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Zverev's Top 10 Record Is the Worst for a Year-End No. 1 in ATP History

At 3-8, Zverev has the lowest Top 10 win rate among ATP year-end No. 1s. Edberg's 5-8 in 1991 was the only previous losing season.

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KEY FINDINGS

- Zverev's 3-8 record gives him a 27.3% Top 10 win rate, the lowest among the 54 year-end No. 1 seasons in ATP rankings history. Including Laver Cup, he is 3-9.
- Edberg finished 5-8 in 1991, a 38.5% win rate. The other 52 previous year-end No. 1 seasons had winning Top 10 records.
- Federer went 18-0 in 2004; Djokovic recorded the most Top 10 wins in a No. 1 season, with 31 in 2015. Borg has the highest career win rate in the cohort, at 71.1%.

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Alexander Zverev's 3-8 record against the Top 10 gives him a win rate of 27.3%, the lowest recorded by an ATP year-end No. 1. Including Laver Cup, his record is 3-9. He has clinched the 2026 year-end ranking and will become No. 1 on November 2.

The comparison includes every year-end No. 1 since ATP rankings began in 1973: 54 seasons and 20 players. Opponents are classified by their ranking at the time of the meeting.

Top 10 records in their No. 1 seasons

The 2026 record is through October 31. The 1973 record begins with the first ATP ranking, published on August 23; all other rows cover full seasons.

Year	Year-end No. 1	W-L vs Top 10	Win rate
1973	Ilie Nastase	9-4	69.2%
1974	Jimmy Connors	6-1	85.7%
1975	Jimmy Connors	5-3	62.5%
1976	Jimmy Connors	20-4	83.3%
1977	Jimmy Connors	15-9	62.5%
1978	Jimmy Connors	13-3	81.3%
1979	Björn Borg	20-3	87.0%
1980	Björn Borg	18-5	78.3%
1981	John McEnroe	11-5	68.8%
1982	John McEnroe	10-6	62.5%
1983	John McEnroe	11-7	61.1%
1984	John McEnroe	24-2	92.3%
1985	Ivan Lendl	22-4	84.6%
1986	Ivan Lendl	14-5	73.7%
1987	Ivan Lendl	16-2	88.9%
1988	Mats Wilander	8-4	66.7%
1989	Ivan Lendl	11-5	68.8%
1990	Stefan Edberg	16-7	69.6%
1991	Stefan Edberg	5-8	38.5%
1992	Jim Courier	10-8	55.6%
1993	Pete Sampras	13-6	68.4%
1994	Pete Sampras	13-7	65.0%
1995	Pete Sampras	14-7	66.7%

Year	Year-end No. 1	W-L vs Top 10	Win rate
1996	Pete Sampras	13-5	72.2%
1997	Pete Sampras	13-1	92.9%
1998	Pete Sampras	6-3	66.7%
1999	Andre Agassi	12-6	66.7%
2000	Gustavo Kuerten	10-4	71.4%
2001	Lleyton Hewitt	13-3	81.3%
2002	Lleyton Hewitt	9-4	69.2%
2003	Andy Roddick	6-5	54.5%
2004	Roger Federer	18-0	100.0%
2005	Roger Federer	15-2	88.2%
2006	Roger Federer	19-4	82.6%
2007	Roger Federer	17-4	81.0%
2008	Rafael Nadal	17-6	73.9%
2009	Roger Federer	15-10	60.0%
2010	Rafael Nadal	11-5	68.8%
2011	Novak Djokovic	21-4	84.0%
2012	Novak Djokovic	24-10	70.6%
2013	Rafael Nadal	24-5	82.8%
2014	Novak Djokovic	19-5	79.2%
2015	Novak Djokovic	31-5	86.1%
2016	Andy Murray	16-5	76.2%
2017	Rafael Nadal	12-6	66.7%
2018	Novak Djokovic	15-4	78.9%
2019	Rafael Nadal	9-5	64.3%
2020	Novak Djokovic	10-3	76.9%
2021	Novak Djokovic	14-4	77.8%
2022	Carlos Alcaraz	9-5	64.3%
2023	Novak Djokovic	17-5	77.3%
2024	Jannik Sinner	18-5	78.3%
2025	Carlos Alcaraz	17-3	85.0%

Year	Year-end No. 1	W-L vs Top 10	Win rate
2026	Alexander Zverev, clinched	3-8 (3-9 counting Laver Cup)	27.3%

Laver Cup falls outside tennis-db.com's standard main-tour scope and is excluded from the main season records. Zverev's parenthetical record includes his loss to Alex de Minaur at the event.

Across the 53 previous No. 1 seasons (1973-2025), the mean Top 10 win rate was 73.9% and the median was 73.7%.

Stefan Edberg was the only previous year-end No. 1 with a losing Top 10 season. He finished 1991 at 5-8, a win rate of 38.5%. Zverev's current rate is 11.2 percentage points lower. Each of the other 52 previous No. 1 seasons produced more wins than losses.

Roger Federer's 18-0 in 2004 is the only unbeaten record. Novak Djokovic's 31-5 in 2015 is the largest number of Top 10 wins in a No. 1 season. John McEnroe went 24-2 in 1984 (92.3%), while Pete Sampras finished 13-1 in 1997 (92.9%).

Career records against the Top 10

The same players are listed below by career win rate, using the ATP's published Win/Loss Index.

Player	Year-end No. 1 seasons	Career W-L vs Top 10	Win rate
Björn Borg	1979-1980	113-46	71.1%
Novak Djokovic	2011-2012, 2014-2015, 2018, 2020-2021, 2023	269-122	68.8%
Carlos Alcaraz	2022, 2025	56-26	68.3%
Jannik Sinner	2024	69-37	65.1%
Roger Federer	2004-2007, 2009	224-123	64.6%
Ivan Lendl	1985-1987, 1989	166-92	64.3%
Rafael Nadal	2008, 2010, 2013, 2017, 2019	186-105	63.9%
Pete Sampras	1993-1998	124-71	63.6%
John McEnroe	1981-1984	128-94	57.7%
Andre Agassi	1999	109-90	54.8%
Jimmy Connors	1974-1978	127-109	53.8%
Andy Murray	2016	105-96	52.2%
Gustavo Kuerten	2000	38-36	51.4%
Mats Wilander	1988	62-67	48.1%

Player	Year-end No. 1 seasons	Career W-L vs Top 10	Win rate
Lleyton Hewitt	2001-2002	65-73	47.1%
Stefan Edberg	1990-1991	98-114	46.2%
Jim Courier	1992	53-73	42.1%
Ilie Nastase	1973	48-69	41.0%
Alexander Zverev	2026, clinched	61-88	40.9%
Andy Roddick	2003	37-73	33.6%

Björn Borg has the highest career win rate, at 71.1%; Djokovic has the most wins, with 269. Zverev ranks 19th of the 20 players, ahead of Andy Roddick. Seven players have losing career records against the Top 10. A losing record over a career is therefore considerably more common in this group than one during a No. 1 season.

Conclusion

Zverev's distinction is his season win rate. Even among the seven players with losing career records, Edberg was the only previous year-end No. 1 to finish his No. 1 season below 50% against the Top 10.

Methodology

The cohort follows ATP year-end rankings from 1973 through Zverev's clinched 2026 finish. No ATP match-time ranking existed before August 23, 1973; Nastase's inaugural-season record therefore covers the ranking period only. For 1973-1984, opponents were classified using the latest published ATP ranking before each tournament, rather than reconstructed intermediate weekly rankings. Later seasons use the linked match-time ranking records. Season assignments follow the source's tournament season. Retirements count; walkovers do not.

Annual records exclude Laver Cup consistently. Official results identify the losses removed from Djokovic's 2018 and Alcaraz's 2025 source totals, and Zverev's additional loss to No. 9 de Minaur. Career figures retain the ATP index's published historical conventions and ranking-era coverage. Win rate is wins divided by matches. The historical mean and median use the 53 season percentages from 1973-2025, calculated before rounding, with each season weighted equally. The match cutoff is October 31, 2026; historical records were checked on November 1.

Data and attribution

The table rows link to their sources. Historical checks used archived official ATP ranking publications, archived Sackmann match files and Tennis Abstract's Edberg match list. The data download retains the original source totals, the displayed records and the Laver Cup adjustments.

Send study questions or future Research requests to contact@tennis-db.com or use the contact form.

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Questions about this study or requests for future tennis-db.com Research can be sent to contact@tennis-db.com or through the contact form.