

Free epub American colossus big bill tilden and the creation of modern tennis Full PDF

American Colossus Big Bill Tilden American Colossus Match Play and the Spin of the Ball The Art of Lawn Tennis A Terrible Splendor Robert Lindley Murray: the Reluctant U.S. Tennis Champion Grantland Rice and His Heroes The Child Who Walks Alone Congressional Record California Fruits, Flakes, and Nuts The 100 Greatest Days in New York Sports Sporting Gentlemen America Ascendant Routledge Handbook of Tennis The United States Tennis Association How You Played the Game New York Magazine Historical Dictionary of Tennis The New Era of the 1920s New York Magazine Queen of the Court Encyclopedia of the Jazz Age: From the End of World War I to the Great Crash The Art of Lawn Tennis Harvard Beats Yale 29-29 The Reader's Companion to American History The Art of Lawn Tennis Gentlemen's Quarterly The New Encyclopedia of American Scandal Big Bill, 2004 The Art of Lawn Tennis The Pros Boys' Life Big Bill Sports in American Life American Lawn Tennis Singles and Doubles Catalog Winning Ugly(□□□□□□□□□□) Famous Firsts in Tennis

American Colossus

2018-03

babe ruth jack dempsey bobby jones and bill tilden were the legendary quartet of the golden age of sports in the 1920s they transformed their respective athletic disciplines and captured the imagination of a nation the indisputable force behind the emergence of professional tennis as a popular and lucrative sport tilden s on court accomplishments are nothing short of staggering the first american born player to win wimbledon and a seven time winner of the u s singles championship he was the number 1 ranked player for ten straight years a tall flamboyant player with a striking appearance tilden didn t just play he performed with a singular style that separated him from other top athletes tilden was a showman off the court as well he appeared in numerous comedies and dramas on both stage and screen and was a renaissance man who wrote more than two dozen fiction and nonfiction books including several successful tennis instructions books but tilden had a secret one he didn t fully understand himself after he left competitive tennis in the late 1940s he faced a lurid fall from grace when he was arrested after an incident involving an underage boy in his car tilden served seven months in prison and later attempted to explain his questionable behavior to the public only to be ostracized from the tennis circuit despite his glorious career in tennis his final years were much constrained and lived amid considerable public shunning tilden s athletic accomplishments remain as he is arguably the best american player ever american colossus is a thorough account of his life bringing a much needed look back at one of the world s greatest athletes and a person whose story is as relevant as ever

Big Bill Tilden

2011-06-28

a compelling long overdue tribute to america s first tennis star from the renowned sportswriter and author of everybody s all american kirkus reviews when he stepped onto the wimbledon grass in 1920 bill tilden was poised to become the world s greatest tennis star throughout the 1920s he dominated the sport winning championship after championship with his trademark grace power and intelligence he owned the game more completely than babe ruth ruled baseball making his name for more than a decade synonymous with tennis phenomenally intelligent he completed his first book on tennis in the three weeks before his first wimbledon triumph tilden s success came with a dark side this classic biography by legendary sports writer frank deford tells of tilden s dominance which was unlike anything the sport had ever seen and the big man s tragic fall

American Colossus

2018

match play and the spin of the ball is a vintage guide to tennis by william t tilden william tatem tilden ii 1893 1953 commonly known as big bill was an american tennis player who is often hailed as one of the greatest tennis players of all time with simple explanations and helpful diagrams this fantastic guide is highly recommended for both new and experienced players alike and it is not to be missed by collectors of vintage sporting literature contents include our greatest player chapter i the spin of the ball chapter ii grips chapter iii footwork and timing chapter iv attack and defence chapter v singles and doubles chapter vi the all court game chapter vii the value of intensive practice chapter viii youth to the fore etc many vintage books such as this are increasingly scarce and expensive it is with this in mind that we are republishing this volume now in an affordable modern high quality edition complete with a specially commissioned new biography of the author

Match Play and the Spin of the Ball

2011-11-09

tennis is at once an art and a science the game as played by such men as norman e brookes the

late anthony wilding william m johnston and r n williams is art yet like all true art it has its basis in scientific methods that must be learned and learned thoroughly for a foundation before the artistic structure of a great tennis game can be constructed

The Art of Lawn Tennis

2001-06

before federer versus nadal before borg versus mcenroe the greatest tennis match ever played pitted the dominant don budge against the seductively handsome baron gottfried von cramm this deciding 1937 davis cup match played on the hallowed grounds of wimbledon was a battle of titans the world s number one tennis player against the number two america against germany democracy against fascism for five superhuman sets the duo s brilliant shotmaking kept the centre court crowd and the world spellbound but the match s significance extended well beyond the immaculate grass courts of wimbledon against the backdrop of the great depression and the brink of world war ii one man played for the pride of his country while the other played for his life budge the humble hard working american who would soon become the first man to win all four grand slam titles in the same year vied to keep the davis cup out of the hands of the nazi regime on the other side of the net the immensely popular and elegant von cramm fought budge point for point knowing that a loss might precipitate his descent into the living hell being constructed behind barbed wire back home born into an aristocratic family von cramm was admired for his devastating good looks as well as his unparalleled sportsmanship but he harbored a dark secret one that put him under increasing gestapo surveillance and his situation was made even more perilous by his refusal to join the nazi party or defend hitler desperately relying on his athletic achievements and the global spotlight to keep him out of the gestapo s clutches his strategy was to keep traveling and keep winning a davis cup victory would make him the toast of germany a loss might be catastrophic watching the mesmerizingly intense match from the stands was von cramm s mentor and all time tennis superstar bill tilden a consummate showman whose double life would run in ironic counterpoint to that of his german pupil set at a time when sports and politics were inextricably linked a terrible splendor gives readers a courtside seat on that fateful day moving gracefully between the tennis match for the ages and the dramatic events leading germany britain and america into global war a book like no other in its weaving of social significance and athletic spectacle this soul stirring account is ultimately a tribute to the strength of the human spirit

A Terrible Splendor

2009-04-14

robert lindley lin murray a middle distance runner and tennis player and a phi beta kappa chemical engineer at stanford university went east after graduating in 1914 to play tennis he beat the top intercollegiate players won several tournaments and earned a fourth place national ranking murray won the 1916 u s indoor title and joined hooker electrochemical in niagara falls new york reluctant to play in the 1917 and 1918 national championships due to wartime contracts murray was persuaded by hookers president to play and he won them both the latter over bill tilden murray rose through the ranks of hooker to president ceo and chairman of the board and was elected to the international tennis hall of fame a year before retiring leading into murrays exploits is a concise history of tennis when and where the game was introduced to the united states and american tennis through lin murrays brief but brilliant career also included is a review of california tennis and the significant impact of its players during the second decade of the twentieth century the book concludes with short biographies of murrays female and male contemporaries before shorts and skirts replaced flannels and petticoats

Robert Lindley Murray: the Reluctant U.S. Tennis Champion

2011-02-03

with no way for fans to verify their facts the sportswriters of the 1920s enjoyed a near monopoly

on sports news journalist mark inabinett explores the incomparable grantland rice s role in creating the legends that surrounded six sports stars jack dempsey babe ruth bobby jones bill tilden red grange and knute rockne photographs

Grantland Rice and His Heroes

1994

there is an old song that goes look down look down that lonesome road before you travel on facing that lonesome road the adult might travel on often the child can t during her twenty year career as a school social worker anne stilwell worked with two thousand problem children she and her husband professional writer hart stilwell present here twenty one factual accounts of children who suffered rejection in the public schools some of the children in these accounts are unusually bright and some are mentally retarded they are belligerent and destructive or withdrawn they are from broken homes or happy homes from the slums or middle america they are blacks chicanos and anglos there is only one common denominator among these children tragedy every classroom teacher will gain from this sympathetic evaluation of the problems faced by children in the public schools no one who reads this book can remain unaware of major areas that call for deep concern on the part of educators and parents the stilwells have described school children and their problems and at the same time offered telling portraits of the families of which the youngsters are a part in the struggle to see that the problem child has a chance to develop and advance within the limits of his or her ability parents teachers administrators and social workers must work together or all fail when they fail the child must walk alone the authors objective in presenting these cases is to show what has happened and does happen and to encourage others to work for change a prominent educator describes their account as an exceptionally worthwhile teaching document stimulating touching well written and honest while this book was originally written in 1972 the issue of rejection in the public schools is sadly still timely

The Child Who Walks Alone

2014-06-23

a freewheeling catalog of misfits eccentrics creeps criminals and failed dreamers this compendium profiles 45 bizarre personalities who exemplify the golden state s well deserved reputation for nonconformity in the pages gold rush pioneers are revealed as murderous madmen hollywood celebrities are shown to be drug addled sex maniacs early hippies are just 1950s weirdos and even seemingly ordinary californians have a talent for freakish crazy and criminal behavior from frontier lunatic grizzly adams whose head was one massive wound after multiple bear attacks to i love lucy star william frawley a racist misogynist foul mouthed drunk and legendarily awful film director ed wood california fruits flakes and nuts is a side splitting look at the people who made california the strangest place on earth

Congressional Record

1953

pick a sport baseball professional or college football or basketball horse racing boxing or tennis and in every case new york has consistently had front row seats for every major development and many of the most memorable events in sports history from the introduction it s every new york sports fan s dream a chance to analyze debate and rank the top 100 sports events in new york history a list to settle all arguments what would you choose first of all where to start babe ruth hitting the first home run in yankee stadium arthur ashe winning the first u s open muhammad ali versus joe frazier at madison square garden over the years new york has been at the center of seemingly every major sporting event from the integration of baseball to the heyday of boxing and horse racing to the rise of professional sports it all happened in new york the journalist stuart miller a native new yorker and sportswriter guides us through the pivotal events with illuminating analysis and colorful detail based on extensive research this richly illustrated book is filled with vivid and authoritative prose highlights include willie mays

makes the catch in the 1954 world series jimmy connors turns back the clock at the 1991 u s open willis reed rescues the knicks in the 1970 nba finals joe namath and the jets win the 1968 afl championship mookie wilson s slow grounder to first is a mets miracle in the 1986 world series all of the celebrated franchises are here from the yankees and the mets to the knicks and the giants as well as sports ranging from horse racing to tennis to boxing to the new york city marathon there are additional lists and analyses such as on the road the top 25 featuring events such as bucky dent s 1978 homer over the green monster in fenway park fearsome foes highlights epic performances by the opposition like michael jordan s 55 point night at the garden in 1992 miller also gives us the bad side of sports in worst days such as when benny paret died in the ring at the hands of emile griffith exhaustively researched and endlessly entertaining the 100 greatest days in new york sports is a book destined to be on the shelf of every new york and every american sports fan

California Fruits, Flakes, and Nuts

2013-11-01

tennis is a high stakes game played by prodigies identified early and coached by professionals in hopes of high rankings and endorsements this commercial world is far removed from the origins of the sport before 1968 when wimbledon invited professional players to compete for the first time tennis was part of a sportsmanship tradition that emphasized character over money it produced well rounded gentlemen who expressed a code of honor not commerce in this authoritative and affectionate history of men s tennis distinguished sociologist e digby baltzell recovers the glory of the age from its aristocratic origins in the late nineteenth century to the tilden years and through a succession of newcomers the amateur era and its virtues survived a century of democratization and conflict sporting gentlemen examines the greatest players and matches in the history of tennis baltzell explores the tennis code of honor and its roots in the cricket code of the late nineteenth century anglo american upper class this code of honor remained in spite of the later democratization of tennis thus the court manners of the rensaw twins and doherty brothers at the old wimbledon were upheld to the letter by don budge and jack kramer as well as rod laver john newcombe and arthur ashe baltzell s final chapter on the open era is a blistering attack on the decline of honor and the obliteration of class distinctions leaving only those based on money for all who love the game of tennis sporting gentlemen is both fascinating history and a badly needed analysis of what has made the sport great

The 100 Greatest Days in New York Sports

2006

comprises a narrative history with an emphasis on politics and culture of the united states from the progressive movement at the turn of the 20th century to the end of wwii in 1945 includes fine bandw photographs and illustrations throughout annotation copyrighted by book news inc portland or

Sporting Gentlemen

2017-07-12

tennis is one of the world s most popular sports as levels of participation and spectatorship demonstrate moreover tennis has always been one of the world s most significant sports expressing crucial fractures of social class gender sexuality race and ethnicity both on and off court this is the first book to undertake a survey of the historical and socio cultural sweep of tennis exploring key themes from governance development and social inclusion to national identity and the role of the media it is presented in three parts historical developments culture and representations and politics and social issues and features contributions by leading tennis scholars from north america europe asia and australia the most authoritative book published to date on the history culture and politics of tennis this is an essential reference for any course or program examining the history sociology politics or culture of sport

America Ascendant

1998-09

the united states tennis association is an in depth look at the history of the united states tennis association usta and how this sports organization has helped cultivate and organize tennis in the united states over the past 135 years starting as a group of elite white men from country clubs in the northeast the organization has become the largest tennis association in the world with women in top leadership positions and an annual revenue of well over 300 million the usta was key in establishing the open era in tennis in 1968 when professionals began competing with amateurs in grand slam events for expanding the game in the united states during the 1970s tennis boom and for establishing the u s open as one of the most prestigious and largest attended sports events in the world unique among sports governing bodies the usta is a mostly volunteer run organization that along with a paid professional staff manages and governs tennis at the local level across the united states and owns and operates the u s open the association participates directly in the international tennis federation manages u s participation in international tennis competitions fed cup and davis cup and interacts with professional tennis within the united states the story of how tennis is managed by the nation s largest cadre of volunteers in any sport is one of sports best untold stories with access to the private records of the usta warren f kimball tells an engaging and rich history of how tennis has been managed and governed in the united states

Routledge Handbook of Tennis

2019-02-05

centering around the life and times of the revered american sportswriter grantland rice 1880 1954 how you played the game takes us back to those magical days of sporting tales and mythic heroes through rice s eyes we behold such sports as bicycle racing boxing golf baseball football and tennis as they were played before 1950 we witness ups and downs in the careers of such legendary figures as christy mathewson jack dempsey ty cobb babe ruth jim thorpe red grange bobby jones bill tilden notre dame s four horsemen gene tunney and babe didrikson all of whom rice helped become household names grantland rice was a remarkably gifted and honorable sportswriter from his early days in nashville and atlanta to his famed years in new york rice was acknowledged by all for his uncanny grasp of the ins and outs of a dozen sports as well as his personal friendship with hundreds of sportsmen and sportswomen as a pioneer in american sportswriting rice helped establish and dignify the profession sitting shoulder to shoulder in press boxes around the nation with the likes of ring lardner damon runyon heywood broun and red smith besides being a first rate reporter rice was also a columnist poet magazine and book writer film producer family man war veteran fund raiser and skillful golfer his personal accomplishments over a half century as an advocate for sports and good sportsmanship are astounding by any standard what truly set rice apart from so many of his peers however was the idea behind his sports reporting and writing he believed that good sportsmanship was capable of lifting individuals societies and even nations to remarkable heights of moral and social action more than just a biography of grantland rice how you played the game is about the rise of american sports and the early days of those who created the art and craft of sportswriting exploring the life of a man who perfectly blended journalism and sporting culture this book is sure to appeal to all sports lovers or not

The United States Tennis Association

2017-12-01

new york magazine was born in 1968 after a run as an insert of the new york herald tribune and quickly made a place for itself as the trusted resource for readers across the country with award winning writing and photography covering everything from politics and food to theater and fashion the magazine s consistent mission has been to reflect back to its audience the energy and excitement of the city itself while celebrating new york as both a place and an idea

How You Played the Game

1999

the sport of tennis has been played in one form or another for more than 800 years it can trace its roots to games played by monks in the 12th century through the years the game has evolved from one in which the ball was struck with the hands to the modern game in which rackets are used to propel the ball in excess of 150 miles per hour from the sport of the elite to the sport played by elite athletes tennis has grown immensely in the past 135 years and it remains one of the few sporting pastimes that is played extensively by people of all ages and all nationalities the historical dictionary of tennis presents a comprehensive history of the game through a chronology an introductory essay a bibliography photos and over 500 cross referenced dictionary entries on places teams terminology and people including arthur ashe björn borg don budge chris evert roger federer billie jean king rod laver suzanne lenglen john mcenroe rafael nadal martina navratilova and bill tilden appendixes of the members of the international tennis hall of fame the major championships of tennis and the olympic games are included this book is an excellent access point for students researchers and anyone wanting to know more about tennis

New York Magazine

1983-04-25

this invaluable resource covers all aspects of 1920s political artistic popular and economic culture in america supporting the ap u s history curriculum through topical and biographical entries primary documents sample documents based essay questions and period specific learning objectives the 1920s despite president harding s return to normalcy were a time of both great cultural and social advancement as well as various forms of oppression in the united states bookended in history by two world wars this period saw the rise of tabloid journalism and mass media the banning and reinstatement of alcohol the advent of voting rights for women and native americans movements such as the red scare labor strikes the harlem renaissance and racial protests and the global reorganization that occurred as the major powers fumbled their way through postwar foreign policy and the league of nations almost no element of u s society was untouched the new era of the 1920s key themes and documents provides high school students taking the advanced placement ap u s history course and undergraduates taking a lower level american history survey course with an invaluable study guide and targeted test preparation material much more than just an ap test taking study guide this new title in abc clio s unlocking american history series is a true reference source for the societal political and economic history of a specific period covered in the ap u s history course readers will also benefit from features designed for student exam preparation such as a sample documents based essay question and period specific learning objectives that are in alignment with the 2014 ap u s history curriculum framework

Historical Dictionary of Tennis

2011-09-16

new york magazine was born in 1968 after a run as an insert of the new york herald tribune and quickly made a place for itself as the trusted resource for readers across the country with award winning writing and photography covering everything from politics and food to theater and fashion the magazine s consistent mission has been to reflect back to its audience the energy and excitement of the city itself while celebrating new york as both a place and an idea

The New Era of the 1920s

2017-10-12

from the pulitzer prize winning journalist madeleine blais the dramatic and colorful story of legendary tennis star and international celebrity alice marble in august 1939 alice marble graced

the cover of life magazine photographed by the famed alfred eisenstaedt she was a glamorous worldwide celebrity having that year won singles women s doubles and mixed doubles tennis titles at both wimbledon and the us open then an unprecedented feat yet today one of america s greatest female athletes and most charismatic characters is largely forgotten queen of the court places her back on center stage born in 1913 marble grew up in san francisco her favorite sport baseball given a tennis racket at age 13 she took to the sport immediately rising to the top with a powerful aggressive serve and volley style unseen in women s tennis a champion at the height of her fame in the late 1930s she also designed a clothing line in the off season and sang as a performer in the sert room of the waldorf astoria hotel in new york to rave reviews world war ii derailed her amateur tennis career but her life off the court was if anything even more eventful she wrote a series of short books about famous women she turned professional and joined a pro tour during the war entertaining and inspiring soldiers and civilians alike ever glamorous and connected she had a part in the 1952 tracy and hepburn movie pat and mike and she played tennis with the likes of charlie chaplin marlene dietrich and her great friends clark gable and carole lombard however perhaps her greatest legacy lies in her successful efforts working largely alone to persuade the all white us lawn tennis association to change its policy and allow african american star althea gibson to compete for the us championship in 1950 thereby breaking tennis s color barrier in two memoirs marble also showed herself to be an at times unreliable narrator of her own life which madeleine blais navigates skillfully especially marble s dramatic claims of having been a spy during world war ii in queen of the court the author of the bestselling in these girls hope is a muscle recaptures a glittering life story

New York Magazine

1983-04-25

this illustrated encyclopedia offers in depth coverage of one of the most fascinating and widely studied periods in american history extending from the end of world war i in 1918 to the great wall street crash in 1929 the jazz age was a time of frenetic energy and unprecedented historical developments ranging from the league of nations woman suffrage prohibition the red scare the ku klux klan the lindberg flight and the scopes trial to the rise of organized crime motion pictures and celebrity culture encyclopedia of the jazz age provides information on the politics economics society and culture of the era in rich detail the entries cover themes personalities institutions ideas events trends and more and special features such as sidebars and photos help bring the era vividly to life

Queen of the Court

2023-08-15

the art of lawn tennis by william tatem tilden 1920 the outstanding performances of the two juniors vincent richards and arnold jones must be regarded as worthy of permanent recognition and among the outstanding features of a noteworthy year thus it is with a sense of recording history making facts that i turn to the events of 1921 william t tilden 2d we are delighted to publish this classic book as part of our extensive classic library collection many of the books in our collection have been out of print for decades and therefore have not been accessible to the general public the aim of our publishing program is to facilitate rapid access to this vast reservoir of literature and our view is that this is a significant literary work which deserves to be brought back into print after many decades the contents of the vast majority of titles in the classic library have been scanned from the original works to ensure a high quality product each title has been meticulously hand curated by our staff our philosophy has been guided by a desire to provide the reader with a book that is as close as possible to ownership of the original work we hope that you will enjoy this wonderful classic work and that for you it becomes an enriching experience

Encyclopedia of the Jazz Age: From the End of World War I to the Great Crash

2015-04-08

when harvard came back from a 16 point deficit with less than a minute to go to tie yale in their now famous 1968 gridiron tilt the headline in the harvard crimson the following monda proudly boasted harvard beats yale 29 29 this and nineteen other improbable comebacks are the subjects of wilner and rappoport s latest volume of extraordinary achievements from the world of sports and include the 1914 miracle braves billy casper s incredible rally to beat arnold palmer in the 1966 u s open the new york giants magical playoff run in 1951 and others also included are sidebars on individual athletes whose comebacks included overcoming disease i e lance armstrong and reviving a career i e michael jordan and muhammad ali

The Art of Lawn Tennis

2018-08-12

an a to z historical encyclopedia of us people places and events with nearly 1 000 entries all equally well written crisp and entertaining library journal from the origins of its native peoples to its complex identity in modern times this unique alphabetical reference covers the political economic cultural and social history of america a fact filled treasure trove for history buffs the reader s companion is sponsored by the society of american historians an organization dedicated to promoting literary excellence in the writing of biography and history under the editorship of the eminent historians john a garraty and eric foner a large and distinguished group of scholars biographers and journalists nearly four hundred contemporary authorities illuminate the critical events issues and individuals that have shaped our past readers will find everything from a chronological account of immigration individual entries on the bull moose party and the know nothings as well as an article on third parties in american politics pieces on specific religious groups leaders and movements and a larger scale overview of religion in america interweaving traditional political and economic topics with the spectrum of america s social and cultural legacies everything from marriage to medicine crime to baseball fashion to literature the companion is certain to engage the curiosity interests and passions of every reader and also provides an excellent research tool for students and teachers

Harvard Beats Yale 29-29

2007-10-04

covering people and events from the 1630s to the present day this reference offers 455 entries on such topics as dirty politics white collar scams botched cover ups tawdry love affairs and despicable acts of corruption

The Reader's Companion to American History

2014-01-14

the art of lawn tennis 1922 by william t william tatem tilden originally published in 1922 this volume from the cornell university library s print collections was scanned on an apt bookscan and converted to jpg 2000 format by kirtas technologies all titles scanned cover to cover and pages may include marks notations and other marginalia present in the original volume we are delighted to publish this classic book as part of our extensive classic library collection many of the books in our collection have been out of print for decades and therefore have not been accessible to the general public the aim of our publishing program is to facilitate rapid access to this vast reservoir of literature and our view is that this is a significant literary work which deserves to be brought back into print after many decades the contents of the vast majority of titles in the classic library have been scanned from the original works to ensure a high quality

product each title has been meticulously hand curated by our staff our philosophy has been guided by a desire to provide the reader with a book that is as close as possible to ownership of the original work we hope that you will enjoy this wonderful classic work and that for you it becomes an enriching experience

The Art of Lawn Tennis

1922

it is now largely forgotten that until the late 1960s professional tennis players that is those who played openly for money were banned from competing in the world's major tennis tournaments before then the great contests such as the davis cup wimbledon and the national championships like the australian and the us were exclusive to so called amateurs amateur tennis players were meant to compete only for glory though this division arose soon after the turn of the twentieth century by the 1930s the pro tour was entrenched and endured for another forty years this book tells the story of the pro or professional era through a focus on the great champions who dominated the period from 1930 to 1968 on april 20 1968 for the first time an amateur and a pro were allowed to play each other before the public as the two plays stepped on to the court the pro era ended and the open era which lasts to the present day began

Gentlemen's Quarterly

1959

boys life is the official youth magazine for the boy scouts of america published since 1911 it contains a proven mix of news nature sports history fiction science comics and scouting

The New Encyclopedia of American Scandal

2001

big bill captures tennis player william tilden's turbulent life in a series of scenes that shift back and forth in time performed on a set that resembles a tennis arena the play illuminates the sportsman's distinguished career extravagant style personal travails and ultimately his calamitous downfall a fascinating look at the glory of sport the power of fame and the anguish of being an outcast big bill is one of ar gurney's most affecting plays when gurney began writing in the early 70s the era of rabe babe and bullins playwrights were supposed to do quasi marxist screeds his portraits of wasp america seemed out of synch until the early 80s when the dining room made people realize the deep resonance of his work these days the authorized topic is homosexuality again gurney has followed his own path although his big bill is about one of the most important tennis players of the 20th century bill tilden who happened to be a homosexual gurney has a deeper focus the struggle of a man to reconcile the most rigorous wasp standards with sexual inclinations that do not yield to any abstract code tilden's high standards are illustrated in the first scene when we see him outraged at a linesman's ruling in his favor tilden an athlete of unusual prowess and grace was also alas vain this led him into a ludicrous career on the stage his sexual tendencies his attraction to teenagers led to his ultimate decline gurney depicts this sad trajectory in short pungent scenes alternately comic and poignant howard kissel daily news big bill is ar gurney's impressionistic jumpy jaunty biographical play about bill tilden the first tennis superstar who won zillions of titles in the 20s maintaining at great cost his enforced status as an amateur until his death in 1953 like many players then tilden came from money in this case a rich old family in philadelphia he was an active though closeted homosexual surrounding himself with young ballboys with whom his relationships varied and picking up young hustlers which got him into repeated trouble with the law in this short play gurney simply presents the story of a damaged but gifted man who never grew up alongside the absurdities of l a law on the whole though it makes for a lovely theatrical experience donald lyons new york post in big bill ar gurney elegantly considers the cataclysmically unfortunate timing of 20s tennis legend bill tilden gurney has returned to his specialty the american wasp with renewed focus and expanded vision we are taken back and forth through the buoyant ups and dignified downs

Catalog

1997 - 10

Winning Ugly(□□□□□□□□)

1978

Famous Firsts in Tennis

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