

Tarpaulins and a Serial Stripper Reign at Wimbledon '96 :

Review of its Press Coverage

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I Introduction

You grinned at the title in a knowing way or you wondered what it is all about. If the latter is the case, chances are that you are not familiar with what the turf witnessed at the Wimbledon '96, but I assure you that you will get the picture by the time you have read through this review.

The British Open for '96 ran for two weeks June 26 through July 10. Throughout the period Japanese tennis fans had their fair share of good luck in that the NHK channels never failed to air daily from the venue such matches as the avid fans would not miss for the world. When Date advanced as far as the quarter-final round and resumed her suspended match against top-seeded Steffi Graf, the whole nation went so wild that the station did something unprecedented: it took the trouble to beam the crucial set like a newsbreak during prime time.

The excitement also found its way in some national newspapers and lingered on for a couple of critical days in succession when they carried on their first pages Date's close-up with the lead story about the impressive way she upset her higher-ranked players and finally succumbed to the German.

Good luck stayed longer with the Japan Times' readers including me because the paper was generous enough to provide them with entertaining reports on the tournament through such wire services as AP, Reuter, UPI and Kyodo. Unless my memory fails as its decades-long reader, this was the first time that the paper had ever given so much space to the Open.

You can imagine how I could hardly wait to open the paper to its sports page for the two weeks. It is interesting to note, however, that its Japanese counterparts' reports somehow did not give me as much pleasure in spite of their obviously no-nonsense attitude toward the event. Is the failure due to the vernaculars' different way of covering sports events? You could turn to a study of cultural differences for the answer, but instead I decided to take a closer look at all the Japan Times' coverage of the tournament in an attempt to find out some convincing reasons.

As a tennis maniac I always have a good time reading the English newspaper's accounts of any tennis tournaments, not to mention Grand Slams. So I have to admit how much I looked forward to a reunion with the event through the review to follow. Well-founded indeed is your fear that the result will be nothing but a faithful but biased nostalgic reproduction of the Wimbledon by an appreciative but self-indulgent tennis addict.

II Subject and procedure

All the words, phrases and statements worth noting were picked out of a total of 14 news articles on the Wimbledon '96 and were classified into the ten categories according to what a particular word, phrase or statement was about: (1) Player's profile (2) Player's physical condition (3) Player in action (4) Specific action (5) Match (6) Win (7) Loss (8) Upset (9) Digression and (10) Miscellany.

Some entries under (9) Digression required much longer quotes as compared with most of the entries under other categories because you cannot expect to follow a story of any substance without its sufficient context.

Entries that defied classification ended up in (10) Miscellany or arbitrarily forced themselves into a particular category even when they could enter any one of two or three other categories depending on how

an examiner judged them.

Underlined are such words as captured my attention because of their deliberate but clever usage. AP is responsible for almost all the news articles under review, and Reuter, UPI or Kyodo is mentioned in parentheses at the end of each and every exception. I put the briefest possible comments in parentheses when necessary.

III Classification

1 Player's profile

- 1-1 a *journeyman* qualifier from the satellite tour
- 1-2 the new *wonder boy* of tennis
- 1-3 an *unintimidated upstart*
- 1-4 *sentimental* favorite
- 1-5 *up-and-coming* compatriot
- 1-6 the teen-age *heartthrob*
- 1-7 a *millionairess* with her own corporation
- 1-8 a *solid* grass-court player
- 1-9 the most *obscure* names
- 1-10 *enigmatic* French woman (Reuter)
- 1-11 the *gritty* Japanese right-hander (Reuter)
- 1-12 the Japanese *flag-bearer* (Reuter)
- 1-13 a *hot-and-cold* Pierce (Reuter)
- 1-14 the *mercurial* Czeck (Reuter)
- 1-15 a Wimbledon *danger* man
- 1-16 a *one-dimensional* player
- 1-17 Henman, *thrown out of* Wimbledon a year ago when he angrily smacked a ball that accidentally hit a ball girl in the head,
- 1-18 the *athletic* serve and volleyer known for her ability to *crack on crucial points*
- 1-19 Kimiko Date whose *tennis prowess* has made her a superstar in Japan

- 1-20 Date, who first *set eyes on* the tennis's most *valuable piece of turf* as a junior, (Reuter)
- 1-21 Graf is at once the most *vulnerable* and unbeatable woman of her era, a champion on all kinds of courts, through injury and illness, rain and sun, and a tax investigation of her imprisoned father that has gone on for a year.
- 1-22 known until now only *infamously* at Wimbledon for a *chauvinistic wisecrack*
- 1-23 Krajicek had been best known for his *ill-advised remark* in 1992 that "80 percent of the top 100 women are lazy, fat pigs" who shouldn't be allowed on Centre Court.
- 1-24 The *odd couple* of Hingis and Helena Sukova, the former half the age and seemingly half the height of the latter,
- 1-25 Hingis is a Czech native named after Martina Navratilova who lives in Switzwirland.
- 1-26 The third-seeded Agassi came to Wimbledon *as unprepared and unfit as* he had gone to the French Open last month.
- 1-27 In a *puzzling freefall* for months, Andre Agassi wore the vacant, red-eyed look of a man whose career is *crashing out of control*.
- 1-28 she's missing the *killer look* and *go-for-broke attitude* that always distinguished her style.
- 1-29 He wore a tight long-sleeved shirt he's *promoting*, and that might have restricted his swing and caused him to sweat more.
- 1-30 He wore a bright yellow watch, as if he had to keep track of the time for date somewhere.
- 1-31 It was the ensemble of a *pitchman* not a player.
- 1-32 packing a stuffed tiger in her racket bag
- 1-33 Agassi's loss bore all the signs of third-degree *burnout*, the kind of performance that makes a player question his desire, his direction and his future.
- 1-34 and there's a sense that, at 26, the peak of his career may be *behind* him along with the pleasure of playing.

- 1-35 But the manner of the German champion's . . . slaughter of Jana Novotna suggested Sanchez Vicario will need all her fighting spirit and, more importantly, *huge dollops of luck* if the pair do reach the final for a second successive year. (Reuter)
- 1-36 Flach actually had the *odd luck* of *putting himself in the draw* against Agassi after going through the qualifying tournament
- 1-37 he knew his win would upset lots of tennis fans back home,
- 1-38 he had hoped for a better *run* after playing in recent months
- 1-39 He spoke optimistically then of *going for a sweep* of the majors,
- 1-40 after *resurrecting* his career through hard work
- 1-41 The French came and passed without him,
- 1-42 He wasn't planning on *playing the Olympics*, but his status for the U.S Open could be in jeopardy.
- 1-43 Becker was *heavily favored* to reach the final, especially since his half of the draw had been *cleared of* so many *big names*.
- 1-44 Both are *through* and *stronger favorites* than a week ago.
- 1-45 The *top-heavy* draw has riled Stich.
- 1-46 Kimiko Date achieved one ambition on Tuesday. Against Steffi Graf in the Wimbledon semifinals she will be chasing another. (Reuter)
- 1-47 But it was her only win in seven *clashes* with the woman who is a *hot favorite* to *collect* her seventh Wimbledon title. (Reuter)
- 1-48 she continued her *remorseless* progress toward a Wimbledon final *reunion* with (Reuter)
- 1-49 The performance put him into Wednesday's quarterfinals against Sampras, (Reuter)
- 1-50 Sampras *faced a huge task* Thursday to overcome a two-set deficit against
- 1-51 Sampras appeared to be a *lock* for his fourth straight title
- 1-52 Graf is 6-1 in *career meetings* against Date.
- 1-53 Navratilova is *on course* to equal Billie Jean King's record of 20 Wimbledon titles.

- 1-54 Only a few retired greats could *relate to* her winning her seventh championship on Centre Court, (Phrase of the minute)
- 1-55 Graf, who turned 27 a few weeks ago and has no intention of retiring soon, is *closing in on* the records of the finest players in history.
- 1-56 Krajicek was *slipped into* his spot as a sort of *shadow 17th seed*.
- 1-57 Krajicek's victory was a *breakthrough* for him after getting only as far as the semifinals
- 1-58 He never quite *made it into the elite ranks*,
- 1-59 would have *drawn level with* long-time friend and former doubles partner Billie Jean King's *tally*.
- 1-60 Pete Sampras, *opening his bid for* a fourth straight Wimbledon title,
- 1-61 Yet all that *pales against* the pain he's been carrying over the death

2 Player's physical condition

- 2-1 the *swollen tendon* . . . that led her to *pull out of* a *tuneup* tournament
- 2-2 as Seles struggles with a shoulder injury in an *on-and-off comeback* from the stabbing attack
- 2-3 Seles is far from her *old self*.
- 2-4 She lacks the stamina and *steadiness* she once had, along with the *precision* and *timing* that come from playing each week.
- 2-5 One awkward swing and a painful *pop* in the wrist ended Boris Becker's run for a fourth Wimbledon title
- 2-6 squeezing his fist and *grimacing* with a look of fear,
- 2-7 Spreen sprayed an *anesthetic* on Becker's wrist and taped it *heavily*.
- 2-8 A broken wrist, . . . , could *wreck* the rest of Becker's summer.
- 2-9 Graf, who has been wearing a *brace* in practice and a small white bandage on her knee in matches,

- 2-10 was clearly slowed by a *hiper-extended* right knee, which twice
 required treatment during the second set.
- 2-11 who was suffering from a cold and *sinus problems*,
 2-12 when they quit due to a lower back *strain* suffered by
 2-13 She was still limping two days before her first match and lacked
 grass-court practice.
- 2-14 If *form holds*—and it sure hasn't so far—Sampras would get by
 2-15 overcame a *strained ligament* in her right wrist to beat

3 Player in action

- 3-1 As *inspired* as Flach played, Agassi appeared equally indifferent ,
 acting more like a fashion model than a true competitor.
- 3-2 Sweat dripped *in a steady drizzle* from the brim of Agassi's logo-
 stamped cap, yet he never took it off.
- 3-3 Seles looked perfectly *at home* as she *breezed* to a . . . win over
 3-4 Grossman smiled *broadly* and twirled her racket after holding
 serve at love in second game, but she barely *put up a challenge*.
- 3-5 Henman played with the confidence of a man who knew he had
 an upset *within his grasp* from the moment the match started.
- 3-6 Her face puffy and her breathing *labored*,
 3-7 attacked fearlessly and *growled* as much as Seles *grunted* and
gasped in retreat (Alliterative)
- 3-8 with a similarly timid and *erratic* game.
- 3-9 looked confident at the start of the match, buoyed by recent
good form
- 3-10 tired *visibly*
- 3-11 looking slow and *heavy-footed*
- 3-12 *stalked* angrily around the court in utter frustration at the delays
 and *sloppy* play . . .
- 3-13 complained of *losing the rhythm* on her serve. (Reuter)
- 3-14 looking unusually stiff and listless
- 3-15 A *disconsolate* Pete Sampras rubs his head on his way to losing

- to (Caption)
- 3-16 then suddenly *wavered*
- 3-17 Graf looked *deflated*
- 3-18 showed no mercy
- 3-19 Somehow she *puts* all her problems *aside* when she picks up her racket, and she did it again
- 3-20 Krajicek dropped to his knees, his arms in the air, his fists clenched and a look of disbelief on his face—then he fell over backward.
- 3-21 After struggling to *find his footing and rhythm*, Sampras settled in his grass court *groove*
- 3-22 Steffi Graff, *showing no hint of* the knee injury that had her limping . . . , sprinted fluidly and overcame
- 3-23 who *mimicked Steffi to perfection*
- 3-24 took time to *find her form*
- 3-25 didn't *raise* her game
- 3-26 Graf *turned in* one of her best performances of the tournament
- 3-27 *secured* her best performance (Reuter)
- 3-28 she came up with the *winning formula*. (Reuter)
- 3-29 wasted no time *formulating* a strategy to prevent the American from *getting any nearer* a fourth successive title. (Reuter)
- 3-30 *went down a break* in the second before rallying
- 3-31 *held off* a second-set to win
- 3-32 Krajicek didn't reach the level he showed in beating . . . , but on this day he didn't have to.
- 3-33 *fell behind* 0-4
- 3-34 celebrated her *addition* to the U.S. Olympic team by rallying from a break down
- 3-35 took advantage of his imposing height and recently *beefed-up* body to dominate Washington from the net and the baseline
- 3-36 Krajicek regained *command*,

4 Specific action

- 4-1 faulted 10 times Tuesday, saw two match points vanish *in a blur of aces*,
- 4-2 Slicing backhands within inches of the baseline and *pummeling* forehand winners like Graf, the 59th-ranked Studenikova played the *match of her life* as she kept the second-seeded Seles on the defensive and fought back from deficits
- 4-3 started to read the *old master's game* and match him at the net.
- 4-4 *put away* 28 aces but he did not display the *range of shots*
- 4-5 Krajicek's *bludgeoning* serves at up to 129 mph . . . *left* Washington *lunging* time and again to *get a racket on the ball*.
- 4-6 Washington relied on serve returns and passing shots to *keep* the bigger man *at bay*.
- 4-7 But he rarely *found the target* Sunday, *converting* only three return and three passing winners.
- 4-8 He kept Washington *under pressure* with sharp returns and *ripped* 10 passing shot winners.
- 4-9 Washington made the tactical mistake of repeatedly *coming in behind* approach shots to Krajicek's forehand,
- 4-10 Radulescu made it *riding* a tournament-leading 91 aces.
- 4-11 had too much *firepower* on his serve and in his groundstrokes (Reuter)
- 4-12 *dealt out* 14 aces, *punishing* overhead and *sizzling* passing shots
- 4-13 Krajicek *came out* and *ran off* 14 straight points
- 4-14 Flach, who served 22 aces, *made his share of one-in-a-lifetime shots*, none more spectacular than the volley he hit after rising from a *belly-flop dive* at the net.
- 4-15 The Japanese player finally *converted* with a forehand down the line
- 4-16 she *angled* a lucky backhand sliced return just over the net and *out of Date's reach*.
- 4-17 a backhand return by Graf *clipped* the net-cord and *popped over*.

- 4-18 she got a lucky net-cord
- 4-19 Graf *served out* the match in the next game when Date *struck* four unforced errors, ending with a forehand that *sailed wide*.
- 4-20 Every *hacker* could smile in sympathy at Steffi Graf's embarrassing *whiff* on an overhead
- 4-21 committed her *humiliating miss* on a simple overhead
- 4-22 Like many a hacker, she ran around the ball to *swipe at* it again, and *flipped it over* with a forehand. But Sanchez Vicario *pounced on* that and *slapped it back* for an easy winner.
- 4-23 *forcing* Krajicek *into* hitting a low backhand volley long.
- 4-24 Washington *punched* a backhand into the net.

5 Match

- 5-1 No match *packed* more emotion or more thrills than the duel between
- 5-2 The match, . . . , didn't equal that first *flourish of excitement*.
- 5-3 in a match of *thumping aces*, looking every bit the No.1 in the world
- 5-4 a match *littered* with service breaks (Reuter)
- 5-5 But the *momentum* turned Date's way.
- 5-6 The decisive break Friday came
- 5-7 a contest which *could not have been further removed from* the *classic* 1993 final which ended in tears for the *mercurial* Czeck. (Reuter)
- 5-8 there were too many starts and stops for either of them to *get into the flow* and produce the kind of *majestic* tennis

6 Win

- 6-1 *powered* to a . . . victory
- 6-2 *breezed* to a . . . win over
- 6-3 prevailed over (Kyodo)
- 6-4 *dispatched* . . . for her first ride past the opening round (Kyodo)

- 6-5 The victory came a day after . . . *notched* first-round victories.
(Kyodo)
- 6-6 routed
- 6-7 was two points away from *closing it out*.
- 6-8 Two U.S men joined Washington in the third round, both *at the expense of* fellow Americans.
- 6-9 *reeled off* four straight games.
- 6-10 downed
- 6-11 swept
- 6-12 completed a *brisk* . . . victory over
- 6-13 also went through, beating
- 6-14 after a . . . *demolition* of (UPI-Kyodo)
- 6-15 Sampras would *get by* Pioline,
- 6-16 in a . . . *rout* of
- 6-17 Date tops Pierce (Heading, Reuter)
- 6-18 *sent* her rivals *back to the drawing-board* (Reuter)
- 6-19 But the manner of the German Champion's . . . *slaughter* of
(Reuter)
- 6-20 still has to *find a way past* (Reuter)
- 6-21 blasting away past
- 6-22 as he powered past (Reuter)
- 6-23 as Date quickly *ran out* the set.
- 6-24 Sanchez Vicario was barely tested.
- 6-25 outplayed
- 6-26 triumphed . . . over

7 Loss

- 7-1 Agassi makes early exit (Heading)
- 7-2 he left a round sooner, *flaming out* . . . against
- 7-3 had gone down to early defeat
- 7-4 crashes
- 7-5 fell to

- 7-6 failed to survive
- 7-7 Seles suffers earliest Grand Slam exit of career. (Heading)
- 7-8 Two more seeds *bit the grass* on the infamous Court 2,
- 7-9 *bows out* to
- 7-10 losing most *prominently*

8 Upset

- 8-1 *Slide* continues with first-round Wimbledon loss. (Subheading)
- 8-2 escape of the worst *carnage* of top men
- 8-3 No such surprises *hit* the women's draw.
- 8-4 in the quarter of the draw Becker *vacated*,
- 8-5 untimely *ripped* from the tournament
- 8-6 Untouched by the *upheaval*,
- 8-7 the *routine upsets* that knocked out
- 8-8 one of the most stunning upsets of the Open Era
- 8-9 Eluding the upsets
- 8-10 the recent *rash* of upsets
- 8-11 a championship already *riddled* with upsets
- 8-12 followed up her upset of Monica Seles by beating
- 8-13 Unlike the men who *pulled* upsets,
- 8-14 In a tournament *decimated* by the upset of men's seeds

9 Digression

- 9-1 Graf defeats one Martina, then *takes shot at* the other (Heading)
- 9-2 and sports *euphoria swept* through the nation on the eve of England's semifinal soccer match against Germany
- 9-3 Tennis *sound bites* are to be treasured in a sport where *eloquence* rarely *translates* off court. (Phrase of the minute, Reuter)
- 9-4 His wife, Barbara, watched him from the Players' guest box tearfully buried her head in her hands.
- 9-5 After five straight days of *rain-wrecked* matches, the gates of the All England Club were thrown open, free of charge to the

hoi polloi,

- 9-6 As she prepared to serve in the seventh game, a man shouted from the stands, "Will you marry me?" Graf chuckled and yelled back, "How much money do you have?"
- 9-7 A grassy picnic area where thousands of *blanket-toting, low-budget* fans used lounge, is now a construction site for the new No.1 Court. Picknickers have been *shunted off* to a paved-over area.
- 9-8 Date celebrated her first-round win at Wimbledon by saving a bird. She spotted a baby bird lying on the sidewalk outside the competitors' entrance. Date handed it over to women's tour officials who fed the bird, *nursed it back to health* and watched it fly away the next day. (Reuter)
- 9-9 Steffi Graf beat one Martina and *took a swipe at* another at Wimbledon on an irritating day of too much rain, too little tennis and testy tempers. Graf . . . , then turned on the Swiss teen's namesake Martina Navratilova, for implying that Graf exaggerated her injuries.
- 9-10 It was a soft and strange rain that fell most of the afternoon, stopping play at times on Centre Court but not on the adjacent Court 1, *or vice versa*. Similarly, the rain *targeted* some of the outside courts, then *shifted* to different ones, and the ground crews kept unrolling the tarpaulins and rolling them back up.
- 9-11 No sooner had the players picked up their rackets to pose for photographers at the net than a topless 23-year-old blond woman leaped from the stands, raced down the side of the court and, in front of the royal box, *flipped up* her only garment, a tiny white apron.
- 9-12 The girl who stunned tennis fans when she became the first streaker at Wimbledon was on Monday described by friends as a "*serial stripper*" who loves to bare all *at the drop of a hat*. (Reuter)
- 9-13 Graf, chasing her 20th grand slam singles title, continues to *cast a huge shadow over* the rest of the women's *field*. There was a

brief glimmer of hope for the *opposition* when news *filtered through that Graf had withdrawn from her mixed doubles match. It subsequently emerged* her partner . . . had a strained calf, removing yet another *distraction* from the defending champion's *path*. (Reuter)

- 9-14 Martina Hingis is savoring the good life as a seed . . . The 15-year-old No.16 seed revealed her delight with the treatment that leading players receive behind the scenes at the All England Club. As a ranking contender, the Swiss teenager has the right to use a luxury dressing room reserved for seeds. "It's great," said Hingis after . . . "There are private showers, all the towels you want and attendants to help with everything. . . . Among the delights for the teenager, . . . : gold-plated combs and hairbrushes, massages and the chance to have meals and drinks brought to the private dressing and relaxing area. (UPI-Kyodo)

10 Miscellany

- 10-1 under a *mottled sky* the color of a *bruise*
 10-2 the weather the first week turned *British-bleak-gray*
 10-3 Rain, freak accident keep Sampras' hopes alive (Heading)
 10-4 *Rain* and a freak accident prolonged Pete Sampras' three-year *reign* as Wimbledon champion (Pun)
 10-5 Kafelnikov might be *ripe for a letdown* after winning the French
 10-6 none will go much farther this year
 10-7 voicing an attitude that seems to be sweeping through the women's *ranks*
 10-8 But the All-England Club could allow themselves a sigh of relief
 10-9 Wimbledon's luck, in a week when every day has seen a star depart, turned from bad to worse
 10-10 Wimbledon suffers as seeds, fans *go missing* (Heading)
 10-11 The quick loss of *marquee names* has hurt. So has the nation's preoccupation with the European soccer championship,

- 10-12 The *novice fan* wouldn't recognize many without a program.
- 10-13 The top half of the bracket is still heavy with *big-time names*:
- 10-14 Relations between Graf and Navratilova have been *frosty* . . . before Graf *backed out* at the last minute.
- 10-15 Navratilova *came up one short* when she won
- 10-16 Their *tiff* continued recently when Graf won the French Open . . . , and reportedly felt *miffed* by
- 10-17 Those who didn't *act out their frustration* on the court looked weary and bored in the players' lounge.
- 10-18 the loss of Sampras and Ivanisevic would set a new milestone
- 10-19 Sampras done; Date has Graf *in the dark* (Heading, apparently used both literally and figuratively)
- 10-20 The match was suspended *at a set apiece* (Caption)
- 10-21 The match was suspended . . . with the players *level* at two sets each.
- 10-22 to set up a replay of last year's final against
- 10-23 takes a breather
- 10-24 The business of being unseeded, though, *deserved an asterisk*.
- 10-25 the elusive 20th title (Reuter)
- 10-26 A Wimbledon that didn't want to end finally did Monday, (Style)
- 10-27 rain and darkness combined to send them home
- 10-28 It was a *phenominal day* all around for British players, so used to losing at Wimbledon.
- 10-29 the Brits ruled on their home turf
- 10-30 That hasn't happened since 1973, and no British man has won Wimbledon since Fred Perry in 1936, but in this strangest of Wimbledons, perhaps this could be the year.
- 10-31 But the Sampras-Krajicek was finally called off for the day *in bizarre circumstances*.
- 10-32 A bizarre Wimbledon of unthinkable upsets, freak injuries and countless rain delays *could hardly have let the final Sunday pass without more wackiness* (Phrasing)

IV Discussion and conclusion

Some entries under (1) Player's profile remind you of popular caricature portraits designed to reveal celebrities' true self through his deliberately disfigured features. You got a taste of its tennis version in that sense. You will not dispute that *unintimidated upstart* (1-3), *enigmatic* (1-10) and *gritty* (1-11) are just the right words to identify respective players. The practice came as pleasant surprise because it is not a vernacular's habitual way of describing a person. All the other entries under the category are also performing more or less the same function of familiarizing you with players as they are, through a wide range of their personal information.

A thrilling sports scene either on the spot or TV is sure to make you forget yourself in your excitement. Even a newspaper account can fascinate you with its vivid and graphic description, but any experienced reporter must find it almost impossible to impress you through his coverage of a succession of dull games. The shortage of exciting games at Wimbledon '96 certainly contributed to the reporter's failure to live up to my expectation in this respect.

As for the length of sentences it was interesting to note that most one-sentence paragraphs were fairly long-winded with more than seven lines. The idea behind the habit seems to be that the reporter is more eager to tell you some substantive story than a faithful report of matches you are expecting to read. Unlike the conventional style of news reporting, a typical format was to see to it that each and every lengthy sentence can contain some or other appealing pieces of out-of-the-way information with very infrequent references to actual matches. In other words tennis plays second fiddle to its inside information.

A climax comes when an article for the day gets to the phase of digression. Entries under (10) Digression go to show how keen the reporter is to entertain you through and through by digressing. Entered are a heart-warming episode about an injured bird and a player (9-

8), a teen-age seeded player's happy experience of receiving a VIP treatment (9-14), a long-standing feud between two tennis greats (9-9), and a candid sketch of a female streaker appearing on Centre Court just before the men's final (9-11, 9-12). Tennis is again pushed so far into the background that some of you may wonder how the particular entries could have possibly wandered their way into the Wimbledon report instead of feeling at home in the gossip column.

A glimpse of any number of italicized words is expected to give you an idea of some characteristics typical of the newspaper English: informal or casual style, literary or big words and slang. In the process of reviewing, I enjoyed exposing myself to the bold but effective usage of so many words in their appropriate and sometimes unexpected context, which served as something to fortify my belief in the study of up-to-date English.

It was also interesting to note that in his attempt to report on the tournament for the day a reporter in charge managed to create an entertaining, readable and sophisticated essay on a theme by mobilizing every information available to help him develop the theme. The well-established principle is that objectivity counts in news reporting, but subjectivity prevails in all the news accounts under discussion. You do not have any idea who wrote a particular account, but you can imagine what he is like. The "tidbit artist" may be the right job category to put him into.

Thanks to Date's outstanding performance, Wimbledon '96 will not fade away for a while from our memory. The prime time broadcasting of her semi-final match went a long way toward arousing the nationwide interest in the sport. And there is every indication that most of you are habitually playing some sport either for good health or just for fun. This may sound like a sales pitch, but I guarantee that you, athletically-inclined learners of English, can learn a lot and have great fun at the same time from perusing English newspapers' news stories on any big sport event like a Grand Slam. The end