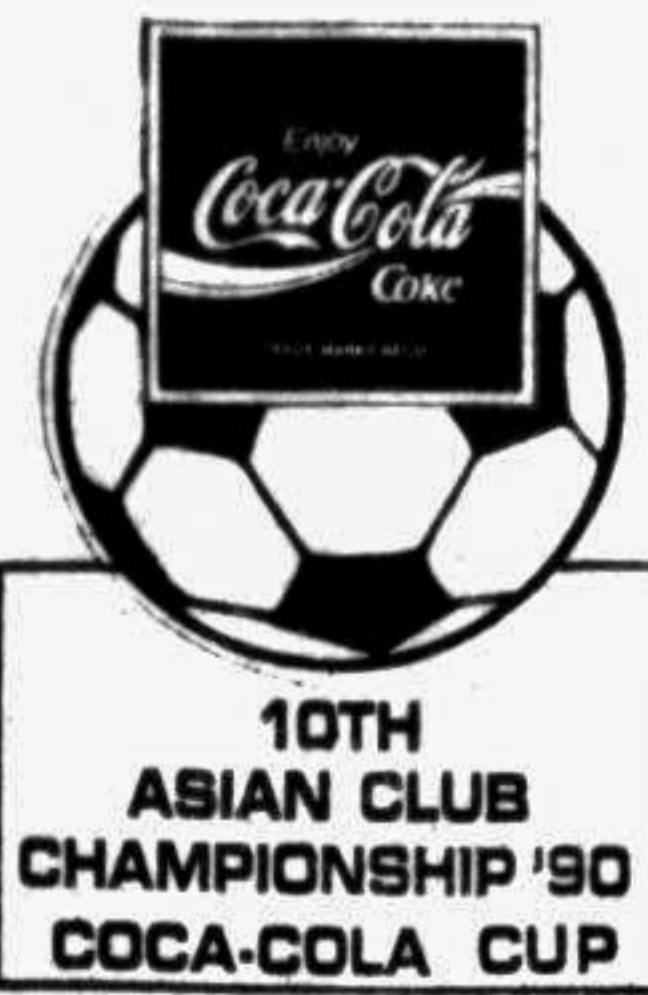


# Lucky Liaoning stay in race



until the Omanis shocked the Chinese by taking the lead in the 30th minute.

The Omanis earned a corner kick on the right which was immediately followed by a free-kick from the same area. Omar Mohammed, taking the free-kick, managed to create a melee in front of the Chinese goalmouth and Mohammad Ali, their left-winger, was at hand to push the ball into the Chinese net past a helpless goalie Zhao Fa-Qing. Ali's left-footed grounder packed a lot

minute of the second session when the reigning cup holders got their cherished reward. Ma Lin sent a square pass to substitute Gao Xu about ten metres from the Oman box. The latter, who had come on in place of Huang Chong, then vindicated his coach by rifling the ball home from just inside the box after beautifully dodging past last defender Abdul-Nabi Arafat (1-1).

But still the Omanis nearly pulled off an upset win, substitute Faiz Raham's powerful

were beaten 0-3 by Indonesia's Pelita Jaya. On the other hand, Liaoning need only draw with Pelita on Wednesday to go through to the semifinals. Only a defeat for Liaoning at Pelita's hands by a margin of more than three goals will give the Omanis a passage into the semis. That looks a distant dream.

There were four yellow cards handed down by Sri Lankan referee Yapa Abeywana, two each for Liaoning and Al-Nasr.



Al-Nasr and Liaoning booters try to get possession of the ball in yesterday's lone match of the Asian Club Cup championship at Dhaka Stadium. The match ended one-all. — Star photo

of power.

The goal stunned the crowd, as much as it did the Chinese players themselves.

The second half started with the Chinese once again seeking desperately the equaliser. A series of attacks by either side failed to alter the status quo until in the 33rd

shot from the top of the box being parried for a corner by goalie Zhao Fa-Qing just two minutes from the final whistle.

The result virtually sealed Al-Nasr's fate in the seven-team tournament, giving them a solitary point from their two robin-league games in the three-team Group A. They

missed the second and third Tests because of a calf strain, confirmed his return to full fitness by quickly removing opener Trevor Ward and Simon Hinks on his way to figures of four for 70 from 20 overs.

But Taylor held firm for 270 minutes and was undefeated when Kent declared at 247 for eight.

**Afzal H Khan**

Defending champions Liaoning Provincial Football Club of China lived to fight another day when they salvaged a point with a late equaliser in their Group A match against Al-Nasr Club of Oman at the Dhaka Stadium.

Taking the field for the first time since the 10th Asian Club Cup football championships for the Coca Cola Cup got underway last Friday, the defending champs, an automatic pre-tournament favourites along with Iranian champion side Esteghal Club, gave a disappointing performance and must consider themselves extremely lucky to have shared a point.

A sparse crowd, around a couple of thousand at the most, must have been rather surprised to see the Omanis, who played so poorly during their 0-3 drubbing at the hands of Indonesia's Pelita Jaya last Saturday, dictating the terms after having taken a 30th-minute lead. The Chinese pushed for the equaliser, especially in the second half, but found scoring impossible until just twelve minutes from time. The desperation in the Chinese camp was all too evident.

Yet the Chinese started the game in a better manner than their opponents.

Sun Wei tested the Al-Nasr goalkeeper with a thunderous volley early in the fifth minute and Haroun Amur Hamed manning the Omani post had to call upon all his skills to make a brilliant save with a punch that kept the ball out.

Again in the 22nd minute Xu Hul, combining well to create a good Chinese move, dodged past a couple of defenders but after nearing his target attempted a feeble placing instead of slamming the ball hard into the net. Goalie Haroun Hamed was equal to the occasion and collected quite easily. It was a golden chance wasted by the Liaoning forward.

Things then remained quite unexciting for a few minutes

70-minute match that clearly showed the No 1 player is far from being in top form.

Seles was broken five times in 10 service games. Her shots lacked crispness and she said she didn't seem to have her usual court quickness.

The 15-year-old Capriati played almost flawless tennis in handing the 17-year-old Seles her first defeat since she dropped the final of the Italian Open to Gabriela Sabatini.

Seles simply played like a player who had missed the last 5 1/2 weeks with a stress fracture in her left leg, the same injury that caused her to withdraw from Wimbledon unexpectedly and that is keeping her out of this week's Federation Cup, also in England.

"I didn't expect a lot out of myself coming in here," Seles said. "I really didn't want to put any pressure on the leg."

Seles said she wasn't sure she would have been able to play a third set Sunday on the court at Ramapo College, where the temperature reached 102 degrees Fahrenheit (39 Celsius). She had been extended to three sets by Kathy Rinaldi in Saturday night's semifinal.

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The result virtually sealed Al-Nasr's fate in the seven-team tournament, giving them a solitary point from their two robin-league games in the three-team Group A. They

# Simmons savages Kent attack

CANTERBURY, July 22 : Phil Simmons set himself up for the fastest century of the English season when he hammered an unbeaten 81 off 59 balls against Kent on Sunday, reports Reuter.

The tall West Indies opener, whose attacking style has brought him little success in the Test series against England, played 17 fours off the Kent attack.

West Indies ended the second day of the three-day match at Canterbury on 113 for two in their second innings, 176 ahead.

When play resumes today Simmons will have a further 23 deliveries to beat the 83-ball hundreds of Ian Botham and John Morris earlier this summer.

Simmons scorched his way to 50 from only 34 deliveries with the help of 11 boundaries, but his hopes of a century before the close faded when he was denied the strike for a while by partner Brian Lara.

Patrick Patterson, who



PHIL SIMMONS

Earlier, Neil Taylor celebrated his 32nd birthday with a high-class 138 to rescue Kent after they had slumped to 56 for four in reply to the touring team's 310 for seven declared.

missed the second and third Tests because of a calf strain, confirmed his return to full fitness by quickly removing opener Trevor Ward and Simon Hinks on his way to figures of four for 70 from 20 overs.

But Taylor held firm for 270 minutes and was undefeated when Kent declared at 247 for eight.

**SUNDAY LEAGUE**

Meanwhile, another Reuter report adds: Lancashire, four for four then 36 for seven, staged a remarkable recovery against Middlesex to go top of the English Sunday cricket league.

A modest target of 144 looked way beyond Lancashire as paceman Norman Cowans skittled their batting.

Cowans took six for nine but still finished a loser as an eight-wicket stand of 105 between Warren Hegg (47 not out) and Ian Austin (48) turned defeat into a two-wicket triumph.

Long-time leaders Nottinghamshire lost by five runs to Northamptonshire. Wayne Larkins, back after a

two-month injury absence, hit 63 to lay the foundations for Northamptonshire's 202.

England captain Graham Gooch equalled Gordon Greenidge's record of 11 league centuries with 1-7 to lead Essex to a 30-run victory over Somerset.

Gooch's runs came off 102 balls while Somerset's reply was spearheaded by opener Jimmy Cook with 93 off 99 balls.

Another captain to lead by example was Martyn Moxon. His unbeaten 129 set up Yorkshire's crushing eight-wicket success over Surrey.

**MOODY IN RECORD**

Tim Moody set a league batting record in Worcestershire's seven-wicket win over Glamorgan.

The prolific openers have now scored 1,038 together this season, beating the previous best of Yorkshire's Geoff Hirst and John Hampshire in 1975.

Curtis (55) and Moody (58) put on 111 and Worcestershire passed their 231 target with five balls left.

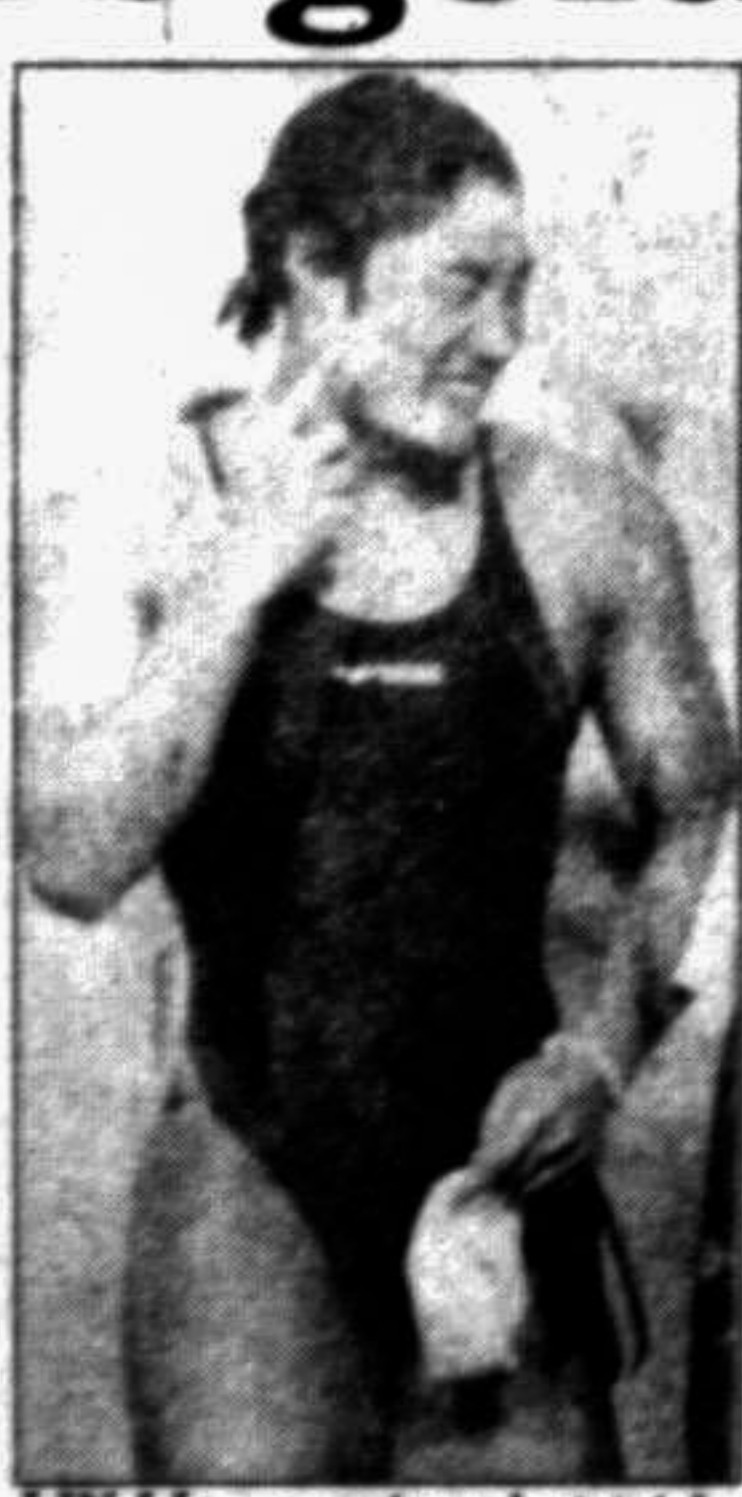
# Lin Li's golden hat-trick

SHEFFIELD, England, July 22: China's women swimmers demonstrated their overwhelming superiority as double world champion Lin Li won her third gold at the World Student Games and Wang Xiaohong took her second individual title on Sunday, reports Reuter.

World record-holder Yang Wenyi smashed the Games 50 metres freestyle mark twice, capturing China's third Gold of the night and avenging her World Championship defeat by teammate Zhuang Yong.

Ian Wilson raced away in the men's 1,500 metres to win Britain's first gold of the Games and their first medal of any colour in the pool on the final night of the swimming events.

Wilson, fourth at this year's World Championships, was roared on by the English



LIN LI — a unique hat-trick.

crowd down the final lap and won by almost the length of the pool in 15 minutes 53.30 seconds. Malaysian Jeffery Ong took silver after winning the first heat of the final.

The Chinese women's squad, which included three world champions, won seven of the 13 individual events, while the American men and women collected most medals overall, taking home 31, including six individual golds.

Lin, world champion at 200 and 400 metres individual medley, added the 200 backstroke gold to her games collection of double individual medley gold and 200 metres breaststroke silver.

Wang, winner of the 100 butterfly and silver medalist in the 100 freestyle last week, powered to victory by almost four seconds in Sunday's 200 butterfly. She also won a relay gold.

The Chinese record holder silver medalist in the 100

butterfly at January's World Championships, won in two minutes 10.76 seconds, with Japan's Yumiko Ichioika second in 2:14.30.

Quab Hong, world 100 metres butterfly champion and a silver medalist here this week, failed to qualify for the 200 final but won the consolation race.

Olympic silver medalist Yang, only fourth in the 50 metres freestyle at January's World Championships broke the Games record of 26.24 seconds in the morning heats with a time of 26.03 second.

Helped by an excellent start in the final, she lowered the mark to 25.92 but was still almost a second outside her world record 24.98 set in 1988 when she was 16.

Zhuang, who won the 100 metres freestyle last Monday, had to settle for the silver in the 50 in 26.10 American Jennifer Boyd took the bronze in 26.14.

# 3 more national marks go by board

Three more national records were tumbled yesterday — the third day of the inter-service swimming and water polo championship now in progress at the Naval Headquarters Complex swimming pool at Banani, reports BSS.

Havildar Abdul Mannan of the Army team improved national record in 200m back stroke clocking 2 min 27.61 sec. The earlier record in the event was 2 min 30.75 sec.

Bangladesh Army team also created national record in 4x100 m freestyle relay. They took 3 min 53.06 secs while the previous record in the event was 3 min 55.81 secs.

In 100m freestyle Havildar Shamsul Islam, also of the Army, set the last national record swimming the distance in 57.57 secs while the previous record in the event was 57.84 secs.

Meanwhile, in the medals tally the hosts Bangladesh Navy with 7 gold, 7 silver and 2 bronze medals were in leading position. They were closely followed by Army with 6 gold, 6 silver and 7 bronze medals.

# Fernandez loses to Fairbank in final

NEWPORT, July 22 : Mary Joe Fernandez struggled with the high temperatures in losing to Rosalyn Fairbank-Nideffer in the finals of the Virginia Slims Hall of Fame Invitational on Sunday and was hospitalized briefly for heat exhaustion, reports AP.

Fernandez, the world's sixth-ranked player and a member of the US entry in this week's Federation Cup, lost 1-6, 7-5, 6-0 to Fairbank-Nideffer, 12 years her senior at 31.

Temperatures were in the 90s F (30s C) as Fernandez was treated for heat exhaustion during and after the match and was rushed by paramedics to Newport Hospital.

# Argentina win Copa America

SANTIAGO, Chile, July 22 : World Cup runners-up Argentina, showing they can play good football without Maradona, defeated Colombia 2-1 in the Copa America finals on Sunday to become South American soccer champions, reports Reuter.

Defending champions Brazil beat Chile 2-0 in an earlier match to take second place in the 10-nation tournament, with host Chile third.

Fielding only three World Cup holders, Argentina played rapid offensive football that won them six out of seven matches with just one draw.

Powered in midfield by Rodriguez, Argentina pounded Colombia in the first half with attacks by World Cup forward Caniggia and Boca Juniors striker Batistuta, the tournament top scorer with six goals.

Someone headed in Argentina's first goal in the 10th minute from a centre by left-wing Basualdo who received a pass from Rodriguez the squad's outstanding new player.

A cross by Rodriguez sent Batistuta clear into the area and the long-haired striker beat goalkeeper Higuita with a powerful low kick for Argentina's second goal in the 19th.

Argentina settled back in the second half and Colombia took the initiative after two changes. Redin for Rincon and Valenciano for Usuriagu, injected life into their attack.

A pass by Redin allowed de Avila to score from the edge of the area in the 69th.

Colombia kept up pressure on Argentina in the closing minutes of the game, but failed to equalise, stopped time and again by fullback Ruggieri and goalkeeper Covcochea, both World Cup holders.

A draw would have made Brazil champions on goal difference.

Brazil lost 3-2 to Argentina on Wednesday and coach Paulo Roberto Falcao, a 1982 World Cup semi-finalist, has come under pressure to resign after his squad's poor performance in its first official tournament.

Sports commentators praised Argentina coach Alfio Basile for building a solid team with new talent to fill the gap left by Maradona, who was banned from international soccer until July 1992 for failing a dope test in March.

The fallen star was later arrested for cocaine possession.

**Argentina :** Goycochea, Basualdo, Vasquez, Ruggieri (Captain), Altamirano, Franco, Astrada, Simeone, Rodriguez (Captain), Caniggia, Batistuta.

**Colombia :** Higuita, Cabrera, Escobar, Perea, Osorio, Alvarez, Pimentel, Rincon (Redin), Valderama, De Avila, Usuriagu (Valenciano).

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Argentine team captain Oscar Ruggieri holds the Copa America trophy aloft on July 21 after leading his side to a 2-1 win over Colombia at Chile's national stadium in Santiago. — AFP photo

**STANDINGS**

Final standing after matches on Sunday (Tabulate under played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Argentina	3	2	1	0	5	3	5
Brazil	3	2	0	1	6	3	4
Chile	3	0	2	1	3	2	2
Colombia	3	0	1	2	2	5	1

# Capriati sinks Seles at Pathmark

MAHWAH, New Jersey, July 22 : Monica Seles took five weeks off from work and paid the price Sunday when she lost the Pathmark Tennis Classic, reports AP.

Seles was beaten by Jennifer Capriati 6-3, 7-5 in a

70-minute match that clearly showed the No 1 player is far from being in top form.

Seles was broken five times in 10 service games. Her shots lacked crispness and she said she didn't seem to have her usual court quickness.

The 15-year-old Capriati played almost flawless tennis in handing the 17-year-old Seles her first defeat since she dropped the final of the Italian Open to Gabriela Sabatini.

Capriati didn't let her. She ended a string of seven consecutive breaks of service by both players in the 11th game, getting a lucky roll on a shot off the top of the net to grab a 6-5 lead.

"After I lost serve three times in a row I was hoping to

wide backhand and a long service return gave Capriati three match points. Seles quickly complied by netting a backhand on her next service return.

Capriati had the only service break in the first set, breaking Seles in the fourth game to take a 3-1 lead. Seles, unforced error on a backhand set up the break point and Capriati followed with a backhand winner.

Seles had a chance to get back in the set with two break points in the ninth game. But Capriati saved both and eventually won the set when Seles hit a return long.

"I fell pretty good," said Capriati, who received a six-figure appearance fee for playing in the 28-player exhibition and added dirts 30,000 for winning. "I thought I played well."

Capriati said she did not see any difference in the way Seles played compared to their first two meetings. She seemed annoyed at the insinuation her victory was tainted because she had a sub-par Seles, who got a reported dirts 200,000 appearance fee to play here.

"You go out and play," she said. "You're not supposed to make any excuses."

# Off to England

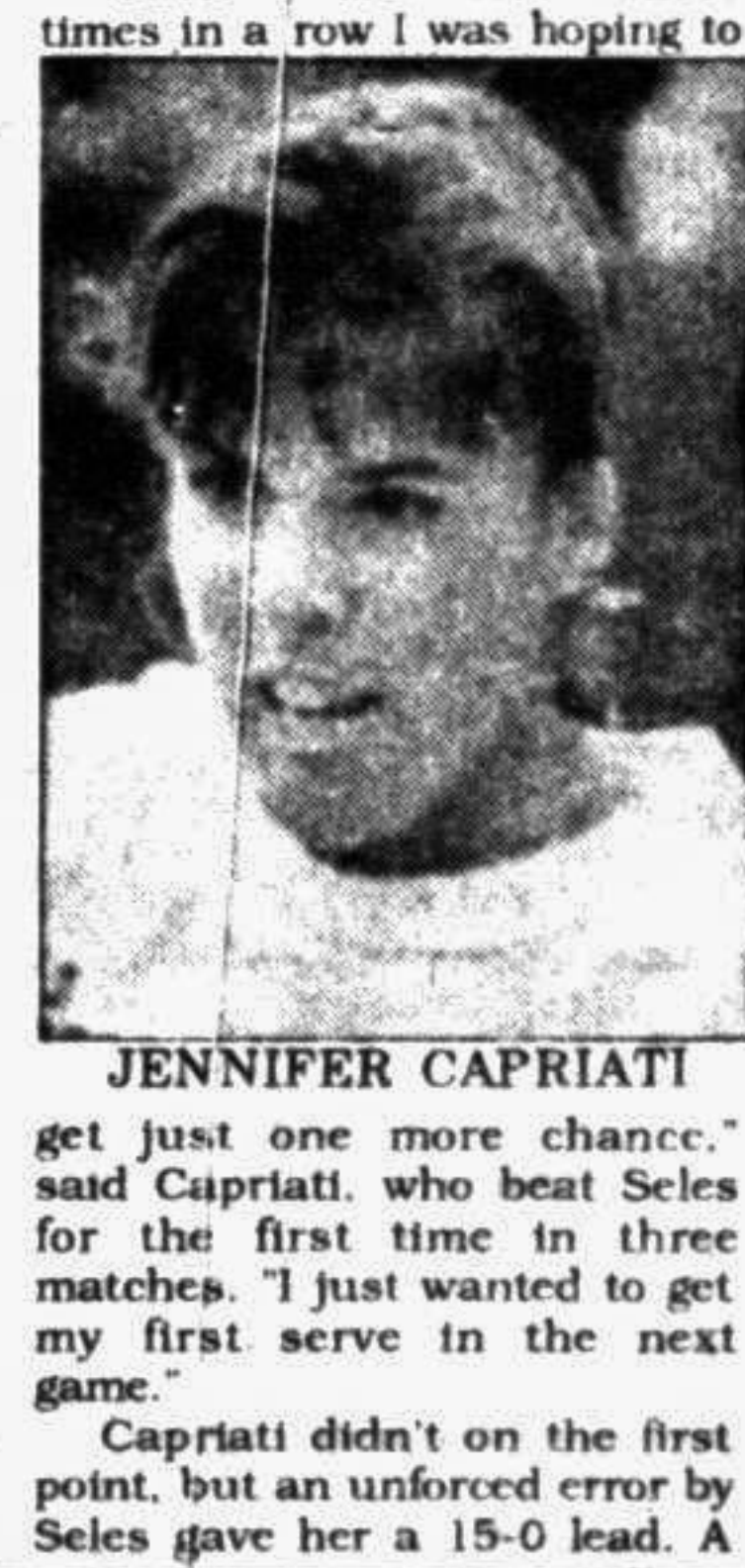
MAHWAH, New Jersey, July 22 : Jennifer Capriati flew off to England on Sunday night to represent the United States at the Federation Cup with her confidence soaring after beating Monica Seles at Pathmark tennis classic exhibition tournament, reports Reuter.

"It feels very good to beat the No. 1 player," said the 10th ranked Capriati, who had lost to Seles in last year's French Open semifinals and in the quarter-finals this year at Key Biscayne, Fla. "It gives you confidence for the next time you play."

Seles repeated that her withdrawal from the Federation Cup starting today in Nottingham, England was based on an assessment that she would be taking a risk playing a strenuous singles and doubles scheduled in the week long international team competition.

Capriati didn't let her. She ended a string of seven consecutive breaks of service by both players in the 11th game, getting a lucky roll on a shot off the top of the net to grab a 6-5 lead.

"After I lost serve three times in a row I was hoping to



JENNIFER CAPRIATI

get just one more chance," said Capriati, who beat Seles for the first time in three matches. "I just wanted to get my first serve in the next game."

Capriati didn't on the first point, but an unforced error by Seles gave her a 15-0 lead. A

# From princess to problem child

MAHWAH, July 22: In just one month, Monica Seles has gone from princess to problem child, reports AP.

First, she dropped out of Wimbledon with leg injuries and mysteriously disappeared for five weeks. Upon her return, the 17-year-old pulled out of the Federation Cup and jeopardized her chances to play in the Olympics.

On Sunday, the top-ranked player in women's tennis lost to somebody even younger. And, she said, if her match against 15-year-old Jennifer Capriati lasted any longer, she might have packed up and left.

"I didn't expect a lot out of myself coming in here," Seles said after losing 6-3, 7-5 to Capriati in the Pathmark Tennis Classic final. "I really didn't want to put any pressure on the leg."

There was a lot of pressure on Seles all week. She met the media on Thursday for the first time since her withdrawal from Wimbledon and explained that she was suffering from a

stress fracture in her left leg. She had a tougher-than-expected semifinal match Friday night against Kathy Rinaldi and did not look in top form against Capriati.

Seles was fined dirts 20,000 by the Women's Tennis Association on Sunday for participating in a non-sanctioned exhibition too close to a regular event. The fine follows one of dirts 6,000 by the WTA last month for her withdrawal from Wimbledon. Pathmark classic tournament director John Kroff said he would appeal Seles' fine and that he would pay Capriati's fine for the same offense, dirts 2,500.

The Federation Cup begins Monday in Nottingham, England.

Seles, who reportedly received dirts 200,000 appearance fee, was broken five times



MONICA SELES

whether she could continue: if the match went to a third set in the 102 F(39 C) heat.

"It would have been hard," she said. "It would have been physically hard for me to take the second set."

Capriati didn't let it reach a third set. She ended a string of seven consecutive service breaks by getting a lucky roll on a shot off the top of the net in the 11th game to grab a 6-5 lead.

Seles said, world rankings played a part in her decision to skip the Federation Cup.

The San Diego tournament and the rankings are coming up and that's the most important thing to me," Seles said, referring to the Mazda Classic that begins July 29. "I don't think it would be good for me to play in the Fed Cup, and may be getting hurt again."

# Natun Kuri win big

Rampura Natun Kuri Sangad routed Golam Mostafa Lane Shanghai 6-0 in the opening match of the Shaheed Zia Smriti football tournament at the Baily Road staff quarters playground here recently, reports BSS.

Paban scored twice while Biplob, Ripon, Nuru and Ananda netted one each for the winners.

# Stich wins another GP title

STUTTGART, Germany, July 22 : Wimbledon champion Michael Stich won his second Grand Prix tournament in two weeks when he recovered from a poor start to beat Argentina's Alberto Mancini in Sunday's final of the Stuttgart men's tournament, reports Reuter.

Stich, playing in his first tournament on German soil since winning the Wimbledon crown, took time to find his rhythm in the 1-6, 7-6, 6-4, 6-2 victory.

It was the third Grand Prix title of his career and the first tournament victory of any kind

on clay for the 22 year-old who has emerged from the shadow of his countryman Boris Becker and is now ranked third in the world.

Stich had a wretched start against the Argentine Davis Cup player.

After only 18 minutes he was 0-5 down with his serve spluttering and his backhand failing to find the court.

Mancini, the world number 35 and in the third Grand Prix final of his career, took the first set with precision passing shots as Stich rushed the net.

The breakthrough came for Stich in the eighth game of the

second set when, with his serve and concentration returning, he broke Mancini to pull level at 4-4.

Stich, who won three tie-breaks to beat former Wimbledon champion Stefan Edberg in the Wimbledon semifinal two weeks ago, then outscored Mancini 11-9 to take the second set tie-break.

The demoralised Mancini appeared to tire as Stich then showed the form which carried him to victory at Wimbledon, easily winning the third and fourth sets.

Stich earned 135,000 dollars while Mancini got 72,600