

The Ice Man

1. Read the first part of the story and guess the name of the famous sportsperson.
2. Complete the story using the words in the box.

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I was born (1) _____ a suburb (2) _____ Stockholm called Sodertaljie (3) _____ June 6th, 1956. The two most popular sports (4) _____ Sweden when I was growing (5) _____ were football and ice hockey and I enjoyed playing both (6) _____ them. When I was nine, my father won a tennis racket, which he gave (7) _____ me. I became very interested (8) _____ the game and found I was good (9) _____ it. By the time I was thirteen I was playing tennis (10) _____ the international circuit and at the age of eighteen I won my first Grand Slam title, the French Open, in 1974.

3. Complete the next part of the story using the numbers in the box.

four twenty-seven five twelve six eleven

In total I won (1) _____ Grand Slam singles titles. I won the French Open at Roland Garros (2) _____ ('74, '75, '78, '79, '80 and '81) times and I won the Wimbledon Championships (3) _____ times ('76, '77, '78, '79 and '80). I was finalist at the US Open (4) _____ times but I never managed to win it. I was beaten by Jimmy Connors in 1976 and 1978, and by John McEnroe in 1980 and 1981. I never played the Australian Open. This was a matter of principal; I felt that all professional tennis players needed times when they rested instead of running around the world (5) _____ months of the year.

In 1983, when I was (6) _____, I decided to retire from professional tennis. However, I did try to make a comeback in 1991, using my wooden racket, but my age and my equipment were no match for the younger players who had the advantage of youth and graphite rackets.

4. Complete the story using the words from the box.

get came top feet show style

When I was at the (1) _____ of my profession people nicknamed me *The Ice Man* and *Ice Borg* because I never used to (2) _____ any emotion during my matches. My (3) _____ of play was to hit the ball from the baseline. I used to use two hands when I hit a backhand (this was an ice hockey 'slap shot', which (4) _____ very naturally to me) and I was quick on my (5) _____. I inspired modern players like Andre Agassi, who plays a similar game to mine (although I think he's much more emotional).

These days I live in Monaco and I have my own label of clothes and sportswear. I still play tennis and enjoy competing against my old rivals when I (6) _____ the chance.