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Ones to Watch in 2019

Young & improving players to follow in the 2019 season – and beyond...

An exclusive *Ones to Watch* report

by

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The early bird catches the worm...

In the last two years, our pre-season Ones to Watch reports have named a total of 20 young & improving players.

Since the first report was published ahead of the 2017 season, our list of players to follow has flagged up a several players that have gone on to win big tournaments – at big prices...

Including:

- Jelena Ostapenko (French Open champion, **100/1**)
- Naomi Osaka (US Open champion, **50/1**. WTA Indian Wells champion, **125/1**)
- Daria Kasatkina (WTA Charleston champion, **28/1**. WTA Moscow champion, **22/1**)
- Alexander Zverev (ATP Tour Finals champion, **11/1**. ATP Rome Masters champion, **25/1**)
- Karen Khachanov (ATP Paris Masters champion, **40/1**)
- Ashleigh Barty (WTA Elite Trophy champion, **10/1**)
- Elina Svitolina (WTA Rome champion, **14/1**. WTA Toronto champion, **14/1**. WTA Tour Finals champion, **10/1**)
- Borna Coric (ATP Halle champion, **50/1**)

As well as breakthrough players making finals and finishing runner-up, at huge Each Way prices:

- Anett Kontaveit (WTA Wuhan runner-up, **100/1**)
- Borna Coric (ATP Shanghai runner-up, **100/1**)
- Daria Kasatkina (WTA Indian Wells runner-up, **80/1**)

As I write, none of those players mentioned above are older than 23 years of age. They are still very much 'Ones to Watch' in 2019 and going forward. As are the other youngsters named across my previous 2017 & 2018 lists:

Taylor Fritz, Kyle Edmund, Andrey Rublev, Denis Shapovalov, Hyeon Chung, Damir Dzumhur, Lucas Pouille, Katerina Siniakova, Catherine Bellis, Marketa Vondrousova, Belinda Bencic.

Big Names v New Names...

In 2018, all four Men's Grand Slam titles were won by the established household names: Roger Federer took the Australian Open, Rafael Nadal the French Open and Novak Djokovic won Wimbledon & the US Open. Nadal and Federer swept the four Major trophies between them in 2017, too.

In the Women's, Serena Williams reached two of the four Grand Slam finals. World No.1 Simona Halep made two of the big finals, too.

But... the current stars can't go on forever. Federer is 37 years old. So is Serena.

And when it comes to betting on the big-name players, you certainly won't get any gifts from the bookies...

For example, Djokovic was just 3/1 (4.00) for the US Open 2018, and 11/2 (6.50) for Wimbledon. Nadal was odds-on for the French Open, at just 1/2 (1.50). Halep was 6/1 (7.00) favourite for the French Open. Serena was just 6/1 for both Wimbledon and the US Open – and didn't win either of them.

Compare those prices to some of the 'Ones to Watch' figures mentioned above: 25/1, 50/1, even 100/1 shots getting to finals – and winning.

To make money from tennis, you need to know about the stars of the future...

As I said this time last year (and the year before), I'm not writing the current star names off just yet. But it pays to be alert to the newcomers...

We will see a changing of the guard sooner or later. Some of the giants of the game are on their way out. New, young blood will take their place.

There will be gaps in the market. Presenting in-the-know and early-bird bettors with the chance to cash-in, often at big prices...

There are young, hungry, new & improving players about to burst through. The household names of the future. And the sooner you spot them – the more likely you are to win big:

- Take **Novak Djokovic**, for example. He was a **33/1** underdog when winning his first Grand Slam title – the Australian Open in 2008 – when just 20 years old
- And just last year of course – **Naomi Osaka** won the US Open aged 20 as a **50/1** outsider

Ones to Watch in 2019

With our *Ones to Watch in 2019* list, the intention is to look beyond the players at the top of the current rankings. To find players who are not yet in the Top 10 – but could be heading there in the not-too-distant future.

Some of the name on my *Ones to Watch in 2019* list below have already provided payouts on the Men's ATP and Women's WTA Tours – at Outright Winner prices including **33/1, 40/1, 50/1, 80/1** and even **100/1**. I expect these players to earn more success and provide more payouts in 2019 and beyond.

And one or two of these could even make the big breakthrough at **Grand Slam** level – a headline-grabbing run at the **Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon** or **US Open** can catapult a player up the rankings and into the spotlight. Let's see if we can pick one or two out beforehand...

Here is my list of young & improving players to follow in the 2019 season...

Not every highly-rated teenager will go on to have a glittering Pro career. Not every Wimbledon Junior winner will go on to shine in the real thing...

But some will. And some can certainly win titles on the weekly ATP & WTA Tours – taking out a few well-known names on the way, too...

The players below are all showing promising signs of progression.

Some are already making a few waves on the Tour. And all could climb up the rankings and make a significant breakthrough in 2019.

We'll start with the **Men's** list:

Alex De Minaur

Age: 19

Country: Australia

End-of-2018 World Ranking: #31

This Australian teenager burst on to the scene in January 2018, reaching the Sydney final at 33/1. He's got Aussie legend Lleyton Hewitt as a mentor, and appears to possess many of the same dynamic qualities of the former World No.1. **Alex De Minaur** is fast – very fast. Lightning quick around the court, he fights for every point, and is a dangerous counterpuncher – able to turn defence into attack with a power than belies his slender frame. Alex made two finals in 2018 – and all the signs points to more to come, and a first winner's trophy. He looks to have a great attitude, excellent work ethic and a firm head on his young shoulders.

Stefanos Tsitsipas

Age: 20

Country: Greece

End-of-2018 World Ranking: #15

Stefanos Tsitsipas is at the start of what could be a glittering career. With a swashbuckling style, huge shots and fiery desire to succeed – it's no exaggeration to suggest he could go on to become the most successful Greek player of all time. That's a huge tag to give him – but this kid can really play. He made a name for himself with a couple of big-odds runs and some entertaining play in 2018 at Barcelona (80/1, runner-up), then the prestigious Toronto Masters (also 80/1, runner-up). Before claiming a first ATP Tour title with a 7/1 trophy win in Stockholm. Standing 6'4", Tsitsipas also has a booming serve to go alongside his fearsome groundstrokes.

Daniil Medvedev

Age: 22

Country: Russia

End-of-2018 World Ranking: #16

Daniil Medvedev has been around on the tour a couple of years now – but 2018 saw him really make a breakthrough in terms of tournament performance. The big-hitting Russian slapped his way to hard-court titles at Winston-Salem (33/1), Toyko (33/1) and Sydney (20/1). At 6'5" tall, he fits the Russian stereotype of the big-serving power player. He's a danger on hard courts and indoors events in particular. And he's starting to show a nice range of guile and finesse around the court and at the net, too. Daniil is prone to losing his temper when things aren't going his way, but he can iron that out as he matures and has the game to put some big results together.

Nicolas Jarry

Age: 23

Country: Chile

End-of-2018 World Ranking: #43

Nicolas Jarry started 2018 ranked outside the Top 100, and ended it inside the Top 50. Aged 23, he can go higher still – with plenty of clay-court tournaments on the 2019 calendar for him to rack up the tour points. As is often the case with South American players, Jarry has the game for clay, constructing points, dealing with looping balls and sliding into shots. But, at 6'6", Jarry also has the weapon of a very good serve – and has already proved that he can be a threat on hard courts, beating former US Open winner Marin Cilic, and pushing Top 10 player John Isner to the wire in New York. Nicolas has one ATP final to his name so far (Sao Paolo, clay – 16/1, runner-up), as well as semi finals on clay in Hamburg and Kitzbuhel. You won't not hear much about this guy, but Jarry could snap up a few tour titles in 2019.

Frances Tiafoe

Age: 20

Country: USA

End-of-2018 World Ranking: #39

The American game is ready & waiting for a new male player to grab the limelight – and **Frances Tiafoe** has been one of the hot names on the lips for some time now. He's got power and pace, attributes that can help him become a successful all-court player. Tiafoe has already made finals on hard courts (Delray Beach, 50/1 – won) and clay (Estoril, 16/1 – runner-up) – both in 2018. Still only 20 years of age, he can push on up the rankings and into more finals as he continues to improve.

On to the **Women** now, where another five players make the list...

Aryna Sabalenka

Age: 20

Country: Belarus

End-of-2016 World Ranking: #13

Aryna Sabalenka was one of the stories of the summer – announcing herself on the world stage with a series of highly impressive, assured and powerful match wins on the hard courts in North America and Asia. During that run she hit a career-high of No.11. A place in the Top 10 surely beckons. Sabalenka has some key attributes that make for a potential Grand Slam winner in the modern women's game – an attacking game style, and the athletic physique to back it up. In 2018 she blazed a trail by making the final at Eastbourne (100/1, runner-up) before stepping up and winning trophies at New Haven (22/1) and Wuhan (40/1). One to watch, for sure.

Dayana Yastremska

Age: 18

Country: Ukraine

End-of-2016 World Ranking: #58

Dayana Yastremska is another big-hitting young player with the fight & fire needed to succeed on tour. She ended 2017 ranked No.189 – and made it to a new high of No.58

by the end of 2018, thanks to a maiden WTA title win in Hong Kong (50/1), followed by a run to the Luxembourg semi finals the very next week. She won 17 matches on hard courts (lost 7) and won 17 on clay (lost 5) in 2018 – expect both match win numbers to go up in 2019. And I wouldn't rule out Yastremska providing a shock or two by taking out a couple of big names in the Grand Slams.

Qiang Wang

Age: 26

Country: China

End-of-2016 World Ranking: #20

Qiang Wang is something of an anomaly on our 2019 list in that she's 26 years old. However, the next five years or so could yet provide much more success & silverware than her career so far – and she certainly ticks the box as an 'improving' player. Wang finished 2018 ranked No.20 in the world, a career-best showing. The three years previous saw Wang's ranking climb from 114 to 70 to 45. That's a slow-burning but steady trajectory. Along with Sabalenka, Wang was one of the standout players of the 2018 Asian hard-court swing, reaching three finals (winning one) and three further semi finals after the US Open. And before that winning Gold in the Women's Singles at the Asian Games, and lifting the trophy at WTA Nanchang. With newfound confidence, Wang can be a threat in the new season – including at the Grand Slams.

Maria Sakkari

Age: 23

Country: Greece

End-of-2016 World Ranking: #41

It's a good time for Greek tennis. Like Stefanos Tsitsipas, **Maria Sakkari** is a powerful player who looks hungry to win – and plays with fire in the belly. Sakkari wasn't at her best for much of 2018, but has shown signs of genuine giant-killing ability in the big matches, and can establish herself as a Top 25 player with a few more consistent tournament runs. At times she can be sensational, lashing winners past opponents with brute force and expert precision. Maria made a first WTA final in 2018 (San Jose – 33/1, runner-up). She is one to look out for at similar prices in 2019, especially on the hard courts.

Anastasia Potapova

Age: 17

Country: Russia

End-of-2016 World Ranking: #93

Last but not least we have an exciting Russian teenager, with the potential of a big future in the game. Aged 16, **Anastasia Potapova** finished 2017 ranked No.237 in the world. She's now 17 and inside the Top 100. In 2019 she can really start to make a name for herself, building on not one but two final appearances on the senior tour in 2018 – WTA Moscow River Cup (50/1, runner-up) and WTA Tashkent (16/1, runner-up). So far she's only played one main-draw match at a Grand Slam – expect that to change from now on. And on the weekly tour, you should be able to back her at some nice Each Way prices.

More to come throughout the season...

Those 10 names make up my *Ones to Watch for 2019* list. They are 10 young & improving players that I'm earmarking to have a good season.

But the list is by no means the end of our work...

Throughout the season in your **free *Ones to Watch EXTRA* emails**, I'll keep you up-to-date with the latest players in form on the weekly ATP and WTA tours – helping you hunt out big value Each Way opportunities in Outright Winner markets and players to profit from in the individual match markets, too.

And of course when the four big Grand Slam events come along – Australian Open, Wimbledon, French Open and US Open – I'll be helping you find ways to cash-in, too.

Enjoy the 2019 season. I'll be in touch again soon...

Tom Wilson

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