

Serena Williams

Serena was born on September 26, 1981, in Saginaw, MI, but she grew up in Los Angeles. Her parents, Richard Williams and Oracene Price, coached her and Venus and instilled a love for tennis and a strong sense of determination. In 1995, Serena officially became a professional tennis player at the age of 14.



Venus and Serena became quickly known for extremely powerful serves and incredible athleticism. Serena won her first US Open in 1999, her first Grand Slam singles title. She also won the doubles title with her sister, Venus, at the same US Open in 1999. Serena has always been extremely outspoken about misogyny in tennis and athletics and has had numerous incidents with racist and sexist tennis officials.





Serena holds the world record for most Grand Slam titles in the Open Era at 23 titles and has won 4 Olympic gold medals. She has won the Wimbledon tennis tournament 7 times, the second-most in history. Serena is influential outside of her athletic dominance; she started her own fashion line, “S by Serena,” to inspire and empower women.

Serena has moved mountains to uplift women, particularly Black women in both athletics and society overall. She appeared in Beyoncé’s “Sorry” music video, reaffirming unapologetic Black female beauty and power. She has used fashion during tournaments to make statements against misogyny and double standards in the male-dominated sport, and she won Grand Slam titles while sick and while pregnant. Serena famously authored a powerful essay for Forbes calling for equal pay on Black Women’s Equal Pay Day. Serena is an icon on and off the court whose impact cannot be measured.

