

Alan Trengove, *The Story of the Davis Cup*. Stanley Paul, London, 1985. Bibliog. Illus., index. pp.xll + 577. \$24.99.

In 1899 a young Harvard student, Dwight Davis, took part in the first tennis tour of America. He was greatly impressed with the stimulus the tour gave to tennis in the west and immediately realised how an international competition would be beneficial for this relatively new sport. The following year Davis donated a large silver punchbowl to the United States National Lawn Tennis Association with the following words etched near the rim 'International Lawn Tennis Challenge Trophy'. The Davis Cup was born. Davis' dream is still alive and strong 86 years later.

Australian journalist Alan Trengove guides the reader skillfully through the story of its survival. What might have been a rather tedious plod through the annals of the game is in fact a

delightful experience. Against a background of world wars, apartheid, open tennis and increasing commercialism, Trengove has brought to life all the drama and tension of Davis Cup encounters. He describes in some detail all the Finals that have been contested, together with many of the minor round ties. In addition the book contains comprehensive results of every Davis Cup match played since 1900.

In tackling this mammoth task, Trengove has successfully provided the tennis world with a long overdue history of one of the game's greatest traditions, but in the process of filling that gap some minor inaccuracies have crept in - such as the continual misspelling of the American Earl Buchholz's name and the incomplete index reference for Mexico's Rafael Osuna.

Nevertheless it is a book that all tennis enthusiasts, and indeed all sports historians, should ensure is added to their bookshelves.

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