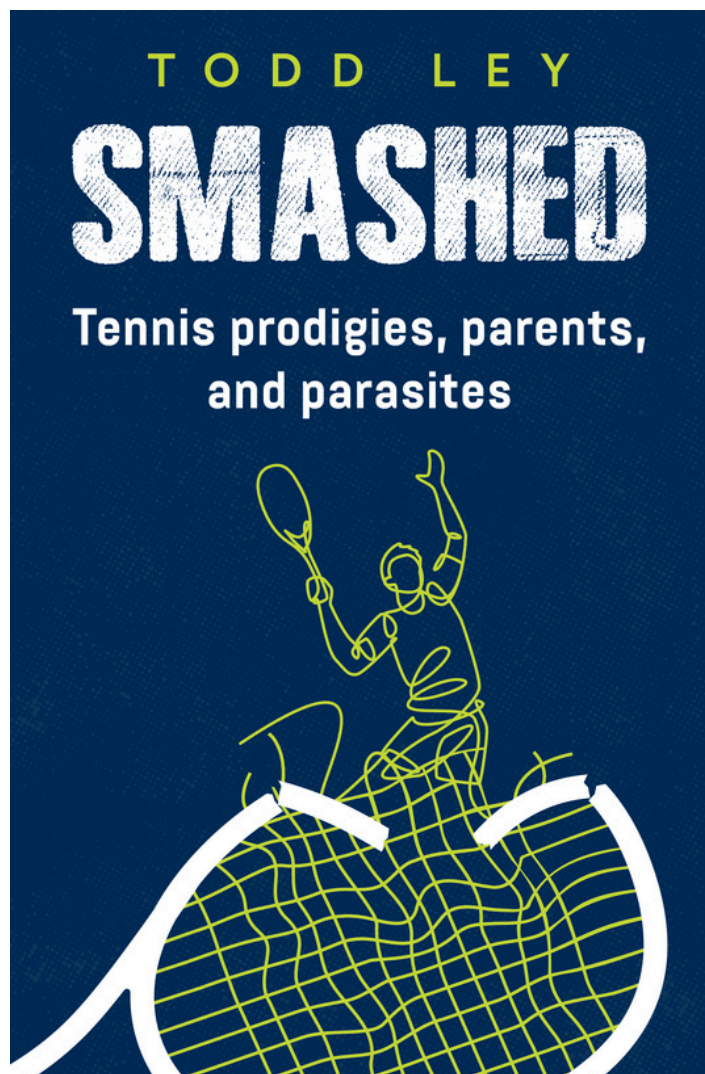


ABOUT TODD LEY & SMASHED

Australian author/former world jnr #1/coach

Memoir / Global Sport Exposé



The “you are there” atmosphere Todd Ley creates makes for an unforgettable read that’s hard to put down...an eye-opening and enthralling analysis and powerful memoir.

Midwest Book Review



Title: SMASHED

Sub-title: Tennis prodigies, parents & parasites

Author: Todd Ley

Publisher: Unsportsmanlike Publishing

Trade paperback: 272pp, 229x152mm, 473g

Availability: Unsportsmanlike Publishing/
IngramSpark/library distributors (ALS)

Paperback ISBN: 9780645899764

ebook ISBN: 9780645899740

Trade non-fiction: Autobiography/Memoir/Sport



ABOUT SMASHED & TODD LEY

SMASHED is an unprecedented examination of the ruthless underbelly of tennis, the so-called gentleman’s game..

Todd Ley, once the world's top junior player and the youngest athlete ever signed by IMG, blends wild anecdotes, raw truth, tragic humour and coaching gold, vividly capturing the reality of being a child star and the devastation it reeked on his adulthood.

From Wimbledon to the Australian Open, Ley’s darkly funny, unfiltered commentary provides a fascinating read, delivering uncomfortable truths and coaching gold, to put the game of tennis on notice.



FOR READERS INTERESTED IN:

Memoir / Biographies / Exposés / Humour / Sport / Parenting / Psychology / Tennis / Wimbledon / The Australian Open / Child athletes / Elite athletes / Professional sport / Prodigies / Coaching / Trauma / Addiction / Personal growth / Relationships / Life after sport / Behind-the-scenes of International sport.

**MEDIA/LIBRARIAN/FESTIVAL/
AUTHOR TALK ENQUIRIES:**

Anna Featherstone
anna@annafeatherstone.com

SMASHED

Unsportsmanlike Publishing
TODDLEY.COM.AU



TODD LEY BIO

Author of SMASHED



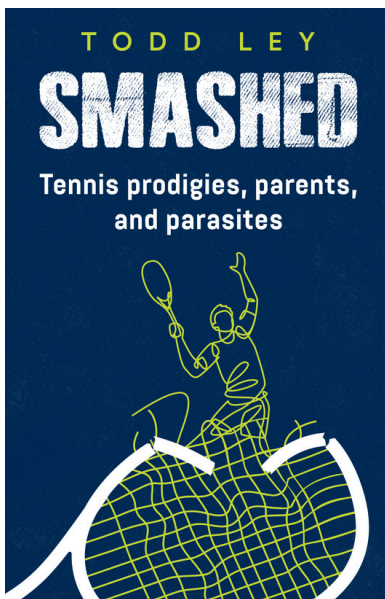
ABOUT TODD LEY



Todd Ley, once the world's top Junior tennis player at just 12 years of age, the youngest athlete ever signed by IMG and an inmate at a renowned international tennis academy has been making a racket in the tennis scene since he was a toddler.

In his book *SMASHED: Tennis prodigies, parents and parasites*, Todd exposes not just the experience of elite child athletes, but also the devastating ramifications it can lead to in adulthood.

From a youth in the sporting prodigy spotlight to family collapse, bankruptcy, alcoholism, and mental health struggles, Todd has recognised a disturbing pattern among other young athletes who fall short of glory. However, Todd's lived experience of being broken into a thousand pieces has also given him the chance to reassemble himself into something new.



Todd is raw, real and not a huge fan of fake so he's able to channel his hard-earned wisdom into delivering unflinching truths about the sport of tennis, thus delivering coaching gold. With the game being a source of untapped comedy that is rife for laughs, Todd is currently working on a dark comedy TV show titled 'Tennis parent'.

What lights him up more than the spotlight on centre court (you might have seen him in the players' coaching box during the 2022 Australian Open Doubles Win by Nick Kyrgios and Thanassi Kokkinakis) is...not a lot. Why? Because he tends to turn personal hobbies into Olympic events (and that doesn't normally end well!).

While some might call Todd 'controversial', others call him 'refreshing'. The ball is in your court to decide for yourself. Todd is now available for interviews, speaking engagements, author talks and private consulting for players, parents and coaches.



**MEDIA/LIBRARIAN/FESTIVAL/
AUTHOR TALK ENQUIRIES:**

Anna Featherstone
anna@annafeatherstone.com

SMASHED
Unsportsmanlike Publishing
TODDLEY.COM.AU



EARLY REVIEWS OF SMASHED

MIDWEST BOOK REVIEW (D. DONOVAN, SENIOR REVIEWER)

SMASHED: Tennis Prodigies, Parents and Parasites takes a deep dive into the hidden world of tennis and comes from the authoritative experience of author Todd Ley—once the world's top junior player and the youngest athlete ever signed by IMG; now a top tennis coach.

The book delves into the psyches of players and rule-makers and considers the many elements which influence a game and its players. By diversifying his sports coverage to consider gender and typical personality make-ups, Ley explains much of the headline news about tennis connections and events.

No punches are pulled in the delivery of these experiences and analysis of their underlying milieu. SMASHED is eye-opening, nearly offensively candid (offensive only to those players who might hold different ideals of and approaches to the sport), and always enthralling. Many readers won't see these insights coming. Thus, "smashed" operates as both a tennis term and an emotional response to the book's many eye-opening conclusions:

The "you are there" atmosphere Ley creates in the course of exploring tennis's hidden influences and reactions is essential for a complete understanding of not just the game (many other tennis books already provide this), but the psyches and motivations of all involved.

Humor, reality, and insights impart information parents of young players REALLY need to know. All these elements entwine in an unforgettable read that's hard to put down.

Libraries seeking an uncommon, inviting, eye-popping memoir about tennis and how it really operates will find SMASHED a powerful analysis and memoir. It draws readers with personal experience, and then smashes them with the refreshing shock and awe of a candidness not usually seen in either the sport or books about it.

KAREN VIGGERS, AUTHOR, 'SIDELINES'

A fascinating and bruising story. Part memoir, part expose, part philosophical reflection.

MAGGIE WALTERS, AUTHOR, 'SPLIT'

Smashed goes from 0 to 100 in the first paragraph and never lets up. It is a roller coaster insight into an industry that exploits children for financial gain.

ANNA FEATHERSTONE, BOLD AUTHORS

Todd Ley serves up a gritty, darkly funny, pacy and disturbing inside account of how elite sport can consume lives.

**MEDIA/LIBRARIAN/FESTIVAL/
AUTHOR TALK ENQUIRIES:**

Anna Featherstone
anna@annafeatherstone.com

SMASHED
Unsportsmanlike Publishing
TODDLEY.COM.AU



INTERVIEW Q STARTER IDEAS

for Todd Ley, author of **SMASHED**

GENERAL

- How old were you when you stopped going to school?
- How hard is it to get a job in the real world outside of the area you were a child prodigy in?
- What do you most wrestle with when you think about how your potential sporting career panned out?
- What did your family think about you writing this book? Have they read it?
- Will you encourage your son to play tennis? Or are you steering him in a different direction?
- How are you going these days?
- Do you enjoy watching or playing any other sports? If so, what are they?

ABOUT TENNIS/SPORT

- What makes tennis 'one of the most skilful, competitive and psychologically demanding sports that you can play.'
- Jelena Dokic, Andrew Agassi, Jennifer Capriati have all shared about how playing competitive tennis impacted their childhoods and mental health – what is it about this sport that can make it so potentially damaging?
- What do you think makes the game of tennis so attractive as a spectator sport and to sponsors?
- What do you like/dislike about tennis?
- What would you like to see change in tennis?
- What do you think the tennis world's reaction will be to your book?
- Do you know any well-adjusted professional tennis players?
- What do you think of pickleball?

ABOUT ATHLETES/SPORTING ASSOCIATIONS

- Do you think pursuing solo sports can potentially lead to more damaging experiences than to athletes participating in team sports?
- What role and responsibilities do you think sporting associations need to take when it comes to the wellbeing of junior athletes?

CONTINUED OVER/...

**MEDIA/LIBRARIAN/FESTIVAL/
AUTHOR TALK ENQUIRIES:**

Anna Featherstone
anna@annafeatherstone.com

SMASHED
Unsportsmanlike Publishing
TODDLEY.COM.AU



INTERVIEW Q STARTER IDEAS

continued/...

ABOUT COACHES & COACHING

- How can coaches protect, nurture but still help their young charges improve, potentially to an elite level?
- What is your approach to coaching?
- How did you arrive at that approach?
- What kind of results is it having?
- Do you see much joy in young tennis players? Why is that?
- Is it hard to be a coach and tell parents the truth...when they're the ones paying you?
- What do you wish parents knew about their kids? And about coaches?

ABOUT SPORT PARENTS

- You talk about 'delusional optimism' in sport parents, what does that look like?
- What are some things you'd like to say to sport parents who are pushing their children down the professional athlete route?
- You say that 'the freedom to fail', is the greatest gift a junior tennis player can be granted by their parents', what do you mean by that?
- What are your thoughts about parents of prodigies (from acting through to sport) taking their kids out of regular schooling?
- What's the difference between sport parents with 'misconceptions' vs 'delusions'?

ABOUT WRITING/READING

- What are some of your favourite books and/or writers?
- When did you decide to write Smashed?
- How did you decide on the title?
- Have you taken any writing classes? Or how did you learn to write?
- How long did it take you to write Smashed?
- Do you think you will write another book?
- What do you hope this book achieves?
- Are you worried about any blowback from the tennis establishment, players, coaches or parents?
- What kept you going to finish this book?
- Tell us about your love of comedy.

THANKS FOR YOUR INTEREST, APPRECIATE IT

**MEDIA/LIBRARIAN/FESTIVAL/
AUTHOR TALK ENQUIRIES:**

Anna Featherstone
anna@annafeatherstone.com

SMASHED
Unsportsmanlike Publishing
TODDLEY.COM.AU

