

# CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION By David Shaftel	11
LUCKY F#CK <i>Rod Laver's Wayward Nephew Finally Makes Good</i> By Rick Marin <i>Spring 2020</i>	16
AFTER THE GOLD RUSH <i>Why the Recreational Tennis Boom of the Seventies and Eighties Went Bust</i> By Joel Drucker <i>Winter 2017</i>	38
TENNIS LESSONS <i>Coming to Terms with Tennis' Elitism</i> By Taffy Brodesser-Akner <i>Fall 2016</i>	48
POMPEII IN QUEENS <i>Tennis and Rock and Roll Intertwine at Forest Hills Stadium</i> By Steven Kurutz <i>Fall 2016</i>	61
ATTACK! <i>Men of a Certain Age Are Sure They Know What's Best for Their Female Charges</i> By Caitlin Thompson <i>Summer 2018</i>	72



## AIR AGASSI

76

*For an Aviation Geek and Tennis Fan, a Glimpse  
of Andre's Plane Was Bliss*

By Jason Biggs

*Summer 2018*

## FIRE & ICE

82

*The Chilly Elegance of Arthur Ashe Meets the  
Passion of Muhammad Ali*

By Stephen Tignor

*Fall 2016*

## CHAMPION MOVES

101

*A First-Time Tennis Reporter Learns the Ropes*

By Chloé Cooper Jones

*Spring 2019*

## A SACRED PLOT

122

*A Grass Court, Like the Heart, Needs Tending To*

By Gerald Marzorati

*Summer 2019*

## THE INFINITE TOUR

137

*The Second Act of Michael Joyce*

By Sam Riches

*Winter 2017*

## PETKO'S COMPLAINT

152

*Tennis Lessons Courtesy of Philip Roth*

By Andrea Petkovic

*Summer 2018*



<b>PING-PONG PARADISE</b>	<b>157</b>
<i>Where Table Tennis Is No Hobby – It's a Way of Life</i>	
By Robin Goldstein	
<i>Spring 2018</i>	
<b>PLAYING AT INNOCENCE</b>	<b>168</b>
<i>Tennis and the Great Russian Novel Collide in Lolita</i>	
By Louisa Hall	
<i>Spring 2017</i>	
<b>THE (RE)SELLING OF MARIA SHARAPOVA</b>	<b>176</b>
<i>A Girl Who Has Everything Gets the Chance to Prove She Deserves It</i>	
By Sarah Nicole Prickett	
<i>Spring 2017</i>	
<b>PRAISE THE ROOF</b>	<b>190</b>
<i>Why a Sport that Follows the Sun Should Go Indoors</i>	
By Louisa Thomas	
<i>Winter 2019</i>	
<b>SMELL, MEMORY</b>	<b>195</b>
<i>Perfumers Evoke the Grace of an Imagined Game, Not the Stench of Athletic Endeavor</i>	
By Rachel Syme	
<i>Winter 2017</i>	
<b>THE LITTLE ENGINE THAT ALMOST COULD</b>	<b>204</b>
<i>David Ferrer Hangs It Up After Two Decades of Grinding</i>	
By Giri Nathan	
<i>Spring 2019</i>	



# INTRODUCTION

## THE RIVALRY THAT WASN'T 209

*Justine Henin Could Have Been a Worthy Foil for  
Serena Williams*

By Alex Macpherson

*Spring 2017*

## UNFORCED ERRORS 214

*A "Free-Range" City Kid Drifts Out of Tennis –  
and Then Back Into It*

By Andy Bragen

*Summer 2019*

## WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED TO THE BROOKLYN TENNIS CASTLE? 224

*Remembering an All-Black Tennis Club in Ft.  
Greene*

By Patrick Sauer

*Summer 2017*

## RED LAWN 232

*When the "Soviets" Arrived, Philly Became the  
City of Comradely Love*

By Ben Rothenberg

*Fall 2019*

## CONTRIBUTORS 253

## ABOUT RACQUET 256