber</u>	4–6, 6–3, 4–6
Loss	2016	<u>French Open</u>	Clay	 <u>Garbiñe Muguruza</u>	5–7, 4–6
Win	2016	<u>Wimbledon (7)</u>	Grass	 <u>Angelique Kerber</u>	7–5, 6–3
Win	2017	<u>Australian Open (7)</u>	Hard	 <u>Venus Williams</u>	6–4, 6–4
Loss	2018	<u>Wimbledon</u>	Grass	 <u>Angelique Kerber</u>	3–6, 3–6
Loss	2018	<u>US Open</u>	Hard	 <u>Naomi Osaka</u>	2–6, 4–6
Loss	2019	<u>Wimbledon</u>	Grass	 <u>Simona Halep</u>	2–6, 2–6
Loss	2019	<u>US Open</u>	Hard	 <u>Bianca Andreescu</u>	3–6, 5–7

Women's doubles: 14 (14–0)

Result	Year	Tournament	Surface	Partner	Opponents	Score
Win	<u>1999</u>	French Open	Clay	Venus Williams	Martina Hingis Anna Kournikova	6–3, 6–7 ^(2–7) , 8–6
Win	<u>1999</u>	US Open	Hard	Venus Williams	Chanda Rubin Sandrine Testud	4–6, 6–1, 6–4
Win	<u>2000</u>	Wimbledon	Grass	Venus Williams	Julie Halard-Decugis Ai Sugiyama	6–3, 6–2
Win	<u>2001</u>	Australian Open	Hard	Venus Williams	Lindsay Davenport Corina Morariu	6–2, 2–6, 6–4
Win	<u>2002</u>	Wimbledon (2)	Grass	Venus Williams	Virginia Ruano Pascual Paola Suárez	6–2, 7–5
Win	<u>2003</u>	Australian Open (2)	Hard	Venus Williams	Virginia Ruano Pascual Paola Suárez	4–6, 6–4, 6–3
Win	<u>2008</u>	Wimbledon (3)	Grass	Venus Williams	Lisa Raymond Samantha Stosur	6–2, 6–2
Win	<u>2009</u>	Australian Open (3)	Hard	Venus Williams	Daniela Hantuchová Ai Sugiyama	6–3, 6–3
Win	<u>2009</u>	Wimbledon (4)	Grass	Venus Williams	Samantha Stosur Rennae Stubbs	7–6 ^(7–4) , 6–4
Win	<u>2009</u>	US Open (2)	Hard	Venus Williams	Cara Black Liezel Huber	6–2, 6–2
Win	<u>2010</u>	Australian Open (4)	Hard	Venus Williams	Cara Black Liezel Huber	6–4, 6–3
Win	<u>2010</u>	French Open (2)	Clay	Venus Williams	Květa Peschke Katarina Srebotnik	6–2, 6–3
Win	<u>2012</u>	Wimbledon (5)	Grass	Venus Williams	Andrea Hlaváčková Lucie Hradecká	7–5, 6–4
Win	<u>2016</u>	Wimbledon (6)	Grass	Venus Williams	Tímea Babos Yaroslava Shvedova	6–3, 6–4

Mixed doubles: 4 (2–2)

Result	Year	Tournament	Surface	Partner	Opponents	Score
Loss	<u>1998</u>	French Open	Clay	Luis Lobo	Justin Gimelstob Venus Williams	3–6, 4–6
Win	<u>1998</u>	Wimbledon	Grass	Max Mirnyi	Mahesh Bhupathi Mirjana Lučić	6–4, 6–4
Win	<u>1998</u>	US Open	Hard	Max Mirnyi	Patrick Galbraith Lisa Raymond	6–2, 6–2
Loss	<u>1999</u>	Australian Open	Hard	Max Mirnyi	David Adams Mariaan de Swardt	4–6, 6–4, 6–7 ^(5–7)

Records

- Records in **bold** indicate peer-less achievements.
- Records in *italics* are currently active streaks.

Time span	Selected Grand Slam tournament records	Players matched
1999 US Open — 2003 Australian Open	Career Grand Slam in singles	<u>Doris Hart</u> <u>Maureen Connolly</u> <u>Shirley Fry</u> <u>Margaret Court</u> <u>Billie Jean King</u> <u>Chris Evert</u> <u>Martina Navratilova</u> <u>Steffi Graf</u> <u>María Sharapova</u>
2012 Wimbledon — 2015 Australian Open	Career Grand Slam in singles after age 30	Stands alone
2012 Wimbledon — 2017 Australian Open	Double Career Grand Slam in singles after age 30	Stands alone
1999 US Open — 2012 Olympics	Career Golden Slam in singles	<u>Steffi Graf</u>
2012 Wimbledon — 2015 Australian Open	Career Golden Slam in singles after age 30	Stands alone
1999 French Open — 2003 Australian Open	Career Grand Slam in both singles and doubles	<u>Doris Hart</u> <u>Shirley Fry</u> <u>Margaret Court</u> <u>Martina Navratilova</u>
1999 French Open — 2012 Olympics	Career Golden Slam in both singles and doubles	Stands alone
2012 Wimbledon — 2017 Australian Open	Ten Grand Slam singles titles after age 30	Stands alone
2002 Wimbledon — 2017 Australian Open	<u>3 different Grand Slam titles won without losing a set</u>	<u>Helen Wills</u> <u>Chris Evert</u> <u>Steffi Graf</u> <u>Lindsay Davenport</u>
1999 US Open — 2017 Australian Open	Thirteen hardcourt Grand Slam singles titles	Stands alone
2012 Olympics — 2015 Wimbledon	Simultaneous holder of Olympic singles gold and all four Grand Slams in singles	<u>Steffi Graf</u>
2008 Olympics — 2010 French Open	Simultaneous holder of Olympic doubles gold and all four Grand Slams in doubles (with <u>Venus Williams</u>)	<u>Venus Williams</u>
2008 Olympics — 2015 Wimbledon	Simultaneous holder of Olympic gold and all four Grand Slams in both singles and doubles	Stands alone
1999 French Open — 2012 Olympics	Double Career Golden Slam (2+ titles at all four Grand Slams & Olympic golds) in doubles (with <u>Venus Williams</u>)	<u>Venus Williams</u>
2002 French Open — 2002 US Open	100% (21–0) match winning percentage in 1 season	<u>Helen Wills</u> <u>Maureen Connolly</u> <u>Shirley Fry</u> <u>Margaret Court</u> <u>Billie Jean King</u> <u>Chris Evert</u> <u>Steffi Graf</u> <u>Monica Seles</u>
2002 French Open — 2003 Australian Open	Winner of non-calendar year Grand Slam	<u>Maureen Connolly</u> <u>Margaret Court</u> <u>Martina Navratilova</u> <u>Steffi Graf</u>
2002 French Open — 2015 Wimbledon	Winner of two non-calendar year Grand Slams	<u>Steffi Graf</u>
2002 French Open — 2010 French Open	Winner of non-calendar year Grand Slams in both singles and doubles	<u>Martina Navratilova</u>
2002 French Open — 2016 Wimbledon	Winner of 10+ Grand Slam singles titles in two separate decades (10 from 2000 to 2009 and 12 from 2010 to 2017)	Stands alone
2002 French Open — 2013 French Open	Winner of all four Grand Slam singles titles in two separate decades	<u>Margaret Court</u> <u>Steffi Graf</u>
1999 US Open — 2013 French Open	Winner of Grand Slam singles titles in three decades	<u>Blanche Bingley</u> <u>Martina Navratilova</u>
1999 French Open — 2016 Wimbledon	First 14 Grand Slam doubles finals won (with <u>Venus Williams</u>)	<u>Venus Williams</u>
1999 US Open — 2015 French Open	Triple Career Grand Slam (3+ titles at all four Grand Slams) in singles	<u>Margaret Court</u> <u>Steffi Graf</u>
1999 US Open — 2013 French Open	Double Career Grand Slam in both singles and doubles	<u>Margaret Court</u> <u>Martina Navratilova</u>
1999 US Open — 2015 Wimbledon	6+ titles at three different Grand Slams (Australian Open, Wimbledon, and US Open)	Stands alone
2002 Wimbledon — 2017 Australian Open	7 titles at two different Grand Slams (Australian Open and Wimbledon)	Stands alone
1998 Australian Open — 2019 US Open	65+ wins at all four Grand Slams	Stands alone
2012 Australian Open— 2017 Australian Open	3 finals at each of the four Grand Slams since turning 30	Stands alone
2019 US Open	Oldest women's singles finalist (37 years 11 months)	Stands alone

Grand Slam tournaments	Time span	Records at each Grand Slam tournament	Players matched
Australian Open	2007	Unseeded winner of singles title	<u>Chris O'Neil</u>
Australian Open	2003–2017	7 women's singles titles (Open Era record)	Stands alone
Australian Open	2003–2017	<u>8 finals overall</u>	Stands alone
Australian Open	2003–2017	14 years between first and last title	Stands alone
Australian Open	2003–2017	14 years between first and last final	<u>Chris Evert</u> <u>Venus Williams</u>
Australian Open	1998–2019	85 match wins	Stands alone
French Open	2002–2015	13 years between first and last title	Stands alone
French Open	2002–2016	14 years between first and last final	Stands alone
French Open—Wimbledon	2002, 2015	Accomplished a "Channel Slam": Winning both tournaments in the same year	<u>Margaret Court</u> <u>Billie Jean King</u> <u>Chris Evert</u> <u>Martina Navratilova</u> <u>Steffi Graf</u>
Wimbledon	2012–2016	3 women's singles titles after age 30	Stands alone
Wimbledon	2002–2019	17 years between first and last final	<u>Venus Williams</u>
US Open	1999–2012	Winner of singles titles in three decades	Stands alone
US Open	1999–2014	6 women's singles titles (Open Era record)	<u>Chris Evert</u>
US Open	1998–2019	101 match wins	<u>Chris Evert</u>
US Open	1999–2014	15 years between first and last title	Stands alone
US Open	1999–2019	20 years between first and last final	Stands alone
US Open	2011, 2013–2014	Won as US Open Series Champion multiple times	Stands alone
US Open	2012–2014	3 women's singles titles after age 30	Stands alone

Time span	Other selected records	Players matched
1999–2016	<u>23 Tier I / Premier Mandatory & Premier 5 singles titles overall</u>	Stands alone
1999–2016	<u>32 Tier I / Premier Mandatory & Premier 5 singles finals overall</u>	Stands alone
1999–2015	<u>16 Hard court Tier I / Premier Mandatory & Premier 5 singles titles overall</u>	Stands alone
2001	Won <u>WTA Tour Championships</u> on debut	<u>Maria Sharapova</u> <u>Petra Kvitová</u> <u>Dominika Cibulková</u>
2010	Ranked No. 1 in singles and doubles simultaneously	<u>Martina Navratilova</u> <u>Arantxa Sánchez Vicario</u> <u>Martina Hingis</u> <u>Lindsay Davenport</u> <u>Kim Clijsters</u>
2013–2016	<u>186 consecutive weeks at No. 1</u>	<u>Steffi Graf</u>
2003–2008	<u>2 Hopman Cup titles</u>	<u>Dominik Hrbatý</u> <u>Tommy Robredo</u> <u>James Blake</u> <u>Arantxa Sánchez Vicario</u>
2002–2015	<u>8 Miami Masters singles titles overall</u>	Stands alone
2000–2012	<u>4 Olympic Gold Medals overall</u>	<u>Venus Williams</u>
2000–2012	<u>3 Olympic Gold Medals in Doubles (with Venus Williams)</u>	<u>Venus Williams</u>
2000–2016	<u>93.75% (15–1) Olympic match winning record in doubles (with Venus Williams)</u>	<u>Venus Williams</u>
2001, 2012	<u>Two Year-End Championships won without losing a set</u>	<u>Martina Navratilova</u>
2001–2015	<u>Winning percentage of 82.86% at Year-End Championships</u>	Stands alone
1995–2017	<u>\$84,463,131 prize money overall</u>	Stands alone

Filmography

Film and television

Year	Title	Role	Notes
2001	<i>The Simpsons</i>	Herself (voice)	Episode: "Tennis the Menace"
2002	<i>My Wife and Kids</i>	Miss Wiggins	Episode: "Crouching Mother, Hidden Father"
2003	<i>Street Time</i>	Meeka Hayes	Episode: "Fly Girl"
2004	<i>Law & Order: Special Victims Unit</i>	Chloe Spiers	Episode: "Brotherhood"
2004	<i>The Division</i>	Jennifer Davis	Episode: "Lost and Found"
2004	<i>Hair Show</i>	Agent Ross	
2005	<i>Higglytown Heroes</i>	Snowplow Driver Hero (voice)	Episode: "Higgly Hoedown/Eubie's Turbo Sled"
2005	<i>ER</i>	Alice Watson	Episode: "Two Ships "
2005	<i>All of Us</i>	Herself	Episode: "Not So Wonderful News"
2005	<i>America's Next Top Model</i>	Herself	Episode: "The Girl with the Worst Photo in History"
2005–2007	<i>Punk'd</i>	Herself	3 episodes
2007	<i>Loonatics Unleashed</i>	Queen Athena (voice)	Episode: "Apocalypso"
2007	<i>Avatar: The Last Airbender</i>	Ming (voice)	Episode: "The Day of Black Sun: Part 1 – The Invasion"
2006	<i>The Bernie Mac Show</i>	Herself	Episode: "Spinning Wheels"
2008	<i>The Game</i>	Herself	Episode: "The List Episode"
2008	<i>MADtv</i>	Herself / Black Racket	Episode: "Episode 7"
2011	<i>Keeping Up with the Kardashians</i>	Herself	Episode: "Kim's Fairytale Wedding: A Kardashian Event – Part 2"
2012	<i>Drop Dead Diva</i>	Kelly Stevens	Episode: "Rigged"
2012	<i>Venus and Serena</i>	Herself	
2013	<i>The Legend of Korra</i>	Female Sage (voice)	Episode: "Beginnings, Part 1"
2015	<i>7 Days in Hell</i>	Herself	
2015	<i>Pixels</i>	Herself	Cameo Appearance ^[385]
2016	<i>Lemonade</i> music video	Herself	Cameo Appearance in "Sorry"
2016	<i>Serena: The Other Side of Greatness</i>	Herself	Documentary
2018	<i>Ocean's 8</i>	Herself	Cameo Appearance
2018	<i>Being Serena</i>	Herself	Documentary

See also

- List of Grand Slam women's singles champions
- List of Grand Slam women's doubles champions
- List of Grand Slam mixed doubles champions
- Henin–S. Williams rivalry
- Hingis–S. Williams rivalry
- Williams sisters rivalry

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External links

- Official website (<http://www.serenawilliams.com>)
- Serena Williams (<http://www.wtatennis.com/player-profile/230234>) at the Women's Tennis Association
- Serena Williams (<https://www.itftennis.com/procircuit/players/player/profile.aspx?playerid=20007765>) at the International Tennis Federation
- Serena Williams (<https://www.fedcup.com/en/players/player.aspx?id=800205424>) at the Fed Cup
- Serena Williams (<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1102987/>) on IMDb
- Serena Williams (<http://www.makers.com/serena-williams>) video produced by *Makers: Women Who Make America*

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