

[September 11, 2015]

In 1990, I was watching the local news when a bit about a 10 year old tennis player from Compton came on. The "angle" (the lamestream media LOVES "angles") was that the girl was black. That shouldn't matter, but the Left can never pass up an opportunity to hype "the first black" this or "the first gay" that if it makes the Right look like "haters". Anyhoo, the "angle" was not lost on the girl's father, also her coach, who paraded her before the cameras like a prized pig at the county fair. The insinuation was clear: if you honkies don't bankroll my little girl, you're a racist!

The little girl was Venus Williams, whose great career has hit a wall of late. Even hardcore tennis junkies can't recall the last time she won anything. Her last major singles title was the 2008 Wimbledon, which, in sports' time, was a century ago. Her last tour title was the ASB Classic in January. To add insult to injury, she was diagnosed with Sjögren's syndrome in 2011, an auto-immune disease which attacks the body's moisture-producing glands.

Things were looking up for Venus at the 2015 US Open. For the first time since 2010, she had reached the quarters. Then, she ran into a buzz-saw she has known her entire life and has grappled with her entire career: her kid sister, Serena.

When the sisters burst onto the scene in 1994, they (and their father) boasted how they were going to kick the tennis world on its lily-white ass. After Venus reached the 1997 US Open finals, and Serena beat former #1 Monica Seles at the 1997 Ameritech Cup to leap from #304 to #99 in the rankings, they (and their father) seemed on their way in making good on their boasts. Then, the reality check came January 26, 1998, a few days after the sisters announced at the ATP Tour's Australian Open office they could kick any lily-white male ass ranked 200 and higher. As fate would have it, 203rd-ranked Karsten Braasch was in the office, and agreed to take them up on it. After polishing off a round of golf and two beers, he thrashed 16-year old Serena, 6-1, then 17-year old Venus, 6-2.

If anyone tells you they knew Serena would accomplish half of what she has accomplished, they are lying. Back then, she was all arms and legs and bratty swagger. Seventeen years later, having won the Australian, the French, and Wimbledon, she was on the cusp of doing what only 5 players have ever done: win all 4 majors in a calendar year. The lily-white talking airheads were hyping her rendezvous with destiny as if it were a done-deal and how dare these lily-white poseurs make her break a sweat? Dispatching Big Sis, Serena now faced unseeded Roberta Vinci, whom, the airheads yapped with glee, was 0-4 against her. But then Vinci did the unthinkable. The unconscionable. She beat the unbeatable: 2-6, 6-4, 6-4.

How did this happen? I don't pretend to understand the nuts and bolts of tennis, so I scoured the Yahoo! comments section, and, bless those retards, they posted the insights of people who actually do understand the nuts and bolts of tennis:

* @Ana María: "Vinci used her mind to defeat the brute force of Williams, practically using her strength against her in the returns, and changing sides because someone with that much mass as Williams has carries far too much inertia to turn quickly."

* @layla1: "Vinci [is] a doubles specialist and [has] a more complete game than Serena who basically is a base liner with power and great serve. Serena can't handle variety and that's what you get with a doubles specialist. Serena looked like a cow on ice trying to get to the drop shots, she's unprepared for that type of game and doesn't come to net very often."

* @Creso Bulcao1: "... Serena's game is based on powerful/well placed serves and strong paced rallies. Vinci... sliced the ball, took the pace off of shots, did not give angles to Serena and prolonged the rallies... Many players... try to overcome Serena power with power and this, over time, makes them make too many unforced errors. Vinci... followed a strict recipe... Serena... was overplayed."

I, for one, am DELIGHTED Serena was denied for 3 reasons:

* Serena's Grand Slam would have legitimated Smash Mouth Tennis

Once upon a time, tennis was a game of strategy and finesse. Those days are LONG GONE. Serena's and the other pros' idea of strategy and finesse is to stand at the baseline and wack the shit out of the ball while screeching like a banshee having crazed sex. Don Budge (1st player to win the Grand Slam) wouldn't recognize the game today.

* Serena's Grand Slam would have been hollow

Serena has no real competition: it's just her and everyone else. The last player to win the Grand Slam was Steffi Graf in 1988. Graf is the only one of the 5 (Budge, Maureen Connolly, Rod Laver, Margaret Court) to win the Grand Slam on 4 different surfaces (carpet, clay, grass, hard court), and she had to beat 4 Hall of Famers - Chris Evert (Australian); Natasha Zvereva (French); Martina Navratilova (Wimbledon); Gabriela Sabatini (US Open) - to do it. Serena beat Maria Sharapova (Australian), Lucie Šafářová (French), and Garbiñe Muguruza (Wimbledon). Sharapova - the only other woman on the tour who has won all 4 majors - is a lock for the Hall, but Serena has beaten her 18 of 20 times! Who knows what the future holds for Šafářová and Muguruza, but, right now, the only way either one is getting into the Hall is if they buy a ticket.

* Serena is a lousy champion

Whenever I think of Serena Williams, I don't think of her 21 major singles title, her 13 major doubles titles, her 2 major mixed-doubles titles, and her 4 Olympic gold medals. I think of the 2009 US Open semis when she had the Mother of All Meltdowns and threatened a line judge for calling a foot fault, giving opponent Kim Clijsters 2 match points. She was then penalized a point for unsportsmanlike conduct, giving Clijsters the match. Serena was fined a total of \$190,000 (including \$500 for racket abuse), and placed on two-years' probation in lieu of being suspended from the 2010 Open: if she committed no offenses in the next 2 years, the fine would be cut to \$82,500 -- a joke for the most successful female athlete in the history of professional sports! In a perfect world, she would have been BANNED from the next 4 majors. But tennis is a busine\$\$\$. BIG bu\$\$ine\$\$\$. Serena may be a sore loser and an even-worse winner, but the game needs her fat black fanny to get those fat white fannies in the seats. And now that her "rendezvous with destiny" has gone arrivederci, the ratings for the Ladies Final will be lucky if it hits single digits. In a perfect world...

I have some advice for Serena's Boy Toy Drake -- hide!

UPDATE: Sports Illustrated named Serena Sportsperson of the Year. She posed for the cover in a black all-in-one and high-heels, on a throne with one leg over an armrest. SI tweeted the pose was her idea "of femininity, strength & power" [December 14, 2015]

UPDATE: Serena loses the Australian Open to Angelique Kerber 6-4, 3-6, 6-4, coming within 1 point of tying the 3rd set at 5-5 [January 30, 2016]

UPDATE: Serena loses the French Open to Muguruza 7-5, 6-4 [June 4, 2016]

UPDATE: Serena beats Kerber 7-5, 6-3 to win Wimbledon, tying her with Graf for the most singles majors' titles in the Open Era [July 9, 2016]

UPDATE: Serena loses at the US Open to Karolína Plíšková 6-2, 7-6 (5), and will lose the #1 ranking to Kerber after 187 weeks [September 8, 2016]

UPDATE: Serena announces her engagement to Alexis Ohanian, co-founder of news aggregation content ratings website Reddit [December 29, 2016]

UPDATE: Serena beats Venus 6-4, 6-4, to win the Australian Open for her 23rd singles majors' title, regaining the #1 ranking [January 28, 2017]

UPDATE: Serena announces she is pregnant and will take the year off [April 26, 2017]

UPDATE: Serena gives birth to a baby girl, Alexis Olympia Ohanian, at St. Mary's Medical Center (West Palm Beach, FL) [September 1, 2017]

UPDATE: Serena marries Ohanian in a lavish, star-studded ceremony at the Contemporary Arts Center (New Orleans, LA) [November 17, 2017]

UPDATE: Serena loses Wimbledon to Kerber 6-3, 6-3 [July 14, 2018]

UPDATE: Serena loses the US Open to Naomi Osaka 6-2, 6-4, yet not before she had yet another meltdown after umpire Carlos Ramos cited her for getting signals from her coach, which she denied. She smashed her racquet after committing an unforced error 3 points later, and Ramos issued a second code violation. An enraged Serena berated Ramos between points, earning herself a third code violation, which awarded Osaka the next game. The match was then stopped when she demanded to speak to tournament referee Brian Earley and WTA supervisor Donna Kelso, claiming to them that she was being unfairly penalized because she is a woman. Serena won the next game, but Osaka held serve the next game to win the match. During the trophy presentation, the pro-Serena crowd booed the officials and Osaka as USTA president Katrina Adams hailed Serena for her "class and sportsmanship" (!). The booing stopped only after Serena told everyone to calm down, and comforted a crying Osaka. Serena and Osaka competed at the 2014 Bank of the West Classic, but had not faced each other until the 2018 Miami Masters finals, which Osaka won [September 8, 2018]

UPDATE: Serena loses Wimbledon to Simona Halep 6-2, 6-2 [July 14, 2019]

UPDATE: Serena loses the US Open to Bianca Andreescu, 6-3, 7-5, despite saving match point and winning 4 games to even the 3rd set at 5-5 [September 7, 2019]

UPDATE: Serena loses to Qiang Wang at the Australian Open, 4-6, 7-6, 5-7 [January 24, 2020]

UPDATE: Serena loses to Victoria Azarenka at the US Open, 6-1, 3-6, 3-6 [September 10, 2020]

UPDATE: Serena withdraws from the French Open [September 30, 2020]

UPDATE: Serena loses to Osaka at the Australian Open, 3-6, 4-6 [February 8, 2021]

UPDATE: Serena loses to Elena Rybakina at the French Open, 3-6, 5-7 [June 6th, 2021]

UPDATE: Serena is forced to retire from her Wimbledon match against Aliaksandra Sasnovich after twisting her ankle [June 29, 2021]

UPDATE: Serena loses to Harmony Tan at Wimbledon, 5-7, 6-1, 6-7 [June 28, 2022]

UPDATE: Serena announces her retirement [August 8, 2022]

UPDATE: Serena loses to Ajla Tomljanović at the US Open, 7-5, 6-7, 6-1, officially ending her career [September 3, 2022]

POST SCRIPT: After losing the first set of her R2 match at the 2014 Wimbledon, Serena demonstrated once again that she learned squat from her misadventures at the 2009 US Open (or at the 2011 US Open finals, when she threatened the umpire for penalizing her a point for deliberate hindrance, costing her the match). She smashed her racquet against the turf, then flung it behind her, where it landed in a cameraman's lap. Luckily for her, the umpire was an idiot, and gave Serena a warning when anyone else would have been thrown out on his (or her) lily-white (or black) ass.

I take that back. The Stuffed Shirts who run professional tennis preach The Gospel of Sportsmanship, yet have coddled bad behavior since forever. And like the rotten cherry on top, many of these Bad Apples are in the Hall of Fame: Andre Agassi, Boris Becker, Jimmy Connors, Pancho González, Martina Hingis, John McEnroe, Ilie Năstase, Navratilova, Bobby Riggs, Marat Safin, Mats Wilander, Zvereva. They will soon be joined by Serena and fellow racquet-abuser Novak Djokovic (who curses at ball boys), Andy Murray (who curses at umpires), Rafael Nadal (ditto), Sharapova (suspended for doping), and "class act" Roger Federer (who whines when he loses). What amazes me is how everyone excuses this inexcusable behavior. When Björn Borg threw a fit after losing a match as a child, his parents took his racquet and refused to let him play again until he had learned his lesson; Hell will freeze over before the current crop of pros learn theirs!

Speaking of Sharapova, doping allegations have dogged Serena since 2010 when she didn't submit to a test for banned substances. She was granted approval for oxycodone, hydromorphone, prednisone, and methylprednisolone in 2010, 2014, and 2015 by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) – odd, as oxycodone and hydromorphone are banned by WADA. While eyebrows were raised when, in October 2011, she locked herself in her home, "mistaking" an International Tennis Federation tester for an intruder, things really got weird at the 2014 Wimbledon when Serena withdrew from the ladies' doubles after serving four consecutive double-faults and appearing disorientated. She later claimed to be suffering from a virus, although the on-court doctor found her vitals normal. What had everyone buzzing was Venus's reaction as the drama unfolded: more frustrated with her little sister than concerned. As if to prove that she really did have the "bug", she posted a photo on Instagram dozing on a couch before her laptop, bundled up in a blanket. Couple this with her propensity for violent outbursts and her manly arms, it makes you wonder.

But she is FAR from the only player who has been accused of being dirty: Samantha Stosur (beneficiary of Serena's 2011 US Open meltdown); Yanina Wickmayer; Mirjana Lucic-Baroni; Svetlana Kuznetsova; Richard Gasquet; Marin Čilić; and Nadal. And if you think Hall of Famers are angels, think again. When WADA announced guidelines in 2009 requiring players to inform WADA of their whereabouts for one hour every day when they are out of competition, Serena and Nadal were among the many who balked, and Murray denounced it as "draconian". Even Venus took exception after the Women's Tennis Association announced its plans for out of competition testing in 2003: "I think there has to be at least a notice. Showing up at the door, you kidding?"

With the world ready to forgive and forget after her 2016 Wimbledon win, even Kerber and Graf singing her praises, what did Serena do at the post-match press conference? Play the Race Card! Commenting on a pair of police-related shootings which left two black thugs - sorry, "victims of injustice" - dead, Serena (whose half-sister was murdered in 2003 by a black thug, sorry, "victim of injustice"), served up this whopper: "I feel anyone of my color in particular is of concern. I do have nephews that I'm thinking, 'Do I have to call them and tell them, don't go outside. If you get in your car, it might be the last time I see you?'... I don't think that the answer is to continue to shoot our young black men... Or just black people in general". She did call the shooting in Dallas by another black thug - sorry, "victim of injustice" - during a march by Black Losers Matter - sorry, Black Lives Matter - which left 5 cops dead "very sad", but made clear that it's whites who "have to learn that we have to love one another... It's going to take a lot of education and a lot of work".

I would have liked to have heard her opinion on the rumors of pals Jay-Z and Beyoncé breaking up or on Beyoncé's never-ending wardrobe malfunctions. But I digress...