



GoodSport NEWS

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SPORTS NEWS

Serena Williams' Retirement



BE IT VOGUE, BE IT BE TENNIS OR BE IT MOMMY –
SERENA WAS ALL POWERFUL

Serena Williams has changed what it means to be a sportswoman, to be a successful Black woman, to be a mother and to be so much more than the sum of all of her achievements, writes Orla Chennaoui. Williams looks set to evolve away from tennis after her defeat against Ajla Tomljanovic at the US Open. She will now channel all that energy, drive and magnificence somewhere else, adds Chennaoui.

There are few people in this world who are recognisable only by their first names. Fewer still who are women in sport. Serena Williams is one of those truly exceptional humans currently.

Few athletes have competed, let alone won Gold, at four Olympic Games. Serena proved her magnificence by pocketing 4 Golds in 3 Games. In 2000 Sydney Games, 2008 Beijing Games and 2012 London Games, she won the gold in Women's Doubles, with her sister Venus. However, 2012 London Olympics saw her clinching 2 gold medals, when she triumphed in both Women's Singles and Doubles. Further, she also appeared in 2016 Rio Games without success.

The fact that she narrows that niche further still, as a woman of colour, maybe shouldn't matter, but it does.

Because Serena Williams has changed what it means to be a sportswoman, to be a successful Black woman, to be a mother, to be so much more than the sum of all of her achievements. As she walks away from the professional tennis court for the final time in her playing career, Serena brings with her the record for Grand Slam titles of any player in the Open era.

But she also sweeps in the train of her magnificent, Vogue cover couture gown, a generation of change off the court that is even more profound, even more enduring, even more wide reaching.

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That is why Serena is and will continue to be so celebrated. In an age when women are still pressured to choose between career and motherhood, between strength and beauty, between sport or fashion, success or popularity, one box or another; Serena is all of it, and so much more.

Tennis lovers will know and celebrate the ways in which she has changed the sport, of course. Her serve has transformed the game.

The physical strength and technical prowess she has brought to women's tennis has taken it to a new level and demanded her rivals to compete on a similar level if they were to be any match.

Much more than the shape of the game, however, she and her sister Venus have helped change the face of tennis, literally.

At the US Open, in particular, more Black fans and people of colour see it as a sport for everyone.

*"Serena is the reason I play"
- Gauff shocked at retirement -*

Then there's the financial landscape of women's sport in general.

Serena has redefined earning expectations for top female athletes thanks to her \$94 million career winnings.

It is true that she, and now Osaka, are the exceptions in a still shamefully male dominated earning field, but she shows, at least, what is possible.

Women's sport and female athletes can, and do, sell.

All of the above, however, matters to sports fans, and those hoping to join and earn with the ranks of the elite.

Only then do they prove to all of us why sport matters, and the many ways in which it does. I've mentioned already the Vogue cover. It is no coincidence that Serena announced her retirement - evolution,



2000 Sydney Games



2008 Beijing Games

For me, Serena's greatest achievements are in transcending her sport, in transcending all of sport, because only then do athletes really make a difference.

or whatever she has earned the right to call the next part of her career - in the most esteemed fashion bible in the world.

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She has changed the aesthetics of female beauty. No less.



2012 London Games



Women have been tyrannised since the dawn of time with the small-boned, small-framed image of perfection, as initiated through the male gaze and perpetuated by high fashion.

Here is a powerful and graceful Titanness of a beauty. She is someone who empowers through her inspiration.

There is nothing effortless about Serena Williams' stature., it has visibly required dedicated, literal blood sweat and tears.

In an expectant era of social media-

influencer success, here is someone who has clearly worked hard for everything she has achieved. That's the kind of example I want to show my daughter. And son, too, for that matter.

Her physical and technical prowess would impress little if it weren't for the mental resilience she has had to build to make it to the top, and get back there time and again.

The grief of losing her sister, depression, both before and after motherhood, plummeting rankings and all the pressure that comes with being the player in the world everyone wants to beat; there is very little it seems Serena hasn't had to deal with, and overcome.

"I've built a career on channeling anger and negativity and turning it into something good," as Williams said in Vogue. "My sister Venus once said that when someone out there says you can't do something, it is because they can't do it. But I did do it. And so can you."

And it is for all of these reasons that I will continue to celebrate one of the greatest athletes I have had the privilege of witnessing in my lifetime.

Her playing career may be at an end, but the woman who has transcended her sport, who has lionised motherhood, who has given all of sport a role model we can be proud of, will have to

channel all that energy, drive and magnificence somewhere.

I cannot wait to see where it takes her next.

THE 132ND SRI LANKA AMATEUR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

Sri Lanka Ladies Amateur Open from Sep 5-10



The 132nd Sri Lanka Amateur Golf Championship and Sri Lanka Ladies Amateur Open Golf Championship will tee off at the Royal Colombo Golf Club.

Over contingent of golfers will take part in the championship including foreign players.

Indian and Pakistan players have confirmed their participation.

Many lady golfers will participate in the Ladies Open Championship to be run concurrently.

Sri Lanka Amateur Golf Championship was initiated in 1891 and is the second oldest amateur golf championship in the world, after the British Amateur Golf Championship.

The first ever Amateur Golf Championship of Ceylon was played in Nuwara Eliya in March 1891 and J.W. Govan of the Nuwara Eliya Golf Club (NEGC) was the champion.

The second championship was conducted by the Colombo Golf Club at Galle Face Green in October of the same year and was won by J.N. Campbell also from NEGC, who defeated J.W. Govan, to whom he lost in the inaugural championship.

Thereafter Govan won the next two championships played in April and October 1892, played alternatively in Nuwara Eliya and Galle Face Green in Colombo.

The three De Saram brothers – Beauchamp, Fred, and E.R. became the first Ceylonese to play in the championship in 1912. The championship was interrupted by the First World War from 1915 to 1919.

Then from 1920 to 1939 Ceylonese golfers made a greater impact in the championship, when Timothy De Silva won the title as the first Ceylonese in 1923. Bertie E. Weerasinghe won in 1929 becoming the second Ceylonese to win the Ceylon Amateur.

The championship was disrupted again by the Second World War from 1940 to 1945 and was resumed in 1946 since then it has had an unbroken run.

After the Second World War period from 1946 to 1963, the legendary Pin Fernando made his mark among the British majority amateur golfers by winning the championship on nine occasions, with C. Upali Senanayake the only other Ceylonese to win in 1963.

1964 was a new beginning for the championship, with most of the British golfers having left Ceylon, and official national teams from India and Pakistan competed in the event for the first time and have continued to do so, with additional teams from Bangladesh, and Thailand too participating annually.

Legendary Pin Fernando won the title on a record eleven occasions while K. Nandasena Perera burst on the scene in 1983 and captured the renamed Sri Lanka Amateur Golf Championship consecutively for three years in 1988, 89, and 90 and the All-India Amateur Golf Championship twice and of course the Silver Medal at the Beijing Asian Games in 1990.

N. Thangaraja is the last Sri Lankan who has won the title since 2013.

"This year too, the Championship is going to be a nail-biting tournament with top golfers vying for the Trophy. Minister of Sports Roshan Ranasinghe, will grace the occasion as Chief Guest and will give away the major awards on the 10th of September 22", said Michael Perera Magala President of Sri Lanka Golf.

NEERAJ CHOPRA GIFTS GOLD MEDAL WINNING JAVELIN TO OLYMPIC MUSEUM



The museum has a rich collection of 120 years, which includes the rifle of Abhinav Bindra, who became the first Indian to win an individual Olympic gold at Beijing 2008.

Olympic Gold medalist Neeraj Chopra has gifted his historic Tokyo Olympics gold medal winning javelin to the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, the athlete said on Twitter on Sunday.

Chopra was accompanied there by another Olympic gold medalist in Abhinav Bindra.

Neeraj posted, "It was an honour to visit and donate my Tokyo2020 javelin to the Olympic Museum yesterday.

"I hope its presence can inspire the younger generation to keep working hard towards their dreams.

"The occasion was even more special because I had @Abhinav_Bindra sir with me."

The museum has a rich collection of 120 years, which includes the rifle of Abhinav Bindra, who became the first Indian to win an individual Olympic gold at Beijing 2008.

"I can see Abhinav Bindra's rifle at the museum which gives me tremendous motivation. I hope my javelin has the same impact on future athletes, especially from India"

The museum is managed by the International Olympic Committee's Heritage team with an objective of securing Olympic legacy.

"I can see Abhinav Bindra's rifle at the museum which gives me tremendous motivation.

"I hope my javelin has the same impact on future athletes, especially from India," Chopra was quoted by PTI.

"I am delighted that his javelin will now join my rifle at the Olympic Museum, which has been a bit lonely in terms of Indian company so far," an emotional Bindra said.

8TH OLYMPIC SOLIDARITY ADVANCED SPORT MANAGEMENT COURSE



The eighth edition of the Olympic Solidarity Advanced Sport Management Course (OSASMC) conducted by the National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka was successfully concluded in August 2022.

It was commenced in June 2021 and flown until August 2022.

The course consisted of six modules covering the following topics and held over a 12-month period in 7 sessions each consisting of 2 days.

1. Organising an Olympic Sport Organisation,
2. Managing Strategically,
3. Managing Human Resources,
4. Managing Finance,
5. Managing Marketing,
6. Organising a Major Sport Event.

This provided an opportunity for individuals serving in National Sport Associations and other organisations responsible for the development of sport.

Nominations were entertained from respective organisations and the prospective applicants met the following qualifications.

- Holder of a senior executive position in a sport organisation.
- Presently responsible of managing projects of the organisation.
- A good command of English with academic writing skills.
- Computer literacy.

Applicants were interviewed by one-on-one sessions and assessed by a written assignment and finally 20 candidates were selected.

One candidate representing National Olympic Academy of Nepal was invited.

One staff member was offered the opportunity to join the course and three candidates from previous batches, who missed few sessions, were also allowed to follow this course.

ASMC Programme Director, B.L.H. Perera conducted the course along with the course facilitators;

- Maxwell de Silva,
- Mrs. Lalitha Mendis and
- Ms. Kinithi Jayatissa:

and Co-facilitators were:

- Ms. Hansika Wijayagunasekara and
- Ms. Eranga Fernando.

All together 19 candidates completed the course.

All the successful candidates will be awarded with Diploma Certificates by IOC Olympic Solidarity after reviewing the comprehensive report of the ASMC Programme Director, B.L.H. Perera.