



novak djokovic

In describing men's tennis in 2011, only one word is necessary: Nole.

Certainly, there were many magical moments by stupendous players, but nobody was more dynamic, more dominating or more athletic than the Gumby-like Serb.

Djokovic started the season with the second-longest winning streak to begin a campaign in ATP history. Although his streak was terminated at the hands of Roger Federer, few would disagree that Djokovic enjoyed the best year in tennis. "What he's done is so much harder than what I did," said John McEnroe of Djokovic's streak, which fell one match short of matching McEnroe's record. "He won a major. There's so much more depth in the game, he's doing it on different surfaces, and a lot of the top players play more of the same events so that makes it more difficult," he added.

After Djokovic's hiccup at the French Open, he picked up the pieces and transitioned with ease onto the Wimbledon grass. In addition to beating Rafael Nadal in the final, Djokovic earned the world No. 1 ranking. Then, in the following Slam, Djokovic defeated Nadal for the sixth consecutive time in an exhausting US Open final that solidified Djokovic's place at the pinnacle of tennis. Nadal praised Djokovic for his accomplishments and admits that the Serb is the best on the tour.

Not only was nobody better than Djokovic in 2011, nobody even came close.

HONORABLE MENTION

maria sharapova



The ever-intense Maria Sharapova couldn't capture the elusive fourth Grand Slam title in 2011, but her season was not without high points. She had her best French Open performance to date, advanced to the Wimbledon final and reached the top five [No. 2] for the first time since her shoulder surgery three years ago. The Russian is working to improve her serve in the immediate season. An honorable mention in 2011, Sharapova has the making for ultimate greatness.

Mauricio Patz (2)