

Manchester United's Cup

ROTTERDAM, My 16: Mark Hughes scored twice against his former club Barcelona as Manchester United won the European Cupwinners' Cup final 2-1 on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Hughes, who had an unhappy spell at Barcelona before returning to United in 1988, struck twice in the space of six minutes midway through the second half.

Barcelona's Dutchman Ronald Koeman fired home a typically powerful 30 metre free-kick 11 minutes from time. United goalkeeper Les Sealey getting a hand to the ball but failing to stop it.

But United, one of two English clubs to return to Europe this season after a five-year ban following the Heysel Stadium disaster, held on grimly to claim their second European trophy.

They won the European Cup in 1968.

Barcelona were reduced to 10 men six minutes from the end when Nando Munoz was sent off for a professional foul on the ebullient Hughes as he surged forward in search of his hat-trick.

United's 20,000 well-behaved fans went into raptures as veteran captain Bryan Robson lifted the trophy.

Hughes put United ahead in the 68th minute after United had pinned back Barcelona in a strong spell of pressure.

Former England captain Fobson chipped in a free-kick and central defender Steve Bruce powered a header beyond inexperienced Barcelona goalkeeper Carlos Kameni.

Hughes applying the finishing touch just before the ball crossed the line.

Six minutes later Robson sent Hughes clear of the Barcelona defence with a perceptive pass.

Buquets rained out of his area but Hughes neatly side-stepped him and, although forced wide, drilled a drive

into the far corner of the net from some 20 meters.

The United fans began to celebrate but Koeman put the game back on the boil with his long-range free kick after Robson had fouled Jose Bakero.

Hughes looked set for his hat-trick when he burst clear on to a Brian McClair pass in the 84th minutes.

But Nando wrestled him to the ground just outside the box and Swedish referee Bo Karlsson immediately produced the red card.

Barcelona, newly crowned as Spanish champions, almost equalised in the last minute

Cops applaud fans

ROTTERDAM, May 16: The first appearance of an English club in a European soccer final since the Heysel tragedy six years ago was acclaimed by police on Wednesday as a victory for Manchester United fans, reports Reuter.

More than 15,000 jubilant English supporters among the sell-out crowd of 42,000 were on their best behaviour as they cheered Manchester United to a 2-1 victory over Barcelona in the Cupwinners' Cup final.

Shortly after the kickoff, police had already declared it a victory for United.

"Manchester has won. They (United fans) realised that if they caused trouble it would harm the team. They just wanted to have a good show," said police spokesman Hans Stopp.

United were one of the two teams allowed back into Europe this season in a relaxation of the ban on English clubs after the death of 39 people in rioting before the 1985 European Cup final between Liverpool and Juventus in Brussels.

Braced for possible crowd violence, the city of Rotterdam placed about 1,000 police on duty for Wednesday's final.

A further 500 soccer official and plain clothes security personnel were

stationed at the stadium. Police said they arrested 25 people — 18 of them Dutch and five English — for minor offences.

Fireworks were confiscated from some Spanish supporters.

Many bars, cafes and restaurants in the city centre were closed. Sales of alcohol were limited to prevent rowdiness.

Police kept a close watch on fans but the atmosphere was friendly with police sporting scarves and caps in the red and white colours of Manchester United.

The British were very friendly. They even shook your hand," said one enterprising Dutchman selling alcohol-free beer near the city centre.

A cold wind and drizzle failed to dampen the spirits of the thousands of British, Spanish and Dutch fans who had little contact with one another because of a plan by city officials designed to keep groups of rival supporters apart.

United fans were kept to the north of the city, while Barcelona supporters, who also numbered about 15,000, were led to the stadium for the south.

After five years out of European football, all we want to do is enjoy the day and make the most of it," said one United fan clutching a pack of canned beer.

when Clayton Balckmore hacked a Michael Laudrup shot off the goal-line.

But the Catalans never found any rhythm on a cold, wet night.

They clearly missed goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta and midfielder Guillermo Amor, who were both suspended and lacked the cutting edge supplied by Bulgarian striker Kristo Stoichkov, ruled out by injury.

The passion of the closing stages was in marked contrast to a very poor first half in which misplaced passes abounded.

The only clear opening fell to United's McClair after just 10 minutes but the Scotland striker lobbed wastefully over the bar from 20 meters.

"It's the biggest moment in my career — a fairy tale," said jubilant United manager Alex Ferguson.

"It's a wonderful day for the club having waited 23 years since our last European triumph," added Ferguson to victor Scottish club Aberdeen to win the 1983 Cupwinners' Cup final.

Barcelona coach Johan Cruyff was understandably disappointed.

"It was not a good game of soccer," he said. "Manchester United stuck to their normal style of play and if you do that you have the luck."

Rebel Kouros rattles through

SYDNEY, May 16: Champion Greek Runner Yianis Kouros set out on the loneliest long-distance race of his career today after failing to start the Sydney-Melbourne ultramarathon in a wrangle over payment, reports Reuter.

Five-time winner of the world's longest annual event, Kouros began his rebel solo run behind the 23 official starters and is almost certain to arrive in Melbourne ahead of them.

Kouros, who fell out with the race sponsors over an appearance fee, was seen off by a handful of friends from a starting point at Blacktown, about 50 km (30 miles) west of Sydney.

Kouros will win nothing if he comes in first in the 1,028 km (642 mile) race but he is not running to spite the six-day race sponsors, according to his manager Theo Premetis.

"We don't hold any grudges, it's just the only time when the police will allow us to run because the roads are open for the other athletes," he told reporters.

Without the 35-year-old Kouros, favourite in the 100,000 dollar (78,000 US) handicap event is Bryan Smith from Victoria.

Kouros, who holds 70 world records for long-distance running, first entered and won the Sydney to Melbourne race in 1985.

Richards runs amok

WORCESTER, England, May 16: Viv Richards relegated his friend Ian Botham to a place among the supporting cast on Wednesday as he hammered a century in little over two hours, reports Reuter.

The 39-year-old West Indies captain went on to score 131, including 17 fours and three sixes, as the touring team plundered 376 for six on the opening day of their three-day match against Worcestershire.

Former England captain Botham, desperately keen to play against Richards in the forthcoming one-day series and Test matches, did his cause no harm by bowling unchanged throughout the morning session.

His 18 overs of tidy medium pace bowling cost just 40 runs and brought him the wickets of Gordon Greenidge (26) and Richie Richardson (9).

Botham was perhaps fortunate that he bowled a few overs when Richards and opener Phil Simmons were in tandem during the afternoon.

They put on 139 for the fourth wicket after Phil Newport had followed Botham's double strike by bowling Brian Lara for 26 at 139. Newport also collected Richards' scalp.

Simmons, a perfect foil to the swashbuckling Richards, went on to score a career-best 134 in 284 minutes before being bowled by left-arm spin-



VIV RICHARDS
ner Richard Illingworth. Botham, watched by England scout Fred Titmus, ended the day with two for 83 from 29 overs.

US booters to play Wednesday

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado, May 16: The US national soccer team will play English League Cup champion Sheffield Wednesday as part of the 12-game world series of soccer, the US Soccer Federation said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

The game will be played on August 2 at Veterans Stadium in Philadelphia.

Sheffield Wednesday was promoted last week to the English First Division after finishing third in the Second Division.

More drug cheats unearthed

PRAGUE, May 16: Two Czechoslovak women athletes have been caught using anabolic steroids, reports AFP.

High hurdler Blanka Hlencsova and sprinter Renata Kubalova, both aged 26, failed random tests and face a two-year ban, the Czechoslovak Federation said.

Boost for Graf

BERLIN, May 16: Steffi Graf secured a confidence-boosting victory in the German Open on Wednesday in her attempt to reclaim the world number one spot in women's tennis from Monica Seles, reports Reuter.

Top seed Graf beat Nicole Pietrangeli of the Netherlands 6-2, 6-3 in 63 minutes in their second round contest.

"It's very important for me that the pains I have been having in my wrist have now gone and I feel great," world number two Graf said.

Graf plays the Soviet Union's Elena Bryukhovets in the quarter-finals today, while second seed Gabriela Sabatini faces German Anke Huber in the last eight on Friday.

Sabatini, winner of the Italian Open title last Sunday, crushed Japan's Naoko Sawamatsu 6-1, 6-0.

AP adds in an earlier report, Steffi Graf and Gabriela Sabatini breezed into the third round of the Lufthansa Open Wednesday, but the defeat of another seed spoiled Graf's hopes of regaining the No 1 world rank.

Graf could have recaptured the No 1 spot from Monica Seles by winning the 500,000-dollar clay court tournament. But on the way, she needed to beat Katerina Maleeva, Jana Novotna and Sabatini to earn enough bonus points to edge Seles.

But Maleeva, the No 6 seed from Bulgaria, was upset by Amanda Coetzer of South Africa 6-2, 7-6. Even if she wins the event, Graf will not have enough point Seles, tournament officials said.

"It's a pity, but in principle it doesn't interest me that much," Graf said after beating Nicole Jagerman of the Netherlands 6-2, 6-3 in a second-round match.

Graf was playing her first match after injuring her playing hand during an exhibition last week.

The German topped the rankings for a record 166 weeks before she was replaced by Seles in March. Graf beat Seles to win the German Open in Hamburg on May 6. Seles was also beaten by Sabatini in the final of the Italian Open on Sunday.

Sabatini, who is seeded second behind Graf in the tournament, swept past Naoko Sawamatsu of Japan 6-1, 6-0. The Argentine, ranked third in the world and the hottest player on the women's tour at the moment, is seeing her second consecutive title. She holds a five-match winning streak against Graf, whom she is seeded to meet in the final.

American Mary Joe Fernandez, the third seed, struggled before overcoming Barbara Rittner of Germany 6-4, 6-7, 6-2.

Jennifer Capriati, the No 7, had an easier time in beating fellow American Stacey Martin 6-2, 6-4.

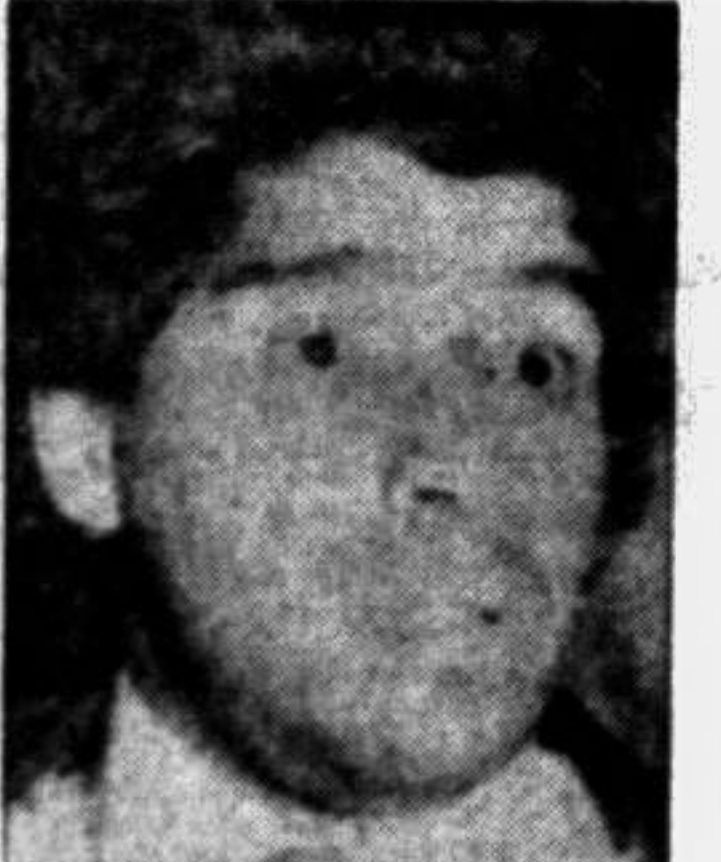
Diego told to stand trial

NAPLES, Italy, May 16: Disgraced Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona was ordered on Wednesday to appear in a Naples court on May 31 to face charges of using and trafficking in drugs, court sources said, reports Reuter.

Maradona returned to Argentina on April 2 shortly after Italian magistrates started questioning him about a Naples drugs and prostitution ring.

Six days later, an Italian league tribunal suspended him from playing until June 1992. Maradona tested positive for cocaine after a March 17

Italian league match. The ban was later extended worldwide.



DIEGO MARADONA
Maradona, 30, has since

been arrested on cocaine charges in his home city of Buenos Aires and released on a 20,000 dollar bail.

Laboratory tests showed cocaine found in a flat where Maradona was arrested was 91 per cent pure, Buenos Aires court sources said on Monday.

Maradona's contract with the Napoli club runs until June 1993, but the Argentine said on returning to Buenos Aires that he wanted to quit professional football.

He said earlier he was determined to return to Naples to stand trial, but it is not clear whether he will be allowed to leave Argentina. His passport was confiscated after his arrest.

Borg skips French Open

ROME, May 16: Tennis legend Bjorn Borg said on Wednesday he would not be playing in the French Open starting on Monday week and was still pondering whether to enter Wimbledon in June, reports Reuter.

Borg, 34, whose much-publicised attempt at a comeback began with an embarrassing first round setback at the Monte Carlo Open last month, has decided to stay in Rome practising and testing new rackets.

"I'm not going to play in Paris and I still don't know about Wimbledon," Borg told a news conference at the Italian Open.

"If I'm in good condition, I'd still like to play Wimbledon. If I feel very confident, I will play. If I don't, I'll just have to wait until late summer."

Borg, who won the last of his 11 grand slam titles in 1981, is training with former Italian Davis Cup player Adriano Panatta and has hired a professor of sports medicine



BJORN BORG

to assist his physical training. Panatta said he had been amazed by the former world number one's dedication.

"I found him very serene and very calm. He really wanted to work very hard," he said.

Borg was more realistic about the prospects for his comeback after Monte Carlo. "I don't regret Monte Carlo — you have to start somewhere," he said. "My expectations were not that high. It was good to play there to find out what I had to change."

The Swede confirmed he had ditched the wooden rackets which he stubbornly continued to use when he returned to top-level tennis at Monte Carlo.

"I realised I had to change," he admitted. "Now I need more time to get used to the new ones before I play again."

If he does decide to risk his reputation again at Wimbledon, where he won five successive singles titles between 1976-80, Borg said he would be looking to play one warm-up tournament on grass.

Santoro sinks Sampras

ROME, May 16: Pete Sampras, the only one of the top four seeded to make it past the first round at the Italian Open, was defeated Wednesday to Frenchman Fabrice Santoro 6-2, 4-6, 7-5 in a second round match, reports AP.

"I just let the match get away from me," Sampras said after the loss. "I played some really careless tennis. He's not the kind of guy who's going to beat you. He's going to wait for you to make a mistake."

In another second round upset, Goran Prpic defeated No. 13 seed Jakob Hlasek 6-1, 7-5. Henri Leconte beat 14th seed Magnus Gustafsson of Sweden 6-0, 6-3 and South African qualifier Wayne Ferreira knocked off No. 15 seed Alexander Volkov 7-6 (7-2), 6-4.

Only the top 16 seeds are still playing in the three-day-old men's competition. Jim Courier, the sixth seed, blasted past Sweden's Nicklas Pietrangeli 6-0, 6-3. Ninth-seeded Emilio

Sanchez of Spain won his second round match against Austrian Horst Skoff 6-4, 6-3.

An earlier report says, two years ago, steaming off a victory at Monte Carlo, Alberto Mancini defeated Andre Agassi in five sets to win the Italian Open.

This year, he had to play three tough qualifying matches last weekend to wrest a spot in the 64-player Rome draw.

"I'm feeling better with each match I play," said the not-yet-22-year-old Argentine after dramatic 4-6, 7-5, 7-5 upset of seventh-seeded Jonas Svensson on Wednesday. "And I'm playing better and better."

"I'm playing really well. I needed a match like today. Mancini will face Holland's Mark Koevermans in a third round match Thursday night. Fifth-seeded Sergi Bruguera, who dismantled Yannick Noah 6-1, 6-3, will play Christian Mihajlic.

himself not suffice, the mass exodus of seeded players from the Rome tournament will provide an added incentive for the Argentine baseline. After four upsets on Wednesday, only four seeded players remain in the draw. The field is wide open.

Soviet player Alexander Volkov, the No. 11 seed, fell to Australia's Richard Fromberg 7-5, 6-3. Frenchman Henri Leconte, who underwent a fourth back operation six months ago, beat No. 14 Magnus Gustafsson 6-0, 6-3. Mancini finished off 1989 ranked ninth in the world. One year later, for no apparent reason, his ranking had plummeted to 130. When Mancini requested one of the five wild cards available at this year's Italian Open, his request was denied.

Zorgane's hat-trick

SETIF, Algeria, May 16: A hat-trick by Zorgane helped Ess Setif of Algeria score a 4-0 victory over Gagnoa of the Ivory Coast in the first-leg of their last-sixteen African Cup Winners Cup clash here Friday, reports AFP.

Filipino cagers ASEAN champs

BAGUIO, Philippines, May 16: The Philippines won the 6th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) basketball championship here with a final day thrashing of eventual fourth placers Malaysia 91-60, reports AFP.

The hosts 18-and under squad finished the biennial competition in this northern resort with four wins and no defeat.

In the girls division Thailand retained their title by overpowering Malaysia 63-47 also finishing the tournament undefeated.

Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia finished the boys tournament with 2-2 cards but Indonesia emerged second with a better quotient. Singapore were third, Malaysia fourth, and defending champions Thailand dead last with four straight defeats.

Pargat at the helm

NEW DELHI, May 16: India has named a 16-member men's hockey team for a 10-day tour of Europe, marking the start of a busy season culminating in October's Olympic qualifiers, reports AFP.

Veteran international Pargat Singh will lead the squad to leave for Barcelona on May 24 to play three tests in Spain, two in Germany and two in the Netherlands.

A training camp will follow the team's return home on June 4.

India will be playing in the five-nations Sultan Azlan Shah tournament in Ipoh, Malaysia, in July, then reassemble here in August to prepare for a September series against Italy.

A tour by Kenya is expected to precede a 10-day trip to Australia, where India will play three tests before travelling to Auckland, New Zealand, for the October 12-26 Olympic qualifiers.

"This is the maximum exposure we can give to the team before the Olympic qualifier," said Gursewak Singh, Secretary of the Indian Hockey Federation, when the team was announced Wednesday.

Tyson to fight Holyfield first

NEW YORK, May 16: Next month's Mike Tyson-Donovan "Razor" Ruddock fight has been postponed to allow Tyson to fight undisputed heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield, a spokesman for Tyson's promoter said late on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

"Donovan 'Razor' Ruddock today (Wednesday) agreed to step aside and permit Mike Tyson to fight Evander Holyfield for the undisputed heavyweight championship of the world," said Joe Safety, a spokesman for Don King, Tyson's promoter.

Safety would not comment further. But Holyfield's promoter, Dan Duva, said there is no deal yet for a Tyson-Holyfield fight.

"I don't know what King's talking about," Duva told Reuter. "There is no Holyfield-Tyson fight yet, there have been no negotiations, no discussions."

"It's obvious Tyson pulled out of the Ruddock fight. He wants to fight for the title. Tyson was promised that the World Boxing Council (WBC) would sanction the Ruddock-Tyson fight (as a title fight)," Duva said.

"Tyson called this shot. No question about that," Duva said. King, with appeals through the media and in court, has been attempting to have the WBC sanction the Ruddock-Tyson fight as a championship bout but has been unsuccessful.

"I'm delighted King woke up. Our first choice has always been Mike Tyson," Duva said. Duva said, Holyfield would not fight again until September or October.

England to host '93 World Badminton Championships

TASTRUP, Denmark, May 16: England have won their battle with Scotland to stage the 1993 World Badminton Championships and Sudirman Cup, reports AFP.

The game's governing body, the International Badminton Federation, decided here on Friday by a narrow margin to give the eighth championships and third Cup to Birmingham rather than Glasgow.

The decision enables the Badminton Association of England to celebrate their centenary in the best possible way, as it will be the first time the sport's showpiece will be held in Britain.

"The Badminton Association of England has long been associated with badminton at its highest levels," said Geoffrey Snowden, chief executive of the BAE.

"At the same time we recognise the importance of ensuring that the sport is developed for the benefit of all."

"We have been planning now for a number of years a festival of badminton throughout the country in 1993 to celebrate our centenary the first in the history of the sport."

"What better build-up could there be for the World Championships and the Sudirman Cup and what a great climax to this centenary year."

Sochi drops out

MOSCOW, May 16: The Soviet city of Sochi dropped its bid to host the 1998 Winter Olympics because of the country's economic crisis and its poor chances of winning, a top Soviet sports official said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

The winter resort of Sochi withdraws its candidature from the contest of cities bidding to stage the 1998 Winter Olympic Games, Tass news agency quoted Soviet Olympic Committee Chairman Vitaly Smirnov as telling journalists.

"We consider it unreasonable to host the Games in the country's current economic situation. Public opinion is clearly not in favour of Sochi and it is pretty unlikely that IOC members would choose it."

The 1998 venue will be chosen by the International Olympic Committee next month from: Salt Lake City, Utah; Nagano, Japan; Aosta, Italy; Oestersund, Sweden and Jaca, Spain.

Smirnov said Sochi could still launch a bid to host future Games, probably in 2002.

Soviet journalists and officials had viewed the bid by the Black Sea resort as extravagant because its facilities were generally more suited to a summer sport.

But local organisers claimed the village of Krasnaya Polyana, above the city in the Caucasus

mountains, was an ideal site for the skiing events.

Smirnov was one of the main advocates of Sochi's nomination in his previous capacity as Sports Minister of the Russian Federation — the country's largest republic, in which Sochi is located.

The first Tyson-Ruddock fight last March ended in controversy when the referee stopped the scheduled 12-round fight in the seventh round after Tyson had sent Ruddock reeling into the ropes with several punches. Ruddock did not appear to be hurt, but referee Richard Steele stopped the fight without closely examining Ruddock.

The stoppage set off a melee as Ruddock supporters rushed into the ring and began brawling with Tyson's cornermen and security people.

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Gilliland for a change in rules

BRONDBY, Denmark, May 16: Canadian badminton coach Billy Gilliland called here on Thursday for a change in the rules which cover on-court medical treatment after a controversy involving Si-an Deng on Wednesday.

The Canadian number three was knocked out of the World women's singles championship by Danish star Pernille Nedergaard after the joint fifth seed had been attended by a physiotherapist during the second game while she was losing.

"Players who can play on should play on," said Gilliland, who had a protest against the result rejected. "If not, the game is over."

"The doctor should be there... I don't think he should have any assessment to make, assessments are made for the well-being of the player that's where the law is a little vague," Gilliland.