



SAM SMITH

- Samantha Smith was born on 27 November, 1971 in Loughton, Essex
- Ranked Number 1 in Great Britain from 1996 until 1999 when an ankle injury curtailed her career, resulting in two operations to correct the problem and some four months in plaster
- Competed on the WTA Tour from 1990 - 1992 and 1995 - 2000, taking a break to read History at Exeter University from where she graduated with an Upper 2nd Class Honours Degree
- Attained a career high singles ranking of 55 on the WTA Tour in 1999, the previous year having achieved her best performance at Wimbledon when, as a wild card entry, she stunned world number 7 and 1994 Champion Conchita Martinez to become the first British woman in 13 years to reach the fourth round
- In addition to Martinez, recorded career wins over Yayuk Basuki (ranked 23), Sarah Pitkowski (ranked 47) and Rachel McQuillan (ranked 63)
- Won the ITF tournaments at Nottingham (1995 - both singles and doubles) and Frinton-on-Sea (2000) during a brief comeback
- Represented Great Britain in the Federation Cup and European Cup in 1991 and from 1996 - 1999, achieving an unbeaten record of five Fed Cup singles matches in 1997
- Rates playing at the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona as her most memorable experience in tennis
- Was the top ranked junior in Britain in 1989, winning the Under 18 hard and grass court championships
- Was British National Champion in 1997
- Won a silver medal at the 1995 World University Games in mixed doubles with Paul Robinson and reached the quarter finals in singles
- Is now a part-time coach, a regular tennis commentator for BBC Radio and TV, Sky Sports and Eurosport and a columnist and feature writer for Ace Magazine
- Excelled also in swimming, field hockey and netball
- Lives in Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex

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