

Title: Venus Williams

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"Venus Williams" www.encyclopedia.com

Thomas Gale (2005)

www.team.org "Venus Williams" (teamus.org)

www.usopen.org "Venus Williams" (usopen.org)

I chose Venus Williams. Mrs. Williams is a world class tennis player. She started playing with her sisters, Serena, when they were three and four years old. I feel that she is a great role model for young African American women. (She is tall, pretty, and slim.) She is an inspiration to all young women to follow their dreams. She made many amazing accomplishments at a young age.

"The most unorthodox tennis prodigy her sport has ever seen." (Thomas Gale) (2005)

All five Williams daughters played tennis as youngsters, but the two youngest, Venus and Serena, were outstanding players from an early age. (Venus Williams began entering competitions, went unbeaten in 63 games, and at age ten had won the Southern California title for girls in the under-12 division." Tennis newest pixie "and a prodigy") (Thomas Gale) (2005) The Williams family moved to Florida when Venus enrolled in Macci's tennis academy.

Surprisingly, Williams turned pro just a few months later. Her debut came in Oct. of 1994 at the Bank Of West Classic in Oakland, California. Venus's youngest sister, Serena, also showed great promise as a player. She traveled to England for Wimbledon, perhaps the sport's most famous tournament. Williams' progress as a player was undeniable.

After a stellar 2000 season, Williams needed to prove to the tennis world that she was going to continue to win championships. Both sisters made history once again by being the first set of sisters to play against each other in U.S. open. Venus defeated Serena, winning her second back-to-back grand slam tournament game. She extended outside of tennis by designing a clothing line for clothing company Wilsons. Many have criticized Williams for not being focused on tennis.

In March, of 2002, Williams reached her ultimate goal, earning the top ranking from the Women's Tennis Association. (In both 2002 and 2003, for example, Williams sisters faced off

in the finals at Wimbledon; both times, Serena emerged triumphant and seized the top ranking from her sisters.) Though 2002 was the year in which Venus Williams dominated tennis, she has been in contention for many titles in every year since. In many ways, Williams seemed to have things other than tennis on her mind. However, Williams fought hard and come back to win a third Wimbledon Championship later in the summer.