

50,000 BALLS

A Pura Vida Production

STORYLINES WITHIN THE FILM

What does it take to raise a champion?
How do nationally ranked players balance school and tennis?
What sacrifices are required by players and parents?
Where's the line between being a parent and being a coach?
How do parents and coaches motivate kids?
How tough should a parent be in order to push a child to try harder?
How are standards of sportsmanship established and enforced?
How does the U.S. Tennis Association scout and promote talent?
How do you teach that winning isn't everything?

QUOTES FROM THE FILM

"The formula is very simple for tennis: You gotta hit about **50,000 balls**. By the time you've hit your 50,000th tennis ball you've probably got an idea how to do it. It doesn't mean you're gonna win a match. It doesn't mean you can win a tournament. Some kids hit their 50,000th ball by the time they're 18, some—like these kids—have already hit it." - *Billy McQuaid, coach of Joseph DiGiulio*

"This is a very competitive arena—junior tennis—and it's important for the parents, the players and the coaches to keep it all in perspective...Home-schooling, academy life, playing five or six hours a day. I think there needs to be some good balance in their lives, which will ultimately be much better for their tennis. I think the coaches need to coach tennis, but they're also coaching life skills." – *Tom Gullikson, former U.S. Davis Cup Coach*

"Learn how to compete fairly. Learn how to lose. Learn how to work towards a goal. There are incredible lessons that you can learn from tennis. Sometimes, I think, the lesson gets mixed in with the winning and the losing, so a coach really has to focus on those lessons." – *Jay Berger, USTA National Coach for High Performance*

"If you coach based on character and you're trying to make the kids better people—and that's your main focus—they'll become better tennis players." – *Berger*

"It really comes down to: *How bad do you want it?*" – *Gilad Bloom, coach of T.J. Pura*

"The No. 1 reason kids quit tennis is because they're not having fun anymore." - *McQuaid*

"Here's the downside to tennis: When you go out there, you're all by yourself. Even as a parent watching your child play—and if she's winning or if he's losing—you gotta just sit there and let 'em drown. Nobody can throw 'em a life preserver out there. The kids have to solve these problems on their own. It's another reason the game's so difficult for young kids to play." - *McQuaid*