



## READY FOR CLAY? PART 12

### THIS IS HOW YOU SHOULD RETURN A LOB

#### TIPS TO KEEP UP THE BALL EXCHANGE AFTER A LOB

No one likes to be lobbed at in tennis, it means you must rapidly retreat from the net to the baseline and run even further back. The professionals often return a lob as a tweener, but this skill is not granted to every amateur player. There are various possibilities to return a lob on the court and at the same time keep up the ball exchange. Here are three effective methods:

#### KEEP MOVING!

This may sound easy at first, yet it is the most important requirement in order to return a lob. By permitting this ball one has little time in which to position oneself ideally for the shot. That is why it is especially important to move towards the ball with quick and small steps and then deliver a forehand or even a backhand as normally as possible. At the same time it must be noted that a lob naturally jumps extremely high and one often has to even play the ball above head level.

#### SIMPLY PLAY HIGH

When you have successfully run after a lob with all your strength and energy, you should reward yourself by not making a mistake at this point. Bringing the ball back on the field is the main priority! Even when the ball jumps high try to avoid playing an overhead shot. Return the ball to your opponent with an orderly forehand. Preferably as high as possible. If you're lobbed at, of course, your opponent is in a better situation and you need time, in order to regain a good position on the court. Therefore, calmly return a moon ball. In this way you will gain time.

#### MAKE USE OF YOUR OPPONENT'S LAZINESS.

Especially in the amateur field there are many players who fall back into a lazy role after a successfully delivered lob. Such players keep watching their lob and wait to see what happens instead of following the lob to the net and fixing the point. You should make use of this chance. Having successfully reached and returned the lob make use of your opponent's surprise and react aggressively in the following ball exchange. It is never fun to

be lobbed at. But if you master these three tips, you will certainly remain in the ball exchange and the point has not been lost.

Author: Marco Kühn