

BUILT FOR THE BASELINE

IN A SPORT THAT OFTEN CELEBRATES FLAIR AND THEATRICALS, JANNIK SINNER HAS BUILT HIS SUCCESS ON PATIENCE, PRECISION, AND INCREDIBLE COMPOSURE UNDER PRESSURE

BY EMMA FLOYD • PHOTO BY MARCO IACOBUCCI EPP

On the court, Jannik Sinner has an incredible sense of calm: clean baseline exchanges, precise footwork, and the quiet confidence of a player who seems to know where the ball will land before it leaves his racket. At only 24 years old, the Italian hero has climbed to the top of the sport with a game that blends controlled aggression and remarkable composure. Today, he sits atop the ATP PIF Rankings as the world's No. 1 player, with four Grand Slam titles, nine Masters 1000 titles, and two ATP Finals championships already to his name. At the Italian Open in mid-May, he earned his 31st straight victory at ATP Masters 1000 tournaments, equaling the record of tennis' reigning GOAT, Novak Djokovic.

Sinner's path to tennis dominance was far from predetermined. Growing up in the mountainous region of South Tyrol in northern Italy, he initially showed promise not on a tennis court but on ski slopes. As a junior skier, he competed at a high level before ultimately choosing tennis as his primary focus in his early teens. The late start may have proven advantageous. Without years of rigid tennis training behind him, Sinner developed a fluid and adaptable style.

There are many elements that distinguish Sinner from his peers. His strokes are compact, his movement efficient, and his decision-making unusually calm for a player operating at the highest level of the sport. Match after match, he applies relentless pressure from the baseline, forcing opponents into uncomfortable positions and capitalizing on the smallest openings. Sinner's game is built around precision and power. His forehand drives through the court with remarkable pace, while his two-handed backhand, often recognized as one of the best in the modern game, allows him to redirect rallies with ease. Equally important is his temperament. Sinner rarely shows outward emotion during matches, maintaining a focused, almost analytical presence on court. His calm demeanor has become a signature trait, enabling him to navigate high-pressure moments with total composure. **T**

Jannik Sinner

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