

America's Leading News Source **For Kids**



SCHOLASTIC

News



KIDS CONTEST!
ASK YOUR TEACHER
HOW TO ENTER.

It's easy to tell the
Bryans apart—Bob
is left-handed, and
Mike is right-handed.

**Special
September
Bonus
Issue**

GLORY BOUND

**Twins Mike and Bob Bryan Head to
New York City for the US Open**

★ U S A ★
TENNIS

>> www.kids.usta.com

Wonder-Twin POWER

THE MARVELOUS BRYAN BROTHERS SHOW WHAT TEAMWORK IS ALL ABOUT

Mike and Bob Bryan are 26-year-old identical twins. They love to hang out, eat pizza, and listen to music, but these six-foot-tall brothers are anything but ordinary: They are the best tennis team in the world.

The Bryans redefine the power of teamwork every day. They play tennis in a competition style called *doubles*, working together to send the ball slamming across the net to the opposing team.

The twins got their official start in tennis at age six when they joined a junior team tennis squad in their home state of California. Throughout their childhood, the Bryans played on 26 different tennis teams. “We loved being on a squad with other kids—having team t-shirts, going to matches in vans, and playing every Monday,” says Bob.

Today, the Bryans have won more tennis titles than any other team of brothers and are revving up for the 2004 Davis Cup competition in September and the US Open and Olympic Games in August. But Mike and Bob focus on the fun

aspects of the game, too. “We definitely play with enthusiasm,” says Bob, “and we have a ton of respect for all the other players.”

Anyone Can Play

Many towns have tennis teams for kids of all ages, and these teams can be just as much fun as soccer, baseball, and basketball. “We just feel that tennis has so much action!” Mike says enthusiastically. “You run and hit all the time, not just a couple of times in a game.”

“Tennis players have to be complete athletes—running, stopping, hitting, jumping!” says Bob.

Unlike many other sports, you don’t need to have a particular body type to be a good tennis player. Some of the greatest players are in wheelchairs or have learned how to play tennis with **prosthetic** arms or legs.



WHEELCHAIR PLAYERS can play with anyone—they use the same rackets, balls, and courts as other tennis players.

Get in on the Action

Chances are you’ve experienced the fun and good results that come from working with a partner. Whether it’s in a science or English class or on the playing field, teamwork makes a difference—especially on the tennis court. Here are some quick team-tennis tips to help you get started:

- Exercise:** Stretching after playing can improve your game and prevent injuries. Lift your knees to your chest and hold for ten seconds. Sit on the floor, extend one leg and reach toward your toes for ten seconds.
- Practice:** Using rope, cones, chalk, or tape, set up a defined space in your yard or local playground. Hit the ball against a wall to practice alone or take turns serving with a partner.
- Good Sporting Behavior:** Whether you’re having a great day or trouble with your serve, have a positive attitude. It’s more fun to play with someone who is polite and remembers that tennis should be fun.

Find out about introductory team-tennis programs in your town. Visit www.tenniswelcomecenter.com and enter your zip code to find a local Tennis Welcome Center.

What’s that word?

prosthetic: (prahs-theh-tik) *adjective.* Artificial, working attachments to replace arms or legs



Mike and Bob celebrate their win at the Houston Open.

“We play [different] kinds of guys on tour,” says Mike. “Some are very powerful and strong, and some are thinner and quicker.”

Although twins always have each other to lean on, Mike and Bob think it is important to make new friends. “All the guys and girls on our teams became our best friends. We went out to eat together, practiced together, went to movies together, and rooted for each other,” explains Mike.

Teamed with Tennis: Building Other Skills

When asked about life off the tennis court Bob confides, “Our favorite thing to do is to play music.” The Bryans take a small keyboard and guitar on the road with them (Bob plays the piano and Mike plays drums and guitar) and have released two CDs as the Bryan Bros. Band. “We just love music, and we’re



THE BRYAN BROS. BAND has played at charity events, including the Washington Tennis and Education Foundation Gala in D.C. and the Elton John AIDS Foundation Event in Sacramento.

natural leaders such as Andre Agassi. “We also admire other successful doubles teams. Just by watching them, we’ve learned so much about class, good sporting behavior, great teamwork, and enthusiasm. We’ve also realized that doubles teams are a bit like a band. Each player has his or her own unique skills, but when they get together, they make great music by playing championship tennis together.”

In school, Mike’s favorite subject was math and Bob’s was history. Tennis players are surrounded by people with a variety of skills. Managers, **agents**, sports attorneys, and accountants help to organize the business details while reporters, photographers, Web site developers, and equipment manufacturers help fans stay on top of the latest news. So remember, there are hundreds of ways for a sports fan to get in on the action!

For the latest news about the Bryans, the Davis Cup, and the US Open, visit www.kids.usta.com!

Hit a tennis ball against the wall or find a friend and play together. Visit www.tenniswelcomecenter.com to find a tennis program in your area!

What’s that word?

agents: (a-jentz) *noun.* People who act on behalf of others (celebrity agents, sports agents, etc.)

Around the World

The Davis Cup is the largest international team competition in the sports world, but it didn’t start out that way. In 1899 Dwight Davis donated the trophy and in 1900 only the United States and Great Britain competed in the first tournament. Today, 145 nations compete, and Australia holds the 2003 Davis Cup trophy.



THE DAVIS CUP

This year, Team USA will play the team from Belarus (*bell-a-roos*). The people of this Eastern European country are crazy about tennis. The Belarusian team has earned great Davis Cup victories, so Team USA has some major competition ahead.

After a nine-year stretch without the title, Team USA has a new generation of tennis players gearing up to win in 2004. Coach Patrick McEnroe will be leading the Americans in their Davis Cup competition in South Carolina on September 24, 2004.

Make some virtual noise for Team USA! Log on to www.kids.usta.com to follow the games.



© JIM MCMAHON, SCHOLASTIC INC.

News IQ

Wonder-Twin Power

Pages 2-3

Fill in the circle next to each correct answer.

1. Mike and Bob Bryan participated in 26 _____ before college.

- (A) teams
- (B) panels
- (C) tournaments
- (D) autograph signings

2. A tennis player can be _____.

- (A) in a wheelchair
- (B) missing an arm
- (C) tall and thin
- (D) all of the above

3. What did the Bryan brothers learn from Andre Agassi?

- (A) leadership
- (B) great teamwork
- (C) importance of charity work
- (D) class, sportsmanship, and amazing volleys

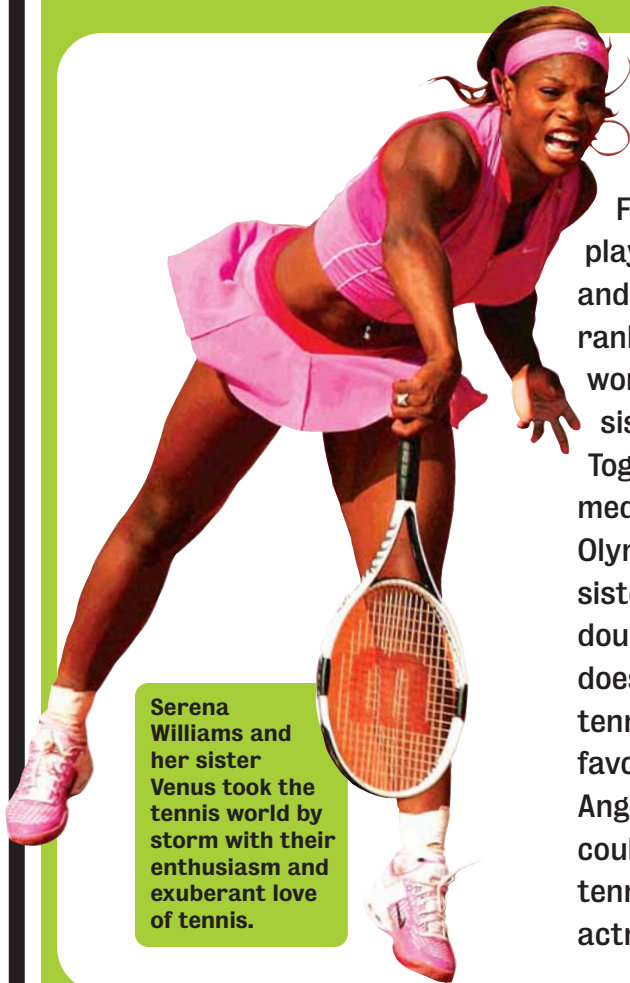
4. According to the Bryan brothers, it is important to be _____ when playing tennis.

- (A) loud
- (B) respectful
- (C) tall
- (D) patient

Language SKILLS

Grammar Ace

Tennis player Serena Williams is famous for her athletic ability in tennis. Correct the grammar, punctuation, and spelling in this short article about Serena. There are 15 mistakes. Can you find all of them?



Serena Williams and her sister Venus took the tennis world by storm with their enthusiasm and exuberant love of tennis.

Serena Williams is born on September 26 1981, in Michigan. She lived now in Florida. Serenas been

playing tennis since she was 5 and a haf and becomes the #1 ranked tennis player in the worlds in 2002. Serena has a sister, Venus Williams.

Together, they won the gold medal in doubles at the 2000 Olympics and become the first sisters to win the Olympic doubles event ever. Serena does more than always plays tennis. She reads alot and her favorate auther is Maya Angelou. Serena says "If I could be anything other than a tennis player, I would be an actress or a fashion designer.

WORD Workout

Fill in the circle next to each correct answer.

1. Someone who has lost a leg might wear a _____.

- (A) photosynthesis
- (B) prosthetic
- (C) pardon
- (D) procedure

2. A tennis volley is when you hit a tennis ball before it touches the _____.

- (A) ground
- (B) net
- (C) other player
- (D) none of the above

3. A _____ can participate on a team.

- (A) doctor
- (B) athlete
- (C) student
- (D) all of the above

4. When you do something with enthusiasm, you are filled with _____.

- (A) laziness
- (B) tiredness
- (C) excitement
- (D) envy

name _____