

SPORTS

Becker batters boy image; Brits beckon 'Superbrat'

By **MIKE BERARDINO**
Staff Writer

"I am only human." — Boris Becker, 1986.

Sure, Boris. You can't fool me. I was among the millions who sat attentively Sunday morning in front of his television set as you rolled to your second Wimbledon title in as many years, methodically erasing my favorite tennis player in the world, Ivan Lendl, in straight sets.

You can't convince me, a fellow 18-year-old, that you're just like the rest of us. I saw that double-clutching, belly-flopping, Lendl-back-breaking, back-handed shot in the final game. The one that NBC deservedly replayed umpteen times. The one that left the beaten Lendl shaking his head in dismay and actually caused a semi-smile of helplessness to cross his ever-worried face.

How can you have the gall to insist that a teen-ager like yourself from

Leimen, West Germany, who finished second only to Volkswagen in a name-recognition poll conducted in his homeland — and who resides in Monte Carlo for tax purposes — is your basic fun-loving, future-dreading, past-forgetting young adult?

Don't try to beguile me with that trademark smile of yours, (tongue exposed, left eye nearly shut). The one that prompted NBC's Dick Enberg to say, "When (Becker) smiles, he smiles with his whole face."

And now that smile will turn pro as well, taking its place in Coca-Cola's corner (for a large fee, of course) in the never-ending advertising battle for the world's soft drink affections.

Yes, at the tender age of 18, Boris Becker is on top of the tennis world, at least that part of it covered by a grass surface. Before he's through, he may well surpass the accomplishment's of another national hero who

sported the same alliterative initials, Sweden's Bjorn Borg.

But is Becker really "only human"? After the 6-4, 6-3, 7-5 drubbing he received in the Wimbledon gentlemen's (they still call it that) singles final, the vanquished Lendl eloquently summed up the youthful victor, and in the process may have relieved writers like me of the difficult task of classifying Boris.

"Man, young man, boy, whatever you want to call him," Lendl said. "Call him champion."

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Other assorted observations regarding Wimbledon:

The above statement by Lendl is noteworthy for a man who was criticized ruthlessly by the British press over the fortnight for lacking personality. He is, after all, generally about as quotable as little Prince William.

Excuse my asking, but where is it

written that the world's top tennis player must be, and I truly dislike this word, "personable"? Personable is an adjective for *Entertainment Tonight's* bubbly Mary Hart, not for a man whose demeanor and favorite color are both steel gray.

Trying to convert the stern "Ivan the Terrible," as he has been dubbed, into a media darling is like asking Prince to take it easy with the women. Or telling David Letterman to cool it with the funny stuff. It's unnatural and unfair. And besides, it simply cannot be done . . .

The British press showed another side of itself in its treatment of the missing three-time champion, John McEnroe — a masochistic side. By tournament's end, the London scribes were servilely begging for King John's return: "Come back, McEnroe," one paper entoned. "All is forgiven."

The comical thing is that next summer, the first time "Superbrat" calls some poor fogey in a high chair "the pits of the world," the Brits will scurry madly to their typewriters calling once again for the banishment of the evil McEnroe. Just wait and see . . .

Breakfast at Wimbledon was enjoyable as always, with the boyish banter of NBC's duo of Enberg and Bud Collins. Example: in Friday's semifinal between Lendl and Yugoslavia's unseeded Slobodan (Bobo) Zivojinovic, Enberg pointed out the landmark Big Ben on a panoramic shot of London. To which Collins responded, "If (Zivojinovic) wins today, they'll change its name to 'Big Bobo.'"

Silly? Of course, it is. But it's also fun because it takes some of the edge off a game marked by high pressure situations.

Track-and-field meet yields to All-Americans

By **WENDY STRINGFELLOW**
Staff Writer

Two UNC track-and-field team members earned All-America honors following their performances at the NCAA championships in Indianapolis, Ind., June 6-7.

George Nicholas, a senior from Dayton, Ohio, finished fourth in the 5,000 meters (14 minutes, 2 seconds). Teammate Kevin McGorty, a sophomore from Westfield, N.J., won the high jump (6-10 $\frac{3}{4}$). McGorty also placed eighth in the decathlon with a personal record of 7,560 points.

"George Nicholas is a super athlete and student, and we're happy his collegiate career ended on a good note," said UNC head coach, Dennis Craddock.

An All-American and ACC cross-country champion in 1985, Nicholas also holds the UNC school record in the two-mile run.

Of McGorty, Craddock said, "He's a good team leader, a hard worker. He wants to be really good."

The 1986 ACC champion in the pole vault and decathlon, McGorty also holds the school record in these events.

Other Tar Heels in the national championships were Sherrie MacKinney and Dave Fuhrmann.

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