

## TENNIS PALINDROMES

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Disinterest in tennis should not prevent wordplay lovers from enjoying these personal palindromes (PDs). Jeff presented an article on palindromic names in the August 1996 *Word Ways*. A few were tennis players. Here we add to them a few more, and a very large list of palindromes incorporating tennis names, first or surname. We attempted all past #1s, slam winners, and May 2020 top 100s, often failing.

There are four parts, alphabetical by surname within each part: 1. palindromic names; 2. reversals; 3. near reversals; 4. longer. For each player named we give country, active period and highest rank #; d if in doubles; wins in slams—Australian Open (A), Roland Garros (F), Wimbledon (W), US Open (U)—and year-end tour championships (T), Olympic gold (O), Fed Cups (FC), Davis Cups (DC) and Hopman Cups (HC).

### 1. Palindromic names

#### **Anna**

Blinkova [Russia, 2016-...; d#45]

Kalinskaya [Russian, 2016-...; d#72; Nick Kyrgios' latest girlfriend]

Kournikova [Russia, 1995-2007; #8, d#1; d 2A]

Schmiedlova [Slovakia, 2011-...; #26]

#### **Ana**

Bogdan [Romania, 2007-...; #59]

Ivanovic [Serbia, 2003-16; #1; F 2016]

#### **Bob**

Bryan [US, 1998-...; d#1; 16d (6A, 2F, 3W, 5U), 4 mixed d (2F, W, U); 4d T; O, DC] (+ Mike Bryan, part 3.)

#### **Cilic**

Marin [Croatia, 2005-...; #3; U 2014]

#### **Dod**

Charlotte ('Lottie') Dod won the first of her 5 Wimbledon singles titles in 1887 at age 15, still the youngest champion ever. She also won the British Ladies Amateur Golf Champs, played twice for England at hockey, and won a silver medal in archery at the 1908 Olympics. Surely one of the most versatile sports champions of all time. [UK, 1887-1908?; pre-rankings but ≈ #1?; 5 W]

#### **Kaia K.**

Kanepi [Estonia, 2004-...; #15]

#### **Seles**

Monica [Yugoslavia, US, 1989-2003; #1; 9 (4A, 3F, 2U), 3T; HC, 3FC] (+ see part 4)

And lesser known pros: current: **Hannah** Collin [GB] and **Eve** Zimmerman [US]; retired: Angela **Kerek** [Germany] and Sylvia **Sabas** [French].

**Eve** is also the name of the fictitious female in an online/video tennis game.

### 2. Reversals

[A]

#### **'An Ire take, Ekaterina!'**

Alexandrova's coach says absorb opponents' anger and throw it back at them. [Russia, 2016-...; #25]

#### **No's re DNA, Anderson.**

Kevin, like Roddick (cf) but unlike Murray (cf), denies it's in his genes. [[S.Africa](#), 2007-...; #5]

[B]

**Bertens 's net reb!**

Kiki stands out from other Dutch players as a tennis 'rebel'. Net is a pun. [Dutch, 2009-...; #4] (+ part 3)

[C]

**Carrena-Busta at sub? An err a/c!**

Pablo has no substitute. [Spain, 2011-...; #15]

**'Teragram Margaret'**

Court didn't actually weigh a billion kilos, but seemed to play as tho she did! [Australia, 1960-77; #1, d#1; record 24 (11A, 5F, 3W, 5U), d19 (8A, 4F, 2W, 5U), mixed d 21 (4A, 4F, 5W, 8U); 2 dT; 4 FC]

[D]

**Sino-bled, Delbonis.**

Federico has two ATP titles but has never won in China. [Argentina, 2007-...; #33; DC]

**Del Potro, or top led.**

Juan Martin was long a top 10 player, but he was never actually #1. [Argentina, 2005-...; #3; U 2009] (+4)

[F]

**Marton: 'No tram.'**

Marton Fucsovics' answer to Navratilova in part 3 (Martina: Can I tram?). He instead bummed a ride with a Hungarian Uber driver and fan. [Hungary, 2009-...; #31]

[G]

**Gaston: Not sag! (or Gaston did not sag.) (or Gaston, o do not sag!)**

Gaston Gaudio stayed strong a long time. [Argentina, 1996-2011; #5; F]

For Hugo Gaston the third PD (palindrome) is encouragement, not history. Yet in his first year as a senior he reached rd.4 of 2020 FO, beat Wawrinka, and took Thiem to 5 sets, advancing his ranking by 82 places! [France, 2018-...; #157; Jr. d #2; boys A.]

**Air ad, Daria.**

Two Daria's get free TV 'ads' when they play and admiration for playing well:

'Dasha' Gavrilova [Russia, Australia, 2010-...; #20; HC] / Kasatkina [Russia, 2014-...; #10]

**Gibson? No, 's big!**

Answering the question 'Was Althea Gibson a minor player?' No way, she was huge, the Jackie Robinson of tennis. Some say better than Serena Williams, who idolised her. This PD is enlarged in part 4.

[US, 1951-58; #1; 5 (F, 2W, 2U), 5d (1A, 1F, 3W), mixed d U]

[H]

**Hale in ad, Daniela H.**

The lovely Hantuchova is still popular enuf in Slovakia and Monte Carlo, her current home, for earning ads, where her robust health still shows, or will. [Slovakia, 1999-2017; #5, d#5; 4 mixed (A, F, W, U); FC, HC]

**a 'no-lop Polona'**

Polona Hercog isn't usually eliminated in round one of tournaments. [Slovenia, 2006-...; #35]

**'Not yell' Lleyton**

This reversal of Hewitt's first name is popular in Australian fandom because so ironic, as he popularised the 'C'mon!' shout after winning a point. Or make this into a [false] sentence: **Lleyton did not yell.**

[Australia, 1998-2016 singles; still active in doubles and as DC captain; #1; 2 (W, U)].

[K]

**Madison: 'No's I dam.'**

Both Madisons block out negative thoughts. [Keys, US, 2009-...; #7]; [Bregle, US, 2005-...; #86]

**A vote: 'Mr. Ed!' UK, Kudermetova?**

Veronika wins our vote for running fast like a horse in pursuit of Wimbledon success. [Russia, 2013-...; #38]

**Kyrgios, so I gryk.**

Gryk is Greek for gripe, and redneck spelling of Greek, half Nick's heritage. [Australia, 2013-...; #13; HC]

[M]

**'I, lo, jam!' Majoli**

Iva Majoli could push opponents into the corners. [Croatia, 1991-2004; #4, F; HC] (+ part 3)

**A nit's irk, Kristina**

Mladenovic irked and made her opponents feel like lice or nitwits.

[France, 2009-...; #10, d#1; 4 d (2A, 2F), 2 mixed d (A, W), 2 d T, FC, HC]

**'Mottram's smart, Tom!'**

Tom Okker's coach's warning before Okker, altho favourite, was upset by Buster Mottram in Johannesburg final in 1975. He lost to Mottram again for a 2-2 record.

[Mottram, UK, 1974-82; #15]

[Okker, Dutch, 1964-81, #3, 2 d (W, U)]

**'My DNA.' Andy M.**

Innate skill is Murray's secret of success, we claim he claims. [2005-...; #1; 3 (2W, U), 2O, T]

[S]

**Air 'Am Maria!'**

Sharapova was vain in her heyday but deserved it. [Russia, 2001-16, 2017-20; #1; 5 (A, 2F, W, U), T, FC]

Two other Marias aren't so vain, but deserve to be. Maria Sakkari [Greece, 2015-...; #20] (+ part 3)

Tatiana Maria [Germany, 2005-...; #46]

**Stan = nats.**

Stan Smith and Stan Wawrinks were both given great nats—natural abilities.

[Smith: US, 1964-85; #1; 2 (W, U), T; 5 d (A, 4U)] (+ see 4 for more)

[Wawrinka: Swiss, 2002-...; #3; 3 (A, F, U); dO, DC] (+ see 2 [Gaston] and 4 for more)

[T]

**'Roly' at Taylor?**

No, that name's no longer thrown at Taylor Townsend. She's lost a lot of weight. Her size led to her being denied early support by the US WTA—despite reaching #1 in girls' junior ranking! [US, 2012-...; #61, d#64]

[W]

**Gnaw, Wang!**

Both Wangs gnaw away at opponents' resistance. Wang Qiang, China, 2006-...; #12, highest ranked Chinese since Li Na (cf) / Wang Yafan [China, 2012-...; #47]

[Z]

**'Natasha—ah, Satan!'**

Zvereva was such a wicked, feared doubles player she must have been created or aided by the Devil!

[Belarus, 1988-2002; #5, d#1; 18 d (3A, 6F, 5W, 4U), 3 dT; mixed 2A]

**I as I, as Saisai!**

Zheng Saisai plays her own way, not copying some idol or coach. [China, 2008-...; d#15]

**Nil, Lin?**

Zhu Lin is definitely not nil! She has a doubles title and does well in singles too. [China, 2012-...; #69]

### 3. Near reversals

[A]

#### **Agassi's Saga**

This should have been the title of Andre's book. [US, 1986-2006; #1; 8 (4A, F, W, 2U); DC, O]

#### **AI? Rot! Civic, I, Victoria.**

Victoria Azarenka doesn't cheat using artificial intelligence. She's a law-abiding citizen.

[Belarus, 2003-...; #1, d#7; 2A, 2 mixed (F, U); mixed O]

[B]

#### **'Sob, a Babos!'**

Timea Babos often saddens her opponents, after or even before a match, especially in doubles.

[Hungary, 2011-...; #24, d#1; 4 d (2A, 2F) + 3 dT]

#### **Tug, Agut!**

Keep pulling your weight, Roberto Bautista-Agut and you'll win a slam eventually.

[Spain, 2005-...; #9; DC, Mediterranean Games gold]

#### **Boris: 'I rob!'**

Becker stole his opponents' thunder. (The EU might apply this PD to Boris Johnson!)

[Germany, 1983-1999; #1; 6 (2A, 3W, 1U), 3 T, 2 DC, HC, d O; coach of #1 Djokovic]

#### **ad: 'Nil ebb Belinda'**

Bencic was fading, but, as her 'ad' notes, has made a strong comeback to top 10.

[Swiss, 2012-...; #4; 2 HC (with Roger Federer)]

#### **I Kiki.**

Bertens gave this answer to 'Me Tarzan' when she met him in the jungle. [see part 2]

#### **Bolt, lob!**

Coach says Alex needs to throw more lobs into his strong groundstroke game. [Australia, 2009-...; #125]

#### **Brady, drab?**

Jennifer certainly isn't boring, beating several players ranked above her this year. [US, 2014-...; #25]

#### **Mike, Kim**

This formidable duo of #1s (Mike Bryan and Kim Clijsters [see part 4]) never played together, but Mike played her vicariously via twin brother Bob Bryan (part 1) in the 2012 USOpen mixed doubles. (They lost.)

[Mike, US, 1998-...; d#1; record 18 d (6A, 2F, 4W, 6U); 4 mixed d (2F, 1W, 4U); 5 T; O, DC. Mike has two more slams and 1 more T than Bob, who was out with injury for two years.]

[C]

#### **1. Danielle in ad?**

#### **2. 'S nil loco, Collins.**

Yes, Collins will be in demand for advertising, if not already. She also has Ad in innumerable games.

2. But she wasn't crazy to go to college instead of jumping straight in to a career. [US, 2016-...; #23]

#### **'Air, O Coria!'**

'Let me breathe!' often said opponents of Guillermo 'El Mago' Coria. [Argentina, 2000-09; #3]

His younger brother Federico [2010-...; #86] isn't so dangerous, but has just reached highest rank.

#### **Borna can rob.**

Borna Coric can and often does steal wins from higher ranked players.

[Croatia, 2013-...; #12, junior #1; DC]

#### **'Ten rock!' Cornet.**

Alize has nine titles, 6 + 3d, and aims for at least one more to feel she really 'rocks'. [French, 2006-...; #11]

### **'Dr. of War', Crawford.**

Jack considered tennis an armed conflict requiring surgical skill.  
[Australia, 1926-51; #1; 6 (4A, F, W); d (same 6); mixed d 5 (3A, F, W)]

[D]

### **Xel, Alex!**

Alex De Minaur's fans cheer with this abbreviated, lazy spelling of excel, coined by fans, who've probably already seen this backwardism. [2015-...; #18]

Can also be applied to Alexander Zverev [see 4], unless his fans never think of Sascha as Alex. And to fans of another Australian: Alexei Porpyrin [2017-...; #87].

### **'Novak!': Avon**

Djokovic is cheered by Avon Tennis (UK) despite his not being British. (see 4 + Nadal & Federer below.)  
[Serbia, 2003-...; #1; 17 (8 A, 1 F, 5 W, 3 U), 5 T, DC, 2 HC; 2nd in win %, 83.1; record \$ earnings]

### **'On! I do!' Dodin, O.**

Oceane Dodin talks *and* plays a good game. [France, 2011-...; #46]

[E]

#### **1a. Yore, Roy?**

#### **1b. No's re 'mere' R. Emerson!**

#### **2. 'Emmo, homme!'**

Roy 'Emmo' Emerson was no trivial force to relegate to history! 'Emmo homme!' is what the French shouted after he won 8 F slams in singles or doubles. [Australia, 1953-83; #1; 12 (6A, 2F, 2W, 2U; record 10 slams in a row in finals in which he appeared); d 16 (3A, 6F, 3W, 4U); 8 DC]

### **Marina: 'Can I ram!'**

Marina Erakovic can indeed ram the ball down opponents' throats, but is too polite to do it maliciously.

[New Zealand, 2005-18; #39, d#15] (see also Karlovic in 4)

'Ram' is a handy reversal word that can apply to tennis play. Rather than bore you by sticking in 'rams' all over the place, we've brought them all here (from parts 3 & 4) to get all the boredom done and over with.

[B] **Q: T' lob, Marion? A: No, I ram bolt, Q.**

Bartoli asked if the lob is her best shot, says no, it's hurling down lightning bolt serves, God-like.

Q is the questioner, not the supernatural Star Trek character. [France, 2000-13; #7; W]

[M] **Zen it, ram, Martinez!**

When Conchita was 'in the zone', or zen, she rammed them.

[Spain, 1988-2006; #2; W; 5FC; now coach for Garbine Muguruza (see below)]

[N, T] **Martina, tan it, ram!**

Martina Navratilova [see below] hit it hard enuf to 'tan' the ball.

Likewise Martina Trevisan [Italy, 2010-...; #83 from #144], who gained renown for upsetting Kiki

Bertens (#7, see 2) in 2020 FO with her rams. She was similarly brutal in upsetting her way to the QF over Camilla Giorgi [Italy, 2006-...; #26], plus [cf. both below] Cori Gauff (#49) and Maria Sakkari (#20, another rammer, see below).

[P, W] **Mark, ram!**

Mark Philippoussis had such a powerful ram his nickname was 'Scud' after the missile.

Mark Woodforde, another Australian, was more successful overall, in doubles. A net rammer.

[MP: 1994-2015; #8; 2 DC, HC]

[MW: 1984-2000; d#1; 12 d (2A, F, 6W, 3U), 5 mixed (2A, F, W, U), 2 dT, dO]

[P] **Mary, ram!**

Mary Pierce had a big ram. Detractors say 'Mary had a *little* ram.' (A little ram is a lamb!)

[France, 1989-2006; #3, d#3; 2 (A,F), d F, mixed W; 2FC]

[R] **'Marvel, burn Rublev, ram!'**

private thoughts of Andrey's opponents [Russia, 2014-...; #10; boys F] (+ part 4)

[S] **Maria: I ram!**

Maria Sakkari is just copycatting all the other rammers. [Greece, 2015-...; #20] (see above)

[F]

### 'Re-go Roger'

Federer the Goat's nickname after making a famous comeback from injury and hiring coach Stefan Edberg. [Swiss, 1998-...; record longest open era #1, 310 weeks; 20 slams (6 A, F, 8W, 5U) (Record for males, but matched by Nadal at 2020 FO. Both are also in danger of being surpassed by Djokovic [above] with 17.); 103 titles, 2nd to Connors 109; 6 T (record), DC, 3 HC (record), d O] (see also Edberg in 4. + Nadal below, and compare Ken Rosewall in part 4)

### 'Ferrero's sorer, ref.'

Juan Carlos's coach explains to referee why he needs a medical time out. [Spain, 1997-2017; #1; F; 3DC]

[G]

### 'I rock!': Cori.

'Coco' Gauff surely does! Youngest ever Wimbledon qualifier. A future #1, many say. [US, 2018-...; #49] (cf Erakovic/Trevisan above)

### Gen novel, Evonne G.?

Goolagong Cawley was most novel, an Australian Aboriginal champion. Is it in the bloodline (gen)? The only Oz women's world #1 since her, Ash Barty [see part 4], is also part Aboriginal and proud of it. [Australia, 1967-83; #1; 7 (4A, F, 2W), 6 d (5A, W), mixed FO; 2 T; 3 FC]

### 1. 'Fargo Graf'

### 2. Far gone, no, Graf?

### 3. ...Far gone, no Graf.

1. Fargo could be Steffi's nickname, after the military cruiser. And a pun, Far Go. She went extremely far! 2. And wasn't she 'far out' in her brilliant career?

3. But eventually she aged, retired and became 'far gone' as a professional player. (+ see Bedene in part 4)

[Germany; #1 377 weeks, a record; 22 (4A, 6F, 7W, 5U), dW; 5T, O, 2FC, HC.]

[H] + [K]

### A 'no miss', Simona!

Halep rarely misses a return. Not amiss but yes a Miss. [Rumania, 2006-...; #1; F, W] (+ part 4)

### Nine, Henin?

Well, almost nine. Justine Henin won seven slams and retired young or should easily have reached nine.

[Belgium, 1999-2011; #1; 7 (A, 4F, 2W), 2T, O, FC] And looking ahead...

### Nine, Kenin?

Sofia is young and has already won a slam, so nine is not unthinkable. [US, 2017-...; #4; A] (+ below)

### Martina: 'Can it, Ram!'

Not another ram?! No, it's Hingis' fictional mixed doubles partner Rajeev Ram [US, 2004-...; d#5, dA, d mixed A]. Is she telling him to shut up or to clinch the point?

[Swiss, 1994-2017; #1, d#1; 5 (3A,W,U), 13d (5A,2F,3W,3U), 7 mixed (2A,F,2W,2U), 2T, 3dT, HC] (+ pt 4)

### He is Hsieh?

No! But Hsieh Su-Wei, as recent women's world #1, plays doubles better than most male pros.

[Taiwan, 2001-...; #23, d#1; 3 d (F, 2W), d T]

[I]

### A 'nat', Ana.

Ivanovic and Bogdan [part 1] were/are both 'naturals' of seemingly inborn talent. Compare Wawrinka in 2.

[J]

### Rue baju, Jabeur?

Is the Malay jacket someone gave Ons Jabeur not appreciated? [Tunisia, 2010-...; #31] (+ part 4.)

[K]

**a 'if', O, Sofia**

Will Sofia Kenin continue to climb and reach #1 some day? [see Henin above + part 4]

**Kingnik**

This is a fan of Billy Jean King, not only of her tennis but of her role in advancing women's rights, founding the Women's Tennis Association, fighting for equal pay, and many other major achievements and honours. She is most famous for proving a top woman could beat a top man (Bobby Riggs in 1973). Altho he was retired and well past his peak he had earlier beat Margaret Court (see part 2) in a similar 'battle of the sexes'. Is this perhaps why Court complains of the large number of lesbians in professional tennis?

[US, 1959-90; #1, #1d; 12 (A, F, 6W, 4U), 16 d (F, 10W, 5U), 11 mixed (A, 2F, 4W, 4U); 11 FC as player or captain] [Riggs, US, 1933-59; #1, d#1; 3 (W, 2U) + 3 pro U, d W, mixed 2 (W, U)]

**Korda, Dr.? OK.**

Petr Korda acted like a doctor of tennis with his surgical precision—and had illegal medical help! (Caught doping.) [Czech, 1987-99; #2; A, d A]

**Kramer = pre-Mark.**

Jack Kramer was well before two Australian Marks (Woodforde and Philippoussis—see Erakovic in 3).

[US, 1937-54; #1; 3 (W, 2U) + 2 pro (W, U); 6 d (2W, 4U), mixed U, 2DC]

**Art epic, I, Petra.**

Petra Kvitova deserves to toot her own horn. [Czech, 2006-...; #2; 2 W, 6 FC (record), HC]

**Now, Kwon?**

Has Kwon Soonwoo's time come? [S.Korea, 2018-...; #69]

[M]

**Avid, Iva!**

Iva Majoli being advised to be keen. And she was! [see part 2]

**On I ran. Name? Mannarino!**

Adrian always maintains a fast game and usually runs deep into tournaments. [France, 2004-...; #22]

**'Medvedev dem!'**

Give them the full Medvedev treatment, Daniil. [Russia, 2114-...; #4] (+ part 4.)

**Has net re Mertens? Ah!**

Yes, Elise Mertens is a net winner in two senses, overall results and tennis court net coverage.

[Belgium, 2013-...; #12, d#2; d U]

**Moya? Say Om!**

Om ('the all') could well be the fans' name for Carlos Moya. He not only reached #1 but coaches a #1 Nadal [cf.] and coached #3 Milos Raonic. [Spain, 1995-2010; #1; W; DC] (+ 4) / [Raonic, Canada, 2008-...; #3]

**'Moody doom!'**

Slogan of the era (1927-38) of scary Helen Wills Moody. [US, 1919-38; #1 (9 years [record]), d#1; 19 (4F, 8W, 7U), 9 d (2F, 3W, 4U), 3 mixed (W, 2U); 2 O; record stretch of 158 wins without losing a set]

**Garbine: 'Men, I brag!'**

Muguruza deserves to brag and has a game the equal of many male pros. [Spain, 2012-...; #1; 2 (F, W)]

**Are t' sum T. Muster? A+!**

Thomas Muster got the top grade in his day. [Austria, 1984-99; #1; F]

[N]

### **Lad, a, Nadal?**

Rafael Nadal is old in tennis terms, but still young. Since he rivals Roger and Novak as tennis 'GOAT' (greatest of all time) perhaps better to call him a 'kid' rather than a 'lad'? Rafa is now tied with Federer's slam record; the 'King of Clay' with 13 FO easily holds the record for one slam] (+ part 4)

[Spain, 2001-...; #1; 20 (A, 13F, 2W, 4U); O, d O; 5 DC]

### **Martina: 'Can I tram?'**

Navratilova is asking about getting to the Aussie Open in Melbourne. Compare Fucsovics in part 2. She lost a battle of the sexes against Jimmy Connors in 1992, another dumb move. (+ part 4)

[Czech, US, 1975-2006; long time #1 and d#1; 21 (3A, 2F, 9W [record], 4U), 31 d (8A, 7F, 7W, 9U) (record), 10 mixed (A, 2F, 4W, 3U); 8T +11d T (record); 4 FC] / [Connors: see part 4]

[O]

### **Olmedo dem, lo!**

Alex Olmedo didn't treat his opponents well. [Peru, US, 1960-77; #2; 3 (A, W, U) + d U]

### **Lie not, O'Neil.**

Chris, don't be falsely humble. Be honest, admit you were great, the last Australian male or female to win the Australian Open singles title, back in 1978, and the only female to win both junior and senior AO.

[Australia, 1973-81; #80; A + girls A] (see also McEnroe/Newcombe)

#### **1. 'Naomi moan'**

#### **2. Osaka, so...!**

#### **3. No Osaka soon?**

1. the common reaction of players who realise they face Naomi Osaka;

2. implying that you know what to expect from Naomi—trouble!

3. Is she retiring? Or is 10-20 years considered soon? [Based on 'No Osama soon.']

[Japan, 2013-...; #1 (first Japanese ever); 3 (A,2U)] (+ part 4)

### **Anus (ole!), a fart: Rafael Osuna**

'El Pelon', 1963 US Open winner is the only Mexican to have reached #1 and the Hall of Fame. Here he seems to have eaten too much chili con carne. [Mexico, 1958-69; #1; U, 3d (2W, U); O (demo)]

[P]

### **Perez arc: a craze rep.**

Ellen Perez represents a small but strong base of crazed fans. [Australia, 2012-...; d#41]

### **No's re tepid, I, Peterson!**

Rebecca Peterson denies she's less than hot. We must agree. [Sweden, 2012-...; #43]

#### **1. A nil or a Karolina?**

#### **2. Now Anil or a Karolina won?**

1. Both Karolinas, Pliskova and Muchova, are far from nothings! Especially Pliskova, but increasingly her compatriot Muchova, who is coming on strong, top ten soon they say. 2. Either could beat Anil blindfolded carrying a ball and chain. (Of course Anil means with *him* blindfolded and carrying a ball and chain. ha ha)

[Ka. Pliskova [Czech, 2009-...; #1 but no slams; 3 FC] / K. Muchova [Czech, 2013-...; #21].

### **Aid a Nadia?**

#### **Tool aid! A Nadia 'loot'.**

Nadia Podoroska made a surprise splash into the FO 2020 semis, upsetting #3 seed Svitolina. She used her racket as a tool to 'steal' Elina's place. She's the third female qualifier in history to reach a slam SF.

[Argentina, 1916-...; #48 (up 83!)] (+ see 4)

### **Li's ipso, Pospisil!**

Coach telling Vasek Pospisil to emulate (be same as) Li Na [see 4]. [Canada, 2007-...; d #4; d W]

[R]

**An 'I + ka' by Rybakina.**

Elena credits herself and her attendant spirit for her recent successes. [Kazakstan, Russia, 2016-...; #17]

[S]

**Any ray, Aryna?**

Yes, Aryna Sabalenka radiates a bright ray of hope to her fans of reaching #1 some day. Also a ray of joy from her easy smile and giggle. [Belarus, 2015-...; #9, d#2]

**An 'if' as #1, Safina?**

No if as #1 for Dinara Safina, who was for awhile. But she never won a singles slam, so some say an iffy #1. Still, she reached three slam finals and won a doubles slam. [Russia, 2000-11; #1; dU; FC] (+ part 4)

**An 'erg' DNA, Sandgren? A!**

Is Tennys Sandgren's high energy in his genes? [US, 2011-...; #41]

**Am rah's arts, Astra Sharma.**

Her talent is of the cheer-producing sort. [Australia, 2011-...; #85; finalist in A mixed, 2019] (+ part 4)

**'No Miss' Simon.**

Gilles Simon rarely missed a return. And a Mister not a Miss! Compare Halep. [France, 2002-...; #6; DC]

**An ire take, Katerina.**

Beautiful Siniakova is good natured and can absorb others' anger, same as Ekaterina Alexandrova (part 2). [Czech, 2012-...; #31, d#1; 2 d (F, W)]

**Sinner, Ennis?**

**Sinner is Siren? Nis?**

Was Jannik Sinner inspired by his favourite jazz singer, Ethel Ennis, when he upset Zverev in 2020 FO? Also a pun: jazz singers often 'brag' about their sinful ways. Other possible explanations for his budding greatness are mermaid magic and a friendly goblin. [Italy, 2018-...; #46] (+ see part 4)

**I gag—'Iga!'**

I gag in astonishment as unseeded Iga Swiatek makes a big splash winning 2020 FO without losing a set. [Poland, 2017-...; #17; F] (+ part 4)

[T]

**Tiafoe: he of a 'it'.**

Frances surely has the 'it' factor. He's magic to watch. [US, 2015-...; #29] (+ part 4)

**Is Apis, 'tis Tsitsipas. 'I?'**

Stefanos Tsitsipas resembles Apis, the honeybee, fast, 'busy', a buzz to watch and surrounded by honeys. Relevance is added by the fact that Apis was a mythical Greek king. Is he modest, or amazed at this comparison, or offended? [Greece, 2016-...; #5; T] (+ part 4)

**Agnostic, I, Tsonga?**

Probably not, Jo-Wilfried Tsonga's playing seems inspired by God. [France, 2005; #5; DC, HC]

[V]

**Anno Donna?**

**Donna fan? Nod!**

Is this Vekic's year? She surely has us as fans. [Croatia, 2012; #19]

[W]

**'Wane?' re Serena W.**

**Is Ma ill? I, Williams? I?**

Serena does seem to have waned enuf that she's looking increasingly unlikely to win that Court all time record-tying 24th slam. But she denies that having a baby is the reason.

[US, 1995-...; #1, #1d; 23 (Open era record) (7A, 3F, 7W, 6U), 16 d (4A, 2F, 6W, 2U), 5 T, O, 3 d O, FC, 3 HC; record female prize money.] (+ part 4)

### **No Williams ma ill, I won!**

Variant of preceding PD, but here Serena and Venus both play better if Mom is well.

### **Sun, eve, Venus**

This nice progression in time means Venus Williams plays well at all hours. Really well, we should say. Imagine how much more she would have achieved if she didn't have that much loved but pesky sister. We turn this unoriginal palindrome into a tennis rave.

[Venus, US, 1994-...; #1, #1d; 7 (5W, 2U), 14d (4A, 2F, 6W, 2U), 2 mixed (A, F); O, 3 dO, FC]

### **We 'nil' or 'A' Caroline W.?**

Which? A definite A+, no one 'nils' Caroline Wozniacki! [Denmark, 2005-2020; #1; A; T]

[Z]

### **Zarazua, rauz a raz!**

Colloquially speaking, Renata emanates a good vibe (rouses a razzle) and entertains audiences with her skill and flair. She nearly upset Elina Svitolina [see 4] at 2020 FO. [Mexico, 2016-...; #149, d#135]

## 4. longer palindromes

[A]

### **Damn! I, Agassi, miss again. Mad!**

Yes, it's maddening when a player as good as Andre misses twice in a row. [see part 3] (anon.)

### **'God's, eh?' said I, Ashe's dog.**

Arthur's pet, like many fans, believed Ashe was God's chosen one.

[US, 1959-80; #1-2; 3 (A, W, U); 2d (A, F); 4 DC]

### **'Dr.' Auger-Aliassime, miss ail, are guard.**

Felix is advised to be on guard and avoid serious injury (and covid-19!), which he's done so far in his young promising career as a tennis 'doctor'. [Canada, 2017-...; #17]

### **Tracy, a hay-cart?**

No, Ms. Austin moved fast and maneuvered well on court! [US, 1978-94; #1; 2 W; mixed W; FC]

[B]

### **'O, dons Barty my trabs!' 'No do!'**

Ashleigh Barty denies she is wearing Azarenka's training shoes.

A TRIO TRIO (a palindromic fiction)

chapter 1. **Met re Barty: 'Trabert 'em!'**

chapter 2. **Tony Trabert re Barty: 'Not!!'**

chapter 3. **'Defy Trabert re Barty!' Fed.**

1. Meet Ash Barty's motto: 'Emulate Tony Trabert!' She tries to model herself on him.

2. Trabert, now aged 90, emphatically forbids Ash to compare herself to him.

3. Roger Federer, a great fan of Barty, tells her to disregard the frozen opinions of an old man.

(Your authors wonder if Tony's disrespect was due to unconscious racism. Barty is part aboriginal—see Goolagong in 3. He disgraced himself in 1977 by striking two anti-apartheid demonstrators with his racquet. Certainly not proof of racism, but strange. (And no disrespect for his great tennis!)

[AB, Australia, 2010-...; #1, d#5; F, T; dU] [RF, see 3]

[TT, US, 1945-63; #1, d#1; 5 (2F, W, 2U) + 2 pro F; 5d (A, 3F, U); DC, later DC captain]

### **Far gene debt, Bedene, Graf.**

Steffi and Aljaz, though unrelated, both owe their genetic ancestries, ancient as well as recent, a debt for giving their bodies and abilities a big head start.

[Graf, see part 3] [Aljaz Benene, Slovenia (again; played for GB from 2016 to 2018), 2008-...; #43.]

### **O, got Tomas a motto: 'Go!'**

It worked—Tomas Berdych went far. [Czech, 2001-19; #4; 2DC, HC]

### **'Tennis net reb, I.' Kiki Bertens in net.**

She can be an innovative and effective net player. [see parts 2 and 3]

### **Borg nixing rob.**

Bjorn Borg was an impeccably honest player for a superstar! Still he did rob a lot of players of big wins. [Sweden, 1973-83; #1; 11 (6F, 5W), 2 T, DC]

### **'Art, or obey eye.': Borotra.**

Jean Borotra 'the Bounding Basque' made this astute comment on the 'art' of tennis. And some artist! He was one of the famous 'Four Musketeers' from France who dominated tennis in the 1920s and early 1930s (with Jacques Brugnon [1920-48; #9; 10 d, 2 mixed, 5DC] and [cited above] Cochet and Lacoste). [France, 1920-56; #2, d#1; 4 (A, F, 2W), 9 d (A, 5F, 3W), 5 mixed (A, 2F, W, U); 6 DC]

### **1. Don Budge, big nads. Dang! 'I beg, dub, nod.'**

### **2. 'Call a beg!' dub Budge ball a/c.**

### **3. Net did Budge peg > dub 'Did Ten'.**

1. Don Budge's opponents might 'beg' for mercy, dub him one of the greats, and nod in respect when beaten. Big nads is a joke (how could we know?) but can also be interpreted as a pun for big [tennis] balls.  
2. Speaking of which, Don's balls, as noted in preceding, made opponents beg for less.  
3. Don's nickname might well be Did Ten, since he did net ten slams: the six amateur slams that became the grand slams of the later Open era, plus four of the three Pro Tour slams, equivalent to grand slams for pros. [US, 1932-55; #1, d#1; 6 (A, F, 2W, 2U) + 4 pro; 4d (2W, 2U), 4 mixed (2W, 2U)]

[C]

### **I hit air pace, Capriati, hi!**

Jennifer Capriati hit it hard and called its speed 'hi'. Or is she just being friendly? [US, 1990-2004; #1; 3 (2A, F, O)]

### **Spot sign: Ah, Chang is tops!**

Michael Chang was tops as a player and is still top class as a coach for Kei Nishikori. [MC, US, 1987-2003; #2; F; DC] / [KN, Japan, 2007-...; #4]

### **Won, Kim! (I know.)**

Kim Clijsters won an awful lot! You knew too? (+ see Mike Bryan in part3) [Belgium, 1997-2009, 2012-20; #1, d#1; 4 (A, 3U), 2d (F, W), 3T, FC]

### **Eva: 'Hit it, eh!' Cochet: 'It? I have.'**

Henri Cochet is here playing social mixed doubles with actor Eva Gabor. [France, 1920-58; #1; 7 (4F, 2W, U) + 1 Pro, 5d (3F, 2W), 3 mixed (2F, U); 6 DC] (+ see Borotra above)

### **1. No fine t' so melt till Little Mo's 'ten if' on.**

### **2. Darned 'Little Mo' to melt Tilden? Rad!**

1. No penalty to melt from the heat waiting for Maureen Connolly to win ten slams. If she had not been injured and retired so young she surely would have won a tenth. Nine is still the record for a 19 year old.  
2. As to Bill Tilden [see below], she couldn't have melted him in tennis as she was about 20 years too late. Nor could she melt his heart as he was famously gay. [Mo: US, 1949-54; #1; 9 (A, 2F, 3W, 3U); 1st woman to win all 4 in same year [1953]], 3 d (A, 2F)]

### **No Connors gags, Ron, no con.**

Famous Australian runner Ron Clarke was also a good tennis player. Here he is assured that a proposed charity match with Jimmy Connors will have no pranks or deception. [JC: US, 1970-96; #1; 8 (A, 2W, 5U) + 2d (W, U), 109 ATP titles (record), T, DC]

### **No evil repo o' Cooper—live on!**

Ashley Cooper's reputation can't be 'repossessed'. A rare #1 in both singles and doubles, a feat only achieved by 8 men (Budge, Rosewall(?), Riggs, Trabert, Newcombe, McEnroe, Edberg) and 8 women (Moody, Court, King, Navratilova, Hingis, Venus and Serena Williams, Clijsters). All 15 profiled herein.

[AC, Australia, 1953-62; #1, d#1; 4 slams (2A, W, U), 4 d (A, 2F, W), DC]

#### **1. Yo, bat so, Costa. Boy!**

#### **2. Revel, Costa, man on a mat so clever.**

1. Albert really hit the ball well. 2. He also excelled on indoor carpet surface courts.

[Spain, 1993-2006; #6; W 2002, the last palindromic year in our lifetimes; DC]

### **A ham, I, Jim? Aha!**

Serious as a player, Jim Courier is a ham as on-court interviewer. [US, 1988-2000; #1; 2 A, 2 F; 2 DC]

[D]

### **Del Potro motto: 'Be not stone bottom or top-led.'**

'Don't be dead last or worship the guys at the top too much. Find your own way to success,' says Jean Martin Del Potro. [extension of a reversal in part 2]

### **Guru, an 'I, me', De Minaur? Ug!**

Alex is modest, not an egotistical 'guru'! [see part 3]

### **On, Dimitrov! Or timid? No!**

Grigor Dimitrov seems totally devoid of faintheartedness. [Bulgaria, 2006-...; #3; T]

#### **1. Novak saw a loco law—ask Avon!**

#### **2. 'Pa Roger stir oft new, Novak, cull luck.' Avon went for its re-go rap.**

#### **3. Nole v. Art I travel on?**

1. Anil's grand-godson Avon is a Djokovic fan and disagrees with the crazy 2020 US Open disqualification.

2. Avon further asks for Djokovic frequently to disturb Federer, twice father of twins (or 'Father' of tennis).

3. Novak Djokovic prefers tennis to Art and travels solely in the direction of tennis art. [see part 3]

[E]

#### **1. Dig reb deal a la Edberg ID.**

#### **2. He tops an orb as Rog reb deal a la Edberg, or 'SABR' on a spot, eh?**

1. Stefan Edberg was a rebel only in the sense of being an outstanding tennis star, and of rebelling against boredom to become Federer's coach. 2. He helped Federer return to the top, e.g., by teaching him the 'SABR' trick, 'Sneak Attack By Roger'. [See Federer in 3.]

[SE, Sweden, 1982-96; #1, d#1; 6 slams (2A, 2W, 2U), 3d (2A, U); 3 T (1+2d); 4 DC]

### **No, Syd, Emerson is a cat at a casino's remedy, son.**

Bit cryptic but seems to say Roy Emerson was a good bet to gamble on. Syd is you, a fictional reader, not a son of one the authors. Bet you didn't know you were fictional. [see part 3]

#### **1. It's Errani! (In arrest, I.)**

#### **2. Spot Sara Errani in arrear as tops.**

1. I find her play arresting. 2. Having fallen from the top, she is 'owed' a return after her doping suspension.

[Italy, 2002-...; #5, long d#1; 5 d slams (2A, F, W, U); 3 FC]

### **An elder Evert revered Lena.**

Tennis 'Elder' Chrissy Evert had great respect for Lena Rice.

[CE, US, 1972-89; #1, d#13; 18 (2A, 7F, 3W, 6U), record 34 slam finals; 3d (2F, W), 4 T, 8 FC (record)]

[LR, Irish, 1889-90; W; invented overhead smash]

[F]

#### **1. Golden, I, Federer! A rare, redefined log.**

#### **2. Re-redefine 'men', I, Federer.**

1. Roger rewrote the tennis log or record book. [see part 3; + see Edberg above]

2. He also rewrites the notion of manhood, not as a macho toughie but as a socially aware gentleman.

### **Training of Fognini > Art!**

Fabio's training is the secret of his tennis—Art to behold. [Italy, 2004-... #9; d A] (+ see Goffin below)

### **Now re-enrol ya, Taylor, 'ne'er won'.**

Taylor Fritz hopes to rewrite his slam record, having won none yet. [US, 2015-...; #24]

[G]

### **Re pot (sativa) v. a Vitas toper?**

We rudely ask whether Vitas Gerulaitis was a *Cannabis sativa* smoker or a heavy drinker. If either, they didn't affect his marvelous game. [US, 1971-86; #3; A; d W]

#### **1. Tiny? Gibson? No, 's big, y' nit!**

#### **2. Gibson: 'I blame dem albinos big!'**

1. Althea Gibson was indeed big, the Jackie Robinson of tennis. [expansion of a reversal from part 2, cf.]

2. A bit of understandable reverse racism, encountered not only in tennis but also in her parallel career as a pro golfer, a rare combination reinforcing her reputation as a super athlete.

### **In? If Fognini in, in Goffin, I.**

David Goffin assumes that if Fognini (cf above) is 'in' with a chance so is he. [Belgium, 2009-...; #7]

#### **1. Are no women novel? Evonne, Mo won era!**

#### **2. sun, Evonne, mown Eden (no Venus!)**

1. Evonne Goolagong Cawley and Maureen 'Little Mo' Connolly were both very novel in similar and different ways, and both dominated their eras.

2. This is a tennis lover's old memories of Wimbledon, the manicured grass paradise (mown Eden) and 19 yo Evonne Goolagong beating Billie-Jean King then Margaret Court to win the ladies singles title in 1971. Jeff prefers the elegance of Evonne to the power and grunt of modern players as typified by Venus Williams. Anil likes them equally, except for the unpleasant grunts. [see all four bios earlier]

#### **1. Lair: easel A-Z nog, O Gonzales' aerial!**

#### **2. Damsel A-Z? 'No go!' > Gonzales mad.**

These two PDs are difficult and inelegant but included because Pancho is such an important player and early favourite of both authors. 1. Pancho's antenna homed on the full A-Z palette of his noggin's tennis know-how and power. 2. Pancho was a ladies' man, with an A-Z phone book. When one of them rebuffed him it made him angry. Or does this mean he was mad to expect every one of them to succumb?

[US, 1949-74; #1 eight yrs. (record); 2U + 15 pre-Open pro majors; 2d (F, W)]

### **'Gulliksons got togs, no skill. Ug!'**

'Twins Tim and Tom had fancy clothes, but not the skills to match.' This critic's view of the Gullikson twins is a bit harsh as both got to #15 in the world and #3 or 4 in doubles. Like the Bryan twins, one (Tim) was right-handed, the other left-handed. Both were also, after retirement, coaches for top players.

[US; Tim 1977-88; #15, d#3 / Tom 1976-87, #15, d#4; mixed d U]

[H]

### **Hey! Repel (aha!) no Miss Simona Halep. (er, yeh!)**

She's hard to beat off—or beat! [see 3]

### **'Tim, also slam it!'**

His coach is advising Tim Henman not just to go for placement but apply more brawn. Might also apply to Tim Mayotte or Tim Gullikson (see above).

[Henman, UK, 1992-2007; #4] / [Mayotte, US, 1981-92; #7—see 3]

/100

### **Spot sign I hit it, I, Hingis—tops!**

The sign or proof is Martina Hingis's winning record. [see 3 and Navratilova below]

### **Did well, Lew did!**

Lew Hoad surely did very well, another great from the era dominated by Australians.  
[Australian, 1950-72; #1; 4 (A, F, 2W) + 2pro; 8d (3A, F, 3W, U); mixed F; 4 DC]

[I]

### **Siren? Si, Isner is.**

John Isner is not a mermaid but a warning sounder. His serve is arguably best ever. [US, 2007-...; #8; HC]

### **'No it!' A Goran is in a rogation:**

#### **'Sin net!' tad Ivanisevic, 'I've sin, avid at tennis.'**

Goran as a youngster was already praying for forgiveness for his sin of ODing on tennis. (2 PD sentence)  
[Croatia, 1988-2004; #2; W; DC, HC, Grand Slam Cup 1998; now coaching Nole Djokovic (cf.)]

[J]

### **Th' girl aloof, Ons is no fool alright.**

Ons Jabeur isn't stupid, above worrying about shocking Muslims as a partly uncovered Arab woman. [see 3]

[K]

### **Set, a: M. Erakovic, Ivo K. are mates.**

Marina Erakovic and Ivo Karlovic are both Croatia-born so form a 'set', but she's now NZ based. Not sure they're mates but surely have met and talked Croatian. They were never doubles partners.  
[IK: 2000-...; #14; DC] [For ME see part 3.]

#### **1. Now a 'IFO Sofia' won.**

#### **2. 'Meet serial fret, Sofia. I foster flair, esteem.'**

1. Kenin, an Identified Flying Object, has won the Australian Open.
2. Confront your worries, Kenin's new coach says, and encourages flair and respect for tennis. [see part 3]

#### **1. Reb, re-known, won! Kerber**

#### **2. 'O Kerber, often go jog net for Eb re KO!'**

1. Sounds like a successful and rebellious comeback from a slump for Angelique Kerber.
2. Your biggest fan, Ebenezer Scourge, wants you to go to the net often to KO your opponents for him.  
[Germany, 2003-...; #1; 3 (A,W,U)]

#### **1. Or easy eke, Keys. 'Aero!'**

#### **2. 'No? Si? Damn it, I hit in, Madison!'**

1. Many of Madison's win seem so easy we could say 'she flew'.
2. Madison Keys' doubles partner is struggling with her calls here. [see part 2]

### **'Tis banner, a Karen nabs it!**

Karen Khachanov carries the flag for Russia (along with Medvedev and Rublev, cf). [2013-...; #8]

### **'He'd assign, I kill, I, King.' (Is sad, eh?)**

Maybe Billy Jean King didn't like 'killing', but that was her job when the director assigned her a match. Did doing it make her sad? [see part 3]

### **Kramer, revel, call a clever remark.**

Jack Kramer liked friendly on-court banter, whether playing friendly or pro matches. [see part 3]

### **Net re UK: non-Kuerten.**

Gustavo Kuerten won slams, but not Wimbledon, nor any other UK titles. [Brazil, 1995-08; #1; 3F]

### **On den o' DNA? (Basic, I.) Petra's is art epic. Is abandoned? No!**

I say good genes is a basic beginning for Petra Kvitova's epic tennis art. And Petra didn't abandon tennis after her crippling knife attack. Praise the God or Goddess of Tennis! [expanded from part 3, cf]

[L]

#### **1. Tell Lacoste, 'Gone, no get, so call Let!'**

## 2. 'No net!' So-call Lacoste, non?

1. advice to Rene from the sideline: 'Since you missed it, try to get it called a net serve.'

2. Rene's answer to that silly sideline remark? Or is it saying he usually got the ball over the net. 'Non' is 'not' in Lacoste's language. [France, 1922-32; #1; 7 (3F, 2W, 2U); d3 (2F, W); DC] (+ Borotra, Cochet)

## Revalue 'I'd adieu Laver.'

Never count Rod out!, they said in 1968, late in his career but the year before his unprecedented second Grand Slam, winning all four slams in second year of the Open era where amateurs and pros could both enter. His first Grand Slam was in 1962, his final year as an amateur before turning pro. During those five years of ineligibility for amateur slams he won 8 pro equivalents for 19 slams. (compare Rosewall's 23)

[Australia, 1956-79; #1; 11 (3A, 2F, 4W, 2U) + 8 pro (1F, 4W, 3U); 6d (4A, F, W), 3 mixed (F, 2W); 5 DC]

## Did ya hold 'n eland DNA, Lendl? Oh ay, did!

### No wild 'n elan in a Lendl. 'I won.'

1. Ivan is swift and silent, reminding us of an eland! He agrees. Metaphor or DNA taken as a booster drug?

2. He usually won, but without craziness or flair (no exclamation mark!). He's also had a very successful coaching career for Murray and A. Zverev. [Czech, US, 1978-94; #1; 8 (2A, 3F, 3U); DC]

## Anil deified Li Na.

True, and not just because they are 'name mates'. Na was the first slam winner from China and massively increased interest in tennis in China. [China, 1999-2014; #2; 2 (A, F)]

## No exile; fan, amaze—poll Lopez a man, a Felix eon.

Feliciano (Felix) Lopez is an 'in' player who fans amazement in both singles and doubles. Poll Felix as a real man and star of an era. [Spain, 1997-...; #12, d#9; dW, 5 DC]

[M]

## Tap DNA 'n' ho—John and Pat!

The McEnroe parents obviously had good tennis genes. This can also be applied to John Newcombe and Pat Cash who, though not blood kin, were good mates and both had good tennis genes. Both Johns achieved the rare distinction of reaching #1 in both singles and doubles. (See Cooper for a list of both #1 holders.)

• John McEnroe [US, 1976-94 (d -2006); #1, d#1; 7 (3W, 4U), 3T; d 9 (5W, 4U), 7 dT, mixed W; 5DC]

• Patrick McEnroe [US, 1983-98; #28, d#3; dW, dT, jr. dF]

• John Newcombe [Australia, 1960-81; #1, d#1; 3 jr. A, 7 (2A, 3W, 2U), 17d (5A, 3F, 6W, 3U), 2 mixed (A, U), 5DC] His was also the rare feat of winning AO as both junior and senior, same as Chris O'Neil (see 3).

• Pat Cash [Australia, 1982-97; #4, d#6; W; 2DC]

## Hana v. \_\_\_? OK, I'd name Mandlikova! Nah?

Like most players, Hana Mandlikova could be her own worst enemy.

[Czech, Australia, 1978-90; #3 (Jr. #1); 3 (2A, F, U), T, d U; 4 FC (Czech)]

## 'No! Medvedev! Demon!'

Some players' reaction when facing Daniil Medvedev. [see part 3]

## Li, aver plea: 'Go Gael, prevail!'

asking [Li Na](#) [see above] to support the fan appeal for [Gael Monfils](#) to win [France, 2004-...; #6]

## O dig Moya? Say 'OMG!' I do.

Fan, asked their opinion of [Carlos Moya](#), replies very affirmatively. [see 3]

[N]

1. Is rat's, a Rafael? Gnat? O not! Angle a far A star? Si!

2. Rafa is an igniting in Asia far.

3. Re-go rotor, e.g., Nadal danger o'/to Roger.

1. Nadal is no midge[t], nor manipulated by some rat!

2. He always fires up the crowds when he plays in China or Japan.

3. Rafael and Federer rotated wins. [see both in part 3]

**1. O he's at sane mage game, Nastase—ho!**

**2. Yell 'O veil I Ilie volley.'**

**3. Romania foe (volatile!) sat, sane. Ilie Nastase lit a love, 'O fain amor!'**

1. Ilie Nastase played like a sober magician. 2. He faked out his opponents with veiled volleys.

3. Ilie was bipolar (volatile), like this disconnected two-message PD. Altho sane and a major foe of players he was famously free and easy with his love, further making him a foe of others.

[Romania, 1966-85; #1; 2 (F, U), 4T; 3d (F, W, U), 2 mixed W] (+ see Santana)

**an I-trample-'Help!'-Martina**

Both famous Martinas, Navratilova and Hingis, were merciless to their foes. [see both in part 3]

**Ha on foe of Noah!**

The trite Ark joke backfired on Yannick Noah's foes. [France, 1977-96; #3; F, dF; now French DC captain]

[O]

**'Decide, Naomi Osaka.' So I moaned, 'Iced.'**

After winning the 2020 US Open final, the physio asked Naomi how she wanted her tired legs treated.

[P]

**'To trek rapid I Parker tot.'**

Not. Frank's speed did not tot up his whole talent. [US, 1930-71; #1; 4 (2F, 2U); d3 (F, W, U); 2DC]

**Won KO, older Fred. Look now.**

Fred Perry is now best known as the last British male Wimbledon winner (1936) until Andy Murray in 2013. 'Older' in history, not in age. This could also apply to Fred Stolle [see below].

[Perry, UK, 1929-56; #1; 8 (A, F, 3W, 3U) + 2 pro (U); d 2 (A, F); mixed (F, 2W, U); 4 DC]

**1. No yaks, or 0 dope, Podoroska yon.**

**2. Aid a noted 'ace', date-set a decade to Nadia!**

1. Nadia used neither dope nor Tibetan cattle to aid her. I don't think anyone suspected her of cheating with yak power, but doping is hinted at merely by her outstanding, surprising performance.

2. Give Podoroska some publicity, dedicate the 2020s to her! [see part 3]

[Q]

**Straining, off on a flu fret, Sam Q = masterful fan of Fognini arts.**

Sam Querrey hopes it's just a touch of flu, not covid. Despite it, and tho he's a master of the power game, he admires the artistry of Italian player Fabio Fognini. [Sam: US, 2006-...; #11] [Fabio: see Goffin above]

[R]

**Tap top spot, Pat.**

Pat Rafter reached #1. For two other Pat's (Cash, McEnroe) who didn't quite reach #1, see McEnroe.

[PR, Australia, 1991-2002; #1; 2 U, d A, DC]

**Eh? Cornet x ten = Roche!**

**Eh, Cory? Not Tony Roche!**

Alize Cornet is good [see part 3] but with a tenth of the accomplishments of Tony Roche. Even more so Cory Parr, who disappointed after an outstanding record in college tennis at Wake Forest, Anil's Alma Mater.

[Roche, Australia, 1963-79; #2, d#1; F; d 13 (5A, 2F, 5W, U), mixed 2 (A, W), 4DC; even more outstanding as perhaps best coach ever (four #1s: Lendl, Rafter, Federer, Hewitt, and former World No. 4 Jelena Dokic)

[Dokic: Australia, 1998-2014; #4; HC] / [Parr: US, 2009-...; d#272] / For the others see earlier.

**1. Roddick, nay? A Yank 'Cid d'or'!**

**2. 'Na! Nary DNA!' Andy R. (Anan?)**

1. Roddick was a US golden hero. 2. He claims the opposite of that other great Andy, Murray [See part 2], saying he developed his skill by hard work. 'Anan?' means do you fail to understand this?

[US, 2000-12, -15 d; #1; W; DC]

**1. 'Now I do recall awe.' So Rosewall: 'Ace Rod, I won!'**

## 2. Call a 'We sort it,' Rosewall a/c.

1. Ken Rosewall has awesome memories of games past beating RodLaver [see above].
2. Ken could usually sort out a winning strategy. Counting pre-Open era pro equivalents, KR won more singles slams (23), and counting doubles and mixed more total slams (33), than any male past or present, and more total than anyone but Court (64!) and Serena (39). This is usually overlooked when talking about slam records. They talk about Serena needing one more slam to equal Court's singles record, but never confront Federer or Nadal to better Rosewall's 23. He was also the only player to win a major in three decades, and the only one ever to hold slam titles on all three surfaces at once. He's well respected but deserves more, to be a part of any GOAT discussions.  
[Australia, 1956-80; #1, d#1?; 8 (4A, 2F, 2U), +15 pros (2U, 5W, 8F); d 9 (3F, 2W, 2U), mixed U; 4 DC]

## 1. Novel bura, Rublev. On!

### 2. Now, men, Rublev arts: 'Travel, burn 'em!' (Won!)

1. Andrey Rublev is a new bura [blizzard from the north] from Russia, a force to reckon with.
2. He has the basic 'arts' of a tennis hit-man! [see Erakovic in 3]

[S]

## In it, a baseline stone, not senile, Sabatini!

Gabriela Sabatini was a rock, immovable on the baseline. Even when older, she was always 'in it' to win!  
[Argentina, 1985-96; #3, d#3; U, 2T, dW]

## Drawn it, Safina? Ran I fast inward!

Dinara Safina didn't hold back or draw things out, moving fast in any direction. [see 3]

## 1. Won if a Safin—ow!

### 2. Drawn it, Safin? A ran I fast inward!

1. Marat Safin usually won—and pained his opponents.
2. He stole the second PD from his sister! After retiring he continued his thieving ways by becoming a politician. [Russia, 1997-2009; #1; 2 (A,U); 2DC]

## 1. A tsar PM, a Sampras. Ta!

### 2. Part not so banal, Pistol Pete plots: 'I plan a Boston trap.'

Pete Sampras was dictator and 'prime minister' of tennis in the 90s. Thanks for the show!

2. This is just before his win over John McEnroe (cf) in the seniors Champions Cup final in Boston 2009, a match a bit banal compared to the live Tour, but not too much, still semi-dignified stuff.  
[US, 1988-2002; #1; 14 (2A, 7W, 5U), 5T; 2DC]

## 1. Man at nastier a fare, it: Santana, M.

### 2. Wo! We sat, Santana ran at Nastase, wow!

### 3. 'Model fires aces at Santana.' 'Man at Nastase case.' (Rifle, Dom?)

1. Manuel the Man' Santana was more unkind to opponents than most players.
2. A spectator relates an incident in a fiery match between Santana and Ilie Nastase.
3. Two headlines, plus a Dom(inic) Thiem thought. Those English tabloids can't leave the old tennis heart-throbs alone. Dom wonders if he'll need a gun not a racquet to beat those old publicity magnets.  
[Santana: Spain, 1956-77; #1; 4 (2F, W, U); dF; O (demo)] / [Nastase and Thiem - see 4.]

## 'Sax I esteem.' Meet Seixas.

This cool character, Vic Seixas, enjoys saxophone music and is still alive at 97! Are these facts related?  
[US, 1940-70; #3; 2 (W, U); 5d (1A, 2F, 2U), 8 mixed (F, 4W, 3U); DC]

## O Diego, lone super-rep, use no loge! (I do.)

An appeal to Diego Schwartzman from a fan in a courtside box: 'You are the only short-player 'super-rep', so keep playing, don't become a spectator like me! [Argentina, 2010-...; #8]

## Age Monica Seles a/c in Omega.

The ultimate tennis player until stabbed by a frenzied fan of Graf in Germany. [see part 1]

## 'OK!' Sam rahs Astra's arts, a Sharma's KO.

Davis Cup teammate Samantha Stosur cheers Astra Sharma's skill, especially her knock-out forehand.

[Sharma: 2011-...; #85; reached SF at 2020 A mixed]

[Stosur: Australia, 1999-...; #4, d #1; U; d3 (A, F, U), mixed 3 (A, 2W), d 2T]

### **Demon Sinner is a siren 'n is no Med.**

Jannik Sinner is a person of great energy and skill (demon: Chambers Dict.). He sounds a warning but is no Medvedev (yet). Alternatively, he is no Medic for his opponent's ills. [see part 3]

### **'Stun' Smith's a motor, bro, to mash Tim's nuts.**

Stan Smith was a stunner and played like a machine who could crush the 'balls' of many good players like Tim Mayotte (cf), figuratively and I bet occasionally literally. [see 2 with Wawrinka]

### **Stolle, do me no lone model—lots!**

We desire plenty of tips from and examples of Fred Stolle's impressive style, not just one.

[Australia, 1958-72; #2, d#1; 2 (F, U), 10 d (3A, 2F, 2W, 3U); mixed 7 (2A, 3W, 2U)]

### **Tennis set won now Tess in net.**

We cite Tess Sugnaux, a good net player but lowly ranked, to utilise this nice old PD. [Swiss, 2012-...; #413]

#### **1. On a nil eon, O Elina? No!**

##### **2a. Deft Elina ran? 'I let Fed.'**

##### **2b. 'Elina to net is at a site not anile!'**

1. Instead it's been a very full eon for Elina Svitolina. [Ukraine, 2010-...; #3; T]

2a. Roger Federer's fictional mixed partner Svitolina let him do all the running, while she remained ably in backcourt. 2b. He replied that she's not too old to run to the net herself!

#### **1. Agitate, get at Iga.**

#### **2. Aging is a sign, Iga.**

1. Advice to Iga Swiatek opponents: to upset her, upset her.

2. She surely shows no sign of aging yet at 19. But later, watch out for it. [see part 3]

[T]

#### **1. Cynic in 'I' mode, Dominic: 'I = NYC!'**

#### **2. Basic in 'I'm odd.' Dominic is a B+.**

#### **3. Dominic named a mix I made 'Mancini Mod'.**

1. Dominic Thiem cynically feels he 'owns' or 'is' New York now that he's won the USOpen. It could get worse if he later becomes #1, as many expect. (This insult is the PD's presumption. The authors disagree!)

2. B+ means not yet A—in the big three. Of the top four he's the odd man out.

3. Thiem appreciated his compilation of mod music I call Henry Mancini type music. Like many tennis players he used music to relax or inspire him. [Austria, 2011-...; #3; U]

### **Tiafoe dived in snide video 'fait'.**

Fake news! Doctored video of Frances Tiafoe throwing a match in France. [see part 3]

### **'Set!' (A Tig agitates.)**

Patricia Maria Tig agitates her foes when she wins a set. [Romania, 2009-...; #58]

#### **1. 'Tennis, an owned!' lit Tilden. Won as in net!**

#### **2. Tilden nabs banned lit.**

1. Bill Tilden, but rarely his ball, was in the tennis 'net', meaning tennis 'owned' him—and he owned tennis in his day. (Like Thiem #1 above?) 2. He was gay (jailed twice for sexual offences involving young boys, and banned from various events and venues) and had a penchant for gay literature.

[US, 1912-46; #1; 10 (3W, 7U) + 3 pro (W, 2U); d 6 (W, 5U), mixed 5 (F, 4U); 7 DC (record)]

[U]

### **Ya, Yasutaka, aka t' us a 'Yay!'**

Yes we cheer Yasutaka Uchiyama, the #3 ranked Japanese male. [2011-...; #78; 5 ATP titles]

### **Nab, run, I win! – Urban**

Faye Urban in 1969 was the last Canadian to win the Canada Open (Roger's Cup) before Bianca Andreescu. Faye was known as 'Canada's First Lady of Tennis' in 1950s/60s. She later captained Canada's FC team.

[FU, no dates or rank found] / [BA, Canada, 2017-...; #4; U—first ever Canadian slam winner]

[V]

### **One Venus = sun, even! O?**

Bigger than a planet, Michael Venus? A wild exaggeration of course but a top doubles specialist. Even more applicable to Venus Williams (cf). [US, New Zealand, 2006-...; d#8; d W]

### **'Spit saliva!' Vilas tips.**

Guillermo Vilas recommends this as a substitute for smashing racquets when self-disgusted.

[Argentina, 1968-92; #2; 4 (2A, F, 2U), T]

### **At a Doc: 'Sad re Verdasco data.'**

Fernando got a scary diagnosis. Possibly true, probably fiction. [Spain, 1999-...; #7, d#8; dT; 3DC, HC]

### **Tie Volkov, OK? Love it!**

Aspiring Russian players would love to emulate Alexander Volkov's achievements. Even moreso to emulate another Russian Alexander Volkov, champion mixed martial artist. [tennis A.V.: Russia, 1988-98; #14]

[W]

### **I made Wade 'Okay, ya KOed!' Awed am I.**

When someone soundly beat Virginia Wade they were usually amazed at themselves.

[UK, 1968-86; #2, d#1; 3 (A,W, U), T; 4d (A, F, 2U)]

### **O no, gnat stang! Gnat? Stan? Go 'No!'**

No! Not midge[t]s, Stan Wawrinka or Stan Smith, but they sting or stang like one. [see 2 for both]

### **Stamina man, I, Mats.**

Mats Wilander had great endurance, yes, but that isn't what made him great. No marathoner (except Wozniacki! cf) has ever been a tennis star. [Sweden, 1980-96; #1; 7 (3A, 3F, U), d W; 3 DC]

#### **1. Wow? O, Serena can—ere sow ow!**

#### **2. An ere sis, I, Serena.**

#### **3. Sun ever on or in 'Iron ore' Venus.**

1. Serena Williams wows her opponents before being a pain in the end!

2. Venus Williams came first birth-wise but Serena came before her most of their parallel careers.

3. Venus is tough as iron, and you can see the light of passion shining on (and in) her when she plays.

[For both, see part 3]

[X]

### **'De luxe car' at a race Xu led.**

Xu Yifan has earned enuf easily to afford a luxury car. But this PD is meant metaphorically, as the classy 'Xu car' (Yifan) leads the race as China's top doubles player. Hsieh Su-Wei is d#1 but is from Taiwan.

[China, 2014-...; d#7; d Elite Trophy]

[Y]

### **A gazy, sure pro. Fete for Peru's Yzaga!**

Jaime Yzaga was a thoughtful, confident player. On retiring, he served as Peru's Davis Cup captain and is celebrated in his country. [Peru, 1985-97; #18]

### **Ya nay a Dayana Y.?**

Nay! We surely don't nay Dayana Yastremska, a powerful, rising future superstar! [Ukraine, 2015-...; #21]

### **Revere my Ymer ever!**

This can apply to either of the Swedish Ymer brothers, Mikael [2015-..., #60] or Elias [2014-..., #105].

[Z]

1. **'OK, no Zverev zonk! 'O?'**

2. **'Ye, no more, Zverev, zero money!'**

1. the plea of Sascha (Alexander Zverev)'s opponents, and his reply

2. Imagining one of Sascha's sponsors is not happy [Germany, 2013-...; #3; T]