

SET ONE

A. Donaldson: 0 - 0

P. Zweig: 0 - 0

EXT. A TENNIS COURT IN NEW ROCHELLE - LATE AFTERNOON/EVENING

TASHI DONALDSON, 31, Black, a former player, wearing sunglasses, sits looking out at the court where two men stand across the net from one another looking like they are about to *fight to the death*.

PATRICK ZWEIG, 31, Jewish, scrappy, ranked 271 in the world, wears a mishmash of clothes from different companies -- he's got no sponsorship deal, though he has haphazardly ironed to his shirt the logo of a random Italian company, "IMPATTO."

ART DONALDSON, 31, WASP, good-looking, dressed in pristine Uniqlo, is *the biggest men's tennis star the U.S. has seen in a generation*. His shocking presence at this rinky-dink tournament is the sole reason why the modest venue is packed with locals, tourists, and anyone living in the vicinity of New Rochelle who is even *remotely* interested in tennis.

This is the final of the 2019 PHIL'S TIRE TOWN CHALLENGER, an ATP 80 professional tennis event, close to the lowest level of tournament on the men's tour.

On every available surface, there are banners with the name of the local chain of auto shops sponsoring the event; out in the parking lot, a guy sells MERCH with Art's personalized logo; to the side of the court, a goofy-looking trophy sits waiting for the victor -- an anthropomorphized tire holding a tiny tennis racket, giving a thumbs up.

Aside from an oversized check for \$7200, the winner today receives a measly 80 ranking points, but you wouldn't know it looking at Art, Patrick, and Tashi's faces: they all seem to suggest that this is about something *much more than tennis*.

UMPIRE

Donaldson to serve.

Art goes into his service motion: right before he tosses the ball, he places it for a second perfectly in the hole on the neck of the racket.

Thwacckkkk!

The ball comes *scorching* off his racket, and Patrick returns it. A rally begins: this is the opening round of a boxing match, two fighters feeling each other out in the ring.