

Appendix to the e-book

"...from Phil Dent to Jannik Sinner..."

Preface...

My initial idea was to construct this appendix with a table of contents and a few chapters, but I lost my motivation after I finished (March 2021) the biographical e-book, due to different reasons. Therefore this what you see here it's perhaps just 1/4 of my initial concept. The most important potential chapter "15 best matches in history" is introduced anyway. In the past 1.5 years I've made pic-stats of almost 400 matches (more than that counting all those matches I've prepared pic-stats for the second time to improve the quality), so it was quite tough to convince myself to carefully watch the 15 epic matches of the greatest champions for the third time in my life, especially that I needed to do this from the first to the last point because I wanted to check the average rally in each of those matches. I'm a tennis freak, I know it ;) All data considers 1970-2021

A few words about tennis stats...

I don't know the exact number of matches I've made pic-stats, but certainly more than 1000 are introduced to my website. I made my first tennis stats in 1996 (Hannover final, Sampras d. Becker), a few more in the following years, but the acceleration occurred in 2010 when I had access to a website rincon.com (if I remember the name correctly) - it was a time when YouTube had been working only five years and files of tennis matches were divided into many parts in bad resolution. Having made plenty of pic-stats in the past ten years, I'm quite convinced that my pics include two important things which tennis stats presented worldwide, omit in general - number of games with break points and number of points obtained directly behind the serve.

1) Let's say that after a match you see something like "Breakpoints: Borg 2/14, McEnroe 2/15" and you have no idea how many games included break point chances. In my pic-stats you see 2/14 (6) and 2/15 (7), thus automatically you know that Borg failed to convert a break point in four games while McEnroe in five games. It's quite important because you can easily imagine a match in which

a player has a 2/10 break point conversion which is 20%, so low percentage, but if you're aware of a broader context that he has 2/10 (2), you know that those 8 break points wasted actually didn't mean anything bad because he won both games when created break points. Perhaps the issue is open to different interpretation, but generally I'd say that 2/10 (2) is better than 2/2 because in the first case, the server was forced to work harder in vain - in most of the cases because we cannot exclude a situation when a serve lost his serve on the first break point having wasted 10 game points, so he had to work hard on serve in vain anyway.

2) When I was younger, I mean mainly the 90s, my first decade of observing tennis, I put an emphasis on aces. I even had a thread on MTF with matches when a player hit 30 aces and more, because it was a novelty in the 90s. Prior to that decade hitting more than 20 aces in a match it was a rarity. Better equipment and appearance of taller guys fetishised aces. With the passing years I realized that new records were established quite often in matches when a new record holder was defeated, and it allowed me to comprehend that serving many aces in a match keeps a player in the contest more than helps him to win it. My second important insight was that in tennis - as opposed to table tennis - the number of points played on serve sometimes vary between players significantly. So even if you stick to the aces numbers, you should keep in mind that a guy who served 15 of them, could played ~30 points on serve more in a match than the other guy who struck 10 aces, and then saying "the one who struck 15, served better than the one who hit 10" is simplistic. For many years I really don't care who serves how many, much important to me is the number of points obtained directly behind the serve - thus in my pictures, at the top of compared numbers you always see "13 Service 10" for instance, which means "unreturned serves". Below the pic-stats you see the percentage of points obtained directly behind the serve (unreturned serves/aces of number of points played on serve). I'll give you an example - Wimbledon '98 final, Sampras vs Ivanisevic. When I was watching it in 1998, I had an impression that Sampras was serving badly in the opener because he had no aces, but when I rewatched the match many years later making stats, I realized that Sampras delivered plenty of unreturned serves, and prior a tie-break he was actually holding easier than the Croat who struck 11 aces. When someone puts energy into a serve, in majority of cases there's no difference for the server whether the ball will be hit or not by his opponent (on the assumption the point is obtained directly) - the point is obtained immediately, this is what matters the most.

Another insight into the stats - in my description below my pic-stats, as well as in the biographical e-book, I never use a popular term "unforced error". From a statistical point of view, I perceive a tennis match only in terms of winners/errors.

I'm not sure, but I guess that the term "unforced error" appeared around the mid 80s, invented by someone in the United States. By whom exactly? What was the insight of that person into the game? I don't know, but I've been carefully watching tennis for 30 years, thus I don't feel that a person who had invented it, had a better insight into the structure of the game than myself. Already in the 90s I realized that the term "unforced errors" made difficult to read the stats after sets because I looked at the number of winners and unforced errors, and when I summed it up there were points missing to equal the number of total points won, therefore I realized that "forced errors" (the term rarely used) were excluded. It's really difficult, and in my opinion unnecessary to differentiate between errors. When a player loses a match it's easy to blame him looking at number of unforced errors, but when someone has an offensive game style, it's natural that will have more winners and more unforced errors than the opponent - when he wins the emphasis will be on winners, when he loses the emphasis on unforced errors, it's juggling numbers to find the basis to explain in a simplistic way the final outcome. Winners could be also divided into two categories: intentional and unintentional (frame, net-cord, bad bounce, an opponent slipped and fell down or left the ball he could easily hit because didn't bother due to score or thought the ball was going out). In my stat-pics I focused just on winners, but when you sum it up and you know the number of total points, in every match you can answer the question "how many errors?". The truth is that a tennis match consists of 20-40% winners and 60-80% errors. In my pic-stats I tend to count as winners not only the balls that weren't touched by the opponent, also those balls that were hit well, and the opponent responded only with touching the ball, or responded so poorly that had no control over the ball, it flew to the stands or was too short to make a contact with the net. Some matches I watched twice to figure out that on the second watching I would count as an error something I had previously counted as a winner... but there are just a few points in each long match when I'm not 100% convinced which point suits better to which category.

15 best matches in history...

Obviously it's a very subjective list of epic matches involving the greatest players of the Open Era, nevertheless the selection isn't completely accidental.

Criteria: five-setters of the best players included to the book (highest ranking - Top 3, at least) in the semi- or finals of the biggest tennis events. I wanted to analyze tight matches, so the loser was at least two games (8 points) from the win; one player maximum in three different matches:

3 - Borg, McEnroe, Lendl, Federer, Djokovic

2 - Connors, Becker, Sampras, Nadal

1 - Gerulaitis, Wilander, Edberg, Chang, Agassi, Murray

I've seen each of those matches thrice:

- first time 'live' (all matches since 1992) or retrospectively just for fun,

- second time to make a stats of winners,

- third time to count strokes in each rally and putting attention to tactical nuances

	Year	Time	Points	Serve%	win's%	Longest Game	Average Rally	Longest rally
1. Borg d. Gerulaitis	1977	3:05h	353	53%	40%	8 deuces	4.1 strokes	26 strokes
2. Borg d. Connors	1977	3:14h	288	63%	36%	5 deuces	5.0 strokes	18 strokes
3. Borg d. McEnroe	1980	3:53h	376	62%	37%	7 deuces	3.2 strokes	13 strokes
4. Connors d. McEnroe	1982	4:13h	347	56%	37%	5 deuces	4.0 strokes	14 strokes
5. Lendl d. McEnroe	1984	4:08h	312	56%	39%	3 deuces	4.8 strokes	21 strokes
6. Lendl d. Wilander	1988	4:54h	327	67%	39%	3 deuces	7.9 strokes	52 strokes
7. Becker d. Lendl	1988	4:43h	326	58%	32%	3 deuces	4.9 strokes	37 strokes
8. Edberg d. Chang	1992	5:26h	405	66%	37%	4 deuces	4.3 strokes	18 strokes
9. Sampras d. Becker	1996	4:00h	344	62%	36%	2 deuces	3.2 strokes	24 strokes
10. Agassi d. Sampras	2000	2:55h	304	65%	41%	3 deuces	3.1 strokes	14 strokes
11. Nadal d. Federer	2008	4:48h	413	69%	31%	4 deuces	4.7 strokes	20 strokes
12. Federer d. Roddick	2009	4:16h	436	67%	35%	5 deuces	3.9 strokes	23 strokes
13. Djokovic d. Murray	2012	4:50h	345	62%	29%	5 deuces	6.7 strokes	42 strokes
14. Djokovic d. Nadal	2012	5:53h	369	64%	28%	5 deuces	6.0 strokes	32 strokes
15. Djokovic d. Federer	2019	4:57h	422	62%	33%	4 deuces	4.5 strokes	35 strokes

1) June 30, 1977: Wimbledon (semifinal)

Bjorn Borg d. Vitas Gerulaitis

6-4, 3-6, 6-3, 3-6, 8-6



For many years that match was considered as one of the best matches of the Open Era... so many years later, I think it's pretty safe to call it "one of the greatest matches of the 70s". I chose it to analyze as the first of the 15 greatest matches in my subjective view due to quality and dramaturgy. They both were young then (Borg 21, Gerulaitis 23), both with long hair (mullet) & wooden rackets, but different styles. Edberg is associated with the 80s as the finest serve-and-volley player, Rafter with the 90s, and based on that Wimbledon semifinal, I suppose it's legitimate to say - watching Gerulaitis we can imagine how the S&V style in its beauty looked like in the 70s. Borg wasn't a natural serve-and-volleyer, he was winning the French Open from the back of the court, but in the 70s, like all other top players, his attitude was offensive. He was implementing S&V behind the 1st serve, and occasionally behind the 2nd serve. Against Gerulaitis, Borg was attacking the net behind the 2nd serve when the scoreline was quite neutral (first points in a game, 15-all, 30-15, 30-all), but at crucial moments (30-all or break point down) he wanted to play from the baseline. Nevertheless, even during baseline rallies on his serve, Borg attacked the net several times with approach shots, mainly double-handed backhand slice. He implemented that tactic also a few times behind the first serve. There were plenty of breathtaking rallies with bilateral lobbing. Nowadays, 40-50 years later it looks like tennis in slow motion, but everyone who used to play with wooden rackets, knows how difficult is to control the ball playing at the net, so from this point of view, I feel that they presented rather modern tennis of wooden equipment, comparing to great champions from the beginning of the Open Era. It was just their third meeting, the previous two Borg won without any drama, that

time a deciding set was required again, and Gerulaitis had an open door to finish the contest. He broke first in the decider to lead 3:2, but unfortunately his excellent S&V display disappeared in the 6th game - his volleys were cautions, and when he led 40/30, he decided to stay on the baseline (something he hadn't done once in his previous six service games). he lost his serve, and at 3-all (30-all) he showed signs of nervousness missing a forehand pass from a comfortable position. There was 5-all (0/30) from Borg's perspective when the Swede played a backhand volley winner, slightly above his standards and prevailed after three deuces, so on four different occasions Gerulaitis was a point away from creating a breakpoint. They both played their best tennis in that crucial game. Serving for the third time to stay in the match, Gerulaitis opened the game with Borg's volley error, but the rally was punishing, I assume the American continued the game with oxygen debt, and played very poorly at the net another four points losing them all, and the match. Gerulaitis said: *"Maybe a couple of years ago I would have been happy just to play a match like that. But today I really wanted to win and get into the final. I didn't let anything upset me. I had one intention and that was to win the match."* Aftermath: that match built a mental wall between them, Borg won another 14 meetings against Gerulaitis, never being pushed again to a few games from defeat. Despite the bitter defeat, that match elevated Gerulaitis to another level - he became a top player for four years, actually he stayed there as long as Borg was the best in the world.

Time: 3 hours 5 minutes

Total points: 177 Borg, 176 Gerulaitis

Serve percentage: 57% Borg (93/163)... 49% Gerulaitis (93/150)

Percentage of winners: 38% Borg (68/177)... 42% Gerulaitis (75/176)

Longest game: 8 deuces when Gerulaitis equalled to 2-all in the 3rd set (10 minutes)

Average rally: 4.1 strokes

Longest rally: 26 (the first point of the last game)

Gerulaitis was six points away from victory

2) July 2, 1977: Wimbledon (final)

Bjorn Borg d. Jimmy Connors

3-6, 6-2, 6-1, 5-7, 6-4



A few days after a very tough match against Gerulaitis, Borg won another five-setter being two games away from defeat, against his toughest rival at the time - Connors led 6:2 their H2H before the final. The match was nine minutes longer despite 65 fewer points played. Connors had a different style than Gerulaitis, in that final Borg received the vast majority of his serves, so they were involved in longer rallies. Connors was using the serve-and-volley tactics as an element of surprise while Borg was attacking the net behind the serve almost behind every first serve. It was a very hot day, and even though the first three sets were relatively quick, already in the 4th set it was a dogfight. Connors saved two mini-match points at 4-all and took the set after a backhand-lob winner. The end of the set cost him a lot of energy, and the Swede unexpectedly built a 4:0 lead in the decider. Moreover, he had another two mini-match points, so a bagel hung in the air; Connors fought it off with a backhand volley and forehand dropshot. He won the game with net-cord backhand (of course didn't apologize for that, he showed positive emotions - it was still a few year before the hand-gesture introduction) and almost turned the tables - from 0:4 (30/40) he improved to 4-all (15/0), but similarly to the end of the 4th set, it cost him too much, and Borg with ease won the last eight points converting his first match point with a backhand passing-shot winner. *"I thought the match might slip away then,"* Borg admitted. Connors said: *"Maybe I got a little excited and rushed into things instead of being calm and collected."* *"If Connors had kept going on, playing more*

net, I think he had to win." said Lennart Bergelin, Borg's Swedish coach. "When he stayed on the baseline, to play Borg that way, it was a mistake." The rivalry between Borg and Connors it's a symbol of the 70s. They faced each other 23 times (Borg 15-8), but only twice in five-setters (the other won three years later on the same court when Borg won the 5th set 6-4 again). I chose a shorter match because it was the final while in 1980 they played in the semifinal... Wimbledon's 100th anniversary.

Time: 3 hours 14 minutes

Total points: 155 Borg, 133 Connors

Serve percentage: 57% Borg (77/133)... 69% Connors (108/155)

Percentage of winners: 24% Borg (38/155)... 48% Connors (65/133)

Longest game: 5 deuces when Borg held to lead 2:1 in the 2nd set

(saved four break points)

Average rally: 5.0 strokes

Longest rally: 18 strokes (three times)

Connors was seven points away from victory

3) 1980: Wimbledon (final)

Bjorn Borg d. John McEnroe

1-6, 7-5, 6-3, 6-7(16), 8-6



Perhaps the most legendary match of all times, i.a. memorized thanks to "Borg vs McEnroe" movie (2017). I haven't seen it, for me such a film is pointless. Anyway the match was extraordinary due to the 4th set when the serving Borg led 5:4 (40/15) and wasted the double match point, actually McEnroe saved it with two winners; especially the second one was exceptional - Borg stayed back for the only time behind his first serve while McEnroe hit a winner with his only forehand drive-volley. Borg had another five match points in the not the longest, but the most famous tie-break in history which lasted 20 minutes; they both fell on the ground in that extraordinary tie-break. The vast majority of players could be devastated after losing such a set, not Borg though. He began the decider with 0/30, but instead of losing the set "2-6" for instance, he was playing serve-and-volley perhaps better than ever in his career. McEnroe was constantly chasing, he fought off a triple break point in two different games, with seven match points from the previous set it looked like a never-ending nightmare for the Swede. His astonishing patience finally paid off. He didn't show any signs of frustration, and finally, on his eight match point, his cross-court backhand passed the American. Borg, who won 11 major titles in his career, never reacted as emotionally as then. He fell on his knees, and even after the handshake he was

shaking his head in disbelief that the tormented experienced was finally finished in joy. *"For sure, it is the best match I have ever played at Wimbledon,"* said the 24-year-old Borg. A few months later they play a five-set major final again, and McEnroe wins it in New York 7-6, 6-1, 6-7, 5-7, 6-4 after 4 hours 14 minutes. The American also defeats the Swede in the Wimbledon '81 final (in four sets) snapping his 41-match winning streak in London.

Time: 3 hours 53 minutes

Total points: 192 Borg, 184 McEnroe

Serve percentage: 61% Borg (122/198)... 63% McEnroe (113/178)

Percentage of winners: 34% Borg (67/192)... 41% McEnroe (77/184)

Longest game: 7 deuces when Borg held to lead 5:2 in the 3rd set (saved five break points)

Average rally: 3.2 strokes

Longest rally: 13 strokes

McEnroe was eight points away from victory

4) July 4, 1982: Wimbledon (final)

Jimmy Connors d. John McEnroe 3-6, 6-3, 6-7(2), 7-6(5), 6-4



The classics Borg vs Connors and Borg vs McEnroe are included, therefore Connors vs McEnroe is a must. The Americans of Irish origins had very tense rivalry, even when their matches were one-sided, the mutual animosity always created additional tension. They played five-setters against each other five times, thrice at Slams, and arguably their US Open five-set encounter of 1980 (McEnroe survived the last set in a tie-break) had better quality than their Wimbledon thriller, but in London they played the final while "only" semifinals in New York, and it was crucial for my decision to analyze the London match. The '82 final is somewhat underestimated. I think a few factors contributed: McEnroe faced Borg in the two previous Wimbledon finals, a trilogy would have been anticipated if Borg had continued his pro-career in 1982; Connors was playing faster shots from the back of the court than Borg (at least in my opinion), so McEnroe - playing with wooden racket for the last time at Wimbledon - made more mistakes at the net; also the number of double faults (23) surpassed the number of aces (18) which is never a good indicator of the quality, nonetheless 37% of points ended up with winners, and I'd argue that +30% means "good match for watching". McEnroe wasn't in his best shape, but showed signs of his genius, for example winning a 7th game of the 3rd set when he responded to Connors' lob with a stunning backhand down the line. That shot opened up the best sequence of the final when they both exchanged winner after winner over three games.

There was 4:3* in the 4th set tie-break for McEnroe, when Connors' unusual tactics to hit faster 1st & 2nd serves throughout the match, paid off. The older American perhaps unleashed his three fastest first serves in that set (all down the T), and everyone found the boxes: two service winners, one volley winner - the first two serves gave him quickly a 5:4 advantage, another one finished the set off. Connors jumped in the air, sensing his chance. In the decider he got the decisive break to lead 2:1 after a backhand return winner. It's quite remarkable that despite modest % of points won directly behind the serve, Connors went through his last twelve service games being unbroken, facing break points in just one of those games. I suppose he manufactured his record in double faults that day, but the final outcome vindicated the aggressive attitude - his percentage of 1st serves in, was considerably lower than usual, yet the 1st serves helped to get cheap points in the vital tie-break, and fast 2nd serves kept McEnroe away from attacking the net in receiving games. Connors declared after the longest Wimbledon final at the time: *"I was going to do anything to not let this chance slip by. I was going to fight to the death."* Three weeks before the Wimbledon final, Connors had defeated McEnroe 7-5, 6-3 in the Queen's Club final, attacking the net much more often behind the serve.

Time: 4 hours 13 minutes

Total points: 171 Connors, 176 McEnroe

Serve percentage: 58% Connors (109/186)... 55% McEnroe (89/161)

Percentage of winners: 35% Connors (61/171)... 39% McEnroe (69/176)

Longest game: 5 deuces when Connors held to lead 1:0 in the 4th set

(saved two break points)

Average rally: 4.0 strokes

Longest rally: 14

McEnroe was three points away from victory

5) June 10, 1984: Roland Garros (final)

Ivan Lendl d. John McEnroe

3-6, 2-6, 6-4, 7-5, 7-5



The two best players of the mid 80s, unfortunately for the tennis fans who were waiting for epic matches at the top, McEnroe was defeating Lendl without any troubles in 1984, and his another easy victory was in the process in Paris. Even though Lendl seemed to be a more natural clay-court player, McEnroe was in such amazing form in 1984 that he could harm Lendl on the dirt exactly the same way as on faster surfaces. As usually in matches between them, there was a tension in the air from the beginning. Trailing 2:5 in the opener, Lendl shouted at the umpire "Are you afraid of him?" - "No" - "So don't do everything in his favour!", contesting two decisions in favor of McEnroe when the ball was very close to the lines. At 0:4 in the 2nd, feeling that the repeat of quick defeats to McEnroe in their two previous matches on clay is coming (4-6, 2-6 at Forest Hills and 3-6, 2-6 at World Team Cup), Lendl decided to speed up his first serve and implement a few serve-and-volley points (4/4 in the entire final). It was the right decision, admittedly McEnroe held two times more to get another easy set vs Lendl, but when the 3rd set kicked off, he felt that another straight set victory would be very difficult. At 1-all McEnroe led 30/0 on Lendl's serve when something strange happened in his mind after losing a point with his return. The American went to the cameraman and shouted something to his headphones. It was a pivotal moment in the final, the crowd booed him a bit and began cheering more for the underdog. Lendl saved four breakpoints at 2-all and broke McEnroe for the first time in game no. 6. McEnroe quickly broke back, but his breath was more heavy than in the first two sets. What happened from 4-all in the 3rd set to the end of the match is unique. Never before or later in Grand Slam finals, a

player who lost the match was relatively close to losing all three sets that could have given him the title. McEnroe was 6, 5 & 8 points away to win three consecutive sets. His best chance came in the 4th set, he led 4:2 (30-all) when netted a doable FH volley. Leading 4:3 and at 4-all he had points (first game- then break point) to put himself within a game from the title, but on both occasions he made easy mistakes. In the 5th set, at 3-all he raised his hands when built a 30/0 lead on Lendl's serve after backhand passing-shot when they both were close at the net. It turned to be a premature joy. He led 40/15 in that game, but both break point evaporated. The Czechoslovak quickly held to lead 5:4 & 6:5. McEnroe served to stay in the match for the second time, withstood the first match point with his great attitude at the net, but on the second match point he missed a 9/10 FH volley - Lendl could celebrate his long-awaited maiden major title. McEnroe said the crowd's support for Lendl undoubtedly helped his opponent. Lendl said he *"saw a glimmer of hope as soon as I broke his service for the first time in the match in the middle of the third set. He broke me back, but I felt that once I had broken him once, I could do it again. I just had to hang on in there."*

Time: 4 hours 8 minutes

Total points: 158 Lendl, 154 McEnroe

Serve percentage: 70% Lendl (109/155)... 43% McEnroe (67/155)

Percentage of winners: 32% Lendl (51/158)... 46% McEnroe (72/154)

Longest game: 3 deuces when Lendl held to lead 3:2 in the 3rd set

(saved four break points)

Average rally: 4.8 strokes

Longest rally: 21

McEnroe was five points away from victory

6) September 11, 1988: US Open (final)

Mats Wilander d. Ivan Lendl

6-4, 4-6, 6-3, 5-7, 6-4



As thick as thieves having already co-created 19 matches in six years, including three big finals of 1987; all won by Lendl, as well as their three earlier matches. So Wilander was on a six match losing streak to Lendl, three of those matches were finished after long four-setters, thus the Swede had plenty of material to analyze and he drew the right conclusions. Entering the final, he was enjoying a better season than the Czech, with two Grand Slam titles under his belt while Lendl was unbeaten in New York since 1985 (27 matches won in a row at Flushing Meadows). Two titans of the time, full of self-confidence, delivered their best tennis for almost five hours, overcoming their own record for the longest Open Era final at majors established a year before when Lend triumphed 6-7, 6-0, 7-6, 6-4 after a 4-hour 47-minute struggle of rather boring, one-dimensional tennis! The '88 final was like a chess-match, much more varied than a year before, and Wilander's tennis mastermind proved to be stronger that day. He decided to be exceptionally patient during rallies, keeping the ball in play with backhand slices and semi-lobs off the forehand side. Mainly because of his pushing, Lendl hit an enormous number of winners, but made plenty of errors too (including a few embarrassing overheads). The pivotal moment occurred as Wilander led *2:0 (15/40) in the 2nd set. Up to that score, he had played just a few casual serve-and-volley actions, but from that moment to the end of the final, he was

implementing S/V almost constantly which was very intriguing given two things: his very defensive attitude on return games, and the style in which he was attacking the net behind the serve - he was doing it almost exclusively with kick-serves to the opponent's backhand. Lendl, so experienced in passing much better serving opponents, was struggling with Wilander's kick-serves because the Swede was unpredictable in his consistency. I mean Lendl knew that Wilander would attack the net behind the serve only targeting Lendl's backhand, but the Swede kept the Czech guessing when it could happen. There was no clear pattern, only consistency - the Swede was playing S/V at least once in each game. Wilander displayed not only very interesting tactics, he was also able to keep the concentration at the highest level for five hours, not dwelling on wasted chances... in the 2nd set he led 4:1* (30-all), in the 4th set *4:3 (30/0) after his most entertaining S/V action... potentially he could have won four sets, instead there was *2:3 (0/30) in the decider. The last set was played under the floodlights: a very animated Lendl, fist-pumping after every winner, won three straight games to lead 3:2, then Wilander did the same to lead 5:3. In the final game, Wilander won the longest rally of the final at 0/15 being more patient, squandered a match point when Lendl's backhand passing-shot caught the baseline, and after saving two break points, converted his second match point when Lendl netted his backhand return, seeing his rival attacking the net again. "It's the biggest victory I ever had," said Wilander. "Bigger than my first Paris (French Open) title. It meant so much. A Swede has never won this tournament. I'm going to be No. 1 now. It's definitely the biggest match I have ever played." It was an unprecedented moment of the 80s, Wilander did something that theoretically better players of the decade (Lendl & John McEnroe) couldn't achieve - claimed his third major title within a season. He was just 24, that victory allowed him to finish the season as no. 1, he was on top of the world, and lost his motivation. Never before or after, the best player in the world dropped so dramatically in a season following the ascendancy.

Time: 4 hours 54 minutes

Total points: 166 Wilander, 161 Lendl

Serve percentage: 87% Wilander (158/181)... 47% Lendl (70/146)

Percentage of winners: 21% Wilander (36/166)... 57% Lendl (92/161)

Longest game: 3 deuces (in three different games)

Average rally: 7.9 strokes

Longest rally: 52 strokes

Lendl was nine points away from victory

7) December 5, 1988: New York-Masters (final)

Boris Becker d. Ivan Lendl

5-7, 7-6(5), 3-6, 6-2, 7-6(5)



The last quarter of the 1988 season was painful for Lendl, announcing some sort of his decline. First, as a double defending champion he lost a dramatic five-setter in the US Open final to Mats Wilander which caused he wouldn't finish the year as the best player in the world for the fourth straight time, then he lost a Masters final after even more dramatic encounter (only one point fewer played in total comparing to the Wilander match), having won the tournament in the three previous years as well. So the New York charm is gone. Lendl, who was playing the vast majority of points at his serve from the back of the court (only a few trips to the net behind the serve) had won eleven points more after the first three sets against Becker, who was constantly attacking the net behind the first serve, but behind the second serve was staying behind. The optical advantage over the first three sets, helped Lendl to lead just 2-1 instead of winning 3-0 (this is what he had done to Becker in their two previous Masters finals of the 1985-86 editions). Becker hung in there thanks to the 2nd set in which he wasn't closer to losing it than three points, but before the tie-break he had survived two games saving breakpoints. The West German with surprising ease took the 4th set, breaking Lendl's serve thrice. The decider was exceptionally long given the total number of points and the fact none game went to 'deuce'. They both were lingering with serving between the points and arguing with the Australian umpire Richard Ings. Lendl was very tense, in the 3rd game of the 5th set he shouted "Du bist ein

Arschloch!" towards Becker's supporter, he was unusually animated too, expressing his satisfaction with fist-pumps after passing Becker. AT the end of the match it seemed luck was on Lendl's side - he caught the lines a few times, the net-cord helped him a few times while the balls struck by Becker stayed on his side while having contact with the net-cord. Also at 1:0 (30/15) Becker missed an 10/10 overhead, failing to secure a double break point. He was broken at 5-all. In the following game Lendl was two points away from the title serving at 30-all when Becker risked his forehand return and finished the point with a smash. He broke back and came back from mini-breaks twice. At 5-all they were both in a position that only two points separated them from the title, there were two rallies, and both won by the guy who was supposed to rather win with the help of serves and volleys. Becker proved to be more patient than the Czechoslovak, first he forced Lendl to a backhand error in a nine-stroke rally gambling with an average approach shot, then he decided to keep the ball as long as possible mixing backhand slices with top-spins and after 37 strokes (the previous longest rally - 20) his top-spin backhand hit the net-cord and rolled over the other side! Actually one of the most amazing match points in tennis history. In the late 80s, apologizing for net-cords wasn't a norm yet, Becker celebrated his enormous luck with hands raised and proud facial expression. It was Lendl's ninth successive and last appearance in the Masters final, the following year he was beaten in the semifinal by Setafn Edberg.

Time: 4 hours 43 minutes

Total points: 164 Becker, 162 Lendl

Serve percentage: 57% Becker... 61% Lendl

Percentage of winners: 30% Becker (50/164)... 35% Lendl (58/162)

Longest game: 3 deuces

Average rally: 4.9 strokes

Longest rally: 37 strokes (the last point of the match!)

Lendl was two points away from victory

8) September 12, 1992: US Open (semifinal)

Stefan Edberg d. Michael Chang 6-7(3), 7-5, 7-6(3), 5-7, 6-4



First match on "Super Saturday", at 11 am, and the battle of two contrasting styles - the best net-rusher against the best counter-puncher of the time (however judging by today's standards, Chang was relatively offensive, 3/10 in serve-and-volley actions). Incredible encounter, 29 years later it's still the longest match in the US Open history. Edberg [2] easily broke in the opening game - it was the first out of 23 breaks! The match had its own pattern which was abandoned in the decider i.e. a player who built a distinctive lead in a set, lost that lead, but won the set anyway:

- Chang led 5:2* (40/15) & 5:4 (40/0) in the 1st set to convert his 8th set point, and *5:3 (30/15) in the 4th set... saved a mini-match point at 5-all
- Edberg led *4:0 with a game point & 5:2 in the 2nd set, then 5:2*, 5:4 (40/15) in the 3rd set to convert his 7th set point

According to that pattern, Chang [4] should have won the deciding set even though he squandered a 3:0* (40/15) lead. The 20-year-old American had a great 5-set record at the time (12-4), also had won their only previous five-setter (French Open '89 final). Edberg's third consecutive match lasting more than four hours (4:20h Richard Krajicek, 4:03h Ivan Lendl) seemed to be beyond his physical endurance, but Chang had played two consecutive five-setters as well (3:34h MaliVai Washington, 4:16h Wayne Ferreira); Edberg was approaching the

net almost all the time behind his serves and very often with chip-and-charge strategy which meant a lot of running, but Chang was running a lot too, mainly in different directions than his Swedish opponent – from corner to corner; he was approaching the net quite often too, sometimes even behind the serve (always pointing Edberg's backhand on ad-court). Crazy running all over the court proved to be exhausting for his sturdy legs when the match reached the five-hour mark: leading 4:2 he was suddenly out of gas losing 14 out of 15 points! In that moment Edberg helped a bit, risking his second serve at 30/0 – committed 18th double fault (he'd served 8 already in the opener!). Chang played two good passing-shots and out of nowhere he created a break point. Edberg held his nerves on the second serve and a perfect serve-and-volley action gave him 'deuce'. He obtained another two points converting the first match point as Chang's aggressive return landed, presumably, a few centimetres outside the sideline.

Time: 5 hours 26 minutes

Total points: 210 Edberg, 195 Chang

Serve percentage: 57% Edberg (135/238) ... 76% Chang (151/198)

Percentage of winners: 38% Edberg (80/210)... 36% Chang (71/195)

Longest game: 4 deuces (in three games)

Average rally: 4.3 strokes

Longest rally: 18 strokes

Chang was eight points away from victory

9) November 24, 1996: Hannover-Masters (final)

Pete Sampras d. Boris Becker 3-6, 7-6(5), 7-6(4), 6-7(11), 6-4



The quintessence of tennis played indoors in the 90s at the highest level. Two great champions, indoor specialists, both running to the net behind the first serves, but usually staying back behind the second serves; they were fresh after their five-set match in the Stuttgart final which Becker won trailing 1-2 in sets. The German was close to repeating it in Hanover in much more dramatic circumstances. He began the final serving four straight aces, then he broke at 2:1 thanks to two great returns and for a 1.5 sets he was a better player optically, it seemed like a potential straight set win for him. Sampras somehow hung in there, in the 2nd set he held twice trailing 0/30 and won the tie-break thanks to only mini-break at 3:2 (FH passing-shot); a moment later perhaps the point should have been awarded to Becker after Sampras' approach-shot, the ball was awfully close to the baseline, a linesman didn't call it out (Becker was furious about it). Sampras roared twice in the match, the first time when he finished the 2nd set with a volley winner (the second time when he got the decisive break). The crucial moment of the 3rd set came at 3:2* (40/15) for Becker - Sampras struck two aces in a row (he had just served 4 in the opening two sets). There were three mini-breaks in the 3rd set tie-break, the last one at 4-all when Becker committed a double fault not trying to risk the second serve. After three sets Becker had won 12 points more, yet he was trailing 1-2 in sets. In the 4th set they stopped serving like machines, there were finally some baseline rallies, but short ones prior to the third tie-break which was very strange - they both were serving poorly feeling the tension of a potential finish; among 24 points played in the tie-break, as many

as 13 mini-breaks. Sampras had two match points (6:5 and 9:8) and on both occasions he had the ball in play he could have finished the final, he lost 5- and 14-stroke rallies respectively though. Facing the fifth set point he missed an easy forehand volley. Digression: Sampras is among leaders of tie-breaks played (and won), yet he never played a tie-break with four changes of ends, so he never experienced 12-all (I'm not sure about doubles because ATP didn't cover tie-break scores before the 21st Century). Sampras was discouraged at the beginning of the decider (even threw his racquet), there was 0:1 (0/30) when good serving helped him to hold again. Becker led 4:3* (15/0), the fourth tie-break in a row seemed inevitable in the worst scenario for him, but at 4-all Sampras showed his genius - he won three points with perfect passing-shots (two forehands, backhand) and broke after two deuces. In the last game a reminiscence of Becker's Masters '88 final, that time with reversal luck - the last point of the match it was the longest rally, they both were playing tentatively, and finally after Sampras' slight miss hit, Becker netted his backhand. Sampras was exhausted, I think more emotionally than physically, he barely survived the semifinal against Ivanisevic (6-7, 7-6, 7-5), in both matches Sampras broke his opponents just once, in their last service games; in the semifinal it was the last game of the match. *"I'm sure if I would have lost, I would have been very disappointed,"* said Sampras. *"But walking down those steps before the match and hearing that crowd; they are not rooting against me, they are rooting for Boris, and it was nice to be a part of that. That's what this game is all about. It's not the money. It's the great matches, and this is one of the best matches I have ever been a part of."*

Time: 4 hours

Total points: 166 Sampras, 178 Becker

Serve percentage: 64% Sampras (115/179)... 59% Becker (97/165)

Percentage of winners: 39% Sampras (65/166)... 33% Becker (59/178)

Longest game: 2 deuces (in three different games)

Average rally: 3.2 strokes

Longest rally: 24 strokes (the last point of the match!)

Becker was seven points away from victory

10) January 28, 2000: Australian Open (semifinal)

Andre Agassi d. Pete Sampras

6-4, 3-6, 6-7(0), 7-6(5), 6-1



Agassi and Sampras faced each other 34 times, 12 in "the best of five" format, unfortunately none of those matches went to an epic 5th set (two five-setters, Sampras won the first one seven years earlier). Two of their last three "best of 5" matches are the most memorable and were quite similar with one big difference - Sampras couldn't finish the match in a tie-break of the 4th set in Melbourne '00, but he did it in New York one year later prevailing 6-7, 7-6, 7-6, 7-6. Those two matches were electric; two best players of the 90s showed that at the age of ~30 they were still delivering their best tennis when the toughest opponent was on the other side of the net. The Melbourne night session semifinal was tight in the first four sets, and Sampras unexpectedly lost his composure in the decider not being visibly bothered by an injury; it's tough to say whether wasted chances in the 4th set affected him a bit.... In the 3rd set (at the beginning of it, birds were dropping excrement on Agassi when he was ready to serve) he saved two set points at *5:6 with service winners (on the first he broke his strings) to win a tie-break 7/0. In the 4th set he led 2:1* (40/15) & 3:2 (40/30) when Agassi played his first volley winner. Sampras also led *4:3 in the second tie-break after a phenomenal FH passing-shot, he missed a backhand volley in the following point though. As he led 5:4, Agassi fired two service winners to convert his first set point with a furious forehand passing-shot. Sampras struck two aces in the

tie-break off second serves (at 2-all and 4-all), so the question is: should he have tried the same at 5:6? Fast-paced match, normally you may expect 3.5 hours with this scoreline, they finished it under three hours, actually typical duration for these two (they used to throw full power playing against each other). *"I think the best feeling is when somebody pushes you to your limit, and you dig down a little bit extra,"* Agassi said. *"That can happen with any player. Somehow it seems to be asked of you more when you play Pete."* Sampras injured his right hip flexor in the fourth game, and a magnetic resonance imaging scan conducted this morning revealed a significant tear. *"It certainly didn't help with my moving, but I'm not taking anything away from how he played,"* Sampras said of Agassi. *"He played great, and he's got a great chance of winning the whole thing."* And it happened, in the final Agassi methodically outplayed Yevgeny Kafelnikov in four sets.

Time: 2 hours 55 minutes

Total points: 155 Agassi, 149 Sampras

Serve percentage: 68% Agassi (101/148)... 63% Sampras (99/156)

Percentage of winners: 32% Agassi (50/155)... 51% Sampras (77/149)

Longest game: 3 deuces

Average rally: 3.1 strokes

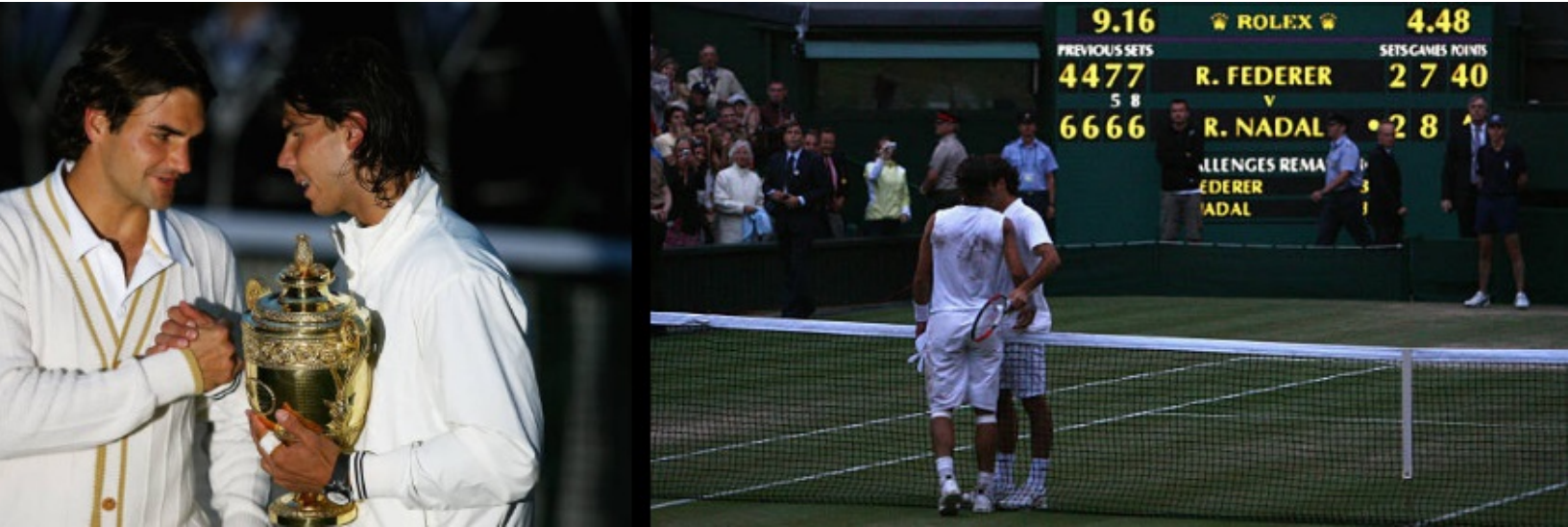
Longest rally: 14 strokes (twice)

Sampras was two points away from victory

11) July 6, 2008: Wimbledon (final)

Rafael Nadal d. Roger Federer

6-4, 6-4, 6-7(5), 6-7(8), 9-7



An all-time classic, there wasn't a major final like that since Bjorn Borg defeated John McEnroe on the same court 28 years before. By this I mean: the most prestigious Grand Slam event, unquestionably two best players in the world at their peaks and dramatic deciding set. Actually Federer & Nadal copied in sets 4 and 5 what had done Borg & McEnroe in their legendary final, but the Swiss and the Spaniard played 50 minutes longer and their final was kept in uncertainty to the last point throughout five sets, while Borg & McEnroe co-created two one-sided sets in 1980. Nadal had lost two Federer in their two previous Wimbledon finals, but had defeated the Swiss in their three consecutive Roland Garros finals, including a demolition job one month before their London epic (6-1, 6-3, 6-0). With all this mutual story, Nadal could perceive himself as a new champion, but the first two sets rather surprised; admittedly he was facing break points when he was serving at 5:4 in both those sets (came back from 1:4 in the 2nd set), but the sets '6-4, 6-4' on the scoreboard for him certainly weren't expected. He was very consistent in serving to Federer's backhand and was constructing points from the baseline with his penetrating forehand. A shocking straight set win for him hung in the air, but in the 3rd set there were two factors which contributed to the shift of the momentum: first, in the 3rd game Nadal slightly twisted his knee (needed MTO), then very heavy clouds gathered around the venue and the rain seemed inevitable which always plays a bit with players'

minds. Nadal led 40/0 at 3-all, had Federer's second serve, but didn't convert his chances and for a long time it seemed that everything was working against him. There was a 50-minute rain break when Federer led 5:4, and after the comeback, Federer's serve was immaculate. He took the tie-break with the help of 4 aces (!), then he was easily holding (Nadal too) in set no. 4. Another tie-break, that time poorly played from both sides. Nadal led 5:2 when committed a double fault. he saved a set point at 5:6 to have two championship points (7:6 - Federer saved it with a service winner and 8:7 - Federer plated his best backhand of the day to pass the five years younger opponent down the line). Despite losing two sets in tie-breaks which was a reminiscence of their previous Wimbledon final, Nadal kept his composure in the decider. At 3:4 he saved a mini-match point with an overhead, at 4:5 (30-all) being two points away from defeat, he forced Federer's error. They reached the finishing line in the fading light. It was 9 pm when instead of the third consecutive tie-break, at 6-all they faced an inevitability to fight about the two-game advantage. It was pretty clear that 8-all or 9-all would be the maximum for tennis on Sunday, and the match must have been postponed to the following day. At 7-all Nadal got the break, the first one after 39 consecutive holds. Serving to win the title, Nadal surprised with a very offensive attitude, from 0/15 he attacked the net in three consecutive points (including his lone S/V action) with a 2:1 ratio. Federer withstood the third match point with a beautiful backhand return, but on the fourth chance for the Spaniard he netted a forehand from a quite comfortable position. Nadal celebrated his success on the back, just like two years earlier, when he ousted Federer 7-6 in the 5th set (then they overcame the 5-hour mark). In the aftermath of that final, Nadal dethroned Federer as the best player in the world (the Swiss occupied that position more than four years continuously). Admittedly Nadal couldn't advance to No. 1 right after the Wimbledon final, but everyone knew it was a matter of time with his Australian Open semifinal and Roland Garros title, achieved earlier that year.

Time: 4 hours 48 minutes

Total points: 209 Nadal, 204 Federer

Serve percentage: 73% Nadal (160/218)... 65% Federer (127/195)

Percentage of winners: 25% Nadal (53/209)... 36% Federer (74/204)

Longest game: 4 deuces

Average rally: 4.7 strokes

Longest rally: 20 strokes

Federer was two points away from victory

12) July 5, 2009: Wimbledon (final)

Roger Federer d. Andy Roddick

5-7, 7-6(6), 7-6(5), 3-6, 16-14



Just one year after losing a very tight five-set Wimbledon final to Nadal, Federer has more luck, he wins two tie-break sets again, but against Roddick he deals better with the pressure of playing the two game advantage" decider. It was the third Wimbledon final between Federer and Roddick (following 2004 and 2005). Federer had won those matches (and their 2003 semifinal) pretty comfortably, so his another straightforward victory was expected, but for four hours of this match, surprisingly Roddick was giving a better impression and he wasn't broken until the last game of the match. He saved 4 break point at 5-all in the opener and should have led 2-0 in sets because he led 6:2 in the 2nd set tie-break when his first serve (134 mph) landed inside the box - Federer blocked it and finished the 6-stroke rally with a beautiful backhand cross. Roddick had the set on his racquet a few points later - he led 6:5 when was playing high backhand volley, not easy, but for the same position, with decent volley skills he was

winning majority of points in his career - in that important moment he was too tense and his ball flew wide. No drama in their another tie-break, that time Federer led 5:1 before converting his third set point with a forehand winner. The only break of the 4th set came at 2:1 for the American. In the decider (one of the longest fifth sets in the tournament history and the longest set as far as finals are concerned, in terms of the games) Roddick had a double mini-match point at 8-all - Federer fought it off with a service winner, and forehand drive-volley (the lone S/V action in the set). 10-all it was the last moment when Roddick was serving and hitting forehands with great conviction. Federer took him to 'deuce' leading 11:10 and 13:12. At 15:14 Roddick could only count on the first serve - when he missed it, he couldn't keep the ball in play. He had two points to level at 15 games apiece, but in the end he made three simple groundstroke errors and Federer could celebrate his record-breaking 15h Grand Slam title jumping running forwards. The previous record holder (Pete Sampras) was sitting in the box, along with other great champions of the event (Rod Laver & Bjorn Borg). *"Sports or tennis is cruel sometimes; we know it," Federer said. "I went through some five-setters in Grand Slam finals, too, and ended up losing. It's hard. But I think he did great."* The runner-up stated: *"There's no way it doesn't cross your mind. We're human. We're not cyborgs. You know, at that point, like everything else, there's two options. You lay down or you keep going. The second option sounded better to me."*

Time: 4 hours 16 minutes

Total points: 223 Federer, 213 Roddick

Serve percentage: 64% Federer (127/197)... 71% Roddick (169/239)

Percentage of winners: 44% Federer (99/223)... 27% Roddick (58/213)

Longest game: 5 deuces

Average rally: 3.9 strokes

Longest rally: 23 strokes

Roddick was five points away from victory

13) January 26, 2012: Australian Open (semifinal)

Novak Djokovic d. Andy Murray 6-3, 3-6, 6-7(4), 6-1, 7-5



The repeat of the 2001 final was announced by Andy Murray as a dogfight. And indeed, the man from Great Britain was right. As early as the second game of the match suggested Murray's exceptional mindset, he won the game after saving a double break point and began encouraging the crowd for a bigger support, something he was doing only at the crucial stages of his toughest matches. As the match progressed, Djokovic established his superiority and after taking the opening set, he led 2:0* in the 2nd set. Since the 3rd game the level of play changed distinctively, an average rally became longer and more punishing, particular games more tighter; Murray dealt better with these conditions and got the 67-minute set. The pitched battle was continued in the following set already in the 1st game which lasted 18 minutes (!), and was concluded with Djokovic's first service held since the second game of the previous set. Murray in that game was drinking his beverage between the rallies, the Serb looked exhausted. The physical tiredness caught the Scot too, it happened in the 4th game, and the play got back on the level terms. Djokovic leading 5:4* squandered three set points – first Murray hit an ace out-wide, then a forehand winner on the line. On the third set point Murray surprised his opponent with a forehand drop-shot which forced the Serb to an extreme stretch, in vain. Murray took the tie-break 7 points to 4, producing a service winner on his second set point followed by a roar towards his box. Murray had to pay the price for his amazing effort in two very long sets.

Djokovic needed less time to build a 4:0 lead than to win the first game of the previous set! The Scot changed his T-shirt from red to white one to start the decider. First five games they held their serves, at 3:2 (0/30), Djokovic played three brilliant backhands in succession and made a break which seemed crucial. Murray was a great fighter though, at 2:5 being two points away from defeat twice, he produced two service winners and broke back in the next game to 'love' encouraging the crowd once again. He was challengeless at the time. At 5-all he had a double mini-match point – Djokovic made a service winner, at 30/40 won a 30-stroke rally hitting the line with a risky forehand shot! Third break point for Murray flew away with his simple backhand error at the 4th stroke of the rally. Djokovic finished the game with drive-volley, game duration – 9 minutes. The 12th game quickly delivered a double match point for the Serbian warrior, he rushed the net and played a safe but precise winning forehand volley, the next second he celebrated on his back one of the biggest wins in his career, almost 5-hour war of attrition ended thirty minutes after midnight. *"Andy deserves the credit to come back from 2-5 down. He was fighting. I was fighting,"* Djokovic said, collecting victory No. 400. *"Not many words that can describe the feeling of the match. Evidently it was a physical match... it was one of the best matches I played. Emotionally and mentally it was equally hard."*

Time: 4 hours 50 minutes

Total points: 184 Djokovic, 161 Murray

Serve percentage: 61% Djokovic (104/171)... 63% Murray (110/174)

Percentage of winners: 27% Djokovic (51/184)... 30% Murray (49/161)

Longest game: 5 deuces

Average rally: 6.7 strokes

Longest rally: 42 strokes

Murray was five points away from victory

14) January 29, 2012: Australian Open (final)

Novak Djokovic d. Rafael Nadal

5-7, 6-4, 6-2, 6-7(5), 7-5



Both finalists began slowly as opposed to their previous major final in New York where the pace of the match was sensational from start to finish. In the 5th game Djokovic twisted a bit his right ankle. He strengthened his 1st serve (3 out of 9 aces of the final struck in that game) due to limitation of the movement, but Nadal broke him after a couple of 'deuces'. The angry Nole changed his T-shirt from white to a black one, and needed two more games to get back to his normal rhythm. He won three straight games from 2:4, but Nadal notched the same streak afterwards and took the very important 1st set (he had only lost one match of his previous 134 in Grand Slams after winning the first set). In the following two sets, Djokovic quickly raced to a 4:1* lead, the main difference – Nadal erased a break in the 2nd set, saving three set points in two games, he even had a game point to level at 5 games apiece, but Djokovic hit the line with his return then – the linesman called it "out", the chair umpire Pasqual Maria reacted immediately, and Nadal lost the challenge as well as his concentration. Djokovic returned to his white T-shirt before the 3rd set. Seemingly the crucial moment of the final appeared in the 8th game of the 4th set with Djokovic leading 4:3* (40/0) – Nadal saved the triple mini-match point in a great style: forehand winner, service winner, backhand winner, he held his service game and the rain came for the first time within the fortnight! The roof was closed, the court was cleaned by ball-boys, and after the 10-minute interruption, the players continued the battle

without another warm-up -Djokovic won the first five points, Nadal maintained his composure though, and the tie-break decided the set. The Spaniard was more passive, but prevailed in two long rallies at 3:5 – D’Joke missed the forehand twice. Nadal delivered a service winner, Djokovic missed a forehand again, Nadal celebrated on his knees (I have never seen such a reaction from him after winning a set) and for the first time in their 30th meeting, they entered the decisive fifth set! Djokovic began it (and finished) in the black T-shirt. At the beginning of the set it was pretty clear that they were going to break two records: the longest match in Melbourne and the longest final in Grand Slam tournaments. Just like two days before (Djokovic vs Andy Murray), it was a dogfight involving the strongest players in the world, physically and mentally, a real war of attrition of two best 5-set specialists at the time. Djokovic looked deadly tired in the 4th game which he held, it seemed he would lose the final set quickly, his ability to recover during long matches has been amazing though, Nadal’s too then. They moved beyond themselves with tremendous determination. Rafa led 4:2 (30/15) when producing perhaps his silliest error of the match, trying to pass his opponent from a comfortable position. It was the vital moment of the championships – Djokovic resurrected. At 3:4 (15/0) he won the longest rally of the match at the time (26 strokes). At 4:4 Nadal took a revenge winning even longer rally in the opening point (32 strokes) – Djokovic collapsed on the court. He hung in the match with an easy hold (to 15) and broke Nadal in the 11th game after a forehand error from the Spaniard. The last game delivered big emotions and hope for another twist, Djokovic 30/0, then 30/40, he saved a break point with a cross-court backhand – really brave shot, had an advantage: strong serve down the T, Nadal returned somehow almost diving, inside-outside forehand and Djokovic defended his title at 1:37 a.m. local time, after magnificent effort in his last two matches – 4:50 against Murray followed up by 5:53 against Nadal – no-one in the Grand Slam history spent so much time on court in the last two rounds!! They were so tired that ball-boys brought them chairs as one of the officials was boringly speaking. *“We made history tonight and unfortunately there couldn’t be two winners,”* Djokovic says during the ceremony. *“Good morning, everybody,”* Nadal laughs. *“Congratulations to Novak and his team. They deserve it. They are doing something fantastic, so congratulations.”*

Time: 5 hours 53 minutes

Total points: 193 Djokovic, 176 Nadal

Serve percentage: 59% Djokovic (98/166)... 67% Nadal (135/203)

Percentage of winners: 31% Djokovic (60/193)... 24% Nadal (43/176)

Longest game: 5 deuces

Average rally: 6.0 strokes

Longest rally: 32 strokes

Nadal was four points away from victory

15) July 14, 2019: Wimbledon (final)

Novak Djokovic d. Roger Federer 7-6(5), 1-6, 7-6(4), 4-6, 13-12(3)



Bizarre scoreline, unbelievable match, especially in the context of their previous five-setters! It's the only time in history that a tie-break was played at 12-all (introduced for the 2019 event, no-one experienced it before the final, and the following year it was simply impossible to witness because the event was not held due to Covid-19... Their third Wimbledon final, and similarly to the years 2014-15, one-two points decided the final outcome of several sets. There were three tie-breaks in total, all of them won by Djokovic, even though Federer is an outstanding tie-break player. The Swiss had his chances to win all the tie-break sets. In the 1st set he led 5:4* (30/0) and *5:3 in the tie-break, in the 3rd set he squandered a set point at 5:4* (40/30) – Djokovic's service winner. Federer should have actually won the decider, he came back from a 2:4* (deuce) deficit, two points away from defeat at 5:6, and led *8:7 (40/15) after two consecutive aces. It was a moment when it seemed he could avenge those bitter US Open five-set defeats to Djokovic in New York. He was trying to hit the third ace, but hit the net-cord and the ball went outside the box. He missed his forehand behind his second serve, on the second match point he attacked the net with a hasty forehand, and the Serb passed him with his forehand. At 11-all, in the longest game of the final, Federer had two mini match-points. In the deciding tie-break the crucial was the third point – Federer lost it implementing serve-and-volley

tactics, his only second failed attempt in fourteen tries! It's almost beyond comprehension that he has lost three five-setters to Djokovic, each time wasting a double match point – twice on serve! Never before in the Open Era a player had defeated the other one three times saving a match point in 5-set encounters. It's also the first time in the Open Era that a Wimbledon champion saved a match point en route to the title (nobody had done it since 1960!). Another interesting stats considering the final: Djokovic has defeated 4 times in five-setters two guys from Switzerland (records against them: 4-1 Wawrinka, 4-0 Federer) since then, while no other player has defeated someone four times in five-setters. Despite the tie-break disaster, Federer still had a better record than Djokovic in tie-breaks after the final, percentage wise (65% vs 63%). *"Like similar to '08 maybe, I will look back at it and think, 'well, it's not that bad after all'. For now it hurts, and it should, like every loss does here at Wimbledon,"* Federer said, comparing to his nine-minute shorter Wimbledon '08 thriller which he lost to Nadal being two points away from the title.

Time: 4 hours 57 minutes

Total points: 204 Djokovic, 218 Federer

Serve percentage: 62% Djokovic (136/219)... 63% Federer (127/203)

Percentage of winners: 25% Djokovic (52/204)... 42% Federer (92/218)

Longest game: 4 deuces (twice)

Average rally: 4.5 strokes

Longest rally: 35 strokes

Federer had a double match point

Percentage comparison of the best players born in different decades...

Top 10s for each decade... I decided to include players who took part in 200 matches at least, 15 five-setters at least, as well as 150 tie-breaks at least and 15 deciding 3rd set tie-breaks at least. Active players in *italic*. Update: May 16th, 2021.

Born in the 50s

Win/loss record:

1) 82% - Bjorn Borg	(654-140)
2) 81% - Jimmy Connors	(1274-283)
3) 81% - John McEnroe	(883-198)
4) 76% - Guillermo Vilas	(951-297)
5) 71% - Jose-Luis Clerc	(378-152)
6) 69% - Vitas Gerulaitis	(535-232)
7) 69% - Eddie Dibbs	(604-264)
8) 68% - Brian Gottfried	(702-330)
9) 67% - Raul Ramirez	(546-267)
10) 66% - Roscoe Tanner	(592-297)

Five-setters:

1) 81% - Bjorn Borg	(27-6)
2) 81% - Johan Kriek	(18-4)
3) 75% - Harold Solomon	(18-6)
4) 72% - Chris Lewis	(13-5)
5) 66% - Hans Gildemeister	(10-5)
6) 65% - John McEnroe	(25-13)
7) 63% - Jose-Luis Clerc	(17-10)
8) 63% - Sandy Mayer	(12-7)
9) 61% - Jimmy Connors	(27-17)
10) 61% - Vijay Amritraj	(16-10)

Tie-breaks:

1) 61% - John McEnroe	(189-117)
2) 58% - Raul Ramirez	(139-99)
3) 58% - Sandy Mayer	(99-70)
4) 58% - Adriano Panatta	(94-68)
5) 57% - Jimmy Connors	(216-158)
6) 57% - Johan Kriek	(125-94)
7) 57% - Mark Edmondson	(89-65)
8) 56% - Guillermo Vilas	(157-119)
9) 56% - Eddie Dibbs	(114-89)
10) 55% - Roscoe Tanner	(200-160)

Deciding 3rd set tie-breaks:

1) 68% - Harold Solomon	(19-9)
2) 67% - Johan Kriek	(12-6)
3) 65% - Bjorn Borg	(11-6)
4) 64% - Guillermo Vilas	(14-8)
4) 64% - Tim Gullikson	(14-8)
6) 63% - Jimmy Connors	(22-13)
7) 61% - Roscoe Tanner	(22-14)
8) 60% - Victor Pecci	(15-10)
9) 60% - Raul Ramirez	(12-8)
10) 56% - Brian Gottfried	(14-11)

Born in the 60s

Win/loss record:

1) 81% - Ivan Lendl	(1068-242)
2) 76% - Boris Becker	(713-214)
3) 74% - Stefan Edberg	(801-270)
4) 74% - Kent Carlsson	(160-54) *
5) 72% - Mats Wilander	(571-222)
6) 69% - Thomas Muster	(625-273)
7) 69% - Yannick Noah	(478-209)
8) 68% - Michael Stich	(385-176)
9) 68% - Miloslav Mecir	(262-122)
10) 66% - Andres Gomez	(531-273)

* Carlsson played on clay 201 of his 214 main-level matches (he never played on grass!)

Five-setters:

1) 75% - Aaron Krickstein	(28-9)
2) 68% - Boris Becker	(32-15)
3) 68% - Martin Jaite	(13-6)
4) 66% - Thomas Muster	(18-9)
5) 65% - Mats Wilander	(26-14)
6) 65% - Paul Haarhuis	(13-7)
6) 65% - Jonas Svensson	(13-7)
8) 63% - Andres Gomez	(21-12)
9) 63% - Jeff Tarango	(14-8)
10) 62% - Ivan Lendl	(36-22)

Tie-breaks:

1) 63% - Andres Gomez	(182-106)
2) 60% - Ivan Lendl	(241-158)
3) 59% - Stefan Edberg	(246-167)
4) 59% - Boris Becker	(241-163)
5) 59% - Michael Stich	(167-116)
6) 59% - Thomas Muster	(166-113)
7) 57% - Brad Gilbert	(145-109)
8) 56% - Mats Wilander	(124-95)
9) 56% - Andrei Chesnokov	(107-81)
10) 55% - Jimmy Arias	(108-88)

Deciding 3rd set tie-breaks:

1) 75% - Pat Cash	(12-4)
2) 7% - Thomas Muster	(18-9)
3) 65% - Guillermo Roldan	(15-8)
4) 65% - Petr Korda	(13-7)
4) 65% - Marcelo Filippini	(13-7)
6) 64% - Stefan Edberg	(18-10)
7) 63% - Yannick Noah	(15-9)
7) 63% - Karel Novacek	(15-9)
9) 61% - Andrei Chesnokov	(11-7)
10) 60% - Wally Masur	(18-12)

Born in the 70s

Win/loss record:

1) 77% - Pete Sampras	(762-222)
2) 76% - Andre Agassi	(870-274)
3) 68% - Michael Chang	(662-312)
4) 68% - Jim Courier	(506-237)
5) 67% - Marcelo Rios	(391-192)
6) 66% - Yevgeny Kafelnikov	(609-306)
7) 65% - Richard Krajicek	(411-219)
8) 65% - Patrick Rafter	(358-191)
9) 64% - Goran Ivanisevic	(599-333)
10) 64% - Carlos Moya	(575-319)

Five-setters:

1) 70% - Younes el Aynaoui	(12-5)
2) 69% - Jonas Bjorkman	(29-13)
3) 69% - Wayne Ferreira	(27-12)
4) 68% - Pete Sampras	(33-15)
5) 68% - Mark Philippoussis	(15-7)
6) 65% - Nicolas Lapentti	(30-16)
7) 65% - Goran Ivanisevic	(26-14)
8) 65% - Dominik Hrbaty	(19-10)
9) 64% - Yevgeny Kafelnikov	(20-11)
10) 63% - Pat Rafter	(14-8)

Tie-breaks:

1) 62% - Pete Sampras	(328-194)
2) 59% - Marcelo Rios	(132-92)
3) 58% - Jim Courier	(185-129)
4) 58% - Sergi Bruguera	(129-93)
5) 57% - Goran Ivanisevic	(276-207)
6) 57% - Carlos Moya	(227-167)
7) 57% - Seba Grosjean	(139-104)
8) 56% - Yevgeny Kafelnikov	(216-170)
9) 56% - Tommy Haas	(214-168)
10) 56% - Andre Agassi	(206-160)

Deciding 3rd set tie-breaks:

1) 78% - Todd Woodbridge	(14-4)
2) 77% - Carlos Moya	(33-10)
3) 68% - Magnus Larsson	(25-12)
4) 67% - Nicolas Kiefer	(16-8)
5) 67% - Sjeng Schalken	(14-7)
6) 67% - Younes el Aynaoui	(14-7)
7) 67% - Nicolas Escude	(10-5)
8) 65% - Pat Rafter	(17-9)
9) 64% - Pete Sampras	(29-16)
10) 63% - Jonas Bjorkman	(17-10)

Born in the 80s

Win/loss record:

1) 83% - <i>Rafael Nadal</i>	(1022-207)
2) 83% - <i>Novak Djokovic</i>	(950-195)
3) 82% - <i>Roger Federer</i>	(1243-272)
4) 77% - <i>Andy Murray</i>	(677-202)
5) 74% - <i>Andy Roddick</i>	(612-213)
6) 71% - <i>Juan Martin del Potro</i>	(439-173)
7) 70% - <i>Lleyton Hewitt</i>	(616-262)
8) 67% - <i>Jo-Wilfried Tsonga</i>	(464-223)
9) 67% - <i>Kei Nishikori</i>	(415-204)
10) 66% - <i>David Ferrer</i>	(734-377)

Five-setters:

1) 77% - <i>Kei Nishikori</i>	(24-7)
2) 77% - <i>Tommy Robredo</i>	(17-5)
3) 76% - <i>Novak Djokovic</i>	(33-10)
4) 70% - <i>Tomas Berdych</i>	(21-9)
5) 69% - <i>Feliciano Lopez</i>	(25-11)
6) 68% - <i>Marat Safin</i>	(28-13)
7) 66% - <i>Marin Cilic</i>	(33-17)
8) 66% - <i>Andy Murray</i>	(24-12)
9) 66% - <i>Mario Ancic</i>	(10-5)
10) 65% - <i>Jarkko Nieminen</i>	(21-11)

Tie-breaks:

1) 65% - Roger Federer	(461-244)
2) 64% - Novak Djokovic	(267-145)
3) 62% - Andy Roddick	(303-185)
4) 62% - Andy Murray	(205-125)
5) 61% - John Isner	(449-289)
6) 60% - Rafael Nadal	(248-162)
7) 60% - David Nalbandian	(129-86)
8) 59% - Fernando Gonzalez	(154-105)
9) 59% - Kei Nishikori	(133-91)
10) 58% - Jo-Wilfried Tsonga	(228-163)

Deciding 3rd set tie-breaks:

1) 76% - Juan Martin del Potro	(16-5)
2) 73% - David Nalbandian	(16-6)
3) 66% - Andy Murray	(21-11)
4) 66% - Novak Djokovic	(16-8)
5) 65% - Alexandr Dolgoplov	(13-7)
6) 64% - Jarkko Nieminen	(24-13)
7) 64% - Juan Carlos Ferrero	(18-10)
8) 64% - Kei Nishikori	(14-8)
9) 63% - Andy Roddick	(26-15)
10) 63% - Gilles Muller	(17-10)

Born in the 90s

Win/loss record:

1) 68% - Milos Raonic	(372-174)
2) 66% - Alexander Zverev	(269-133)
3) 66% - Daniil Medvedev	(177-91)
4) 65% - Dominic Thiem	(309-163)
5) 65% - Stefan Tsitsipas	(162-84)
6) 63% - Nick Kyrgios	(165-97)
7) 62% - Andrey Rublev	(161-97)
8) 60% - Grigor Dimitrov	(332-219)
9) 60% - David Goffin	(292-192)
10) 55% - Karen Khachanov	(150-122)

Tie-breaks:

1) 61% - <i>Milos Raonic</i>	(231-145)
2) 59% - <i>Nick Kyrgios</i>	(117-79)
3) 58% - <i>Alexander Zverev</i>	(106-74)
4) 54% - <i>Dominic Thiem</i>	(124-105)
5) 52% - <i>Grigor Dimitrov</i>	(142-128)

Deciding 3rd set tie-breaks:

1) 80% - <i>Borna Coric</i>	(16-4)
2) 73% - <i>Alexander Zverev</i>	(11-4)
3) 72% - <i>Pablo Carreno</i>	(16-6)
4) 68% - <i>Milos Raonic</i>	(26-12)
5) 61% - <i>Nick Kyrgios</i>	(11-7)

Most: events, matches, titles...

Most events played:

Updated: January 31st, 2021

Born in the 50s

1) John Alexander	406
2) Jimmy Connors	400
3) Brian Gottfried	347
4) Phil Dent	345
5) Guillermo Vilas	343
6) Harold Solomon	332
7) Tomas Smid	325
8) Wojtek Fibak	320
9) Tim Wilkison	303
10) Vijay Amritraj	302

Born in the 60s

1) Francisco Clavet	348
2) Javier Sanchez	333
3) Ivan Lendl	320
4) Thomas Muster	308
5) Jakob Hlasek	307
6) Cedric Pioline	306

7) Mark Woodforde	298
8) Jeff Tarango	296
9) Brad Gilbert	294
10) Guy Forget	291

Born in the 70s

1) Fabrice Santoro	441
2) Vincent Spadea	351
3) Marc Rosset	350
4) Jonas Bjorkman	349
5) Tommy Haas	348
6) <i>Ivo Karlovic</i>	340
7) Goran Ivanisevic	337
8) Wayne Ferreira	332
9) Michael Chang	330
10) Rainer Schuettler	329

Born in the 80s

1) <i>Feliciano Lopez</i>	451
2) <i>Fernando Verdasco</i>	423
3) Mikhail Youzhny	418
4) David Ferrer	391
5) <i>Andras Seppi</i>	386
6) <i>Gilles Simon</i>	371
7) <i>Phil Kohlschreiber</i>	370
8) <i>Tommy Robredo</i>	363
9) <i>Roger Federer</i>	362
10) <i>Guillermo Garcia-Lopez</i>	358

Born in the 90s

1) Grigor Dimitrov	218
2) David Goffin	181
3) Milos Raonic	180
4) Pablo Carreno	165
5) Dominic Thiem	164
6) Dusan Lajovic	156
7) Jan-Lennard Struff	156
8) Federico Delbonis	152
9) Vasek Pospisil	142
10) Diego Schwartzman	136

Most matches won

Upadated: May 16th, 2021

Born in the 50s

1) Jimmy Connors	1274
2) Guillermo Vilas	951
3) John McEnroe	883
4) Brian Gottfried	702
5) Bjorn Borg	654
6) Eddie Dibbs	604
7) Roscoe Tanner	592
8) Harold Solomon	585
9) John Alexander	584
10) Raul Ramirez	546

Born in the 60s

1) Ivan Lendl	1068
2) Stefan Edberg	801
3) Boris Becker	713
4) Thomas Muster	625
5) Mats Wilander	571
6) Andres Gomez	531
7) Brad Gilbert	519
8) Yannick Noah	478
9) Jakob Hlasek	432
10) Emilio Sanchez	431

Born in the 70s

1) Andre Agassi	870
2) Pete Sampras	762
3) Michael Chang	662
4) Yevgeny Kafelnikov	609
5) Goran Ivanisevic	599
6) Carlos Moya	575
7) Tommy Haas	569
8) Wayne Ferreira	512
9) Jim Courier	506
10) Tim Henman	496

Born in the 80s

1) <i>Roger Federer</i>	1243
2) <i>Rafael Nadal</i>	1022
3) <i>Novak Djokovic</i>	950
4) <i>David Ferrer</i>	734
5) <i>Andy Murray</i>	677
6) <i>Tomas Berdych</i>	640
7) <i>Lleyton Hewitt</i>	616
8) <i>Andy Roddick</i>	612
9) <i>Fernando Verdasco</i>	552
10) <i>Richard Gasquet</i>	551

Born in the 90s

1) <i>Milos Raonic</i>	372
2) <i>Grigor Dimitrov</i>	332
3) <i>Dominic Thiem</i>	309
4) <i>David Goffin</i>	292
5) <i>Alexander Zverev</i>	269
6) <i>Pablo Carreno</i>	206
7) <i>Diego Schwartzman</i>	180
8) <i>Daniil Medvedev</i>	177
9) <i>Borna Coric</i>	168
10) <i>Nick Kyrgios</i>	165

Most titles

Updated: May 16th, 2021 (Slams in parantheses)

Born in the 50s

1) <i>Jimmy Connors</i>	109 (8)
2) <i>John McEnroe</i>	77 (7)
3) <i>Bjorn Borg</i>	64 (11)
4) <i>Guillermo Vilas</i>	62 (4)
5) <i>Vitas Gerulaitis</i>	26 (1)
6) <i>Brian Gottfried</i>	25
7) <i>Jose-Luis Clerc</i>	25
8) <i>Harold Solomon</i>	22
9) <i>Eddie Dibbs</i>	22
10) <i>Raul Ramirez</i>	19

Born in the 60s

1) Ivan Lendl	94 (8)
2) Boris Becker	49 (6)
3) Thomas Muster	44 (1)
4) Stefan Edberg	41 (6)
5) Mats Wilander	33 (7)
6) Yannick Noah	23 (1)
7) Andres Gomez	20 (1)
8) Brad Gilbert	20
9) Michael Stich	18 (1)
10) Emilio Sanchez	15

Born in the 70s

1) Pete Sampras	64 (14)
2) Andre Agassi	60 (8)
3) Michael Chang	34 (1)
4) Yevgeny Kafelnikov	26 (2)
5) Jim Courier	23 (4)
6) Goran Ivanisevic	22 (1)
7) Gustavo Kuerten	20 (3)
8) Carlos Moya	20 (1)
9) Thomas Enqvist	19
10) Marcelo Rios	18

Born in the 80s

1) <i>Roger Federer</i>	103 (20)
2) <i>Rafael Nadal</i>	88 (20)
3) <i>Novak Djokovic</i>	82 (18)
4) <i>Andy Murray</i>	46 (3)
5) Andy Roddick	32 (1)
6) Lleyton Hewitt	30 (2)
7) David Ferrer	27
8) <i>Juan Martin del Potro</i>	22 (1)
9) Nikolay Davydenko	21
10) <i>Marin Cilic</i>	18 (1)

Born in the 90s

1) <i>Dominic Thiem</i>	17 (1)
2) <i>Alexander Zverev</i>	15
3) <i>Daniil Medvedev</i>	10

4) <i>Andrey Rublev</i>	8
4) <i>Milos Raonic</i>	8
4) <i>Grigor Dimitrov</i>	8
7) <i>Stafanos Tsitsipas</i>	6
7) <i>Nick Kyrgios</i>	6
9) <i>David Goffin</i>	5
9) <i>Niko Basilashvili</i>	5
9) <i>Pablo Carreno</i>	5
9) <i>Lucas Pouille</i>	5

Various stats...

STREAKS

Longest winning streaks:

49 - Bjorn Borg	(1978) *
48 - Bjorn Borg	(1979-80) *
46 - Guillermo Vilas	(1977)
44 - Ivan Lendl	(1981-82)
43 - Novak Djokovic	(2010-11)
42 - John McEnroe	(1984)
41 - Roger Federer	(2006-07)

Longest losing streaks:

21 - Vincent Spadea	(1999-2000)
20 - Gary Donnelly	(1986-1987)
18 - Andrey Golubev	(2011)
17 - Donald Young	(2012)

TIE-BREAKS

Longest tie-breaks:

Wimbledon 1973:	Bjorn Borg d. Premjit Lall	6-3, 6-4, 9-8(18) *
US Open 1993:	Goran Ivanisevic d. Daniel Nestor	6-4, 7-6, 7-6(18)
Queens Club 1997:	Goran Ivanisevic d. Greg Rusedski	4-6, 6-4, 7-6(18)
Houston 2004:	Roger Federer d. Marat Safin	6-3, 7-6(18)
Toronto 2006:	Jose Acasuso d. Bjorn Phau	7-5, 7-6(18)
Aussie Open 2007:	Andy Roddick d. Jo-Wilfried Tsonga	6-7(18), 7-6, 6-3, 6-3
Dubai 2017:	Andy Murray d. Philipp Kohlschreiber	6-7, 7-6(18), 6-1

Auckland 2020:	Marco Cecchinato d. Leonardo Mayer	7-6, 6-7(18), 7-6
Halle 1999:	Jan Siemerink d. Patrick Rafter	6-4, 3-6, 7-6(17)
Nottingham 2003:	Wayne Arthurs d. Bob Bryan	7-6(17) 7-5
Wimbledon 2014:	John Isner d. Jarkko Nieminen	7-6(17), 7-6, 7-5
Queens Club 2017:	Gilles Muller d. Nikoloz Basilashvili	6-4, 6-7(17), 6-4
Roland Garros 2021:	Lorenzo Sonego d. Taylor Fritz	7-6, 6-3, 7-6(17)

Longest decisive tie-breaks in the 3rd set:

Queens Club 1997:	Goran Ivanisevic d. Greg Rusedski	4-6, 6-4, 7-6(18)
Halle 1999:	Jan Siemerink d. Patrick Rafter	6-4, 3-6, 7-6(17)
New Haven 1998:	Richard Krajicek d. Tim Henman	5-7, 6-2, 7-6(16)
Halle 2014:	Philipp Kohlschreiber d. Dustin Brown	6-4, 5-7, 7-6(16)
Adelaide 1997:	Jeff Tarango d. Jonas Bjorkman	6-1, 6-7, 7-6(15)
Lyon 2007:	Olivier Rochus d. Mardy Fish	6-7, 7-6, 7-6(15)

Longest 2nd set tie-breaks to save MPs and win "best of three" matches:

Dubai 2017:	Andy Murray d. Philipp Kohlschreiber	6-7, 7-6(18), 6-1
Queens Club 2016:	Gilles Muller d. John Isner	3-6, 7-6(16), 7-6
Indian Wells 2006:	Igor Andreev d. Robin Soderling	3-6, 7-6(14), 6-4
Atlanta '17:	Malek Jaziri d. Reilly Opelka	5-7, 7-6(14), 6-1
Athens 1994:	Francisco Clavet d. Javier Sanchez	5-7, 7-6(13), 6-4
Munich 1998:	Pepe Imaz d. Marzio Martelli	4-6, 7-6(13), 7-5
Toronto 1998:	Guillermo Canas d. Grant Stafford	2-6, 7-6(13), 6-2
Doha 2014:	Dustin Brown d. Ivo Karlovic	3-6, 7-6(13), 6-4
Montreal 2015:	Jeremy Chardy d. John Isner	6-7, 7-6(13), 7-6

Longest tie-breaks to close out matches 3-0:

Wimbledon 1973:	Bjorn Borg d. Premjit Lall	6-3, 6-4, 9-8(18) *
US Open 1993:	Goran Ivanisevic d. Daniel Nestor	6-4, 7-6, 7-6(18)
Roland Garros 2021:	Lorenzo Sonego d. Taylor Fritz	7-6, 6-3, 7-6(17)
US Open 1993:	Mats Wilander d. Jaime Oncins	7-5, 7-6, 7-6(16)
Aussie Open 1992:	Omar Camporese d. Lars-Anders Wahlgren	6-4, 6-2, 7-6(15)

Longest tie-breaks to close out matches 3-1:

Wimbledon 2004:	Ivo Karlovic d. Gilles Elseneer	6-4, 6-4, 3-6, 7-6(14)
Wimbledon 2005:	Gael Monfils d. Noam Okun	3-6, 6-4, 6-4, 7-6(14)
Davis Cup 2003:	Jiri Novak d. Raemon Sluiter	6-2, 7-6, 4-6, 7-6(13)

Longest 5th set tie-breaks:

US Open 1987:	Ken Flach d. Darren Cahill	1-6, 6-4, 3-6, 6-1, 7-6(15)
Aussie Open 2021:	Fabio Fognini d. Salvatore Caruso	4-6, 6-2, 2-6, 6-3, 7-6(12) **
US Open 1989:	Wally Masur d. Jim Pugh	5-7, 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, 7-6(10)
US Open 1998:	M.Philippoussis d. T.Johansson	4-6, 6-3, 6-7, 6-3, 7-6(10)
US Open 2013:	Rogério D. Silva d. Vasek Pospisil	4-6, 3-6, 7-6, 6-2, 7-6(10)

Longest tie-breaks in the 4th set of five-setters:

Wimbledon 1980:	Bjorn Borg d. John McEnroe	1-6, 7-5, 6-3, 6-7(16), 8-6
Davis Cup 2003:	Nicolas Lapentti d. Victor Hanesescu	6-4, 6-7, 6-7, 7-6(13), 6-3

Longest tie-breaks in the 3rd set to avoid 0-3 and win 3-2:

French Open 1986:	Henri Leconte d. Cassio Motta	1-6, 3-6, 7-6(10), 6-0, 6-0
Brussels 1992:	Boris Becker d. Jim Courier	6-7, 2-6, 7-6(10), 7-6, 7-5
Aus Open 2009:	Fer. Gonzalez d. Richard Gasquet	3-6, 3-6, 7-6(10), 6-2, 12-10

FIVE-SETTERS

Longest fifth sets in terms of games:

Wimbledon 2010:	John Isner d. Nicolas Mahut	6-4, 3-6, 6-7, 7-6, 70-68
Wimbledon 2018:	Kevin Anderson d. John Isner	7-6, 6-7, 6-7, 6-4, 26-24
Aussie Open 2017:	Ivo Karlovic d. Horacio Zeballos	6-7, 3-6, 7-5, 6-2, 22-20
Aussie Open 2003:	Andy Roddick d. Younes el Aynaoui	4-6, 7-6, 6-4, 4-6, 21-19
Wimbledon 2000:	Mark Philippoussis d. Sjeng Schalken	4-6, 6-3, 6-7, 7-6, 20-18
Wimbledon 1987:	Paul McNamee d. Todd Nelson	6-3, 6-4, 2-6, 1-6, 19-17
Wimbledon 2016:	Jo-Wilfried Tsonga d. John Isner	6-7, 3-6, 7-6, 6-2, 19-17
Wimbledon 1975:	Tenny Svensson d. John Andrews	3-6, 6-3, 3-6, 9-7, 18-16
Roland Garros 2012:	Paul-Henri Mathieu d. John Isner	6-7, 6-4, 6-4, 3-6, 18-16
Roland Garros 2014:	Facundo Bagnis d. Julien Benneteau	6-1, 6-2, 1-6, 3-6, 18-16
Roland Garros 2021:	Lorenzo Giustino d. Corentin Moutet	0-6, 7-6, 7-6, 2-6, 18-16

Five set matches with potential all tie-break sets:

Davis Cup 2009:	Radek Stepanek d. Ivo Karlovic	6-7, 7-6, 7-6, 6-7, 16-14
Wimbledon 2017:	Aljaz Bedene d. Ivo Karlovic	6-7, 7-6, 6-7, 7-6, 8-6

Five-setters when the winner was within a few points to lose the match in three consecutive sets:

Aussie Open 1979:	Ulrich Marten d. Cliff Letcher	4-6, 1-6, 7-6, 7-5, 8-6
US Open 1979:	John Lloyd d. Paul McNamee	5-7, 6-7, 7-5, 7-6, 7-6
Aussie Open 1981:	Steve Denton d. John Alexander	6-7, 4-6, 7-6, 7-5, 7-6
US Open 1983:	Johan Kriek d. Roscoe Tanner	6-7, 3-6, 7-6, 7-6, 7-6
Davis Cup 1985:	Michael Westphal d. Tomas Smid	6-8, 1-6, 7-5, 11-9, 17-15
Roland Garros 1986:	Jean P. Fleurian d. Jonathan Canter	2-6, 2-6, 7-5, 7-5, 7-5
Souul (Olympics) 1988:	Diego Nargiso d. Francisco Maciel	4-6, 2-6, 7-6, 7-6, 8-6
Wimbledon 1989:	J.Gunnarsson d. Derrick Rostagno	6-7, 2-6, 7-5, 7-6, 9-7
Brussels 1992:	Boris Becker d. Jim Courier	6-7, 2-6, 7-6, 7-6, 7-5
Wimbledon 1993:	S.Lareau d. Jonas Svensson	2-6, 4-6, 7-6, 7-6, 10-8
Aussie Open 1999:	J.Knippschild d. Wayne Arthurs	3-6, 4-6, 7-6, 7-5, 8-6
Roland Garros 2001:	Marcos Ondruska d. Ivan Ljubicic	2-6, 2-6, 7-5, 7-6, 10-8
Wimbledon 2002:	Feliciano Lopez d. G.Canas	4-6, 2-6, 7-6, 7-5, 10-8
Wimbledon 2003:	P.Srichaphan d. Olivier Mutis	4-6, 1-6, 7-6, 7-5, 7-5
Aussie Open 2004:	Guillermo Canas d. Tim Henman	6-7, 5-7, 7-6, 7-5, 9-7
Wimbledon 2007:	Richard Gasquet d. Andy Roddick	4-6, 4-6, 7-6, 7-6, 8-6
US Open 2008:	Gilles Muller d. Nicolas Almagro	6-7, 3-6, 7-6, 7-6, 7-5
Aussie Open 2009:	Victor Hanesu d. Jan Hernych	3-6, 3-6, 7-6, 7-6, 8-6
Wimbledon '11:	Feliciano Lopez d. Lukasz Kubot	3-6, 6-7, 7-6, 7-5, 7-5
US Open 2012:	Gilles Muller d. Mikhail Youzhny	2-6, 3-6, 7-5, 7-6, 7-6
Roland Garros 2018:	Jaume Munar d. David Ferrer	3-6, 3-6, 7-6, 7-6, 7-5
Wimbledon 2018:	Jan-L. Struff d. Ivo Karlovic	6-7, 3-6, 7-6, 7-6, 13-11

Five-setters when the loser won two sets saving match points (their number in total):

Roland Garros 1990:	Paul Haarhuis d. Jim Pugh	6-4, 7-6, 6-7, 6-7, 7-5	(5)
Wimbledon 1996:	Luke Milligan d. Nicolas Lapentti	6-4, 6-2, 6-7, 6-7, 6-1	(7)
Aussie Open 2020:	Nick Kyrgios d. Karen Khachanov	6-2, 7-6, 6-7, 6-7, 7-6	(2)

Five-setters when the winner saved match points in two different sets:

US Open 1981:	Stan Smith d. John Sadri	5-7, 6-7, 7-5, 6-4, 7-6	(3, 2)
Roland Garros 1982:	C.R-Vasselin d. Marcos Hocevar	6-7, 3-6, 7-6, 7-6, 6-0	(?, ?)
Wimbledon 1989:	David Pate d. Tom Nijssen	6-4, 2-6, 1-6, 7-6, 15-13	(3, 1)
Davis Cup 1993:	Richard Fromberg d. Marc Goellner	3-6, 5-7, 7-6, 6-2, 9-7	(3, 2)
Munich, GSC 1993:	Petr Korda d. Pete Sampras	3-6, 7-6, 3-6, 7-6, 13-11	(3, 2)
US Open 1994:	K.Novacek d. Todd Woodbridge	1-6, 5-7, 7-6, 6-2, 7-6	(1, 1)
US Open 1999:	Max Mirnyi d. Tomas Zib	3-6, 2-6, 7-6, 7-6, 6-3	(2, 4)
French Open 2004:	Vincent Spadea d. Florent Serra	7-5, 1-6, 4-6, 7-6, 9-7	(1, 8)
Aussie Open 2009:	Victor Hanesu d. Jan Hernych	3-6, 3-6, 7-6, 7-6, 8-6	(1, 1) *
US Open 2012:	Gilles Muller d. Mikhail Youzhny	2-6, 3-6, 7-5, 7-6, 7-6	(1, 1)
US Open 2013:	Rogério D.Silva d. Vasek Pospisil	4-6, 3-6, 7-6, 6-2, 7-6	(1, 6)

* Hanescu saved match points in sets 3 & 4, in the 5th set he was receiving at 5:6 when broke at 'love'

Set points saved in three sets won:

Wimbledon '98	G.Ivanisevic d. Jan Siemerink	7-6(10), 7-6(5), 7-6(6)	(4, 1, 2)
Roland Garros '08	N.Almagro d. Jeremy Chardy	7-6(0), 7-6(7), 7-5	(2, 3, 1)

LONGEST FIVE-SET MATCHES

Australian Open:

<i>5 hours 53 minutes:</i>	Novak Djokovic d. Rafael Nadal	5-7, 6-4, 6-2, 6-7, 7-5	2012
<i>5 hours 22 minutes:</i>	Ivo Karlovic d. Horacio Zeballos	6-7, 3-6, 7-5, 6-2, 22-20	2017
<i>5 hours 14 minutes:</i>	Rafael Nadal d. Fernando Verdasco	6-7, 6-4, 7-6, 6-7, 6-4	2009
<i>5 hours 11 minutes:</i>	Boris Becker d. Omar Camporese	7-6, 7-6, 0-6, 4-6, 14-12	1991
<i>5 hours 5 minutes:</i>	Kei Nishikori d. Pablo Carreno	6-7, 4-6, 7-6, 6-4, 7-6	2019

Roland Garros:

<i>6 hours 33 minutes:</i>	F.Santoro d. Arnaud Clement	6-4, 6-3, 6-7, 3-6, 16-14	2004
<i>6 hours 5 minutes:</i>	L.Giustino d. Corentin Moutet	0-6, 7-6, 7-6, 2-6, 18-16	2020
<i>5 hours 41 minutes:</i>	Paul H. Mathieu d. John Isner	6-7, 6-4, 6-4, 3-6, 18-16	2012
<i>5 hours 31 minutes:</i>	Alex Corretja d. Hernan Gummy	6-1, 5-7, 6-7, 7-5, 9-7	1998
<i>5 hours 9 minutes:</i>	Stan Wawrinka d. S. Tsitsipas	7-6, 5-7, 6-4, 3-6, 8-6	2019

Wimbledon:

<i>11 hours 5 minutes:</i>	John Isner d. Nicolas Mahut	6-4, 3-6, 6-7, 7-6, 70-68	2010
<i>6 hours 36 minutes:</i>	Kevin Anderson d. John Isner	7-6, 6-7, 6-7, 6-4, 26-24	2018
<i>5 hours 31 minutes:</i>	Marin Cilic d. Sam Querrey	7-6, 6-4, 6-7, 6-7, 17-15	2012
<i>5 hours 12 minutes:</i>	R.Schuettler d. Arnaud Clement	6-3, 5-7, 7-6, 6-7, 8-6	2008
<i>5 hours 1 minute:</i>	M.Philippoussis d. Sjeng Schalken	4-6, 6-3, 6-7, 7-6, 20-18	2000

US Open:

<i>5 hours 26 minutes:</i>	Stefan Edberg d. Michael Chang	6-7, 7-5, 7-6, 5-7, 6-4	1992
<i>5 hours 11 minutes:</i>	Richard Krajicek d. Todd Martin	6-7, 4-6, 7-6, 6-4, 6-4	1993
<i>5 hours 9 minutes:</i>	Sargis Sargsian d. Nicolas Massu	6-7, 6-4, 3-6, 7-6, 6-4	2004
<i>5 hours 1 minute:</i>	Ivan Lendl d. Boris Becker	6-7, 6-2, 6-7, 6-3, 6-4	1992
<i>4 hours 59 minutes:</i>	Kei Nishikori d. Marin Cilic	5-7, 7-6, 3-6, 7-6, 6-1	2010

Davis Cup:

<i>6 hours 43 minutes:</i>	Leonardo Mayer d. Joao Souza	7-6, 7-6, 5-7, 5-7, 15-13	2015
<i>6 hours 22 minutes:</i>	John McEnroe d. Mats Wilander	9-7, 6-2, 15-17, 3-6, 8-6	1982
<i>6 hours 21 minutes:</i>	Boris Becker d. John McEnroe	4-6, 15-13, 8-10, 6-2, 6-2	1987
<i>6 hours 4 minutes:</i>	Horst Skoff d. Mats Wilander	6-7, 7-6, 1-6, 6-4, 9-7	1989
<i>5 hours 59 minutes:</i>	Radek Stepanek d. Ivo Karlovic	6-7, 7-6, 7-6, 6-7, 16-14	2009

Main-level finals:

<i>5 hours 14 minutes:</i>	Rafael Nadal d. Guillermo Coria	6-4, 3-6, 6-3, 4-6, 7-6	Rome '05
<i>5 hours 6 minutes:</i>	Jose Higuera d. Peter McNamara	6-4, 7-6, 6-7, 3-6, 7-6	Hamburg '82
<i>5 hours 5 minutes:</i>	Rafael Nadal d. Roger Federer	6-7, 7-6, 6-4, 2-6, 7-6	Rome '06
<i>5 hours 1 minute:</i>	David Ferrer d. Jose Acasuso	6-4, 3-6, 6-7, 7-5, 6-4	Stuttgart '06
<i>4 hours 54 minutes:</i>	Vitas Gerulaitis d. Guillermo Vilas	6-7, 7-6, 6-7, 6-4, 6-2	Rome '79

LONGEST FOUR-SETTERS

<i>6 hours 15 minutes:</i>	Jose Luis Clerc d. John McEnroe	6-3, 6-2, 4-6, 14-12	1980, Davis Cup
<i>5 hours 14 minutes:</i>	Nicolas Massu d. Stefan Koubek	6-4, 4-6, 6-4, 7-6	2009, US Open
<i>5 hours 7 minutes:</i>	Dudi Sela d. Nicolas Massu	6-3, 6-4, 6-7, 6-4	2007, US Open
<i>4 hours 53 minutes:</i>	Rafael Nadal d. Paul H. Mathieu	5-7, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4	2006, Roland Garros
<i>4 hours 47 minutes:</i>	Ivan Lendl d. Mats Wilander	6-7, 6-0, 7-6, 6-4	1987, US Open

LONGEST THREE-SETTERS

<i>4 hours 26 minutes:</i>	Roger Federer d. J.M. Del Potro	3-6, 7-6, 19-17	Olympics '12
<i>4 hours 20 minutes:</i>	Nduka Odizor d. Guy Forget	7-6, 4-6, 22-20	Queens Club '87
<i>4 hours 3 minutes:</i>	Rafael Nadal d. Novak Djokovic	3-6, 7-6, 7-6	Madrid '09
<i>4 hours 1 minute:</i>	Eliot Teltscher d. Louk Sorensen	14-16, 10-8, 8-6	Davis Cup '83 *
<i>3 hours 56 minutes:</i>	J.W. Tsonga d. Milos Raonic	6-3, 3-6, 25-23	Olympics '12
<i>3 hours 54 minutes:</i>			

A.Cherkasov d. Andrea Gaudenzi	6-7, 7-6, 7-5	Tel Aviv '93
3 hours 54 minutes:		
Rafael Nadal d. Carlos Moya	6-7, 7-6, 7-6	Chennai '08

LONGEST MATCH WON 3-0

Cedric Pioline d. Lleyton Hewitt	7-6, 7-6, 7-5	Davis Cup '99
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LONGEST TWO-SETTERS

2 hours 53 minutes:		
Paolo Lorenzi d. Gerald Melzer	7-6(4), 7-6(13)	Kitzbuhel 2016
2 hours 52 minutes:		
Nicolas Massu d. Mariano Zabaleta	7-6(4), 7-6(6)	Kitzbuhel 2004

BIGEST COMEBACKS IN FIVE-SETTERS

Trailing 0-2 in sets:

Jimmy Connors d. Jean-Francois Caujolle	3-6, 2-6, 7-5, 6-1, 6-1
<i>(Roland Garros '80)... Connors saved MP at *2:5 in 3rd</i>	
Eddie Dibbs d. Robert Lutz	5-7, 2-6, 7-5, 6-0, 6-2
<i>(US Open '80)... Lutz saved a double match point at 3:5 in 3rd</i>	
Stan Smith d. John Sadri	5-7, 6-7, 7-5, 6-4, 7-6
<i>(US Open '81)... Smith saved 3 MPs at *2:5 in 3rd (another 2 MPs in 5th)</i>	
Jimmy Connors d. Mikael Pernfors	1-6, 1-6, 7-5, 6-4, 6-2
<i>(Wimbledon '87)... Connors trailed *1:4 in 3rd, he wasn't closer than 3 points to lose at 4:5</i>	
Oliver Gross d. Albert Costa	2-6, 4-6, 7-5, 6-2, 6-4
<i>(US Open '98)... Costa led 5:3* in 3rd, had MP on serve in following game, up to that moment he hadn't faced BP</i>	
Maurice Ruah d. Guillermo Canas	3-6, 3-6, 7-6, 6-3, 6-3
<i>(Davis Cup '99).. Ruah trailed 0:5 in 3rd set, but didn't need to save MP</i>	
Arnaud Clement d. Sebastien Grosjean	5-7, 2-6, 7-6, 7-5, 6-2
<i>(Aussie Open '01)... Clement trailed *2:4 (0/40), then saved 2 MPs in two separate games; *4:5 (15/30) in 4th</i>	
Gustavo Kuerten d. Michael Russell	3-6, 4-6, 7-6, 6-3, 6-1
<i>(French Open '01)... Kuerten trailed *2:5 in 3rd, saved MP in following game</i>	
Stefan Koubek d. Cyril Saulnier	0-6, 1-6, 7-6, 6-4, 8-6
<i>(Aussie Open '02)... Koubek trailed *1:4 (15/40) in 3rd, in TB he saved MP</i>	
Wayne Ferreira d. Ivan Ljubicic	4-6, 4-6, 7-6, 6-3, 7-5
<i>(Aussie Open '02)... Ferreira trailed 1:5*, and 3:5* (15/40) in 3rd</i>	
Jarkko Nieminen d. Julien Varlet	1-6, 1-6, 7-6, 6-2, 6-4
<i>(French Open '03)... Nieminen saved BP at *1:4 in 3rd, and MP at 3:5*</i>	

Steve Johnson d. Evgeny Donskoy 4-6, 1-6, 7-6, 6-3, 6-3
*(US Open '16)... Johnson trailed *2:5 (0/40) in 3rd, saved 6 MPs (or "7", because one MP was repeated)*
 Diego Schwartzman d. Kevin Anderson 1-6, 2-6, 7-5, 7-6, 6-2
*(Roland Garros '18)... Schwartzman trailed *3:5 in sets 3 and 4, two points away from defeat*

Trailing 1-2 in sets:

Manuel Orantes d. Guillermo Vilas 4-6, 1-6, 6-2, 7-5, 6-4
*(US Open '75)... Orantes trailed *0:5 (0/40) in 4th (five MPs saved in total)*
 Jose-Luis Clerc d. Guillermo Vilas 6-3, 1-6, 1-6, 6-4, 6-2
(Madrid '80)... Clerc saved a break point at 1:4 (the score 5:1 for Vilas was already announced after alleged double fault)
 John McEnroe d. Henri Leconte 5-7, 7-6, 3-6, 7-6, 6-1
*(Aussie Open '85)... McEnroe trailed *1:4 in 4th and 1:5* in TB (also *1:4, 15/40 in 2nd before saving 5 SPs)*
 Boris Becker d. Luiz Mattar 6-4, 5-7, 1-6, 7-6, 6-0
(Davis Cup '92)... Becker trailed 2:5 (15/40) in 4th and 4:5 (0/40)!*
 Andre Agassi d. Karol Kucera 7-6, 6-7, 2-6, 7-5, 6-0
(Munich-GSC '98)... Agassi faced 4 MPs from 2:5 in 4th, to win final 11 games*
 Vincent Spadea d. Adrian Panatta 6-4, 4-6, 2-6, 7-6, 8-6
(French Open '02)... Spadea trailed 2:5 (15/40) in 4th, in 5th he served four times to win the match*
 Wayne Ferreira d. Mardy Fish 2-6, 3-6, 6-1, 6-4, 6-0
(Aussie Open '03)... Ferreira saved mini-MP at 1:4 to win the final 11 games
 David Ferrer d. Jose Acasuso 6-4, 3-6, 6-7, 7-5, 6-4
*(Stuttgart '06)... Ferrer trailed *1:5 in 4th, MP saved at 4:5**
 James Blake d. Sebastien Grosjean 4-6, 2-6, 6-0, 7-6, 6-2
(Aussie Open '08)... Blake trailed 1:4 twice (in games & tie-break of 4th set)*
 Borna Coric d. Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-7, 6-4, 4-6, 7-5, 7-6
*(US Open '20)... Coric trailed *1:5 (0/30) in 4th, saved 6 MPs in the process (also 4 mini-MPs in the 5th)*

In the 5th set:

Hugo Chapaco d. Jimmy Arias 6-4, 6-1, 5-7, 3-6, 9-7
*(Davis Cup '87)... Chapaco wasted MP in 3rd, trailed *1:5 in 5th, and saved 3 MPs in the process (5 hours 5 minutes)*
 Wally Masur d. Jamie Morgan 3-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 7-5
*(US Open '93)... Masur trailed 0:5, saved MP at 1:5**
 Slava Dosedel d. Olivier Mutis 6-7, 7-5, 5-7, 7-6, 8-6
*(French Open '95)... Dosedel trailed 0:4 in 4th set TB to win 7 straight points, *1:5 in 5th (two points away at 3:5, 30-all)*
 MaliVai Washington d. Todd Martin 5-7, 6-4, 6-7, 6-3, 10-8
(Wimbledon '96)... Washington trailed 1:5 and 3:5* (15/30)*
 Wayne Ferreira d. Scott Draper 6-7, 3-6, 6-4, 6-0, 7-5
(Wimbledon '97)... Ferreira trailed 0:4 in 5th, MP saved at *4:5*
 Andre Agassi d. Todd Martin 6-4, 2-6, 7-6, 2-6, 10-8

(Wimbledon '00)... Agassi trailed 2:5 (30-all), saved 2 MPs in following game*

Yevgeny Kafelnikov d. Gaston Gaudio 3-6, 7-5, 6-3, 2-6, 8-6

(Davis Cup '02)... Kafelnikov trailed 2:5 (15/40) in 5th to win 16 points in a row!*

Vincent Spadea d. Florent Serra 7-5, 1-6, 4-6, 7-6, 9-7

*(French Open '04)... Spadea trailed *1:5 in 5th (9 MPs saved in total, including a triple MP at 4:5*)*

David Ferrer d. Gaston Gaudio 2-6, 6-4, 7-6, 5-7, 6-4

(French Open '05)... Ferrer trailed 0:4 in 5th*

Jarkko Nieminen d. Karol Beck 6-4, 2-6, 7-5, 0-6, 7-5

(US Open '05)... Nieminen trailed 0:4 (15/30) and 2:5 in 5th (he wasn't closer than 3 points away from defeat)*

Michael Mmoh d. Viktor Troicki 7-6, 6-7, 3-6, 7-6, 7-5

(Aussie Open '21)... Mmoh trailed 0:4 in 5th (he wasn't closer than 3 points away from defeat in that set, but 2 pts away in the preceding set)*

MOST MATCH POINTS SAVED IN FIVE-SETTERS (six at least)

Australian Open

7 - Roger Federer d. Tennys Sandgren 6-3, 2-6, 2-6, 7-6, 6-3 (2020, QF)

Roland Garros

9 - Chris R-Vasselin d. Marcos Hocesvar 6-7, 3-6, 7-6, 7-6, 6-0 (1982, 1R)

9 - Vincent Spadea d. Florent Serra 7-5, 1-6, 4-6, 7-6, 9-7 (2004, 1R) *

6 - Magnus Larsson d. Hendrik Dreekmann 3-6, 6-7, 7-6, 6-0, 6-1 (1994, QF)

Wimbledon

9 - Nick Kyrgios d. Richard Gasquet 3-6, 6-7, 6-4, 7-5, 10-8 (2014, 2R)

6 - Feliciano Lopez d. Guillermo Canas 4-6, 2-6, 7-6, 7-5, 10-8 (2002, 2R)

US Open

7 - Rogerio D.Silva d. Vasek Pospisil 4-6, 3-6, 7-6, 6-2, 7-6 (2013, 1R)

6 - Steve Johnson d. Evgeny Donskoy 4-6, 1-6, 7-6, 6-3, 6-3 (2016, 1R)

6 - Borna Coric d. Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-7, 6-4, 4-6, 7-5, 7-6 (2020, 2R)

Davis Cup

9 - Andrei Chesnokov d. Michael Stich 6-4, 1-6, 1-6, 6-3, 14-12 (1995, SF)

MOST MATCH POINTS SAVED IN THREE-SETTERS (eight at least)

11 - Adriano Panatta d. Kim Warwick	3-6, 6-4, 7-6	(Rome '76) *
11 - Simon Youl d. Glenn Michibata	3-6, 7-6, 7-6	(Schenectady '89)
10 - Alberto Martin d. Adrian Voinea	3-6, 6-4, 7-5	(Bucharest '99)
10 - Rainer Schuettler d. Andreas Seppi	3-6, 7-6, 6-0	(Kitzbuhel '04)
10 - Gilles Muller d. John Isner	3-6, 7-6, 7-6	(Queens Club '16)
9 - Felix Mantilla d. Albert Berasategui	1-6, 7-6, 7-6	(Hamburg '98)
9 - Martin Rodriguez d. Guillermo Canas	3-6, 6-3, 7-6	(Santiago '98)
9 - Hicham Arazi d. Tommy Haas	2-6, 7-6, 7-5	(Hamburg '01)
9 - Felix Mantilla d. Albert Portas	2-6, 7-6, 6-3	(Palermo '01)
9 - Igor Andrejev d. Robin Soderling	3-6, 7-6, 6-4	(Indian Wells '06)
8 - Richard Krajicek d. Tim Henman	5-7, 6-2, 7-6	(New Haven '98)
8 - Jarkko Nieminen d. Para Srichaphan	2-6, 7-6, 7-5	(Tokyo '05)
8 - Pablo Cuevas d. Ivan Dodig	3-6, 7-5, 7-5	(K.Lumpur '14)
8 - Malek Jaziri d. Reilly Opelka	5-7, 7-6, 6-1	(Atlanta '17)
8 - Lorenzo Sonogo d. Federico Delbonis	7-6, 6-7, 7-6	(Kitzbuhel '19)

* Tommy Haas d. John Isner 7-5, 7-6, 4-6, 6-7, 10-8 (French Open '13)

...deserves special mentioning. Isner fought off 12 (!) match points in the 4th set, and had a match point at 5:4* in the decider, so he was one point away to be a record holder of most match points saved to win a match. Also the match Evgeny Korolov d. Fernando Gonzalez 6-2, 7-6 (Las Vegas '08) - Korolev converted his 12th MP

Voo de Mar