

## **Mazumder's Reply to the posting on: Dinkers Make My Blood Boil!!!**

All I can say is that grapes are sour! Who you call dinkers may be in actuality are far better players than some players like you who think power and spin are everything one should boast off in a tennis game. The main thing what makes a player superior to others is not the repertoire of strokes, but the control over shots one possesses to outmaneuver an opponent. So brood over your limitations - may be you are indecisive, may be your strokes lack consistency, may be you are not as good as you think you are, ...

Here, in Ann Arbor City Tournament, I easily beat a solid tennis player with prettiest looking forehand, backhand, serve-and-volley game and powerful kick serves in a quarter final match (in the NTRP 4.0-4.5 category), winning in straight sets: 6-1, 6-4. But in the semi-final match I dueled with a guy for four hours who can be labeled as a dinker by your terminology - he had a bizarre set of grips - single-handed forehand, double-handed forehand, double-handed backhand and occasionally a single-handed backhand. He can return any ball from anywhere and he will wait until you outhit a ball. After playing first two games, I went all out to bulldoze him and I succeeded, winning the first set at 6-1. In the second set, he got better adjusted and we went on serve until 4-4. Then, he showed what I can describe an indomitable spirit of not letting go any ball. Some games even lasted for fifteen minutes having as many as twelve deuces. In the process, we broke each other and then we held to decide the set on tie breaker. I lost in the tie breaker. After 3 hours of playing, we were dead even. Finally, in the third set after a four-hour match, I lost. There is very little I can bemoan.

You have to accept that tennis is not just a bunch of pretty looking shots; to win a match you require a whole bunch of other things - stamina, athleticism, patience, selection of strokes, control on ball, and finally an immense desire to win and not to throw in your towel even when the chips are down. So have some heart after losing a tennis match and give credit where it belongs. That is what recreational tennis is all about.

P. Mazumder  
Univ. of Michigan  
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To: mzelinka@wesleyan.edu  
Subject: Re: Dinkers Make My Blood Boil!!!

In article <1993Aug10.204828.1@wesleyan.edu> you write:

> Nothing is more irritating than losing to that pathetic breed of tennis player  
> - the dinker! I just lost to a guy today who I out-classed in every  
> department: serve, backhand, forehand, and speed. He just sliced his backhand  
> and FOREHAND deep into the court while I kept driving the ball until I  
> eventually made an error. When I came to net, he always threw up a lob forcing  
> me to either hit a difficult over-head or retreat to the baseline where he  
> continued to grind away at my game with his infuriating brand of patty-cake  
> tennis. To me, dinkers are not true tennis players, but weak-willed babies  
> motivated more by their fear of losing than by the desire for victory.

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> Now that I got that off of my chest, can anybody offer some suggestions on how  
> to overcome these clowns?

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>

Marek



Newsgroups: rec.sports.tennis alt.tennis  
Distribution: world  
From: mazum@indus.eecs.umich.edu (Pinaki Mazumder)  
Organization: University of Michigan EECS Dept., Ann Arbor, MI  
Subject: Prince Graphite II  
Keywords: Prince, racket, Fred Perry

I posted this message yesterday, but apparently due to our local computer network snag, it did not get posted.

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#1: ---->

Those of you who have been playing with Graphite II MP (or for that matter with original Graphite - the one Michael Chang and Jana Novotna play with), may please let me know by e-mail relating their experiences with this racket. I am a 4.5 level player, and regularly play in USTA leagues and other local tournaments. For long longtime, I used to play with wooden rackets on dirt red clay court.

Then about four years back, I switched over to wide-body Prince CTS Storm racket. I never liked this racket, though was stuck with it for 2-1/2 years. About 1-1/2 years back, I started playing with Graphite II, a 22-mm uniform-body racket, and I enjoy playing with this racket, since the maneuverability and control are two strong points of this racket. It is relatively less stiff and, in order to generate pace, you need to have long swings and very high acceleration at the time of contact. One can adjust the string tension to a certain extent and improve the pace, though it will require a tremendous amount of self-discipline not to whack the ball, because the control significantly deteriorates with lower tension. I have been experimenting with different values of tension and also string types. If you have done similar experimentations, please let me know your observations. Also, I would like to know the differences between Graphite II and old Graphite, if you have played with both; or, for that matter, your own playing experience with Graphite II MP (Mid Plus) and OS (Over Size) in terms of service return, base-line shots and serves.

I played a couple of sets with both Trisys 260 and Wilson Prostaff Classic, and I thought that they are comparable with Graphite II. If you have made comparative analyses between different models of various manufacturers, please let me know your comments. Of course, I am familiar with bar charts of rackets that annually come out in Tennis magazine. I want to hear your personal experiences, especially if you are an advanced and avid tennis player. Thanks.

#2: ---->

While browsing through this net group, I was saddened to read that Fred Perry of England had passed away. He has the sole distinction of being the world class badminton and tennis player. He won the All England Badminton Championship, undoubtedly the most prestigious badminton tournament in the world, as well as Wimbledon singles for three consecutive years (presumably in mid 30's), a record that was broken by Bjorn Borg in 1979.

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Subject: Rejoinder to Re's: Musings on the Roles of Tennis Papas  
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Since I was out of town for a week, I am now getting to read the responses to my article posted about a week back, a day before the FO finals. My reply is being made impromptu, that is, as I recall the facts the way I knew them and without checking the literature. So, excuse me if any information I cite here is inaccurate. Through this rejoinder to the respondents' comments, I have elaborated the main point of the original article.

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>From wendyg@cix.compulink.co.uk Fri Jun 10 14:30:51 EDT 1994

>Article: 24715 of rec.sport.tennis

>References: <2sptn1\$53a@zip.eecs.umich.edu>

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>Er, you should know something about Chris Evert's father, since he taught her to play and managed her investments for many years.

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>wg

As I mentioned in the article, I have little knowledge about the role of Chris Evert's father in her tennis career, especially how much he coached her personally once she started winning GS tournaments. I heard Martina once mentioning that she was always treated by her father as a daughter first and then as a tennis star. I believe that her father advised her to join the pro circuit at a comparatively mature age (after she finished her schooling?).

>From barsenea@hen.henson.dal.ca Fri Jun 10 14:31:54 EDT 1994

>Article: 24732 of rec.sport.tennis

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> As to your conclusions about tennis fathers (or parents) Louis Brugera, Jimmy Connors' mother, John MacEnroes' Father are just a few other examples of parents who have done alright thank you, in managing their childrens careers. They were conspicuously (conveniently?) absent from your analysis. Nice try though.

Yes, the four pathological cases I considered in my article were only women players, who started their pro career even before they finished schooling. Now, as to the counter examples you have cited are all male players and their cases are somewhat different. I don't think John McEnroe, Sr. had much coached his son; John, Jr. was coached by Harry Hopman and may be to a slight extent by the then Stanford tennis coach (Stanley Gould?). His father was a lawyer, as I recall, and had spent a lot of time touring with him and attending his matches. Jimmy Connors was taught to play the game by his mother and grandmother. They were not critically involved in coaching or counseling him at a later stage, especially when Connors was striving and adding new elements to his game to overcome the Borg factor (after 1975, Connors always lost to Borg in the Wimbledon). Sergei Brugera is being coached by his father, Louis, but they were on a war path for quite sometime before Sergei won his FO title. And, I strongly believe that if at all Sergei intends to conquer his fear of tennis-on-other-than-clay-surfaces, he may have to turn to another coach to add few elements to his always-well-over-the-net-return-the-ball-with-heavy-spin type of tennis game.

>From ASBJR@ASUACAD.BITNET Fri Jun 10 14:12:32 EDT 1994

>Article: 24972 of rec.sport.tennis

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> Good points here. And let's not all forget Osvaldo Sabatini. And many

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>..v.b.

Yes, Osvaldo Sabatini took active interest in Gabriela's tennis career, but she experimented with several coaches. We must distinguish that managing someone's business affair and investments (like the way many tennis fathers do and Ian Tiriac does) is different from coaching an advanced player. I was alluding to tennis papas who left their own vocations and coached their daughters.

>From un852@freenet.Victoria.BC.CA Fri Jun 10 14:33:24 EDT 1994

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>Article: 24752 of rec.sport.tennis

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>tennis father's, like Stefano, are deemed by most to be good or bad,

>depending on their daughter's success.

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Stefano, by his own admission, had put undue pressure on Jennifer by coercing her to play in a number of inconsequential exhibition games and expecting too much from her.

>As far as Mary Pierce goes, one good year does not make career,  
>nor one good tournament make a good year. If you're going to make  
>a point, try backing it up. If you don't have the facts then don't  
>comment. Personally, I think that you've been thoroughly brainwashed  
>by the media.

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>j

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>un852@freenet.victoria.bc.ca (John Oliveira)

No, I was not biased by the media. I watch tennis on TV only ten to twelve days a year (mostly GS finals). I have very little time between my family life, demanding occupation and my own tennis which I play profusely in local club and city tournaments and USTA leagues. Bud Collins with his zany outfit, raucous interjections between rallies, and patriotic hypes to attract the American TV viewers does not bother me a bit, because I get to see and hear him only four days a year. Before the French final this year, I just once saw very briefly Mary Pierce playing against Natalia Zvereva in one of the less significant tournaments. I am not an icon-idolater, and it matters me very little whether Steffi, Monica, Martina or whoever wins a title. I was definitely excited when I was browsing through this net postings and found that Mary had beaten Steffi. I think almost all neutral tennis fans were outraged by the Monica tragedy and the consequent dominance by Steffi (even though many like me admire Steffi for her brilliance and dedication to the game). Mary's victory was a sigh of relief!

Now coming back to the main point of the posting, it is true that every kid, boy or girl, receives a lot of direct support from his/her father and/or mother before he/she can even come to the point of playing pro tours. Many fathers who leave their own professions and coach their kids themselves find it very difficult to pass the baton of coaching and managing their kids' career to other professional experts. Like, a disgruntled tennis father succinctly summarized this empty feeling: I gave away my profession and my life for my daughter, and now her coach is driving my Ferrari!! There is always a time when every player just cannot get along with his/her coach or even manager, and can function better only when they move away from his/her life. For a girl, may be for a boy too, it is difficult to say "NO" to her/his coach-cum-father, when it comes to that point of changing hands. Good or bad, all great players have to move from one hand to another. Laver moved out from his childhood mentor Charlie Hollis to Harry Hopman, Borg

dropped his coach who literally groomed him like his own son, Becker dropped his coach (Gunther Bosch?), Courier left Nick Bolliterri to emerge as a champion under the coaching of Jose Higuerras, Martina dropped a number of coaches and added new elements to her game. The list goes on. In every case, this early hood coaches loved their protégés like their own kids. But for the players it became possible to remove them from their lives and carry on without being much mentally afflicted, but it is quite difficult to confront your own father and say "Hell with you. Get out of my back!" That was the main point I intended to convey through my article, which was written very hastily when I read Christopher Smith's News and a few related postings on this net group.

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