

Excerpts

Excerpts 1) About the 1991 French Open final against Jim Courier:

“At break point on Andre’s serve, the wind blew hard as Andre was about to hit an easy overhead. The ball went out and Jim got the final break. Tears started running down my cheeks. I would have given anything in the world to let Andre hit that overhead again. At 5-4, “the man with the hat” didn’t miss his chance to close out the match with an ace...”

2) About the day when a crowd of kids mistook me for Andre:

“While I was walking through the alleys of Roland-Garros with my best friend, I heard some kids behind me, saying, “I think it’s Agassi!” Some other kids responded, “Yeah, you’re right, I think it’s Agassi!” Next thing I knew, I was surrounded by a dozen kids asking me for autographs. I must say the idea of being mistaken for Andre Agassi was more than flattering. I was ecstatic. It was nice to see all the joy and excitement I was provoking. Obviously, my best friend thought I would tell them they were mistaken, but I didn’t. I felt like I knew this part by heart...”

3) About the time I pulled the best hoax by fooling two receptionists and three guards to finally meet Andre at Roland-Garros:

“As I was getting closer to the crowd waiting outside, I compressed my stomach to seem as lean as usual. I sneaked through the crowd and found myself in front of three guards. My heart was pounding fast, but I did my best not to show anything, just like the top players on the court. This time, with my best fake American accent, I said in French:, “Hi, I’m an American player and I’m here for two months to play tournaments in France. I was told to go to the International Federation on Court number one to get a temporary ranking.” The guards looked at each other for a second. One of them looked at me and said, “Sure sir, go ahead, but the International Federation is no longer on Court number one, but on Center Court.” At that very moment, a sense of blissful happiness took over my senses. I kept walking straight towards Center Court, thinking of the crowd which had stayed behind me. I still had fifteen minutes ahead of me.”

4) About the time I met Andre’s father, Mike:

“All of a sudden, I saw this little guy standing in front of me on my left. He was wearing a sports jacket, and his black hair was covering a bald spot, a bit like Donald Trump. Even though he was turning his back on me, I was pretty sure it was him. I had the feeling it was Mike Agassi. I walked up to him from behind, and whispered, “Mike?” He turned around, and said, “Wow, nobody had ever recognized me from behind!”