

# Going for four



INTERNET, Paris

Gustavo Kuerten has three French Open crowns under his belt - but winning a fourth would perhaps constitute his greatest triumph of all after an injury-ravaged year.

Kuerten injected a huge gust of fresh air into the sport when ranked just 66 he lifted the crown in 1997, clad in soccer-style Brazilian yellow and blue gear, the win over Spanish former champion Sergi Bruguera sparking a thunderous samba beat around the Porte d'Auteuil stadium.

Further wins followed in 2000 and 2001 but hip surgery last year took the edge off the man from Florianopolis.

"Now it's almost like I am starting my career all over again," said the 26-year-old 15th seed, who starts off his tournament Tuesday against Swiss veteran Marc Rosset.

Kuerten faces having to get past world number one Lleyton Hewitt in the quarter-finals if he can negotiate the opening week of the event.

And at the moment, after all his fitness problems, he'd settle for that.

"I used to know exactly how far I could push myself - but now it's almost as if I am just starting out on the circuit - though with a bit of experience behind me," he told L'Equipe.

The injury nightmare has at

least allowed Kuerten to dedicate time to other pursuits - such as playing the guitar and indulging in his passion for surfing.

"When you're playing the guitar you still have to concentrate intently on what you're doing. It's a means of putting some space between myself and life on the training treadmill. For me, playing the guitar fills the role that reading does for other people."

Kuerten has the disadvantage



GUSTAVO KUERTEN

that, as a South American he has further to travel than many of his rivals with few tournaments held on his home continent.

"But if I'm here in Paris it's because I want to be," says the man who has a love affair with the City of Light - so much so that two years ago he traced a heart shape in the

clay on centre court to show his devotion to the venue and the fans.

After a brief spell as world number one two and a half years ago, Kuerten now has to make up lost ground.

"To get results you have to be willing to suffer out there. You have to enjoy putting yourself under pressure. But sometimes, when you come back after a period away you realise the huge difference that exists between life on the Tour and life outside. You see how difficult the daily routine is and how heavy the mental pressure," explains the Brazilian, who has to live up to his national hero status.

"I have always loved representing my country," says the man whose wins spark the waving of a rash of yellow and green flags on court.

Away from the game Kuerten, whose younger brother Guilherme is mentally handicapped, is increasingly concerned about what he can do to help his fellow citizens and has set up a foundation to help underprivileged children.

"We are helping around 600 people - but Brazil has 170 million inhabitants," he notes.

But with Roland Garros starting Kuerten's immediate focus is squarely on his tennis.

"The difference (compared to previous visits) is that I don't have the same confidence. But I think that will come back with a few victories."



MARY PIERCE

# Return of the native



INTERNET, Paris

France's Mary Pierce returns to Roland Garros this year hoping to shake off the injury worries that have spoilt her game for too long. The 2000 champion will need to hit the ground running if she is to overcome last year's surprise semifinalist Clarisa Fernandez in the first round.

Pierce is all drive: she looks to destroy her opponents with a sustained onslaught of power. Fernandez has a very complete game though lacks the one killer stroke that can often make the difference.

The French girl blows hot and cold but is usually pumped for Paris: witness her quarterfinal finish last year when far from playing her best tennis it took Serena Williams to stop her.

After her giant-killing performances last year defeating Kim Clijsters in the third round Fernandez might let her nerves get the better of her. This is the first ever match between these two players.

# Federer slips, Serena sails

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business as he defeated Filippo Volandri of Italy 7-6, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 to set up a meeting with either big-serving Mark Philippoussis of Australia or American Alex Kim.

In the women's field, Serena Williams huffed and puffed her way past Germany's Barbara Rittner 6-2, 6-1 to get the defence of her title off to a solid enough start.

The one-sided scoreline proved an accurate reflection of the pattern of play, but it was only the top seed's overwhelming power, which gave her such simple passage in 53 minutes.

Rittner's guile and finesse had kept her in the contest for the first four games, which the pair shared, but when the muscle-bound champion turned up the power there was no contest.

"It was really fun to be out there...fun to be back where all the magic began for me," the top seed said.

"I definitely felt pretty good. Usually when I go into the first round of a grand slam I'm a little bit nervous -- I mean, no-one wants to lose first round."

"But here I am definitely where I want to be."

Men's 10th seed Paradorn Srichaphan is nowhere near where he wanted to be on day one of the tournament, having been dumped

at the exit 6-4, 3-6, 6-0, 7-5 by Slovak Dominik Hrbaty.

The popular Thai has endured a rough clay-court season, chalking up only two wins on the surface in 2003, and he failed to buck the trend at Roland Garros against the determined Hrbaty.

Eleventh seed Rainer Schuettler made no mistake, though, beating America's Cecil Mamiit 6-1, 2-6, 6-4, 6-2 while Moroccan 23rd seed Younes El Aynaoui beat France's Anthony Dupuis 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.

Emilie Loit gave French fans something to cheer about, downing 29th-seeded Russian Elena Likhovtseva 6-3 6-2 while Japanese 16th seed Ai Sugiyama beat Spanish doubles specialist Virginia Ruano Pascual 4-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Fourth seed Justine Henin-Hardenne strolled into the second round, beating Patricia Wartusch 6-3, 7-5.

Testing her Austrian opponent throughout, the Belgian saved her best tennis for when it counted, unfurling her unparalleled backhand at key moments to secure victory.

Fifth seed Amelie Mauresmo was playing compatriot Virginie Razzano and hoping to avoid her 2001 fate when she came into the tournament on hot form but crashed out to Germany's Jana Kandarr.

Andre Agassi, the 1999 men's champion and second seed this time round, had an evening match against Karol Beck of Slovakia.



ROGER FEDERER

# Nat'l age-group

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organised as part of the federation's 'talent hunting programme' as it is going to select 40 promising swimmers -- 25 boys and 15 girls for a three-month intensive training.

General Secretary of Bangladesh Swimming Federation (BSF) Shahabuddin Ahmed said this at a press conference at the Bangladesh Sports Journalists' Association (BSJA) office yesterday.

Keya Cosmetics Company will provide Tk 2.5 lakh as sponsor money.

This time the competition will be held on manual timing basis as the electronic timing device at the swimming complex is out of order.

# WI snap Aussie

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gerous Gilchrist out for 11 in the fifth over.

He fell to a Lara trap when he hooked straight to Hinds on the fence of Corey Collymore.

Collymore removed Jimmy Maher, playing for the rested Matthew Hayden, for 21 to a brilliant diving two-handed catch by youngster Ryan Hurley, who injured his left shoulder in the process as he hit the hard surface.

Skipper Ponting proved the crucial wicket when he was caught by Hinds off Merv Dillon for 10 to leave Australia struggling at 57 for three in the 14th over.

Andrew Symonds and youngster Michael Clarke, who steered Australia to victory in the third ODI in St Lucia last Wednesday, joined in a 92-run partnership for the fourth wicket, before Clarke was well caught overhead by Lara off Dillon for 39 off 53 balls.

Victory was assured when Symonds, who cracked 77 off 85 balls, was bowled by spinner Marlon Samuels attempting a late cut off his stumps to have Australia 182 for five in the 38th over and still 109 runs from the target.

It was just a matter of time as Ian Harvey (2) and Andy Bichel (7) were bowled going for big swings and Brett Lee skied to Gayle to give Sarwan his first ODI wicket.

Michael Bevan, regarded as the best finisher in one-day cricket, needed a runner late in his innings for a groin niggle and was out after adjudication by the third umpire for 31 off 40 balls.

Lara brought himself on for the last over with Australia needing 55 runs and although he went for 15, the crowd was chanting his name after every delivery.

Dillon finished with 3-40 off nine overs and Collymore claimed 2-25 off eight overs.

There are two games remaining in Grenada on Friday and Sunday.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the fifth one-day international between the West Indies and Australia at Queen's Park Oval on Sunday:

WEST INDIES			
Gayle lbw b Lee	5		
Hinds c Gilchrist b Bichel	79		
Lara c Gilchrist b Bichel	80		
Sarwan c Gilchrist b Lee	32		
Samuels lbw b Lee	42		
Powell not out	20		
Jacobs not out	7		
Extras: (b-1, lb-11, w-11, nb-2)	25		
Total: (For 5 wickets in 50 overs)	290		
Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-183, 3-192, 4-263, 5-264			
Did not bat: Hurley, Bernard, Dillon, Collymore			
Bowler			
McGrath	10	0	46
Lee	10	2	56
Harvey	10	1	46

Bichel	10	0	67	2
Hauritz	6	0	38	0
Clarke	4	0	25	0

## AUSTRALIA

Gilchrist c Hinds b Collymore	11
Maher c Hurley b Collymore	21
Ponting c Hinds b Dillon	10
Symonds b Samuels	77
Clarke c Lara b Dillon	39
Bevan c Samuels b Dillon	31
Harvey b Gayle	2
Bichel b Samuels	7
Lee c Gayle b Sarwan	6
Hauritz not out	20
McGrath not out	3
Extras: (lb-15, w-8, nb-1)	24
Total: (For 9 wickets in 50 overs)	251

Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-43, 3-57, 4-149, 5-182, 6-189, 7-202, 8-219, 9-229

Bowler			
Collymore	8	0	25
Dillon	9	0	40
Hinds	1	0	3
Powell	1	0	8
Gayle	10	0	44
Sarwan	10	0	53
Samuels	10	0	48
Lara	1	0	15

**Result: West Indies won by 39 runs.**  
**Man-of-the-match: Brian Lara.**  
**Umpires: Billy Doctrove (West Indies) and Rudi Koertzen (South Africa)**

# Mark expects ODI

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Lancashire beat Durham on Wednesday, followed by England's warm-up match against Wales in Cardiff on June 14.

"We've been told it could be another couple of weeks so we'll probably have to look at this pessimistically and if comes through any time earlier than that then it's a great advantage to us," conceded Fletcher.

Flintoff, who will continue to receive message treatment with Lancashire, has not ruled himself out of returning before then and is optimistic that the shoulder injury could fully recover very quickly.

"If the injury keeps improving like it has done then hopefully I won't be out for too long," he added. "I've not ruled myself out of anything yet and I'll keep with the treatment and see how it progresses."

"It's really hard to put a time-span on when I'm going to return but it has improved tremendously. I've got a lot more movement in my shoulder than I did have so that's very positive."

# Tenniseum opened



INTERNET, Paris

First conceived of a decade ago, the Roland Garros Tenniseum; a multimedia museum was finally inaugurated on Sunday, by the French Tennis Federation president Christian Bines in front of a gallery of famous guests.

French No 1 Sébastien Grosjean, Richard Gasquet, Guillermo Vilas and Pierre Darmon were among the special guests. But before the eager public walked through the doors for the very first time, the president said: "The Tenniseum is for fans of tennis and sport in general. Today, this culturally-rich project has become a reality and I feel very proud of our achievement. I believe this museum is unique in that it makes use of the very latest technology in order to bring back thousands of great sporting memories. This is a great day for French tennis."

Nathalie Tauziat was equally effusive: "We needed this. There has been a similar museum at Wimbledon for some time."

But when pressed she confessed to a preference for the French model: "I'm very impressed by all the modern equipment. I'm also very proud to see my photo hanging on the wall."

Visitors to the museum can watch some 250 hours of great tennis action from days gone by (from 1895 till the modern era,

including all the men's singles matches since 1990 and interviews with all the great players), all in digital quality. Illustrated catalogues (collections from all the major photo agencies, prints and

art technology, including four plasmascreens.

The richly stocked library contains items ranging from the Premier Traité de jeu de paume (the First Treaty on Real Tennis)



PHOTO: INTERNET

Former Argentine tennis star Guillermo Vilas examines some of the memorabilia on display at the Tenniseum.

illustrations from different eras), statistical data bases (tables and stats from all the Grand Slam tournaments and major competitions, career stats for 15,000 players) and various other theme documents and memorabilia will also be accessible.

The largest room at the museum is devoted to house exhibitions on themes that will change from year to year. What won't change, though, is the state-of-the-

written in 1550 to old engravings, modern posters and the most recent specialised publications.

The Tenniseum also has a workshop for young tennis fans where they can discover the different facets of tennis with their parents. Schools may also reserve the room and send classes for an afternoon out. Quizzes, educational games and other fun activities are the order of the day!

# Happy Brits

INTERNET, Paris

When Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski resume their Grand Slam careers at the French Open this coming week, they will never have been more pleased to see the red dust of Roland Garros.

The British pair may have had a hate-hate relationship with the surface down the years but this time both are just happy to be fit and well and wielding tennis rackets in competitive action after a devastating series of injuries.

For Rusedski, especially, his first round match against Russia's Nikolay Davydenko is a reason to flash once again the widest smile in tennis.

After two operations, one on a foot and the other on a knee, plus another setback with a disc problem, the British number two is set to hit his first serve in anger since he lost a five-set thriller to Pete Sampras nine months ago at the US Open.

It seemed then his career was on the turn, ready for a realistic onslaught on the Grand Slam title he craves.

# Keenly awaited match-up

INTERNET, Paris

The most eagerly-awaited match of the opening day in Paris for the home crowd features French clay-court specialist Julien Boutter and 1996 champion from Russia, Yevgeny Kafelnikov.

Boutter has been riding the crest of a wave so far this season. In Casablanca, at the beginning of April, he won the first title of his career. The following week he played superb tennis at the Masters Series in Monte Carlo to reach the quarterfinals. Unfortunately he paid the price for his exertions at the Masters Series in Hamburg: withdrawing injured four games into his first round qualifier against Tomas Zib with a recurrence of the elbow injury that plagued him all year. Boutter hasn't played competitively since and hardly served in practice.

# French Open diary



AFP, Paris

French star Amelie Mauresmo is the host nation's great hope at this year's Roland Garros.

The 23-year-old comes here on a hot streak of form having beaten Venus Williams to win in Warsaw and also made the Rome final.

Two years ago she came to the French Open in similar form but lost to German Jana Kandarr, ranked 56th in the world, in the first round. Fans on centre court were stunned into silence.

"But now I feel I am much more mature," insisted the fifth seed ahead of her first-round match against compatriot Virginie Razzano.

There is a danger, nevertheless, of deja-vu for Mauresmo. Just like Kandar, Razzano is ranked 56.

## HAIL ONE, BYE TWO ANOTHER

Two American veterans on the men's circuit - both former champions - are likely to have differing fortunes this year as one bids farewell to Roland Garros and the other targets a new crown.

The would-be double champion is Andre Agassi, who at 33 is keen to add to his 1999 title and who insisted on arrival in Paris that his body is holding up, and

that his head and heart are in tip-top condition.

"Most of the players on the circuit don't have my experience," said the Las Vegas, who intends to make that a key weapon in his formidable armoury, ahead of his opening match against Slovak Karol Beck.

One player who does have similar experience but who is on the wane is Michael Chang, who won the tournament here aged just 17 and three months with his 1989 win over Swede Stefan Edberg but who is now making his last visit to the French Open.

"If there's one tournament in the world I want to play it's this one. I want to go out on a good note," said the 31-year-old, whose first-round opponent is Fabrice Santoro of France.

## FRENCH FAMINE

The French men will look to bring a 20-year famine to an end this year as Yannick Noah's 1983 triumph remains the last occasion a home player won the men's singles crown at Roland Garros.

Only Henri Leconte has made the final since for the hosts in men's play, Mary Pierce having won the women's event in 2000.

Former US Open and Wimbledon finalist Cedric Pioline explains: "Roland Garros represents a bigger physical and mental challenge than all the other Grand Slams. And the pressure is all the greater on the French players."



PHOTO: INTERNET

TENNIS HEAD: A fan sporting a cap full of tennis pins.

# CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Hangs in there  
6 "How come?"  
9 Chart fodder  
12 Computer fodder  
13 Favorable vote  
14 "But — on forever!"  
15 Paul Anka song  
16 Sequin out  
18 Cancel out  
20 Attention getter  
21 Skater  
25 From square one  
27 Actor  
29 Open, in a way  
31 Family-biz phrase  
35 Acts the robot  
37 Nimble

**DOWN**

1 Cover  
2 Violinist  
3 Kalavrian  
4 Spring, for one  
5 Put on a show  
6 Doesn't recycle  
7 Over-publicize  
8 Verily  
9 Strength  
10 Shoelace tip  
11 Vorse  
12 Water nymphs

**19 Heard the alarm**  
**21 Greek cross**  
**22 Abby's sis**  
**24 Guys**  
**26 Unemotional**  
**28 Rash**  
**30 Rival of**  
**32 Stretchy material**  
**33 Scepter topper**  
**34 Big Apple**  
**36 Longs**  
**38 Nasty stingers**  
**39 Top of the hierarchy**  
**40 Sat**  
**42 Accumulate**  
**45 Archie Bunker's creator**  
**46 Oppositionist**  
**48 Kipling boy**  
**50 Cause**  
**51 "Guys and Dolls" role**

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

ARIA CAW STIR  
WARN ORE OVAL  
ERIN MEL URGE  
SESAME LEANON  
LAD LEO  
NAME OFFSHOOT  
AIA WIA PHO  
TYRANNIC KNOW  
KIN EMU  
WADDLED DYNAMO  
ELOIT ADD GEESE  
DAWN HOW FOAL  
SLING LEN UNDO

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12										
15										
21	22									
25										
29										
38	39	40								
44										
47										
52										
55										

## CRYPTOQUIP

OG XVJBOQL O P SOGR  
DSOJZUVG HSY VWUG  
LVUOP XWZBVK WUV RGYHG  
WK XUQKVKJ KDYQPK

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN RABBITS ARE IN A HUMOROUS MOOD, THEY LIKE TO WEAR KILTS AND PLAY HOP-SCOTCH.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: X equals B

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.