



19 February 2018

## FEDERER RETURNS TO NO. 1, BREAKING A NUMBER OF ATP RANKINGS RECORDS

*PONTE VEDRA BEACH* — More than 14 years after he first became No. 1, Switzerland's Roger Federer today returned to the top of the ATP Rankings for a historic fourth stint at the pinnacle of men's professional tennis. Federer, who began his 302nd week at No. 1 on 29 October 2012, breaks a number of ATP Rankings records by replacing his great rival, Spain's Rafael Nadal, in top spot.

Just 13 months ago, Federer returned from a knee injury at No. 17 in the ATP Rankings and has since compiled a 64-5 match record — including nine titles from 10 finals — in that period. Today, he now holds records for the longest period between stints at No. 1, as the oldest player to attain top spot and for the longest duration between first and last days at the summit of men's professional tennis.

"I think reaching No. 1 is the ultimate achievement in our sport," said Federer. "This one maybe means the most to me [of any achievement] throughout my career, getting to No. 1 and enjoying it right here at 36, almost 37 years old. [It] is an absolute dream come true, I can't believe it."

Federer is guaranteed to remain at No. 1 in the ATP Rankings through to 18 March, but the battle for top spot between the Swiss and Nadal will resume at the BNP Paribas Open, the first ATP World Tour Masters 1000 tournament of the year, that begins on 8 March.



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Federer returns to top spot for the first time since 4 November 2012, five years and 106 days ago – the longest period of time between stints at World No. 1. At 36 years of age, Federer is also the oldest player to become No. 1, eclipsing the record of American Andre Agassi, who last held top spot aged 33 on 7 September 2003.

Federer first ascended to No. 1 in the ATP Rankings aged 22 on 2 February 2004 – a record 14 years and 17 days ago – for a total of 237 straight weeks until 17 August 2008. It breaks the previous record of Nadal, who debuted at No. 1 on 18 August 2008 and started his fourth stint in top spot on 21 August 2017 – a gap of nine years and three days. Federer returned to No. 1 on two further occasions between 6 July 2009 and 6 June 2010 (48 weeks) and from 9 July 2012 to 4 November 2012 (17 weeks).

Chris Kermode, ATP Executive Chairman and President, said, “Roger has spent his whole career rewriting the record books, but to reach the pinnacle of men’s professional tennis again at the age of 36 is hard to imagine. His longevity at the top of the game is simply remarkable. As he begins a fully deserved fourth stint at No.1 in the ATP Rankings, we congratulate him on yet another incredible record in his glittering career.”

Since returning from a six-month lay-off for the start of the 2017 season, the Swiss superstar has captured trophies at three of the past five Grand Slam championships (2017-2018 Australian Open, 2017 Wimbledon), three ATP World Tour Masters 1000s (2017 BNP Paribas Open in Indian Wells, Miami Open presented by Itaú, Rolex Shanghai Masters) and three ATP World Tour 500s (2017 Gerry Weber Open in Halle, Swiss Indoors Basel, 2018 ABN AMRO World Tennis Tournament in Rotterdam). Federer also finished runner-up at the 2017 Coupe Rogers in Montreal.

Federer’s return to the summit of the men’s game was guaranteed by beating Dutchman Robin Haase for a place in the ABN AMRO World Tennis Tournament semi-finals on Friday. Federer went on to beat Grigor Dimitrov in Sunday’s final at the Rotterdam Ahoy for the 97th tour-level trophy of his career.

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

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

<b>Player</b>	<b>Total Weeks At No. 1</b>
<b>Roger Federer (SUI)</b>	<b>303 (as of 19 February 2018)</b>
Pete Sampras (USA)	286
Ivan Lendl (CZE/USA)	270
Jimmy Connors (USA)	268
Novak Djokovic (SRB)	223
John McEnroe (USA)	170
Rafael Nadal (ESP)	167
Bjorn Borg (SWE)	109
Andre Agassi (USA)	101
Lleyton Hewitt (AUS)	80
Stefan Edberg (SWE)	72
Jim Courier (USA)	58
Gustavo Kuerten (BRA)	43
Andy Murray (GBR)	41
Ilie Nastase (ROU)	40
Mats Wilander (SWE)	20

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Andy Roddick (USA)	13
Boris Becker (GER)	12
Marat Safin (RUS)	9
Juan Carlos Ferrero (ESP)	8
John Newcombe (AUS)	8
Yevgeny Kafelnikov (RUS)	6
Thomas Muster (AUT)	6
Marcelo Rios (CHI)	6
Carlos Moya (ESP)	2
Patrick Rafter (AUS)	1

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**About the ATP**

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

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