



PHOTO: AFP

Andy Roddick stretches to make a return against Ivan Ljubicic of Croatia at the US Open on Friday.

CWC honour for Flower, Olunga

CRICINFO, undated

Former Zimbabwe cricketers, Andy Flower and Henry Olunga, were on Friday honoured by the Cricket Writers' Club (CWC) during their annual dinner at Hyde Park in London.

During the recent World Cup, Flower and Olunga made their famous black armband protest against "the death of democracy" in Zimbabwe, and were subsequently forced to retire from international cricket.

They were the joint recipients of the Peter Smith Memorial Award, an annual acknowledgement of an outstanding contribution to the game of cricket.

Previous winners include Brian Lara in 1994, Dickie Bird in 1997, and Courtney Walsh in 2001.

Meanwhile, England's James Anderson was presented with his trophy as the Young Cricketer of the Year. Members of the CWC have voted for the award every year since 1950, but for the first time, Anderson was a unanimous selection - no-one voted for anyone else.

Ex-SA keeper Errol retires

REUTERS, Durban

Former South Africa wicketkeeper Errol Stewart announced his retirement from cricket on Friday at the age of 34.

"It's all about finding the time to play and work," Stewart, a Durban banking executive, told Reuters. "But the fact that I can no longer play for South Africa made the decision to retire easier."

Stewart was due to be named as Mark Boucher's understudy for this year's World Cup until he withdrew from a South Africa A tour to Zimbabwe in January for personal reasons.

Stewart played six one-day internationals and 98 first-class matches in 16 seasons with Natal.

Another ton-up

FROM PAGE 13

bowler Mohammad Sami would return for the series, adding: "I can promise you we will not make it easy for them."

South Africa arrive in Pakistan in late September to play three Tests and three one-day internationals, their first full Test tour to Pakistan since 1997-8.

Shoaib's prowess against each country is as following:

Roddick struggles thru'



AFP, New York

Andy Roddick was given a challenge for his 21st birthday and the American responded with a tie-breaker rally for the ages at the US Open as the clock struck midnight on Ivan Ljubicic's upset bid.

American fourth seed Roddick battled past the 43rd-ranked Croatian 6-3, 6-7 (4/7), 6-3, 7-6 (10/8) here in a match that lasted three hours and five minutes and ended here early Saturday morning, minutes into Roddick's 21st birthday.

"I've been 21 for nine minutes now. I think I deserve a beer," Roddick said moments after advancing to the third round. He was presented a cake and led the crowd at Arthur Ashe Stadium in a rendition of "Happy Birthday to You".

"I don't know if I have ever played in front of a louder crowd," Roddick said. "They were really into it. I was kind of feeding off it."

After going 21-1 and winning three hardcourt titles since Wimbledon, Roddick seized the ATP Champions Race lead and became a favourite here. But he struggled to subdue a stubborn rival who broke him only once but battled to the finish.

Roddick trailed Ljubicic 5-2 in the final tie-breaker when midnight struck. He turned 21, his match fortunes changing with his age as Ljubicic double faulted and Roddick won eight of the final 11 points.

After saving four set points, Roddick fired a 138-mph ace to earn his first match point. Ljubicic hit a forehand volley winner to save it but Roddick followed with a forehand winner and Ljubicic fired a final lob long to end it.

After the match, Ljubicic ripped Roddick for playing to the crowd with antics that affected line calls and umpire decisions.

"Anywhere in the world except in the United States, if we played this match, I would have won," Ljubicic said. "It affected the linesmen, the crowd, everyone else except me. In a match like this, that's what made the change."

Roddick, who next faces Brazil's 49th-ranked Flavio Saretta, said Ljubicic was being a sore loser.

"That's pretty much sour grapes," Roddick said. "That doesn't deserve a response. That's not respectful. I definitely don't have

anything bad to say about him. That's disappointing."

Ljubicic was irate over a forehand winner on the sideline by Roddick that leveled the final tie-breaker at 7-7. He sank to his knees when the call was made, appealing in vain for an over-rule from the umpire.

"What can I say? If he's going to change it, he's going to change it straight away," Ljubicic said. "If he's not changing it in one or two seconds, you can talk all night and he's not going to change it."

"That was the crucial point. I'm expecting some bad calls but it hurts when it happens in the crucial moment like that."

Roddick said the ball was good and television replays supported him, even though Ljubicic said he called the ball good before it landed and linesmen were too intimidated to contradict him before a cheering crowd.

"There was no space but maybe he was trying to be demonstrative trying to get a call," Roddick said. "I don't know why he has to drag me into the call."

Roddick cruised through the first set and was up a break in the second when Ljubicic responded with his only break of the match to force the tie-breaker and stayed aggressive with a variety of shots.

"I let him back into the match in the second set and he started playing a lot better," Roddick said. "He definitely lifted his level. In the tie-breakers he played really good tennis."

The late-night struggle stole the thunder from a day of routine results as men completed the second round and women began the third.

Swiss second seed Roger Federer took only 78 minutes to dispatch Jean-Rene Lisnard 6-1, 6-2, 6-0, and take his ATP-best 60th victory of the year.

"It went well for me. I didn't expect to beat him so easy," said Federer, trying to become the first man since Pete Sampras in 1995 to win here and at Wimbledon in the same year.

Federer's next foe is hometown hero James Blake, a 23-year-old speedster from Harlem who figures to have loud and vocal support. Blake, rated 35th, faced Australia's Lleyton Hewitt here the past two years.

Kim Clijsters, the only top-ranked woman never to win a Slam title, battled breezes to eliminate 29th-ranked Russian teen Svetlana

Kuznetsova 6-3, 6-2.

The 20-year-old Belgian will try to match her best US Open showing Sunday by beating 17th-seeded American Meghann Shaughnessy to reach the quarter-finals.

Third seed Lindsay Davenport took just 42 minutes to beat Hungary's Melinda Cizik 6-0, 6-2 while fifth seed Amelie Mauresmo of France ousted the final qualifier, 16-year-old Russian Slam debutante Maria Kirilenko, 6-4, 6-2.

Pierre will next face Thailand's Tamarine Tanasugarn, who upset ninth seed Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia 6-2, 6-4.

Australian Mark Philippoussis and Argentina's David Nalbandian, the past two Wimbledon runners-up, booked a third-round meeting. Philippoussis beat Frenchman 64th-ranked Frenchman Anthony Dupuis 6-2, 6-3, 6-4 while 13th seed Nalbandian outlasted Finland's Jarkko Nieminen 5-7, 6-3, 6-1, 4-6, 7-6 (7/3).

Tarango retires

AFP, New York

Jeff Tarango, known best for his 1995 W Jennifer Capriati is wondering how time could fly past so fast.

The 27-year-old American sixth seed, a former child prodigy, was stunned when she realized that she is among the elder statesmen in women's tennis.

Capriati was burned out at age 19 and took a 15-month break from the game. But she feels that rising teen stars like Russian 16-year-old Maria Sharapova should not be limited by the WTA to 10 tour events as they now are.

Chen, Taufik face off



AFP, Batam

Chinas Chen Hong and Taufik Hidayat of Indonesia will meet here Sunday in the final of the Indonesia Open, exactly one year after the young Indonesian beat Chen in straight games for the title.

It might be a different story at this year's final at Abdul Jamal Stadium, though, as Chen looks stronger than ever.

But the odds will not be in his favour when he enters centre court as hometown hero Hidayat has the support of the public, hoping to see the him keep his title.

But with what Chen showed on court during the semi-final Saturday, edging out Korea's Lee Hyun Il, the world number one can be quite confident.

Chen left little chance for Lee to take the attack and played a clever game by not killing the shuttle first and working his way towards each point to avoid Lee's dangerous defences for a 15-6, 15-5 victory.

Hidayat felt he wasn't as strong as the previous day, despite his relatively easy 15-8, 15-5 win over China's Wu Yunyong.

"I lost some of my strength and focus compared to (Friday), but even if I didn't play my best, Wu played worst than me," Hidayat said.

"Of course I'm thrilled to play in the final of this event, but I don't want to rejoice too quick. I'd rather wait until after tomorrow's match."

Wu said he felt that he was not quick enough for Hidayat, saying, "He just played faster than me and I couldn't follow the pace. I think Taufik is faster than Chen Hong, but

Marathon gold goes to Gharib

AFP, Paris

Morocco's Jaouad Gharib won the men's marathon world title here on Saturday in a championship record time of 2hrs 8min 31sec.

The 31-year-old, running only his second marathon, beat home Julio Rey of Spain while Italy's former European champion Stefano Baldini had to settle for bronze for the second successive world championships.

Gharib and Rey were left after going through 37km mark when Kenya's Michael Rotich, their companion in a leading trio that had broken away five kilometres earlier, could not keep up with the rapidly increasing pace.

The pair the fought it out stride for stride until Gharib found another gear with a kilometre to go.

The Moroccan had a 20m lead as the pair entered the Stade de France and despite Rey continuing to push hard until 200m from home, Gharib was relaxed and confident enough to spread his arms out in a victory gesture as he crossed the line before circling the track one final time.

Rey, who was handed a two year doping ban when he failed a drugs test in 1999, came home seven seconds behind for the silver medal.

Baldini made a late surge away from a pack of three fellow runners to pass the flagging Rotich, the fastest man in the world this year with 2:06:33 when he won the Paris marathon in April, who was to eventually trudge home eighth.

The Italian crossed the line in 2:09:14.

The fast times in the marathon were aided by almost perfect weather for distance running, the French capital being enveloped by cool, overcast and damp conditions which might not have been appreciated by the locals but certainly was by the runners.

World chess meet called off

AFP, Moscow

The chess governing body FIDE abandoned Friday a long-awaited showdown between official world champion Ruslan Ponomarev and the world's top player Garry Kasparov, blaming the titleholder for the collapse.

FIDE president Kirsan Ilyumzhinov told reporters in Moscow the match was cancelled after Ponomarev failed to meet several deadlines to sign a contract for the 12-game showdown that had been due to be held in Yalta, Ukraine starting next month.

Ponomarev, who aged 18 became the youngest-ever FIDE world chess champion in January last year at a competition boycotted by the top-ranked players, Kasparov and Vladimir Kramnik, had set a series of conditions for the match.

"We agreed to nearly all the compromises, but Ponomarev still didn't sign. That side was just looking for reasons not to hold the match," Ilyumzhinov said.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with numbers 1-51.

CRYPTOQUIP Z T U B O S G I U U K P S E F I D L Q T E S D D L Q K E J L D U , E S G P N L Q D U K B O S G ' J U Q T U F U O Z L Q B U I I ? Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A PERSON COMPOSES A TUNE WHILE IN BED, WOULD THAT BE CONSIDERED SILENT MUSIC? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals M



PHOTO: AFP

Felix Sanchez of the Dominican Republic powers his way to win the men's 400m hurdles gold at the 9th IAAF World Athletics Championships on Friday.

Double delight for Sanchez



AFP, Paris

The Dominican Republic's Felix 'Superman' Sanchez and John Capel of the United States could have been lost to baseball and American football respectively but athletics was the winner as both took world titles here on Friday.

Sanchez won the 400 metres hurdles in the fastest time since 1998 to emulate legend Edwin Moses in winning back-to-back titles in the event while Capel erased memories of his nightmare in the 2000 Olympic final to win the 200m crown.

While those relative youngsters basked in their deserved glory, two grizzled champions Jan Zelezny and Allen Johnson stayed on course for a fourth world title each as the former qualified for the javelin final and the latter breezed through to the 110m hurdles decider.

Sadly the Americans' habit of dominating the controversy off the track continued as first the Los Angeles Times quoted 400m champion Jerome Young as saying he had tested positive for drugs before the 2000 Olympics, backing up first hand their story from Wednesday.

However, a few hours later the 27-year-old athlete - who won gold in the 4x400m relay in Sydney - issued a personal statement denying he had ever failed a drugs test and claiming he had not heard the journalist's questions clearly as it was by mobile phone and there had been a lot of noise.

The matter seems set to run and run with the IAAF bound by a ruling last November, at the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), who ruled in favour of the USATF that names of American athletes failing drugs tests between 1996-2000

should not be released because of a confidentiality clause.

Another drugs related controversy surfaced on the track in the form of Italian policeman Andrea Longo, who qualified for the 800m final.

In 2001, he was given a two year drug suspension after testing positive for nandrolone but last month the IAAF gave him extra time to qualify for the championships as the original deadline fell within the period of his ban.

The special dispensation caused a storm of criticism over the IAAF's willingness to bend their own rules relating to doping offences.

Sanchez, who will be 26 on Saturday, timed 47.25sec to win the 400m hurdles.

He has said all along he will never be able to rival Ed Moses but in retaining the title he becomes the first one to do so since the great American achieved the feat in 1983 and 1987 when the championships were held every four years instead of two as they are now.

However, Sanchez said his whole season had been set on at least emulating Moses in the world championships department.

"This season has all been about repeating as world champion just as Moses did.

"It is a special feeling but my whole year has been about confirming I am the best.

"This is the best possible birthday present."

While Sanchez's hopes of joining many of his compatriots in baseball ended the day he broke a wrist in a wrestling bout, Capel signed up first with the Chicago Bears and then the Kansas City Chiefs.

The 24-year-old had sought solace in the sport after committing what he terms a schoolboy error in the Sydney final which saw him finish last.

In Sydney he went in as favourite

but his foot slipped on the blocks and, rather than raising his hand so he could get up, he decided to run and finished last.

"Sydney haunts me and I think about it every night," said Capel. "One race at the Olympic Games and, what I did, you should be shot for. It took a lot out of me."

"In 2000 you saw John Capel come out as a boy but I sit here now and say that I have changed and I stay humble I will be okay."

Capel paid tribute to Dick Vermeil, the coach of the Kansas City Chiefs, whose advice turned his whole world round when he was cut him from the roster.

"He said: 'John you have to go home to evaluate what you are best at' and I said: 'Thank you. I love you for saying that.'"

"It has been a hard journey for me to get back into track and field - now all the questions have been answered."

Retirement not on Coetzer's mind

AFP, New York

Amanda Coetzer can feel Father Time catching up on her, but the South African tennis veteran's enjoyment of playing remains strong even after 55 career Grand Slam appearances since her 1989 debut.

"I didn't realize it had been that many," Coetzer said. "Still, I would like to make it a few more, over 60."

Coetzer, who turns 32 in October, was seeded 14th at the US Open but was ousted 6-1, 6-0 in the third round here Friday by Russia's 19th-ranked Nadia Petrova.