

# Test of fire for Jones

**BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, Apr 19:** A vital Test match on the fastest pitch in the Caribbean against the best team in the world is no place to be looking to find batting form, reports Reuter.

It is like working on your golf swing on St Andrew's notorious road hole in a Force 10 gale.

nings thrive on his mobility with a high proportion of runs coming in quick singles.

Except, that is, for Madras, India, in 1986. There Jones, playing in searing 38 degrees centigrade heat, overcame illness and exhaustion to play one of the greatest innings and set up the second tied Test.

He scored 210, the bulk of which came in walked singles or boundaries. Jones, sick with

in 10 attempts.

Although coach Bobby Simpson recently suggested Jones should be more aggressive. The player said: "They want me to be more conservative in the Tests instead of taking the bull by the horns as I do in the one-day matches. I think that is right but sometimes I have been caught between thinking whether to attack or sit back and watch how



Dean Jones(C) enjoys the support of his captain Allan Border (R) and team supremo Bobby Simpson(L) despite his terrible Test form

But that is the task confronting Australian Dean Jones who goes into the fourth Test against West Indies at Kensington Park Oval today playing for his Test reputation.

Of course, it should be ludicrous to regard Jones, who was 30 last month, as just a one-day batsman.

This is a man who—in between dismantling attacks in the cause of wham-bam cricket—has made nine centuries in the real thing, including one of the greatest double-hundreds in Test history. He averages close to 50 over 42 Tests.

In January last year Jones made twin centuries against a Pakistan attack featuring Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis and Imran Khan.

But since that peak he has managed just 280 runs more in 10 Tests at an average of 20.

As a record of five ducks in his last 18 Test innings suggests, Jones is a nervous starter.

But, once launched, his in-

fever, was too weak to run.

When he was out he was rushed to hospital with acute dehydration and put on a saline drip. He had lost seven kilos of liquid and spent a long time recovering.

But the innings cemented his place in the team until the Pakistan tour two years later when he made less than 50 runs in six innings and during which he heard he had been sacked from the Victorian captaincy.

The current bad run has gone on too long and Australia—and Jones—are worried.

On the final, dead day of the last Port-of-Spain Test he was promoted in the order to bat without pressure.

Allan Border, his captain said: "Dean is an enigma. Brilliant in the one-dayers but in the Tests, here and in Australia, he has looked unsettled."

He still looked unsettled that innings but made a painstaking 39, his best score

the game pans out."

He added: "I've worked very hard in the last two Tests, got off to good starts and then got out to bad decisions or in funny ways—gone more so than the infamous no-ball run-out in Guyana.

Jones was given run-out when he walked from his crease after being bowled by a no-ball. He had not heard the umpire's call.

Forthright, but likeable, Jones is a fierce competitor on the field, liable to upset opponents with his swagger and comments.

After the run-out his reaction was "It's a tough game."

So, can Jones earn that respect as a Test batsman again? He certainly expects to get the opportunity.

"I don't really feel under pressure for my place. It is not as if anyone is banging on the door with big scores," he said. "I've helped the team out for a couple of years, now maybe they can help me."

# Pak tour of India unlikely

**NEW DELHI, Apr 19:** India cricket authorities have given up hope of reviving a tour by Pakistan postponed in December because of Hindu-Muslim violence, reports Reuter.

Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Jagmohan Dalmiya said today he had not received any concrete Pakistani proposal for a series in India although newspapers reported Pakistani interest in playing a short series this year.

"Despite our keenness to revive the ill-fated tour it would not be possible to accommodate a series in near future," he said.

The Pakistan tour of India was put off because of violence over an attempt by militant Hindust to build a temple in place of a mosque in the holy town of Ayodhya.

Previous Pakistani tours have triggered violence between Muslims, a 120-million strong minority in India, and Hindus, the overwhelming majority.

Dalmiya, however, did not rule out a possible Indian visit to Sri Lanka in September before a scheduled tour of Australia.

"We have received a request

from Sri Lanka to play a short series there and the Board will take a decision on this in June," he said.

Sri Lanka's last home series was four years ago before visits were curtailed because of guerrilla violence on the island which forced New Zealand to abandon a three-Test series after a drawn first match in Colombo in 1987.

**Azhar at Derby**  
Meanwhile AFP reports from Derby, England that In-



**AZHARUDDIN**  
Indian cricket captain Mohamad Azharuddin is hoping a

season with English county Derbyshire will make him a better player.

The 28-year-old from Hyderabad averages 51.31 in Tests, but predicted: Playing in English cricket will help to tighten up my game.

I also think it will change my attitude to cricket, because there's a lot of travelling involved and a lot of matches to be fitted into the English season.

"I'll have to face a lot of different bowlers and that means there'll be a new challenge virtually every day."

"No cricketer has good days all the time, but I'm determined to enjoy the cricket and keep going when things get difficult."

Azharuddin, who is Derbyshire's overseas replacement for West Indian paceman Ian Bishop this summer, left before the end of the Indian season to travel to England.

He explained: "It has been a difficult season in my country because the Ranji Trophy competition was held up by a dispute between Punjab and Delhi which ended up in the courts."

"Because of this the season is still going on and I should have been playing for Hyderabad next week."

# TCCB offer for Gooch, 5 others

**LONDON, Apr 19:** Six England cricketers including captain Graham Gooch have been offered special winter contracts worth up to 20,000 pounds sterling (35,000 dollars) to stop them joining unofficial end-of-season tours abroad, reports Reuter.

Under the deal, offered by the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB), the players will be paid for an official winter tour even if they are unable to take part.

The other five are vice-captain Allan Lamb, opening batsman Michael Atherton, pace bowlers Angus Fraser and Devon Malcolm, and wicket-keeper Jack Russell.

The TCCB took exception to England players taking part in an unofficial series against West Indies in Toronto and New York last year, saying they risked injury which would jeopardise the official tour to Australia.

# Gullit, Basten on target

**ROTTERDAM, Apr 19:** AC Milan team mates Ruud Gullit and Marco Van Basten each scored as the Netherlands moved to the top of Group Six with a 2-0 win over Finland in their European soccer championship qualifier on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

But despite the boost of an early goal, the defending champions were far from their best. Sloppy passing often let them down.

Gullit, one of their few successes, laid on the opening goal in the ninth minute. His pinpoint cross was headed home by Van Basten.

Gullit scored the second a quarter of an hour from the end, curling his shot beyond goalkeeper Olli Huttunen's

# No stopping Sabatini

**AMELIA ISLAND, Florida, Apr 19:** Gabriela Sabatini continued her recent mastery of great rival Steffi Graf last Sunday with a 7-5, 7-6 victory at the 350,000 dollar Bausch and Lomb tennis championships for her fourth title of the year, reports Reuter.

The second seeded Argentine came from behind in both sets to claim her fifth successive win over the top-seeded former world number one.

# German soccer coach in town

**Sports Reporter**

A German football coach Ernst Rodder arrived in the city on Thursday to coach the under-23 national football team which will take part in the pre-Olympic soccer competition beginning from May 18 at Seoul, South Korea.

Ernst Rodder, who is 30, has come under the German-Bangladesh cultural agreement. He will be staying in Bangladesh for two months and will coach the pre-Olympic national squad and the under-16 national side who is scheduled to take part in the SAARC under-16 football tournament beginning in the first week of August.

Rodder has coached the Canadian and US youth teams. Lately, has been quite successful coaching the Merrickh Khartoum football team in Sudan. Merrickh Khartoum became the FA champions in 1988 the African Club champions in 1989, and national champions in 1990 under Rodder's coaching.

# National judo from April 27

**Sports Reporter**

The two-day long 14th national judo championship organised by Bangladesh Judo and Karate Federation begins from April 27 at the National coaching centre.

Nine men's and five women's events will be held in the competition. The men's events are 50 kg, 55 kg, 60 kg, 65 kg, 71 kg, 78 kg, 85 kg, 85 kg and open weight category.

The five women's events are: 40 kg, 44 kg, 48 kg, 52 kg and +52 kg.

# Tyson may fight under Eiffel

**PARIS, Apr 19:** Former heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson may one day be fighting under the Eiffel Tower, reports AFP.

Tyson's promoter Don King spent the weekend talking business with a cable television company whose pet project is to put on a world championship fight under the famous tourist sight.

First, though, Tyson has to beat Canada's Donovan 'Razor' Ruddock in a rematch in June.

Tyson, who scored a controversial seventh round win over Ruddock last month, wants to fight Evander Holyfield, who takes on George Foreman on Friday, before the end of the year to regain his world title.

# A vote for Borg

**ROVINJ, Yugoslavia, Apr 19:** Bjorn Borg is as fast as any player on the circuit. Yugoslav world number eight Goran Ivanisevic said on Thursday after helping the Swede train for his return to professional tennis, reports Reuter.

Ivanisevic, 19, played two sets with 34-year-old Borg in Monte Carlo, venue for the former world number one's first comeback tournament next week. Each won a set.

"I played seriously and tried all the tricks I knew but he was never too impressed and returned most of my strokes, including some very sudden drop-shots, quite superbly," Ivanisevic said in a telephone interview.

"He is incredibly fast, as fast as anybody else, and he controls the ball wonderfully," Ivanisevic said. "His attacking play needs more brushing up, but he had always been waiting for the other's mistakes anyway."

Borg is returning to the circuit after retiring eight years ago.

# Battle of bulge and muscle

**ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey, Apr 19:** Evander Holyfield looks like he should change clothes in a phone booth. George Foreman looks like he wouldn't fit into a phone booth, reports AP.

That's exactly how both men want it.

The perfectly sculpted Holyfield defends his world heavyweight championship tonight against Foreman, the self-made-man-mountain-mountains of chicken, burgers, ice cream. The champ will collect about 20 million Dollars, which can buy a whole lot of the finest new high-tech training equipment that gives Holyfield that Superman look. Foreman gets more than 12 million Dollars, which can buy, well, a whole lot more food.

"I'll take care of him, then I'll take care of my appetite," the 42-year-old Foreman said. "That money can do a whole bunch of things, but I'm going to walk away with something more important, with the title."

Foreman held the title 18 years ago. That was not just another era, it was another lifetime.

It was before he had a religious experience that made him quit boxing in 1977. Then, he was a mean-spirited former juvenile delinquent with little purpose outside the ring.

After losing to Jimmy Young, Foreman turned away from the sport that had taken him from the streets of Houston to an Olympic gold medal, an upset knockout of Joe Frazier for the heavyweight

title and a humiliating defeat in Zaire to Muhammad Ali. He founded the non-denominational Church of the Lord Jesus Christ. He disappeared from the sporting spectrum.

"There was nothing left for me at that time," he said. "I didn't feel anything for being in the ring. It was over for me."

For 10 years, at least. Then, the new George Foreman, the

ked at a television set," said Foreman, who weighed in at 257 pounds (116.1-2 kilograms) for this fight. "For 10 years, I would not allow my hands to make a fist. For 10 years, I didn't want to have anything to do with boxing."

Everything about this fight has been orchestrated by Foreman the Showman. The buildup, the "Battle of the Ages" theme, the likely killing on close-circuit and pay-per-view television, stems from and flourishes around him.

As he says, "There's a little bit of con man in everyone. That comes from the word confidence, and I have all the confidence in the world in myself. I like myself. I like being George Foreman."

And the public seems to like him. Or has been fooled by him. Foreman will go into the ring with Holyfield a shorter underdog than he was against Frazier in 1973.

The challenger has completely overshadowed the champion heading to this fight. With few exceptions since, Foreman first retired — Mike Tyson vs. Trevor Berbick in Tyson's first title shot; Ali against Leon Spinks and Larry Holmes — that has been unheard of.

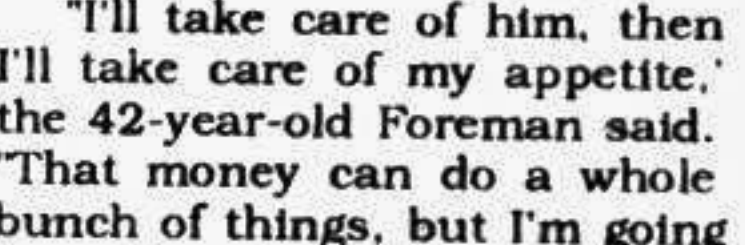
Holyfield, all business as usual, doesn't seem to mind. He just goes about his heavy-duty training regimen, fine-tuning his 208-pound (94.1-4 kilogram) physique, the best body the heavy weight ranks has seen since Ken Norton.

He laughs at Foreman's routines. He thanks Foreman for making such a payday possible. He even shows respect for his

opponent, something predecessors Tyson and Buster Douglas didn't do.

"George deserves his chance," Holyfield said. "He's done something other fighters haven't. The way he's come back."

But does the 1984 Olympian (a controversial bronze medal) and onetime cruiser-weight feel he gets his due?

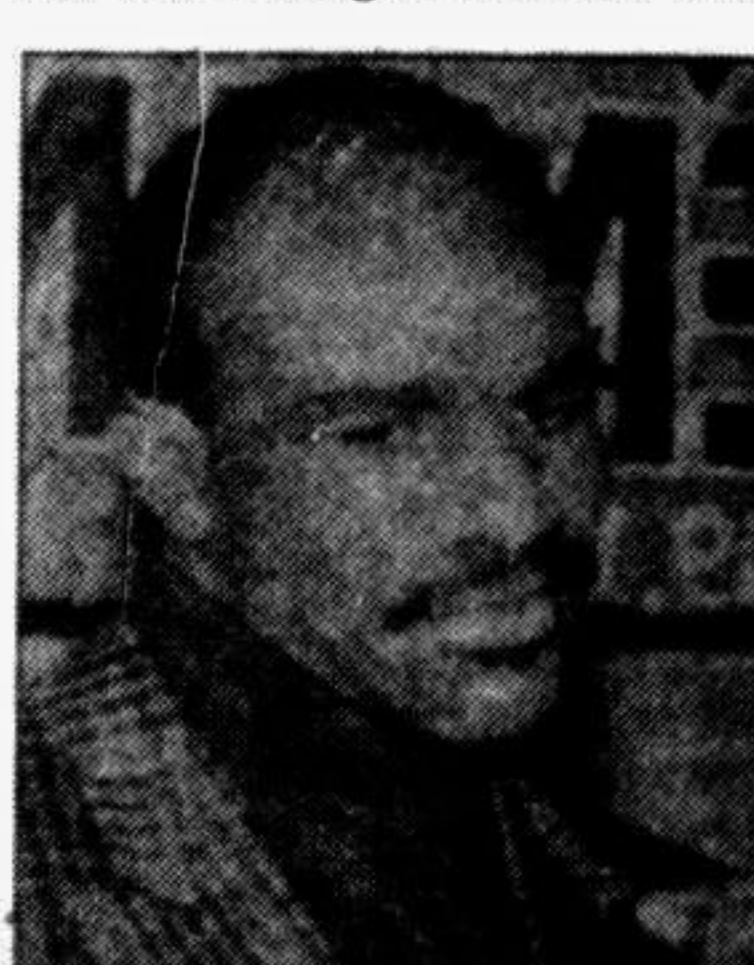


**EVANDER HOLYFIELD**

preacher-standup comic with the 300-pound (136-kilogram) girth, launched what many considered an absurd comeback.

It was so absurd that, after all of Foreman's wisecracks about his weight, age and skills, and after 24 fights against carefully selected opponents with rankings in the neighborhood of George's poundage, here he stands. If Foreman beats the 28-year-old Holyfield, a 2-1-2-to-1 favorite, he will be the oldest champion in boxing history.

"For 20 years, I never loo-



**GEORGE FOREMAN**

"Respect is something you have to earn, and it will come if you do the things you are capable of doing," Holyfield said. "I can't control what people think or say about me. But I can do what I'm capable of doing."

Which, he says, is continue holding the belt he easily took from Douglas last October.

"I'll be ready for George," Holyfield said, and nobody disputes him. "I take anybody serious because anybody can beat you in that ring. But if I go into the fight in shape and give it my best, I'm not worried."

# A full field for French Open

**PARIS, Apr 19:** The world's top 35 players in the men's tennis rankings have all entered the forthcoming French Open centenary tournament in Paris, organisers announced on Thursday, reports Reuter.

The list is headed by Stefan Edberg of Sweden, German Boris Becker and three-times Roland Garros champion Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia.

The highest-ranked player not taking part in the championships starting on May 27 is number 36 Darren Cahill of Australia, who is injured.

Players ranked lower than 110th on the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) computer will not benefit from one of the 104 direct entries into the main draw and must compete for one of the 16 qualifying places unless they receive one of the eight wild card entries.

Those outside include former French Open champion Yannick Noah of France, who is

virtually certain to be given a wild card, however.

Alberto Mancini of Argentina, one of the favourites to win the French Open two years ago but who has plunged down the rankings since, also misses the cut as he is ranked 117th.

Another wild card is expected to be given to six-times champion Bjorn Borg of Sweden, who makes a comeback to the circuit after an eight-year absence at next week's Monte Carlo Open.

# Martina missing

**PARIS, Apr 19:** Martina Navratilova will miss next month's French Open tennis tournament of the third successive year, organisers said on Wednesday.

Navratilova, 34, won the French leg of the Grand Slam in 1982 and 1984, but has not played on the Roland Garros clay courts since 1988 when she was beaten in the fourth round.

Navratilova is much more at home on the grass of Wimbledon where she has won the title nine times.

Follow American Zina Garrison, the world number eight, is the only other top-10 player not to have entered the women's tournament, which begins on May 27.

December in Munich, where the prize money totalled six million dollars.

The French Open and Wimbledon now pay less money to women than men. The Australian and US Opens pay them equally.

The statement said there have been informal discussions in recent months among the Grand Slam committee, WTA executives and others about including women in the Grand Slam Cup.

"We would welcome the opportunity to compete alongside the men at the Grand Slam Cup, but we would reject any invitation which does not include equal prize money and draw size at the Grand Slam Cup and equal prize money at the French and Wimbledon," WTA president Chris Evert said in the statement.

Eligibility for the Grand Slam Cup is earned by points amassed at the four Grand Slam events.

Pete Sampras won last year's event and earned two million dollars.

# UEFA re-admits Liverpool

**LONDON, Apr 19:** English soccer champions Liverpool, banned from Europe since the Heysel stadium disaster of 1985, were told on Friday they had suffered enough, reports Reuter.

"We decided to allow Liverpool back in UEFA competitions again," said European Football Union president Lennart Johansson after an executive committee meeting.

"They asked us for mercy and we gave it. They have suffered enough," Johansson said. "They are back in business."

English clubs were banned from Europe after 39 people died in rioting at the Brussels stadium before the European Cup final between Liverpool and Juventus of Italy.

UEFA lifted the ban on English clubs last year but Liverpool's exile was set to

continue for three more seasons.

Johansson who said his executive committee had agreed unanimously to Liverpool's return, cited the Club's uncompromising acceptance of their punishment and their continuing good relations with Juventus as reasons for forgiveness.

Antonio Matarrese, president of the Italian Soccer Federation, said his country was in favour of allowing Liverpool back.

He felt the image left behind by English fans during the World Cup in Italy had been generally excellent.

Bert Millichip, chairman of the English Football Association (F.A.), was delighted with a decision that had been widely expected after Johansson hinted at a pardon last month.

"I don't think that anyone had anticipated when the ban was originally put on that it

would last so long," he said.

Liverpool should now represent England in either the European Cup or, more likely, the UEFA Cup next season. They are currently second in the league behind Arsenal.

**Souness returns**

The end of the exile was a further boost for the club, already lifted by the surprising return to Anfield from Glasgow Rangers of manager Graeme Souness, their former captain.

Souness came back on Tuesday, ending uncertainty at the club since the shock resignation of Kenny Dalglish in February.

His appointment encouraged fans who remember when Liverpool, dominant in England over the last 20 years, held sway in Europe, winning the European Cup four times between 1977 and 1984.

Johansson, asked whether

he had any reservations about Liverpool's return, said he did not think the hooligan problem was now any worse in England than elsewhere in Europe.

"We never should forget what happened at the Heysel Stadium that night," he said. "But if you analyse it, it was so-called supporters who caused the tragedy."

# Caniggia to join Fiorentina

**FLORENCE, Apr 19:** Argentine World Cup striker Claudio Caniggia will sign for Italian First Division club Fiorentina this week, national sports dailies reported on Tuesday.

The Florence club agreed terms with Atalanta for the 24-year-old Argentine to join their next season for eight billion lire (6.7 million dollars).

Caniggia, who scored two goals for Argentina in the 1990 World Cup in Italy and '10 so far in the Italian league this season, would get 2.7 million lire (225,000 dollars) for a three-year contract.

He joined Atalanta in 1989 after one season at Verona, who stung him from Buenos Aires club River Plate in 1988.

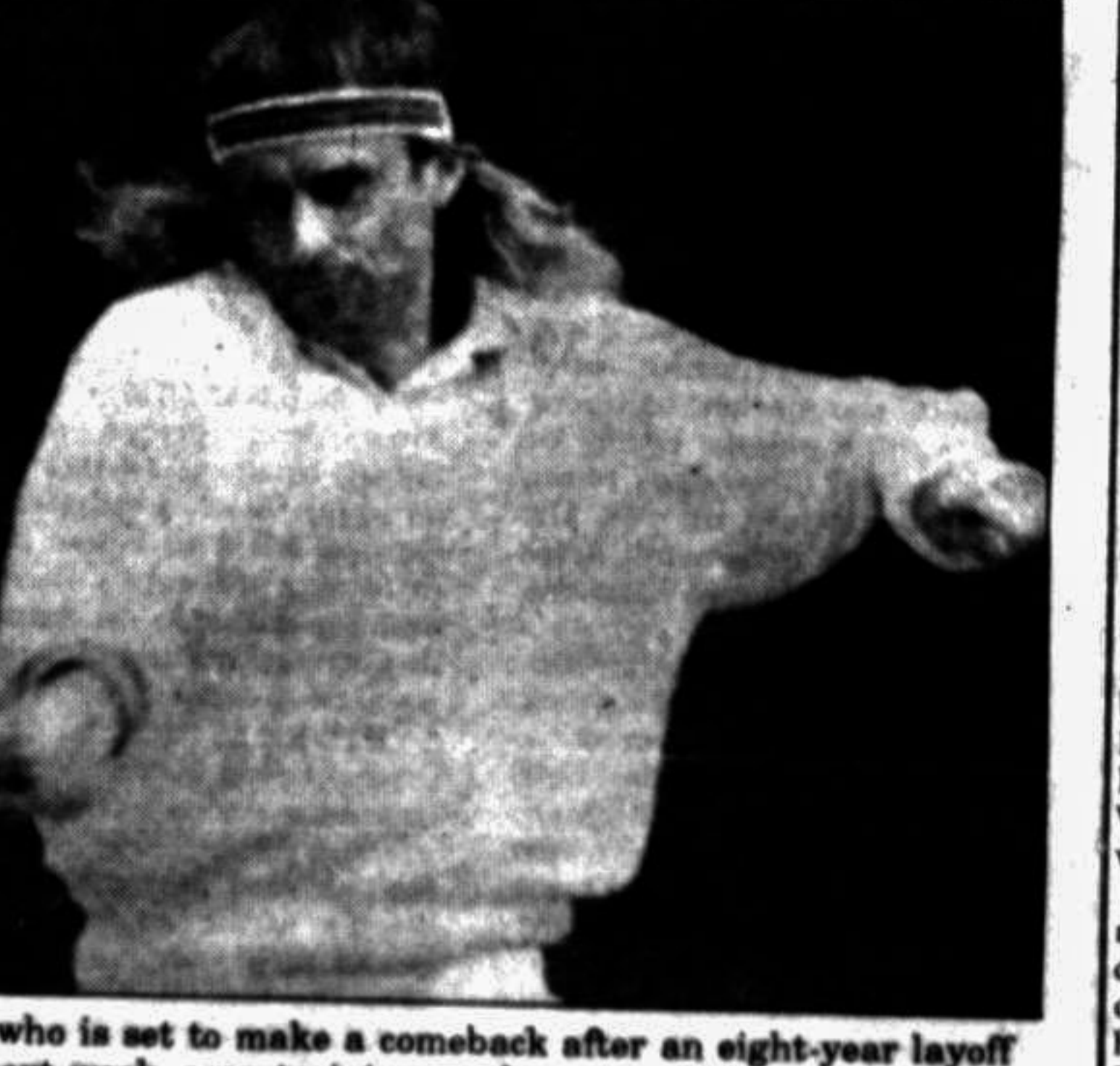
# Parker's problem

**LONDON, Apr 19:** England World Cup star Paul Parker is to be served with a paternity suit after an alleged one-night stand, reports AFP.

Louise Erskine, 21, took out a summons last week against the Queen's Park Rangers defender, whom she claims is the father of her 11-week-old daughter, Grace.

Miss Erskine alleges that she met Parker in a nightclub in April last year before Rangers' game at Liverpool, took him back to her home in nearby Warrington and had sex with him on her sofa.

Parker, 27, who is married with a young daughter, is refusing to comment on the allegations. His wife Wendy said at their Essex home: "He's here, but he's got nothing to say."



Swedish tennis legend Bjorn Borg, who is set to make a comeback after an eight-year layoff at the Monte Carlo Open starting next week, seen training on the centre court of the Monte Carlo Country Club on April 18.