

presence still in pigtails



... but a pro capable of beating veterans.

from Mark McCormack's high-powered International Management Group. "We obviously felt, like many others, that she would become a very good player..." says Gordon, who signed up Jaeger shortly after she turned pro last winter.

"Publicity-wise now, there's quite a bit of interest in her, merely because she's so young. Here's someone 15, hence she's an unbelievable player to be ranked so high... (But) there's quite a bit more she's going to do. Over the summer is very important. If she does well at the Open, that would be very important."

To our readers:

With today's issue, The Tribune introduces a larger Friday sports section which features numerous items from Sportsweek, the weekly special section that has been merged with the regular sports package. For some Midwest readers, this will be your first look at the Sportsweek format that emphasizes entertaining and informative reading. This fall, during the football season, you will find staff selections on pro and college games along with injury reports, special football features, and Ron Alridge's TV column concentrating on sports each Friday. Welcome to our expanded Friday sports section.

George Langford, Sports Editor

ANDREA JAEGER DID well enough at Wimbledon to already create a modicum of interest, and ever since she unfurled herself and her game at the prestigious All-England Club, her life has not been quite the same. Yet, through it all, she has remained unchanged, and as she recounts her short life as a presence, she reveals a self that is not a robot, a self that is still unaffected and still able to find joy in the experiences of a child.

She returned from London with her mother and her sister on the 4th of July, and though the journey debilitated her traveling companions, she dragged her father out to that evening's fireworks celebration. The next morning she was up early and on her way to Gompers Park, where she first performed when she was 10, and there she played five sets of doubles and renewed old friendships that had recently fallen fallow.

The next week there were press conferences and television appearances and radio interviews, and then she was on the road again, this time to promote hot dogs. "I don't know how I got involved in that," she says with a laugh, but it ended with her in Detroit and cooking wieners live and in color on some morning TV show. That media blitz over, she returned home, collected 20 friends, and headed out to the Great America amusement park, which had invited her and any number of guests to a free day of fun.

THERE, SHE WAS outfitted in a Demon T-shirt, ushered to the front of the line awaiting that ride, and eventually amused by the actions she could cause. Here, Andrea Jaeger and a friend had grown enamored of a log-rolling ride, and now they were enjoying it, dashing to the exit, and rushing back into line. After repeating this routine three times, she noticed that another girl was trailing her, and after the fifth time, she finally turned and looked at that girl. "Can I have your autograph?" the girl asked, and then she held out her arm.

"Are you serious?" Andrea Jaeger asked her.

"Yeah," the girl replied.

"So I signed her arm," Andrea Jaeger now says.

"I'll try never to wash it off," the girl then crooned.

ANDREA JAEGER RELATES all this with a not-uncertain amusement, for she has not allowed this aura that now surrounds her to destroy the best parts of her personality. Indeed, in the weeks immediately following her Wimbledon triumphs, she renurtured this side of herself with her old friends at Gompers Park. There, she would play friendly tennis with them from 7 to 10 each morning, and then they would be off together for games of tag and kickball and childhood innocence.



When Andrea is at Gompers Park, she's just another teenage girl.

"It was," she says simply, "mostly for my fun..."

"Yeah, when I go to tournaments now people know me, but around here I'm normal, I'm just another kid. If I play kickball, I'm not going to cheat, I'm not going to try to get away with something just because I'm Andrea Jaeger... You can't let things go to your head, 'cause when you do well, it can be hard to find good friends. I never did it when I won (the junior) nationals, and I'm not going to do it now.

"I mean"—and here she gives a final shrug toward a truth she considers so self evident—"I mean, you don't have to brag."