

HISTORY OF THE U.S. CHAMPIONSHIPS AND THE US OPEN

The US Open that more than 700,000 fans will enjoy this year at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center bears, in many ways, little resemblance to the tournament started 133 years ago. It has evolved from an exclusive men's singles and doubles tournament in 1881 to a two-week sports and entertainment extravaganza, changing its name from the U.S. Championships to the US Open and migrating from Rhode Island to Pennsylvania to its current home in Flushing, N.Y.

The five major championships that constitute the US Open—men's and women's singles, men's and women's doubles, and mixed doubles—grew from a single men's tournament held as an entertainment diversion for high society at the turn of the 20th century.

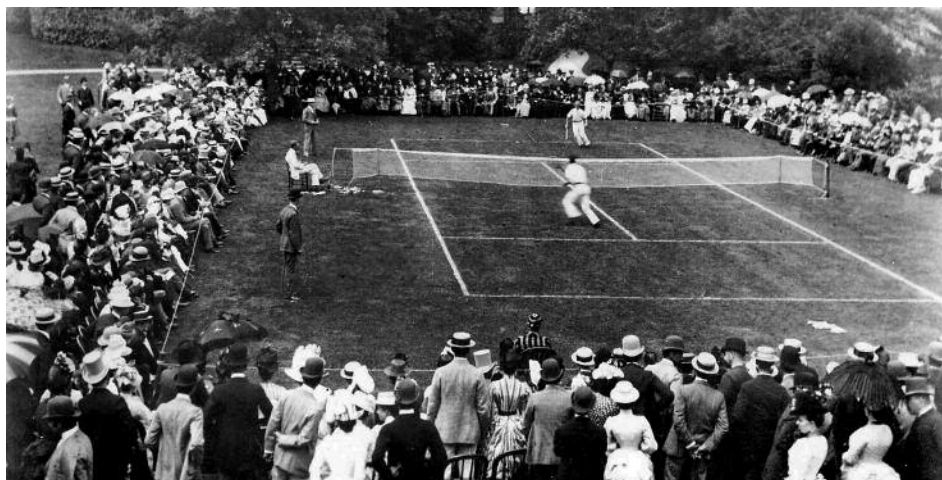
The first U.S. National Singles Championship for men was held at the Newport Casino in Newport, R.I., in August 1881, the beginning of a 34-year run for Newport as the center of tennis in the United States. Only clubs that were members of the United States National Lawn Tennis Association were permitted to enter the initial tournament. Men's doubles was played in conjunction with men's singles at the Newport Casino for the event's first seven years, 1881-1886, before the U.S. Championships grew and spread out to other locales.

In 1887, six years after the men's nationals were instituted as an annual event, the first official U.S. Women's National Singles Championship was held at the Philadelphia Cricket Club, joined by women's doubles in 1889. The U.S. Mixed Doubles Championship officially began in 1892 and was played in conjunction with the women's singles and women's doubles until 1921, when it was combined with the men's doubles program of the U.S. National Championships.

The five major events of the U.S. National Championships/US Open have been contested at nine different locations since the inception of the men's singles event in Newport. All five finally came together when the women's doubles tournament moved to the West Side Tennis Club in Forest Hills, N.Y., at the advent of the Open Era in 1968, and all five moved to the US Open's current location, the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in Flushing, N.Y., in 1978.

Overall, the West Side Tennis Club has hosted the most championships, 196, with the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center standing at 180 through 2013. Men's doubles has been played at the greatest number of sites (eight), while women's singles has been the least traveled, having only been hosted by the Philadelphia Cricket Club, the West Side Tennis Club and the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center.

A total of \$100,000 was offered by the USTA to the field of 96 men and 64 women who entered the men's and women's singles and doubles at the 1968 US Open. Today, the US Open offers more than \$38 million to a field of more than 600 men and women, including qualifying. In 2004, the US Open added the Emirates Airline US Open Series Bonus Challenge, potentially pushing the 2014 US Open prize money to nearly \$41 million.



International Tennis Hall of Fame, Newport, RI

The Casino in Newport, R.I., hosted the U.S. Men's Championships from 1881 to 1914.

SITES OF THE U.S. CHAMPIONSHIPS

While nine sites have hosted the five U.S. National Championship events since 1881, the West Side Tennis Club in Forest Hills, N.Y., has hosted the most championship events (196 contested). Totals for other venues are: USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, 185 championships (including 2014); Longwood, 96; Philadelphia Cricket Club, 95; The Casino, 64; Germantown, 5; Staten Island, 2; Orange Tennis Club, 1; St. George Cricket Club, 1.

MEN'S SINGLES

1881-1914	The Casino, Newport, R.I.
1915-20	West Side Tennis Club, Forest Hills, N.Y.
1921-23	Germantown Cricket Club, Philadelphia, Pa.
1924-77	West Side Tennis Club
1978-	USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, Flushing, N.Y.

MEN'S DOUBLES

1881-86	The Casino
1887	Orange Tennis Club, Mountain Station, N.J.
1888-89	Staten Island Cricket Club, N.Y.
1890-92	The Casino
1893	St. George Cricket Club, Chicago, Ill.
1894-1914	The Casino
1915-16	West Side Tennis Club
1917-33	Longwood Cricket Club, Boston, Mass.
1934	Germantown Cricket Club
1935-41	Longwood Cricket Club
1942-45	West Side Tennis Club
1946-67	Longwood Cricket Club
1968-77	West Side Tennis Club
1978-	USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center

WOMEN'S SINGLES

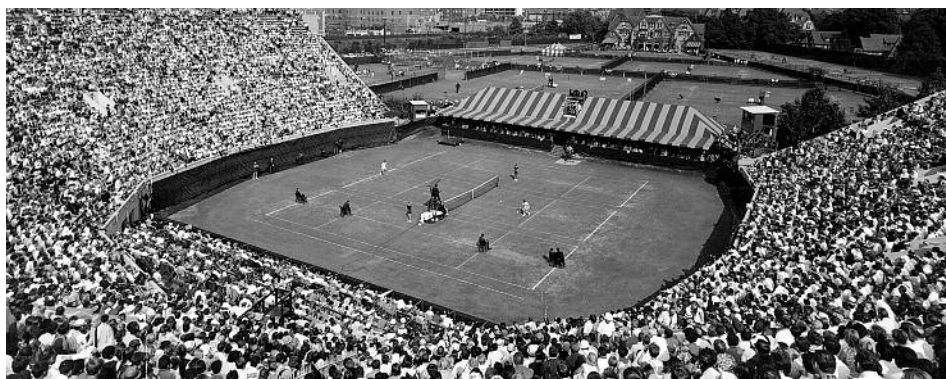
1887-1920	Philadelphia Cricket Club, Pa.
1921-77	West Side Tennis Club
1978-	USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center

WOMEN'S DOUBLES

1889-1920	Philadelphia Cricket Club
1921-33	West Side Tennis Club
1934	Germantown Cricket Club
1935-41	Longwood Cricket Club
1942-45	West Side Tennis Club
1946-67	Longwood Cricket Club
1968-77	West Side Tennis Club
1978-	USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center

MIXED DOUBLES

1892-1920	Philadelphia Cricket Club
1921-41	Longwood Cricket Club
1942-77	West Side Tennis Club
1978-	USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center



The West Side Tennis Club in Forest Hills, N.Y., hosted the U.S. Championships/US Open prior to the event's migration to the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in 1978.

COURT SURFACES

The U.S. Championships has been played on three different court surfaces since its inception in 1881. From 1881 to 1974, the tournament was played on grass courts at the various sites that have hosted the singles and doubles championships. In response to growing player criticism of the bounce of the ball on the grass courts of the West Side Tennis Club at Forest Hills, the event changed to clay courts (Har-Tru) beginning with the 1975 US Open. In 1978, the US Open moved from the West Side Tennis Club to the USTA National Tennis Center in Flushing, N.Y. With the change of venue came a change from clay courts to hard courts as Deco-Turf II became the court surface for the US Open.

Court Surfaces of the U.S. Championships/US Open

Hard (Deco-Turf II)	1978-present
Clay (Har-Tru)	1975-1977
Grass	1881-1974

"US OPEN BLUE" COURTS

In 2005, the USTA debuted US Open Blue courts for the US Open and the Emirates Airline US Open Series tournaments. This new court color scheme—a blue inner court surrounded by a green outer court—heightened visibility of the ball for players, as well as fans attending tournaments and television viewers. In addition, it provided a signature look and identifiable link between the Emirates Airline US Open Series and the US Open. This new look marked the first change of court color at the US Open since the event moved to the USTA National Tennis Center in Flushing, N.Y., in 1978 from Forest Hills.

COURTING VICTORY ON ANY SURFACE



Jimmy Connors

winning teams on all three (grass in 1972, clay in 1977 and hard court in 1979) in the same event. Both Billie Jean King and Rosemary Casals won titles on all three surfaces in various combinations of women's doubles and mixed doubles.

Jimmy Connors holds a record unique to US Open competition and one that will probably never be matched, much less broken. He is the only player, male or female, to win the singles championship on three different surfaces. Connors won twice at the West Side Tennis Club in Forest Hills—on grass in 1974 and on clay (Har-Tru) in 1976—before capturing his third championship on hard court (DecoTurf II) at the USTA National Tennis Center in 1978.

Chris Evert also holds a unique distinction in that she is the only player to win the women's singles title in the US Open on a clay court surface. She won the title at Forest Hills in 1975, 1976 and 1977—the only three years it was played on Har-Tru. Evert also won three times on the hard courts of the USTA National Tennis Center (1978, 1980 and 1982).

Many doubles players have won titles on two surfaces but only one—Betty Stove of the Netherlands in women's doubles—was part of

DATES OF THE COMPETITION

Until 1924, the men's and women's singles finals were conducted at different sites. From 1924 to 1936, both events were held consecutively at the West Side Tennis Club in Forest Hills, N.Y., with the women's championships played first. The following are the dates of competition from 1881 (when the men's final was first held at The Casino in Newport, R.I., and the women's at the Philadelphia Cricket Club in St. Martins, Pa.) to 1934.

Year	Men	Women	Year	Men	Women
1881	August 31-September 3		1909	August 17-27	June 21-27*
1882	August 30-September 2		1910	August 15-25	June 20-26
1883	N/A-August 24		1911	August 21-September 3*	June 12-17
1884	August 26-27		1912	August 19-26	June 10-15
1885	August 18-22		1913	August 18-26	June 9-14
1886	August 23-28		1914	August 24-September 1	June 8-13
1887	August 22-31	September 27-October 5	1915	August 31-September 8*	June 7-12
1888	August 21-28	June 12-15	1916	August 28-September 5*	June 5-12*
1889	August 27-September 3	June 11-15	1917	August 20-25	June 18-23
1890	August 18-27	June 10-13	1918	August 26-September 3*	June 17-22
1891	August 22-31	June 23-27	1919	August 26-September 4	June 16-21
1892	August 23-30	June 21-25	1920	August 30-September 6	September 20-25
1893	August 22-28	June 20-23	1921	September 9-19	August 15-20
1894	August 20-27	June 12-16	1922	September 8-16	August 14-19
1895	August 18-25	June 25-29	1923	September 10-15	August 13-18
1896	August 17-26	June 17-20	1924	August 25-September 2*	August 11-16
1897	August 16-23	June 15-19	1925	September 14-19	August 17-24
1898	August 15-22	June 14-18	1926	September 13-18	August 16-23
1899	August 14-21	June 21-24	1927	September 12-17	August 22-30*
1900	August 13-21	June 19-23	1928	September 10-17*	August 20-27*
1901	August 19-27	June 25-29	1929	September 7-14	August 19-24
1902	August 18-27	June 24-27	1930	September 6-13	August 18-23
1903	August 16-24	June 24-27	1931	September 5-12	August 15-20
1904	August 22-31	June 21-25	1932	September 3-10	August 14-19
1906	August 21-29	June 19-23	1933	September 2-10	August 14-19
1907	August 20-28	June 25-July 2	1934	September 1-12*	August 13-18
1908	August 18-29	June 22-27			

In 1935, the U.S. men's and women's national singles championships were combined into one event at Forest Hills. Generally, both finals were held on the same date, although this was not always the case. The dates shown are for the first and last days of play.

1935	August 29-September 12*	1946	August 31-September 8	1957	August 30-September 8
1936	September 3-12	1947	September 6-14	1958	August 29-September 7
1937	September 2-11	1948	September 10-19	1959	September 4-13
1938	September 8-24*	1949	August 26-September 5	1960	September 2-17*
1939	September 7-17	1950	August 25-September 5*	1961	September 1-10
1940	September 2-9*	1951	August 25-September 5*	1962	August 29-September 10*
1941	August 30-September 7	1952	August 29-September 8	1963	August 28-September 8
1942	August 27-September 7*	1953	August 29-September 7	1964	September 2-13
1943	September 1-6	1954	August 28-September 6	1965	September 1-12
1944	August 30-September 4	1955	September 2-11	1966	September 1-11
1945	August 28-September 3	1956	August 31-September 9	1967	August 30-September 10

OPEN ERA: 1968-

The Open Era dawned in 1968 with the U.S. Championships becoming the US Open. In 1978, the event moved from the West Side Tennis Club to the USTA National Tennis Center in Flushing, N.Y. Generally, all five championships—men's and women's singles and doubles and mixed doubles—were held concurrently and the dates shown below span the first day of play to the last day of play.

1968	August 29-September 9*	1984	August 28-September 9	2000	August 28-September 10
1969	August 27-September 9**	1985	August 27-September 8	2001	August 27-September 9
1970	September 2-13	1986	August 26-September 7	2002	August 26-September 8
1971	September 1-15*	1987	September 1-14***	2003	August 25-September 7
1972	August 30-September 10	1988	August 29-September 11	2004	August 30-September 12
1973	August 29-September 9	1989	August 28-September 10	2005	August 29-September 11
1974	August 28-September 9*	1990	August 27-September 9	2006	August 28-September 10
1975	August 27-September 7	1991	August 26-September 8	2007	August 27-September 9
1976	September 1-12	1992	August 31-September 13	2008	August 25-September 8*
1977	August 31-September 11	1993	August 30-September 12	2009	August 31-September 14*
1978	August 29-September 10	1994	August 29-September 11	2010	August 30-September 13*
1979	August 28-September 9	1995	August 28-September 10	2011	August 29-September 12*
1980	August 26-September 7	1996	August 26-September 8	2012	August 27-September 10*
1981	September 1-13	1997	August 25-September 7	2013	August 26-September 9
1982	August 31-September 12	1998	August 31-September 13	2014	August 25-September 8
1983	August 30-September 11	1999	August 30-September 12	2015	August 31-September 13

*Rain forced a change in the scheduled dates of play by at least one day.

**Men's singles final played September 8; men's doubles final played September 9.

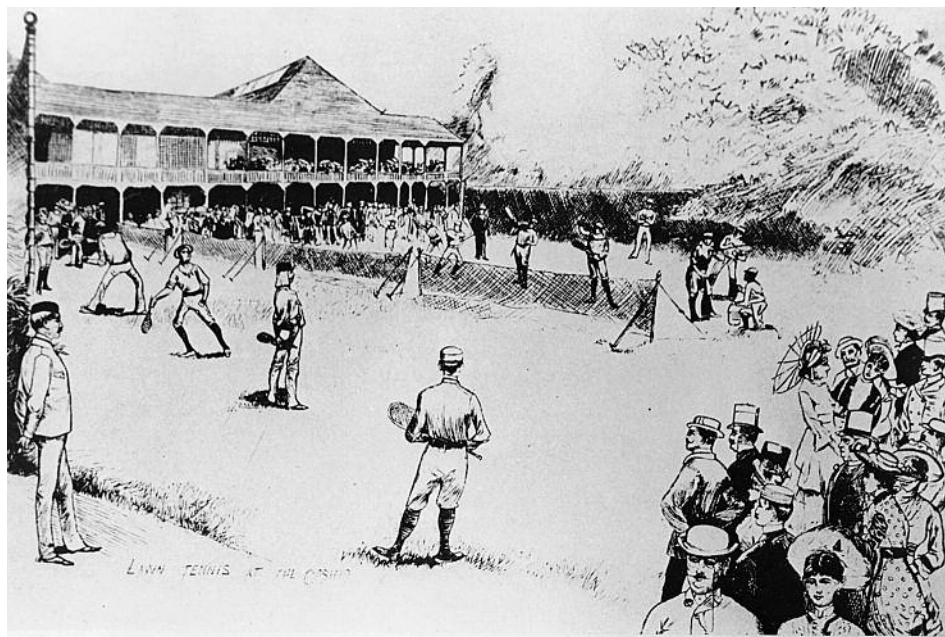
***Men's singles, women's doubles and mixed doubles finals delayed one day by rain.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE U.S. CHAMPIONSHIPS, 1881-1967

TOURNAMENT
INFO

FACILITY &
GROUNDS

EVENTS &
ACTIVITIES



The Newport Casino in 1881

- 1881** – The first men’s singles tournament begins August 31 with 25-man draw and 13 pairs in the doubles competition. Harvard University student and Boston resident Richard Dudley Sears wins the first U.S. men’s singles title, defeating William Glyn, 6-0, 6-3, 6-2, in a September 3 final for the first of his seven successive singles championships. The first U.S. Championships are played over a four-day period and attended by a handful of fans. The tournament earned a first-year profit of \$4.32.
- 1882** – Richard Sears, after winning three matches, draws a bye in the semifinals, leading to the introduction (in 1884) of the Bagnall-Wild form of draw. In the first three tournaments, the brackets are redrawn after each round.
- 1883** – Steel-point spike shoes for a wet turf are introduced by Richard Sears and James Dwight, who acquired them in England.
- 1884** – The Challenge Round is instituted in men’s singles, allowing the defending champion to stand out until completion of the tournament. Net posts are reduced from 4 feet to 3 feet, 6 inches. Richard Sears wins his fourth straight title, this time with a racquet made by Thomas J. Tate of London and given to him by British champion Willie Renshaw.
- 1885** – The first American-made balls (Peck & Snyder) are used in championships, but British-made Ayres balls are used in 1886 before Wright & Ditson developed the American balls that became U.S. standard for the rest of the 19th century.
- 1886** – The Newport Casino agrees to donate \$250 to the United States National Lawn Tennis Association (USNLTA) to retain the championship in men’s singles on their lawns. All rounds of the tournament are made best three-of-five sets.
- 1887** – The first women’s singles tournament is staged at the Philadelphia Cricket Club with the singles, doubles and mixed doubles titles decided there. The men’s doubles is played at Orange Lawn Tennis Club courts in New Jersey.
- 1888** – The longest men’s singles match played to date is contested on August 20, with Palmer Presbrey defeating T.S. Tailer, 19-21, 8-6, 6-1, 3-6, 6-4, in an 80-game, first round contest. The men’s doubles championships move to Staten Island. Henry W. Slocum becomes the first man besides Richard Sears to win the men’s singles title.

HISTORY

PAST
CHAMPIONS

RECORDS &
STATISTICS

PLAYER
RECORDS

- 1889** – The first major British player, E.G. Meers, then a member of England's First 10, enters the men's singles and wins three matches before losing to Oliver S. Campbell in the semifinals.
- 1890** – The men's singles draw grows to 53 men and the doubles format matches the Eastern winner against the Western winner in the final at Newport on September 3. It immediately precedes the men's singles final, which Oliver S. Campbell wins. The U.S. women's championships are dominated by Ellen and Grace Roosevelt, the cousins of future U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Ellen Roosevelt wins the U.S. women's singles title, defeating Bertha Townshend, 6-2, 6-2, in the final, while Grace Roosevelt teams with Ellen to win the U.S. women's doubles title, defeating Margarette L. Ballard and Bertha Townsend, 6-1, 6-2, in the final. Ellen and Grace Roosevelt become the only sisters to win the U.S. women's doubles title until 1999, when Venus and Serena Williams match the feat.
- 1891** – After 10 years, tennis begins to arrive as a spectator sport. Large crowds gather at The Casino in Newport, R.I., each morning during the nine-day men's singles tournament, which began August 18 with fans "filling the porches, balconies and lawns." In the first U.S. men's singles final that is extended to five sets, Oliver S. Campbell defeats Clarence Hobart, 2-6, 7-5, 7-9, 6-1, 6-2.
- 1892** – Mabel Cahill, the first non-American-born U.S. Championships title-holder, wins a second straight women's singles title in Philadelphia. The Irish-born Cahill defeats Elisabeth Moore in the first five-set women's final. In 1903, the women's singles reverts to best two-of-three sets for all matches.
- 1893** – For the only time in the history of the national championships, an event is held at a site off the Eastern seaboard. On July 24, the men's doubles final is played at the St. George Club in Chicago, with Clarence Hobart and Fred Hovey defeating the defending champions, Oliver Campbell and Robert Huntington Jr. Robert Wrenn becomes the first left-handed player to win the U.S. men's singles title, defeating Hovey in the final.
- 1894** – Robert Wrenn wins his second U.S. singles titles, defeating Manliffe Goodbody of Britain in the final. Wrenn goes on to win a total of four U.S. singles titles, including a victory over Britain's Wilberforce Eaves in 1897. Following his win in 1897, Wrenn joins Teddy Roosevelt's famous "Rough Riders" in the Spanish-American War and is recognized by the eventual U.S. president in his book, "The Rough Riders." Roosevelt brags that Wrenn "saved this championship from going to an Englishman," referencing Wrenn's final-round victories over Goodbody in 1894 and Eaves in 1897. Wrenn contracts yellow fever while in Cuba in 1898 with the Rough Riders and never again regains top form.
- 1895** – Juliette P. Atkinson of Brooklyn wins the first of her three women's singles titles. She appears in the Challenge Round each of the next four years, winning twice. Fred Hovey ends Robert Wrenn's two-year hold on the U.S. men's singles title with a 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 victory.



Bill Larned won the first of his record-tying seven singles titles in 1901.

- 1896** – In the second U.S. men’s singles final extended to five sets, Robert Wrenn exacts revenge for a loss the year earlier by defeating Fred Hovey, 7-5, 3-6, 6-0, 1-6, 6-1.
- 1897** – Robert Wrenn wins the last of his four singles titles. Only Richard Sears, William Larned, Bill Tilden, Jimmy Connors, Pete Sampras and Roger Federer have won more.
- 1898** – Malcolm Whitman defeats fellow American Dwight Davis in the U.S. men’s singles final for the first of his three straight U.S. singles titles.
- 1899** – Dwight Davis, who two years later will found the international team competition that bears his name—The Davis Cup—wins the first of three U.S. men’s doubles titles with Holcombe Ward.
- 1900** – In the first U.S. Championships of the 1900s, Malcolm Whitman wins his third consecutive U.S. men’s singles title, defeating first-time finalist William Larned in four sets. Myrtle McAteer wins her first U.S. women’s singles title, defeating Edith Parker in the final.
- 1901** – William Larned, three years removed from serving with Teddy Roosevelt’s “Rough Riders” in the Spanish-American War, wins the first of seven U.S. singles titles, defeating Beals Wright in the final.
- 1902** – Marion Jones wins her second U.S. singles title—the first came in 1899—defeating Elisabeth Moore in the final.
- 1903** – Hugh L. (Laurie) Doherty, the younger of the two great English brothers, becomes the first non-American men’s singles champion, defeating William Larned, 6-0, 6-3, 10-8, in Newport on August 27. Laurie and his brother, Reginald, win the doubles title for the second successive year.
- 1904** – May Sutton wins her only U.S. women’s singles title, defeating Elisabeth Moore, 6-1, 6-2. One year later, Sutton becomes the first non-British women’s singles champion at Wimbledon. Sutton’s daughter, Dodo Cheney, will go on to American tennis fame by winning more than 300 USTA national championships into her 90s.
- 1905** – Beals Wright wins his only U.S. men’s singles title, defeating Holcombe Ward, 6-2, 6-1, 11-9, in the final.
- 1906** – Bill Clothier wins his only U.S. men’s singles title, defeating Beals Wright in the final.
- 1907** – Evelyn Sears becomes the first left-handed women’s champion at the U.S. Championships, defeating Carrie Neely in the U.S. women’s final. After winning U.S. singles titles in 1901 and 1902, Bill Larned returns to the winner’s circle at the U.S. Championships, defeating Robert LeRoy. With his victory, Larned begins a stretch of five straight U.S. singles titles.
- 1908** – The tournament is disrupted by four days of rain. It is the worst delay to date at Newport in the men’s singles. Maud Barger Wallach wins her only women’s singles title by defeating defending champion Evelyn Sears in the final. Wallach is 38 at the time of her championship.
- 1909** – The great California invasion shakes the men’s singles at Newport. Six Pacific Coast players—Maurice McLoughlin, Melville Long, Thomas Bundy, S.M. Sinsabaugh, George Janes and Carl Gardner—play grass courts from Minneapolis to Brooklyn and arrive at Newport in top shape. McLoughlin makes the final and Bundy the semifinals. Earlier, in June, Hazel Hotchkiss, also of California, wins the first of her three women’s singles championships by downing Maud Barger Wallach in the Challenge Round in Philadelphia.
- 1910** – William Larned wins his sixth U.S. singles title, defeating Thomas Bundy in five sets in the final. Hazel Hotchkiss wins her second U.S. women’s singles title, defeating Louise Hammond, 6-4, 6-2, in the final.
- 1911** – A record 202 entries in men’s singles results in 38 defaults in first round and 49 overall. William Larned wins a record-tying seventh title in the last men’s singles Challenge Round played at the U.S. Championships. Larned, 38, retires when the Challenge Round is abolished.
- 1912** – Entries in the men’s singles drop to 159 with tighter requirements, producing “only” 29 defaults. Maurice McLoughlin becomes the first player other than William Larned to win the men’s singles since 1906, coming back from two sets down to defeat Wallace



Dwight Davis

Johnson, 3-6, 2-6, 6-2, 6-4, 6-2. Mary K. Browne sweeps the singles, doubles and mixed doubles, a feat she would repeat in 1913 and 1914.

1913 – Bill Tilden wins the first of his men's record 16 national championships by teaming with Mary K. Browne in mixed doubles at Philadelphia. Browne wins the second of her three straight singles championships, defeating doubles partner Dorothy Green in the Challenge Round.

1914 – Newport Casino adds 1,300 seats to raise capacity of the championship court to 3,900. Still, Dick Williams' defeat of Maurice McLoughlin in the men's singles final on September 1 is the last championship to be contested at Newport after 34 years of competition.

1915 – The first national men's singles at West Side Tennis Club in Forest Hills, N.Y., is delayed by rain one day at the start. When play does begin on August 31, Bernard C. Law defeats Cedric A. Major, 4-6, 6-2, 6-4, 7-5, and Ward Dawson downs J.G. McKay, 6-3, 2-6, 4-6, 6-2, 6-1, in early matches on the main courts before a crowd of 5,000. In Philadelphia, Molla Bjurstedt of Christiana, Norway, takes the women's singles title for the first of a record eight times.

1916 – Bill Tilden makes his first appearance in national men's singles, losing a first round match to Harold Throckmorton, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2, 8-6. On June 12 in Philadelphia, Molla Bjurstedt wins the second of her eight women's singles crowns by defeating Louise Hammond Raymond in a then-record 22 minutes, 6-0, 6-1.

1917 – Robert Lindley Murray, a chemical engineer who graduated from Stanford University, wins the first of two straight U.S. singles titles, defeating Nathaniel Niles in the final.

1918 – Bill Tilden reaches his first U.S. men's singles final, falling to R. Lindley Murray, 6-3, 6-1, 7-5.

1919 – "Little" Bill Johnston defeats Davis Cup teammate "Big" Bill Tilden, 6-4, 6-4, 6-3, for his second U.S. singles title.

1920 – Bill Tilden wins the first of his seven men's singles titles by defeating Bill Johnston, but the match is marred by a referee overruling umpire Ed Conlin on a critical point, rain that stopped the match briefly and the crash of a military plane on grounds during the final that barely missed the crowded stands. Two military fliers, Navy Lt. J.M. Grier and Army Sgt. William Saxe, are killed in the crash.

1921 – The national women's singles tournament is moved from the Philadelphia Cricket Club after 34 years and goes to the West Side Tennis Club in Forest Hills, N.Y. The men's singles shifts to Germantown Cricket Club in Philadelphia while construction begins on stadium at West Side, the first permanent tennis stadium in the U.S. The women's singles remain at the West Side Tennis Club for 57 years, the longest stay of any individual event at one site in history of competition.

1922 – Bill Tilden comes back from two-sets-to-love to defeat Bill Johnston, 4-6, 3-6, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4, in the U.S. men's singles final.

1923 – The new stadium is completed at the West Side Tennis Club and Helen Wills inaugurates the national singles competition there by defeating Molla B. Mallory (formerly Molla Bjurstedt) in the final. It is the first of seven U.S. women's singles championships for Wills.

1924 – The men's singles returns to the West Side Tennis Club and Cedric A. Major again plays an opening-day match, again losing, this time to Frank Hunter. Rain on the second day forces the men's final back to September. Bill Tilden wins his fifth consecutive title before a crowd of 6,000.

1925 – On August 25, Helen Wills captures her third straight championship in women's singles at age 19 years, 10 months and 26 days. The men's singles is not completed until September 19 because of rain, with Bill Tilden taking his sixth consecutive singles crown by defeating Bill Johnston in the final for the sixth year in a row.



Bill Tilden



Helen Wills

- 1926** – René Lacoste becomes the first non-English speaking U.S. men’s singles champion, defeating fellow Frenchman Jean Borotra, 6-4, 6-0, 6-4, in the first-ever U.S. final featuring two foreign players. Bill Tilden’s six-year reign as U.S. men’s singles champion is ended in the quarterfinals by another Frenchman, Henri Cochet. The loss snaps Tilden’s record 42-match winning streak at the U.S. Championships.
- 1927** – After a one-year hiatus, Helen Wills returns to the winner’s circle at the U.S. Championships, defeating Betty Nuthall, 6-1, 6-4. René Lacoste repeats as U.S. men’s singles champion, defeating Bill Tilden, 11-9, 6-3, 11-9, in the final.
- 1928** – Henri Cochet keeps the U.S. men’s singles title in French hands for a third straight year, defeating Frank Hunter, 4-6, 6-4, 3-6, 7-5, 6-3, for his first U.S. singles title.
- 1929** – Helen Wills completes her third straight singles sweep. She doesn’t lose a set in taking the women’s singles in 1927, 1928 and 1929. After a three-year absence as champion, Bill Tilden wins a record-tying seventh men’s singles title.
- 1930** – Left-hander John Doeg wins his first and only U.S. singles title, defeating Frank Shields, the grandfather of actress/model Brooke Shields, in the singles final. Betty Nuthall wins the U.S. women’s title for the first time, defeating Anne Harper in the final. It is the first time anyone other than Helen Wills or Molla Bjurstedt Mallory has won the women’s singles since 1919.
- 1931** – Helen Wills, now Helen Wills Moody, wins her first U.S. singles title as a married woman and her last U.S. women’s singles championship. Ellsworth Vines wins his first U.S. men’s singles title, defeating George Lott in the final. Vines, who repeats in 1932, goes on to become an accomplished golfer and reaches the semifinals in match play at the 1951 PGA Championship.
- 1932** – After seven years of trying, Helen H. Jacobs wins her first women’s singles title on August 22, routing Carolin Babcock in record 21 minutes, 6-2, 6-2. A stadium-record crowd of 14,880 watches Ellsworth Vines win the men’s singles on September 11.
- 1933** – On August 26, one of the most famous and controversial women’s finals is played, with Helen Wills Moody defaulting to Helen H. Jacobs in third set, trailing 3-0. When Wills Moody also defaulted from the doubles, Alice Marble replaced her for an exhibition and was struck in the eye by a smash from Betty Nuthall. On September 11, Britain’s Fred Perry thwarts Australian Jack Crawford’s bid for a “Grand Slam” by defeating him in the men’s final. Jacobs appears for her matches wearing Bermuda shorts similar to those she had worn the year before at Wimbledon, creating a sensation.
- 1934** – Fred Perry defends his U.S. men’s singles title, defeating Texan Wilmer Allison, 6-4, 6-3, 1-6, 8-6, in the final.
- 1935** – The National Doubles program is established at Boston’s fabled Longwood Cricket Club, with the men’s and women’s doubles and mixed doubles all contested on the same program. The three events had been held at Philadelphia’s Germantown Cricket Club the year before, the first time they had all been held at one time in the same place.
- 1936** – Fred Perry and Don Budge play one of the most dramatic U.S. finals in the history of the tournament, with Perry winning this third title with a 2-6, 6-2, 8-6, 1-6, 10-8 decision over the American. Budge serves for the match at 5-3 in the fifth set, but his tentative play allows Perry to prevail for his third U.S. singles title.
- 1937** – In the first all-foreign women’s singles final, Anita Lizana (Chile) defeats Jadwiga Jedzejowska (Poland) and the pair surprises the American audience by hugging and kissing each other on the court after the final.
- 1938** – Six days of rain force the final back to September 24, the latest ever, and Don Budge completes the first Grand Slam in tennis history by defeating Gene Mako, 6-3, 6-8, 6-2, 6-1, in 1 hour, 18 minutes in the men’s singles final. Alice Marble wins her second singles title by downing Australia’s Nancye Wynne, 6-0, 6-3, in 22 minutes. Wrote Allison Danzig of *The New York Times*: “The book was closed yesterday on the greatest record of success ever compiled by a lawn tennis player in one season of national and international championship competition. J. Donald Budge of Oakland, Calif., stood as the first player in history to win all four of the world’s major tennis titles in the same year. ...The triumph of the 23-year-old red-headed giant completed a campaign of unparalleled achievement



Fred Perry

on three continents. No one before him has held at one and the same time the American, British, French and Australian crowns, all of which have fallen in 1938 to the rapacity of Budge's fifteen-ounce racquet for a grand slam that invites comparison with the accomplishment of Bobby Jones in golf."

1939 – Bobby Riggs becomes the first man in shorts to win the U.S. men's singles title when he defeats 19-year-old unseeded upstart Welby Van Horn, 6-4, 6-2, 6-4, in the final. Alice Marble defeats Helen Jacobs, 6-0, 8-10, 6-4, in one of the most gripping women's finals in the history of the tournament.

1940 – Don McNeill defeats defending champion Bobby Riggs and becomes last men's singles champion to play the final in long trousers. (Note: William Talbert wore trousers in the 1945 final to conceal a heavy brace and bandages on his injured knee.)

1941 – Umpire chairman Benjamin Dwight, who had been in the chair for important matches since 1923, dies of heart failure on September 1—the opening day of the national singles—moments after entering the marquee at the stadium to do officiating assignments.

1942 – Due to war-time travel restrictions, the five major championships are all contested at the same time, the West Side Tennis Club, from August 27 to September 7. This format was followed until 1946.

1943 – Lt. Joseph Hunt wins the men's singles but suffers a severe leg cramp after hitting the winning point and receives the traditional handshake from Jack Kramer while both are sitting on the turf. A few months later, in 1944, Hunt is killed in a training flight off the Florida coast.

1944 – Sgt. Frank Parker wins his first of two U.S. singles titles, defeating William Talbert in the singles final.

1945 – Sgt. Frank Parker flies 7,500 miles on leave from the military in Guam to defend his men's singles title and defeats an injured William Talbert in the final. (See note, 1940.)

1946 – Gardner Mulloy and William Talbert win the men's doubles at Longwood, giving them their third title in five years and enabling them to retire the trophy in competition for 23 years. The national singles matches at Forest Hills are regularly televised for the first time (by NBC) and first post-war championship singles draws 62,509 for nine days.

1947 – Jack Kramer comes back from a two-sets-to-love deficit to defeat Frank Parker, 4-6, 2-6, 6-1, 6-0, 6-3, and successfully defend his men's singles title. The win would be Kramer's swan song in amateur tennis; the Coast Guard veteran turns professional following the U.S. Championships.

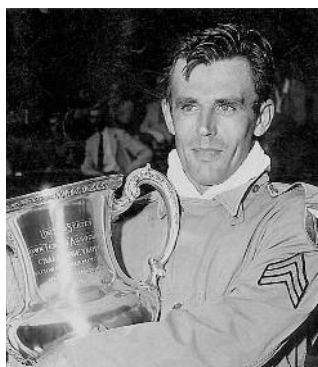
1948 – Margaret Osborne duPont wins her first national women's singles title on September 19, two days after her father was killed in an accident in San Francisco.

1949 – For the second time in three years, the men's singles champion comes back from two sets down in the final to defend his title (and then subsequently turns professional). Pancho Gonzalez spots Ted Schroeder a two-set lead before winning, 16-18, 2-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-4.

1950 – On August 28, Althea Gibson becomes the first black player to compete in the U.S. Championship when she takes the court in the first round of the women's singles at the West Side Tennis Club in Forest Hills. Gibson wins her first round match, defeating Barbara Knapp of Britain, 6-2, 6-2, but falls to Louise Brough in the second round by a 6-1, 3-6, 9-7 margin. Ali Teslof of New York becomes the first woman umpire in national singles. Margaret Osborne duPont wins her third straight women's singles title, defeating Doris Hart in straight sets for the second year in a row, and then retires from competition for two years.



Lt. Joseph Hunt



Sgt. Frank Parker

- 1951** – Frank Sedgman wins the men’s singles, auguring an Australian domination of the event. Australian men win nine of the 12 championships between 1951 and 1962 and add three more in 1964, 1966 and 1967.
- 1952** – Maureen Connolly successfully defends her women’s singles title, defeating Doris Hart in the final. Frank Sedgman defeats Gardnar Mulloy to successfully defend his men’s singles title.
- 1953** – Connolly becomes the first woman to complete the Grand Slam when she defeats Doris Hart, 6-2, 6-4, in the women’s singles final. American tennis icon Tony Trabert wins his first U.S. men’s singles title, defeating Vic Seixas, 6-3, 6-2, 6-3, in the men’s final.
- 1954** – No player would play in as many U.S. Championships as Vic Seixas, who wins his only U.S. singles title in his 13th appearance in the championships, defeating Rex Hartwig in the final. Seixas plays in a record 28 U.S. Championships from 1942 to 1969, including a stint of 24 straight championships from 1946 to 1969, also a championship record.
- 1955** – Twenty-year-old Australian Ken Rosewall reaches his first men’s singles final at the U.S. Championships, losing to American Tony Trabert. Nineteen years later, in 1974, a 39-year-old Rosewall will reach his fourth and final men’s singles final, losing to Jimmy Connors.
- 1956** – Ken Rosewall wins his first U.S. singles title, defeating fellow Aussie Lew Hoad in the first all-Aussie men’s singles final at the U.S. Championships. Althea Gibson reaches her first women’s singles final, losing to Shirley Fry, 6-3, 6-4.
- 1957** – Althea Gibson becomes the first African-American to win a U.S. Championship when she defeats Louise Brough, 6-3, 6-2, in the women’s singles final. Australian Mal Anderson becomes the first unseeded player to win the U.S. Championships, defeating fellow Aussie Ashley Cooper in the men’s singles final.
- 1958** – Ashley Cooper injures his ankle in the 12th game of the fifth set of the men’s singles final in a rematch with Anderson but returns to win the title, 6-2, 3-6, 4-6, 10-8, 8-6. Althea Gibson defends her women’s singles title, defeating Darlene Hard in three sets.
- 1959** – Breakthrough performances from South American players highlight the U.S. Championships. Maria Bueno of Brazil wins her first U.S. singles title, defeating Christine Truman, 6-1, 6-4, in the women’s final, joining 1937 champion Anita Lizana of Chile as the only women’s singles champion from South America. Alex Olmedo of Peru, who actually plays Davis Cup for the United States since Peru does not field a team in the international team competition, becomes the first South American singles finalist at the U.S. Nationals, losing to Neale Fraser of Australia.
- 1960** – Hurricane Donna disrupts play at the U.S. National Tennis Championships as the men’s and women’s singles finals are delayed by six days due to rain and soggy conditions. Darlene Hard defeats defending champion Maria Bueno of Brazil, 6-4, 10-12, 6-4, to win the women’s singles title, while Neale Fraser defeats fellow Aussie Rod Laver, 6-4, 6-4, 9-7, for the men’s title. In mixed doubles, Margaret Osborne duPont teams with Fraser to win her record 25th and final U.S. Nationals title—three singles titles, 13 women’s doubles titles and nine mixed doubles titles. High crime also hits the tournament as \$40,000—the tournament’s receipts for the first weekend—are stolen from a safe at the West Side Tennis Club’s basement.
- 1961** – Roy Emerson wins the first of his 12 Grand Slam singles titles at the U.S. Championships, defeating compatriot Rod Laver in the men’s singles final. Emerson holds the record for career Grand Slam tournament singles titles (12) until five-time US Open champion Pete Sampras breaks it in 2000.
- 1962** – Australian Rod Laver completes the second men’s Grand Slam of tennis at Forest Hills, defeating Roy Emerson, his Davis Cup teammate, in a Monday final, 6-2, 6-4, 5-7, 6-4. The 9,000 attending fans—including Don Budge, the first man to win tennis’ Grand Slam—give the 24-year-old red-headed left-hander a standing ovation as he exits the court following his victory. Fellow Aussie Margaret Smith becomes the first woman from down under to win the U.S. women’s singles title when she defeats Darlene Hard in straight sets. Thirty-five nations were represented in the tournament, including, for the first time, players from the Soviet Union, Cold War enemy of the United States.



Althea Gibson

- 1963** – Rafael Osuna of Mexico becomes the first Latin American man to win the U.S. Championships, defeating American Frank Froehling III in the final. Maria Bueno of Brazil makes it a Latin American double as she wins the women’s singles title, defeating defending champion Margaret Smith in the final.
- 1964** – Maria Bueno surrenders only one game to Carole Caldwell in the women’s singles final to win her third U.S. women’s singles title.
- 1965** – Billie Jean Moffit reaches her first U.S. women’s singles final, losing to Margaret Smith in a rivalry that would evolve into one of the greatest in women’s tennis. Manuel Santana becomes the first Spaniard to win the U.S. singles title, defeating Cliff Drysdale of South Africa in the final.
- 1966** – Australian Fred Stolle joins countryman and 1957 U.S. singles champion Mal Anderson as the only unseeded men’s singles champions, defeating John Newcombe in the men’s singles final. Maria Bueno wins the last of her four women’s singles crowns.
- 1967** – In the final amateur national singles at Forest Hills, Billie Jean Moffitt King defeats Ann Haydon Jones of Britain, who collapses with an injured hamstring in the fourth game of the second set in the final. Australian John Newcombe takes the title in men’s singles.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE US OPEN 1968-PRESENT

TOURNAMENT
INFO

FACILITY &
GROUNDS

EVENTS &
ACTIVITIES

HISTORY

PAST
CHAMPIONS

RECORDS &
STATISTICS

PLAYER
RECORDS

1968 – Arthur Ashe wins the first-ever US Open men's singles crown, defeating Tom Okker of the Netherlands, 14-12, 5-7, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, in the final. Because of his amateur status, the 25-year-old Ashe, a lieutenant in the U.S. Army, was ineligible to receive the \$14,000 first prize in the \$100,000 event—at the time the richest tournament in tennis history. Instead, Ashe collects only his \$20 per diem. Ashe is the first American to win the U.S. men's singles title since 1955 and the first-ever African-American to win a men's singles title at a Grand Slam championship. The New York Times calls Ashe's victory "the most notable achievement made in the sport by a Negro male athlete." Virginia Wade of Great Britain upsets top-seeded Billie Jean King for the women's title and collects a check of \$6,000.



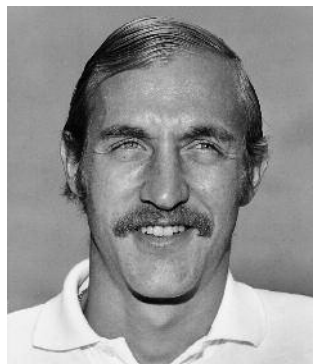
Russ Adams/RAP

Arthur Ashe

1969 – Australian Rod Laver completes his second Grand Slam and the fourth in tennis history, defeating countryman Tony Roche, 7-9, 6-1, 6-3, 6-2, for the championship. Because rain delayed the final until Monday, the historic singles final was viewed by a crowd of only 3,708. Soggy weather further delayed the Monday final by 1 hour, 35 minutes while a rented helicopter hovered above the Stadium Court at the West Side Tennis Club and dried off the grass playing surface. After he failed to win the first set serving at 5-4, Laver makes a strategic switch from sneakers to spikes to help his footing on the slippery grass surface. With the spikes, Laver wins 20 of the next 29 games. In women's play, Margaret Smith Court captures the singles title with a 6-2, 6-2 victory over Nancy Richey. Court also wins the mixed doubles title with Marty Riessen but fails to win the first US Open triple, losing in the women's doubles final with Virginia Wade to Francoise Durr and Darlene Hard.

1970 – The tie-break makes its Grand Slam debut and Margaret Court defeats Rosie Casals, 6-2, 2-6, 6-1, in the women's final to become only the second woman to win the Grand Slam. Her US Open victory also marks the second straight year a Grand Slam was completed at the US Open, following Rod Laver in 1969. Court does not stop with her singles triumph, winning the first US Open triple crown by claiming the women's doubles title with Judy Dalton and the mixed doubles title with Marty Riessen. Her total prize money for all three events is \$9,500. In men's play, 35-year-old Ken Rosewall wins his second US Open singles title—14 years after his first triumph—defeating Tony Roche in the final, 2-6, 6-4, 7-6, 6-3. Rosewall withstands the loss of the first set, three break points at 5-6 in the third set, a tight third set tie-break (the first ever in a Grand Slam final) and a cracked frame to his favorite wooden racket, which he continues to use because of its marvelous touch.

1971 – A 16-year-old Chris Evert makes her US Open debut by reaching the semifinals, where she is defeated by eventual champion Billie Jean King. King, who sat out the 1970 US Open due to knee surgery, upends doubles partner Rosie Casals, 6-4, 7-6, for the championship and the \$5,000 first prize. Less than a month later, King becomes the first woman ever to exceed \$100,000 in prize money for a year. Stan Smith's victory in the men's championship gives the U.S. a sweep of the men's and women's singles titles for the first time in 16 years. It also marks Smith's first Grand Slam tournament singles title after claiming two Grand Slam doubles titles with Bob Lutz. Wimbledon champion John Newcombe loses in the first round to Jan Kodes, 2-6, 7-6, 7-6, 6-3, becoming the first No. 1 seed to lose in the opening round of the U.S. Championships/US Open since 1928.

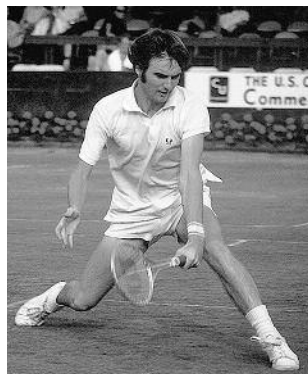


Russ Adams/RAP

Stan Smith

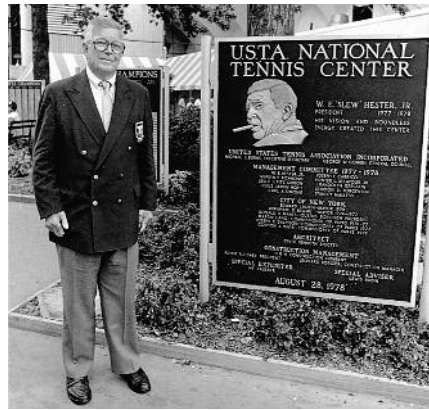
- 1972** – In a dramatic comeback, Ilie Nastase thwarts Arthur Ashe’s bid for a second US Open title, defeating the 1968 champion, 3-6, 6-3, 6-7, 6-4, 6-3, in a final viewed by a then-record crowd of 14,696. Nastase trails two sets to one and faces break point serving at 1-3 in the fourth. Nastase, who also trails by a service break in the fifth set, earns \$25,000 for the championship. Billie Jean King becomes the first player in the Open Era to win consecutive US Open singles titles without losing a set.
- 1973** – Another hallmark achievement in tennis history is recorded at the US Open, as men and women players receive equal prize money at the US Open. The beneficiaries are Margaret Smith Court and John Newcombe, who are awarded championship checks of \$25,000 for their respective singles triumphs. Newcombe avenges his loss to Jan Kodes in the first round of the 1971 US Open, defeating the Wimbledon champion in a five-set final. Court wins her fifth U.S. Championship/US Open with a 7-6, 5-7, 6-2 victory over Evonne Goolagong, who would finish as the US Open runner-up four straight years (1973-76).
- 1974** – In the final U.S. Championships/US Open played on grass, 22-year-old Jimmy Connors crushes 39-year-old Ken Rosewall in 78 minutes, 6-1, 6-0, 6-1, in the most lopsided final in the history of the U.S. Championships/US Open. It marks the first of five US Open titles for Connors, who would again win in 1976, 1978, 1982 and 1983. Billie Jean King notches her fourth singles title at Forest Hills, defeating Evonne Goolagong, 3-6, 6-3, 7-5. Goolagong ends Chris Evert’s 56-match win streak in the semifinals.
- 1975** – Night tennis makes its debut in Grand Slam play at the 1975 US Open—the first of three US Opens played on clay courts. The lights at the West Side Tennis Club shine on one of the greatest comebacks in tennis history as Manuel Orantes saves five match points and comes back from being down two sets to one and 0-5 in the fourth set to defeat Guillermo Vilas, 4-6, 1-6, 6-2, 7-5, 6-4, in the semifinals. Less than 18 hours after defeating Vilas, Orantes upsets top-seeded and defending champion Jimmy Connors, 6-4, 6-3, 6-3, in the men’s singles final. Chris Evert makes the most of the first US Open played on clay courts by defeating Evonne Goolagong, 5-7, 6-4, 6-2, for her first US Open women’s singles title. The victory over Goolagong was Evert’s 85th in her 125-match win streak on clay. Eighteen-year-old Martina Navratilova of Czechoslovakia makes world-wide headlines as she announces her defection to the United States.
- 1976** – In the 200th year of American independence, two Americans claim singles titles at the 1976 US Open—Chris Evert and Jimmy Connors. Evert wins her second straight US Open title by defeating Evonne Goolagong for the second consecutive year. Connors and Swede Bjorn Borg play a memorable final highlighted by the 70-minute third set that ends in a thrilling tie-break won by Connors, 11-9, after saving four set points. Connors would go on to a 6-4, 3-6, 7-6, 6-4 triumph for his second US Open title.
- 1977** – In the last US Open played at the West Side Tennis Club in Forest Hills, US Open crowds get their first look at Tracy Austin and John McEnroe. Austin, the 14-year-old tennis sensation, upsets No. 4 seed Sue Barker and reaches the quarterfinals. McEnroe, from nearby Douglaston, N.Y., earns three victories before bowing to 1975 US Open champion Manuel Orantes. Guillermo Vilas shocks defending champion Jimmy Connors in a dramatic four-set final, while Chris Evert wins her third straight singles title, defeating Wendy Turnbull in the final. With the 1978 US Open moving to the hard courts of the USTA National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadow, N.Y., Evert’s victory, combined with her two victories in 1975 and 1976, gives her the distinction of being the only woman to win a US Open singles title on clay. Forty-two-year-old transsexual Renee Richards loses in the first round to No. 3 seed Virginia Wade, but reaches the doubles final with Bettyann Stuart. The women’s doubles is won by Betty Stove and Martina Navratilova. It is the first US Open title for Navratilova; her last would come 29 years later, when she teams with American Bob Bryan to win the mixed doubles title. In men’s play, Mike Fishbach’s spaghetti racquet earns him a second round upset of Stan Smith.
- 1978** – Spearheaded by United States Tennis Association President W.E. “Slew” Hester, the US Open moves to the hard courts of the USTA National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadows, N.Y. Bjorn Borg and Bob Hewitt play the first match ever on the Stadium

John Newcome/TENNIS



Jimmy Connors

Court on Tuesday night, Aug. 29. Pam Shriver, 16 and armed with a 110-square-inch oversized racquet, reaches the women's singles final, where she falls to Evert. The victory gives Evert her fourth straight US Open title, which equals the record set by Molla B. Mallory (1915-18) and Helen H. Jacobs (1932-35). Playing in his fifth straight US Open final, Connors dispatches Bjorn Borg in straight sets for his third US Open title. The victory on the DecoTurf II hard courts gives Connors the distinction of being the only player ever to win the US Open on three different surfaces (grass in 1974, clay in 1976 and hard in 1978 and later 1982-83). Total attendance at the 1978 US Open exceeds 275,000, setting a new tournament record. Total tournament prize money exceeds \$500,000.



Slew Hester

Russ Adams/RAP

1979 – Tracy Austin becomes the youngest US Open champion at the age of 16 years, eight months and 28 days, defeating four-time defending champion Chris Evert Lloyd, 6-4, 6-3, in the final. En route to the title, Austin defeats 14-year-old Andrea Jaeger in the second round and No. 2 seed Martina Navratilova in the semifinals. Austin's win breaks Evert Lloyd's 31-match win streak at the US Open. Kathy Horvath, five days past her 14th birthday, becomes the youngest woman to play in the US Open, losing in the first round to Dianne Fromholtz, 7-6, 6-2. In men's play, Roscoe Tanner's serve breaks the net and ends Bjorn Borg's chances at a US Open title, as Tanner upsets the top seed in the quarterfinals. Four American men reach the semifinals for the first time since 1950 and two New Yorkers, John McEnroe and Vitas Gerulaitis, reach the men's singles final, with McEnroe claiming his first Grand Slam singles title with a 7-5, 6-3, 6-3 victory.

1980 – Bjorn Borg and John McEnroe play one of the all-time great US Open Championship matches, as McEnroe fends off Borg in five sets, 7-6, 6-1, 6-7, 5-7, 6-4, for his second straight US Open title. After taking a three-month sabbatical from tennis earlier in the year, Chris Evert Lloyd wins her fifth US Open title in the six years, defeating Hana Mandlikova, 5-7, 6-1, 6-1, in the final. Evert avenges her 1979 final-round loss to Tracy Austin in the semifinals. At the age of 15 years, three months, Andrea Jaeger becomes the youngest US Open semifinalist, defeating Barbara Hallquist in a quarterfinal match viewed by a record crowd of 18,606. The 1980 US Open attracts 364,370 fans, which sets a new world tournament record.



John McEnroe

Getty Images

1981 – At the 100th anniversary of the U.S. Championships, Americans claim both singles titles and the men's and women's doubles titles. John McEnroe wins his third straight men's singles crown, equaling a feat last achieved by Bill Tilden in 1925. McEnroe defeats Bjorn Borg in the final, 4-6, 6-2, 6-4, 6-3, in the Swede's final Grand Slam appearance. The loss is Borg's fourth US Open runner-up finish. McEnroe also teams with Peter Fleming to win the doubles title. At 18, Tracy Austin wins her second US Open title when Martina Navratilova double faults on match point of Austin's 1-6, 7-6, 7-6 victory. Navratilova, who upset Chris Evert Lloyd in the semifinals, appears in her first US Open women's singles final.



Chris Evert

Stephen Saurle/TENNIS

1982 – Chris Evert Lloyd captures the last of her six US Open singles titles, defeating Hana Mandlikova in the final, 6-3, 6-1. Pam Shriver's stunning 1-6, 7-6, 6-2 quarterfinal upset of reigning French and Wimbledon

champion Martina Navratilova is the match of the tournament on the women's side. Top-seeded Navratilova, an overwhelming favorite for the title, leaves the court in tears as her Grand Slam hopes are dashed. Jimmy Connors, who last won the US Open in 1978, also returns to the winner's circle, defeating first-time finalist Ivan Lendl in a crowd-pleasing, four-set final. Lendl ends John McEnroe's 26-match US Open win streak in the semifinals. Billie Jean King makes her final singles appearance at the US Open, losing in the first round to Susan Mascarin. Total tournament prize money exceeds \$1 million.

- 1983** – In her 11th US Open appearance, Martina Navratilova breaks through to win her first US Open women's singles title. Navratilova, playing in only her second US Open final, routs six-time champion Chris Evert Lloyd, 6-1, 6-3. Jimmy Connors and Ivan Lendl again play in the men's singles final, with Connors snatching the last nine games of the match for a 6-3, 6-7, 7-5, 6-0 victory. The championship was Connors' fifth at the US Open—making him the first male player to win five U.S. singles championships in 59 years, dating back to Bill Tilden's six titles from 1920-25. The winner's purse exceeds \$100,000 for the first time as Navratilova and Connors each receive checks for \$120,000.



Martina Navratilova

- 1984** – Saturday, September 8—arguably the single greatest day in tennis history—highlights the 1984 US Open. Each of the four superb matches played on the Stadium Court extends to the maximum number of sets, beginning at 11:07 a.m. with Stan Smith defeating John Newcombe, 4-6, 7-5, 6-2, in the senior men's semifinal. Ivan Lendl then saves a match point in defeating Pat Cash, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-7, 7-6, in the first men's semifinal. Next, Martina Navratilova captures her second straight US Open singles title, defeating Chris Evert Lloyd, 4-6, 6-4, 6-4. John McEnroe and Jimmy Connors end the day's play at 11:14 p.m. with McEnroe eliminating the two-time defending champion, 6-4, 4-6, 7-5, 4-6, 6-3. The men's final proves anticlimactic next to the preceding day's events as McEnroe defeats Lendl in straight sets for his fourth US Open men's singles title.

- 1985** – After suffering through three straight US Open final-round losses, Ivan Lendl breaks through to win his first title, defeating John McEnroe, 7-6, 6-3, 6-4, in the final. Hana Mandlikova's third US Open final is a charm, as she defeats Martina Navratilova, 7-6, 1-6, 7-6, in the final. McEnroe, the top seed, avoids a major upset bid by Shlomo Glickstein in the tournament's opening round, surviving in the fifth-set tie-break. Mary Joe Fernandez, at the age of 14 years and eight days, becomes the youngest person to win a match at the US Open when she defeats Sara Gomer in the first round, 6-1, 6-4. A tornado strikes the USTA National Tennis Center in the late afternoon of Aug. 30, causing serious damage to the grounds, including downed power lines, major flooding and uprooted trees. There is, however, no delay and the tournament resumes in full the next day.

- 1986** – In the year of the all-Czech singles finals, Ivan Lendl defeats Miloslav Mecir for the men's crown and Martina Navratilova defeats Helena Sukova for the women's title. All four players in the singles finals were born in Czechoslovakia; Navratilova, however, is an American citizen and Lendl a resident of Greenwich, Conn. Mecir, seeded No. 16, is the lowest-ranked finalist since unseeded Jan Kodes reached the 1971 men's singles final. John McEnroe suffers his earliest exit from the US Open, losing to Paul Annacone in the first round, and Jimmy Connors' streak of 12 straight semifinal berths is ended by Todd Witsken in the third round. Tim Wilkison is the lone American man to reach the quarterfinals.

- 1987** – Ivan Lendl wins his third straight title in his sixth straight final, defeating Mats Wilander of Sweden, 6-7, 6-0, 7-6, 6-4, in a four-hour, 47-minute final played on Monday due to rain. On the 100th anniversary of the

Russ Adams/RAP



Ivan Lendl

first women's championships, Martina Navratilova wins the US Open triple crown—the first sweep since Margaret Smith Court in 1970—defeating Steffi Graf for the women's singles title, teaming with Pam Shriver to win the women's doubles crown and pairing with Emilio Sanchez to win the mixed doubles title. Chris Evert's streak of 16 straight US Open semi-final appearances is ended by Lori McNeil in the quarterfinals. McNeil's victory also ensures that Evert will not win a Grand Slam event in a calendar year for the first time in 13 years. Michael Chang, at the age of 15 years, six months and 10 days, becomes the youngest male player to win a match at the US Open, defeating Paul McNamee in the first round. Lendl defeats John McEnroe, 6-3, 6-3, 6-4, in a quarterfinal night match viewed by 21,016 fans—to date the largest crowd to watch a night match at the US Open.

- 1988** – Steffi Graf wins her first US Open title to complete the first Grand Slam in tennis since Margaret Court in 1970. Graf, the third player in the Open Era to claim the Grand Slam, defeats Gabriela Sabatini in the final, 6-3, 3-6, 6-1. Later in the year, Graf captures the Olympic gold medal in Seoul, Korea, giving her a “Golden Slam.” Mats Wilander clinches the No. 1 ranking and defeats three-time defending champion Ivan Lendl, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3, 5-7, 6-4, for the men's singles title in four hours and 55 minutes—the longest US Open singles final in the Open Era. A stomach virus causes Rick Leach and Chris Evert to default the men's doubles final and women's semifinal, respectively, on the same day.



Russ Adams/RAP

Steffi Graf

- 1989** – Chris Evert plays in her final US Open, losing to Zina Garrison in the quarterfinals, 7-6, 6-2. Evert defeats Monica Seles, 6-0, 6-2, in the round of 16 for her 101st and final singles victory at the US Open. Steffi Graf wins her second straight US Open title, defeating Martina Navratilova in the final, 3-6, 7-5, 6-1. Boris Becker makes it a German sweep of the singles titles, defeating Ivan Lendl, 7-6, 1-6, 6-3, 7-6, in the final. With the result, Lendl ties Bill Tilden for the most successive singles finals in the U.S. Championships with eight. Becker is down match point in the second round to Derrick Rostagno, but receives a lucky net cord on a forehand passing shot that keeps him in the tournament. John McEnroe teams with Mark Woodforde to win his fourth US Open doubles crown to go with his four singles titles.
- 1990** – At the age of 19 years and 28 days, Pete Sampras becomes the youngest US Open men's singles champion, defeating Andre Agassi, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2, in the final. The 12th-seeded Sampras is also the lowest men's seed to win the US Open. (Mal Anderson in 1957 and Fred Stolle in 1966 were unseeded champions). The Sampras-Agassi final is the first All-American final since John McEnroe defeated Vitas Gerulaitis for the 1979 title. Stefan Edberg becomes only the second No. 1 seed in the Open Era to lose in the first round, where he is dismissed in straight sets by Alexander Volkov. Gabriela Sabatini wins her first Grand Slam singles championship, upsetting Steffi Graf in the women's final, 6-2, 7-6.
- 1991** – Wild card entrant Jimmy Connors, ranked No. 174 and 39 years old, makes a stunning run to the semifinals. Connors, a five-time US Open champion, comes back from a two-set deficit to defeat Patrick McEnroe in the first round, 4-6, 6-7, 6-4, 6-2, 6-4, in a four hour, 35-five minute match that ends at 1:30 a.m. On his 39th birthday, Connors defeats Aaron Krickstein, 3-6, 7-6, 1-6, 6-3, 7-6, in the fourth round. Jim Courier ends Connors' run in the semifinals by a 6-3, 6-3, 6-2 margin, but is defeated in the final by Stefan Edberg, who claims his first US Open singles title and becomes the first player since Mal Anderson in 1957 to win the U.S. Championships the year after losing in the first round. In the women's final, Monica Seles defeats a 34-year-old Martina Navratilova, 7-6, 6-1, to win her first women's singles title. The 1991 US Open opens with a record crowd of 22,166 fans passing through the turnstiles on Aug. 26—the largest single session crowd to attend the US Open.
- 1992** – Stefan Edberg wins three straight five-set matches to reach the singles final, where he dispatches 1990 US Open champion Pete Sampras in the first US Open



Russ Adams/RAP

Monica Seles

final featuring the last two men's champions since 1947. En route to the final, Edberg comes back from fifth-set deficits against Richard Krajicek in the round of 16, Ivan Lendl in the quarterfinals and Michael Chang in the semifinals. Edberg's 6-7, 7-5, 7-5, 5-7, 6-4 victory over Chang lasts five hours, 26 minutes in what is believed to be the longest match in US Open history. Monica Seles also repeats as US Open champion but requires much less effort. In comparison to the 28 sets Edberg plays to win the Open title, Seles needs only the minimum 14 sets (seven straight-set matches) to capture the singles title. In the final, Seles defeats Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, who is appearing in her first US Open singles final.

1993 – The USTA celebrates the 25th anniversary of the first US Open and the 15th anniversary of the US Open's move from West Side Tennis Club in Forest Hills to the USTA National Tennis Center as second-seeded Pete Sampras collects his second US Open title by defeating upstart Frenchman Cedric Pioline in the men's singles final, 6-4, 6-4, 6-3. Pioline is the first Frenchman since Henri Cochet in 1932 to reach the men's singles final. After a three-year absence, Steffi Graf returns to the winner's circle with her third US Open singles title, defeating Helena Sukova, 6-3, 6-3, in the final. A new world attendance record is set as 530,764 fans attend the 1993 US Open. Prize money eclipses \$9 million. Grounds passes are sold for the first time.

1994 – Andre Agassi knocks off a record five seeded players en route to becoming the first unseeded player in the Open Era to win the US Open men's singles championship. Agassi, who entered the tournament ranked No. 20, blitzes No. 4 seed Michael Stich of Germany in the final, 6-1, 7-6, 7-5. Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario rebounds after losing the first set in 22 minutes to win her first US Open women's singles crown by defeating Steffi Graf, 1-6, 7-6, 6-4. Sanchez-Vicario, the first Spanish woman to win the US Open title, also teams with Jana Novotna to win the women's doubles title.

1995 – Playing in only her second tournament since she was stabbed in April 1993, Monica Seles roars into the women's singles final, where she and long-time rival Steffi Graf play one of the most memorable singles finals in the history of the tournament. Despite losing the second set, 6-0, Graf wins her fourth US Open title and her 18th career Grand Slam title with a 7-6, 0-6, 6-3 victory. Pete Sampras, the second seed, wins his third US Open title, defeating top-seeded Andre Agassi, 6-4, 6-3, 4-6, 7-5, in a battle of the two previous two US Open singles champions. For the first time ever at the US Open, four players who have all been ranked No. 1 in the world reach the semifinals as Agassi defeats Boris Becker and Sampras defeats Jim Courier.

1996 – With the No. 1 ranking at stake for the men's winner, top-seeded Pete Sampras, three days after throwing up on court because of extreme dehydration and fatigue against Alex Corretja in the quarterfinals, subdues second-seeded Michael Chang in straight sets, 6-1, 6-4, 7-6(3), to win his fourth men's singles crown. It is Sampras' first Grand Slam tournament title since the death of his close friend and coach, Tim Gullikson, who would have celebrated his 45th birthday the day of the men's final. (Gullikson died of brain cancer on May 3, 1996.) Steffi Graf claims her 21st Grand Slam tournament singles title by defeating Monica Seles, 7-5, 6-4, in the women's singles final. Graf does not drop a set en route to her fifth and final women's singles championship.

1997 – The US Open becomes a coming-out party. Arthur Ashe Stadium is unveiled as the centerpiece of a

Russ Adams/RAP



Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario

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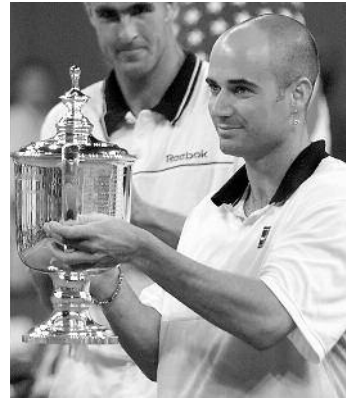


Pete Sampras

new USTA National Tennis Center and the US Open crowns brand new men's and women's singles champions. By the score of 6-0, 6-4, Martina Hingis of Switzerland wins her first U.S. women's singles title at 16 years, 11 months and 8 days, the second-youngest woman to do so. In the youngest Grand Slam tournament final of the Open Era, she defeats 17-year-old American Venus Williams, the first US Open debut finalist since Pam Shriver in 1978, the first black finalist since Arthur Ashe in 1972, the first unseeded women's finalist since Darlene Hard in 1958 and the first black woman in a final since Althea Gibson defeated Hard that same year. In men's singles, Patrick Rafter wins his first Grand Slam tournament by defeating Greg Rusedski, 6-3, 6-2, 4-6, 7-5, in the final. Rafter is the first Australian man to win the US Open since John Newcombe in 1973, while Rusedski is the first British man to reach a U.S. championships final since Fred Perry in 1936.

1998 – Lindsay Davenport becomes the first U.S.-born woman to capture the US Open women's singles title in 16 years, defeating Martina Hingis, 6-3, 7-5, in the final. Including the US Open, Davenport wins 20 of 21 matches during the U.S. summer hard court season, and exactly one month after winning the US Open, she becomes the first U.S.-born woman in 13 years to be ranked No. 1 in the world. Patrick Rafter repeats as men's singles champion, defeating countryman Mark Philippoussis in four sets.

1999 – The rededication of Louis Armstrong Stadium, formerly the main stadium before the construction of the \$285 million USTA National Tennis Center expansion project, which spanned the terms of six USTA presidents. On the courts, U.S. tennis shines brightly as Serena Williams wins the US Open women's singles title to become the first black woman to win the U.S. championship title since Althea Gibson in 1958 and Andre Agassi defeats fellow American Todd Martin in the first five-set men's final since 1988. In addition, the Williams sisters, Serena and Venus, share the women's doubles title and Texan Alex O'Brien shares the men's doubles championship with Sebastien Lareau of Canada.



Getty Images

Andre Agassi

2000 – A giant-screen monitor is mounted on the outside of Louis Armstrong Stadium, allowing fans in the Food Court to see the action in Arthur Ashe Stadium. This addition coincides with a big push to make the US Open a sports and entertainment spectacular, with stars from music, stage and screen performing throughout the event (performers included Grammy winners Tony Bennett and Patti LaBelle). Adding to the spectacle, U.S. President Bill Clinton attends the women's final, becoming the first sitting U.S. president to attend the tournament. President Clinton witnesses the first women's singles title for Venus Williams, who defeats Lindsay Davenport to succeed her younger sister as US Open champion. They are the first sisters to win US Open singles titles. In the men's event, 20-year-old Russian Marat Safin shocks a heavily favored Pete Sampras with a dominating, straight-sets victory, 6-4, 6-3, 6-3.

2001 – Capitalizing on the popularity of women's tennis, the US Open schedules its women's final in prime time on network television, the first Grand Slam event to do so. The move is a big hit, as the Williams sisters—Venus and Serena—become the first sisters to meet in a U.S. Nationals/US Open final. The match is the most-watched show on television that night, with 22.7 million viewers tuning in to see Venus defeat Serena, 6-2, 6-4, to win her second consecutive women's singles crown. Pete Sampras is again upended in the men's singles

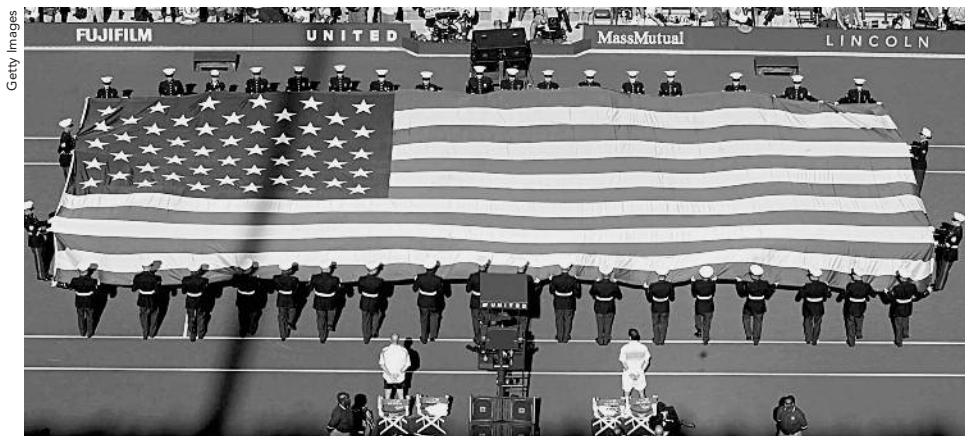


Getty Images

Serena and Venus Williams

final, falling to Australian Lleyton Hewitt, 7-6, 6-1, 6-1. Meanwhile, big screen TVs measuring 35 feet by 19 feet are installed inside Arthur Ashe Stadium, giving fans seated in the promenade level a closer view of action throughout the tournament. Two years shy of the 30th anniversary of the US Open Junior Championships, a junior qualifying event is added to the tournament program, creating more opportunities for the next generation of stars to compete at the highest level.

- 2002** – Nearly one year after the September 11 attacks on the United States that destroyed New York City's World Trade Center, the US Open honors the spirit and resiliency of New York and the U.S. with a special Opening Night ceremony that featured the Ground Zero "Heroes Flag" and an on-court tribute led by three New Yorkers: singer Tony Bennett, actress-singer Queen Latifah and actor Judd Hirsch. Various honor guards participate, and New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg reads a special proclamation. During the course of the event, the USTA honors New York's heroes with nightly tributes between matches. In the final match of his decorated career, 17th-seeded Pete Sampras wins his fifth US Open singles title and his record 14th career Grand Slam title, defeating long-time rival Andre Agassi, 6-3, 6-4, 5-7, 6-4, in the men's singles final. In the second "prime time" women's singles final, Serena Williams avenges her 2001 loss to older sister Venus, winning her second US Open singles title by a 6-4, 6-3 margin.



- 2003** – A passing of the torch occurs at the US Open as the tournament begins with Pete Sampras announcing his retirement from the sport in an emotional on-court ceremony during the opening night of the championships. American Andy Roddick, 21, closes the tournament by claiming the crown that Sampras took the year before, winning his first Grand Slam tournament title with a 6-3, 7-6(2), 6-3 victory over Spain's Juan Carlos Ferrero in the men's singles final. With the win, Roddick becomes the first American man to win his first Grand Slam title since Andre Agassi broke through at Wimbledon in 1992. Justine Henin-Hardenne becomes the first Belgian woman to win the US Open, defeating countrywoman Kim Clijsters in the women's singles final, 7-5, 6-1. In the semifinals, Henin-Hardenne and American Jennifer Capriati play an epic semifinal match, with Henin-Hardenne defeating Capriati, 4-6, 7-5, 7-6(4), in a match that concludes at 12:27 a.m. The Capriati-Henin-Hardenne match lasts just over three hours, with Capriati serving for the match in the second and third sets and being two points from winning on 11 separate occasions. Capriati and Henin-Hardenne both win 127 points in the match. Capriati, who reached the US Open round of 16 as a 14-year-old in 1990, would advance to the semifinals on four occasions (1991, 2001, 2003, 2004) but never the final.

- 2004** – Roger Federer of Switzerland completes one of the finest Grand Slam tournament seasons in the history of the sport when he defeats Lleyton Hewitt, 6-0, 7-6(3), 6-0, to win his first US Open men's singles title

Getty Images



Roger Federer

and his third Grand Slam tournament title of the 2004 season. Federer, the 2004 Australian Open and Wimbledon champion, faces his toughest test of the tournament in the quarterfinals against Andre Agassi, who extends Federer to five dramatic sets played over two days due to rain. Svetlana Kuznetsova becomes the first Russian woman to win the US Open when she defeats countrywoman Elena Dementieva, 6-3, 7-5, in the women's singles final. The women's final is played on the fourth anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States and both Russian finalists pay tribute in pre-match and post-match activities. Kuznetsova enters Stadium Court for the final wearing an FDNY hat for the Fire Department of New York, while Elena Dementieva wears a NYPD hat to honor the New York Police Department.

2005 – US Open blue tennis courts make their debut at the USTA National Tennis Center after serving as a unifying element of the 10 Emirates Airline US Open Series tournaments leading up to the event. Kim Clijsters collects a \$2.2 million paycheck, the largest prize in women's sports history, for winning both the US Open and Emirates Airline US Open Series. Clijsters captures the first and only Grand Slam singles title of her career in her fifth appearance in the final of a major. The likable Belgian defeats two-time champion Venus Williams in the quarterfinals and No. 1 seed Maria Sharapova in the semifinals before taking care of Mary Pierce in the final, 6-3, 6-1. Roger Federer successfully defends his US Open singles title by defeating 35-year-old Andre Agassi in the men's final, 6-3, 2-6, 7-6(1), 6-1. Federer becomes the first man in the Open Era and third overall to successfully defend the Wimbledon and US Open titles in the same year, joining Don Budge (1937-38) and Bill Tilden (1920-21). Agassi won three straight five-set matches to reach the final, including an epic comeback from two sets down against fellow American James Blake in the quarterfinals. Agassi is the oldest player to compete for the men's singles title since 39-year-old Ken Rosewall in 1974. Bob and Mike Bryan partner together to win their first US Open men's doubles title, avoiding the self-proclaimed "anti-slam" after having lost in the final of the three other Grand Slam tournaments earlier in the year. More than 659,000 fans attend the 2005 US Open, setting a tournament record.



Getty Images

Kim Clijsters

More than 659,000 fans attend the 2005 US Open, setting a tournament record.

2006 – The USTA renames the National Tennis Center for renowned champion Billie Jean King in a night-time ceremony that precedes Andre Agassi's first match of his 21st and final US Open. Roger Federer becomes the first man in tennis history to win back-to-back Wimbledon and US Open titles in three straight years when he defeats Andy Roddick, 6-2, 4-6, 7-5, 6-1, in the men's singles final. It is Roddick's first US Open final since his championship in 2003 and is driven by a recent partnership with five-time US Open champion Jimmy Connors, who takes over as Roddick's coach in the months before the US Open. Maria Sharapova wins her first women's singles title with a 6-4, 6-4 decision over Justine Henin-Hardenne. The tournament, however, belongs to Andre Agassi and 49-year-old Martina Navratilova. Agassi, fighting through severe back pain, wins the match of the year in the second round, defeating Marcos Baghdatis, 7-5 in the fifth set, before bowing to German Benjamin Becker in the third round. Agassi gives a stirring final, on-court speech and is greeted by a standing ovation from the crowd and in the players' locker room afterward. Navratilova, meanwhile, wins the mixed doubles title with Bob Bryan in her final match. The total attendance of 23,736 for the renaming ceremony and Agassi's opening match sets a new record for a night match, and the 60,506 fans in attendance on Monday, Sept. 4 is also a record. The 2006 US Open also features the debut of instant replay on the stadium courts, with Mardy Fish being the first player to challenge a call in Grand Slam tournament history.



Getty Images

Maria Sharapova

- 2007** – The US Open begins with an Opening Night ceremony honoring the 50th anniversary of Althea Gibson's 1957 U.S. Nationals win—the first by an African-American—in a ceremony that precedes both Serena Williams' and Venus Williams' first round matches. Roger Federer defeats Novak Djokovic, 7-6(4), 7-6(2), 6-4, to win his fourth consecutive US Open title and earns the largest payout in tennis history—\$2.4 million—for winning both the US Open and Emirates Airline US Open Series titles. Justine Henin does not lose a set en route to her second US Open women's singles title, defeating Svetlana Kuznetsova, 6-1, 6-3, in the women's final. It is only the fifth time that an American man or woman failed to reach either the men's or women's singles final since 1881. The tournament sets an all-time attendance record of 715,587, surpassing the 700,000 mark for the first time. The 61,083 fans in attendance on Saturday, Sept. 1, is a new daily gate record. Children 14-and-under from the New York metro area sing the national anthem before designated sessions—all 15 were selected at the inaugural US Open casting call held at Radio City Music Hall in June. The US Open Draw Ceremony is held at the Empire State Building for the first time.
- 2008** – The 2008 US Open opens with a celebration featuring a parade of champions to honor the 40th Anniversary of Open Tennis in New York, and closes with Roger Federer setting a tournament Open Era record by winning his fifth consecutive men's singles title, defeating Great Britain's Andy Murray, 6-2, 7-5, 6-2, in the final. Serena Williams also returns to the winner's circle, though after a longer absence. Nine years after her first title and six years since her second, Serena defeats sister Venus in the quarterfinals, 7-6, 7-6, and then Jelena Jankovic in the final, 6-4, 7-5, to claim the women's singles championship without dropping a set. The women's final is played on Sunday, and the men's final on Monday, after Tropical Storm Hanna washes out much of Saturday's play. The 2008 US Open is otherwise filled with clear skies, and attendance records fall for a second consecutive year, with more than 720,000 fans passing through the turnstiles. Overall, it is a particularly strong tournament for Americans, who contest seven of the nine finals (all but men's singles and boys' doubles), with Serena winning women's singles, Bob and Mike Bryan winning men's doubles, Liezel Huber winning women's doubles and CoCo Vandeweghe winning girls' singles.



40th Anniversary of Open Tennis Parade of Champions

- 2009** – The 2009 US Open begins with a ceremony honoring Andre Agassi and other athletes who "give back" before ceding the spotlight to a bubbly 17-year-old from Marietta, Ga., Melanie Oudin, who enters the event ranked No. 70 in the world, delivers the enduring storyline of the fortnight, coming back from a set down to defeat No. 4 Elena Dementieva, 2006 US Open champion Maria Sharapova and No. 13 Nadia Petrova in consecutive rounds to reach the quarterfinals and charm the American sporting public like no tennis player since Chris Evert in 1971. Oudin's performance proves fitting in a women's draw decimated by upsets. Four unseeded players reach the quarterfinals, the most since the seeding system was instituted in 1922, and the two unseeded players in the women's semifinals are as many as had reached that point in the previous 32 years combined. All the upheaval ends with an appropriate result, as Kim Clijsters—who retired shortly after the 2007 Australian Open to start a family—becomes the first wild card and the first unseeded player in the Open Era to win the US Open women's singles title, defeating 19-year-old Dane Caroline Wozniacki, 7-5, 6-3, in a final contested on Sunday

night after rain washes out play Thursday night and all day Friday. The men's draw follows a more predictable path, with 15 of the Top 16 seeds reaching the fourth round, but finishes with perhaps the tournament's biggest surprise. Juan Martin del Potro, the 20-year-old Argentine, denies Roger Federer a sixth straight US Open men's singles title and claims his first career Grand Slam tournament championship with a 3-6, 7-6(5), 4-6, 7-6(4), 6-2 victory that requires more than four hours. Despite the rains, attendance records fall for a third straight year, with 721,059 fans passing through the turnstiles.

2010 – The 2010 US Open serves as a coronation for Rafael Nadal, who defeats No. 3 seed Novak Djokovic, 6-4, 5-7, 6-4, 6-2, to become just the seventh man in tennis history to complete the career Grand Slam and the first to do so with a U.S. men's singles title since Rod Laver in 1962. On the women's side, Kim Clijsters becomes the first woman to win back-to-back singles titles since Venus Williams in 2000-01 by eliminating Venus in the semifinals and knocking off Vera Zvonareva, 6-2, 6-1, in record time in the final. (The 59-minute final is the shortest since the US Open began keeping year-to-year records in 1980.) Overall, eight Americans take home championship trophies during the final weekend. Bob Bryan leads the charge, becoming the first man in 28 years to sweep the doubles titles when he teams with his brother, Mike, to win the men's doubles for a third time and with Liezel Huber to win the mixed doubles. In addition, Americans are victorious in women's doubles (Vania King), boys' singles (Jack Sock), girls' doubles (Sloane Stephens), quad singles (David Wagner) and quad doubles (Wagner and Nick Taylor). Opening Night celebrates those who dream, succeed and inspire, with Martina Navratilova, James Blake and wheelchair legend Esther Vergeer among those honored. And despite windy conditions throughout and rain that pushes the men's singles final back to Monday for an unprecedented third year in a row, the tournament attendance surpasses 700,000 fans for the fourth straight year, checking in at 712,976.



Rafael Nadal

Getty Images

2011 – The 2011 US Open features an earthquake during qualifying, a hurricane that sweeps through New York City the day before the start of the tournament and two days of rain that wipe out four sessions in the second week. It also delivers a stunning number of twists and turns and memorable matches, including the completion of one of the finest Grand Slam seasons in Open Era history and a surprise women's champion. The first eight days, all sunny, are a coming-out party for young Americans, with eight U.S. players 22 or younger winning at least one match and five of those knocking out seeds en route to the third round or better. Rain, however, cancels out all play on the second Tuesday and Wednesday, sending matches across the grounds (including Andy Roddick and Caroline Wozniacki playing on Court 13), with the bottom half of the men's draw needing to play three consecutive days to complete the fourth round through the semifinals. The end result produces a topsy-turvy women's draw and a men's draw by the book. The women end up with only four Top 16 seeds advancing to the quarterfinals, the second-lowest total of the Open Era, with the No. 9 seed (Samantha Stosur) and the No. 28 seed (Serena Williams) meeting in the final and Stosur—who during the tournament plays the longest women's match in US Open history and the longest tie-break in Grand Slam women's history—stunning the three-time champion, 6-2, 6-3, for her first US Open singles title and first Grand Slam singles crown. On the men's side, the top four seeds all advance to the semifinals for the first time since 1992. In the end, it is the No. 1 seed and the year's dominant player who prevails as Novak Djokovic fights off double match point on Roger Federer's serve to defeat the five-time champion in the semifinals and then guts out a four-set, four-hour victory over defending champion Rafael Nadal to win his first US Open. With the victory, the nearly unbeatable Serb improves to 64-2 on the year and wins his third Grand Slam crown of the season.



Novak Djokovic

Getty Images

2012 – The 2012 US Open kicks off with a tournament-record 10 men rebounding from two sets down to win their matches in the first and second rounds, and it ends with the defending champion falling just short of becoming No. 11. In the interim, the US Open bids goodbye to two of its most beloved champions and stages some of the greatest tennis in its history, all wrapped up—a day late due to rains that once again plagued Finals Weekend—with the most compelling men’s and women’s finals in more than two decades. The first week is one of hellos and goodbyes. It is known before the tournament that three-time champion Kim Clijsters would be making the 2012 US Open her final professional event, and she bows out with her customary grace and class, but the other retirement comes as a shock: Andy Roddick announces his retirement from the game on the tournament’s fourth day, which doubles as Roddick’s 30th birthday. What follows is inspired play, with the 2003 champion turning aside rising teenager Bernard Tomic, Italian veteran Fabio Fognini and Father Time to reach the fourth round, where he falls to No. 7 seed and 2009 champion Juan Martin del Potro in four sets. As has become custom, the youngsters also have their day in Week 1: Steve Johnson becomes the first reigning NCAA champion to reach the third round of the men’s singles since Sargis Sargsian in 1995; Jack Sock becomes the first American teenager to reach the third round of the men’s singles since Roddick himself in 2001; and Sloane Stephens once again demonstrates why she may well be the heir apparent to the Williams sisters, turning aside 2010 French Open champion Francesca Schiavone to reach the third round, where she falls in three tough sets to No. 12 seed Ana Ivanovic. In Week 2, Serena Williams shows that she is not ready to give up her spot atop American women’s tennis—or women’s tennis in general, for that matter. She buzzes through the draw, dropping just 19 games in her first six matches, and then rallies against top seed Victoria Azarenka in the women’s final, winning the last four games of the match to take the first three-set women’s final since 1995, 6-2, 2-6, 7-5, for her fourth women’s singles crown. Novak Djokovic is similarly dominant on his way to the men’s final, dropping just one wind-addled set in the semifinals to David Ferrer. But where Azarenka blinks in the women’s final, Andy Murray holds strong in the men’s. Playing in his fifth Grand Slam final, Murray becomes the first British man to win a Slam since Fred Perry in 1936, turning aside a valiant comeback from Djokovic, 7-6(10), 7-5, 2-6, 3-6, 6-2, in 4 hours, 54 minutes. The match ties the 1988 record for the longest final in recorded US Open history, and it makes Murray the first man in tennis history to win both the Olympic gold medal and the US Open men’s singles title in the same year. In all, the finals prove a fitting coda to another brilliant US Open in which 710,803 fans pass through the turnstiles, the fifth time in six years attendance has topped 700,000.

2013 – The 2013 US Open is one for the ages – and one for the aged. Three of the four women’s semifinalists – and five of eight quarterfinalists—are 30 or over, and the average age of the four men’s semifinalists is 27, with none younger than 26. Moreover, Flavia Pennetta makes her first Grand Slam semifinal at 31, and Stanislas Wawrinka does the same on the men’s side at age 28. Aptly enough, it is the nearly 32-year-old Serena Williams who lifts the women’s trophy. The world No. 1 defeats Victoria Azarenka in a hard-fought final for her fifth women’s singles championship, becoming the oldest in the Open era – and the oldest overall since 1950 (Margaret Osborne duPont)—to win the women’s crown. The men’s title tilt also is a battle of veterans, with Novak Djokovic (26) and Rafael Nadal (27) facing off for the third time in four years. And as is the custom at the 2013 Open, the older man wins, with Nadal improving to 22-0 on hard courts for the year with his second US Open championship. Also with the victories, Williams and Nadal each take home a record payday of \$3.6 million as the US Open and Emirates Airline US Open Series champions. The US Open year of the veteran extends to doubles as well, where 40-year-old Leander Paes wins the men’s doubles title with 34-year-old Radek Stepanek, and 36-year-old Max Mirnyi teams with relative youngster Andrea Hlavackova, 27, to claim the mixed championship. Hlavackova also wins the women’s doubles title, with 28-year-old Lucie Hradecka. Another 30-something, American fan favorite James Blake, uses Flushing Meadows as his chance to say goodbye to the sport, leaving to a standing ovation in Louis Armstrong Stadium. Indeed, the 2013 US Open is a hit with fans. Overall attendance surpasses 700,000 for the sixth time, with the final tally of 713,026 ranking fourth-highest in tournament history.