

# Got Game?



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July 2, 2010

I just recently watched a five set match in the 2010 Wimbledon Tennis Grand Slam where US player John Isner defeated French player Nicolas Mahut over a period of 665 minutes, which equates to about 11 hours of play over several days. The match included a total of 980 serves and points (For anyone that has ever played tennis, I can't imagine even hitting 500 serves in a week or month). They are calling it the match that will never happen again. In addition, it broke dozens of records.

The commentators were talking about mental toughness and sure grit and determination during this match. The subject came up again in my tennis circle of friends and more comments of the same came out of them. Such as, "I could have never done that, I would have just retired and ended the match." Then it occurred to me that most people do the same thing when it comes to their goals in life. Which are, they have good intentions but their goals get lost in the activity and stress of everyday life. In other words, they have aspirations, but they get weighed down by other commitments and issues.

It is my belief that very few people have the drive and desire to see their goals to the end. Whether it is dieting, taking courses to finish a degree, or following through on their financial goals. Or It can even be something as starting something new that they have always wanted to do. Remember, starting is easy, but finishing takes commitment and discipline.

From another viewpoint, it is unlikely that you won't achieve your goals if you never give up. Perseverance has a way of cementing in ourselves our purpose and mission. Constantly moving in a direction we believe is in our best interest may create other opportunities that we have not even considered yet. For instance, if you are already socking away enough for retirement, then you might want to for additional goals. Doors become available because of our previous efforts and commitment. It doesn't mean that you won't get some doors slammed in your face from time to time, but you have to try to open them again.

You have all heard the phrase "attitude is everything." There are days when I play tennis on a level I'm not capable of. And then there are days where I'm just drifting around out there. Those days that I play way above my capability are because I forgot I'm not good enough to beat the other player! So limiting our success because of a limit that we impose on ourselves is not something you want to get into the habit of doing. You have the potential to achieve whatever you want to achieve.

The good news is that setting financial goals and making changes and adjustments to your plan as life changes is probably easier than playing tennis for eleven hours. So starting the plan is easy. Sticking to the plan and making adjustments on a consistent basis is the tough part, just like dieting and exercising. A lot of people hire a personal trainer to make sure they are committed to working out regularly. Just as a personal trainer keeps you on track with your exercise program, a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional can be your coach and keep you committed to your financial plan. Tennis anyone . . . it should only last an hour . . . or two . . . got game?

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