

GAME, SET, MATCH!

SCENE: The grand final of a tennis tournament. The commentators are on air, building up the suspense and excitement before the match begins.

ROLES (4): Jim (commentator), Mike (commentator), Fred (commentator), Nicole (court-side commentator)

READER AGES: 10 years and over

JIM: (*with gusto*) Welcome to one of the biggest matches that you will see in tennis this year! Two of the greatest champions the game has ever seen are about to go head-to-head in one of the greatest match ups in history... on one of the hottest nights in history!

MIKE: Yes Jim, there is a certain buzz in the air tonight, isn't there? Watching these two players warming up in preparation for the match, you can feel how focused they are on the task ahead. Though they won't need much time warming up this evening, Jim... it's still 37 degrees Celsius here in the stadium with not a hint of breeze! The players have changed their shirts twice already, they're sweating so profusely!

JIM: The heat will certainly be a factor in tonight's game, Mike. The umpires and ball kids do not look happy out there this evening. Now, back to the game. Fred, do you remember any match in the past that has had a build up quite like this one?

FRED: Well Mike, I can only remember one other match that made this stadium feel as electrified as it does this evening. It was the women's grand final five years ago, between Victoria Windsor of Great Britain and Annika Ilka of Sweden. It was a battle of the top two seeds and turned out to be an epic three set clash, lasting over three and a half hours. Ilka finally won the match, taking out the final set at 12 games to 10. The stadium was heaving then and it feels the same again tonight. Strap yourselves in for a rollercoaster ride, folks!

JIM: Certainly Mike, that was a match for the history books! I feel this match is going to be just as memorable. Mike, can you talk us through some statistics regarding the world's number one player, Phillip Lee?

MIKE: Well, what can I say? He's a champion like no other. Called the 'best tennis player in history' by *Sports Incorporated* magazine, his determination and passion for the game has made him not only a great player, but an extremely popular sports personality.

MIKE: Wherever he goes, crowds are sure to follow him. He can't even warm up without a large crowd watching his every move!

JIM: That's true, Mike. I don't know about you, but I feel it is a real honour to have the opportunity to watch him playing live here tonight.

FRED: I couldn't agree more, Jim. I can't remember a time when I have been so excited for a match to begin!

MIKE: To get some insight on Lee's opponent, the man looking to finish his winning streak, let's cross to Nicole who is patiently waiting court-side. Are you there, Nicole?

NICOLE: I am, Mike. Good evening to all our viewers at home. I couldn't agree more with what you have been saying, gentlemen... what an electric night! Lee's opponent from France, Henry Le Fleur, has had a spectacular tournament. After being absent from the game for just under two years with a back injury, it is incredibly inspiring to see him back on the court. He has fought so hard to return to the game of tennis and now he is playing in a grand final of a major tournament!

FRED: What's your perspective on his chances tonight, Nicole?

NICOLE: Le Fleur is going to have a tough game on his hands this evening. His opponent is the best player in the world and he will give everything he has to win this match.

JIM: You are right there, Nicole. Not many people are aware of this, but Lee has an interesting story himself. He started off playing golf as a teenager and was never really interested in tennis. One of his friends played tennis and convinced him to give it a try. He discovered that he had a natural ability for the game and never looked back.

FRED: (*jovially*) Lee certainly has a lot to thank that friend for!

JIM: You can say that again! Now Nicole, back to you. Can you tell us what the conditions are like down on centre court tonight?

NICOLE: Well Jim, it's like a sauna down here this evening. It's certainly the hottest I've ever felt down here doing courtside commentary. I don't envy either player. It's going to be a long, exhausting evening, especially if the match goes to five sets as predicted.

FRED: Who is likely to benefit most from the humid weather, Nicole?

NICOLE: It's hard to say, Fred. Neither of them have looked too happy during the warm up. (*confused*) Hold on a minute... now, this is strange.

FRED: What's happening down there, Nicole?

NICOLE: Well, it appears that both players have just stopped warming up. Phillip Lee has called Henry Le Fleur up to the net. The two players are now deep in conversation.

MIKE: Do you have any idea what they're saying, Nicole?

NICOLE: It's hard to tell. Henry Le Fleur is nodding his head a lot. It would appear that he is agreeing with whatever Phillip Lee is saying. And now... oh, my goodness!

JIM: What is it, Nicole? What's going on down there?

NICOLE: Both players seem to be walking over the umpire. They're speaking to him quite forcefully... he's nodding his head in agreement... he's handing both players the trophy!

MIKE: I can't believe this, Nicole. Is one of the players injured? Or sick? Is there something terribly wrong?

NICOLE: No, that doesn't appear to be the case, Mike. Apparently, the players have decided that no one should ever have to play a game of tennis in this heat and have declared the match a draw!

THE END

