

# McEnroe comeback slow to start

By BARRY WILNER  
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK — The stars of the tennis world are hoping that John McEnroe's comeback problems won't last long. McEnroe returned to the tour a month ago from more than a half-year's sabbatical. In his first three tournaments, he lost in the semifinals to Boris Becker, was beaten in the third round by Robert Seguso and lost in a final to Ivan Lendl.

Then came Tuesday's opening round loss to Paul Anacone in the U.S. Open — and the realization that McEnroe is not yet ready for the lofty competition of a major tournament. "I think that when I came back, I worked too hard," McEnroe said. "I overworked myself, maybe... the mistake was that after the first tournament, I just felt a big letdown. I tried to get myself in good shape, but what happened was I didn't figure on a lot of other factors coming into it."

Those other factors include loss of enthusiasm and concentration and a lack of mental toughness. Those are the things his fellow professionals say will be the most difficult for McEnroe to overcome. "Like John says, no matter how much you win you always wonder whether you can come back and win another," said Martina Navratilova, the women's No. 1 seed in the U.S. Open. "It's tough enough when you're in it but it has to be that much tougher when you've been out of it for a while. I mean, I've won Wimbledon enough times (seven, including the last five), but I still wonder at times whether I could pull it off."

"You can't win without confidence and you can't have confidence without winning, so it's a Catch-22." McEnroe's most recent victory was at Stockholm, Sweden, last November. After losing in the first round of the Masters at New York in January, he decided to leave the tour.

While he was away, he married actress Tatum O'Neal, who had divorced the couple's son earlier in the summer. During McEnroe's absence, several players — most notably Jimmy Connors, the other dominant American of the past decade — mentioned his importance to the tour. Those sentiments were expressed again after McEnroe's quick exit in the U.S. Open.

"He's a great tennis player," Anacone said. "I think he's going to have his chances to come back. But I feel he's got to get more matches under his belt and get his confidence back. Someone with that much talent, I don't see any reason why he can't come back."

Becker, who edged McEnroe in a



AP Laserphoto

Despite his determined efforts, John McEnroe has fallen upon hard times since returning to the professional tennis circuit after more than six months of vacation.

bitter semifinal match at the Volvo International in McEnroe's 1986 tour debut, holds no ill feelings toward the former No. 1 player. "I'm sorry for him because he is trying to make a comeback," Becker said after McEnroe's loss. "Maybe he started it too late."

**'You can't win without confidence and you can't have confidence without winning, so it's a Catch-22.'**

— Martina Navratilova

"He grew up in New York and it has to be hard for him (to lose here). I feel for him." Becker admitted he is glad that McEnroe has returned. "For a couple of weeks, I was happy that he got the spotlight," the two-time Wimbledon champion said.

"It's a matter of winning a few and getting comfortable on the court and getting confidence." For McEnroe, a patient attitude may be the hardest thing to master. The competitive drive to excel, along with the masterful strokes that carried him to the top, seems to have fled. While Lendl, Becker and Connors, for example, have continued to display a fiery attitude on court, McEnroe's attack often has appeared halfhearted. Does he still have the enthusiasm for the game? "That's something I have to look at," McEnroe said. "You know, look at myself in the mirror and ask myself that question because, so far, it certainly hasn't seemed to have been there a whole lot. It's just not there right now and there's just not much sense in pretending it is."

Bjorn Borg, the sport's best player of the 1970s, stopped pretending five years ago. He hasn't played in a major event since. Is that what's ahead for McEnroe? "I just don't know right now," he said. "It's a question of whether or not I truly want to do it."

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### sports briefs

**Davis to remain at Pitt**  
PITTSBURGH (AP) — Brian Davis, a highly recruited running back who is academically ineligible for the 1986 season, will remain a student at the University of Pittsburgh and not transfer to another school.

Davis, from Washington, Pa., said he will attempt to regain his eligibility for the 1987 season, when he would be a sophomore. "It like the atmosphere here," Davis said, after deciding not to transfer to Akron University.

Despite missing nearly half the 1985 season with injuries, Davis was Pitt's third-leading rusher with 288 yards and debuted with a 100-yard performance against Boston College.

Davis was suspended from spring drills by new Pitt Coach Mike Gottfried after he skipped some classes and team workouts. He was later declared academically ineligible.

Davis was the 1984 Parade Magazine national high school co-player of the year at Washington (Pa.) High School.

**Rivers scheduled to leave ICU**  
ELKHART, Ind. (AP) — Notre Dame basketball guard David Rivers, who was seriously injured in an auto accident last weekend, was expected to be transferred out of the intensive care unit Wednesday at Elkhart General Hospital, his surgeon said.

"We will be transferring David out of intensive care to a surgical floor today," Dr. Kirby Gross said in a statement released by the hospital. "He remains in good spirits and is in good condition."

Rivers, 21, Notre Dame's leading scorer the past two seasons, received a deep cut across his stomach in a traffic accident early Sunday.

Barbara Barrett, a hospital spokeswoman, said Rivers was not scheduled for any further surgery and would be released from the hospital in eight to 12 days, depending on his progress.

The Jersey City, N.J., native suffered a gash 12-15 inches long across his stomach when he was hurled through the windshield of a van he was riding in. The driver, former Notre Dame teammate Ken Barlow, received only minor injuries and was treated and released at the hospital.

Doctors say they believe Rivers, a junior, will be able to play in the upcoming season, but not before late November.

**Penguins to open exhibition**  
PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Pittsburgh Penguins will open a six-game exhibition schedule Sept. 20 with a home game against the Montreal Canadiens, the defending Stanley Cup champions.

The Penguins will play the Canadiens three times and the Quebec Nordiques, the Hartford Whalers and the Minnesota North Stars once each. The Sept. 20 game against the Canadiens will be the Penguins' only home contest.

The Penguins' exhibition schedule: Sept. 20, Montreal, 7:35 p.m.; Sept. 27, at Montreal, 8:05 p.m.; Sept. 29, vs. Montreal at Chicoutimi, Quebec, 7:05 p.m.; Sept. 30, at Quebec, 7:35 p.m.; Oct. 1, at Hartford, 7:35 p.m.; Oct. 4, at Minnesota, 7:35 p.m.

### scoreboard

#### major league baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE											
East Division											
	W	L	Pct	GB	L10	Streak	Home	Away			
Boston	74	52	.587	—	6-4	Won 1	35-23	39-29			
Toronto	67	58	.536	6½	7-3	Won 2	34-30	33-28			
New York	67	59	.532	7	3-7	Lost 4	34-34	33-25			
Detroit	68	60	.531	7	5-5	Won 1	41-27	27-33			
Baltimore	64	59	.520	8½	4-6	Lost 2	33-30	31-29			
Cleveland	64	61	.512	9½	6-4	Won 2	37-29	27-32			
Milwaukee	63	61	.508	10	7-3	Won 3	33-29	30-32			

West Division											
	W	L	Pct	GB	L10	Streak	Home	Away			
California	70	56	.556	—	6-4	Won 3	34-25	36-31			
Texas	66	60	.524	4	5-5	Lost 1	40-25	35-35			
Kansas City	58	68	.460	12	7-3	Won 2	33-29	25-39			
Oakland	56	70	.444	14	5-5	Lost 1	32-27	24-43			
Seattle	55	71	.437	15	6-4	Won 2	33-28	22-43			
Chicago	53	71	.427	16	2-8	Lost 5	28-32	25-39			
Minnesota	53	72	.424	16½	2-8	Lost 3	30-33	23-39			

NATIONAL LEAGUE											
East Division											
	W	L	Pct	GB	L10	Streak	Home	Away			
New York	84	42	.667	—	8-2	Won 2	39-20	45-22			
PHILLIES	64	62	.508	20	7-3	Won 1	34-25	30-37			
Montreal	61	62	.496	21½	2-8	Lost 1	27-29	34-33			
St. Louis	62	64	.492	22	4-8	Won 1	33-31	29-33			
Chicago	54	72	.429	30	4-6	Won 1	33-32	21-40			
PIRATES	51	74	.408	32½	4-6	Lost 2	28-41	25-33			

West Division											
	W	L	Pct	GB	L10	Streak	Home	Away			
Houston	71	55	.563	—	5-5	Lost 1	38-24	33-31			
Cincinnati	64	62	.508	7	8-2	Won 4	32-30	32-32			
San Francisco	64	62	.508	7	3-7	Won 1	33-31	29-31			
Los Angeles	61	65	.484	10	5-5	Lost 1	46-28	21-37			
Atlanta	59	68	.472	11½	5-5	Lost 1	29-29	30-37			
San Diego	59	68	.465	12½	5-5	Lost 3	36-31	23-37			

AMERICAN LEAGUE											
Tuesday's Games											
California 2, New York 0											
Detroit 8, Oakland 7											
Toronto 6, Cleveland 6, tie, 9 innings, rain											
Kansas City 6, Chicago 1											
Boston 8, Texas 1											
Milwaukee 6, Minnesota 5, 10 innings											
Seattle 5, Baltimore 2											

Last Night's Games											
Toronto at Cleveland											
Kansas City at Chicago											
Minnesota at Milwaukee											
Boston at Texas											
Baltimore at Seattle											
Tuesday's Games											
Minnesota at Milwaukee, 2:35 p.m.											
Baltimore at Oakland, 7:05 p.m.											

NATIONAL LEAGUE											
Tuesday's Games											
Cincinnati 8, Pirates 4											
Chicago 5, Houston 3											
St. Louis 7, Atlanta 1											
New York 11, San Diego 6											
San Francisco 1, Montreal 0, 12 innings											
PHILLIES 6, Los Angeles 2											

Last Night's Games											
Montreal at San Francisco											
PHILLIES at Los Angeles											
Cincinnati at PHILLIES											
PHILLIES at St. Louis											
Chicago at Houston											

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