

# CHILDHOOD



Rod Laver was born in the city of Rockhampton on the 9th of April 1938. He started playing tennis at a really young age and started practicing against his older brothers. He quit school to go to tournaments and learn more about the game, Rod was coached by Harry Hopman who was a famous Australian tennis player in his time.

# EDUCATION

Rod decided to drop out of school to pursue his career. He still took lessons but he was fully committed to tennis and had his eye on his dream.

# FAMILY

In 1938 Roy & Melba Laver gave birth to Rodney George Laver. They also had 3 other kids- Bob, Trevor and Lois Laver. In 1966 Rod got married to American Mary Bensen and together they had a son named Rick Laver. Rod moved to Carlsbad, California to live with Mary and they were married for 46 years but unfortunately mary died in 2012 at the age of 84 from a long illness.

# QUOTES



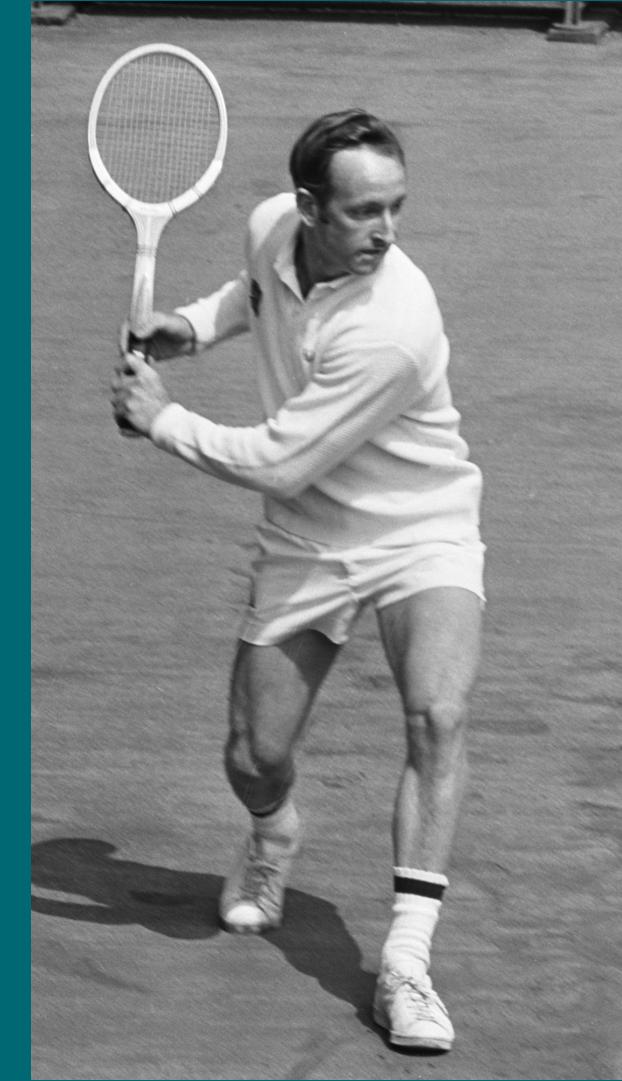
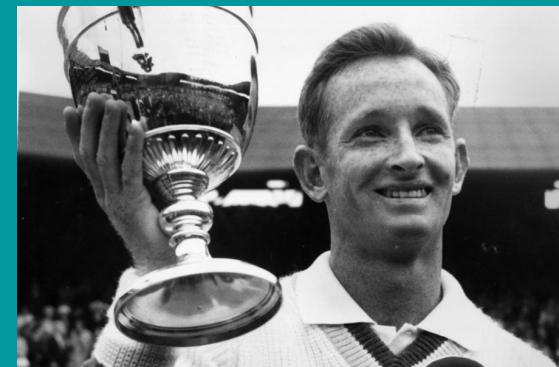
"The time your game is most vulnerable is when you're ahead, never let up"

"When you have the opportunity, you strike"

"The next point- that's all you must think about"

# WHY I SELECTED LAVER?

I chose Rod Laver because he is one of the greatest men's players of all time and he even has a tennis court named after him. He is inspirational and he had to work hard for what he achieved.



# ROD LAVER

PROFESSIONAL  
TENNIS PLAYER

# ACHIEVEMENTS

In 1981 Rod got inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame, in 1985 he got introduced into the Sports Hall of Fame and upgraded to a Legend of Australian Sport in 2002. In 1988 on January the 11th he got a tennis arena named after him and his admirable achievements ("Rod Laver Arena") which is located at Melbourne Park. The arena is the centrepiece of the Australian Open and hosts a range of sports and other events from tennis matches to international rock stars and motorbike shows. Outside the Arena is a big statue of Rod hitting a tennis ball.



Rod Laver Arena located at Melbourne Park.

# SUMMARY OF CAREER

The only male or female player in tennis history to win two calendar Grand Slams in singles earned more than \$1.5 million dollars during his entire career. Rod Laver won a record 200 tournaments and held the No. 1 world ranking from 1964-70 and his total prize winnings in a 23-year career.

# TIMELINE



**1962-**  
**He won his first grand slam at Wimbledon**

**1979-**  
**Inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame**

**1938-**  
**Rod was born on the 9th of April in Rockhampton, QLD**

**1988-**  
**Rod Laver Arena was built at Melbourne Park**



**1964-**  
**Moved up to rank no.1**



# FUN FACTS

- In January 2000, the centre court stadium at Melbourne Park was named Rod Laver Arena

- After tennis he played golf, he found it easier to swing a golf stick than a tennis racquet due to arthritis in his wrist.

- He chose between Tennis and Cricket as he grew up loving them both.

# CHALLENGES HE FACED

Mum and Dad, who were not wealthy, did so much for me. As well as the backyard court, I was never without a racquet and tennis balls. When I turned 11, they drove me to junior tournaments all over Queensland. We'd be out of bed at 2 or 3am, with Mum preparing sandwiches and thermoses of tea before Dad drove us from Rockhampton to Bundaberg, Brisbane or wherever we had to go, hundreds of kilometres and this was in the days when dirt tracks, not roads. Those treks could take seven or eight hours.