

# **BASELINE**

## **2025 EDITION**



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# THE NEW STANDARD

BY NICOLAS MEZZAUCELLA

The 2025 ATP season has been defined by two names: Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner. The young stars have not only cemented their rivalry as the defining duel of this generation, but have also pushed men's tennis into a new era.

Sinner entered the season as the No. 1-ranked player on the ATP Tour and started his year with a bang, defending his Australian Open title in a dominant tournament, capped by a straight-set win over Alexander Zverev.

He was able to play at Roland Garros after his three month suspension, dominating his way to the final, where he lost a five-hour, 29-minute match to Alcaraz, finishing as the runner-up. Sinner won the first two sets of the game and failed to convert three match points in the final set.

After his collapse at the French Open, He responded at Wimbledon, beating Ben Shelton and Novak Djokovic on his way to a rematch with Alcaraz in the final. This time, Sinner could beat Alcaraz in four sets, claiming his first Wimbledon title.



Jannik Sinner at the 2024 U.S. Open via Hamelton

Following Wimbledon, Sinner reached the final at the Cincinnati Masters 1000 and the U.S. Open and won the Beijing and Vienna ATP 500s.

Alcaraz started his year on the slower side, losing to Djokovic in the fourth round at the Australian Open before winning his first career indoor hard court win at the Rotterdam Open,.

At the start of the clay season, Alcaraz showed why he is the best on the surface, winning the Monte-Carlo Masters 1000 and the Italian Open, becoming the third man to win all the major clay-court titles. He followed this up with the dramatic comeback at the French Open to win his fifth Grand Slam title.

After his Wimbledon loss, he dominated the American swing of the season, winning the Cincinnati Masters 1000 and getting his revenge on Sinner in a dominant U.S. Open championship victory.

# THE GREATEST MATCH OF ALL-TIME

BY NICOLAS MEZZAUCELLA

**O**n June 8th of this year, tennis fans were treated to what may go down as the most fantastic tennis match of all time at the French Open. After honoring Rafael Nadal and his 14 French Open titles, fans were gifted another piece of history from two men looking to fill his shoes.

On Court Philippe-Chatrier in Paris, Jannik Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz battled in a legendary French Open championship match that resulted in Alcaraz defending his Roland-Garros title and his fifth overall Grand Slam.

At five hours and 29 minutes, the match was the longest in French Open history and the second longest ever, behind the legendary 2012 Australian Open final, which saw Novak Djokovic defeat Rafael Nadal in five hours and 53 minutes.

Sinner got off to a lightning-hot start in the match, winning the first two sets 6-4 and 7-6, but Alcaraz managed to find his footing in the third set with a comfortable 6-4 victory. The two men continued to battle in the fourth set, with Alcaraz winning 7-3 in a tiebreak, sending the match to a deciding fifth set.

Tensions continued to grow in the fifth set as neither man was able to break serve until Alcaraz served for the match up 5-4. Sinner was finally able to break and saved two match points, pushing the final set into a super tiebreak, the first



Carlos Alcaraz serves during the French Open Final via Kuberzog

in French Open history.

Alcaraz dominated the tiebreak 10-2 and secured his fifth Grand Slam title in one of the most spectacular fashions imaginable. For Sinner, his perfect record in Grand Slam finals was no more, and he would have to live with the agony of failing to convert three championship points during the match.

The 2025 Roland Garros final can be seen as the changing of guard in men's tennis, as Sinner and Alcaraz have gone on to face each other in the following two Grand Slam finals, along with the championship match of the 2025 Cincinnati Masters 1000. As we head into 2026, Sinner currently trails Alcaraz by two Grand Slam titles, and both men will look to complete the career grand slam.

# AGE IS JUST A NUMBER

BY NICOLAS MEZZAUCELLA



Novak Djokovic Serves at Roland Garros

**A**t age 38, Novak Djokovic has already cemented his legacy as one of the greatest tennis players of all time. He's accomplished everything the sport has to offer, winning 24 Grand Slams, 7 ATP Finals, Olympic Gold, and has spent a total of 428 weeks at No.1 in the world.

After finally completing the career "Golden Slam" at the 2024 Paris Olympics, it would have been easy for Djokovic to begin to walk away from the game he has dominated for so long.

However, with nothing left to accomplish, Djokovic returned to the ATP tour in 2025 and proved that he is still at the top of men's tennis, no matter how much younger his competition gets.

Djokovic started the season strong, reaching the semifinals of the Australian Open after beating Carlos Alcaraz and Tommy Paul. Djokovic was forced to retire in the semis against Alexander Zverev, but showed he could still compete for a Grand Slam title.

At the Geneva Open in May, Djokovic made history again, becoming the third male to win 100 ATP singles events.

His strong play continued for the rest of the Grand Slam season as he got revenge on Zverev to make the semis at Roland Garros, fought through a tough draw at Wimbledon, where he eventually lost in the semis to Jannik Sinner, and beat the No. 4 Taylor Fritz to make the semis at the U.S. Open before falling to Alcaraz.

At an age where many players would have retired or begun to fade away, Djokovic showed he is still among the game's best, becoming one of three men to reach 100 singles wins and being the oldest man to make every Grand Slam semifinal in a calendar year.

Djokovic recently announced that he doesn't plan on retiring until after the 2028 Olympic games in Los Angeles, so fans can expect a few more years of his excellence.

## HE'S ARRIVED

BY NICOLAS MEZZAUCELLA

**2**025 saw a new guard enter men's tennis with Jannik Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz fully taking over the game before their 24th birthdays. With how much the two men dominated the sport, it's easy to forget that another newcomer cemented his place amongst the top of mens tennis in 2025.

Ben Shelton, who broke out in 2024 after reaching the Australian Open semifinal in his first tournament outside the United States, was finally able to turn potential into consistency in 2025, cementing his place in the top 10 of the men's rankings. He started the year strong with a semifinal run at the Australian Open, then reached the finals in Munich in the buildup to the French Open, where he fell to Alexander Zverev.

After a disappointing loss to Carlos Alcaraz in the fourth round at the French Open, Shelton tore through the Wimbledon bracket before losing to Jannik Sinner in the quarter-



Ben Shelton at the 2024 Basel Open via Peter Arnold  
finals. Still, he showed he belongs with the game's best.

It was during the North American swing that Shelton truly announced himself, winning his first Masters 1000 in a fantastic run in Toronto that saw him defeat Flavio Cabolli, Alex De Minaur, Taylor Fritz, and Karen Kachanov.

His first Master's 1000 title changed the narrative on how he is as a player. He is no longer only known for his incredible serve and on-court antics, he has shown he can compete with the best. His baseline game has grown tremendously in the past year and that was shown in the Fritz match at Toronto where he manhandled Fritz with his forehand.

Sadly, the rest of Shelton's Grand Slam season was plagued by injury and he was forced to retire in the third round of the U.S. Open against Adrian Mannarino. He bounced out early at the Shanghai ATP Masters before beating Cobolli and Andrey Rublev to reach the quarterfinals at the Paris Masters 1000, where he again fell to Sinner.

Still, Shelton's excellent season resulted in him qualifying for the year-end ATP Finals in Turin, where he will look to further show that he belongs with Sinner and Alcaraz.

# 2025'S TOP RACKETS

BY NICOLAS MEZZAUCELLA, GENERATED WITH CHAT GPT

If you're in the market for a new tennis racket, here are five standout models that keep appearing in buyer and expert round-ups.

## 1. Babolat Pure Drive (2025)

The Pure Drive line needs little introduction—it's been a go-to for players who like to dictate rallies with pace. In 2025 the update is all about refining the feel: reviews suggest Babolat has "dialled in a softer, more arm-friendly feel" while still delivering big pop on serve and ground-stroke.

## 2. Yonex EZONE 98 (2025)

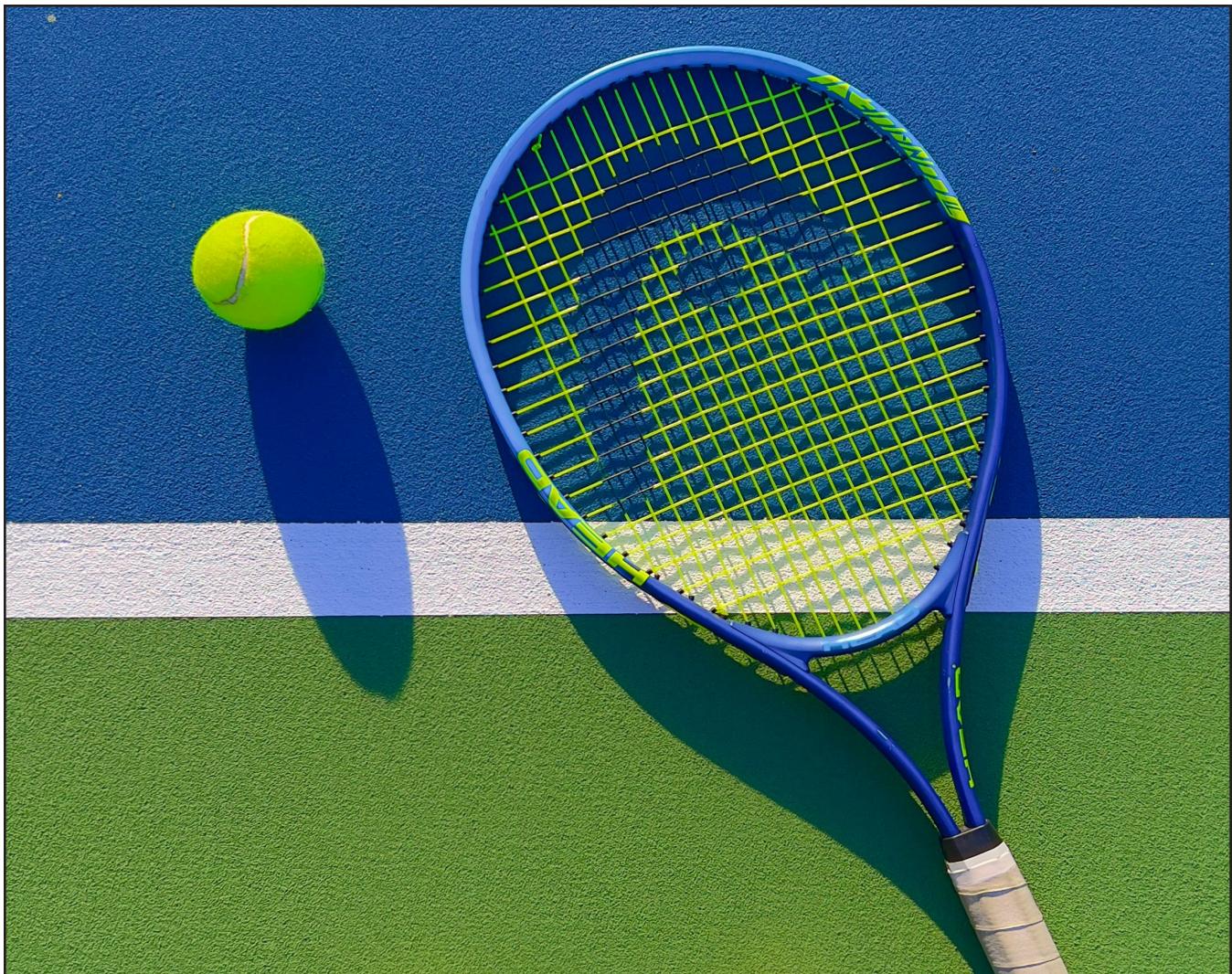
This model leans toward very good versatility. According to reviews, the 2025 version of the EZONE 98 offers an "expanded sweet-spot... even though it remains very playable for intermediate to advanced players."

## 3. HEAD Gravity Pro (2025)

For players who generate their own pace and want crisper control, the Gravity Pro shines. One detailed review praises it as "a near-perfect control frame that is still very much that: ... precise enough for counterpunchers, and versatile enough for a modern spin-friendly game".

## 4. Wilson Shift 99 (2025)

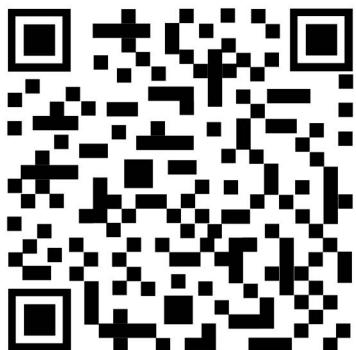
The Shift 99 makes the list as a modern contender for players seeking "controllable power and game-changing spin." According to specs: 10.6 oz unstrung, a dense 16×20 string pattern, and ARC 3D frame technology.



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