

The coaching debate

TENNIS HAS REMAINED A sport in which athletes must learn during practice and make use of that knowledge during play. As a developmental tool, on-court coaching is appropriate during some stages of junior tennis, college tennis and team events such as Fed Cup and Davis Cup.

However, the elite levels of the game should let tennis remain a physical and intellectual challenge to the individual, which is really the finest element of the sport.

Tim Bauer
Assistant women's tennis coach
Florida State University

AS WE ALL KNOW, COACHING from the stands is rampant and difficult for officials to control. Having the coach on court would be a bonus for both the fans at the venue and those watching on TV.

It's time to break tradition and get tennis back to being the outstanding spectator sport it was in the 1970s and early '80s.

Zeno Pfau Jr.
Richardson, Texas

Change of season

THE PRO TENNIS SEASON OBVIOUSLY needs to be shortened. Every year players withdraw early from the

Two at the top

FINALLY, A U.S. WOMAN AND A U.S. man both end the year at No. 1. I was thrilled to see Lindsay Davenport win her first Grand Slam title at last year's US Open. And it's nice to see that she consistently represents the U.S. in Fed Cup. Now if we can only get the men's No. 1, Pete Sampras, to consistently play Davis Cup for his country.

Caryn Dewuat
Chicago

I WAS SO HAPPY TO SEE LINDSAY Davenport have such a great year. She certainly deserves to be No. 1. If her success is a testament to the quality of the USTA's Player Development Program, then I'm very optimistic about the future of American tennis.

Mark Rodriguez
Miami

If the great thing about tennis is that you have to play it strictly on your own, then why haven't all the other sports caught on to this supposedly great idea?

Tennis needs on-court coaching—a rule change is long overdue. Let's do what is best for the sport and its participants. Let's grow the game.

John Hillebrand
Director, Australian School of Tennis
San Pedro, Calif.

THE GLADIATORIAL ASPECT OF the game is what generates its allure—a tennis player's many hours of preparation are put to the test when he faces off against his opponent alone, not with a coach. Besides the obvious skills, tennis players need to be incredibly strong, both mentally and emotionally—all those intangible assets we collectively label "heart." Being forced to fall back on oneself develops self-reliance and self-confidence.

David Paul
Bloomfield, Conn.

Australian Open—a *Grand Slam* event—because they haven't recovered from the previous season. Jana Novotna won't even consider playing in January anymore, and this year even Pete Sampras—though on the verge of tying Roy Emerson's record of 12 Grand Slam singles wins, one of tennis' most revered records—was too exhausted to start the new season so quickly. Even as a fan, it's hard to stay interested in tennis for 11 straight months.

Colin Thompson
Tacoma, Wash.

Role model

AS A 14-YEAR-OLD JUNIOR player, I think it's great that the USTA has a woman as president. I saw Judy Levering at the USTA National Tennis Center last year during the US Open, and I consider her to be a role model for many young female players who plan on staying involved in the sport for a long time.

Jane Prime
Queens, N.Y.

We encourage readers to express opinions on anything in USTA Magazine, in the USTA, or in the tennis world in general. Send letters to USTA Magazine, 5520 Park Ave., Trumbull, CT 06611; e-mail us at ustamag@aol.com; or fax us at (203) 371-2199.

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MAGAZINE

Celebrating

100
years of
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