

WEEKEND SPORTS WEEKEND

Good results are not enough

LONDON, May 30: Graham Taylor has not lost a game since taking over as England manager, yet he has received more criticism than acclaim for his performance, reports Reuter.

Although England's record since Taylor replaced Bobby Robson after the World Cup stands at — played eight, won five, drawn three, he has quickly realised that in his job good results are not enough.

He has been upset by some of the more abusive criticism from media and fans and hurt that he and his players have not received more praise for their achievements.

"My job is to get England into a top competition every two years and I have to try to develop a squad to do that."

"Despite the changes we are still getting results and I think we deserve credit for that", said Taylor.

"The trouble is that in this country results cloud so many opinions and I have got to be sure that they don't cloud my thinking."

"I certainly expected to be unbeaten after eight games. I always expect any team of mine to win."

"Of course I'm realistic and know that my demands are not always possible. Winning is the first priority, then I look at the performances."

England are favourites to qualify for their group for next year's European Championship and this week Taylor takes a fairly inexperienced squad on tour of Australia, New Zealand and Malaysia expecting to set a record for an unbeaten start by an England manager.

He is only one game away from equalling Don Revie's record nine-match unbeaten run in 1974.



GRAHAM TAYLOR

reer. It won't sway me", he said afterwards.

"I will do it my way and I will take risks because what is life and what do you learn if you don't?"

When Taylor arrived, he diplomatically kept most of the squad that took England to the World Cup semifinals, but began making changes after the Ireland game.

His first piece of revolutionary reconstruction was also his most controversial. Captain Bryan Robson, the battle-scarred crusader who had led so often by example, was discarded as too old and slow.

He has blooded several new players, including Geoff Thomas, David Batty and Dennis Wise. Last week against the Soviet Union and Argentina, World Cup hero David Platt scored three times and showed after 17 games he is blossoming into an inspirational midfielder and goalscorer set to fill Robson's role.

Taylor sees this month's tour as an opportunity to give more players a chance to develop on the international stage he has nine uncapped players, and only five of the 23-strong party have more than 20 caps. Just two, captain Gary Lineker and Platt, have scored more than one international goal.

"I'll be looking to come back undefeated because no one will convince me that people will understand losing against Australia, New Zealand or Malaysia even if I say we're experimenting."

"I hope to come back with players with more experience and a greater depth in the squad," said Taylor, who has been denied players from top clubs Arsenal, Liverpool and Tottenham, apart from Lineker.

Unfortunately, the English are not satisfied with good results. They demand victory with style and plenty of goals.

One newspaper labelled him guilty of picking too many ordinary players who produced flat and uninspiring soccer.

"He has cold-bloodedly stripped the team of creativity ... A man who seems to regard skill as a vice and sweat as a virtue", said the Mirror after England beat Turkey 1-0.

Taylor's failure to elicit the kind of idolatry praise he found when taking Watford from the fourth division to

runners up spot in the first and Aston Villa to league runners up last season stem from two goals.

Held to a draw at Wembley by Ireland in March and struggling to overcome Turkey 1-0 this month when the Irish had put five past them, cast doubt on England's ability to qualify for the championship even though they lead their group.

After the Turkey game Taylor was abused by a group of English fans, particularly for leaving out Marseille playmaker Chris Waddle.

"It's nothing new in my ca-

The French Open has come a long way

PARIS: He may not have had Boris Becker's bank balance, Yannick Noah's popular appeal or Andre Agassi's sartorial style, but a player by the name of H. Briggs enjoys a special place in tennis history, reports Reuter.

The Englishman, who beat a French rival named Baignieres in the final of the first French tennis championships in 1881, could not have had any idea he would be remembered 100 years later as the French Open, starting on Monday, celebrates its centenary.

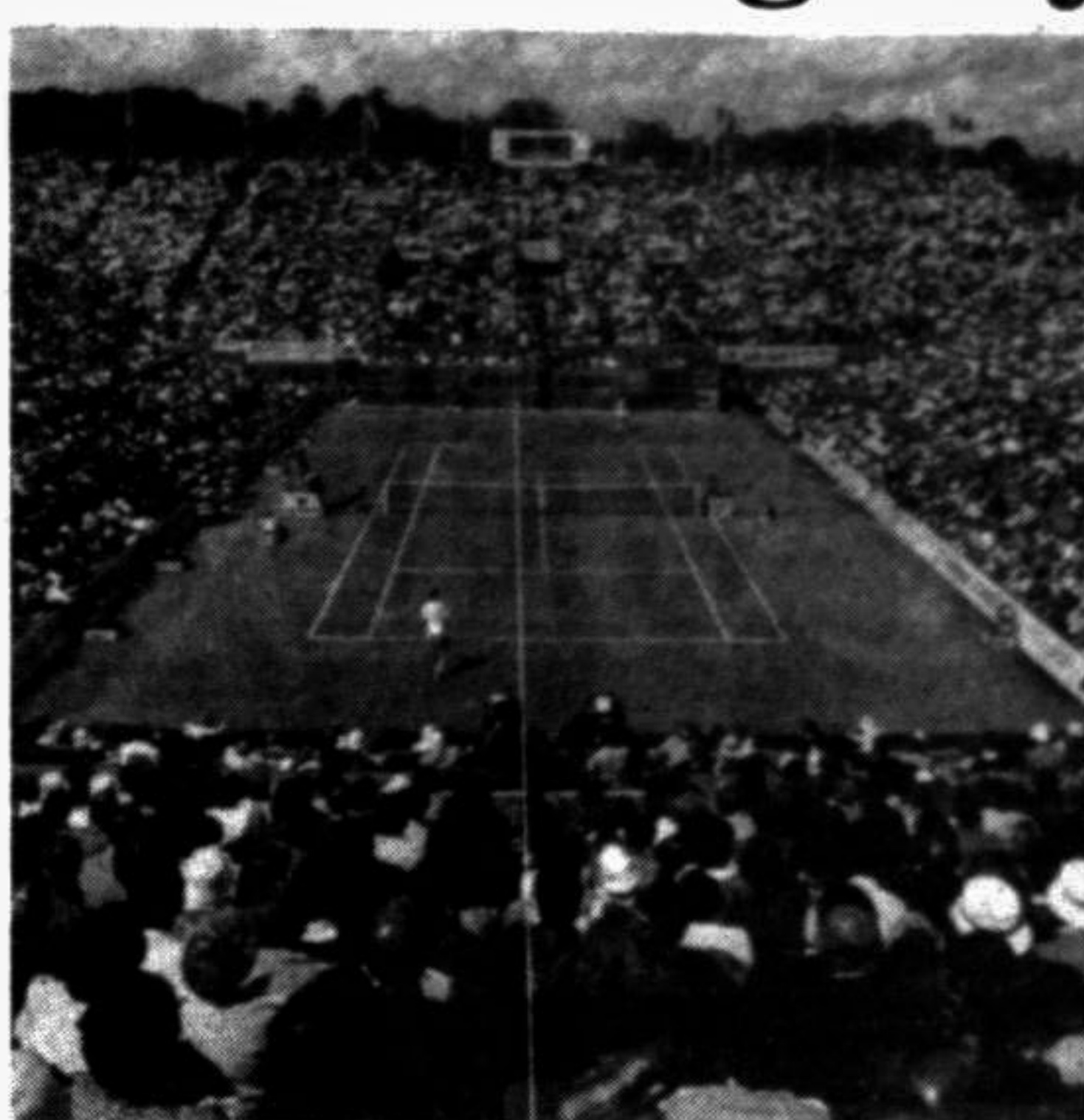
These days Briggs would have been lucky to gain a place in the qualifying tournament but, back at the end of the last century, the only condition of entry was French residence.

So the Englishman, who lived in Paris, was able to win his moment of glory on some club courts in the Bois de Boulogne.

History does not recall the score of the final nor for that matter is mention to be found of the make of his racket, the names of his sponsors, the tenor of his post-match news conference comments or whether he was warned for ball abuse.

Briggs himself might just have remembered the score but he could hardly have foreseen the development of the competition into one of the world's great sporting spectacles.

In the splendid setting of the Roland Garros Stadium on the outskirts of Paris, close to



The Centre Court at Stade Roland Garros

the Bois de Boulogne and within sight of the Eiffel Tower, the tournament has charted tennis history.

It has passed through the heady days of the Four Musketeers in the late 1920s and early 1930s and witnessed the meteoric rise of the unmatchable Bjorn Borg in the 1970s and a wave of youthful champions since.

The crowds cannot get enough and Centre Court tickets are as prized in Paris as invitations to a film premiere on

the Champs Elysees. Last year, more than 325,000 attended the two-week tournament, a 600 per cent rise in just 20 years.

The centenary is being commemorated by a postage stamp bearing the new tournament logo designed by Spanish artist Joan Miro and spectators at Roland Garros will also be able to visit an exhibition of rackets over the years.

They will also hardly fail to see two massive frescoes by

Italian painter Lucio Fanti, one of them 35 metres long and three metres high and containing the names of all the 3,500 singles players who have taken part in the tournament since it was opened to non-French residents in 1925.

With prize money of more than 37 million francs (6.4 million dollars) this year, the French Open has come a long way from its humble beginnings. It is now a commercial mammoth for sponsors and a treasure trail for racket-swinging teenagers who can become instant stars and overnight millionaires.

Since Borg became the youngest champion at the age of 18 in 1974, fellow-Swede Mats Wilander and American Michael Chang have both outdone him by winning the title at 17.

German Steffi Graf became the first 17-year-old to win the women's title four years ago and has already been relegated to third youngest by 1989 champion Arantxa Sanchez of Spain and last year's winner Monica Seles of Yugoslavia, who was only 16.

But the youthfulness of recent winners cannot obscure the importance of tradition, underlined this year by the unveiling of a statue at Roland Garros of Jacques Brugnon, the fourth and last of the Four Musketeers to be so honoured.

Brugnon, who won five men's doubles titles, was the only one of the great French foursome not to win the singles title.

Henri Cochet was four times champion between 1926 and 1932 — a record only beaten by six-times winner Borg-Rene Lacoste triumphed three times and Jean Borotra once, though he also acquired seven doubles titles.

It was the quartet's remarkable success in beating the United States to win the Davis Cup in 1927 which prompted the building of the Roland Garros stadium the following year.

Their Davis Cup revenge came with an American team led by Bill Tilden attracted so much interest that a bigger venue was needed to replace the two sites used until then.

The Stade Francais Club agreed to give up some land it owned at the Porte d'Auteuil but only on condition that the stadium be named after one of its former members.

The chose Roland Garros, a World War One fighter pilot who disappointed in action in October 1918.

Briggs would turn in his grave if he knew but Garros, whose name is now irrevocably linked with the French Open, was a rugby player who was never known to have wielded a tennis racket.

South Africa in demand after years of ostracism

LONDON, May 30: Shunned, banned and ostracized by the international sports community for decades, South Africa has suddenly become the object of everyone's desire, reports AP.

From the Olympic Games to Commonwealth Games, from track to tennis, from rugby to cricket, sports bodies are lining up like rival suitors to woo South Africa back into the world arena.

"There's a lot of international good will for South Africa right now," said Sam Ramsamy, who heads the country's interim National Olympic Committee.

South Africa hasn't been officially welcomed back yet, but the process is moving ahead faster than many envisioned. The question no longer seems

to be if South Africa returns to international competition, but when and where.

Will South Africa make its return at the world track and field championships in Tokyo this summer? The African Games in Cairo in September? Or the 1992 Olympic Games?

The answer should emerge in the next two months as the International Olympic Committee (IOC) decides whether to reinstate South Africa, which was expelled in 1970 because of its apartheid system of racial segregation.

Once the IOC decides to resume full ties with South Africa, the floodgates should open. Various international federations will follow suit and invitations to world events will pour in.

All depends on whether

South Africa meets the conditions set by the IOC — abolition of apartheid and merger of the country's racially divided sports federations into unified bodies.

President FW de Klerk has told the IOC that all apartheid laws will be repealed by the end of June. And several South African sports bodies have already merged or announced plans to merge.

Problems do remain. Continuing violence in the black townships could slow de Klerk's political reforms. Years of suspicion and enmity could override hopes for unity among sports organizations. Some South African sports and political leaders oppose an early return to world competition. But the consensus seems to

be that everything will fall into place.

"I am optimistic," Ramsamy said by telephone from Johannesburg. "I'm hopeful that everything can be resolved by the end of the year, if not earlier."

Kevan Gosper, an IOC vice president, said: "There will be real and perceived difficulties, but my judgment is that the changes are coming, that apartheid will go, that it is all inevitable, and with that will come the restoration of South Africa in international sports."

The IOC has invited South African sports leaders to its headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland, on July 9. If all goes well, that meeting could sanction South Africa's return to the Olympic movement. South Africa last competed in the Olympics in 1960 in Rome.

Ego the main obstacle

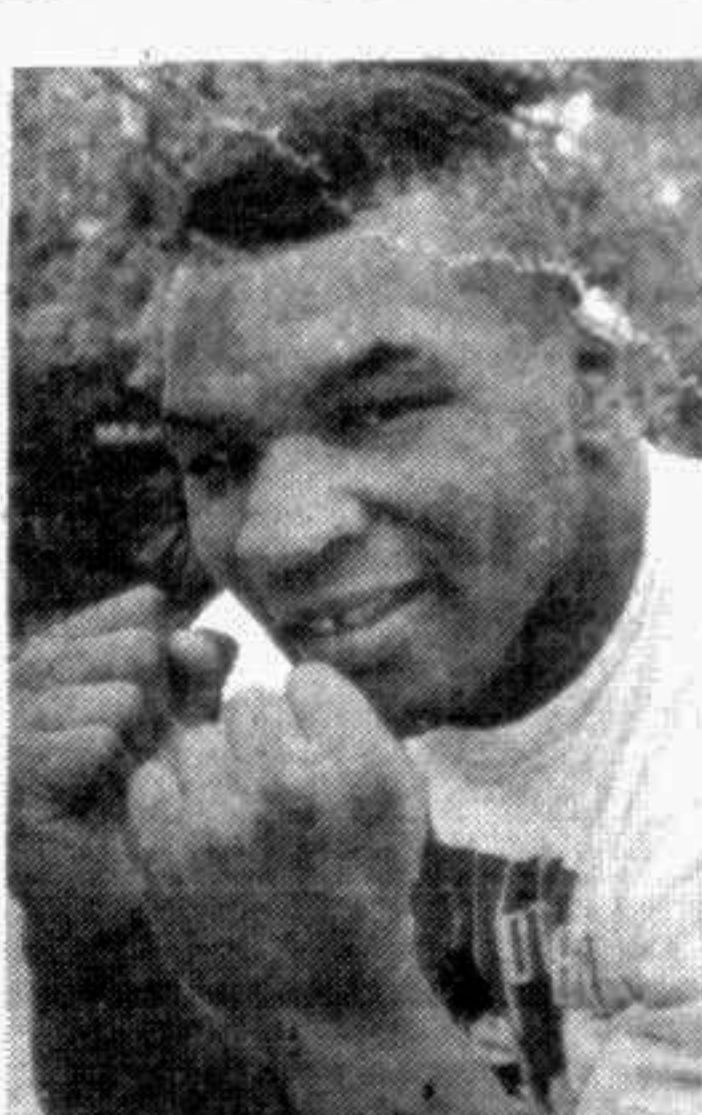
NEW YORK, May 30: Mike Tyson may be right when he says he is the most popular heavyweight since Muhammad Ali, but his ego appears to be the main obstacle keeping him from a title shot against Evander Holyfield, reports AFP.

Tyson, the former undisputed champion whose 'dark side' image has made him a constant target of tabloid intrigue, wants more than the standard 25 per cent of the purse given to the challenger.

"It will be the biggest grossing fight in history," said Robert Hirth, an attorney for Tyson's promoter Don King. "And there is one reason: Mike Tyson."

The World Boxing Council which the recent past has shown a decided favouritism towards King, held a hearing on the purse split here Friday and will make its decision within a week.

Tyson's camp wants the



MIKE TYSON

WBC to mandate a 55-45 split in favour of Holyfield should the two sides fail to come to an agreement through negotiations, which began this week but which so far have made little progress.

The International Boxing Federation already has filled in

favour of a 75-25 split, which Tyson's camp claims is impeding the negotiations.

Holyfield's promoter Dan Duva, who has offered Tyson 15 million dollars to fight his man, addressed the four-man WBC panel and charged King with trying to force the negotiations.

"Tyson's coming to you and saying: Negotiate for me a better contract than I can negotiate for myself," he said.

Holyfield's attorney, Jim Fox, argued that the WBC's role should be to ensure that the fight happens.

"No one else has the arrogance to come before you and say he should be treated special," he said. "You should not be here to decide who is the most popular fighter. That is not the business of a boxing commission."

So far, the only thing the two sides have agreed on is that the fight should take place later this year, in October or November, and the preference is that it be held in Las Vegas.

A highly competitive world

STEFFI GRAF'S losses to four different players in the four latest tennis Grand Slams — Monica Seles (1990 French Open final), Zina Garrison (1990 Wimbledon semifinal), Gabriela Sabatini (1990 US Open final) and Jana Novotna (1990 Australian Open quarterfinal) — have given hope to her many challengers.

Seles, the 1991 Australian Open winner, says the women's game is becoming highly competitive. Graf (though still world number one) is less feared and fitness and mental toughness are coming to count for more.

Leading the charge to unseat the West German leader during 1991 are Seles herself, Martina Navratilova and Sabatini — as well as the American teenage sensation Jennifer Capriati. But a slew of lesser known women believe they have a chance, too.

Conchita Martinez: Ranked in the world Top Ten since 1989 though currently No. 11, the talented Spanish player has impressive wins on her record.

Born in 1972, she turned pro at 16 and became Spanish national champion the same year by defeating Arantxa Sanchez Vicario. Conchita reached the quarters at the French Open in 1989 and won three events out of the 12 she entered that year.

on to win the Indianapolis event in November.

Sabine Appelmans: A Belgian, born April 1972, she has made enormous progress in a single year, leaping from 148 to 22 at the end of 1990.

Last year she reached the third round of the Australian Open and was runner-up to Lella Meskhi at Auckland, New Zealand. Though she departed early from this year's Australian she has the game to go further up the rankings.

Meredith McGrath: Born in Michigan, United States, April 28, 1971, she started playing tennis at the age of seven one summer when she found other games boring. She has an impressive junior record.

In 1987 and 1988 she won the US Open junior doubles and was No. 3 in the junior rankings. In 1989 she was runner-up in the Wimbledon juniors and won the doubles junior title with Capriati at the US Open juniors.

Ranked 28 at the end of 1990 (up from 96 in 1989), she plays an aggressive game, with serve and volley her strength.

Amy Frazier: Born September 19, 1972, she is another Michigan girl — from Flint — and began handling a racket at the age of three. A year later she hit 450 balls over the net without missing and played her first national championship at seven.

She won seven US junior titles and turned pro in Jan. 1990. She is now ranked 16, up from 33 in 1989, an impressive surge by any stan-

As in the men's game, no single woman tennis player is currently dominant and there's a host of young up-and-comers who will be fighting to produce some surprises during the rest of the 1991 season.

dards. Blonde and 5 ft. 8 ins. Amy won the Virginia Slims of Kansas and six other singles and doubles titles in 1989.



Jana Novotna improved tremendously.

In 1990 at the Sydney event she beat Jana Novotna to reach the semis and won the Virginia

Slims event. She has also recorded wins over Seles, the two elder Malecva sisters and Conchita Martinez.

or a career, it's fun. When it isn't fun anymore, I'll go back to school."

Anke Huber: Ranked at 37 at the end of 1990 (197 in 1989), this 16-year-old German is being touted as the next Steffi Graf, a label neither of them likes. In 1990 she reached the third round in the Australian Open and the second round at Wimbledon, giving a tough fight to Sabatini before losing.

Among the top players she has beaten already is Zina Garrison and she won the OTB Open in Schenectady in New York in 1990. The German girl lost in three sets to Seles at the Australian Open in January but she is expected to crack the top 20 by year's end.

Jana Novotna: Born October 2, 1968, she is one of Czechoslovakia's many formidable players. A talented doubles partner for Helena Sukova — they won the last women's event at Wimbledon — Jana was ranked 13th at the end of 1990.

Her greatest triumph to date was beating Graf in three sets in the 1991 Australian Open. It was the first time Graf had lost to a player outside the top ten in six years the last being Jo Durie in 1985.

Jana thus avenged her losses against Graf at the 1990 French, Wimbledon and US Open tournaments, all in the quarterfinals. She was ranked fifth in women's prize money in 1990 behind Seles, Sabatini, Graf and Navratilova. Increased fitness and help from new coach Hana Mandlikova helped her to finish as runner-up in the Australian.

Mary Jo Fernandez: Born 19 years ago in the Dominican Republic, she now lives in Florida, one of the many immigrant children (Capriati, Pete Sampras, Michael Chang, Andre Agassi) who are making their names in the United States.

Runner-up to Graf in the Australian Open in 1990 and semifinalist this year, Mary Jo has a consistent Grand Slam record in her five years as a pro and was ranked fourth in the world at the end of 1990.

She has lost to Sanchez, Sabatini (though she has beaten her, too) and Capriati, but is now coached by Tim Gullikson and advised by Fred Stolle, and is expected to do well in 1991 if she stays clear of the injuries that have dogged her.

Magdalena Malecva: Aged 15, she could prove the best of the three Malecva sisters from Bulgaria, though at the end of 1990 she was ranked 73rd to Katerina's 6th and Manuela's 9th. Strong top-spin strokes helped her to win the 1990 French and US Open junior titles.

Coached by her mother Yu-

lia Berberian, who was Bulgarian champion nine times, Magdalena is an exciting prospect, according to insiders.

Other women players to watch for are Russian Lella Meskhi (19 from 44 in 1989),

Dinky van Ransberg, a 22-year-old from South Africa (30 from 90 in one year), Naoko Sawamatsu from Japan (31 from 257 in one year), Julie Halard, aged 21 from France (41 from 119) and Italy's Katia Piccolini (47 from 173). Compass sport



Anke Huber hailed as Steffi's second