

Abstract

Title: Anticipation sources and interaction during the serve return

Objectives: The objectives of this diploma thesis are to explore what kinds of anticipatory resources elite tennis players perceive and which ones they take in consideration when returning the service.

Methods: The qualitative type of research was used in this diploma thesis, specifically a case study. Professional tennis players were chosen and their ATP emplacement is from 26th to 163th in the world. Five of the chosen tennis players only train now, two of them train and also play and the other two only play. Their age varies from 25 to 43 years old. A method of review with instruction was used, the review had seven questions and lasted approximately 30-60 minutes during which the players thought in detail of key factors that they use for anticipation the service. The second phase of the research was a transcription of the review, its coding and analysis.

Results: In this diploma thesis there is a description of individual themes that point out to other anticipatory resources which tennis players examine during their matches. Tennis players examine contextual and kinematic resources that help them to anticipate the service during the match. It was also found that tennis trainers do not use anticipation and returning the service in their trainings as often as appropriate. These newly found knowledge will be a great use for trainers who want to include anticipation in their training.

Key words: visual perception, review, training, tactical awareness, consciousness, contextual and kinematic information sources