



Foreword

One of the best things about tennis is its variety. It is played on asphalt, concrete, grass, carpet, and dirt. It is played indoors and outdoors, and in just about every country in the world. The ATP has over 70 tournaments in 30 countries and on six continents. We are fortunate to have visited practically every one, and we're happy to see that, anywhere we go, on a Saturday morning at a local club or park, 80% of the play will be doubles.

We love doubles and have enjoyed playing together since we were five years old. We have always had a blast with the team thing: two guys out there working together, pumping each other up when the other is down, enthusiastic congratulations on great shots, high fives...and yes, even chest bumps! Walking on and off court together. Celebrating a win together. Consoling each other after a loss.

Watch a doubles match and you will always see more smiles than in a singles match. Way more smiles. You'll see more laughs, too. Way more. Singles is checkers and doubles is chess. The best doubles points are lightning quick, complex, and more spectacular than the best singles points.

Wonder where serve-and-volley players are today? Go watch a doubles match. Serving and volleying is alive and well there. And with doubles you'll see two people from the same city playing together, or maybe from the same school. Friends playing together. You might see a Democrat playing with a Republican. A doctor with a lawyer. A mom and her son. A dad and his daughter. A husband and wife. A grandpa and a grandson. Players from different parts of the world playing together. Two players of different

and perhaps contentious religions playing together—yes, doubles can be a unifying force for world peace. Why should juniors and adults play doubles? Let us count the ways:

- It's fun and social.
- It gives them a second chance in tournaments.
- It will round out their skills.
- It teaches additional life lessons.
- It's a way of getting four people on a court rather than just two at a club whose courts are in short supply.
- It broadens the overall appeal of the sport.
- There are lots of thrills, chills, and adventure as our friend Billie Jean King would like to say. (By the way, Billie Jean's favorite part of a Davis Cup tie is the Saturday doubles and we have always appreciated her being there to root us on in our matches.)
- We are one of the few sports that have men and women competing together—we need to cherish that. You can talk about gender equity all day, or you can just go watch or play a mixed doubles match.



As we read this book on doubles, we found ourselves nodding our heads in agreement. You will enjoy the read and find it loaded with concepts that will help you improve your game. We even learned a few new things and can't wait to try them out.

As this book goes to press, we have just won our 100th title at the U.S. Open, our 16th Grand Slam doubles title, and our 22nd Davis Cup match. We say thanks to you for your support through the years and thanks for your support of the great game of doubles.

After reading this book, we are betting that you will win your next doubles match on Saturday morning. And we know for sure that you will have a smile on your face the whole time. Thanks to Rick for writing this great new book on doubles.

Mike and Bob Bryan