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The Prince Of Tennis, Volume 1



Synopsis

There is a rumour going around that a 12-year-old boy is going to enter the 16-year-old and under tennis group. How can someone so young ever hope to compete with kids much older and more experienced than he? But this is no ordinary kid: he is none other than Ryoma Echizen, the Prince of Tennis!

Book Information

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Age Range: 11 - 15 years

Grade Level: 6 - 10

Customer Reviews

A member of the tennis club in junior and senior high-school, Konomi submitted his work to Weekly Shonen Jump after graduation from university and was debuted in a special edition of the magazine in 1993 with TETSUJIN SEKAI ICHI KATAI OTOKO. In 1997, his COOL RENTAL BODYGUARD manga became serialized in Weekly Shonen Jump, followed by THE PRINCE OF TENNIS in 1992. Because of THE PRINCE OF TENNIS, the number of children in Japan who have taken up tennis as a sport has increased exponentially, and the tennis club has become one of the more popular school clubs in junior high today, creating a huge boom for the game. An anime version of THE PRINCE OF TENNIS was created in 2001, and is still going strong. A member of the tennis club in junior and senior high-school, Konomi submitted his work to Weekly Shonen Jump after graduation from university and was debuted in a special edition of the magazine in 1993 with TETSUJIN SEKAI ICHI KATAI OTOKO. In 1997, his COOL RENTAL BODYGUARD manga became serialized in Weekly Shonen Jump, followed by THE PRINCE OF TENNIS in 1992. Because of THE PRINCE

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I love it, it is so good for people to have fun with English!

I love tennis, I play regularly and often watch televised matches. I've perused some of the basketball and baseball manga from Japan and been rather lukewarm, so I wasn't expecting much from this series. It has been hailed as one of the more popular sports manga series in history, and was made into an anime series that was equally well received. I checked the first volume out from my library just to see what all of the fuss was about. Without getting too deep into the story here, the manga is about tennis (duh), but the story centers around a young Japanese phenom who just moved back from overseas. He is 12 years old, but regularly wins against opponents in the high school tournaments. Since he is so young, he encounters a lot of opposition, mainly from older players, but also from his peers. The reason I am giving a four star rating is because the series is good, but generally a little over the top. I do understand that artistic license is taken to make a manga series more engaging, but some of the panels are pretty out there. Like the first match where the players are hitting the balls into each others faces and such. It's a bit much. And the reason this stands out is because within the first three pages he corrects an older player on his description of the grip styles - accurately. The author of this series was a pretty accomplished tennis player throughout his school years, and there is a lot of credibility in the occurrences. A lot of the training, the styles, the match formats, etc, are all realistically portrayed. The over the top-ness shows in the crazy matches themselves and the super human feats of tennis that each player seems to be able to perform. It's like a match between Federer Prime and Super Djokovich at times. Despite the superhuman feats of ability and the often sappy pre-teen romance, the series is built solidly. I admit that I was drawn in very quickly. Four stars is a good rating, and if I compare this series to other quality series in other genres, the shortcomings are obvious. But compared to other sports manga I believe it is at least on par with the best. The determining factor for which sports manga you might prefer really comes down to what sports you enjoy. If you enjoy tennis, then this is an ideal series. Other sports manga covering different sports I recommend are listed below. Enjoy!

Slam Dunk, Vol. 1 (Slam Dunk (Viz))
Harlem Beat #01 (basketball)
Whistle!, Volume 1 (soccer aka football)
Eyeshield 21, Vol. 1 (football)

Of course the sports manga genre is huge in Japan but only

barely scratches the American manga market. Here's hoping for a hockey sports manga! (Sooooo unlikely!)

This is one of those manga that grows on you. At the beginning I found the main character to be too cocky for my taste, but I soon got around to liking him more. This is because Ryoma Echizen, the twelve-year-old tennis prodigy, has reasons for the way in which he behaves, and as the volumes of the manga progress, we slowly get to understand him better. Besides, some of his opponents are so obnoxious, that Ryoma's attitude does not seem all that out of place. The story starts with Ryoma arriving at Seigaku, a high school that counts with one of the best tennis teams in the nation, and fighting to make the team, or as they are called in the manga, regulars. This is not an easy task, and no freshman has done it in the past, but Ryoma counts with an unparalleled confidence and an impeccable lineage, his father was one of Japan's best tennis players until an injury forced him to retire. Will he be up to the challenge? The author of the manga is an ex-tennis player and coach, so it is clear that the misplaced players in the court are intentional, but it still bothered me a little bit, since I do not understand the need for this. Also, there is the recurring theme of Ryoma playing with his weak hand, which gets old quickly. Nevertheless, the rest of the aspects are very good, and make this a sports manga worth trying out. The drawings are extremely detailed and convey the action scenes efficiently. As is common in the sub-genre, there is a fair amount of humor, which in this case is executed well. Also, there is a hint of romance in the air and there is definitely more to come. Even though I would not say that this is one of the best sports manga available, Hajime no Ippo definitely takes the top spot in my list, it is a product that is good enough to deserve a chance. The good thing is that once the competition starts you are hooked, wanting to know what will happen next. Luckily, in this sense, this manga does not commit the error of having matches that last too long, which helps move things along and keep it interesting.

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