

Rivalry tips Nadal's way for French Open

The top two players in the world, Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal, head for Roland Garros with an increasingly intense rivalry. But while Federer – already hailed as one of the all-time greats – bids for an historic Grand Slam of titles, Nadal has built up an enviable record against him on clay

Nadal

Unbeaten on clay in a record-equalling 53 matches since April 2005

Strong, defensive two-handed backhand

Aggressive game with pace and stamina, typically from well behind baseline

BEST SHOT

Powerful, cross-court forehand with vicious topspin

SERVICE GAME

Federer: Deceptive body position, great variety and accurate to any area of court

Nadal: Tricky left-hand slice with heavy spin

LEFT OR RIGHT?

Left hander Nadal plays his forehand to opponent's weaker side

Forehand

CAREER HEAD-TO-HEAD

Nadal	5 - 1	Federer
15	Sets	8
124	Games	110
2006 record		
3 - 0		

Sources: ATP
© GRAPHIC NEWS

Federer

Current holder of 3 Grand Slam titles

Versatile one-handed backhand – but may be vulnerable to Nadal power

Great anticipation and adaptability enabling good defensive play

More varied range of shots than any other player. Formidable forehand-on-the-run