Wimbledon: A look back at first Grand Slam glory for 2024 favourite Carlos Alcaraz

As Wimbledon 2024 approaches, tennis fans around the world are eagerly anticipating the possibility of witnessing another chapter in the remarkable career of Carlos Alcaraz. Spaniard stunned the tennis world with his extraordinary performance at Wimbledon 2023, capturing his first Grand Slam title on the hallowed grass courts and becoming the youngest winner of the competition in over 30 years.



Since propelling to stardom, Alcaraz has become a household name despite his young age. Wins across different surfaces have showcased his ability to win on both clay and grass, drawing comparisons to compatriot and 22-time Major winner Rafael Nadal.

After winning Roland Garros last month, he could be on for a career Grand Slam should he retain his title and win a third major in under 12 months, coming in as one of the favourites. But it won't be easy.

The <u>Wimbledon odds 2024</u> demonstrate the unpredictability of modern tennis, with several big names all capable of winning the men's singles.

Novak Djokovic, who Alcaraz beat in last year's showpiece event, returns, albeit carrying a knee injury. Australian Open winner Janik Sinner commands good odds, as does world number four Alexander Zverev.

The road ahead is not easy for the world number two, but as we approach Wimbledon 2024, let's reflect on the 21-year-old's journey to Wimbledon glory, his impressive path to the final, and what his triumph signifies for his career and the future of tennis.

A swift rise to prominence

Before his historic Wimbledon victory, Carlos Alcaraz had already established himself as one of the most promising talents in tennis.

His rise began to gain serious momentum in early 2023, highlighted by a standout performance at the Madrid Open. In his home city, Alcaraz showcased his incredible athleticism, powerful groundstrokes and deadly serve, defeating top-ranked players like Rafael Nadal and Djokovic.

His victory in Madrid not only earned him his first Masters 1000 title but also solidified his reputation as a formidable competitor on any surface.

From there, the hype for Wimbledon was real. Those regularly tennis betting were aware of his potential but it wouldn't be

until his opening games in London — routine early round victories over Jeremy Chardy, Alexandre Müller and Nicholas Jarry — as well as a dominant performance over 2021 finalist Matteo Berrettini, that his chances of a date with Centre Court were taken more seriously.

The road to the final

Alcaraz's journey to the Wimbledon final was nothing short of spectacular. In the quarterfinals, he faced Holger Rune, another young talent making waves on the ATP Tour. Alcaraz overcame Rune in a four-set battle, demonstrating maturity well beyond his years.

This victory set up a semifinal clash with Daniil Medvedev, a former US Open champion known for his strong baseline play. Alcaraz dominated Medvedev in straight sets, showcasing his exceptional movement and shot-making abilities, and advanced to his first Wimbledon final with a scoreline of 6-3, 6-3, 6-3.

The Final

Alcaraz stepped onto Centre Court to face Novak Djokovic, a seven-time Wimbledon champion and the reigning titleholder. The final was a thrilling encounter that showcased the very best of tennis. Alcaraz took the first set, but with his vast experience, Djokovic fought back to take the next two.

For the first time in the tournament, the Spaniard looked visibly rattled. However, he would not crumble under the weight of pressure that comes with a Wimbledon final. Following a series of intense rallies, Alcaraz demonstrated the youthful exuberance and fearlessness that allowed him to control the lead once again and secure victory with a 1-6, 7-6(6), 6-1, 3-6, 6-4 win.

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At just 20 years old, Alcaraz had become the youngest Wimbledon champion since Boris Becker in 1985.

His win also marked the first time in four years that someone other than Djokovic lifted the trophy at the All England Club.

This victory cemented Alcaraz's status as a Grand Slam champion and a future superstar in the making. It was a testament to his exceptional talent, hard work, and unwavering belief in his abilities. It will be interesting to see how he gets on ahead of this year's competition.