



## Star Search Leadership

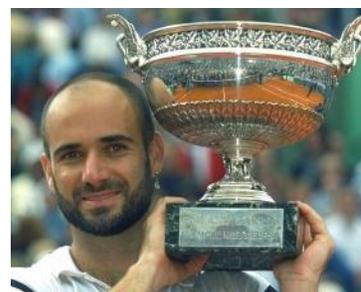
*"Creating Leaders and Champions – On Court and Off"*

### Perseverance - The Power of Never Giving Up

It feels great when you are down in a match, you keep trying, you keep problem solving, you tell yourself to just to get one more ball back, or to win one point. Then the match turns and you find yourself making a great comeback and winning the match. You feel GREAT. Let's look at the greatest comebacks in tennis history and see what we can learn from some of the world's best tennis players.

**Men's #1 Comeback** - It was the 1984 French Championship Finals and Ivan Lendl was behind two sets 2-6, 6-7 (4) against John McEnroe. He could not break McEnroe's serve. The 3<sup>rd</sup> set went to a tie breaker and Lendl won it 7-5 in the breaker. ***"I felt that once I could break him I could do it again."*** And he did. Lendl won and the final score was 2-6, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (5), 6-3, 6-1.

**Men's #2 Comeback (My favorite)** - It was the 1999 French Championship Finals with Andre Agassi playing against Andrei Medvedev. Agassi was losing badly. He had lost the first set 6-1 in 19 minutes and the second, 6-2. But he did not give up. After a rain delay Agassi played better, and better and better. Agassi won and the final score was 1-6, 2-6, 6-4, 6-3 6-4. With that comeback Agassi achieved career Grand Slam. After the match he said, ***"Winning isn't suppose to feel this good. But it does."***



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**Women's #1 Comeback** - It was the 2003 US Open Semi Finals. Jenifer Capriati was way up on Justine Henin-Hardene. Not once, not twice, but 11 times Jenifer was within 2 points of winning the match. Justine kept fighting and would not give up and she won. Final score was 4-6, 7-5, 7-6 (4). It pays to never give up no matter what the score.

**Women's #2 Comeback** - It was the 1993 Wimbledon Final with Steffi Graf playing Jana Novotna. Steffi won a very close first set 7-6 (8) but Jana easily won the 2<sup>nd</sup> set 6-1 and was up 4-1 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> set and had a game point on her serve to go up 5-1. She double faulted. Graf won 5 straight games and the match 7-6, 1-6, 6-4. ***"You've got to play every point."*** Steffi Graf



**REMEMBER:** *All the greatest tennis comebacks in history have one thing in common.*

*The winner started out by losing but never gave up!*

So what are some things that you persevered through? What did you learn from a difficult match, assignment at school, or a difficult situation?

**MY TENNIS PERSEVERANCE EXAMPLE**

1.

2.

**What I learn?**

**MY SCHOOL PERSEVERANCE EXAMPLE**

1.

2.

**What I learn?**

**OTHER TIMES I HAVE PERSEVERED**

1.

2.

**What I learn?**