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Martina Navratilova, right, and Wimbledon mixed doubles partner Jonathan Stark display their trophy.

# Navratilova, Stark win doubles

## Her 19th Wimbledon crown one shy of record

PI NEWS SERVICES

WIMBLEDON, England — After winning the mixed doubles championship yesterday for her 19th overall Wimbledon title, Martina Navratilova said there's a slim chance she might play singles next year at the All England Club.

Navratilova said her coach, Mike Estep, was so pleased with her play that he suggested she return to the singles competition.

"I don't think I have the nerve for it anymore," said Navratilova, who retired from singles in 1994.

Navratilova, who won a record nine Wimbledon singles titles, teamed with Seattle resident Jonathan Stark to defeat Cyril Suk and Gigi Fernandez 6-4, 6-4 in the mixed doubles final.

Navratilova needs only one more overall title to match Billie Jean King's

record of 20 at Wimbledon.

Stark, a native of Medford, Ore., was a last-minute replacement to team with Navratilova.

"Martina was supposed to play with John McEnroe, but that didn't work out," Stark said. "Martina asked me to play with her. I consider that an honor."

They now plan to play the U.S. Open together.

It was the second grand slam doubles title for Stark, 24. He teamed with Byron Black to win the men's doubles title at the 1994 French Open.

Navratilova, 38, said she likes playing with Stark.

"He is solid and has such a dominating serve," she said. "It helps me move around more when he is serving."

Stark's serve was clocked at nearly 120 mph for most of the match.

Stark also hit several key winners off of ground strokes, an area of his game that he feels he has improved immensely.

"I felt I played really well," he said. "I had my confidence going in the match and we were playing really well as a team. One of the keys was having a lot of fun and not putting any pressure on ourselves."

Navratilova seemed to have a settling influence on Stark.

"She is really nice and she is really easy to play with," Stark said. "She is really hard on herself, but yet she is really easy to get along with as her partner. She has a way of helping you relax out there, but yet she inspires you to compete at her level."

Stark said the victory was something to remember.

"A mixed doubles title at Wimbledon is very special but it is also special to have played with Martina, who is the best women's player of all time," he said. "She owns the place."