

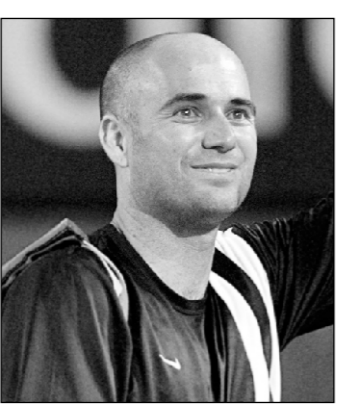
Who can stop Agassi? Men's singles preview



AFP, Melbourne

An overwhelming wave of momentum is sweeping Andre Agassi towards further tennis glory in Sunday's Australian Open final against German Rainer Schuettler.

history. Fresh after snuffing out American Andy Roddick in the semi-final, Schuettler said: "There's another guy from the States waiting, Andre looks in great shape, so we'll see what's going to happen on Sunday."



ANDRE AGASSI

wrong the day before," he laughed. "I have no pressure on me at all. I just go on the court. He has played unbelievable. I will give my best and in the end I will see the result."

Australian heat to win here. "It's not easy to come down here very prepared, but it sure beats the alternative," Agassi said after his 88-minute rout of Ferreira in the semi-final.



RAINER SCHUETTLER

Agassi thrives at the Australian Open. He relishes the high bounce of the Rebound Ace hardcourt, the heat and the breeze to put his stamp on the event in the seven years he's been here.

pummeling from Agassi, said of Schuettler's chances in the final: "If he plays like that on Sunday, I don't think Rainer has a chance."

"That's what I always remind myself. As hard as it is to be prepared, it's a lot harder to come down here and not be prepared."

He received a walkover into the fourth round when last year's Australian Open finalist Marat Safin withdrew with a wrist injury before the match.

Saurav Kashmiri militants' target!

AFP, Calcutta

Security was beefed up for India's cricket captain Saurav Ganguly on Friday after police indicated his life may be threatened by suspected Kashmiri militants, police officials said.



Football superstars of yesteryears Zakaria Pintu (L) and Kazi Salahuddin talk while attending a reception to the SAFF champions Bangladesh team members at the PMO yesterday.

BCCI, ICC settle row

AFP, London

The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Friday announced a truce in the contracts row that had threatened to result in an Indian boycott of the upcoming World Cup.

Slam-bang Serena

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"When you're on top, you're on top. That's the way it is," she said. Typically, the ever-loyal Serena later refused to accept Venus' assertion that she had a mental edge.

for the player with the biggest serve in women's tennis. Serena was able to exploit her sister's weak second service game to her advantage throughout the match, winning 28 of 48 points.

in the women's game, made her sister pay and took the decisive break in the 10th to win. "I think she just about had me," Serena admitted later.

Prof Razzak chess on

SPORTS REPORTER

Fifty-two players won their preliminary phase matches of the Professor Abdur Razzak 29th National Chess Championship yesterday.



Scene from the opening round of the national chess championship at the National Sports Council conference room yesterday.

It's for grandma

REUTERS, Melbourne

Serena and Venus Williams dedicated their Australian Open final performances on Saturday to their late grandmother.

Dare call 'em monkeys!

AFP, Brussels

A complaint of racism has been lodged with public prosecutors after a private Flemish radio station Q-Music allegedly described tennis sisters Venus and Serena Williams as monkeys.

Venus still in orbit



REUTERS, Melbourne

Venus Williams insisted she had plans to become one of the all-time greats of tennis, despite her crushing defeat by younger sister Serena in the Australian Open final on Saturday.

already plotting her revenge at the French Open in May. "These are major championships at stake. This is history, a career. I don't want to be the player that won four Grand Slams," said Venus after losing her fourth straight grand slam final to Serena, thereby creating some unwanted history of her own.



VENUS WILLIAMS

match played under a closed roof at Rod Laver Arena to keep the sun off the players with the mercury pushing 44 degrees Celsius outside.

"When you look at the great players who have won 20 and all those kinds of numbers, I still have a long way to go, and not much time," she said, enigmatically.

Series Australia's

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ahead of the World Cup and Hussain said they used debate about that as motivation. "In this game, we deserved something better," he said.

in searing heat, which hit 44 degrees Celsius (111 Fahrenheit). Opening bowler Caddick was in superb touch, completing his 10 overs in one spell and returning 2-23 to put the early pressure on the Australian top order.

Table with columns: Player, Runs, Wickets, Overs, etc. Includes names like Stewart, Lee, Warner, Flintoff, Blackwell, Martyn, Anderson, Hogg, and Warne.

Llodra, Santoro lift doubles

AFP, Melbourne

French pair Michael Llodra and Fabrice Santoro avenged last year's defeat by Mark Knowles and Daniel Nestor to win the men's doubles final at the Australian Open on Saturday.

SCOREBOARD

Table with columns: Player, O, M, R, W. Includes names like Gilchrist, Anderson, Flintoff, Hayden, Ponting, Caddick, Martyn, Stewart, Bevan, Symonds, Brani, Hogg, Warne, Lee, Blackwell, Bichel, and Knight.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a solution time of 23 mins and a cryptic clue: "Yesterday's Cryptiquip: IS A PERSON WHO COLORS HIS SPEECH WITH YIDDISH WORDS AND PHRASES CALLED AN OY-STER?"

Cryptiquip puzzle grid with clues. Includes a cryptic clue: "Yesterday's Cryptiquip: IS A PERSON WHO COLORS HIS SPEECH WITH YIDDISH WORDS AND PHRASES CALLED AN OY-STER?"