



ROSENSTEIN & TAUBMAN AFTER A GAME AT A MANHATTAN COURT

A LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

If there was any tennis showdown that interested Sport Writer Philip Taubman more than this week's record \$1 million duel between Jimmy Connors and Australia's John Newcombe, it was one he hoped to arrange between Connors and himself. Well before he went out to Los Angeles to interview Connors for the story, Taubman began practicing for a fast set or two with his subject. Unfortunately, Connors declined the challenge, pleading a need to rest a recently sprained ankle before his match with Newcombe. It was just as well. Taubman took up tennis at eleven and is a weekend player of some skill and ferocity. Yet in a series of poolside conversations with Connors at the Beverly Hills Tennis Club, he found the world's top seed "talking about a wholly different game—a repertory of shots and spins, angles and strategies of chesslike intricacy calculated several volleys in advance." Taubman came away from his talks with Connors "even more impressed with the incredibly intense concentration he brings to the game than with his speed and power."

Taubman continued his study of the superstar's style—both on and off the court—during interviews with his tennis-pro mother Gloria Connors and his Wimbledon-winning sometime fiancée Chris Evert. Reporter-Researcher Jay Rosenstein talked to Connors' manager Bill Riordan, tennis officials and a courtful of American and Australian pros, including Newcombe. When Rosenstein grew up in Brooklyn, his game was boxball, a kind of street tennis that is played with a "Spalden pinkie" ball on a court made up of sidewalk squares. "These pros have a certain panache," Rosenstein concedes, "but they couldn't have handled the 'flukes' and 'dinks' off the cement cracks."

One trademark of the Australian pro game that Rosenstein noted in the course of his reporting was a deep loyalty to the strong Sydney-brewed beers that some Australian pros bring with them when they play in the U.S. Interviewing Newcombe at a tournament in Tucson, Ariz., Rosenstein observed that despite an outward display of confidence, "he was taking Connors very seriously." The clue: an uncharacteristic glass of milk instead of beer with Newcombe's roast beef sandwich.

Ralph P. Davidson

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IBM Reports

The computer and research

The computer serves society in many ways. It is an information organizer, helping deal with large amounts of data. It is a productivity tool, helping us make better use of our resources. It is a management tool, providing perspective on complex decisions.

The computer is also a major research tool, perhaps the most useful of any at the disposal of science today. It is being used to explore many different frontiers of the natural world mathematically—recreating and analyzing interactions that could not otherwise be observed or understood.

It is helping scientists develop a mathematical model of the nucleus of a human cell for use in cancer research. It is helping develop potential new energy sources such as the fusion reactor. It is helping weather researchers learn how to control air pollution.

In these and countless other activities, the computer is performing calculations that were often impractical, or even impossible, only a few short years ago—calculations that have now been made practical by rapid advances in computing speeds and storage capacity, and sharply reduced cost-per-computation.

It's particularly appropriate that the computer should play such an important role in scientific research, for research has played a key role in the computer's own development. A prime example is the remarkable evolution in the basic components of the computer—from the early technology based on large, relatively slow vacuum tubes, to transistors, to integrated circuits, to today's microscopically small high-speed circuitry.

IBM research scientists made critical contributions to these advances. Now they are helping look for the breakthroughs of tomorrow—exploring new techniques ranging from sophisticated lasers to devices much faster than even the most advanced circuitry now in use.

IBM's commitment to research, to finding new ways to do things better and to reducing the cost of doing them, is a continuing one. And it is a cornerstone of our expectation that the technological strides of the next twenty-five years will eclipse even those of the last twenty-five.

We are working toward that goal.

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