

Israeli pushes McEnroe to fifth set in U.S. Open

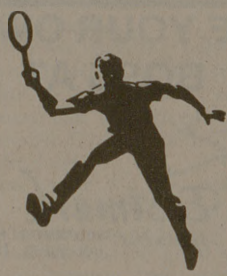
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Defending champion John McEnroe tottered on the brink of elimination Tuesday before capturing a fifth-set tiebreaker to edge Israel's Shlomo Glickstein 6-1, 6-7, 2-6, 6-3, 7-6 and advance into the second round of the U.S. Open Tennis Championships.

With the victory, McEnroe narrowly escaped becoming the first No. 1 seed since 1971 and only the sixth in the 104-year history of America's premier tennis event to fall in the opening round. The victory kept alive his bid for a fifth title here at the National Tennis Center in seven years.

But Glickstein also walked off the court as a winner before the crowd of 21,008 as he battled McEnroe on even terms throughout the three-hour, 51-minute match.

The stocky Israeli matched McEnroe shot for shot, game for game and set for set. In the final tiebreaker, the second of the match, he fought off four match points before



McEnroe cracked a backhand cross-court that Glickstein feebly put into the net.

McEnroe won the tiebreaker 9-7, then raised his hand high into the air, obviously pleased with the result — if not his play.

"It surprised me how flat I was today," McEnroe said. "I lost my concentration quickly. He jerked me around and had me on the defensive. I don't remember when I was ever that flat."

"I've never been so happy to win an opening round match."

Earlier, Wimbledon champion Boris Becker easily captured his first-round match, dispatching Peter Doohan of Australia 6-4, 6-1, 6-2.

Also moving into the second round of the men's singles were No. 3 Mats Wilander of Sweden, a 6-2, 6-4, 6-4 winner over India's Vijay Amritraj; No. 12 Johan Kriek and No. 13 Tim Mayotte.

Winners in the women's field Tuesday included No. 3 Hana Mandlikova of Czechoslovakia, No. 5 Claudia Kohde-Kilsch of West Germany, No. 12 Wendy Turnbull of Australia, No. 14 Bonnie Gadusek and No. 15 Carling Bassett of Canada.

The men's No. 2 seed, Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia, and the two top women, Chris Evert Lloyd and defending champion Martina Navratilova, are scheduled to play their first matches on Wednesday, as will fourth-seeded Jimmy Connors, a five-time U.S. Open champion.

Orioles' Murray may be best in baseball

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Who is the best player in baseball today?

Certainly, players like Rickey Henderson, Dave Winfield, George Brett, Cal Ripken, Ryne Sandberg, Pedro Guerrero and Dale Murphy would get substantial support for such an accolade.

But not from outfielder Reggie Jackson of the California Angels. He likes first baseman Eddie Murray of the Baltimore Orioles.

"I said he was the best player in the game three, four years ago," Jackson said after Murray destroyed the Angels by hitting three home runs and driving in nine runs Monday night. "I still say it."

"Who doesn't? That's why he gets paid \$2½ million a year."

Murray's big night in the Orioles'

17-3 destruction of the Angels — he also had a single and drew a walk — gave the 29-year-old switch hitter 24 home runs and 102 RBIs this season and a .297 batting average.

One of his homers, off right-handed California reliever Alan Fowlkes, was a grand slam, his third of the season and the 12th of his career.

Murray also blasted a three-run shot and has now hit three homers in a game three times as a big-leaguer.

Murray had done all of his damage by the fifth inning, causing the crowd of 25,805 at Anaheim Stadium to temporarily shift their allegiance from the Angels to the hero of the night.

After the grand slam, the crowd stood in appreciation and kept applauding when Murray went into the

dugout. Murray then came back out to acknowledge the cheers.

"It's not every night you get to knock in nine runs," Murray said. "Otherwise, it was just another game. It was nice to be cheered by the other fans and to have them rooting for you to hit another."

Murray had two chances to go for four — a feat accomplished by only 10 players in major league history and just seven times in a nine-inning game. However, he flied to deep center in the seventh inning and walked in the ninth.

His drive to center against left-hander Al Holland didn't miss going out of the park by much.

"I thought it had a chance at going, but it just fell short," Murray said. "It would have been nice to hit four home runs."

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