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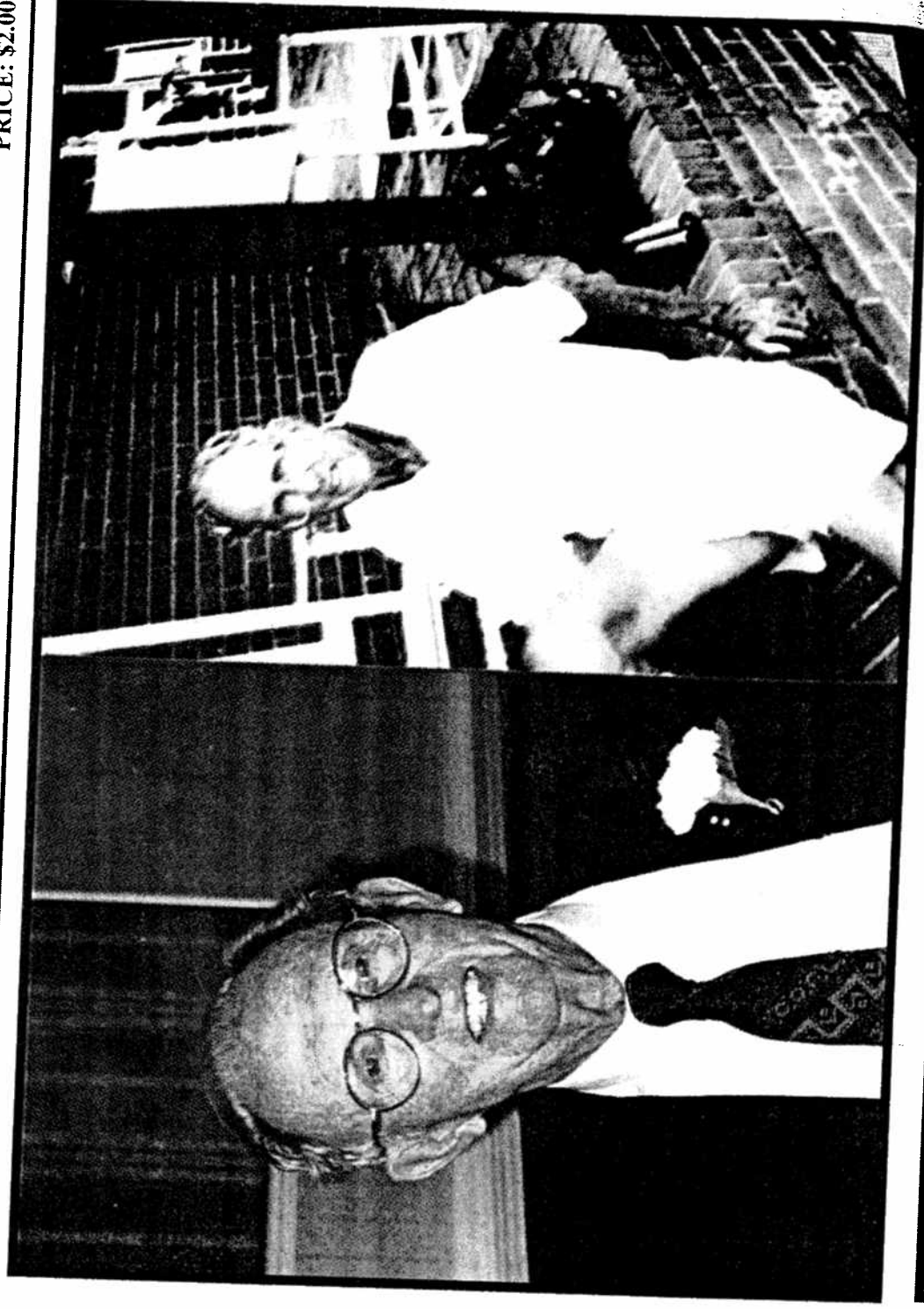
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An Interview With John McEnroe

By Tim Wilkison

interviewed John McEnroe for *North Carolina Tennis Today* during the NTT Data Seniors in Tokyo, Japan. The Data event was held the of October 25-31, 1999.

T: John, thanks for the interview. What is this magazine writing for anyway?



Wilkison

T: *North Carolina Tennis Today*. It goes out the USTA members in North Carolina. McEnroe: Wow!

T: Congratulations on new Davis Cup position. What's your plan for the year?



McEnroe

McEnroe: Well, we have to Zimbabwe down there first match, which was the place we wanted to go. I had to get Pete (Sampras) and Andre (Agassi) if at all possible.

McEnroe: I made me sweat a little, but after I got down on my knees he said OK. Then we need to get a team with one guy that can be a singles element if Pete or Andre go down. Maybe Martin and somebody.

F: I know you've wanted to play doubles in the Cup for awhile. Will that happen?

McEnroe: Now that I'm captain, I think it would be good to pick myself. Anyway, after losing to Andre here, that was a real wakeup call. Geez! One of my long-term goals is to get a young player and teach them how to play doubles. We need somebody that can win some matches for us.

F: What were the highest and lowest times in your career, John?

McEnroe: Winning Wimbledon for the first time. People always talk about the tie breaker Bjorn Borg at Wimbledon and my Davis

Cup match with (Mats) Wilander.

Another big one for me was when we beat Switzerland in Davis Cup. I was going through my divorce and I was a total wreck. I was crying all the time and real emotional. My family and the team were a great support system.

I only played the doubles with Pete. We won the match and after he was saying he loved me. Now he won't even return my phone calls!

NCTT: What was the lowest point?

The lowest point in my career was when I played my first U.S. Open. I was about 18 and I made it to the last round of the qualifying. I played this guy named Zan Guerry. We had a two-and-a-half hour match.

I finally got to 5-4, 40-30 in the third set. We had a long baseline rally and I ended up hitting a backhand cross court winner to win the match. I was all pumped up and ran up to the net to shake his hand. He walked over to check the mark and was

taking forever. Some of my buddies from the Junior Davis Cup were on the sidelines and they told me just to get my stuff and leave. But I was thinking "I'm going to make this---shake my hand."

Finally he found a mark and the chair umpire came down to check it. The umpire said "If this is the mark it was good. Match to McEnroe." Guerry still wouldn't shake my hand.

My buddies said "C'mon, get your stuff and go". Finally some lady, the roaming referee, walked onto our court. She went over to the mark and said it was out! That made it deuce.

I wanted to pick up my stuff and leave the court then but it was too late. I finally ended up losing the match. When it was over I swore I would get revenge. I played Guerry a couple years later and crushed him 6-1, 6-1. Not only that but I tortured him with drop shots and lobs.

NCTT: What was one of the keys to you developing your style?

Tennis Video Can Be Helpful If Done Properly

By Dr. Michael Kernodle

Do you have a video camera at home? Have you ever used it to film yourself just hitting a few balls or at a competitive match? Does your tennis pro use videotape replay as a part of the lesson structure? Do you have children in a junior program and are looking for something to give them an edge in progressing a little faster and a little more efficiently?

Are you a teaching pro who wants to enhance the teaching environment for both competitive and leisure players? If the answer to any or all of these questions is yes, then the following information should be of interest to you.

Videotape replay is relatively affordable and easily available to most people. It allows you to receive real-time feedback after a very short interval of time about your just completed performance and can be a very effective teaching/learning tool, but only if used appropriately. The research in this area has shown that a number of

ing your game?

McEnroe: When I was a junior I was basically a pusher. I just played from the back court. Then when I played in college we were on hard courts all the time so I started coming to the net and really changed my game around.

NCTT: Any advice you would give to junior players?

McEnroe: I would tell them to develop the attitude that they will fight and play their hardest until the very end. So many kids give up when they get behind because they are afraid of losing. We're two guys who did pretty well by trying hard all the time.

NCTT: Do you have any memories of playing in North Carolina?

McEnroe: Yeah, I remember kicking your ass in the National 12's at Davidson.

NCTT: Good memory! Thanks for the interview.

McEnroe: Yeah. Want to go have dinner tonight?

tion of the model can be reduced.

(2) Due to the large amount of information available when viewing a videotape replay, one should see more than one replay of the performance. Again, this does not have to be done with every viewing, but initially should be done on a regular basis.

(3) In order to get a complete idea of how to perform the skill, the performance should be filmed/viewed from several different perspectives. In other words, don't film from just one position or angle. Try to film from the front and back as well as providing side views. This principle also holds true for viewing the model/demonstration.

(4) The student should occasionally be allowed to view the performance in slow motion.

(5) Although all of the above suggestions are important in developing the effectiveness of videotape replay, the most important suggestion is to provide an attention focusing mechanism. There is a

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