



INTERNATIONAL
TENNIS HALL OF FAME

Journalism (7th Grade)

Lesson 1: Bud Collins and the Art of the Interview

Overview: As students work through the activities in this lesson they will be introduced to the different types of stories that make up a newspaper (news, feature, op-ed). The activities that accompany this unit are geared towards the students' multiple intelligences and will provide academic challenges at multiple levels of cognitive complexity while satisfying the goal of working towards mastery of grade appropriate common core standards of Literacy.

Objectives:

Students will be able to-

- Gain background knowledge through vocabulary activities and comprehension activities (such as guided questioning and using appropriate graphic organizers) about journalism, interviewing, and writing.
- Form an understanding of the contribution that Bud Collins made to the sport of tennis.
- Write a thoughtful journalistic story based on facts given.
- Demonstrate what they have learned about journalism, Bud Collins and his significance to the game of tennis, and his place in history by successfully completing activities, group organizers, and by taking part in meaningful classroom discussions.

Lesson Time Suggested: Two class periods



Hall of Famer Bud Collins

As a journalist and television commentator, no media professional had as vibrant a personality as Arthur "Bud" Collins. His trademark bow-ties and colorful trousers that often seemed like they could glow in the dark were custom made from fabrics he collected in his world travels covering tennis for more than 50 years. One thing Collins collected as well: a voluminous knowledge of tennis that was delivered with

infectious enthusiasm. His television commentary was often more entertaining than the match he was covering, and his writings for the *Boston Globe* starting in 1963 provided him a forum to become the preeminent and foremost authority on tennis in the world. Read more about [Bud Collins](#) on the International Tennis Hall of Fame's website.

Bud Collins Objects on Display in the Museum



Pair of Pants Worn by Bud Collins, 2001

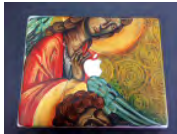
The Andover Shop (American)

Collins has written and talked his way into tennis history, but is also recognized for his striking fashion sense. Sporting bow ties and pants custom-designed from colorful fabrics sourced from around the globe, Bud never fails to make an impression.

Loan courtesy of Bud Collins, 2014

L2014.8.1

Location: Area 2, Tennis & Media Case



Bud Collins's Powerbook G4 Laptop, ca. 2003

Apple, Inc.

(artist) Marcelo Lavallen

Boston-based muralist Marcelo Lavallen customized Bud's laptop with an original work titled "Guardian Angel."

Loan courtesy of Bud Collins, 2014

L2014.8.4

Location: Area 2, Tennis & Media Case

Possible Sources:

- *Boston Globe* sports section
- *Providence Journal* sports section
- *The Bud Collins History of Tennis* by Bud Collins

Materials Needed:

- Vocabulary Builder #1
- [USA Today: 17 reasons Serena Williams's loss to Roberta Vinci was the biggest upset in tennis history](#)

- [Sports Illustrated: Roberta Vinci Upsets Serena Williams](#)
- Fact sheet on Bud Collins
- Photos of Bud Collins
- Fact sheet on Andy Roddick
- [Andy Roddick's Art of the Press Conference](#) (video)
- Fact sheet on Roger Federer
- [Roger Federer Interviews to be Wimbledon Champion](#) (video)
- Match stats on 2009 Wimbledon final
- *A Long Time Coming: Federer wins No. 15* by Bud Collins July 6, 2009

Vocabulary:

- **news story**- a story which conveys the facts - who, what, where, when, how - of the event on which you are reporting
- **feature story**- a story which conveys facts, but also focuses on the stories of people's lives
- **column/editorial**- a piece about a certain topic in which the writer takes a side and argues his/her opinion

Common Core Standards:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.2

Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.2.A

Introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow; organize ideas, concepts, and information, using strategies such as definition, classification, comparison/contrast, and cause/effect; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., charts, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.2.B

Develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.2.C

Use appropriate transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.2.D

Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.2.E

Establish and maintain a formal style.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.2.F

Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.4

Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1-3 above.)

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.5

With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on how well purpose and audience have been addressed.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.6

Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and link to and cite sources as well as to interact and collaborate with others, including linking to and citing sources.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.7

Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions for further research and investigation.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.8

Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.9

Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.9.A

Apply *grade 7 Reading standards* to literature (e.g., "Compare and contrast a fictional portrayal of a time, place, or character and a historical account of the same period as a means of understanding how authors of fiction use or alter history").

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.9.B

Apply *grade 7 Reading standards* to literary nonfiction (e.g. "Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient to support the claims").

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.10

Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.7.2

Determine two or more central ideas in a text and analyze their development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.7.3

Analyze the interactions between individuals, events, and ideas in a text (e.g., how ideas influence individuals or events, or how individuals influence ideas or events).

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.7.4

Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.7.5

Analyze the structure an author uses to organize a text, including how the major sections contribute to the whole and to the development of the ideas.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.7.6

Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how the author distinguishes his or her position from that of others.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.7.7

Compare and contrast a text to an audio, video, or multimedia version of the text, analyzing each medium's portrayal of the subject (e.g., how the delivery of a speech affects the impact of the words).

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.7.8

Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient to support the claims.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.7.9

Analyze how two or more authors writing about the same topic shape their presentations of key information by emphasizing different evidence or advancing different interpretations of facts.

Lesson & Activity

Teaching/Model

1. Vocabulary Builder: Each student will receive a Vocabulary Builder graphic organizer. The teacher will read each word and ask the students to fill in bubble 1 if they have never heard the word before, bubble 2 if they have heard the word but are unsure of the definition or bubble 3 if they know the word and can give the definition and use it in a sentence.
2. The teacher will work collaboratively with the students to come up with a working definition of the words on the graphic organizer and a sentence using the words as they pertain to the lesson at hand.
3. The teacher will present the two different stories about Serena Williams's 2015 US Open semifinal loss to Roberta Vinci, to show that while the facts of a story don't change, the way a story is presented can change.
4. The teacher will introduce Bud Collins as an important figure in tennis and sports journalism. (1st class end)
5. (2nd class begins) The teacher will review what was learned in the last class about the three different types of stories and Bud Collins.
6. The teacher will present the fact sheets and video clips of Andy Roddick and Roger Federer, and have the students compare and contrast their careers.
7. The teacher will present the match stats from the 2009 Wimbledon men's final between Andy Roddick and Roger Federer.
8. ****Students who exceed or meet expectations:**
 - a. Students will work independently to come up with questions for Roger Federer and Andy Roddick about their match.
 - b. Students will listen to the answers given by the "players" to their questions, and write a news story about the match.
9. ****Students who partially meet or do not yet meet expectations:**
 - a. Students will work in groups to come up with questions for Roger Federer and Andy Roddick about their match.
 - b. Students will listen to the answers given by the "players" to their questions, and write a news story about the match in their groups.
10. A few students will read their story aloud and receive constructive criticism.
11. Students will then read the story by Bud Collins about the match in question.
12. Students will have time to edit their stories.

Bud Collins

As a journalist and television commentator, no media professional had as vibrant a personality as Arthur “Bud” Collins. His trademark bow-ties and colorful trousers that often seemed like they could glow in the dark were custom made from fabrics he collected in his world travels covering tennis for more than 50 years. One thing Collins collected as well: a voluminous knowledge of tennis that was delivered with infectious enthusiasm. His television commentary was often more entertaining than the match he was covering, and his writings for the *Boston Globe* starting in 1963 provided him a forum to become the preeminent and foremost authority on tennis in the world.

Collins was born in Lima, Ohio, attended college at Baldwin-Wallace College but made Boston his home and working headquarters for more than 50 years. He launched his impeccable career as a graduate student at Boston University in 1959, where he found time to write for the *Boston Herald* and coach the tennis team at Brandeis University. He began his journalistic tennis exploits in earnest upon joining the *Boston Globe* in 1963 and made his foray into the electronic media side working for the local Boston PBS radio affiliate WGBH. Collins became a bona fide tennis expert, and in 1968 joined CBS Sports on its tennis broadcasts.

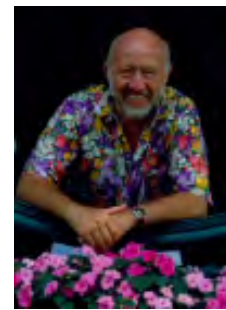
Collins brought wit, charm and an encyclopedia of knowledge to each of his journalist endeavors. While he remained the cornerstone of the *Boston Globe's* tennis coverage, he worked with CBS for four years, becoming a staple of NBC's tennis coverage in 1972, where he remained until 2007. For the next 35 years, *Breakfast at Wimbledon* included strawberries and cream, world class tennis, and Bud Collins. In 2007, he took his indomitable talents to ESPN and the Tennis Channel.

Collins treated tennis fans to his colorful prose by authoring several books, including many updated versions of *Bud Collins' Tennis Encyclopedia*, the “bible” for tennis facts, figures, and authoritative text from the game's leading historians.

As a journalist and television commentator, a historian and a vibrant personality, and as a communicator unlike any other in his time, Bud Collins was at the forefront of

tennis since the early 1960s. Collins covered more major championships than any American reporter, and always conveyed his ample knowledge of the sport with an infectious enthusiasm. Collins gained as much fame as many renowned players, working tirelessly at his craft, not just entertaining but educating the public, adding immeasurably to the popularity of tennis.

While attending his 61st US Open in 2015, the USTA unveiled the Bud Collins US Open Media Center in honor of the great ambassador to the game.



17 reasons Serena Williams's loss to Roberta Vinci was the biggest upset in tennis history

By: Chris Chase | September 11, 2015

There have been rank-on-rank upsets, there have been more surprising results (as we've detailed, Serena Williams has frequently lost such matches over the years) but no match combined the ranking gap, surprise and meaning of the moment, as Roberta Vinci's three-set win over Serena Williams did on Friday. It was one for the record books.

1. Before the tournament, most sports books did not offer odds on Roberta Vinci winning it all. Her opponent in Saturday's final, fellow Italian Flavia Pennetta, had 200/1 odds.
2. Serena was a 30/1 favorite to win the match.
3. The Italian was playing her first Grand Slam semifinal. Serena was playing her 47th.
4. Serena entered the semifinal on a 33-match Grand Slam winning streak. Vinci has 30 wins in total this season.
5. Vinci has as many losses in the past year (24) than Serena has this decade (22).
6. Vinci was playing her 44th major and just her third quarterfinal. Serena has 10 seasons when she's made that many major quarterfinals in the same year.
7. Entering the match, Vinci had as many combined wins in majors this year (six) as Serena had at every other single major (seven each in Australia, France and Wimbledon). Vinci went 2R/1R/1R at the other three majors.
8. Serena has 60 more titles than Vinci.
9. Miss Williams had won 37 consecutive matches against women ranked outside the top 40 before running into Vinci.
10. The Italian reached a high of No. 11 in the world two summers ago. She is currently ranked No. 43 (but not for long).
11. Vinci hadn't beaten a seed to get to the semifinal. The only one in her way, No. 25 Genie Bouchard, had to withdraw with a concussion.
12. In her five matches, Vinci has played 14 sets, one below the maximum. (She won her opening match over Vania King in straights.)
13. The Italian entered the Open on a 7-9 streak.

14. No woman had ever come so close to the Grand Slam without winning it, let alone losing to a journeywoman.

15. Tickets for Saturday's final hit \$1,500 on Stubhub recently. They can now be bought for as little as \$62.

16. When you win this point and then do the Hulk Hogan move, you're destined for victory.

17. Though American will almost certainly ignore the final between Vinci and Pennetta, they are both very fun players with distinct styles who will provide an entertaining two hours which, at the end, will involve one making history.

No. 1 Serena, No. 2 Halep shocked by Italian vets Vinci, Pennetta

NEW YORK – Five quick thoughts from a stunning women's semifinals at the 2015 U.S. Open.

JON WERTHEIM

Friday September 11th, 2015

- What is the sound of 20,000 tennis fans groaning? Well, now we know. Two matches from achieving the Grand Slam, tennis' answer to the Triple Crown, Serena Williams was strung tighter than her racket and bowed out, astonishingly, to unseeded Roberta Vinci of Italy, 2-6, 6-4, 6-4, one of the great upsets in tennis history. Serena won the first set 6-2, shakily but clearly superior. Then she could scarcely find the court. Plenty will be made of Serena's nerves and her palpable anxiety. Against a far inferior opponent ranked 43, the World No. 1 made scads of errors, served poorly and moved as if cinderblocks were affixed to her ankles. But credit Vinci. She won the long rallies. She kept her cool while her opponent didn't. She met the moment, winning the last game for the match of a lifetime. In a word: Wow.

- Roberta Vinci might be the answer to a trivia question (and the least popular woman in New York.) But she is suddenly a match from a highly unlikely title. In her first major singles semifinal, Vinci, 32, played crafty tennis, slicing, dicing, playing angles and overcoming a huge power differential with guile. It's easy to see why she's had such a successful career in both singles and doubles. Her pluck and her scything slice were easy on the eyes, and surprisingly effective. She closed out the match with poise. Now she plays for the whole bowl of pasta.

- Brava, Flavia. A mild-to-considerable upset in the first match as Italian veteran Flavia Pennetta reached her first major final, beating Simona Halep with surprising ease, 6-1, 6-3 in 59 minutes. Pennetta essentially out-Halep-ed Halep, defending well and deploying a surprising amount of offense. She won the first set

handily, all the while betraying a smile that said: *I'm 33 years old...I'm...going to enjoy this*. Halep found the range in the second set and took 3-1 lead. Pennetta withstood this, gathered herself and ran off the next five games, hitting with accuracy (23 winners) and allowing Halep to miss (23 errors.) Pennetta gleefully admitted that Halep was hardly at her best. Who cares? She's in the final.

- What a bittersweet event for Simona Halep. The second seed won the match of the tournament, beating Victoria Azarenka in a spellbinding quarterfinal. In reaching the semifinals, she turned in her best Slam in a year and essentially salvaged her 2015. She was a match away from meeting Serena Williams in the final, a rematch of the Cincy final three weeks ago and a showdown between No. 1 and No. 2. Then, against a lesser opponent, Halep came out flatter than the court itself. Whether it was the occasion, or the nagging thigh injury or simply an off-day, it was an awfully dodgy performance. Halep had certified herself as a top player. But after her vacant performance today, she must be asking herself some uncomfortable questions.

- The tournament began with a dominant, prominent storyline: will Serena close out the calendar Grand Slam, the most formidable feat in tennis, an achievement unseen since 1988? The conventional wisdom: "The player with the best chance of beating Serena Williams is Serena Williams." Sadly, that's what happened today. Perspective: this is still one of the most dominant seasons in WTA history. But what a disappointment. We've had seeds crashing out. We've had drones cashing into the stands. We've had head injuries. We've had still another Venus-Serena match. Today we had the biggest upset imaginable. Now it's Roberta Vinci versus Flavia Pennetta for history. Ah, sports. See you tomorrow.

Andy Roddick's Titles Through 2009 (27 total)

Andy Roddick retired at the end of 2012.

The **Major Tournaments (or Grand Slams)** are the Australian Open, the French Open, Wimbledon, and the US Open. They are the most prestigious of all of the tournaments. Andy Roddick won 1 Major Tournament in his career, but lost in 4 finals to Roger Federer.

2009 (1)

- Memphis (Indoor/Hard)

2008 (3)

- Beijing (Outdoor/Hard)
- Dubai (Outdoor/Hard)
- San Jose (Indoor/Hard)

2007 (2)

- Washington (Outdoor/Hard)
- London / Queen's Club (Outdoor/Grass)

2006 (1)

- ATP World Tour Masters 1000 Cincinnati (Outdoor/Hard)

2005 (5)

- Lyon (Indoor/Carpet)
- Washington (Outdoor/Hard)
- London / Queen's Club (Outdoor/Grass)
- Houston (Outdoor/Clay)
- San Jose (Indoor/Hard)

2004 (4)

- Indianapolis (Outdoor/Hard)
- London / Queen's Club (Outdoor/Grass)
- ATP Masters Series Miami (Outdoor/Hard)
- San Jose (Indoor/Hard)

2003 (6)

- **US Open (Outdoor/Hard)**
- ATP Masters Series Cincinnati (Outdoor/Hard)
- ATP Masters Series Canada (Outdoor/Hard)
- Indianapolis (Outdoor/Hard)
- London / Queen's Club (Outdoor/Grass)
- St. Poelten (Outdoor/Clay)

2002 (2)

- Houston (Outdoor/Clay)
- Memphis (Indoor/Hard)

2001 (3)

- Washington (Outdoor/Hard)
- Houston (Outdoor/Clay)
- Atlanta (Outdoor/Clay)

Andy Roddick's The Art of the Press Conference

Andy Roddick - The Art Of The Press Conferences (ESPN)

Uploaded on Feb 22, 2008
really nice compilation of the best of Andy Roddick's press conferences

417,277 views

1,101 likes, 16 comments

Up next

- Andy Roddick Funny Moments :D
nia pljn
990,122 views
- Federer on Roddick
jeanmis
201,360 views
- Andy Roddick on Letterman Show
rainaluk
140,327 views
- Audience Q & A - Andy Roddick
Overheard with Evan Smith
39,518 views
- Andy Roddick interviews Roger Federer.
Kishore Sharma
769,986 views
- (HQ) Andy Roddick on Jonathan Ross 2010.06.04
prozachbear
88,938 views
- Andy Roddick Tells Reporter to
Dette, Malle Out

11:16 AM 11/17/2016

Roger Federer's Titles Through 2009 (61 total)

Roger Federer is still playing tennis.

The **Major Tournaments (or Grand Slams)** are the Australian Open, the French Open, Wimbledon, and the US Open. They are the most prestigious of all of the tournaments. Roger Federer won his men's tennis record-breaking 15th Major Tournament at the 2009 Wimbledon.

2009 (4)

- ATP World Tour Masters 1000 Cincinnati (Outdoor/Hard)
- **Wimbledon (Outdoor/Grass)**
- **Roland Garros (Outdoor/Clay)**
- ATP World Tour Masters 1000 Madrid (Outdoor/Clay)

2008 (4)

- Basel (Indoor/Hard)
- **US Open (Outdoor/Hard)**
- Halle (Outdoor/Grass)
- Estoril (Outdoor/Clay)

2007 (8)

- Tennis Masters Cup (Indoor/Hard)
- Basel (Indoor/Hard)
- **US Open (Outdoor/Hard)**
- ATP Masters Series Cincinnati (Outdoor/Hard)
- **Wimbledon (Outdoor/Grass)**
- ATP Masters Series Hamburg (Outdoor/Clay)
- Dubai (Outdoor/Hard)
- **Australian Open (Outdoor/Hard)**

2006 (12)

- Tennis Masters Cup (Indoor/Hard)
- Basel (Indoor/Carpet)
- ATP World Tour Masters 1000 Madrid (Indoor/Hard)
- Tokyo (Outdoor/Hard)

- **US Open (Outdoor/Hard)**
- ATP World Tour Masters 1000 Canada (Outdoor/Hard)
- **Wimbledon (Outdoor/Grass)**
- Halle (Outdoor/Grass)
- ATP World Tour Masters 1000 Miami (Outdoor/Hard)
- ATP World Tour Masters 1000 Indian Wells (Outdoor/Hard)
- **Australian Open (Outdoor/Hard)**
- Doha (Outdoor/Hard)

2005 (11)

- Bangkok (Indoor/Hard)
- **US Open (Outdoor/Hard)**
- ATP World Tour Masters 1000 Cincinnati (Outdoor/Hard)
- **Wimbledon (Outdoor/Grass)**
- Halle (Outdoor/Grass)
- ATP World Tour Masters 1000 Hamburg (Outdoor/Clay)
- ATP World Tour Masters 1000 Miami (Outdoor/Hard)
- ATP World Tour Masters 1000 Indian Wells (Outdoor/Hard)
- Dubai (Outdoor/Hard)
- Rotterdam (Indoor/Hard)
- Doha (Outdoor/Hard)

2004 (11)

- Tennis Masters Cup (Outdoor/Hard)
- Bangkok (Indoor/Hard)
- **US Open (Outdoor/Hard)**

- ATP Masters Series
Canada (Outdoor/Hard)
- Gstaad (Outdoor/Clay)
- **Wimbledon (Outdoor/Grass)**
- Halle (Outdoor/Grass)
- ATP Masters Series
Hamburg (Outdoor/Clay)
- ATP Masters Series Indian
Wells (Outdoor/Hard)
- Dubai (Outdoor/Hard)
- **Australian Open (Outdoor/Hard)**

2003 (7)

- Tennis Masters Cup (Outdoor/Hard)
- Vienna (Indoor/Hard)

- **Wimbledon (Outdoor/Grass)**
- Halle (Outdoor/Grass)
- Munich (Outdoor/Clay)
- Dubai (Outdoor/Hard)
- Marseille (Indoor/Hard)

2002 (3)

- Vienna (Indoor/Hard)
- ATP Masters Series
Hamburg (Outdoor/Clay)
- Sydney (Outdoor/Hard)

2001 (1)

- Milan (Indoor/Carpet)

Roger Federer Interviews for the Job of Wimbledon Champion (2015)

The screenshot shows a YouTube video player for the video 'Roger Federer interviews for the job of Wimbledon Champion'. The video is from the channel 'Wimbledon' and has 39,316 views. The video player shows Federer in a blue shirt being interviewed by a woman in a pink top. The YouTube interface includes a search bar, a video player with a progress bar at 0:06 / 1:30, and a 'Up next' sidebar with several related videos. The system tray at the bottom shows the date and time as 11:18 AM on 11/17/2016.

Match Statistics

Match statistics for Swiss second seed Roger Federer's 5-7 7-6(6) 7-6(5) 3-6 16-14 defeat of American sixth seed Andy Roddick in the men's singles final at Wimbledon in 2009.

Match time: Four hours and 16 minutes

| | Roddick | Federer |
|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1st Serve % | 168 of 239 = 70% | 127 of 197 = 64% |
| Aces | 27 | 50 |
| Double Faults | 4 | 4 |
| Unforced Errors | 33 | 38 |
| Winning % on 1st Serve | 140 of 168 = 83% | 113 of 127 = 89% |
| Winning % on 2nd Serve | 31 of 71 = 44% | 42 of 70 = 60% |
| Winners | 74 | 107 |
| Receiving Points Won | 42 of 197 = 21% | 68 of 239 = 28% |
| Break Point Conversions | 2 of 5 = 40% | 1 of 7 = 14% |
| Net Approaches | 42 of 69 = 61% | 38 of 59 = 64% |
| Total Points Won | 213 | 223 |
| Fastest Serve Speed | 143 MPH | 135 MPH |
| Average 1st Serve Speed | 127 MPH | 118 MPH |
| Average 2nd Serve Speed | 105 MPH | 98 MPH |

A long time coming: Federer wins No. 15
by Bud Collins *Boston Globe*
July 6, 2009

LONDON - The yellow tennis ball hung above Andy Roddick's left shoulder like a mini moon. He eyed it with animosity, his weapon poised to shoot the moon as 15,000 witnesses surrounding the grass patch called Centre Court couldn't believe that with one simple smack the rejuvenated American would post a two-set lead over five-time champion Roger Federer.

It was oh-so-close to happening as the Lord of the Swings, Federer, stood by helplessly while Roddick, close to the net and sideline - possessing his fourth set point in the second set tiebreaker - went after the ball with a backhand . . . and bungled it.

"The wind was gusting pretty good," Roddick recalled. "When he hit the ball I thought I wasn't gonna play it. Last minute, it looked like it was dropping."

In or out? "I couldn't get my racket around on it," he said. "I don't know if it would have dropped in or out."

It was then, after two sets, when his 6-2 lead in the breaker didn't hold up, Roddick himself seemed a candidate to drop out.

"The second set was the key to what came after," said Federer, contesting a record seventh straight Wimbledon final. "Being down two sets to love would have been a difficult situation. Winning the second increased my chances because I couldn't control the match at all."

That was because Roddick was planted there to stay, giving as good as he got, as he and Federer created one of the greatest showdowns to brighten the Big W.

They slashed and bashed each other through the longest major final: 77 games in 4 hours 16 minutes. Only once could Federer bust Roddick's serve, but that concluded their masterwork, Roger's record 15th men's grand slam victory, 5-7, 7-6 (8-6), 7-6 (7-5), 3-6, 16-14. The tense, anything-you-can-do-I-can-do-better closing passage lasted 95 minutes, also a record for fifth sets in majors.

As a guy who didn't progress as he should have after winning the 2003 US Open, 26-year-old Roddick is a retooled version of America's best. A finalist to Federer here in 2004 and '05, he has outdone those times considerably within the last week, showing his finest stuff in beating ex-champ Lleyton Hewitt in five sets, then promoting British melancholia by stopping their Great Bright Hope, Scotsman Andy Murray in four.

"There's no way it doesn't cross your mind," Roddick said of the botched volley costing him the second set. "But there are two options: You lay down or you keep going. The second option sounded better to me."

Roddick came in at 2-18 against Federer. "How can you call that a rivalry?" he has said. But they were heavy-duty rivals on this breezy, cloudy, and sunny Sunday. Moreover, Roddick feels on top of the planet amid his new coach, old hand Larry Stefanki, and new bride, Brooklyn Decker, who talked him out of quitting.

With lodge brothers - former champs Rod Laver, Pete Sampras, Bjorn Borg, Manolo Santana - peering over his shoulder from the Royal Box, Federer felt extra juiced to win, thus eclipsing Sampras's record for majors that had stood since 2002.

But to keep up with the new Roddick, Federer needed the prime serving matinee of his career: 50 aces, one short of the house record held by the Leaning Tower of Zagreb, 6-foot-10-inch Ivo Karlovic. Federer had 22 service winners as well. Roddick experienced his best serving against Federer: 27 aces, 62 winners.

In his smooth, effortless glide, Federer, returning to world No. 1, often conceals the fact that he's a relentless digger and fighter.

Although Roddick is less fluid, he has improved his groundies and volleys beyond recognition. The malevolent serve remains. It supported and preserved Roddick during the lengthy high-pressure journey through the fifth set when he served the even games, thus putting the title at stake 10 times from 4-5. He squeezed out of several two-points-from-defeat hotspots, and even pushed Federer to two break points at 8-8 15-40. Serving and forehands sprung Federer from that trap.

Roddick slipped out of 0-30 to 40-30, 14-15, and was perched on a second deuce. Whereupon, abruptly it was over in two forehands - a winner from Federer's racket and a shanked error from Roddick.

An appreciative audience, standing in ovation, chanted both men's names, bringing tears to Roddick's eyes.

Roddick had played the match of his career, but will he be haunted by that small fuzzy yellow moon that he couldn't shoot?