

OPEN QUOTES

Once you get the confidence, you

secret. I am lucky not to carry any injury and to be returning

so well. You play a match like

that five or maybe eight times in

Magnus Gustafsson, after beating

Gustafsson had an unbelievable

better until the final; then somebody else played better than me.

I lost too early last year so I did-

doubles with Mark Woodforde.

I'm not getting any younger and

John Fitzgerald, veteran player and

I just closed my eyes and every-

We lost to two great doubles

Darren Cahill, on his return after a

There will be a lot of great play-

ers here. This tournament has

earned a lot of respect on the

Todd Woodbridge, on image of the

long layoff due to injury.

Dubai Tennis Open.

Sergi Bruguera in the final.

a whole life.

Sergi Bruguera

to be back soon.

neither are my legs.

losing doubles finallist.

thing went right.

Magnus Gustafsson

John Fitzgerald

## DUEAL TENNS OF EN 1994

**GULF** NEWS

## The quiet Fitzgerald makes quite a racquet in doubles

Concedes defeat came against two great doubles players – Woodforde and Woodbridge

By A Sports Reporter

By all accounts, this was one of the finest doubles matches to be played in the Middle East. When it was all over. John Fitzgerald, 33, one of the greatest doubles players of all time, said: "We lost to two great doubles players." As indeed, he and Darren Cahill did.

The two Woodies, Mark Woodforde and Todd Woodbridge start to play well. That's the logged up another 220 computer points and \$ 63,000 in prize

The four Australians on court, three of them former No. 1 in the world, had 124 finals and 83 titles among them, so the standard of play was obviously going to be very high. When Fitzgerald and Cahill took the first set on a tie-breaker, the game plan seemed to suggest forehand. I played better and

The two righthanders tried to find no-man's land between the left hander Woodforde and the right hander Woodbridge, while the Woodies' best bet was to go for the lines. The play at the net was of the n't get a chance to say what I highest order, but even, and so any felt about Dubai. It sure is a error would have to come from the wonderful place and I'll be glad length of the returns.

No other match in the whole Todd Woodbridge, winner of the tournament had so many players of such distinct, individual styles. The bustle and energy of Woodbridge meshed well with the calm decisiveness of Woodforde. Likewise the mobility of Cahill with the intelligence and control of Fitzgerald.

Woodbridge might have thrilled with his groundstrokes, and youthful vitality, but to many it was Fitzgerald who gave a glimpse of the classic doubles player, unhurried, calculating, in total control of the racquet head. The manner in which he volleyed down to Woodbridge'e feet to wrap up the first set tie-breaker was merely a I am happy just to be back on glimpse into the shape of things to

> Fitzgerald displayed a lovely touch, and a deeper knowledge of the angles, a tribute to his experience, than any of the oth-For the connoisseur, that was the highlight of the game, the says. manner in which Fitzgerald got Ac the maximum results from the minimum of effort. In the elimination of the inessential, the 'vet-



John Fitzgerald ... amazing racquet control

eran' Fitzgerald handed out a lesson to the youngsters. "I like playing with the younger players, Although it was Fitzgerald who much fire who can chase the ball, and Darren is a good example of a player like that," Fitzgerald said later. With Sweden's Anders Jarryd, Fitzgerald had set up a partnership that had won all the Grand Slam titles.

Cahill, at 27 no spring chicken himself, but he lost three crucial years owing to a knee injury, and is only now back on the circuit. "I am happy just to be back on court," he

Across the net it was Mark Woodforde who was the touch player, relying on placements and leaving the aggressive ground- all tennis matches aspire to reach Dubai Tennis Open.

disappointed.

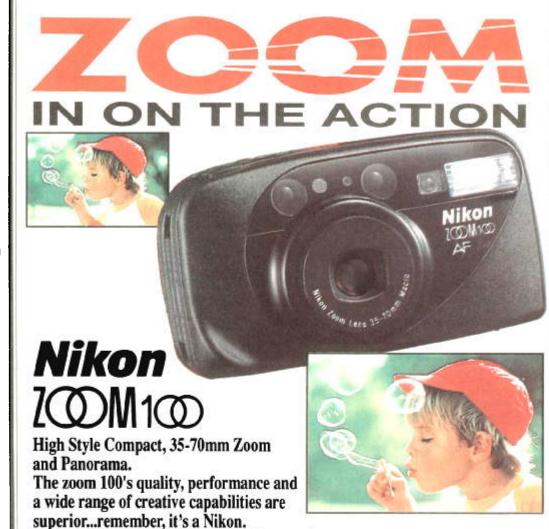
Although it was Fitzgerald who was broken in the decider, there

In the end the Woodies had too much fire power, and Cahill seemed just that bit out of sorts was a lesson in his style for the student of the game. His manipulation of the racquet head gave his shots a last-minute change of direction that even the fit pair on the other side found hard to cope

At one point in the second set, Fitzgerald thought his shot was in, and his opponents seemed to agree. But the umpire did not budge, and that might well have been the turning point of the doubles. After a point, the scores didn't matter, and that is a stage

when it really mattered. Fitzgerald too was beginning to hit the drop volleys into the net, and with the Woodies quickly realising that they were home and dry if they did not make any silly mistakes, sheer effi-ciency overrode all other strategy in the decider.

There was enough of that to excite the result-oriented spectator, just as there was enough of the touch to please those who just want a good game. Perhaps that was the secret of the popularity of the doubles on the final day of the Woodbridge might have thrilled with his groundstrokes, and youthful vitality, but to many it was Fitzgerald who gave a glimpse of the classic doubles player, unhurried, calculating, in total control of the racquet head. The manner in which he volleyed down to Woodbridge feet to wrap up the first set tie-breaker was merely a glimpse into the shape of things to come



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المحلات الكبرى GRAND STORES



Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde ... bag \$63,000 in prize money



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