

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 83 (2017)
Heft: [3]

Artikel: Federer breaks records Down Under
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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-943486>

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Tennis

A Swiss start-up develops the tennis court of the future

The project began in 2014, in a game between Wiktor Bourée and Martin Hofmann, two engineers with a passion for tennis. “We often play together but we don’t have an umpire to decide whether our shots are really in or out, but there is also the aspect of added fun,” explains Wiktor Bourée, 24. They founded Technis with Naik Londono, a former tennis pro and engineer whom Martin Hofmann met at a start-up camp in Silicon Valley.

Technis was an instant success and has won several prizes, including the Swiss Startups Award worth CHF 50,000. The company has received other financial support, such as an EPFL grant for innovation (known as an ‘Innogrants’). Technis already has 11 employees and works with various partners, including tennis clubs and tennis court construction companies.

“Our prime target is not the US Open, even though that would be fantastic,” says Wiktor Bourée. He stresses the “interactive” and “fun” aspects of Technis technology in comparison with existing “passive” systems. “It is possible to set your own challenges, for example to practise aiming



your service at an exact point on the court that you define on the screen. Your results appear immediately.” It could happen one day that even the court becomes a screen: “We are working on it.”

Bourée said: “It’s an additional boon to be a start-up company from a country with top world players like Federer, Wawrinka, who won Switzerland’s Davis Cup in 2014 and Bacsinszky, who reached her highest career ranking at No. 9 in 2016. It also underlines the importance of having “high-quality Swiss technology”.

At the prestigious Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne (EPFL), Technis has perfected an entirely tactile

surface to make tennis courts interactive. The still secret technology can be directly integrated into the surfaces of synthetic and resin courts, the kinds of court on which by far the most tennis is played nowadays. Every movement is detected, from the bounces of the ball, to the position of the players at any time in a match. In 2016 the first test court was set up in the French-speaking part of Switzerland.

The recorded information is displayed in real time on a screen on the edge of the court – which can also assist the umpire in his job. An app enables players to monitor their performance for the entire duration of the match, find partners, and share their result.

Source: Houseofswitzerland.org

Federer breaks records Down Under

Early January Roger Federer arrived in Perth with his whole family in tow. Federer played in the Hopman Cup in Perth and the Australian Open in Melbourne. At the Australian Open, he beat top-10 players Tomáš Berdych and Kei Nishikori to reach the quarterfinals, where he beat Mischa Zverev, making Federer the oldest man to compete in a grand slam semi-final since Jimmy Connors in 1991. In the semi-finals, he defeated Stan Wawrinka in five sets, making him the oldest player to compete in a Grand Slam final since Ken Rosewall in 1974. Coming back from a break down in the fifth set, Federer defeated Rafael Nadal to win the Australian Open, which also marked Federer’s 100th match at the Australian Open; it was the first time Federer had won a match against Nadal

in a Grand Slam event since the 2007 Wimbledon final. His victory against Nadal moved Federer to number ten in the ATP rankings, and made him the oldest player to win a Grand Slam title since Rosewall in 1972.

Federer has won 18 Grand Slam Grand Slam singles titles, the most in history for a male tennis player, and held the No. 1 spot in the ATP rankings for a total of 302 weeks. In majors, Federer has won five Australian Open titles, seven Wimbledon titles, five US Open titles and one French Open title. He is among the eight men to capture a career Grand Slam. He has reached a record 28 men’s singles Grand Slam finals, including 10 in a row from the 2005 Wimbledon Championships to the 2007 US Open.

Federer’s ATP tournament records include winning a record six ATP World Tour Finals and playing in the finals at all nine ATP Masters 1000 tournaments. He also won the Olympic gold medal in doubles with his compatriot Stan Wawrinka at the 2008 Summer Olympic Games, and the Olympic silver medal in singles at the 2012 Summer Olympic Games. Representing

Switzerland, he was a part of the 2014 winning Davis Cup team. He was named the Laureus World Sportsman of the Year for a record four consecutive years from 2005 to 2008.

Federer’s fine run continued in Indian Wells where he defeated fellow countryman Stan Wawrinka in two sets in the final, to win a record-equaling fifth title in Indian Wells and the 90th title of his career. At the age of 35, he became the oldest Masters 1000 finalist and winner ever. A few weeks later Federer beat Raphael Nadal in the final of the Miami Open where his ranking improved to World No. 4.

On 11 April 2009 at Wenkenhof Villa in Riehen near Basel, Federer married former Women’s Tennis Association player Mirka Vavrinec, whom he met while both were competing for Switzerland in the 2000 Sydney Olympics. They also played together at the Hopman Cup in Perth 15 years ago. Vavrinec retired in 2002 due to a foot injury. In July 2009, identical twin girls, Myla Rose and Charlene Riva were born and in 2014 they had a set of twin boys named Leo and Lennart.

Source: Wikipedia

