

Davis Cup Meets Fight Night

June 29, 2010 - By Nick Bollettieri

Andy Murray vs. Jo-Wilfried Tsonga is one of four must-see men's quarterfinals. But with the partisan crowd and Tsonga's high-flying style, it may be the most entertaining. All the more reason to stick to a game plan, says Nick Bollettieri.

When I watch Jo-Wilfried Tsonga play, I'm in awe of his presence on the court. He pummels the ball off both wings, moves like a gazelle for someone of his stature, and attacks relentlessly. The 25-year-old Muhammad Ali lookalike has had mixed results this year but is always a scary opponent late into majors. And judging from his post-match interview Monday, the power-hitter is not lacking any confidence. "I know I can beat everybody," he said. "So I will play my game." Hopefully his quarterfinal opponent, Andy Murray, can ignore those words as he prepares to take Centre Court once again.

I rave about Tsonga, but Murray is just as impressive. Much like Andre Agassi loved the night sessions under the lights at the U.S. Open, Murray revels in the atmosphere produced on the grass courts of Wimbledon. Although I questioned Murray's form heading into The Championships, his run to the quarters has silenced any doubts, as he is the only player remaining who hasn't dropped a single set. He has fought for every point using his tennis smarts and has used the crowd to keep his opponents at bay.

The Centre Court drama will probably meet somewhere between Davis Cup and a heavyweight fight night in Las Vegas, so the two contenders need to keep their minds focused on their game plans.

Jo-Wilfried Tsonga

The high-flying Frenchman has impressed me this tournament in a variety of ways. He has won matches convincingly and showed some serious mental fortitude in his five-set win over Alexandr Dolgoplov in round two. The grass can help Tsonga if he uses it effectively. This means he has to be aggressive and take chances. He has to take some big cuts on neutral balls to attack the net and put Murray on his heels. The second serve return is going to be crucial for Tsonga. He can't just roll it back into play. Murray's return puts so much pressure on opponents; Tsonga has to do the same in order to make this a competitive affair.

Andy Murray

Murray has handled the pressure this year better than anyone else in the field, and he has more weight on his shoulders than anyone. All of Great Britain holds its breath every time he steps onto the court. His movement has been astounding and he has started to become an offensive presence rather than a pure counter-puncher. He'll need to continue that style of play as Tsonga will make him pay for anything short or without purpose. Andy also needs to focus on getting in a high percentage of first serves and honing them toward Tsonga's backhand.

The grass court has rewarded power hitters this year, so whichever player is more aggressive will most likely win this match. I predict Murray will please his fellow Brits and take one step closer to grass-court bliss—the Wimbledon crown.

Nick Bollettieri of the [IMG/Bollettieri Tennis Academy](#) has trained many collegiate and professional players, including 10 who reached the world No. 1 ranking.
Matthew Manasse contributed to this article.

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Start of Senior Thesis on OPEC

The Industrial Revolution taking place from the 18th to the 19th century spurred on many of the world's greatest inventions. From the spinning wheel to steam power, creative minds were using every resource at their disposal to ease the lives of people working in "agriculture, manufacturing, mining, transport", and more (PaysonUsher). However, one invention during the 19th century would cause dependence on a depleting natural resource for the next two-hundred years. The invention of the internal combustion engine during the mid-19th century has since made petroleum the most sought after resource in the world today. From cars to airplanes, crude oil is the leading resource used in transport. In fact, 40 percent of total energy consumption in the United States comes from oil in large part due to 90 percent of all vehicles relying on it (WiseGeek). That being said, the oil market is vast and there are exceptional profits that can be turned from the production and exportation of this resource. For years, the "oil industry was dominated by the large oil companies" such as BP, Chevron, and Amoco (BERA). To combat the control of the major oil companies over the market, a few Middle Eastern nations along with Venezuela came together to develop the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries. By dissecting this intergovernmental organization popularly known as OPEC from its birth in 1960 until present day, we will be able to explain and understand both its role in the global economy and its effect in the political arena.

Before discussing the actual agreement and when it was finally signed, we must understand the reasons behind OPEC's formation. Prior to OPEC, "large oil companies often known as the Seven Sisters possessed the technology and skills for exploration and production that the countries lacked" (BERA).