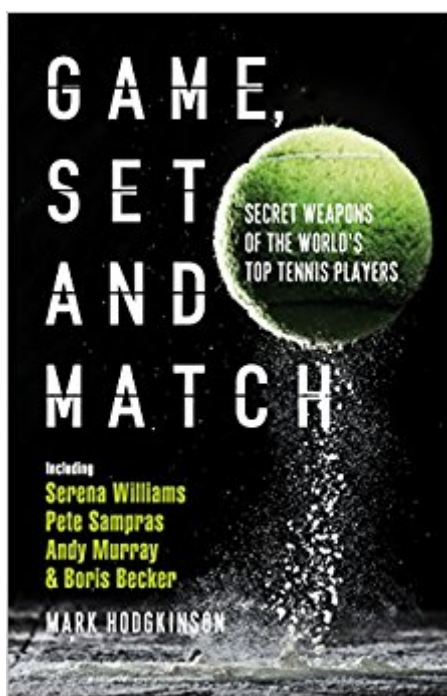


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Game, Set And Match: Secret Weapons Of The World's Top Tennis Players



Synopsis

What better way to improve your tennis--and to gain a new appreciation for the sport--than by discovering the secrets of the world's greatest players and coaches? Read this book to improve your game with inside tips from the tennis elite, including those who have won Grand Slam titles and held the world number one ranking. *Game, Set and Match* is an unprecedented collection of tips from the sport's superstars, including Maria Sharapova, Andy Murray, Grigor Dimitrov, Venus and Serena Williams, Eugenie Bouchard, Kei Nishikori, Pete Sampras, Steffi Graf, Boris Becker, Stefan Edberg, Milos Raonic, Caroline Wozniacki, Stan Wawrinka, Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, Bob and Mike Bryan, Martina Navratilova, Gael Monfils, Petra Kvitova, Ana Ivanovic and Marin Cilic. There is also advice from Roger Federer's mother, Lynette, on tennis parenting and tips from Rafa Nadal's uncle and coach, Toni, as well as other leading coaches such as Patrick Mouratoglou, Nick Bollettieri, Paul Annacone, Marian Vajda, Judy Murray, Darren Cahill, Roger Rasheed and Robert Lansdorp, and from fitness experts such as Andre Agassi's former trainer, Gil Reyes. Top tips from the pros include: "How to disguise your serve" by Pete Sampras "How to stay fit all year" by Caroline Wozniacki "How to attack with your one-handed backhand" by Stan Wawrinka "How to embrace your superstitions" by Goran Ivanisevic

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Customer Reviews

• The book is an easy read. It's a perfect companion to keep in your tennis bag to pull out in between matches or a good read to get you pumped up before that big club or USTA match. •

• Examiner.com • Whether you're a grizzled recreational player or an up-and-coming junior, you'd

probably love to take lessons from tour pros. Problem is, they're pretty busy playing tournaments all over the world. That's where journalist Mark Hodgkinson comes in. • The Oregonian • Game, Set and Match is a book that tennis player and fans cannot afford to go without. • Love Tennis blog "Easy, enlightening read poolside or while you wait for your match to start." • Tennis Identity "I have a few tennis books that I read over and over because the advice and instruction they give makes sense, is truly actionable and can make a huge positive impact on my game. I'm definitely adding Game, Set and Match: Secret Weapons of the World's Top Tennis Players to that list of books and can't wait to read it again." • Kim Selzman, Wristspect Sport "An unprecedented collection of tips from the sport's superstars." • Northwest Akron Branch Library

Mark Hodgkinson, a former tennis correspondent of the Daily Telegraph, is the author of *Andy Murray: Champion--The Full Extraordinary Story*. Hodgkinson, who is the editor of thetennisspace.com, has written a short television feature about Wimbledon for the BBC, contributes to British GQ, and wrote the tennis features in the official program for the London 2012 Olympics.

Very good

First, let me state what this book is and what it is not: it is a compilation of players' and coaches' statements about various aspects of tennis. Each statement usually covers one topic and is about half a page to one page long. It is *not* a textbook about tennis. It does not teach you how to play or how to coach. Rather, it provides guidelines to start off on the right foot. In my opinion, intermediate-level players will make the most out of the book, while beginners and experts will still find some areas of interest. The sections dedicated to coaches and parents are about 20 pages each. I will not comment on those since I am no coach or parent. What I like about this book is that it uses a simple and direct approach, while hurting some of the widespread tennis myths. There are useful advices for all the tennis shots, a lot of tactics as well as the mental and physical aspects of the game. Often enough, someone gives you an advice that goes against what you think you know about tennis and you just don't know what to believe. Now you can check with this book. Of course, not all the answers are here, but using this book and a little logic you can dispell quite a few misconceptions. Also on the "mental game" side, I found that not all coaches and players agree with each other. It's always good to know of several points of view. What I do not like is twofold: 1) The return of serve is poorly covered. About 1 page for the second most important shot in tennis! The

serve gets 12 pages, the forehand gets 11... Big disappointment here. Is Novak's return just for show? Although Dominika Cibulkova and Caroline Wozniacki are some of the best returners in women's tennis, they sure feel a little lonely in this book.²) I would have welcomed a more technical explanations. Pete Sampras explains how to train to disguise a toss. Good. But I'm sure he could tell another ten pages about the ins and outs of serve disguise. The ball toss is usually considered the biggest tell, but what about the rest? Same thing with Rafa and the topspin forehand. His statement helps avoiding a common mistake (which I made, btw), but I craved for a lot more!

There are a few tennis books that have stood the test of time -- The Inner Game of Tennis and Winning Ugly. Past that and the books thin out a bit. What I like about Game, Set and Match is that you get at least one solid piece of advice in every section from a player or coach who is known for the shot, situation, or strategy being discussed. It's the sort of book that a parent or player, young or old, can pick up and read from cover to cover, or refer to intermittently for specific advice when a part of his/her game is in need of a boost or a reminder. It's also the kind of book you can leave around and anyone will just pick up and find it interesting to see what the legends of tennis have to say about the game, their game, and how they approached the sport.

I enjoyed this book. The tips are of rather mixed quality, but overall very helpful and interesting. I would have liked some more "star power" though. In the next edition, give us some tips from Federer, Nadal and Djokovic, since they surely have some secrets to share as well. And what about Connors, Lendl, Agassi and Borg?! Although it may sound a bit superficial, I really think that including (more) tips from the greats of the game (past and present) would definitely add to a book like this.

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