

Grass roots

Q&A

As Wimbledon gets underway, Iain Boyd talks to FOX SPORTS commentator Wally Masur about the biggest tournament in tennis.

Your era had some of the best grass court players. Who stood out?

I remember playing John McEnroe at the Australian Open in 1983 and he was phenomenal. He was incredibly accurate and could stifle your ability to play. If you played Ivan Lendl, Boris Becker or Stefan Edberg you would be in there playing, but with McEnroe I was never balanced to hit one shot. It was the worst feeling in the world.

What's your take on the current golden era in the men's game?

I can't think of two better champions than Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer. It throws back to the days of Ken Rosewall, Lew Hoad and Rod Laver, and those great Australians who were gentlemen as well as champions. We've witnessed some of the great matches of all time between these two and now Novak Đoković and Andy Murray are throwing their hat in the ring. It's nice to see.

Murray will be the name on everyone's lips at Wimbledon.

Can he win Britain's first men's major since 1936?

His nature is to counter punch and I think over five sets it's like standing on the ropes too long, and eventually he gets hit. So I feel like Murray's got to go out and win Wimbledon. The other thing is character. In my opinion he will win a major, so it's just between the ears now and his emotional state in finals.

Who would your surprise package be this year and your title pick?

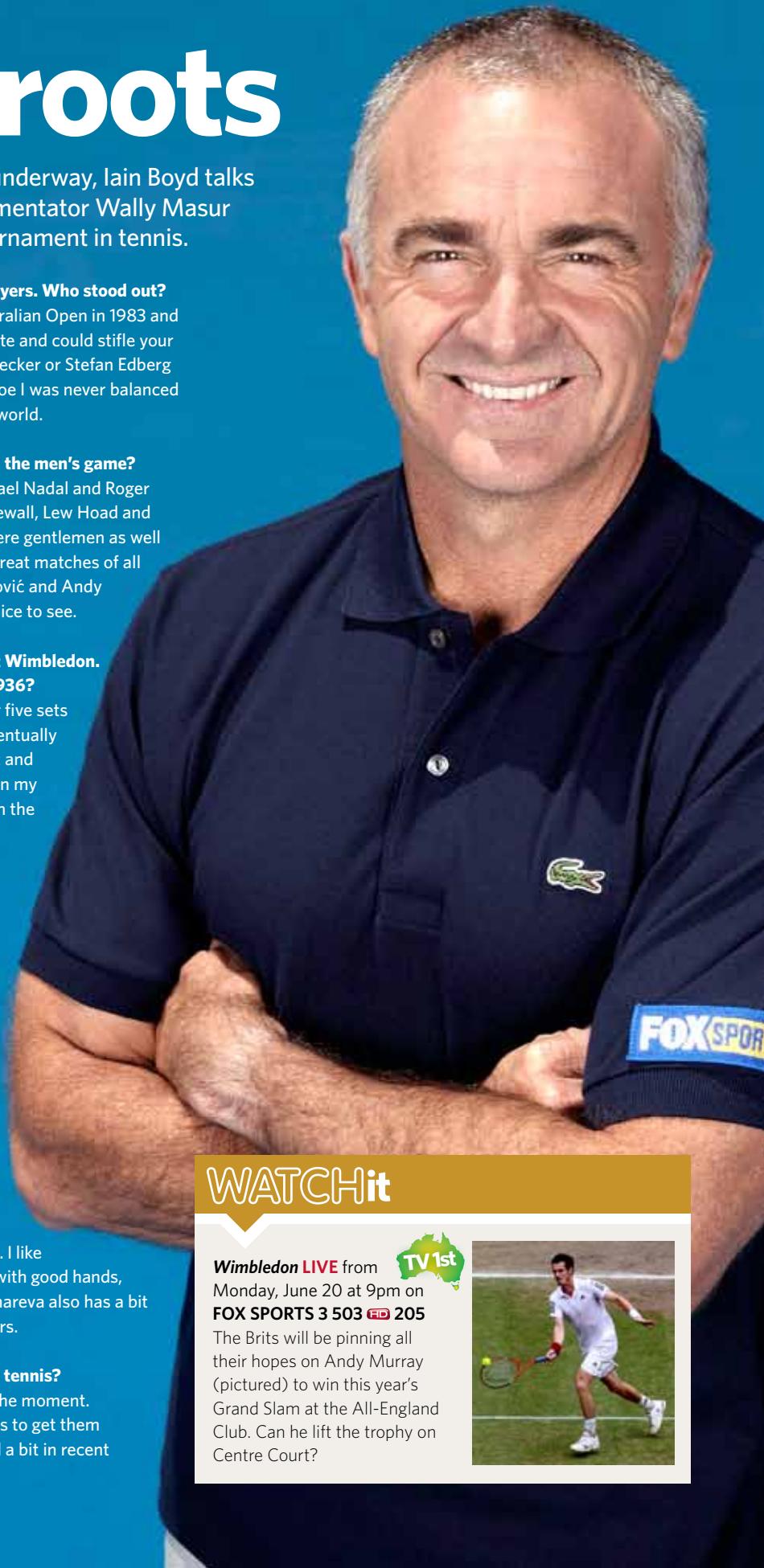
I like Milos Raonic. He is phenomenal and has a serve like I can't believe. Federer is getting pushed around a bit by Nadal and Đoković, but if there is one surface where he can win, it's Wimbledon. Then you have Tomáš Berdych, who played well last year, and if Lleyton Hewitt gets some tournaments under his belt beforehand he's capable of doing well, as is Bernard Tomic.

On the women's side, do you think Sam Stosur is in with a chance?

Yeah she could win. I don't know if grass suits her but her serve is that dangerous it's possible. I like Kim Clijsters because she's a great scrambler with good hands, and can use the slice and drop shot. Vera Zvonareva also has a bit more variety, and obviously the Williams sisters.

What's your take on the future for Australian tennis?

We do have some great juniors coming up at the moment. But we've always had great juniors – the trick is to get them to transition, and that's where we've struggled a bit in recent years. So that's our goal and our focus. 



WATCHit

Wimbledon LIVE from Monday, June 20 at 9pm on **FOX SPORTS 3 503 HD 205**

The Brits will be pinning all their hopes on Andy Murray (pictured) to win this year's Grand Slam at the All-England Club. Can he lift the trophy on Centre Court?



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