

TENNIS WIMBLEDON 2022

BACK AND

McEnroe reckons Murray miracle is not impossible

JOHN McENROE has backed **Andy Murray** to win Wimbledon for a third time, saying: **He is a real contender on grass.**

Muzza, 35, plans to play singles at Wimbledon for just the second time since career-saving hip surgery in January 2019.

The former world No 1 is struggling with an abdominal injury and might not walk through the famous green gates next Monday in top shape.

The top two men's seeds will be three-time and defending champ Novak Djokovic and Rafa Nadal, who is chasing the calendar Slam.

Yet the Scot - winner in 2013 and 2016 - has been told he should consider himself a contender due to his experience and past record.

McEnroe said: "If he's fit, Andy is one of the contenders. He'd be one of a handful of guys that could win it. I don't know if he is fully fit. Maybe he doesn't even know that."

"He's got loads of experience. He knows how to play better than almost anyone on that surface. He's prepared himself well for that very moment."

"If he's looking at Rafa and Novak, he's got to be thinking he's going to have one last hurrah. That's entirely conceivable. What I don't know is how close to 100 per cent he is."

"If he's physically fit, you can't count him out against anyone. There's not a lot of people that I would bet on against Murray, honestly."

"If he's at the level, even at 90 per cent of what he was, he'd beat all but like four to six people."

"If he's 100 per cent, and let's just say he's close to that, he could do anything. It's sort of exciting because it puts him back in the mix, which he deserves."

Since an extended training block in Miami in March, Murray has been working with Czech-born American coach Ivan Lendl, who was there for his two Wimbledon triumphs.

McEnroe, 63, had some mighty tussles with Lendl, 62, in their playing days, beating him to win the 1984 US Open in New York but then losing to his rival in the finals of the 1984 French Open and 1985 US Open.

The three-time Wimbledon winner said: "I saw Ivan recently. I mean I don't think he'd do it if he didn't believe Andy could win one."

"I honestly don't believe he would be part of this. That sends some type of message as well. I'm hopeful he can do it. It'd be a hell of a story."

Murray played nine matches on grass at the Surbiton Trophy and Stuttgart Open where he reached the final before losing to Matteo Bertolini and injuring his abs in the third set.

Yet the fact he is playing at all, given that he

By **ROB MAUL**

has a metal hip implant, is something not lost on the sporting world. McEnroe, who will be once again part of the BBC commentary team for Wimbledon, added: "Some tennis aficionados forget Andy has been in 11 finals and won three of them. He was No 1 in the world at one point ahead of these other legends."

"I know it had to be tough for him to watch these guys continue to amass records where he basically couldn't play at all. I'm not a doctor. But I'm amazed that he's moving as well as he is."

"If you've got a metal hip, that would tell me that you wouldn't move as well, that you would be stiffer, that you couldn't react as quickly. I just don't see how it's even possible. But I noticed, mostly this year, a definite improvement."

Another icon on the comeback trail is **SERENA WILLIAMS**, who has been granted a SW19 wildcard.

After a year out injured, the American star parted up with Ons Jabeur to beat Sara Sorribes Tormo and Marie Bouzkova 2-6

6-3 (12-11) in a doubles match at Eastbourne International last night.

ROE ALL THE WAY... John McEnroe would not be shocked to see Andy Murray triumph at Wimbledon

John is not sorry

By **ROB MAUL**

PUNDIT John McEnroe has **NO REGRETS** about his comments on **Emma Raducanu's** mental health at last year's Wimbledon.

Raducanu (*below*) withdrew from the fourth round against Ajla Tomljanovic on medical grounds after breathing heavily and feeling dizzy.

McEnroe called it on the night for the BBC, saying "it appears it just got a little bit too much, which is understandable".

The fact he questioned her mental strength and fragility angered many in the sport, weeks after Naomi Osaka had spoken about her own private issues off court.

Nine-time Wimbledon winner Martina Navratilova told McEnroe to "Shut The F*** Up".

But the American, 63, defended his opinion, saying: "I wouldn't say anything different. I have four girls of my own. I'm on her side."



YOU'VE COME A LAWN WAY, BABY ... Andy Murray trains at the All England Lawn Tennis Club yesterday

★ **CONCERNED** John McEnroe wants to visit close pal Boris Becker in jail.

Three-time Wimbledon winner Becker was sent down in April for 2½ years for hiding €3million of assets and loans to avoid paying debts.

The German, 54, is in prison near London and could face deportation at the end of his sentence.

McEnroe said: "I feel horrible. Boris is a friend of mine, this is just horrible. I want to see him if I possibly can. He's been going through a lot for a long time. He kept telling me it's going to be OK."

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Take notice that Hariji Limited, whose registered office is at 11 Home Farm Park, Drumcondra, Dublin 9 in the city of Dublin intends to apply to the District Court sitting at District Court No. 23 on the 20th day of July 2022 at 12 noon, for the Transfer of the Spirit, Beer & Wine Retailer's Off Licences, reference No. 1007285, attaching to the premises situate at Spar, 120/122 Lower Kilmacud Road, Stillorgan, County Dublin, in the court area and district aforesaid, previously held by Triode Newhill LHP Limited, nominee Stephen Dwan - MARTIN MORAN & COMPANY Solicitors, 10 Herbert Street, Dublin 2.

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