

2008

Southern California Tennis Association

IN REVIEW

Mark Winters

Summarizing the last twelve months, from a tennis perspective, is like taking a test. How does one write about all that took place and not sound boringly redundant?

Once again, Southern California had a fabulous year. Of course, given the talent that lives (or once resided) in the section, along with the rich array of programs found locally, it isn't a surprise that there is expected to be success annually.

Bob Bryan is a prime example. At Roland Garros, he and last minute sign-up partner Victoria Azarenka, who trains in Scottsdale, defeated Katrina Srebotnik/Nenad Zimonjic 6-2, 7-6 for the mixed doubles title. Moving to the Wimbledon lawns, he teamed with Samantha Stosur to defeat his brother Mike and Srebotnik, 7-5, 6-4. (It was the fifth face-off of their career, but their first in a final.)

The victory earned the left-handed member of the tandem his fifth Grand Slam mixed championship (with five different partners). Mike has held his own, winning Roland Garros in 2003 and the US Open in



The Bryans were more than jumping successes.



Bob Bryan and Victoria Azarenka
Photos: cameraworkusa

2002 both with Lisa Raymond. The brothers also have a doubles Grand Slam, and now Bob is only a win at the Australian Open short of scoring a mixed Slam. Last year, they won the US Open doubles for the second

time, (Their sixth major.), and the Olympic Bronze medal.

Following the triumph in Paris, Bob admitted his brother who is right-handed, (and two minutes older), "...wasn't watching the match. He just looks at the prize money because we split it down the middle. So he's happy I made him some money this week. He calls me the ATM machine."

Former Southlanders (Florida residents), Serena and Venus Williams, who began playing in the LA84 Foundation/National Junior Tennis League, added to the section's glitter by winning Wimbledon (Venus), US Open (Serena) and together the Olympic doubles Gold Medal.

Coco Vandeweghe, a wild card entry, appearing in only her third junior Grand Slam event, captured the US Open Girls' Championship. Doing so, she became the first American to win the title since Tara Snyder in 1995. As an aside, the last Southern Californian to win the prestigious title was Meilen Tu, who did it in 1994, defeating Martina Hingis in the final.

The personable Vandeweghe, the National Girls' 18 finalist, and doubles winner with Jamie Hampton of Auburn, Alabama, (as well as the tournament's Chairman Award winner), also received a wild card into the main draw in New York. She played Jelena Jankovic, and the No. 2 seed triumphed 6-3, 6-1. Asked if before the junior competition, she could fathom being the winner she said, "I'd probably say what I said when I found out I was playing Jankovic. 'You got to be kidding me. You're joking, right?' Or something like that."



Coco Vandeweghe