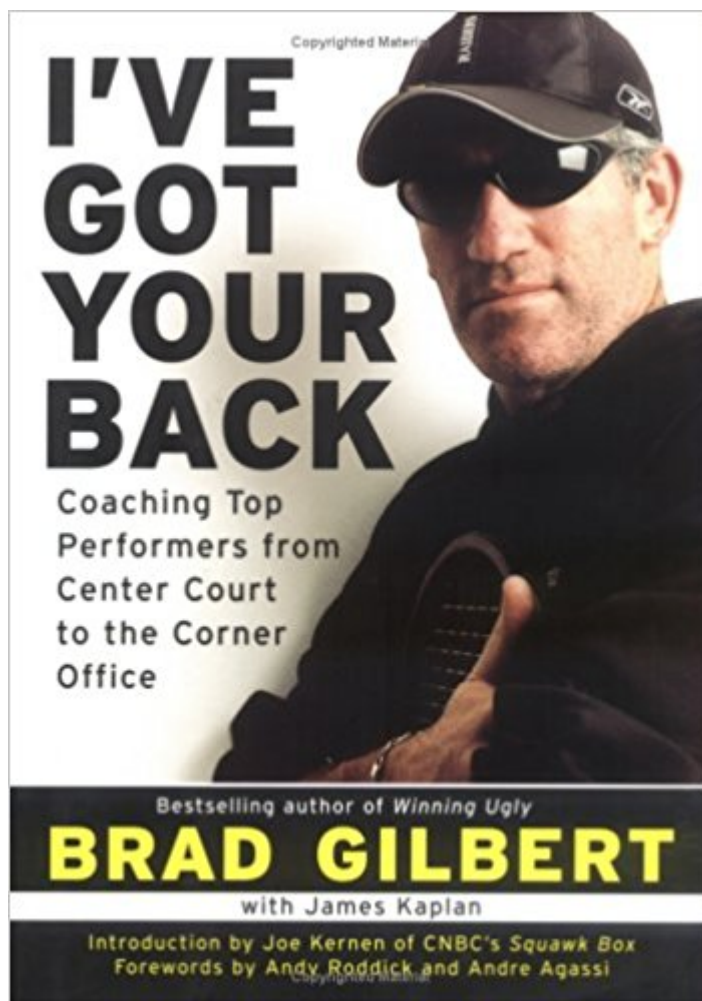




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# I've Got Your Back



## Synopsis

Brad Gilbert, the top tennis coach in America, has guided two of the nation's hottest players – first Andre Agassi and now Andy Roddick – to the coveted number 1 ranking in the world. And he did it with a unique style that can teach the rest of us everything we need to know about coaching winners – not just on the court, but in the office, classroom, or any other leadership situation. "Show me a coach," says Gilbert, "who doesn't listen – really listen – and I'll show you a probable loser. Show me a coach who domineers and demeans, who manages through fear, and I'll show you an accident waiting to happen. Show me a coach who doesn't think it's just as important to empower the lowliest scrub on the team as it is to cater to the star, and I'll show you a real short-timer." When the world's best players compete, the slightest advantage (or problem) can make all the difference. That's why Gilbert always goes the extra mile and why he urges every boss to do the same. Whether it's standing on the other side of the net feeding ball after ball, or endless hours scouting the competition, or just picking up breakfast in the morning, it all counts in building a trusting relationship. Just knowing that their coach is looking out for them unconditionally gives Gilbert's players an unbeatable edge. *I've Got Your Back* is filled with insider stories about the pressure-filled world of Grand Slam tennis. From the drama of the U.S. Open and Wimbledon to private moments on the practice court, Gilbert shares what really happens when an already great performer is determined to reach his absolute personal best. Tennis fans already know Gilbert as the poker-faced guy in the stands with the wrap-around shades and the five o'clock shadow. But they will be surprised to learn that behind the tough guy image is a smart, funny, passionate coach who is intensely competitive yet unflaggingly optimistic and supportive. He's a role model for anyone who is trying to inspire others to greatness.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gilbert (Winning Ugly) has enjoyed a successful career as a tennis coach, including coaching the last two U.S. men who ended a year ranked number one in the world, Andre Agassi and Andy Roddick (both of whom provide a foreword), and in this book he tells how he did it: intense loyalty, careful listening, meticulous scouting and doing whatever it took to ensure his player arrived at each match mentally focused on winning. Although Gilbert is considered an excellent technical coach, there is little mention of strokes, grips or tennis strategy in the book. It is an entertaining, behind-the-scenes look at the preparation for a professional tennis match, with only brief attention paid to the match itself and its aftermath. He unsuccessfully tries to stretch the lessons to apply to other sports and business management: full time dedication to bringing a temperamental individual star to peak competitive performance is not transferable to a team sport or a business executive. Moreover, in tennis, the player selects and pays the coach, which makes the relationship different from that of a boss. The book will appeal to tennis fans as an insider's account of the tour, and it will deepen their appreciation for the game that takes place off-court. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Before he became a coach, Brad Gilbert played professional tennis from 1982 to 1995, winning twenty pro titles. In 1989, he was the number 4 ranked player in the world. He is the author of the tennis classic *Winning Ugly*. James Kaplan is the coauthor, with John McEnroe, of *You Cannot Be Serious*.

I read AA's *Open*, so I was interested in getting more wise input from Brad. This book is a great story, but I was hoping for more of the pithy wisdom remarks that Andre attributed to Brad in *Open*. I thought Brad's book would be full of them, but it was more story. I did enjoy it though. Brad tells a story well, and it is easy to read. I like his honesty and the way he is humble and thankful. My expectations were different, that's all. Still glad I read it. Thanks for writing it Brad - if you ever read this. Thank you.

Having read and really enjoyed "Winning Ugly" I decided to give this book a try even though I had

read a review stating that it was geared toward applying his principals to business. I did not find that to be the case at all. Yes, he did give tennis stories and then close with how that story might apply in other's business life. But what I found in this book is an inside look at a talented coach and his relationship with his player. And given that his players were Andre Agassi and Andy Roddick, it's an interesting story for tennis fans. I've never been a big Andre Agassi fan having watched him tank matches at the tournament at my club as well as some of his early antics. And could we please get the announcers to quit talking about him running up a hill as a statement of his great fitness. However, I do have a great appreciation for his talent. From reading this book I have a greater appreciation of Andre the man. He's grown from an undisciplined talent who was lucky to be in the right place with the right talent to an intelligent quality individual. And in some respects you have to give Brad some credit although Gilbert is not attempting to take any. Although over 1/2 the book seems to mention Andre, there is quite a bit about Andy. It is interesting to hear him compare their different approaches to tennis and life in general. Overall, I would recommend this book for any tennis fan. I do not think you will be disappointed. Another must read from Brad Gilbert.

I love both books from Brad Guilbert (Winning Ugly and I've Got Your Back). Interesting inside of the tennis circus coaching. I read it in two nights.

I've Got Your Back by Brad Gilbert is a great book. It was compelling, and well written. Gilbert gives you a look inside the professional tennis world that is humorous as well as fascinating. Keep in mind, this is not Winning Ugly 2, it is it's own book with a more personal style. This time instead of Brad Gilbert's technical advice, you get to know Brad Gilbert. I think that that is the best part about the book.   
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A very honest and from the heart inside look of life on the ATP Tennis tour from Brad Gilbert. You would never experience such an up close and personal account from such a high level player now coach of the world's highest ranked players (Andy Roddick and Andre Agassi). Read this book and learn what life is like on tour as a coach and get an inside look of life with Andy and Andre from past tournaments on and off the court. I was shocked from how personal and embracing this book is. What goes through the mind of Brad Gilbert is brilliant. And that's why the top players in the world have chosen him to lead their paths and guide their tennis careers. It's been said that Brad Gilbert's mind is like a walking tennis computer. This book takes you from the beginnings of Brad Gilbert as a player turned coach to Andy Roddick's awesome win of the 2003 US Open, and not to mention

Andre Agassi's Olympic gold medal. In my opinion a must read for everyone especially if you love tennis.

This book is very inspiring as B.G. suggests the attitude proper to anything we do. 'You Really Gotta Love It' is his recipe for success and inner peace. These are not just words, he practises what he preaches. For him, tennis is, and always has been, all about passion. That is why prospective readers must be cautioned: THIS PASSION CAN BE CONTAGIOUS! Coaches and players will learn how crucial it is to start thinking in the game (based on examples of America's hottest players - Andre Agassi and Andy Roddick). This kind of thinking means drawing conclusions from past experiences, both positive and negative, the latter being, of course, more important. This book will surely help improve your on-court performance by changing your mental outlook on the game and life in general.

This was a bit of a disappointment. First, if you were hoping for a coach's principles on leadership in business, go back to the "Business" section of the bookstore. I understand that by targeting the business world Brad can increase his book sales beyond the sports junkies of the world, but in relating his coaching to other life applications, well...he leaves a bit of a gap. I really enjoyed "Winning Ugly". In fact, as a tennis player, I found it loaded with great tips (and it even improved my game). But this one is loaded with Brad's "good ole days from the tour" drivel that is certainly out of date and more than a bit tedious.

Big Gilbert fan, huge disciple of Winning Ugly! This is a completely different read. Not deep, but good, interesting sections on what he, as a coach, actually does on a professional level. His interaction with the player, insights, his influences. Book did tend to be repetitive - ok, once I'm told how great his relationship with Agassi and Roddick is, it's doesn't need to be harped on over and over, chapter after chapter. Hopefully the next book will be a little more strategic. Would like to see highlight tapes of some of his old matches (especially w/Becker) showing him applying his techniques. Should be a companion item for Winning Ugly.

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