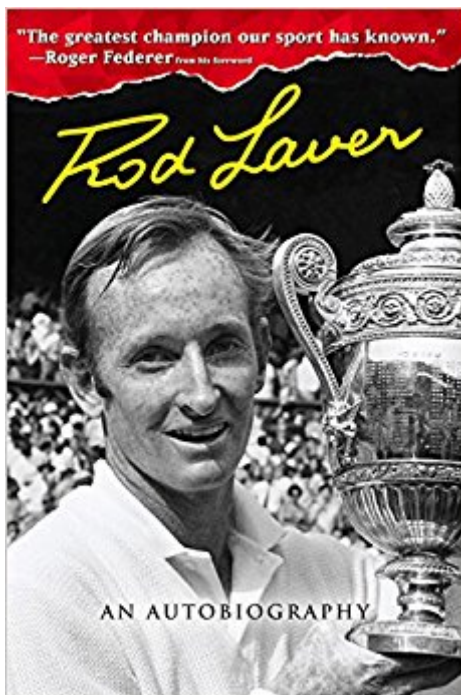


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# Rod Laver: An Autobiography



## Synopsis

Rod Laver's memoir is the inspiring story of how a diminutive, left-handed, red-headed country boy from Rockhampton, Australia became one of sports' greatest champions. Rod was a dominant force in world tennis for almost two decades, playing and defeating some of the greatest players of the twentieth century. In 1962, Rod became the second man to win the Grand Slam - that is, winning the Australian, French, Wimbledon and US titles in a single calendar year. In 1969, he won it again, becoming the only player ever to win the Grand Slam twice. Laver's book is a wonderfully nostalgic journey into Laver's path to stardom, from the early days of growing up in a Queensland country town in the 1950s, to breaking into the amateur circuit, to the extraordinary highs of Grand Slam victories. Away from on-court triumphs, Rod also movingly writes about the life-changing stroke he suffered in 1998, and of his beloved wife of more than 40 years, Mary, who died in 2012 after a long illness. Filled with anecdotes about the great players and great matches, set against the backdrop of a tennis world changing from rigid amateurism to the professional game we recognize today, Rod's book is a warm, insightful and fascinating account of one of tennis's all-time greats.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Rodney George "Rod" Laver MBE holds the record for the most singles titles won in the history of tennis - with more than 200 career titles - and was the second man to win the Grand Slam in 1962. In 1969, he won the Grand Slam again, becoming the only male player to have won the Grand Slam in the open era. Rod remains the only player to have claimed two Grand Slams - once as an

amateur and once as a professional. He was ranked World No.1 for seven years in a row and is the last male player to have won every major twice. By the end of the 1960s, he was regarded as the best tennis player in the world. Rod currently lives in Carlsbad, California. Larry Writer is a Sydney-based author and journalist and public speaker. He has written for The Sydney Morning Herald, The Melbourne Age, The Weekend Australian Magazine, Sydney Magazine, Marie Claire, Vogue, The Bulletin, Australian Business and the Australian Financial Review. He is a former editor, senior journalist and London bureau chief with Australian Consolidated Press and Time Inc. Roger Federer is a Swiss professional tennis player who is currently ranked world No. 2 by the Association of Tennis Professionals. Many commentators and players regard Federer as the greatest tennis player of all time.

" The Education Of A Tennis Player " is one of my favorite tennis books, partly because of all the tips & Rod's insight into the game. That book is focused on the Open Slam in 1969. His memoir is far more reaching into his experiences in the game throughout his life & even more than " The Education Of A Tennis Player " into his personal life & personality. For the student of the game, this is the best look into professional tennis I have ever read & even though the pro game has changed, you can't know where you are if you don't know where you've been. For any serious player today, this is a must read & should be a required read. His insights into the game as it moved into the Open area changed my understanding a great deal & you can't lose by getting this information from both a player who lived the time & a great champion of & for the game. I have read this twice so far & it's a consistently enjoyable read. I agree with another reviewer who said it should be fleshed out more as I would be perfectly happy to be able to spend more time with my favorite tennis player. Perhaps Rod should have a look at Tolstoy to get a good lesson on going for the tome of his life. Tolstoy did, after all, play tennis.....Another aspect I liked, which is very much in the style of " The Education Of A Tennis Player " is that the text reads more like a conversation or story telling than a narration. This makes Rod's memoir read more like a personal journal or that he is sitting there in your head telling you his story. Since I have listened to a number of interviews with him, it's easy to hear his voice through his book. To conclude, even if you aren't familiar with Rod Laver, this is a great book. If you are, you will even more get an idea of the history of the game & the only two time Grand Slam winner. I also would like to express my personal thanks & appreciation to him for the inspiration I have gotten from watching him play & reading his books. I even got a chance to shake his hand at a Legends stop in Nashville in the early 80's. I got to see him warming up for the finals against Rosewall which Laver won & then he teamed up with Ken in the doubles

final. I still consider that the greatest tennis day of my life. So read this book & enjoy !

This is the story of the world of Australian tennis during the 1950's and 1960's when Australians were among the best tennis players in the world. It is also the story of the early days of professional tennis as told by its greatest player, Rod Laver. Laver is the only man ever to win the Tennis' Grand Slam in Singles twice. More astonishingly, although Laver's status as a professional player prevented him from competing in the four Grand Slam tournaments for a significant portion of his best years as a player, he still won all four of the Grand Slam tournaments twice in the same year-in 1962 before he turned pro and again in 1969, after tennis professionals were allowed to compete in these tournaments again. Laver is the only player ever to win the Grand Slam in Singles two times. He stands alone among players as having accomplished such a physically and psychologically demanding achievement.

One of the main reasons I picked this book up is my tennis idol Roger Federer who posted about this book in his Facebook page not so long ago. I was glad to note that the foreword was also written by Roger. I thoroughly enjoyed reading the book - it gives the reader enormous insight into the history of the great game and also gives one an idea about how the game has evolved over all these years. It is also a great story about how Laver coped with his illness and successfully defied death with his gritty will. The only reason I gave the book four stars is because it has its share of borrowed text from newspapers, magazines and books but all of them are credited appropriately and they go along with the book's flow. After reading about Laver's career, I somehow feel that Roger and Rafa are still far behind in the GOAT discussion. Thank you, Rocket Rod Laver, for recounting your inspiring life story and for everything that you have done to the beautiful game of tennis.

This book was a gift for a friend from Australia, (now a US citizen) who was a terrific tennis player. Grew up in that tennis era and knew all of the top players. She absolutely loved the book and could relate to so many things that Rod talked about..

An absolute joy to read. The history of this great tennis player and the game in general is fantastic.

Great book- it really got into Rod's life and growth as a player- along with mentors that helped him, his insights on players, his mental and physical development, etc. A great read!!

... to recount so many matches in such detail. The insights into the personalities of the various tennis greats of the past was also a delight to read. I should make clear that you would have to be a tennis fan (I am) to enjoy this book and if there's anything more I wanted from the book I would have liked Laver's views on whether he thinks the direction the game seems to be taking with the technology, power hitting seemingly dominating over finesse etc. is healthy for the long term. Highly recommended for a tennis fan who may have missed watching one of, if not the, best ever in his prime ...

I am a huge tennis fan. I am Australian and Rod Laver is my favorite player of all time. I regularly watch old footage of Laver and if I could play like anyone, it would be like Rod. However, I would not describe this as a great read. I think half the problem may be that Rod is such a modest man that he tends to understate his many great achievements. His story may have been better told by an independent author. Nevertheless, the book tells the story of Rod's life through Rod's eyes. If you are interested in tennis history or Rod the man, then you will enjoy this book.

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