

Success Strategies of John McEnroe

Last week I knocked two things off my bucket list:

1) I went to Wimbledon and 2) I not only met John McEnroe, but I played tennis with John McEnroe.

In preparation for the event, I watched a lot of the legacy programmes about McEnroe's explosion on to the tennis scene in the early 1980s, winning every major tournament including the US Open and Wimbledon.

So, what made McEnroe such a great tennis player?

McEnroe himself said:

'Greatness is part- wiring and part determination to succeed'.

Even as a child he was never satisfied and allegedly was concerned that his first grade A- just wasn't good enough. He wanted an A+.

Having already won the US open, John knew that to be number one you have to win Wimbledon and to get there, he knew he had to work harder and dig deeper.

Having lost to Bjorn Borg in the final in 1980, he had to ask himself- what else are you willing to do to win?

'Pressure is a privilege and champions adapt.'

Talking about McEnroe, Billy Jean King said, 'when your head, heart and gut are aligned, you are set up for greatness.'

McEnroe won Wimbledon in 1981 and for the next 4 years, was Number 1 in the world. He still holds the record for the most championship wins of all time.

In later life, McEnroe has become much more reflective and both he and his wife are committed to supporting children's charities, including sponsoring young people, with great tennis talents, who would otherwise not be able to afford the required coaching.

It was an honour to meet John McEnroe on such hallowed ground, as Wimbledon, where his initial rocky relationship metamorphosed into him being one of their favourite commentators and tennis legends of all time.



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