

# Federer can win two more Slams: McEnroe

BY RIZWAN REHMAT

**DOHA:** Roger Federer is capable of winning two more Grand Slams but the Swiss star is likely to be surpassed by Spain's Rafael Nadal as the greatest ever, tennis legend John McEnroe said yesterday.

Federer, who was dethroned as world number one by Nadal in June this year, bagged his 16th Grand Slam title at the Australian Open almost a year ago. Former world number one Pete Sampras of the US is second on the list with 14 Grand Slams against his name.

"I think Federer's got a couple of Grand Slams in him. He can also finish number one at the end of a year like he has done so many times in the past. He is still an incredible player," McEnroe said at the Aspire Academy yesterday.

"I have said in the past that he is probably the greatest player to have ever lived."

The 51-year-old, winner of 77 titles, said Federer could be surpassed by Nadal as the greatest ever by the time the 24-year-old Spaniard finishes his career.

"Having said that, what Nadal

has done now, having won all the four majors, won the Olympics (gold medal in singles), he has a winning record of 14-7 against Federer, and two Davis Cups, while Roger hasn't won any. There's an argument that Rafael Nadal could be the greatest player eventually," McEnroe told a tennis gathering that had turned up at the Aspire Academy.

"Even though he doesn't have as many Slams... it is 16 to 9 (against Federer). If he remains healthy, in a couple of more years he could be the greatest player to have ever lived, no doubt about that," McEnroe said.

Bjorn Borg, who won Wimbledon six times, echoed the American's sentiments when he said: "If Nadal stays healthy, I am sure he can win more Grand Slam tournaments (than Federer). We have to see when Roger finishes, but Rafa has a good chance to be the greatest."

McEnroe, who won the US Open four times, said Nadal has an edge over Federer as an athlete.

"I think the two greatest athletes on the Tour are Bjorn Borg and Rafael Nadal. I think



Retired tennis players Bjorn Borg (left) of Sweden, John McEnroe (centre) of the US and Ilie Nastase of Romania speak at a session during Aspire4Sport Congress and Exhibition at Aspire Dome yesterday. **PIC: SHAFIQ DALAL**

Federer is probably the greatest-ever player to have lived but may not be as good an athlete as these two. But he's pretty good though," McEnroe, winner of three Wimbledon titles, said.

Borg said Andy Murray of Britain has the game to win a Grand Slam in the near future.

"For sure Murray can win. He can win the big one. He has played two Grand Slams finals and ended up playing against Federer," Borg said.

"He played a good one at the Australian Open. He plays great tennis. For me, he is very talented. I know that everybody

(in England) is waiting for him to win."

"He can easily win a Grand Slam in the near future because he has the game.

"He is physically stronger, masculine.

"It is a matter of getting everything together. He has to play

well over two weeks in a Grand Slam tournament. I hope he has a good team around him so that he can go all the way," the 54-year-old Swede said.

"He definitely has the chance to be the best player in the world," Borg added.

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