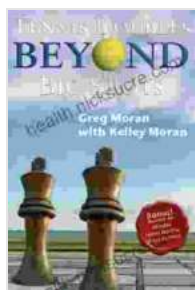


# Tennis Doubles Beyond Big Shots: The Art of Strategy, Teamwork, and Communication

In this article, we'll explore the nuances of doubles play, from choosing the right partner to developing effective tactics. We'll also discuss the importance of communication and how to build a strong relationship with your partner.

The first step to success in doubles is choosing the right partner. You want to find someone who complements your game and who you can trust on the court.

Here are some things to consider when choosing a partner:



## Tennis Doubles Beyond Big Shots by Greg Moran

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- **Playing style:** Do you prefer to play aggressively or defensively? Do you like to serve and volley or stay back and hit groundstrokes? You'll want to find a partner who has a similar playing style to you.

- **Personality:** It's important to find a partner who you can get along with both on and off the court. You're going to be spending a lot of time together, so you want to make sure you enjoy each other's company.
- **Experience:** If you're new to doubles, you may want to partner with someone who has more experience. They can help you learn the ropes and improve your game.

Once you've chosen a partner, it's time to start developing effective tactics. There are many different ways to play doubles, so you'll need to experiment to find what works best for you and your partner.

Some common doubles tactics include:

- **Serve and volley:** This is a classic doubles tactic where one player serves and the other player moves up to the net to volley. This tactic can be very effective if executed properly, but it's important to have good communication with your partner.
- **Stay back and hit groundstrokes:** This is a more defensive doubles tactic where both players stay back and hit groundstrokes from the baseline. This tactic can be effective against teams that like to serve and volley, but it's important to have good movement and court coverage.
- **Poaching:** This is a tactic where one player moves into the other player's court to hit a shot that would normally be hit by their partner. This tactic can be very effective if executed properly, but it's important to have good communication with your partner and to be aware of your surroundings.

Communication is essential in doubles play. You need to be able to communicate with your partner about everything from shot selection to court positioning.

Here are some tips for effective communication in doubles:

- **Talk to each other:** Don't be afraid to talk to your partner about anything. Let them know what you're thinking and what you're planning to do.
- **Use hand signals:** Hand signals can be a great way to communicate with your partner without having to talk. You can use hand signals to indicate which shot you're going to hit, where you want your partner to go, or to simply let them know that you're okay.
- **Be aware of your surroundings:** It's important to be aware of your surroundings and to be able to anticipate what your opponents are going to do. This will help you make better decisions and communicate more effectively with your partner.

A strong relationship between partners is essential for success in doubles. You need to be able to trust each other on the court and to be able to work together as a team.

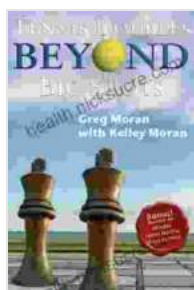
Here are some tips for building a strong relationship with your doubles partner:

- **Spend time together off the court:** Get to know your partner outside of tennis. This will help you build a stronger relationship and make it easier to communicate on the court.

- **Be supportive:** Be supportive of your partner on and off the court. Let them know that you're there for them and that you're always trying to help them improve.
- **Be open to feedback:** Be open to feedback from your partner. They may have suggestions for how you can improve your game or your communication.

Doubles play is a great way to improve your tennis skills and to have some fun with friends. By following the tips in this article, you can learn how to choose the right partner, develop effective tactics, communicate effectively, and build a strong relationship with your partner.

So get out there and start playing doubles! You may just find that you enjoy it even more than singles.



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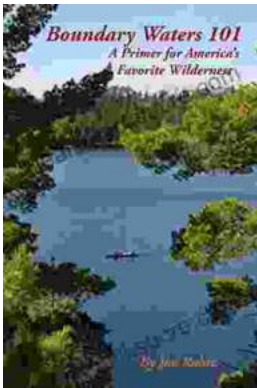
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