

THE STATESMAN

A Publication of American Legion Boys' State of New York, Inc. Volume 78, No. 4
Monday, June 30, 2014



Holocaust survivor challenges citizens to speak out

Benjamin Jon Howell – 0058
Konrad Kopko – 0649

MORISVILLE – Pain and Redemption: these are the two best words that describe what happened today. Helen Sperling is a Holocaust survivor who bravely shared her experience with Boys' State. Although she looks like a frail old lady, she is stronger than any one of us.

She began her speech with her eleventh commandment, "Do not be a bystander." She then went on to explain her experiences in concentration camps during WWII. One of her major points was the disbelief that Hitler's "Final Solution" would ever occur. Mrs. Sperling warned us about the dangers of ignoring possible threats and not fighting back.

The Statesman asked for a reaction from Philip Watkins 0752 in regard to Helen Sperling's speech today:

Statesman: If you had one word to describe Helen Sperling, what would it be?

Watkins: Persevering.

Statesman: If you could take anything from her speech, what would it be?

Watkins: You should always mind your actions. You should always be mindful of what you are doing.

Statesman: What emotions did you feel during her speech?

Watkins: Shock, Secondhand Shame, Sympathy.

Statesman: If you witnessed an atrocity would you be a bystander?



Guest speaker Helen Sperling moved the Boys' State crowd with her brave story of surviving the Holocaust. Left photo by Will Tondo 0491; Photo above by Connor Farry 0943.

Watkins: I'd try not to. I'd like to think I would not be a bystander, and I would try to make an effort.

The Holocaust was a terrible tragedy that will be remembered for generations. Sperling's speech left a strong emotional impact on each and every one of us. It is up to us as fellow

human beings not to be "bystanders" and to stand up for what is right. We can only hope to be as unwavering as she was.

Helen Sperling challenges you to accomplish something great.

BOYS' STATE MENU

Monday, June 30 LUNCH: Big and Juicy Burger, Steak Fries, California Blend, Tossed Salad, Chocolate Chip Cookies. DINNER: Beef Lasagna, Corn, Dinner Rolls, Tossed Salad, Cake. Tuesday, July 1 BREAKFAST: Scrambled Eggs, Pancakes, Sausage Links, Potato Wedges, Fresh Fruit, Fruit Cocktail, Cold Cereal, Blueberry Muffins.

Boys' State Weather

Monday, June 30
Chance of Thunderstorms
High 84 °F
Low 67 °F
Precipitation 50%
Winds 9 mph

-Weather.gov

Bill promotes funding for group mental homes



Matthew Dunderdale 1020

At the first lobbyist meeting of the week on Sunday, Andrew Edwins 0161, the senator from McKneally County, brought a bill from his home town that his family has been pushing for a while.

The bill targets funding for group mental health Homes, and their funding. The lobbyists were beginning their attempt to muster support for the bill

because it offers funding based upon the individual population and needs of homes. Currently the funding is standardized and every one of the homes gets the same funding, which causes problems for those homes that have greater need for funding and staff.

Many homes have overcrowding issues, and lack enough staff members to effectively care for the residents. Volunteers are heavily relied upon for their transportation needs because they simply do not have the staff necessary.

Edwins' family has been pushing this bill known, as Eddie's Bill, for more than a decade. The bill will hopefully rectify the funding issues, and allow for some homes to increase their maximum tolerable population. Eddie is the name of Edwins' uncle.

His uncle has a mental disability; he is also deaf. He had been living with his parent, Andrew's grandparents, which was very difficult for them. Eventually it became to overbearing and they tried

to put him into a group home for the mentally disabled.

He was placed onto a waiting list, for over two years. After his two-year waiting period he was finally granted an interview for the home. He was allowed to reside in the home where the family quickly began to see the issues within the homes. This case has also been repeated for many other families across the country.

The lobbyists are continuing in their attempt to muster support, and assuming the bill moves on from the lobbyists, it will move on to the Senators, for them to vote.

The bill is a good idea, in my personal opinion because it will allow for group homes to better provide care to the disabled. Funding is a major issue with today's economy, and the well-being of the people should not be something of major issue. More support for the bill, however, is necessary for it to be approved.

True legend of Johnny Appleseed revealed



Austin Wolcott 0202

In a recent turn of events the true to life legend of America's favorite fruit munching hero was revealed and public reaction was highly reactive. Due to the previously smoky haze surrounding the true origins of this mythical man, when a group of sweaty citizens became a part of a real-life reenactment of the now known to be on point with history myth they were pleasantly confused. Here's the real deal:

Once upon a time there was a young man who was spending a week of his summer with an exceptional group of knights in the scenic mountains of Herzegovina. Every day they would eat a feast stocked full of sweetness and love, and to add to it they would finish it off with a juicy piece of fruit.

On one particular day during this adventurous week, this young man made a fateful decision to eat the fruit that he chose that day while outside in a group with his fellow knights. Little did he know that this decision would affect him for approaching heat waves.

Soon after this man began to eat his chosen magical apple, a magnificent creature of the high kingdoms that was patrolling the grounds pointed out that he really shouldn't be eating at the current time, due to mystical consequences. After pointing this out, the Magnificence himself changed his mind and decided to allow the gentleman to finish his fruit; however it had to be with an audience of his friends.

As the man chewed his apple, he was also aided by a knight who provided him with liquid sustenance and a much needed bath.

After the knight finished the apple, the Magnificence decided that the audience needed some musical tuning, and the knight needed some much needed conducting practice. So, with the audience lined up in pristine rows, the maestro began to lead the group in the singing of Christmas carols.

Upon completion of this routine, the brave men packed their belongings, and galloped into the Herzegovina sunset all the way to America.

Upon arrival in this new land, the young man took the core of the apple he finished and put it in the ground, creating an orchard that would spread across the country for miles.

It's also said that apples mysteriously appeared in conveniently named Johnny Appleseed's bed until the day he died.

Nationalist Party Caucus Starts Off With A Bang

Seamus Tynan (#1040)

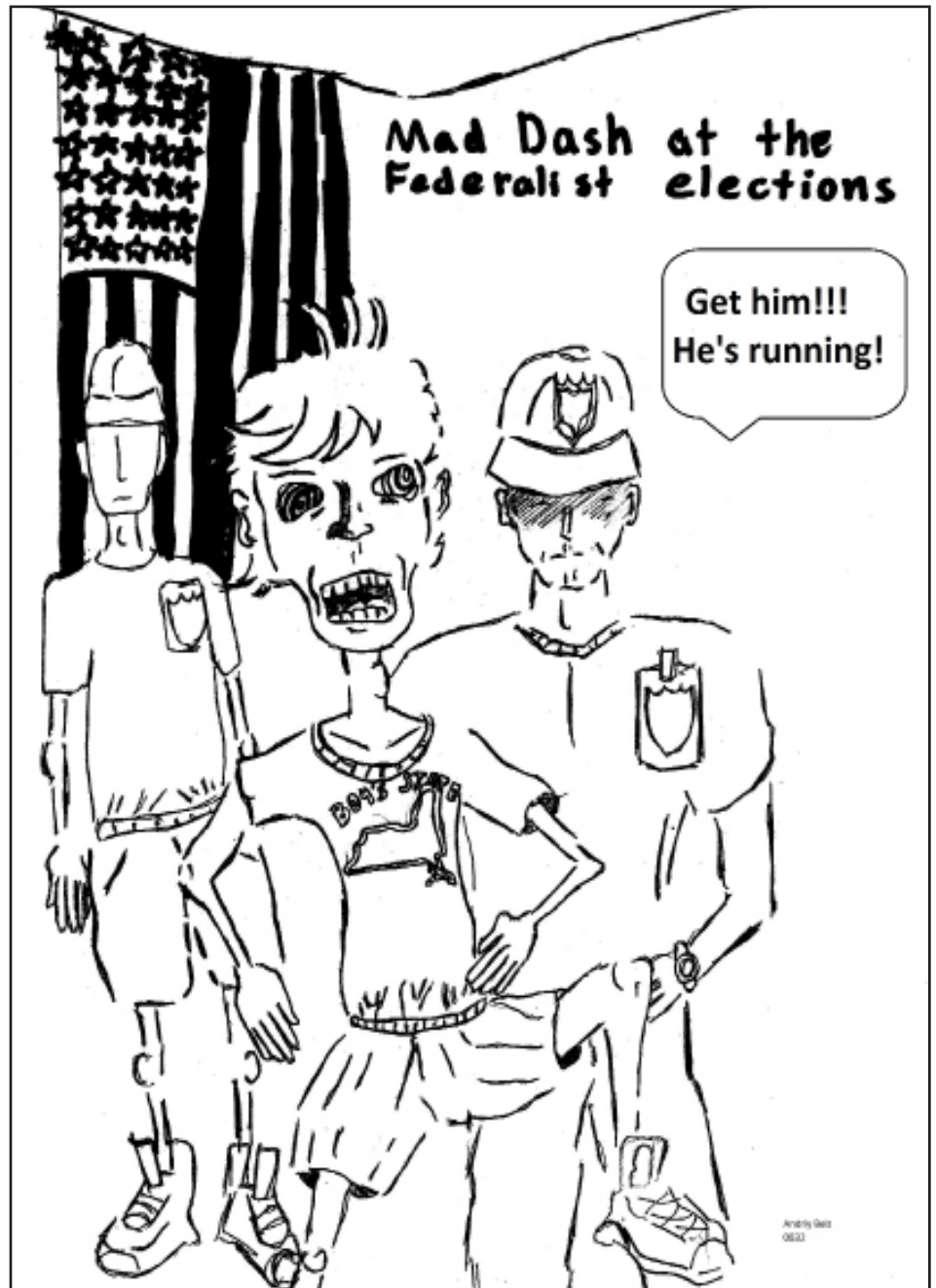
Citizens of Boys State kicked-off their respective party caucuses Saturday night. The Nationalist Party in particular had a very long night. Going into an astounding fifth vote for their respective party chairman, it soon became clear which individuals chose to serve in capacities that reflect their skills and passions and will one day lead our great nation!

Boys' State Councilor Robert Yosh said, "Everything in politics is a learning experience. In here you learn every vote counts; this is part of the Boys' State Miracle!" Especially here when the representative from a county is eliminated, forcing a county to vote for another. The councilors weren't the only ones that shared this sentiment either; Shawn Picciott 0953, a candidate for Chairman from Spafford County, said, "It's an honor to be here.... I wish to take what I learn home with me to help my community!"

Towards the 3-hour mark, the Nationalists decided unanimously on the candidate from Schieberling; John Vasquez 0615. From there the caucus picked up speed, with candidates mostly adheved to a campaign policy of 'vote for me so we go home!' To this end the night finished off with the inauguration of the Nationalist Party Clerk; Tennyson Bardwell 0639 from Schieberling and the Nationalist Party State Secretary; Kester Francis 0383 from Fish County.

Early Sunday morning the Nationalists reconvened for the party's 2nd session with election of the seven judges who will represent the court of appeals: John Karl 0005 from Roosevelt, Aidan Gaffney 0245 from Kogutek, Fraz Lugay 0353 from Fish, Jacob Deisinger 0631 from Scheiberling, Joseph Pucciarelli 0677 from Wong, Krsna Jevons 0881 from Pedro, and Joseph Dell'Olio 1091 from Koutz.

Closing the 2nd Caucus, the party voted for State Comptroller, nominating "TJ" from Koutz County.



Seriously? 21 percent?

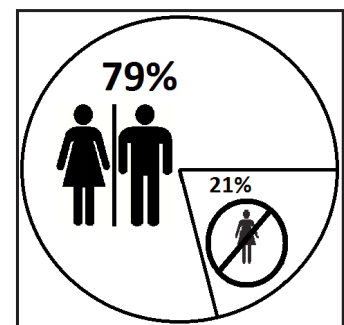
James Bleakley 1019

Should Girls' State and Boy's State be combined into one event on the same campus at the same time? Question 10 on the survey we placed in Friday night's *Statesman* drew 567 responses, and 448 respondents (79 percent) voted "Yes, we could learn a lot from one another."

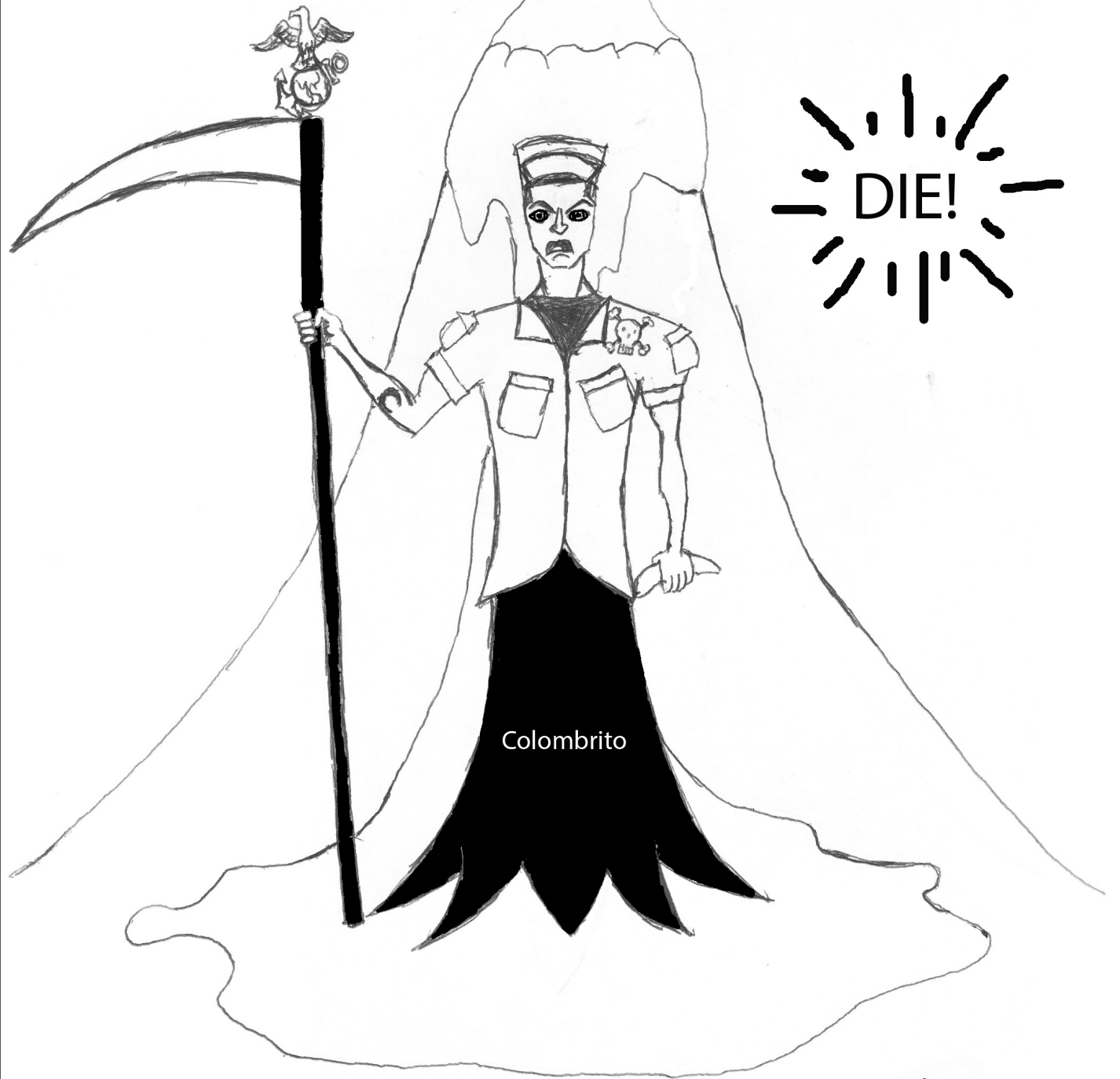
Twenty-one percent (119 people) answered "No, that would be too distracting (and I'm a dweeb)."

As this event consists of an entire week of seeing no females, it's quite

hard to believe that 21 percent of Boys' State citizens would actually say "No" to having the opposite gender around for this week.



Eagle, Globe and Anchor.
...And Scythe.
...And banana.



Colombrito

Cool Hollambay

All things Federalist: The Feds open their convention

Gary Dreyer 0094

On Saturday evening, some 450 Boys' Staters crowded into the sizzling Recreation Center to gavel in the Federalist Party convention. Beginning with an accounting of the voting strength of each county, the convention leisurely proceeded to the election of the Party Clerk.

Is block voting political corruption?

Kody Skype 0783

To many in the Roosevelt County, County Counselor Dave Downey is a respected man and is known for leading his counties to success. In fact, Mr. Downey has volunteered his time at Boy's State for 15 years. During those 15 years Mr. Downey, has earned a reputation of being one of the most prestigious and elite County Counselors to ever step foot on a Boy's State Campus.

One does not receive this title for simply volunteering; Mr. Downey has won multiple "#1 County Awards." When asked about this, Downey responded, "Without good counties, you will never win an award."

However, our recent guest speaker, District Attorney Scott McNamara, would not agree with the tactics that may have been used to achieve these awards.

It has been brought to the attention of the news room, along with many other Boys' Staters, that Mr. Downey may have been encouraging "Block Voting" among counties to push candidates through. When asked about this accusations Downey claimed that he teaches the opposite idea to his citizens.

In addition to this reply, he also was quoted in saying, "If you look at Roosevelt's voting record, this is shown." However, when asked what he would do if he noticed this "Block Voting" occurring during elections, Downey replied, "I would not respond."

This race established the scheme of all future convention elections, as following the initial round of all nominees from all counties, the top five candidates preceded to a second round, and then to a run-off of the top three candidates.

If there was no absolute majority achieved, the top two candidates would proceed to a final round, which ended up being the case for the Party Chairman and Comptroller nominations. This was avoided in the first race of the convention, that for the aforementioned position of Party Clerk, which was won by William Borkowski 0342 from Fish County by an overwhelming margin of 324 to 121 votes.

Throughout the convention, it was noted by many Citizens and observers that unfortunately block voting seemed to monopolize the convention, with Fish County carrying out the practice rather regularly.

The race for Party Secretary was among the most divisive, yet ended with the ultimate win by the nominee from Wong County, Michael Signorile 0680, by a margin of 246-198 votes.

The evening's drama was provided by an upset in the race for Permanent Party Chair, as the winner of the three-person run-off, 0006 from Roosevelt County, "Jake From State Farm" (Davis) failed to win the final runoff against the nominee from Pedro County, Connor Moran 0782, by a 264-183 margin.

On Sunday, the county parties caucused to nominate appointees for State office, and all reports pointed to strong interest in the gubernatorial race. In the second session of the convention, the Federalists elected their slate of State Justice nominees in a single round, with the bottom two vote-getters being eliminated. Citizen S.M. Huq 0450 from Stember County received the nomination for Chief Justice with 109 of the 451 votes cast.

Afterward, the convention proceeded to elect a nominee for State Comptroller, with Michael Bertlesman 0120 from McKnelly County receiving the nomination after a tight race that ended in a two-candidate runoff.

TIP OF THE DAY:

To prevent the spread of germs while you are at Boys' State, please make a special effort to wash your hands or use hand sanitizer after using the restroom, before and after meals, and before and after you shake anyone's hand.

Day Two: Boys' State sports heat up

Jack Kingston 0876

Sunday marked the second day of sports at Boys' State.

At 4:00 PM, it was a Stember county showdown, as Sallese took on O'Keefe in softball. Sallese was able to put up one run in the top of the first inning, off a throwing error. However, O'Keefe was able to take the lead; scoring four runs in the bottom half of the inning, and didn't look back, cruising to a 14-2 victory. Leading the O'Keefe offense was Jeremy Warsitz 0446, whose RBI single gave O'Keefe an early lead, and Coby Merkle 0462, who clubbed an RBI triple to increase O'Keefe's lead.

Also in the early events, Troiola and Van Patten from Fish County squared off in basketball. At the final whistle, it was Troiola taking home the victory, with a 16-1 victory. Troiola was very effective in getting into the lane, as the majority of their points came from layups and short range jumpers. Troiola's defense was especially effective, playing hard and intense defense, holding Van Patten to just one point.

Finally, at 4:45 PM, Pedro County's Tipping and Neville matched up on the courts. Neville was able to take the victory 10-5. After starting off the game on a 7-0 run, Tipping was able to score four straight points, to bring the game within three points. However, Neville held on until the end, and were able to take home the victory. Leading Neville was Cole Hartman 0792 as he was scoring from inside and outside.

Other Results:

Basketball

Bowen def. Harrington 15-5

Ward def. Baker 20-18

Keiser def. Love 17-16

Giordano def. O'Keefe 11-10

Carpenter def. McLaughlin 20-18

Casey def. Clark 20-17

Miller def. Mitras (No score available)

Bertrand def. Coleman 12-7

Softball

Keiser forfeited to Love

Morrill def. Troiola 10-0

Harrington def. Minei 8-2

Miller def. Cortright 8-7

Herschlag def. Carpenter 15-10

Marino forfeited to Neville

Clark forfeited to Burnett
McNamara def. Coleman 13-3

Volleyball

Minei def. Bowen 2-1

Kearsing def. Ward 2-1

Brown forfeited to Keiser

Morrill def. Van Patten (No score reported)

Giordano def. Sallese 2-1

Carpenter def. Herschlag 2-0

Marino def. Tipping 2-0

Casey def. Burnett 2-0

Cortright forfeited to Mitras

Bertrand def. McNamara 2-0



*Right: Robert Smith 0484 (Giordano) attempts a dunk in warm-ups. Photo by Will Tondo 0491
Above: Zackary Williams 0948 (McNamara) bumps the ball, defending McNamara's lead. Photo by Connor Farry 0943*



Nadal and Federer: The Great Rivalry of Tennis at Wimbledon

Gregory Iannicelli 0314

Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal advanced to the second week of the 2014 Wimbledon tournament on Saturday. This comes as no surprise to the casual tennis fan, as Nadal and Federer have dominated the sport for what seems like an eternity. The rivalry that Nadal and Federer have shared has consistently brought tennis into the international spotlight.

Like Brady vs Manning or LeBron vs Kobe, the Nadal and Federer rivalry has defined current generation of tennis, as well as each other's careers. It is impossible to mention Federer without also mentioning Nadal, and vice versa.

Nadal and Federer have played each other 10 times since Nadal went pro in 2001. They probably know each other better than any other player in the world. It's also worth mentioning the countless championships held between these two men, as they will always be compared to one another.

Every time Federer and Nadal face off, you know you're in for a treat. These men have put forth classics that even the greatest tennis critics can enjoy.

Whether or not Nadal and Federer will meet in the tournament remains to be seen. But one thing's for sure: you can never count out these two titans of tennis duking it out once more.