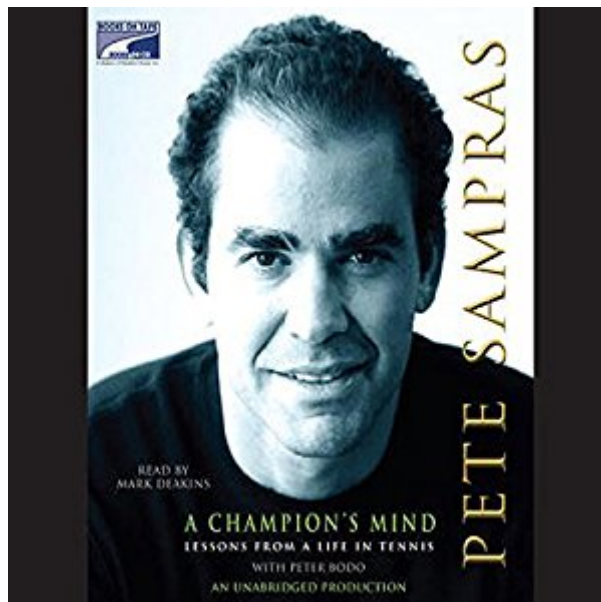


The book was found

A Champion's Mind



Synopsis

Pete Sampras is arguably the greatest tennis player ever, a man whose hard-nosed work ethic led to an unprecedented number one world ranking for 286 weeks, and whose prodigious talent made possible a record-setting fourteen Grand Slam titles. While his more vocal rivals sometimes grabbed the headlines, Pete always preferred to let his racket do the talking. Until now. In *A Champion's Mind*, the tennis great who so often exhibited visible discomfort with letting people see inside his head finally opens up. An athletic prodigy, Pete resolved from his earliest playing days never to let anything get in the way of his love for the game. But while this single-minded determination led to tennis domination, success didn't come without a price. The constant pressure of competing on the world's biggest stage in the unblinking eye of a media machine hungry for more than mere athletic greatness took its toll. Here for the first time Pete speaks freely about what it was like to possess what he calls the Gift. He writes about the personal trials he faced including the death of a longtime coach and confidant and the struggles he gutted his way through while being seemingly on top of the world. Among the book's most riveting scenes are an early devastating loss to Stefan Edberg that led Pete to make a monastic commitment to delivering on his natural talent; a grueling, four-hour-plus match against Alex Corretja during which Pete became seriously ill; fierce on-court battles with rival and friend Andre Agassi; and the triumphant last match of Pete's career at the finals of the 2002 U.S. Open. In *A Champion's Mind*, one of the most revered, successful, and intensely private players in the history of tennis offers an intimate look at the life of an elite athlete. From the Hardcover edition. --This text refers to an alternate Audible Audio Edition edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A True Champion Pete Sampras was best known to the public for his calm demeanor, on and off the court. In his book *“A Champion’s Mind,”* he explains how his strong mental game was really what separated him from the pack. For example, Sampras explains his first Grand Slam victory at the 1990 U.S. Open. He was BY FAR the underdog, but he his uncanny ability to play under pressure propelled him to victory. According to Sampras, *“You have to stay calm and have complete faith in your abilities. It takes a strong mind.”* Sampras goes on to explain how this ability came to him naturally, and he considers it his greatest gift. In addition to his own abilities, Sampras talks a lot about his competitors. Now, Sampras played when American tennis was at its peak, so many of his fiercest rivals were fellow countrymen. Specifically, he talks about Jim Courier, Michael Chang, and, of course, Andre Agassi. According to Sampras, these men pushed him to work his absolute hardest, and without them he never would have reached his true potential. If I were to rate this book on a scale of 1 to 5, I would give it 4 stars. For a tennis fanatic like myself, it is the perfect book. The book takes the reader into the locker room, as it gives one a feel for how tennis stars treated one another. But for someone that is not really into tennis you will hate this book. It is almost impossible to understand without a tennis background, and the book can often get dry with pure tennis facts. In summary, the book is just like Sampras. Slightly boring, but it more than gets the job done.

If I ever had a hero growing up.. it was Pete Sampras. Over the last 10 years I have occasionally followed his progress off-the-mainstage and a couple of times considered making a trek to one of the exhibition matches he was playing. I got to this book only 8 years after it was published - and it brought back wonderful, wonderful, wonderful memories - of a humble personality who let his skill do the talking, was not afraid to share/show his emotions at appropriate moments, gave due recognition where applicable, and knew himself well enough to never veer off the path of a Champion. The book journals all of it very well and describes each critical moment, emotions, and thoughts behind it. Read a few reviews where readers felt deprived of other facets of Sampras’ life and personality -- but if one delves a little deeper and reads carefully (sometimes between the lines) - this accounts speaks volumes about the person Sampras is, what makes a true Champion, and self awareness/realization at various stages of growing up. This definitely lived up to its promise.

Looking forward to watching some old recordings now!

I had the upmost respect for Pete Sampras throughout his career. Reading about the sacrifices he had to make, the discipline he had to endure, The criticisms that came from some press about his abilities and his emotions, or what they thought were a lack of emotions, just made me respect him even more. I was glad I bought this book and I felt it was a good read for me.

You'll probably will only read this book if you're a tennis aficionado. If so, you will read it in the blink of an eye, because this is such an entertaining biography about one of the greatest players of all time. Don't get high expectations: it's all about Pete's tennis life. You'll get only glimpses of his feelings outside a tennis court. And that's right for me, I don't care about gossip and Pete makes it clear in the introduction that this is not a "score-settling" book. Very good, almost obligatory reading if you enjoy tennis.

A great book for my junior tennis playing kids. Some good wisdom nuggets.

I'm going to write this review even though I'm not quite finished reading the book. Tennis fans and sports fans in general should like this book. It is well written and tells so much about Pete's personal life which he kept hidden throughout most of his professional years. The only tedious part is telling in minute detail about so many of his tennis matches. Of course, that's what his life was about and it must be told to bring his life to the front. I'm eager to finish the book and see how he closes out his wonderful years of experience at the top of the tennis world.

I read this one pretty quickly and I don't do that with too many books. Pete is a really good guy and represents what a role model for kids is. Sadly, I think he didn't get the publicity he deserved because he is a shy, reserved individual who did things the right way and was himself. His biggest rival -- Agassi -- got more attention and publicity than him -- but clearly is not the role model Sampras is/was. It has been a while since I read the book, but I do remember that Pete's focus and concentration were outstanding.

What a great read. This book is exactly what to expect from one of the GOAT tennis players. The book is an in depth look at what is required mentally and physically to be the world's best over a long period of time. Pete shows the same class in the book as he did while playing. He pays tribute to

those who defeated him and doesn't rely on excuses for his losses which is refreshing. The most interesting details for me in this book is how he conquered his mind and stayed TRUE to his person no matter what. I encourage anyone who saw Pete play or liked him as a player to read it.

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