



ROGER FEDERER IN STATISTICS

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By *Rubén A. Báez*²

	Name:	ROGER FEDERER	RANKING	73 Titles
	Country:	Switzerland	3	16 Grand Slams
	Age:	30		19 Masters 1000
	Date of Birth::	08.08.1981		
	Birthplace:	Basel, Switzerland		
	Residence:	Bottmingen, Switzerland		
	Prize Money (singles and doubles combined):	\$69.723.311		

Height:	1,85 m																																
Weight:	85 Kg																																
Plays:	Right-handed																																
Turned Pro:	1998																																
Coach:	Paul Annacone																																
Racquet model:	Wilson Pro Staff Six.One 90 BLX																																
Strings:	Wilson Natural Gut 16 (Main)																																
	Luxilon ALU Power Rough 16L (Cross)																																
Clothing:	Nike																																
Website:	www.rogerfederer.com																																
Facebook:	www.facebook.com/Federer																																
Twitter:	twitter.com/#!/rogerfederer1																																
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">Ranking Evolution¹</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2012</td> <td>3</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011</td> <td>3</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010</td> <td>2</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2009</td> <td>1</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2008</td> <td>2</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2007</td> <td>1</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2006</td> <td>1</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2005</td> <td>1</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2004</td> <td>1</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Ranking Evolution ¹			2012	3		2011	3		2010	2		2009	1		2008	2		2007	1		2006	1		2005	1		2004	1	
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¹ At the end of each year except 2012.

The report covers the year 2011 and the year 2012, more precisely to the BNP Paribas Open tournament held in Indian Wells, USA, where Federer won his 3rd title after defeating the giant American John Isner (11 of the ATP ranking) 7-6 (7) and 6-3.

¹ Report elaboration based on data from:

ITF – International Tennis Federation: www.ITFtennis.com

ATP – Official Website of the Professional Tennis: www.ATPworldtour.com

Australian Open: www.AustralianOpen.com

Roland Garros: www.RolandGarros.com

Wimbledon: www.Wimbledon.com

US Open: www.USopen.org

Davis Cup: www.DavisCup.com

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Much has been said about Roger Federer and continue talking, much praise to his brilliant career, but here we look at some numbers on the performance of the Swiss in recent times.

We could start by mentioning his winning streak since losing in the semifinals of U.S. Open 2011 with Novak Djokovic back in 10.09.2011 to win the title in Indian Wells on 18.03.2012. Federer, in that period, won 39 matches and lost only 2. Federer won 6 titles (Basel, Paris, Master of Barclays, Rotterdam, Dubai and Indian Wells). His two losses were against one Rafael Nadal in the semifinals of Australian Open 2012 and the other two weeks later against John Isner in the Davis Cup, playing Switzerland at home on clay indoors. It was a real surprise that Federer has been defeated in his country and the fact that Americans do not favor playing on clay, at least on paper. Also during this period, Federer has played 6 matches against the Top 10 and has won 5 of them. Anyway, is the best performing player in the period under analysis. The major players of 2011 were, Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer, the top three ranking, nothing is coincidence. The year of the tennis world in 2011 it could be divided into two parts, the first from January to the semifinals of Davis Cup was Novak Djokovic who up then had won 65 games and lost only 3 (In the year won 70 and lost 6) and the second part is up to Roger Federer whose streak continues (to Indian Wells 2012).

Analyzing Roger Federer statistics for 2011 and 2012, we find that in some areas presents a singular regularity. We could say, as have already mentioned other analysts and commentators, that Federer is a very consistent player. This aspect takes on major importance if one considers the level of demand in high performance training today. They must reach the top and stay up there on top of the pyramid. Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal as most recently Novak Djokovic, Andy Murray and David Ferrer make those elite. Something they must be doing well to stay in a ranking as high, they are the apex of the Top 10.

It should be noted the contribution of his team with Mr. Paul Annacone to the head, because from that Federer is under his leadership he has had surprising results when many considered him the way to decay.

If Roger Federer has put on his head again become the No. 1 world ranking, is very likely to succeed but not without great effort, we have to see if he would make that effort, but the possibility exists. Roger is fresh and powerful. We must remember that his is the number 3 in world rankings. More than 7 years he is between 1st and 3rd in the ATP rankings! If Federer were a company that will trade on the NYSE (New York Stock Exchange) would be a firm in which everybody would hold shares due to the stability in prices, output and profits. He would be a reliable and serious company. Roger Federer gives this image and that image is just looking for some companies to sponsor their tennis stars. In this case, the prestigious Swiss watch company Rolex has just chosen Federer to synthesize that Swiss perfection, half man half machine. Novak Djokovic symbolizes fun, comedy, daring. Rafael Nadal symbolizes the mental strength, power, anger and Roger Federer represents only the "perfection". I do not know if Federer is the best tennis player of all time, for me he is. What I am sure of is that Roger Federer is the "most perfect" of all in his technical execution of shots.

It exists in all people a motivation or justification for the efforts they make in their lives to achieve the objectives planned and dreamed. While there are dreams to be always justify the efforts to achieve them and nothing will be impossible. It's just visualized, focus and work hard to achieve them. Obviously, you must have an iron will to not be distracted along the way.

Let see some numbers to corroborate the above. **Table 1** shows the total of matches won and lost in 2011 and 2012 by surface type. It covers all the tournaments, including the Davis Cup. The walk over was not taken into account as they are not meaningful statistically, since no matches were played on them, just the player did not come to compete. At first glance, table 1, we see that Federer has a better performance on the faster surfaces courts. On hard courts and grass he wins 6 or 7 out of 10 matches. In contrast, in slow courts he wins 1 out of 4 matches, for 2011.

Table 1
Performance on different surfaces³

MATCHES	2011		2012		2011						2012			
					Hard		Grass		Clay		Hard		Clay	
	Total	%	Total	%	Match	%	Match	%	Match	%	Match	%	Match	%
Won	63	84%	22	92%	45	87%	6	86%	12	75%	22	96%	-	
Lost	12	16%	2	8%	7	13%	1	14%	4	25%	1	4%	1	100%
Total	75	100%	24	100%	52	100%	7	100%	16	100%	23	100%	1	100%

Comparing performance on fast courts - hard, grass - note that the yields are practically the same for 2011. On hard courts Federer won 87% of the matches while on grass he won 86%. Federer is a statistically very consistent player. In 2012 hard-court performance is higher than the previous year but still needs to analyze the season and it is assumed that his performance will drop by year end (law of diminishing returns⁴).

³ They are included the ATP tournaments, Grand Slams and Davis Cup.

The walk over was not taken into account for the calculation of matches won or lost.

Walk over 2012: Federer did not present to Jo-Wilfried Tsonga in the semifinals of the Qatar ExxonMobil Open in Doha, Qatar.

Walk over 2012: Mikhail Youzhny did not present to Federer in the second round of the ABN AMRO World Tennis Tournament 2012 in Rotterdam, Netherlands.

⁴ Law of diminishing returns is a concept used in economics and that means that the performance of an asset, a good of production or resource increases at a diminishing rate until it reaches a maximum and begins to fall or lose performance. In the case of an athlete also applies this concept because he/she cannot maintain a high performance indefinitely, at least under normal conditions.

Remember what happened with Djokovic's performance in 2011. In addition, performance also depends on the performance of other players very well trained.

Let's see the beginning of seasons of Roger Federer in 2011 versus 2012.

In **Table 2**, Federer has increased his performance of matches won, despite having played one more game in 2012 in the Davis Cup, where he losing the singles match he played against John Isner. He spent 86% of matches won in 2011 to 92% in 2012. It seems that Roger Federer is improving his trend in performance, perhaps to better prepare his performance for London Olympics this year which is likely to reach the peak of his revival, above all the motivation he has placed in this competition and not without reason. This positive trend in Federer's performance will be also reflected in other tables later in this report.

Table2
Beginning of Season

MATCHES	2011 (1)		2012 (2)	
	Total	%	Total	%
Won	18	86%	22	92%
Lost	3	14%	2	8%
Total	21	100%	24	100%

Year 2011: Doha, Australia Open, Dubai, Indian Wells.

Year 2012: Doha, Australian Open, Davis Cup, Dubai, Indian Wells.

(1) Period 2011: from 01.01.2011 to 19.03.2011 (Semifinal of Indian Wells)

(2) Period 2012: from 01.01.2012 to 18.03.2012 (Final of Indian Wells)

The information in **Table 3** is very interesting to analyze. In the first two columns the totals are presented and in the following ones are presented for surfaces performance for 2011 and 2012 (from 01.01.2012 to 18.03.2012). The aces and double faults are absolute quantities and are related to the amount of matches played on each surface. In grass there are fewer aces and double faults because he played fewer matches but Federer managed proportionally more aces despite of the fact he played only 7 games (Table 1), that is to say, in hard court he played 7 times more than grass but he only managed more 3 times aces than in the grass.

Now, we focus on the service, return and saved and won break points. According to statistics, Federer get 65% average of the 1st serve efficiency in 2011, namely, the 65% of first serves was good, of this 65% won 79% of the points played. Looking for 2011 that item to all surfaces (Hard, grass and clay) there is regularity in the percentages.

Table 3
Service Statistics

	Total 2011	Total 2012 (3)	2011			2012
			Hard	Grass	Clay	Hard
Aces	541	197	311	105	125	197
Double faults	99	40	75	4	20	40
Serve (% average)						
Efficiency (Good Serves):						
1st Serve	65%	61%	63%	68%	65%	61%
2nd Serve	96%	95%	95%	98%	96%	95%
Effectiveness (Points won):						
Points won w/ 1st Serve	79%	79%	80%	80%	78%	79%
Points won w/ 2nd Serve	61%	62%	60%	66%	57%	62%

(3) Period 2012: 01.01.2012 al 18.03.2012 (Indian Wells Final)

Thus we see that the efficiency for the 1st serve does not differ substantially from one surface to another, perhaps Federer on grass is a bit more efficient relatively speaking. On the other hand, for the points won with the 1st serve is practically the same for all surfaces, about 80%. If we add this year, the average efficiency of the 1st serve 61% is somewhat lower than the average of 65% in 2011, but is similar to 63% efficiency on hard courts in 2011. In contrast, the percentage of points won with the 1st serve is exactly the same in 2011 and 2012, that is to say 79%.

If we apply this criterion to analyze the Federer's 2nd serve we will reach the same conclusions, there is regularity in the average numbers. The efficiency of the 2nd average serve for 2011 and 2012 is 96% and 95% respectively. And the effectiveness - points won - 2nd serve is 61% and 62% for 2011 and 2012 respectively. Federer on grass gets a superiority in the percentage of won serves with the 2nd serve that is 66% versus 60% and 57% on hard courts and clay respectively. Federer wins more percentage points - with the 2nd serve - the faster the court surface.

Now, let's look at the figures relating to the return of Federer in **Table 4**. The average percentage of points won with the 1st and 2nd serve to rival Federer gets almost the same percentages, almost perfect to win the 33% and 32% with the 1st serve for 2011 and 2012 respectively. On the 2nd serve, it appears that wins exactly 50% of the time on average for both 2011 and 2012. There is more regularly with the return of the 1st serve with 33% on all surfaces. Federer is extremely regular in this respect.

Table 4

Return Statistics

	Total 2011	Total 2012 (4)	2011			2012
			Hard	Grass	Clay	Hard
Return (% average)						
Points won w/ 1st serve	33%	32%	33%	33%	33%	32%
Points won w/ 2nd serve	50%	50%	54%	49%	48%	50%
Break Points						
Saved	61%	74%	45%	78%	61%	74%
Won	48%	41%	46%	59%	39%	41%
Match time (Hours)	128,9	39,95	80,3	16,07	32,5	39,95
Average time per match	1hs 43'	1hs 40'	1hs 33'	2hs 18'	2hs 2'	1hs 40'

(4) Period 2012: from 01.01.2012 to 18.03.2012 (Indian Wells Final)

Regarding the break points for and against, there is no definite pattern but it seems that Federer on grass tends to generate more break points in favor (59%) and, in turn, save more break points (78%) compared to hard courts and clay. That is, on grass Roger saves more break points and break more serves to his rivals in other areas on average. The grass seems to be the preferred area where Federer performance is relatively higher.

At the end of **Table 4** we see the average number of hours per match, per year and per surface. If we compare the average hours per match in 2011 with 2012, is remarkable the coincidence. In 2011 the average time per match was 1h 43' and in 2012, this average is almost identical and is 1h 40', only 3 seconds of difference! Federer is a true Swiss watch. Roger Federer seems to pursue something else to do in tournament history, pursues perfection in his own technique and the "math's" and the technical knowledge, strengths and weaknesses of the other players. Roger Federer is a strategist of genuine intelligence applied to tennis.

Roger Federer must know the statistical probability of a particular rival when executes a parallel shot or any other shot depending on the opponent's own position, so without a geometrical view of the court and without an extraordinary anticipation he couldn't had remained many years at the top. It is possible that if someone asks him about it he denies it or says that everything is intuitive. Every match is a match against history, but every match is a challenge to his ambitions of perfection. Roger Federer is the Michelangelo of tennis, is a true master.

Finally, **Table 5** presents a comparison of the Grand Slam tournaments of 2011 and the Australian Open 2012. Comparing the Australian Open 2011 with 2012 we noticed that the number of winners is similar, 238 and 227 respectively, only 4.6% in 2012. However, compared to the unforced errors the decrease has been more noticeable. In 2011 Federer had 215 unforced errors against 159 in 2012, experiencing a decrease of 26% in this

category. This year he had fewer winners at the Australian Open but in turn he had less unforced errors so experienced a net improvement in performance over this tournament. But once again, on grass, Federer experienced the best performance since the difference between winners and unforced errors is significantly higher in this surface than hard and clay courts. Remember that on grass (Table 1) he played only 7 games in 2011.

Table 5

Grand Slams Comparative

	2011				2012
	Australia	R. Garros	Wimbledon	US Open	Australia
Winners	238	284	238	218	227
Unforced errors	215	235	83	195	159
Difference	23	49	155	23	68
Net Points won	166	134	112	116	96
Total points played on the net	238	183	161	171	147
Net Points won (%)	70%	73%	70%	68%	65%

On points won on the net, once again, he credited a striking regularity gaining an average of about 70%. Another aspect to highlight in the comparison of the Australian Open in 2011 and 2012, is that in 2012 Federer was less frequently at the net.

Before to finish I will give one more datum that attracts attention is that the average minutes per game played at the Australian Open 2011 was 153 minutes, a figure that is "exactly" equal to the average minutes per game at the Australian Open 2012, 153 minutes too!

We will monitor the evolution of Roger Federer as the season progresses. We will see his performance in the Olympic Games in London this year (28.07.2012) for his approval the surface will be "grass." You reader, believe Roger Federer have a chance to win the title at the Olympic Games in London?, personally I think Roger Federer is the leading candidate today, along with Novak Djokovic, despite of the fact he lost against Andy Roddick in 3rd round at the Sony Ericsson Open (26.03.2012).