



## 20 Year Overview

# Age Profile ATP / WTA Tour Top 100 (1990 – 2009)

Peter D. McCraw



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### Abstract

Since 1996 (ATP) and 1990 (WTA) the average age of Top 100 players, and the age at which first ATP/WTA rank is attained shows a slight increase. No significant change in age at which players are entering Top 100, and more Top 10 ITF Juniors made the transition to Top 100 ATP/WTA rank over the past 10 years compared to previous studies.

### Introduction

There have been a number of studies that have profiled average age of top-ranked male and female tennis players between 1990 – 1996. (Tennis Canada, Treleven & Miley). This study provides an up-to-date profile of players' average age in Top 100 and Age of First ATP / WTA Rank and entry into Top 100 (2009). It also compares transition of Top 10 ITF Juniors to Top 100 ATP / WTA Rank from 1985-1991 to 1996-2005.

### Methodology

- The study's data was obtained from the ITF, ATP & WTA Tour websites:
  - [www.itftennis.com/juniors](http://www.itftennis.com/juniors) / [www.itftennis.com/womans](http://www.itftennis.com/womans) / [www.wtatour.com](http://www.wtatour.com)
  - [www.atpworldtour.com](http://www.atpworldtour.com) / [www.wtatour.com](http://www.wtatour.com)
- Data was collated on players meeting the criteria of:
  - Top 10 ITF Junior year-end rank between 1996 – 2005. (85 players\*)
  - Top 100 ATP Tour Players as at February 2 2009. (100 players)
- Basic statistical measures of mean were used to profile players.

\* - Duplicate names were removed as players finished in Top 10 for more than one year in a row. Also some players achieved a Top 100 Rank during the calendar year but failed to stay inside the Top 100 at year-end. These players were included in the study and categorised as having achieved a Top 100 ATP Tour rank.

### Glossary

- **Age** – chronological age of player based on date-of-birth (DOB).
- **Today** - Top 100 ATP / WTA Ranked Players at 1<sup>st</sup> February 2009.
- **Rank** – The year-end ranking on ITF Junior Circuit, ITF Pro Circuit, ATP Tour.
- **Age at First Year End Rank** – The chronological age of player at time of ranking.
- **Age at Top 100 Rank** – The chronological age of player when first Top 100 rank achieved.
- **Top 10 ITF Juniors** (1996 – 2005) that achieved ATP / WTA Top 100 Rank.
- **ATP Tour** – The Men's Tennis Association professional tournament circuit.
- **WTA Tour** – The Woman's Tennis Association professional tournament circuit.

## Results

<b>(1) Average Age Top 100:</b>	<b>1973-1996</b>	<b>Today</b>	
• ATP (yrs)	24.8	26.7	
	<b>1990</b>	<b>Today</b>	
• WTA (yrs)	22.5	24.3	
<b>(2) Age at Top 100 Rank</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>Today*</b>	<b>Top 10 Juniors*</b>
• ATP (yrs)	20.8	22.3	20.6
	<b>1990</b>	<b>Today*</b>	<b>Top 10 Juniors*</b>
• WTA (yrs)	17.9	21.6	19.0
<b>(3) Age at First ATP / WTA Rank:</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>Today*</b>	<b>Top 10 Juniors*</b>
• ATP (yrs)	18.4	18.7	17.6
	<b>1990</b>	<b>Today*</b>	<b>Top 10 Juniors*</b>
• WTA (yrs)	16.7	16.8	16.3
<b>(4) ATP Tour Top 10 Profile:</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>2009*</b>	
a. Age at First Rank (yrs)	17.2	17.5	
b. Age at Top 100 Rank (yrs)	18.4	19.5	
c. Average Age (yrs)	-	25.0	
<b>(5) WTA Tour Top 10 Profile:</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2009*</b>	
a. Age at First Rank (yrs)	15.1	15.9	
b. Age at Top 100 Rank (yrs)	15.4	18.0	
c. Average Age (yrs)	21.7	25.1	

\* - Year end Rank.

### **(6) Percentage of Top 10 Juniors who made transition to Top 100 ATP / WTA Rank:**

- 1985 – 1991 (7 years): Boys - 52% / Girls - 51%
- 1996 – 2005 (10 years): Boys - 58% / Girls – 72%

## Conclusion

- (1) The average age of the ATP / WTA Top 100 today is 1.85 yrs older (2 years) than ATP in 1996 and WTA Tour in 1990.
- (2) The age which players achieve their first ATP / WTA ranking is 1.5 / 3.7 years older since 1996 /1990. When compared to Top 10 Juniors who have made the transition to Top 100, there is no difference in the Men and 1.1 years in Woman.
- (3) There has been effectively no change in the age at which Top 100 players achieve their first ATP / WTA ranking in the past 16 / 19 years.
- (4) ATP Top 10 Players – show no significant change in age at first rank or Top 100 rank over past 16 years
- (5) WTA Top 10 Players – show no change in the age at which the first rank was achieved. A change of 2.6 years today for Age of Top 100 Rank and the Average Age of Top 100 has increased by 3.4 years since 1990.
- (6) Slightly more boys and significantly more girls made the transition from Top 10 ITF Rank to ATP / WTA Tour rank when comparing the years 1985-1991 to 1996-2005.

## References:

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