

The ultimate American folk tale

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/live/2017/jan/28/serena-williams-venus-australian-open-womens-final-live>

The story reads like a tall tale, no matter how many times it's repeated – too incredible to be true and growing only more preposterous with each passing year.

A young father of three in Compton stumbles on a tennis match one Sunday while channel-surfing, struck by astonishment as the winner, a Romanian player named Virginia Ruzici, is presented with a \$40,000 check. He decides right then his next two daughters – whom it should be noted were still unborn – will be professional tennis players.

The cotton picker's son, a high-school dropout whose tennis pedigree could fit on a postage stamp, drills his charges on cracked public courts with 10¢ balls pulled from supermarket carts. How they laugh when he proclaims his daughters, not yet teenagers, will one day play each other for grand slam finals. Venus will be the No1 player in the world. And Serena, he assures, will be even better.

Nearly four decades after he first spotted opportunity in the dim flicker of the tube, all of Richard Williams' most quixotic predictions have come to pass. If anything he undershot them. This ultimate American folk tale remains a work in progress, the latest instalment forthcoming with Saturday at Melbourne Park when Venus and Serena – the sisters with 29 major singles titles, eight Olympic gold medals and more than \$100m in prize money between them – meet once more for the Australian Open title.

Task: write a brief analysis of this text. Consider:

- text structure
- use of grammar
- choice of lexis
- cohesive devices

[illegible]