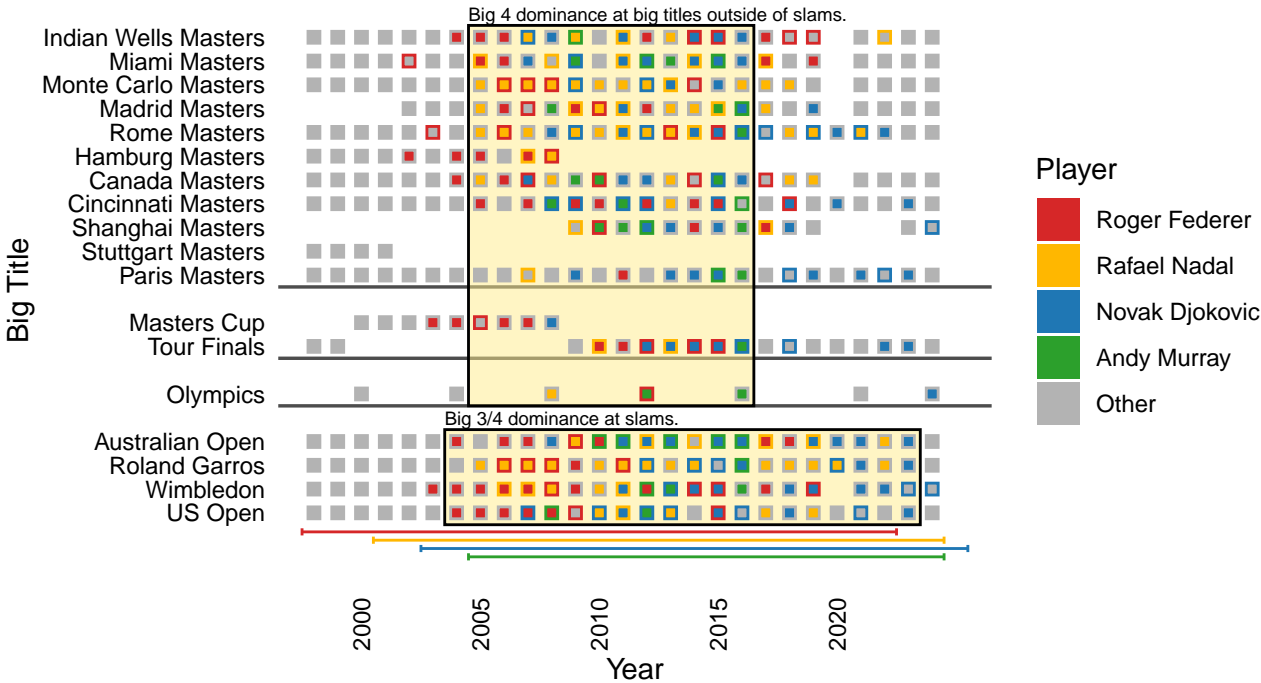


The Golden Era: Dominance of the Big 3/4 in Men's Tennis

The Golden Era of men's tennis in the Open Era is defined by the dominance of the Big 3 (Federer, Nadal, and Djokovic) and often extends to include Andy Murray as the Big 4. While some analyses exclude Murray due to his lesser accomplishments compared to the Big 3, he was clearly the best of the rest of the field for an extended period, consistently reaching big finals, winning major titles, challenging the Big 3, and even reaching the world #1 ranking. This era is marked by unprecedented dominance, consistency, record-breaking Grand Slam streaks, and year-end #1 rankings that redefined modern tennis.

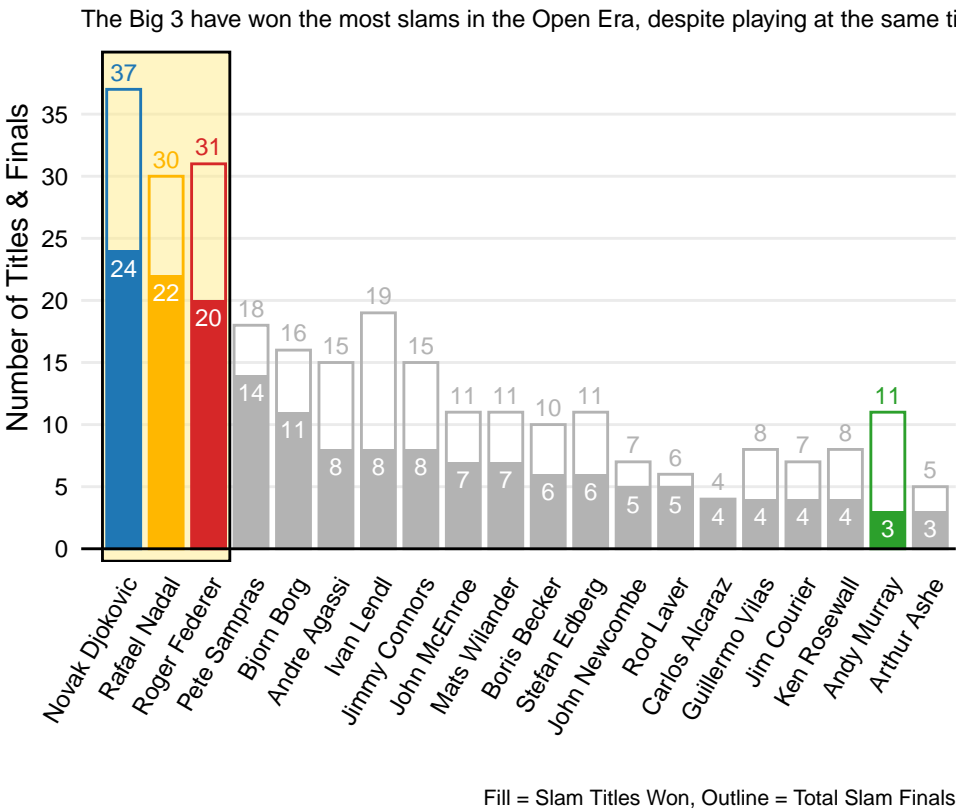
Big 4 Dominance in Slams and Major Titles

Between 2004 and 2023, the Big 4 won 68/79 Grand Slams, and appeared in 74/79 Slam finals. Between 2005 and 2016, they won 147/171 big titles, and appeared in 159/171 big finals.



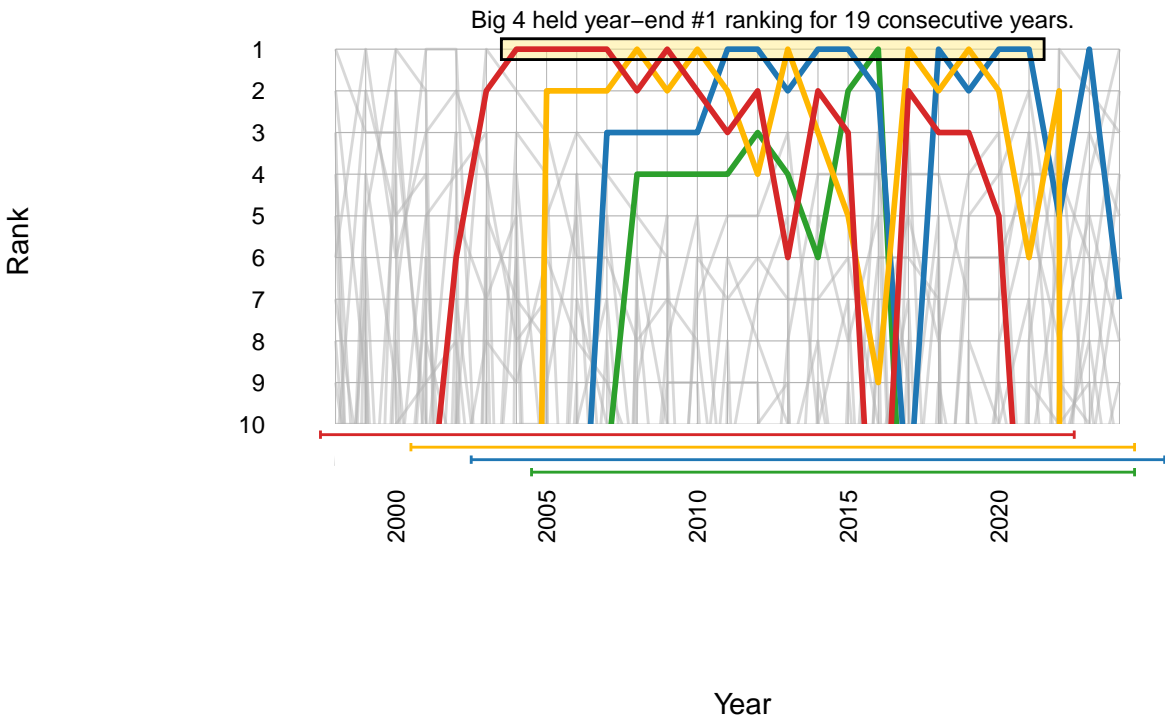
Big 3 Dominance at the Grand Slams in Open Era

Before the Big 3 era, Pete Sampras held the Open Era Grand Slam record of 14 titles. This record would never be beaten. However, in the following generation, 3 different players won 20 Grand Slam titles each, despite having to compete against each other.



Big 4 Year-End #1 Ranking Dominance

Starting with Federer in 2004, the Big 4 held the year-end ATP #1 ranking for 19 consecutive years. In 2003, Federer was one match away from ending year-end #1, and in 2022, Djokovic most likely would have ended year-end #1 had he not been banned from entering many countries due to his vaccination status. Had these two events occurred, the Big 3 would have ended year-end #1 for 22 consecutive years...



Total Weeks at #1 Ranking in Open Era

Federer and Djokovic have the longest total weeks at #1. Nadal would likely have more if not for injuries. Federer holds the longest consecutive reign at 237 weeks (Feb 2004 – Aug 2008). He was the oldest #1 at nearly 37 years old, later surpassed by Djokovic at 37 years old.

