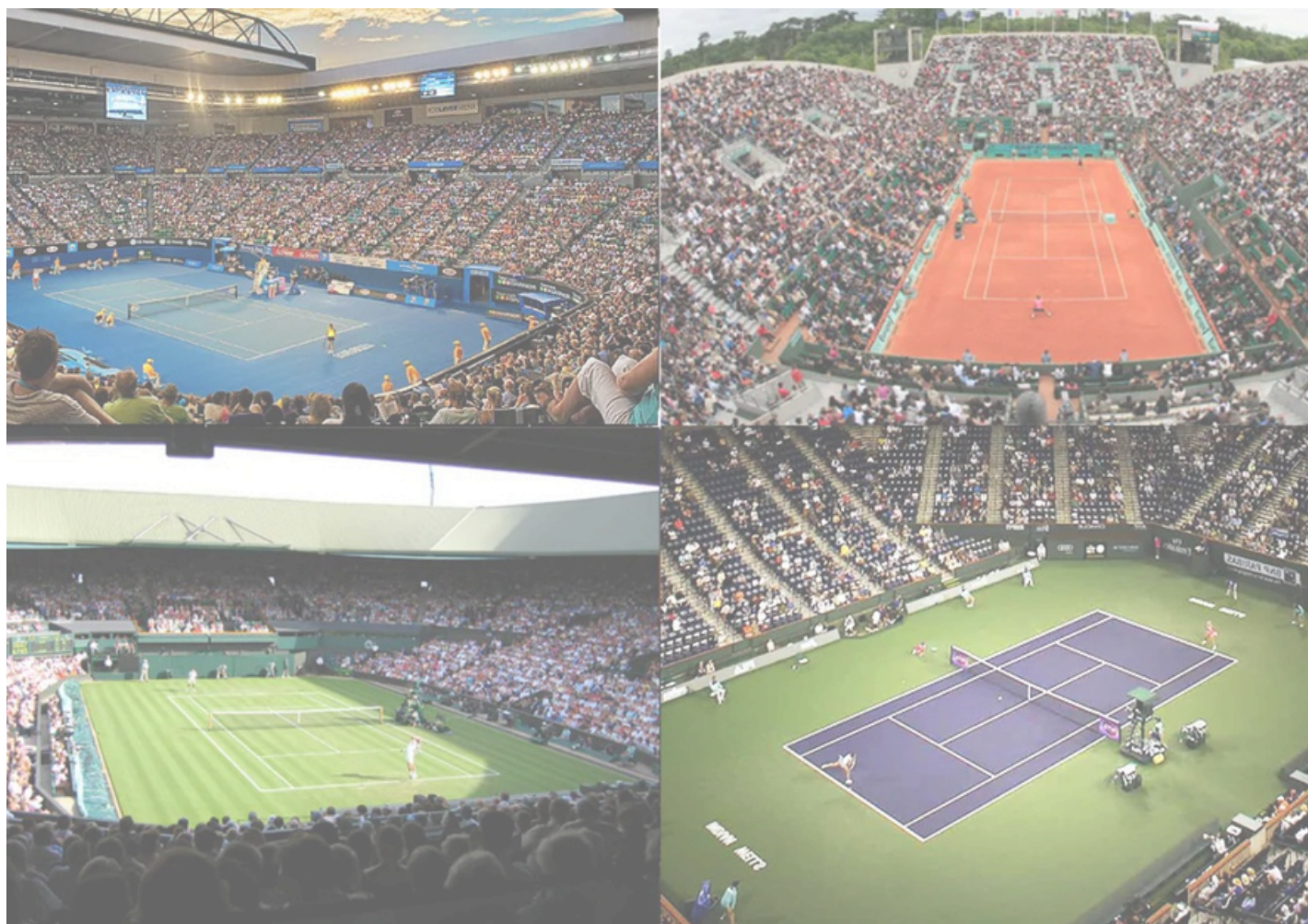




Ones to Watch in 2026



Young & up-and-coming players to follow in the 2026 season - and beyond...

An exclusive *Ones to Watch* report

By

Oliver Upstone

The early bird gets the worm...

December 2025

Since our first annual Ones to Watch report was published ahead of the 2017 season, our lists of players to follow have flagged up many youngsters that have gone on to win big tournaments – at big prices...

Players that have become household names... win Grand Slams... crack the Top 5 in the world rankings, and even gone on to become world no.1...

Decorated alumni of our annual ‘early bird’ *Ones to Watch* reports include:

- **Naomi Osaka** – first named in our pre-season 2017 report as a teenager ranked no.48... went on to become a **multiple Grand Slam winner**, including the US Open 2018 at **50/1**... also won WTA Indian Wells at **125/1**... and reached **world no.1**...
- **Ashleigh Barty** – flagged up in 2018, after she had returned from an early-career retirement and spell playing cricket. Barty went on to win the **French Open 2019**, **Wimbledon 2021**, the **Australian Open 2022**, and become **world no.1**...
- **Iga Swiatek** – a pre-season 2020 entry on our *Ones to Watch* list, age 18 and ranked no.60. Swiatek also went in the book for us as a winning **100/1** early-bird pick for the French Open that year. The rest is history: now a **multiple Major winner**, and former **world no.1**...
- **Daniil Medvedev** – arrived in our pre-season 2019 list, having yet to reach the quarter final of a Major. Soon changed that, reaching the US Open final the same year from ante-post odds of **100/1**. Went on to win the **US Open** in 2021, and reached **world no.1** in 2022...
- **Carlos Alcaraz** – highlighted as one to watch at the start of the 2021 season, when the upcoming Spaniard was just 17 years of age, and ranked no.141. Now a **multiple Grand Slam champion**, a **world no.1** – and a global sporting superstar...
- **Jannik Sinner** – the Italian first went in our *Ones to Watch* report ahead of the 2020 season, when he was just 18 years old, and ranked at no.78. Sinner has gone on to reach **no.1**, and dominate the men’s game alongside Alcaraz – between them, they’ve won the last 8 **Grand Slams**

Along with the likes of...

- **Marketa Vondrousova** – listed in 2017, went on to reach the French Open 2019 final as a teenager, having been backed in *Ones to Watch* at odds of **40/1 Each Way**. Then went one better in 2023, winning **Wimbledon** at pre-tournament odds of **150/1** – in doing so becoming the first unseeded woman in history to win Wimbledon...

And fellow Grand Slam champions such as...

- **Coco Gauff... Aryna Sabalenka... Jelena Ostapenko... Elena Rybakina...** the latter two both lifting their first Major trophies at odds of **100/1...** and Sabalenka reaching **world no.1...**

Not forgetting big-odds Grand Slam finalists including...

- **Casper Ruud... Alexander Zverev... Taylor Fritz... Karolina Muchova...** Ruud was our **66/1 Each Way** pick at the US Open 2022, and has also finished runner-up twice at Roland Garros. Zverev went off at **25/1** when he made the US Open final in 2020. Muchova reached the French Open 2023 final as a **100/1** outsider. Fritz was a **66/1** pick for members at the US Open 2024, finishing runner-up for a 33/1 Each Way place payout...

And it's not just about finding 100/1 Grand Slam contenders and future world no.1's...

This *Ones to Watch* list can also help you make money from tennis all year round, season after season, on the weekly **ATP and WTA Tours...**

For example, since he first appeared in our 2018 report, **Andrey Rublev** has **won 16** ATP singles titles, achieving a career-high ranking of no.5. **Elina Svitolina** was named in my 2017 report, and she has since lifted **14** WTA trophies, peaking at no.3 in the world.

Women's Grand Slams up for grabs...

The four Majors are very much where it's at in terms of the history books and players' career goals, of course. The **Australian Open**, **French Open**, **Wimbledon**, and the **US Open** make up the annual Grand Slam calendar...

And in recent years, these most prestigious of tennis tournaments have produced plenty of big-price outcomes in the **Outright Winner** markets. With new, young & previously unheralded players breaking through and making their name on the Grand Slam stage...

Check out these amazing numbers from the women's Majors...

- 4 of the last 16 **women's Grand Slams** have been won by a **100/1 shot** (25%). Those have been spread out one per year...

And that trend goes back even further:

- 7 of the last 21 women's Majors have been won by a **100/1 shot** (33%)

What's more, with bookies paying half the odds **Each Way** for a runner-up in a Grand Slam, the case for backing outsiders in the women's game only grows stronger:

- 12 of the last 42 women's Grand Slam **finalists** started the tournament as **100/1+** outsiders (29%)
- 15 of the last 23 women's Grand Slams have produced at least one finalist at odds of **33/1+**

New men on the scene...

While in the **Men's** Grand Slams...

Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner are the new established Top 2. While the fabled Big Four are no more: with the great Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, and Andy Murray all retired... and Novak Djokovic set to turn 39 years of age in May 2026.

Other recent-years Grand Slam finals have seen the likes of '**Next Gen**' names Taylor Fritz, Stefanos Tsitsipas, Daniil Medvedev, Alexander Zverev, Casper Ruud, Nick Kyrgios, Matteo Berrettini, all competing for the biggest prizes in the sport...

The long-awaited changing of the guard has happened. With some exciting youngsters coming through to try and take on Alcaraz & Sinner...

- For example, last year's pre-season Ones to Watch report named Czech teenager **Jakub Mensik**. He went on to win a debut ATP Masters 1000 title at the Miami Open in March 2025... having gone off at rank outsider odds of **250/1**. Now age 20, Mensik finished the season as a Top 20 player

Lots of ammo for us there, as we head out on our *Ones to Watch* mission for the season ahead...

And with our **early-bird** philosophy, following the players listed below in 2026 & beyond could lead to some big-odds payouts on the ATP & WTA Tours – and at the Grand Slams...

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

- Did you know... when **Novak Djokovic** won his first Grand Slam title, age 20 at the Australian Open 2008, he went off at odds of **33/1**. Imagine getting 33/1 for a player like Djokovic. It can only be done by identifying the talent and opportunity, early doors...
- *Ones to Watch* superstar **Iga Swiatek** won the French Open 2020 at **100/1**. These days, Swiatek is one of the favourites for every tournament she enters. Things change fast in sport. You never know when the first big breakthrough moment is going to come – but armed with the right knowledge, you can certainly anticipate it...

Going after outsiders and young up-and-coming players is what we're all about here at *Ones to Watch* – where in the tournament Outright Winner markets, we back appealing outsiders, at attractive Each Way prices.

Here are this year's names: a set of players who have never been short-listed in our pre-season reports before...

ONES TO WATCH 2026

MEN:



JOAO FONSECA

	Singles	Doubles				
YTD	24 Rank	- Move	26 - 16 W/L	2 Titles	\$1,757,191 Price Money	
Career	24 Career High Rank (2025.11.03)		37 - 24 W/L	2 Titles	\$2,592,310 Price Money Singles & Doubles Combined	



Joao Fonseca

Age: 19

Country: Brazil

End-of-2025 World Ranking: No.24

It's not often I get the hype machine out, but in the case of **Joao Fonseca**, I'm already on the record as saying this kid is the real deal – and genuinely the most exciting young prospect I've seen appear on the ATP scene since Carlos Alcaraz.

Fonseca has a gasp-worthy forehand, bags of spirit and talent – and a conduct-the-crowd, big-match-occasion attitude that you just can't teach. Legions of Brazilian fans cheer him on from the stands at every event he plays in.

It looks like just a matter of time before Fonseca wins something big. He's already got two full-level ATP titles to his name (2025) – from two finals. Following on from winning the Next Gen Finals in 2024 as the youngest player in the draw. He finished 2025 as the youngest man in the world's Top 100. The buzz is justified.

LEARNER TIEN					
	Singles	Doubles			
YTD	28 Rank	- Move	32 - 23 W/L	1 Titles	\$1,743,311 Prize Money
Career	28 Career High Rank (2025.11.10)		37 - 29 W/L	1 Titles	\$2,526,637 Prize Money Singles & Doubles Combined



Learner Tien

Age: 20

Country: USA

End-of-2025 World Ranking: No.28

The comparisons with Michael Chang were there long before the super-successful ex-pro started working with **Learner Tien** in 2025. The young American started the season strong, with a breakout run to the Australian Open 4th round (last 16), winning six matches in a row to come through qualifying, before beating former no.1 Daniil Medvedev in the main draw proper.

Tien went on to show what his game's all about: a reliable left-hander, with a stealthily tenacious attitude: he'll hold his own in long, grinding rallies when needed, and can also reel off a winner when it's time to strike.

Learner collected a debut ATP title in 2025, and plenty more should follow in the years ahead for this very consistent hitter. Whether he has the physical attributes to go to the very top of the men's game remains to be seen – but the same could have been said of Chang all those years ago, and he went on to become a Grand Slam champion.

GIOVANNI MPETSHI PERRICARD



	Singles	Doubles			
YTD	58 Rank	- Move	19 - 26 W-L	0 Titles	\$1,183,294 Prize Money
Career	29 Career High Rank (2025.02.24)	37 - 41 W-L	2 Titles	\$2,970,018 Prize Money Singles & Doubles Combined	

Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard

Age: 22

Country: France

End-of-2025 World Ranking: No.58

There's always room on my list for a tall, big server – and the 6'7" **Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard** looks well-placed to be the next perennial most-aces man on the tour..

He finished second only to world no.2 Jannik Sinner on the official year-end ATP stats leaderboard for 'Serve Leaders.' Giovanni won 89% of his service games in 2025, averaging 13.5 aces per match.

Of course, you have to be more than a big serve – and Mpetshi Perricard can play, too. Serve-volley being a clear area. And he also has the power to rip through the ball. He's won two ATP titles to date (one on clay, one on hard courts). While a run to week two and the round of last 16 at Wimbledon 2024, where he was only beaten by eventual semi-finalist and current Top 10-er, Lorenzo Musetti, suggests there's more to come from this young Frenchman.

WOMEN:



Victoria Mboko

Age: 19

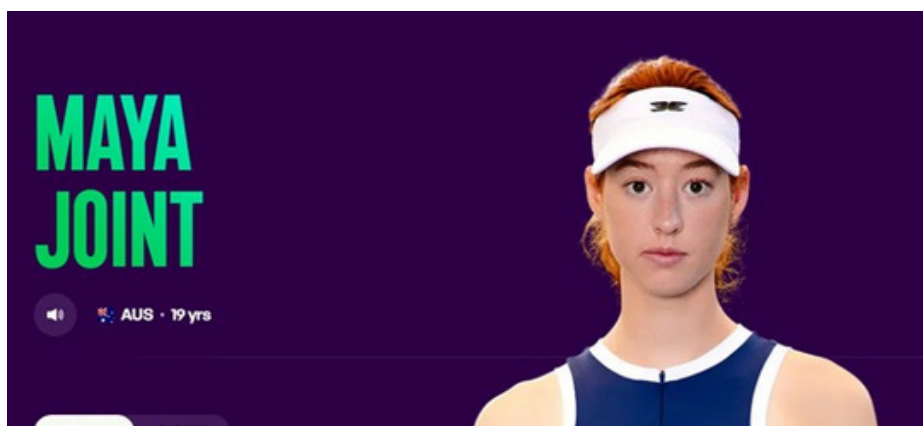
Country: Canada

End-of-2025 World Ranking: No.18

This exciting teenager has already won big on the WTA Tour – **Victoria Mboko** put together a 200/1 fairytale run at her home event, the high-grade 1000 event at Montreal, 2025. Entering the field as a wildcard, she reeled off seven straight match wins, beating three Grand Slam champs on the way (Coco Gauff, Elena Rybakina, Naomi Osaka). We got on Mboko midway through that tournament, taking winning odds of 28/1.

Victoria went on to add the WTA Hong Kong trophy to her cabinet in the autumn, showing that she's no flash in the pan. Indeed, Mboko looks to have all the physical and mental big-match qualities we're looking for in a young prospect; showing no fear in the big moments, and taking the game to her opponents.

Signing off 2025 with a new career-high ranking, and still a teenager until the end of August 2026, Mboko is one of my headline *Ones to Watch* names right now.



Maya Joint

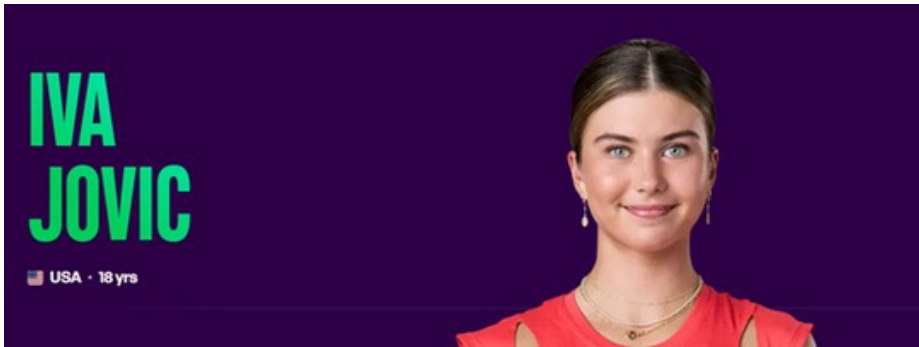
Age: 19

Country: Australia

End-of-2025 World Ranking: No.32

Another teenager finishing 2025 with a career-best ranking is **Maya Joint**. The Australian's rise has so far been less headline-worthy than Mboko's – but it's quietly impressive nonetheless. Joint won two titles in her breakthrough year on the WTA Tour. And her rankings have leapt up each year: from no.773 at the end of 2023, to no.119 at the end of 2024, and now closing off 2025 at no.32. That's a very promising arc.

Hard courts are her most winningest surface, but Maya's two senior WTA singles trophies to date have come on clay and on grass. Suggesting this hard-working Aussie can establish herself as an all-court contender. Add in a great battling spirit – she's saved match points to win in a final before – and Joint is a name to look out for in 2026 and beyond.



Iva Jovic

Age: 18

Country: USA

End-of-2025 World Ranking: No.35

Iva Jovic has been touted for success from a young age – and she’s still only 18 now. Things got serious for Iva in 2025, winning a maiden WTA title on hard courts in Guadalajara. That trophy triumph saw the American teenager make a few headlines.

We should also take note of Jovic’s fledging 8-1 career match win-loss record on grass; those turf victories were achieved at a level below main-draw tournament fields, but there’s plenty of time ahead of her, and lots of scope to improve and grow in status.

I like Jovic’s game – she reminds me a bit of former French Open winner (and three-time Grand Slam finalist), Ana Ivanovic.

As the youngest woman in the Top 100, Jovic is likely to get a lot of media attention going forward. If she can stay fit, and handle the spotlight, then the prospects look very good.



Tereza Valentova

Age: 18

Country: Czech Republic

End-of-2025 World Ranking: No.60

Compared to Mboko and Jovic, the name of **Tereza Valentova** is relatively unknown – so much so, that the WTA website doesn't even have a photo on her profile page right now. That may well change in 2026...

Valentova posted some eye-catching winning streaks in 2025. Scooping up four titles on the lower-tier circuit. Before ending the season with a debut appearance in a full-level WTA final in Japan.

Between the end of Wimbledon and the last WTA event of 2025, Tereza won 18 out of 22 matches. Outside of the Grand Slams, she made the finals in six out of 14 tournaments entered last season. That's impressive.



Alexandra Eala

Age: 20

Country: Philippines

End-of-2025 World Ranking: No.53

Alexandra Eala is already making history for her country, and this tenacious rising star looks like she's only just getting started...

I love Eala's on-court fight and attitude – battle for every point, chase every ball, celebrate every big moment. Behind the passion lies a will to win, and a belief in her own shot-making ability.

Alexandra has already made a first WTA final (runner-up after having match points v Maya Joint on grass at Eastbourne 2025). The young Filipino bounced back from that heartbreak by winning a lower-level title in Mexico just a few weeks later – showing what she's all about.

She'll need to stay fit, and maybe work on her physicality. But Eala has a great game already, and reminds me somewhat of Leylah Fernandez – another diminutive yet formidable competitor. Fernandez was a triple-figure-odds runner-up to Emma Raducanu at the US Open 2021. I reckon fellow left-hander Eala has the fire and ambition to do something similar on the big stage.



Janice Tjen

Age: 23

Country: Indonesia

End-of-2025 World Ranking: No.54

Last but not least, the oldest player on our list at 23, **Janice Tjen** had a momentous year in 2025 – and can build on that in 2026...

As with Eala for the Philippines, being your country's no.1 star player brings with it certain pressures – and opportunities. **Tjen** has carved out her position by putting together a mightily impressive winning streak.

Janice posted a 77-15 match win-loss record on the pro circuit in 2025. That 84% win-rate is on a par with world no.1 Aryna Sabalenka; playing at different levels of the sport of course, but that figure nonetheless shows how consistently the Indonesian has been winning.

Tjen chalked up a hefty seven title wins in 2025. Catapulting herself from no.578 in the rankings at the of 2024, to no.54 in the rankings going into the new 2026 campaign. They say winning is a habit – and Janice has it. She rounded off the year with a first full-grade WTA title win. The signs are there. Let's see what she does next...

More to come throughout the season...

Those nine names make up my pre-season *Ones to Watch in 2026* list. They are all young & improving players I'm earmarking to have a good year – and a successful career.

But that list is by no means exhaustive, and is only the start of our work...

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

And of course, when the big **Grand Slam** events come along – the **Australian Open, Wimbledon, French Open** and **US Open** – I'll be guiding you to ways to cash-in, too. Including dedicated, members-only coverage of the four Grand Slam tournaments.

- Find out more at: www.OnesToWatch.co.uk

I'll be in touch again by email very soon...

Enjoy the tennis...



Oliver Upstone

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