

Gentlemen's Agreement

Each of the two brackets of a tennis tournament was dominated by a player who demolished his opponents by a rocket serve. Their serves were so potent that they sometimes ripped the racket out of the hand of their opponents. Sometimes their opponents ended up in the hospital. The preliminary rounds unfolded as everyone expected, and these two were to meet in the finals. The media buzzed in anticipation of what would happen when one hypersonic serve was matched by an equally lethal serve from the other side. The final match came,... and the crowd was disappointed. Oh, the level of play was good enough, but the serves were all ordinary. Afterwards a reporter investigated and extracted from the two players what had happened. They had met beforehand and agreed to spare each other the destructive effects of their serves, illustrating that one good serve deters another.

