

CASEY DELLACQUA



Casey Dellacqua (born 11 February 1985) is an Australian professional tennis player who currently resides in Perth, Australia. After the 2008 Australian Open, she became Australia's highest-ranked women's player. She is coached by former Australian player Nicole Pratt. She is of Italian descent through her father and Irish through her mother.

Early life

Dellacqua attended Woodvale Primary School from kindergarten all the way up to year 7 then attended Woodvale Senior High School until she was sixteen before moving to Canberra to train with the Australian Institute of Sport. She was an active member of local tennis clubs and teams.

Greatest professional tennis achievements

Her highest rankings to this point are 39 in singles (achieved on 9 June 2008) after a third round showing at the French Open and 35 in doubles (23 June 2008) after reaching the French Open final. She has won 11 International Tennis Federation (ITF) singles titles and 13 ITF doubles titles. After reaching the fourth round at the Australian Open, she became the top ranked female Australian tennis player.

At the 2008 Australian Open, Dellacqua defeated former World No. 1 Amélie Mauresmo to reach the fourth round, her best result in a Grand Slam event. She has also achieved notable victories over former top 10 players Alicia Molik, Nicole Pietrangeli, Patty Schnyder, and Marion Bartoli.

She reached her first WTA Tour quarterfinal in Hobart in 2008, before losing to Greek Eleni Danilidou.

Partnering Francesca Schiavone, Dellacqua was the runner-up in the women's doubles competition at the 2008 French Open. Partnering Natalie Dechy, Dellacqua made the semifinals in women's doubles at Wimbledon in 2008.

2006

Dellacqua played in the Australian Open as a wild-card, with Lindsay Davenport as her first-round opponent. However, she was soundly beaten by Davenport, receiving much criticism after the match for her lack of fitness.

2007

Dellacqua entered the Australian Open again as a wildcard, but was beaten by Slovenian Katarina Srebotnik in the first round. She then failed to make it past the first round in both the French Open and the Wimbledon Championships (however she did manage to win through qualifying).

Dellacqua reached the second round of the US Open when she defeated Yaroslava Shvedova in straight sets. However, she was then beaten handily in straight sets by Maria Sharapova.

2008



Dellacqua began the year by reaching the fourth round of the Australian Open and upset 15th-seeded Patty Schnyder and former champion and World No. 1 Amélie Mauresmo but eventually lost to third seed Jelena Janković. The performance meant she surpassed Alicia Molik to become the highest ranked Australian female tennis player.

Dellacqua at the 2008 Pilot Pen Tennis tournament, playing with Nathalie Dechy

The French Open again showed Dellacqua's improved ability as she defeated the 9th-seeded Marion Bartoli and Nathalie Dechy in the first two rounds but she was knocked out in straight sets by Carla Suarez Navarro in the third round. The doubles proved to be a highlight for Dellacqua as she teamed with Italian Francesca Schiavone to reach the final despite being unseeded. The pair lost to Spaniards Anabel Medina Garrigues and Virginia Ruano Pascual 2–6, 7–5, 6–4 in a match that lasted two-and-a-half hours.

For the first round of the Wimbledon Championships, Dellacqua faced the 12th-seeded Swiss Patty Schnyder, who Dellacqua had already beaten earlier this year in the second round of the Australian Open. Although she lost the first set to her again, Dellacqua had a convincing win against Schnyder 4–6, 6–3, 6–1. In Dellacqua's second round match against French player Pauline Parmentier, Dellacqua won a tight match 1–6, 6–2, 6–3. Dellacqua faced Nicole Pietrangeli in the third round but lost the match 6–2, 6–4. In the women's doubles event, Dellacqua partnered with Nathalie Dechy of France who she already partnered with at the 2008 International Women's Open at Eastbourne. They started by defeating British wildcards Anna Fitzpatrick and Anna Elizabeth Hawkins 6–1, 6–0 in the first round. They had an easy second round match easily beating Tatiana Perebiynis and Alicja Rosolska 6–3, 6–2. They won their third round match over American qualifiers Raquel Kops-Jones and Abigail Spears 6–4, 7–6(9). They won a tight quarterfinal match against Spaniards Nuria Llagostera Vives and María José Martínez Sánchez 6–2, 7–6(6), 6–4. Their Wimbledon run ended when they lost to Venus Williams and Serena Williams 6–3, 6–3. In the mixed doubles event, Dellacqua partnered with American Scott Lipsky. Dellacqua and Lipsky won their first round match against Marta Domachowska and Fernando Verdasco 4–6, 6–3, 7–5. In the second round, they upset seventh-seeds Mark Knowles and Zi Yan 6–3, 3–6, 6–4. They eventually lost to 9th-seeded Andy Ram and Nathalie Dechy.

At the 2008 Beijing Olympics, Dellacqua represented Australia in the singles event along with Alicia Molik and Samantha Stosur. Dellacqua had an easy first round match against Gisela Dulko 6–3, 6–4. In the second round, she lost to 12th-seeded Belarusian Victoria Azarenka 6–2, 6–2. In the women's doubles event, Dellacqua partnered with fellow Australian Molik. In their first round match, they lost to the Italian team of Flavia Pennetta and Francesca Schiavone 6–4, 6–4.



At the 2008 US Open Dellacqua had a bad start at the US Open after losing both of her first round matches in singles and women's doubles. In the singles, she was beaten by a French qualifier Julie Coin 7–6, 7–6. In the doubles event, Dellacqua entered the competition seeded 9th with Nathalie Dechy, one of the defending champions of the event. They lost to Klaudia Jans and Alicja Rosolska of Poland 1–6, 6–2, 6–3.

In the mixed doubles event, she played alongside fellow Australian Jordan Kerr. They lost in the second round against Jonas Björkman and Nadia Petrova.

2009



Casey Dellacqua started her year in a disappointing performance at the 2009 Hopman Cup. Representing Australia alongside Lleyton Hewitt, she only won one of her matches, defeating American Meghann Shaughnessy

She then participated at the Medibank International in Sydney where she lost her first round singles match against Italian's Sara Errani. She found better success in the doubles event where she partnered with Natalie Dechy who she had played with in previous doubles matches last year. They had not lost a set coming into the semi-finals, where they beat the third seeds Kveta Peschke and Lisa Raymond. They then reached the finals winning against the world number 1's and top seeds Cara Black and Liezel Huber. However, Dellacqua and Dechy lost to Peng Shuai and Hsieh Su-wei 6-0, 6-1.

In the first round of the Australian Open, Dellacqua lost to 19th seeded Slovakian Daniela Hantuchova 7-6, 6-4. She was singled out for criticism by Australian coach Roger Rasheed for carrying excess weight and not being in match condition.^[2] She found better success in the doubles event, partnering with Francesca Schiavone with whom she reached the finals at last year's Australian Open. Coming to the event seeded they won their first round match against Petra Cetkovska and Carla Suarez Navarro. They then beat Alla Kudryavtseva and Ekaterina Makarova. They were lucky in their third round match after they got a walkover against Maria Kirilenko and Flavia Pennetta. In their Quarter-Finals match, Dellacqua and Schiavone managed to win after having a bad first set against Patty Schnyder and Anna-Lena Grönefeld 0-6, 7-5, 6-1. They lost their semi-finals match against the powerful team of Venus Williams and Serena Williams in just 58 minutes, 0-6, 0-2. Reaching the semi-finals was the furthest Dellacqua has gone at the Australian Open.

Dellaqua underwent shoulder surgery in February 2009 and is will be off the court until mid-2009.

End of year rankings

Year	Singles		Doubles	
	Final ranking	Change	Final ranking	Change
2008	55	▲ (31)	21	▲ (102)
2007	86	▲ (86)	123	▼ (2)
2006	172	▲ (51)	121	▼ (7)
2005	223	▲ (78)	114	▲ (3)
2004	301	▼ (26)	117	▲ (107)

2003	275	▲ (183)	224	▲ (321)
2002	458	<i>new</i>	545	<i>new</i>

Information provided by Wikipedia – The Free Encyclopedia
TA PROFILE

Already a member of the top 100, Casey Dellacqua crashed Australia's collective consciousness when she reached the fourth round of Australian Open 2008. She followed that success by reaching the final of the French Open doubles with Francesca Schiavone and the Wimbledon semifinal with Nathalie Dechy. Casey started learning to play tennis aged seven when her Mum, Nita, and Nan put her in group lessons at their tennis club, Kingsley. Casey played all sports as a child and always knew she wanted to be a professional athlete. Her proudest moments are when her parents, Nita, and father Kim, watch her play at major tournaments. She says they are her inspiration "because I feel they have achieved so much in their lives by hard work and they always gave me every opportunity to pursue my dream of becoming a professional tennis player". Casey admires Roger Federer, Jennifer Capriati, Ian Thorpe, Adam Scott and Mark Skaife. A Carlton supporter, she likes watching AFL football, cricket and V8 Supercars in her spare time and also enjoys sleeping, shopping, hanging out with friends and family and reading. Her favourite TV shows are *Grey's Anatomy*, *Desperate Housewives* and *Prison Break*.