

The banner features the 'play to potential' logo on the left. To its right are social media icons for WhatsApp (+91 85914 52129\*), Twitter (@PlayToPotential), and a globe icon (playtopotential.com). Further right, under 'Also available on:', are icons for Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and Google Podcasts. On the right side, there is a photo of the host, Deepak Jayaraman, with the text 'Podcast Host Deepak Jayaraman' below it. At the bottom left, a small note reads: '\*Just send us a Whatsapp with your name, number and email and we will add you to our distribution list.'

## Context to the nugget conversation

Chris speaks about how people were talking about Roger's potential when he was just 13 or 14. He speaks about how Régis Brunet saw Roger in action in Florida and then immediately ran to the payphone to get hold of Roger's parents back in Switzerland.

## Transcription

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Deepak Jayaraman (DJ): And going back, one of the things you said Chris, 2001, people were already talking about his potential, can you give us a sense of what people saw at that stage for them to say he would be a special player?

Christopher Clarey (CC): Well, to be honest, the potential chatter began well before that. It began in the mid-1990s in European tennis circles. You talk to Régis Brunet who was his first agent with IMG, watching him play in a junior tournament in Florida when I think he was 13 or 14 years old and literally sprinting to the payphone which tells you how old this story is and how long Roger has been around in the game, he ran to a payphone in Florida and called his contact to get a hold of Roger's parents back in Switzerland because he was so excited by what he saw. And what he saw was somebody with just fluid movement, amazing shot-making potential, phenomenal hand-eye coordination, just an overall sort of kinetic chain to his tennis that was exceptional. If you have watched enough tennis that comes jumping off the court actually as you watch him play, and they could also see the athleticism in the speed and the quickness that he had. And as he developed, the real question was about his attitude and his emotional outbursts and behavior and self-criticism and whether that would hold him back, because it definitely held him back from achieving that full potential in his teens in very very early 20s but then again, how many of us in our teens really are the best version of ourselves, probably not too many.

## Reflections from Deepak Jayaraman

DJ: While this is the 100th conversation at the Play to Potential podcast, I should point out to you that the very first conversation in the podcast was also about Tennis. The guest at that time was Vijay Amritraj (VA) the legendary Indian tennis player. I remember meeting him at the Departure terminal at Mumbai airport and walking up to him to request a conversation when this podcast was just an idea. I remember it was a Monday morning, I was going to Chennai and he was headed to Bangalore. I still remember the look he gave me when I asked him if I could interview him for a podcast. I could see two questions in his eyes. 1) Who are you? 2) And what the hell is a podcast? Podcasting was not quite a thing in those days. I was lucky that he was able to get comfortable with my intent in a couple of minutes. He told me that he was staying at the Leela in Bangalore for a week

and he would have time on that Thursday, 3 days later. I just dropped everything else, booked my flight to meet him and record that conversation. When I look back, I am really grateful to see how far the podcast has come along since then.

While it is hard not to get impressed when you see precocious talent in front of you, like what Chris says about Roger's fluidity on court, it's useful to keep in mind that celebrating precocity sometimes can be tricky. Vijay gives a useful counter-point that brings in the dimension of effort and commitment.

VA: *"In certain cases, it fairly clear, that you can tell Especially when the kid is anywhere from 8 9 10 up you could possibly, in some case its clear but that doesn't mean he is going to make it or she is going to make it that's where the rub comes just because on a scale of one to ten your talent quotient is 9 doesn't mean you are going to make it and the other side of the coin is if the talent quotient is 1 you are not going to make it. The best examples of those are the fact that hard work will overcome lack of the talent any day of the week and twice on Sunday but lack of work is not going to help an extremely talented guy make it to the top in the similar fashion so hard work is a necessity whether you like it or not, there is no shortcut to greatness but at the end of the day for some peoples it comes a little bit easier, for some people it takes longer. John McEnroe, what he could do in 30 minutes took Ivan Lendl one week to do but they both did it and they both became two of the greatest players. So, I think it can be overcome so just because you look at a child and he or she is not be able to do A,B,C and of course mine was the perfect example as I was growing up because on a scale of 1 to 10 I was probably a -1 and so you can't say as all the Pundits did at that time, oh don't waste time, effort and money on this child because he is not going to be good at anything, but you know, you can overcome most of these obstacles if there is that will and that belief and to be the people to be able to help you get there, so, I think those things are probably the one's to be looking at as oppose to saying, oh he or she can or cannot make it."*

DJ: One of the most common examples that gets quoted in this context is Sachin vs Kambli. Several people say that in terms of intrinsic Potential when they were school kids, Kambli was possibly more gifted than Sachin. In that legendary match in 1988 when they were playing for Shardashram Vidya Mandir, they struck a partnership of 664 and Sachin scored 326 Not Out and Kambli scored 349 Not Out. We now know how their journeys played out.

## End of nugget transcription

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Nugget from Vijay Amritraj that is referenced: [Spotting Long Term Potential](#).

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### Christopher Clarey - Nuggets

- 100.01 Christopher Clarey - Signs of early potential
- 100.02 Christopher Clarey - Parenting influences on Roger
- 100.03 Christopher Clarey - Roger's curiosity and empathy
- 100.04 Christopher Clarey - Managing down-time between rallies
- 100.05 Christopher Clarey - Secret to Roger's longevity
- 100.06 Christopher Clarey - How Roger picked his Coaches
- 100.07 Christopher Clarey - Bouncing back from a rough patch
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### About Deepak Jayaraman

Deepak seeks to unlock the human potential of senior executive's / leadership teams by working with them as an Executive Coach / Sounding Board / Transition Advisor. You can know more about his work [here](#).

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Podcast Transcript [100.01 Christopher Clarey - Signs of early potential](#)

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