Mellowed McEnroe mauls Dyke



MELBOURNE. Jan 14 : John McEnroe returned Tuesday to

the court where nis career hit an all-time low two years ago and played one of his best matches in a long time. reports AP.

The fiery American began his 1992 Australian Open campaign with a 6-2, 6-0, 6-1 first-round victory over Australian left-hander Brod Dyke on the same court where he was thrown out of the tournament two years ago.

McEnroe was joined in the second round by seeded compatriots Jim Courier, David Wheaton and Michael Chang. all of whom had straight set victories.

McEnroe - still a crowd favourite Down Under - kept his cool and completely outplayed Dyke in front of a center-court crowd that had expected fireworks.

The only sparks flew from McEnroe's racket as he turned the clock back with a vintage performance combining artistry and energy. He won in just 76 minutes.

McEnroe said he enjoyed his first match in Melbourne since he was defaulted in the fourth set of his 1990 match against Swede Mikael Pernfors after a series of fiery outbursts.

The players had been on court nine minutes before Dyke, a former Australian No 1, won a point. He got only six in the entire second set. McEnroe lost only two points on serve in the first two sets.

McEnroe said he did not give himself much chance of winning the tournament, in which he faces Russian Andrei Cherkasov in the second round and may play defending champion Boris Becker in the third round.

"I wouldn't bet your last dol-

lar on it," he said. "But there is always hope.

> The deft left-hander is making only his fifth appearance at the Australian Open and never has made it past the semis - a record that contrasts with his four US Open titles and three Wimbledon victories.

> "It's been seven years since I won a Grand Slam tournament," he said. "It's a long shot, but if you don't think there is a chance you can still do it there is no point.

"The good point is that I'm an underdog against lots of players now. I have nothing to



JOHN McENROE behaviour as he skilfully dissected Dyke in straight sets.

Not a whinge, and his only dissension was a raised eyebrow in the final set as he pointed his racket in silence to a point beyond the baseline where he felt the ball should have been called out.

McEnroe, 31, who missed last year's Grand Slam event with a shoulder injury, was never in trouble against a fellow left-hander, serving, volleying and lobbing superbly.

His only hiccup was the first game of the third set when, after losing only two points in taking the second 6-0. he twisted awkwardly on his

left ankle and, clearly unsettled, went to deuce three times before winning the

"Fortunately I went with it and didn't hurt myself seriously." McEnroe, now ranked 28 in the world, told a news

conference. "I felt I played very well. Brod's not a big server and that's the sort of match I like to play." McEnroe said.

As for being back in the Centre Court limelight after vowing never to return to Australia after his fourth-round departure for repeated bad behaviour in 1990, McEnroe said he was not surprised he was defaulted.

"The only problem was afterwards. It had nothing to do with the Australian Open. It was people trying to sell their newspapers," he said.

McEnroe, who has never won an Australian Open title, has said this could be his last year after 15 years on the international circuit.

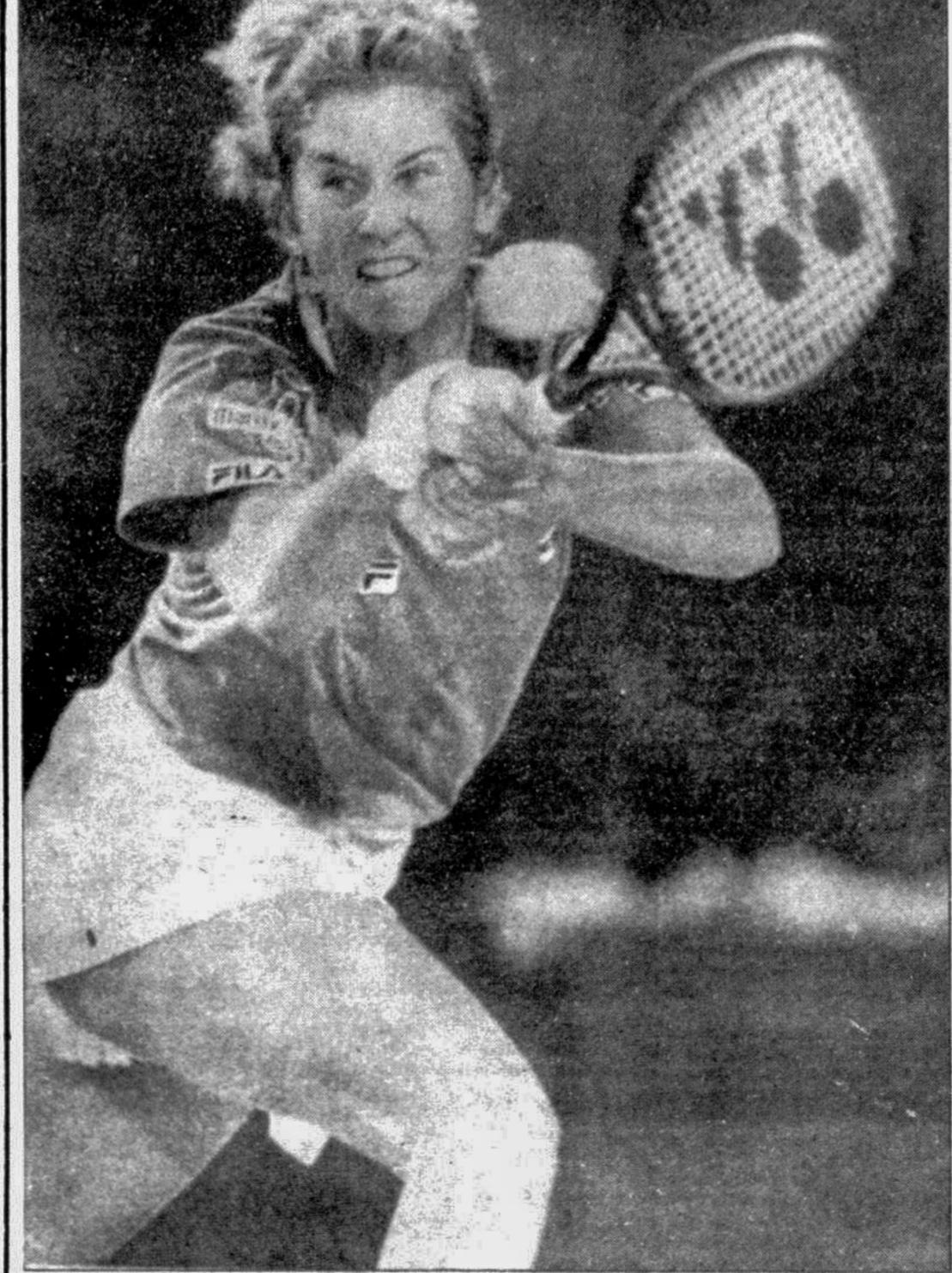
But he quickly dispelled thoughts that the hunger to be number one was no longer there and spoke up to play in last month's Davis Cup final against France.

Fiercely patriotic, McEnroe has always made a great effort to play for the United States despite the demands of the tennis circuit.

"I think I could have made the difference between win ning and losing," he said. " could have added the emo-

tion." McEnroe, who last won a Grand Slam title over seven years ago, still believes in his heart he can win another. " know it's a long shot but if you don't think you have a chance. there is no way you are going to do it."

As for Becker, whom he rated as currently the world's top player despite the rankings. "I would love to have the opportunity to play him."



Monica Seles of Yugoslavia makes an aggressive backhand return to Akiko Kijimuta of Japan during the first round of the Australian Open tennis in Melbourne on Jan 13. Seles won 6-1, 6-0.

Nowadays he spends more

PAT CASH

dipped to 113 and he only

His world ranking has

national circuit

AUSSIE OPEN NOTEBOOK

was a foreign concept to John McEnroe. He won 77 titles.

including seven Grand Slam crowns, on an abundance of natural

come to realize the merit of a few practice sessions, reports AP.

MELBOURNE, Jan 14: Back in the good old days, practising

But times have changed for the 32-year-old father of three. He's

Still, it was surprising to find McEnroe doing drills on a

backcourt at the Australian Open just a few hours after winning

his first-round match. Perhaps his easy 6-2, 6-0, 6-1 victory over

Aussie Broderick Dyke in 76 minutes was not such of a workout

The 28th-ranked McEnroe didn't have to look very far for a

Both brothers are into the second round. John will meet Andrei

The elder McEnroe looked ready to do a war dance with his

practice partner - younger brother Patrick, a semifinalist here

Cherkasov and Patrick takes on former Stanford teammate Jeff

bright white sumblock caked over his checks, nose and lips.

Always known as the supportive big brother. John was quick to

call "great shot" when Patrick blasted a backhand passing shot

There's a possibility the two brothers could meet on-court for

Monica Seles is on the move, looking for her fourth consecutive

Australian Margaret Court won six Slam titles between 1969

Billie Jean King won five titles between 1971 and 1973. A third

Martina Navratilova won six titles in a row between 1983 and

1984. Her winning streak ended in the semifinals of the Australian

Steffi Graf won five titles in a row between 1988 and 1989.

So far. Seles has an incredible Grand Slam record. In 50

In the last five years, 11 of the 20 women Grand Slam titlists

Since the Open era began in 1968, the United States has

produced more women champions than any other country. The U

S leads with 47 Slam winners. Australia's had 20 victors. Germany

There were 20 women in the Australian Open who won at least

a dirs 1 million in career prize money. Four of the women were

listed by Forbes magazine in August as being among the top 50 highest-paid athletes in the world.

The Forbes list included price money, endorsements, exhibit

Monica Seles was listed as the highest paid female athlete with

Steffi Graf, who pulled out of the tournament Tuesday with a

Gabriela Sabatini hit the charts at No 22 with dirs 6.3 million

dirs 7.6 million - that figure put her at No 12 among all athletes

viral illness. was No 16 on the list with earnings of dirs 7.3 million.

and Jennifer Capriati is No 26 with dirs 5.1 million. Capriati was

The other 16 players in the millionaires club here are Jo Durie. Ros Fairbank-Nidefeer, Gigi Fernandez, Mary Joe Fernandez, Zina

Garrison, Claudta Kohde-Kilsch, Catarina Lindgvist, Katerina

Maleeva, Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere, Lori McNeil, Jana Novotna.

Arantka Sanchez Vicario, Larisa Savchenko-Netland, Pam Shriver,

matches played, she has a 45-5 record, including two French

loss in the final of the 1989 French Open ended her streak.

Grand Slam singles title. If the top-seeded Seles successfully

defends her Australian Open crown, she will become the fifth

and 1970. Her thtrd-round loss at the French Open in 1971 ended

player since the Open era to accomplish the feat.

round loss at the 1973 U S Open ended King's run.

titles, one Australian and one U S Open.

some real artion, but they'd both have to make it all the way to the



Jan 14: Pat Cash may be semi-

retired at 2 years old, but he can still draw a crowd, reports AP.

The former Wimbledon champion had spectators packing Court One at the National Tennis Centre on Tuesday to watch his first round Australian Open match against tough Austrian Horst

Cash didn't disappoint his hometown fans. The Australian out toughed Shoff 6-1,7-5, 7-6, (8-6) to earn a second round meeting with 13th seeded Spaniard Emilio Sancher.

Cash is a two -time runner up in the Australian Open, but had to ask for a wild card into the main draw after originally

talent and not much training.

for the New Yorker.

down the line.

her streak.

Open in 1984.

have been teenagers.

10 and Czechoslovakia 7.

tions and other career earnings.

the youngest athlete on the Porbes roster.

Helena Sukova, and Natalia Zvereva.

deciding not to enter.

time at home in London with wife Emily, than on the interover Skoff. matches had left him fresh and

> event in Adelaide last Saturday. "I want to play and I'll give it a good shot," he said. Cash said he was "satisfied just to win one round." But you know me". he added, smiling.

in both legs in the tiebreaker. I've had a virus problem

two hours before Cash said he didn't know if he 'd have need able to continue if Skoff had won the

third set

tiebreaker he said. was cramping just about

everywhere. Every muscle in the body" Cash said the expectations

of his Melbourne fans had not changed, despite his increasing absences from the tour.

ent than it has been for the last 10 years," he said. "I've been dealing with it since I was 17.1

"I just go out and try to play as well as I can can. Really, that's all I can do"

Zola may again run in Britain

could make an emotional return to Britain this summer if South Africa is readmitted to

British officials plan to send a team to Cape Town in May and then host an historic inin Edinburgh on June 19 if the South African return is rubberstamped by international chiefs later this month.

Budd, now Zola Pieterse following her marriage, will be in the South African team for the match at the Meadowbank Stadium - and could be pitted against Scotland's brilliant duo of Liz McColgan and Yvonne

British Athletic Federation promotions officer Andy Norman said some athletes from the republic could compete in Britain as early as the Pearl Assurance invitation even at Glasgow's Kelvin Hall on

played 25 singles matches in 1991, saying full-time tennis bored him. Tm not going to go back

full-time. I've made that decision" Cash said after his win Cash said his lack of

ready to play. He beat John McEnroe in an exhibition

Cash nearly ran into trouble in the third set against Skof. He was stricken with cramp

and it's made me a little weak" he said " I've never cramped in

I'd have gone on as long as it was possible, but I was just thinking about winning the

The pressure is no differ-

Cash said he was happy

with his form .

LONDON, Jan 14: Zola Budd international athletics, reports

ternational against the republic

They are confident that

February 8.

He said he had also struck a deal with the South African authorities for a strong British team to enjoy a spell of warmweather training in Cape Town followed possibly by an international in South Africa on May 23-24.

It is nearly three years since Budd fled Britain on the verge of a breakdown, bringing to a bitter end her controverstal four-year career in Britain. Seles stood above 'em all 61 years of the award. MELBORUNE. Jan 14: It was a

time of glittering triumphs and embarrassing gastar Diane Dixon. ffcs for Monica Seles, a Grand Slam year with

a giant hole in the middle and wild rumours swirling all around, reports AP. Yet, in the end, the tall, lanky teen with the grunting groundstrokes stood above all others as the 1991 AP Female

Athlete of the year. Selected overwhelmingly by sports writers and broadcasters. Seles on Tuesday joined a sterling list of athletes since the first award in 1931. Just turned 18, she became the youngest winner since 15year-old Olympic gold medal gymnast Mary Lou Retton in

"It means a lot to me because of all the great athletes who have won it, like Florence Griffith Joyner and Jackie Joyner-Kersee," Seles said as she learned of the vote at the Australian Open, "To be in that group, and with Michael Jordan winning the men's

award, is a really great feeling." Seles won all three of the Grand Slams she entered the Australian, French and US Opens - plus the Virginia Slims Championships while winning a record dlrs 2.5 million and succeeding Steffi Graf

as No 1. in the balloting. Seles received 72 of 120 first-place votes, worth five points, three points for second and one point for third. Seles compiled 432 points. Tied with 114 points were tennis player Martina Navratilova, a two-time winner, and golfer Pat Bradley.

Gymnast Kim Zmeskal was second to Seles in first-place votes. She got 10 and a total of 72 points. Ahead of her in points were golfer Meg Mallon. who got 104, and softball pitcher Debbie Doom with 96. The naming of Seles, who

succeeds golfer Beth Daniel as Female Athlete of the Year, gives tennis 23 winners in the

Rounding out the top 10 in the voting were tennis players Gabriela Sabatini, Graf and Jennifer Capriati, and track

For all Seles' glory, her year was stained when she abruptly withdrew from Wimbledon just before the start, failed to explain her action and went into hiding. That led to rumours of pregnancy and abortion that persisted even after she said she had shin splints.

The episode, followed by her appearance soon afterward at an exhibition where she showed no signs of injury, sullied her once pristine reputation and left her in the eyes of some as a liar, an out-of-control teen, or a manipulative money-grabber.

Suddenly, she wasn't the cute fennts princess, but an outlandish Madonna in sneakers, a "mystery girls" conning the world. She was even booed during her victory speech at the US Open when she thanked Donald Trump for his

"I was playing great tennis through the whole year and there weren't too many really had times," she said as she reviewed a year that was at once one of the best and worst of her young life. The worst was probably Wimbledon because I couldn't play it and such a big

deal was made out of it." "It was the first time I'd ever read stories about me that were lies. People just believed that funk and it hurt me knowing the kind of accusa tions people make up."

"I just really freaked. didn't know what was going on at the time, but my agent showed me all those clippings, and even now they're still going on about it.

Seles laughed at a caricature in a Melbourne tabloid her savagely twisted face on Madonna's body, satin buster and lace stockings exposed and a racket with a long whip in her hand

"Oh, God !" she exclaimed,

putting her hand to her lips in embarrassment over the sketch that her cartoonist father surely did not draw.

would really like it if people could get away from the Madonna (comparison) because that's not me. My personality and everything is so different. I said I liked one of her songs, but that doesn't mean I want to be her." Nor does she see herself as

mysterious. The only mystery that people might think was because I pulled out of Wimbledon and I didn't' come forward with an explanation," she said. "But I think a person at age 17 where everything's happened so fast, and then not being able to play Wimbledon, shouldn't be judged mysterious just for that. It wasn't an easy decision or an easy time for me."

"Now if I'm injured, I'm just going to go for it, even if I cry through the whole press conference."

When she turned pro three years ago, she didn't think she'd move up quite so quickly - she had a goal to be No 1 by the time she was 21.

But when Graf's grip on No. 1 finally slipped after a record 186 straight weeks, Seles found herself thrust into the spotlight and facing new pres-

"I couldn't be too happy because I had to defend my No1 ranking, or I could've had the shortest reign in the world," she said. "The problem now is what can happen this year. It might be all down. I want to win Wimbledon, though. That's the title I've got to win."

She'd also like to go for the Olympic gold that Graf won in 1988 as part of her Golden Slam. But with Scles' native Yugoslavia torn by civil war and her relationship strained with tennis officials because of her failure to play in the Federation Cup After Wimbledon, she probably won't be playing in Barcelona, Spain, this su-

In addition to Navratilova

IMG also has represented such

athlètes as Michael Jordan.

Wayne Gretzky and Joe

Sabatini's super start as sick Graf goes home



Jan 14 : Gab-riela Sabatini recovered from sluggish start to crush Julie Halard 6-2,

6-0 Tuesday night in the first round of the Australian Open. reports AP. Halard had a point for a 3-1

lead in the first set, squandered it and did not win another game. Sabatini, the No. 3 seed. won in just 56 minutes, ham-

mering groundstrokes past the

hapless Halard and benefitting

from a series of errors by her erratic opponent. "She doesn't give you any rhythm to play, so that can make it hard," Sabatini said.

The Argentine player is the main challenger to defending champion Monica Seles following the shock withdrawal of three-time champion Steffi

Graf quit the first Grand Slam tournament of the year earlier Tuesday, citing a viral infection.

She immediately flew back to Germany after being told by doctors she could not play for 10 days. The announcement was made just hours before she was due to play her first round match against compatriot Katja Oeljeklaus.

Graf joined No. 6 seed Pete Smapras on the sidelines following the American's withdrawal Monday with a shoulder

Graf, 22, who has won the Australian Open three times, was sick with a viral infection during the international team event, the Hopman Cup. in Perth over the New Year and withdrew from a singles match at one set all.

14 Word

15 Kind of

17 Exploit

20 Josip

22 Tease

24 Wine

28 Idle

32 " —

34 Pull

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the liner

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exam

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before

dive or job

"She has viral illness and

will not be fit to play tennis for 10 days," German women's team coach Klaus Hofsass said. The number two seed felt sick after practising on Monday morning with coach

Heinz Gunthard. "She has a fever and is feeling bad," Hofsass said. Graf was the second late withdrawal from the first

Grand Slam title of the year. American sixth seed Pete Sampras pulled out on Monday before his first match with a shoulder problem, the second year running that injury has



prevented him playing the

Graf seems to have been plagued by viral illnesses over

the last year. "May be she needs a rest over the next three or four weeks," Hofsass said. "Mentally she's good, she likes this tournament and she feels bad that

she cannot play." Grafs withdrawal makes world number one Monica Seles an even stronger favourite to win her second Open title, after stopping her German rival winning for the fourth year in 1991.

boo-boo

28 Fail to bid

Ireland

partner

compose

29 Isles off

30 French

31 Reel's

35 Network

40 "Encore!"

heroine

47 Cuckoos

cousin

54 Indistinct

48 Lotto's

38 Born

away

45 Ibsen

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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England 5 Satisfy 6 Sudden cape 55 Afresh 56 Pianist Peter

fear 7 Feline rest? 57 Biblical 8 John or Jane lion

58 - Bluff, 9 Danger-Ark. ous curve 59 in good 10 Court barrier order

12 Silent star 42 Waste 60 Sweet potato

Solution time: 24 min. HAMLET ADORED ELPASO FINALE ELIKNIFEGEE DORMELLBOND SNEAD KETONES 33 Bedouin YEASOW RUBBERY PENAL

DESIRE STIVES

EPEENTOT RACE SFLUIDICE

49 Cote dwellers 50 "The - of the Sixth Happiness" Female SEEDS NEEDS nobis Yesterday's answer 7-15

CRYPTOQUIP

RFCGFQMV W VCHWX WRH

LM TQGNFQHXQMV GZFKK

QGKWMT QG W ZLMV NFHGX. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SAID FAY WRAY, AFTER HER ENCOUNTÉR WITH KING KONG: "I GUESS I GOT CARRIED AWAY."

Today's Cryptoquip clue: V equals G

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Navratilova-Nelson suit trial Apr 6 FORT WORTH, Texas, Jan 14: Cleveland-based International Houston, could not be reached

Management Group, which

represents Navratilova, has

An April 6 trial date has been set for the palimony lawsuit between Martina Navratilova and former companion Judy Nelson, the tennis star's publicist said Monday, reports AP.

Nelson, 45, contends in the lawsuit that Navratilova, 34. broke a 1986 "non-marital cohabitation agreement" that said Nelson was to get half the estimated dirs 5 million to dirs 9 million earned during their relationship.

The setting of a trial date at least means the end is in sight," Navratilova said Monday through publicist Linda Dozoretz. "If the system works the way I thought it would when I came to this country. then I should win." In another development in

the case. Dozoretz said

been added to the lawsuit. A telephone operator at



IMG said no one was available for comment Monday night. Nelson's attorney. Richard. "Racchorse" Haynes of Montana. Navratilova said bringing IMG into the lawsuit was "ridiculous and absurd," "Judy Nelson is still saying she wants to settle this suit. but now she's just prolonging it by suing international

Management Group. Navratilova said in the statement. "Now IMG will be led on the same legal merry-go-round that I have been on for the past eight months." Nelson and Navratilova lived

in Fort Worth from 1984 through 1989, and then moved to Aspen, Colo. The couple's relationship ended in April