

McEnroe exits quietly from Open

Young Ferreira pulls off upset, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Dead balls, dead air and dead legs wiped John McEnroe out of the Australian Open just as surely as the brute serving power and nearly flawless play of young, freckle-faced Wayne Ferreira.

McEnroe's farewell to Australia, perhaps for the last time, did not come after a match of elegant strokes and dramatic rallies, like his victories over Boris Becker and Emilio Sanchez. He didn't rage at linesmen or throw his racket as he did two years ago.

He succumbed quietly, almost too quietly, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 Wednesday night in a sheer bludgeoning by a South African player he'd barely heard of. Ferreira introduced himself to McEnroe by swatting 15 aces to McEnroe's two, and putting away 30 clean winners to McEnroe's six.

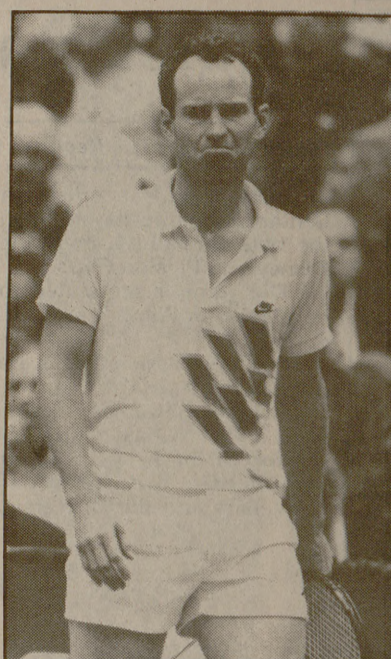
"The bottom line," McEnroe said, "is he just outplayed me."

In the warm, damp and still air of the stadium, with the retractable roof closed for the first time this year, the balls moved heavily and sat up perfectly for Ferreira to blast away from the baseline while negating McEnroe's chip and charge tactics.

"The ball just didn't seem to have quite the same zip as it would have in a drier atmosphere," said McEnroe, 32. "It just got stale, and it just wasn't moving quite as quickly."

Ferreira, a 20-year-old ranked No. 46 in his fourth year as a pro, agreed with McEnroe.

"I felt the ball was coming really slowly," said Ferreira, who next meets No. 1 Stefan Edberg in the semifinals. "Every time I was



Battalion file photo
John McEnroe was defeated by Wayne Ferreira on Wednesday.

preparing for a shot I felt that I was a little bit too early for everything. I just got to everything a lot quicker."

Officials decided to close the roof a half-hour before the match after a few sprinkles fell, and the weather bureau reported the threat of more rain. Tournament rules state that the roof "will not normally be closed because of threat of rain," but mandate that the roof should stay closed if it is shut at the start of a match. The

rain never came once the match began.

Different conditions might have produced a different result, but there was no doubt from the start that McEnroe would have trouble coping with Ferreira's strength and fearlessness.

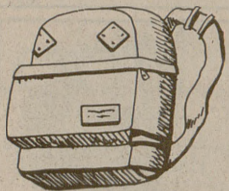
Ferreira fought off two break points — he had only one other the entire match — at 15-40 in his first service game, then won the game with an ace that skipped the corner past McEnroe's forehand. It was the first of eight games that Ferreira clinched with an ace, and the first of 10 consecutive games in which he served at least one ace.

McEnroe played decently, but he was always on the defensive, unable to summon his volleying skills and quickness at the net. He lacked the movement and foot speed he showed against Becker, often arriving a half-step too late for solid volleys. When he came in, Ferreira passed him. When he dropped soft angled shots, Ferreira raced in and flicked them back. When he stayed on the baseline, Ferreira outslugged him.

McEnroe glared at times at linesmen after calls he didn't agree with, but he maintained the composure on court that he has shown all tournament. He plans to make this year his last fulltime on the tour, and wants people to remember him for his talents, not his tantrums.

"I think that's pretty important, and that sums it up," he said. "Everyone's always going to talk about what I've done on the court, but hopefully they'll focus more on my tennis."

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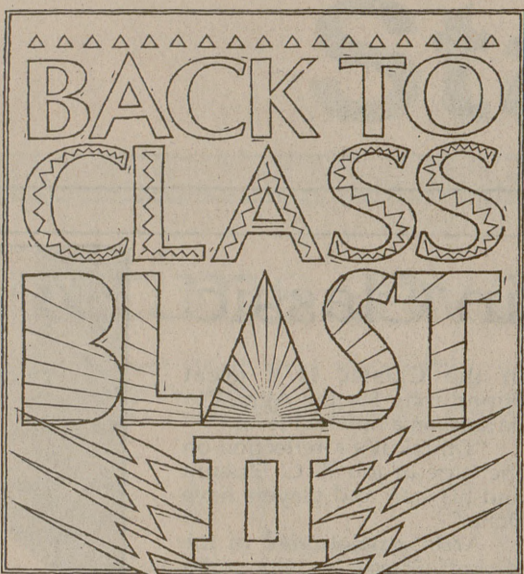


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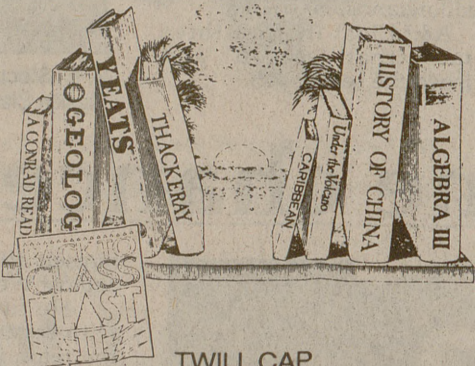


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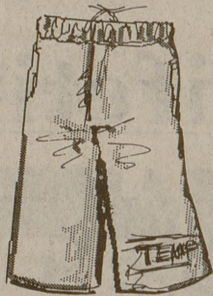


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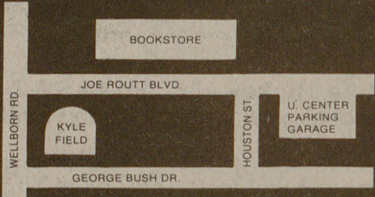
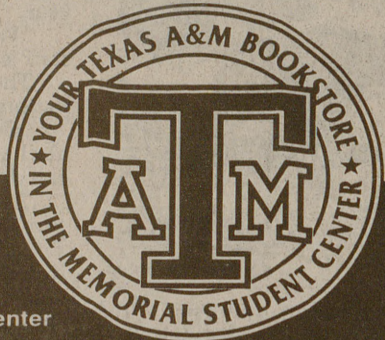


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Longhorns take over first place with win over Mustangs, 106-91

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Terrence Rencher scored 28 points and B.J. Tyler added 23 points and 10 assists as Texas defeated Southern Methodist, 106-91, Wednesday night and took over first place in the Southwest Conference.

The victory lifted Texas to 11-7 for the season and 4-1 in league play. The Mustangs fell to 7-8 and 1-3.

Tyler had hit only 20 percent of his shots in the past two games, but was 6-of-9 against SMU, including 4-of-7 from outside the 3-point arc. Tony Watson added 19 points and Benford Williams 17 for the Longhorns.

Forward Tim Mason led SMU with a career-high 33 points and 12 rebounds. Mike Wilson added 26 points and 10 rebounds as the Mustangs dominated the backboards, 43-33.

The 106 points is the most SMU has given up since surrendering 110 to Florida in 1986.

Rencher's 3-point shot with 7:18 remaining in the first half capped a 15-9 run that gave Texas a 36-26 lead. Tyler's 3-pointer raised the lead to 51-38 at halftime.

Williams staked Texas to its biggest lead of the night, 57-40, with three straight goals at the start of the second half.

Rice shoots down Red Raiders, 84-69

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) — Marvin Moore scored 22 points and Brent Scott added 20 as Rice defeated Texas Tech 84-69 Wednesday night in the Southwest Conference.

Rice (12-5, 2-1) went on a 12-1 run with seven minutes left and handcuffed Tech's leading scorer Will Flemmons in the second half to help put the game away. Tech fell to 8-7 and 1-3.

The Owls sizzled from the field in the second half, hitting 72 percent on 16 of 22 shooting. Rice shot 58 percent for the game.

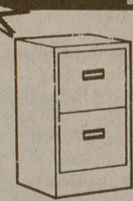
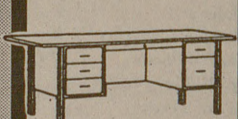




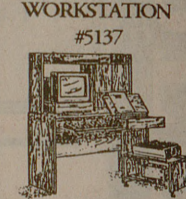

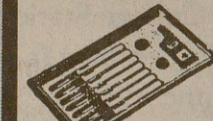
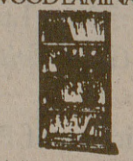

The Red Raiders, fresh from a 101-98 upset of 21st-ranked Tulane Saturday, shot only 40 percent and were shut out during a four-minute stretch late in the second half.

Flemmons finished with 22 points and 12 rebounds to lead the Raiders.

Tech stayed in the game for the first 20 minutes by pounding the ball inside to Flemmons, who had 14 points at intermission. But the 6-10, 250-pound Scott leaned on Tech's 6-7 center and denied him the pass in the second half.

Moore kicked off Rice's fatal run by hitting a 10-foot jump shot and then adding the free throw after being fouled. Moore added an 8-foot jumper and Scott chipped in a couple layups to end the 12-1 spurt, which gave Rice a 73-57 lead with three minutes left.

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