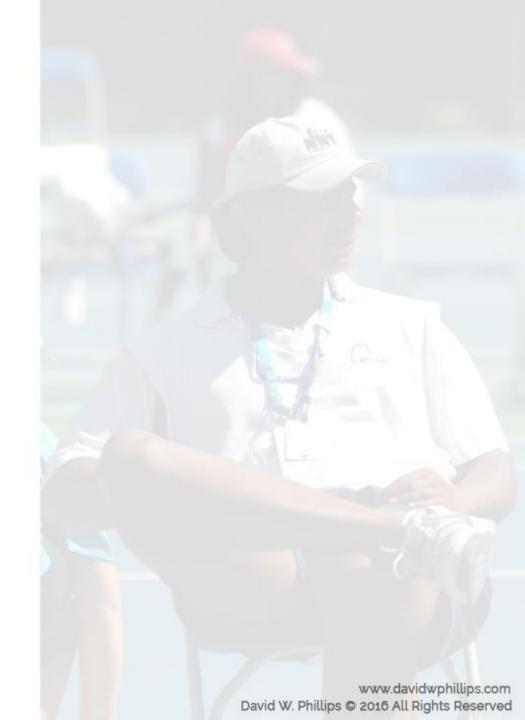
CENTERING THE PARENT

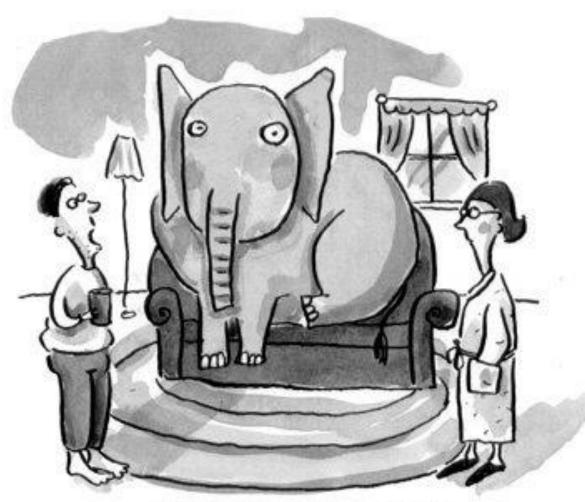
Effective Partners in Player Development





"I'm right there in the room, and no one even acknowledges me."





What elephant?

Tomassi



Where is the Parent in Coaching Education?

It's impossible to deny the centrality of parents in the development of tennis players, whether recreational or professional. From taxi driver to cheerleader, planning aficionado to investor, parents form the bedrock of their children's success. However, they remain an "absent present" in coaching certification and player development models. Ever present yet often excluded, they are the ultimate stakeholders in the production of more and better competitors.

So how do we currently attend to their multiple roles?

There certainly is no absence of "advice" for the "parent as team member" role. TPA Course Facilitator of the Year Wayne Elderton has countless articles that address the role of parents and the value of a team approach to development (www.acecoach.com). Judy Murray's www.britishtennisparents.com is a comprehensive resource from the perspective of "a professional tennis mother". Most recently, the TPA Parent Seminar hosted a panel of national coaches and TC performance experts who shared valuable insights and sport science information.

However, attention to and inclusion of the role of "parent as primary coach" is less obvious. We most certainly cannot deny their existence, the most obvious example being the "father as coach of his professional daughter". From the idealized Jimmy and Chris Evert, to the domineering Jim and Mary Pierce, to the celebrated Williams Sisters, each of these parents, regardless of method, produced results that most parents (and their "children come athletes") seek. Their journeys provide us with anecdotes and examples - though no clear system approach is obvious.

In Canadian coaching certification, this specific role is not yet fully addressed in curriculum and in the player development model. The time has come for us to clearly define a path for your development that includes features such as family and child psychology, financial planning and sport nutrition at home. Perhaps it is also time to rethink our development models to include your participation. I welcome your experiences and suggestions as together we move this initiative forward.

However, regardless of which role you choose as an involved parent, the advice of Dan Gould, in Development of Psychological Talent in US Olympic Champions, best sums up the role of parents: "The importance of ...teach(ing) values such as hard work, optimism and a 'can do' attitude seem paramount...emphasize the attitude, 'If you are going to do it, do it right'...model a hard work ethic, hold high (but reasonable) expectations and standards...and emphasize a 'stick to it and follow through on commitments' attitude."

Excellence is all about attitude.

Attitude is all about environment.

Parents influence the environment.

Speaking Points

Dan Gould, an eminent North American sports psychologist, conducted some research on the development of US Olympic champions. In it he stated

(Development of Psychological Talent in US Olympic Champions', 2002):

Speaking Points

The importance of not pressurising athletes to win early in their careers, but to teach values such as hard work, optimism and a 'can do' attitude seem paramount.

He concluded that:

At the same time, parents emphasized the attitude, 'If you are going to do it, do it right.' They also modeled a hard work ethic, held high (but reasonable) expectations and standards for their child, and emphasized a 'stick to it and follow through on commitments' attitude.

ITE RESEARCH RESOURCES



ITF Tennis Parent Coaching Resources

Being a better tennis parent

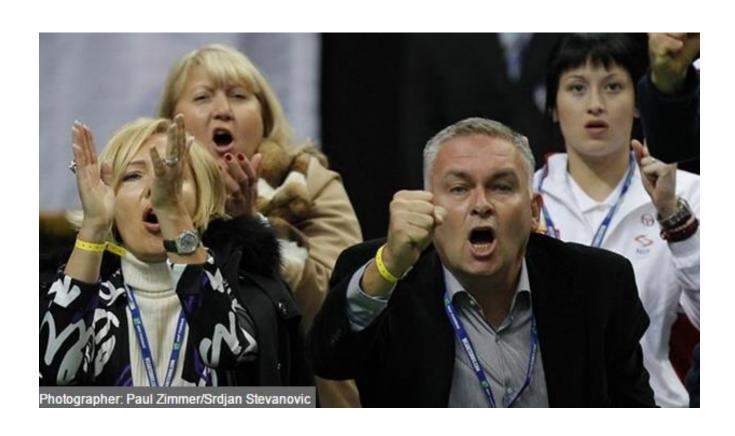
A parents guide to Tennis 10s

Parents understanding their tennis player child

Dealing with bad line call

Parents' code of ethics

Tennis@iCoach



Parental involvement in Tennis

The key factor unenhanced your child's repining successful parental involvement: Strive to understand and tennis journey.

APPROACHES TO PARENT EDUCATION





Parent Education is a critical facet of tennis coaching. It is rare to have a good player in your program who doesn't come with an involved parent. Behind every top player is a dedicated parent.

Parents Guides to Helping Their Children

Attitudes of Highly Effective Tennis Parents

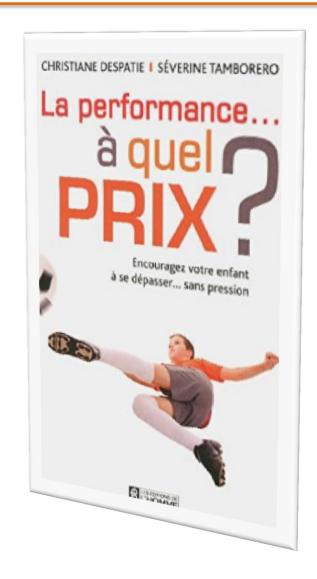
Séverine Tamborero (http://sev-i.com/en/)

La performance à quel prix?

"Three tennis sessions per week, is it too much? Should we force our daughter to continue her piano lessons even if it does not feel like it? Is my son ready to start competitions? How to know if his coach or teacher is competent? "When it's time to accompany her child in a sporting or artistic activity, the absence of benchmarks sometimes leads to deplorable excesses: Live propelled musicians to emerge from childhood, professional young athletes "creak" in 16 years ... This book offers parents a tool box filled with simple and practical tips for avoiding these pitfalls, and promoting both the development of their child and a healthy family life. With their combined expertise of coach and athlete's parent, the authors provide clear answers to frequently asked questions while demonstrating conclusively that it is in the pleasure that children learn best to excel."

La performance... à quel prix ? de Christiane Despatie et Séverine Tamborero

Séverine Tamborero (http://sev-i.com/en/)





Frank Giampaolo (http://thetennisparentsbible.com/)

Elite Parent Job Description Tennis Parent Communication Tennis Practice

Purchase The ORIGINAL Tennis Parent's Bible

The Tennis Parent's Bible offers REAL SOLUTIONS. This standout organizational manual is designed to assist parents and coaches through the mental and emotional complexities of raising a world class young adult through the game of tennis. read more



Changing the Game Project



Changing the Game Project

The mission of the Changing the Game Project is to ensure that we return youth sports to our children, and put the 'play' back in 'play ball.' We want to provide the most influential adults in our children's lives - their parents and coaches – with the information and resources they need to make sports a healthy, positive, and rewarding experience for their children, and their whole family. Parenting and coaching young athletes is an art, not a science, and the information you find here can help you navigate the maze of youth sports, and put a smile on your young athlete's face, whether he or she is 6 or 16 years old.

What a discussion with parents could look like...



Create a Winning Team

- Building a Team
 - Why a team approach?
 - Carefully and consciously choose team members

Create a Winning Team

- Managing your Team
 - Open communication
 - Finding the right balance
 - Respect each other's role
 - Support each other's role
 - Follow through on your accountabilities

Create a Winning Team

- Reflecting on the Team
 - How and when to reflect on the team's success?
 - Maintaining perspective
 - When is it time to redefine the relationships? Team goals? Add or change team members?
 - What process will respect all team members?

Balancing childhood

- Finding Balance: Rhetorical phrase?
 - "Sacrifice" versus "paying the price"
 - A cost benefit analysis of "childhood"
 - Romanticizing "childhood"

Balancing childhood

- Determining What's Most Important
 - Who are the stakeholders?
 - What are they willing to give up?
 - Who knows best? Whose decision is it?
 - How autonomous is your child?

Balancing childhood

- When things go wrong?
 - Common warning signs
 - "Pushing hard" versus "throwing good money after bad"

How much should my child practice?

This is a really difficult question and the honest answer is "it depends". The answer we would give would vary depending on:

- The age of the child
- The standard of the child
- The mental approach of the child
- The commitment of the child
- The ambition of the child
- How much time, realistically, the child has to practice
- Commitments to family, school and other sports
 Original source: http://www.britishtennisparents.com/MaximisingPotential/HowMuchShouldMyChildPractice/

Athletes in competition: A Team Approach to Individual Competition

- Cooperation versus Competition
 - Too much of a good thing?
 - Playing up?
- Why winning is important
 - 33:33:33 rule
 - Training to win or training to compete ?

Athletes in competition: A Team Approach to Individual Competition

- Competition and the Annual Plan
 - When and where to compete
 - Having a back-up plan
- Pre, Mid and Post Match
 - Constructive versus destructive behaviors
 - Knowing your child
 - Enhancing performance

Athletes in competition: A Team Approach to Individual Competition

- Keeping it in Perspective
 - The drive home
 - Parent first and foremost

