

didn't feel the match was easy.

last month," he said. "This is

the best set and a half I've

played. Everyone is a test for

then he started hitting out."

tiebreaker and then was bro-

ken by Davis to start off the

second set. The Italian got a

break back and then took a 3-2

lead when Davis double-

PAYBACK TIME

FOR SAMPRAS

lying on his booming serve to

for a 4-2 lead, but squandered

five game points that would

have sent the set into a

tiebreak after the second seed

victory on her fourth match

point - the 22nd point of the

play against," Martinez said.

She hits the ball and serves so

Martinez completed the

"She's not an easy player to

The 10th-ranked Capriati

was razor sharp as she deltv-

ered punishing groundstrokes

to break Garrison three times

trol through 3-1 in the second

set before the 11th-ranked

Garrison got her game going

two games, breaking Garrison

But Capriati took the next

and fought back to 4-4.

Capriati continued in con-

recovered to go up 6-5.

unbeltevable hard."

in the opening set.

faulted on break point.

Thursday.

"I've been struggling the

"In the second set, I let

-Star photo by AKM Mohsin

Edberg closer to Volvo crown



Aug 3: top-seeded Stefan Edberg used his serveand-volley game

advantage to defeat Aaron Krickstein 6-4, 7-5 Friday in the quarterfinals of the 225,000 dollars Volvo tennis tournament, reports AP.

Edberg lost only seven points off his serve in the onehour, 20-minute match and was never broken. After Edberg broke Krickstein in the third game of the match. the two stayed on serve until the 11th game of the second

Edberg got four break points on Krickstein before he was able to convert and take a 6-5 lead. The Swede won the final game at love.

Edberg, the defending proved serve-and-volley for the easy victory.

"Most of the time on my volleys I make a mistake on the easy ones," he said. "Today I was coming in quick behind

CARLSBAD.

Second

straight set victories on Friday

to set up a semifinal showdown

at the 225,000-dollar Mazda

tennis classic, reports Reuter.

Martinez, who helped bring

Spain the Federation Cup title

last week, held off a late chal-

lenge by American amateur

Debbie Graham for a 6-0, 7-5

Capriati, the 15-year-old

sensation from Saddlebrook

Florida, earned her placed in

the final four by dismantling

the serve and volley game of

fifth-seeded compatriot Zina

world number one Monica

Seles of Yugoslavia takes on

sixth seed Nathalie Tauziat of

upstaged ninth-ranked third

seed Manuela Maleeva-Franiere

The 14th-ranked Tauziat

In today's other semifinal,

Garrison 6-1, 6-4.

The seventh ranked

California, Aug 3:

Conchita Marti-

nex and fourth

seed Jenniser

Capriati posted

seed

my serve and I got my timing down. I've worked hard at at that and it's paying off."

Krickstein, who split six previous matches with Edberg. was hoping to get into a tiebreaker in the final set. Krickstein has won all six of the tiebreakers the two have

"If I had gotten to the tiebreaker, I'd have had a better chance," said Krickstein, of the United States. "I've never lost a tiebreaker against him. But it's tough when you never break serve.

"I think he definitely is the best volleyer when he's on, especially his backhand volley.' In other quarterfinal

matches, fourth seed Brad Gilbert cruised to a 6-1, 6-3 victory over Steve Bryan, a qualifier. In a match of unseeded players. Stefano Pescosolido of Italy defeated Scott Davis 7-6 (7-5), 6-3,

Gilbert, who will face Edberg in Saturday's semifinal, needed only 66 minutes to dispatch Bryan, who advanced to the quarters by upsetting sixth seed Todd Woodbridge

A canter for Capriati

Martinez raced through her

Graham, a qualifier who

opening set in 23 minutes us-

ing an array topspin ground

strokes to keep Graham off

of Switzerland 6-3, 6-3.

balance.

of Australia. But Gilbert said he win 6-3, 6-4.

> "I should have win in Montreal," said the US Open champion. "I started off the same. I let him in the match."

> Sampras went up a break in the first game of the second set and held serve the rest of the way. He won his last two service games at love, including his next-to-last game in which he served three aces. two of which were clocked at 117 mph or faster.

"His backhand is kind of funny, so I played more to his backhand than his forehand." Matsuoka agreed that Sampras' serve was more po-

"He serves so well I couldn't touch it," he said. "He played well, especially his forehand. He wanted to win and he was more confident. Maybe I was

Gomez in semis

Championships on Friday, re-

Medvedev fought off eight match points, six in the lengthy second set tiebreaker. but could not overcome the

1990 French Open champion. Gomez will next play Tobias Svatesson, who de-

points of the tiebreaker before Arias hit a pair of winning forehands to reach the semifinals at Longwood Cricket Club.

Thursday of a painful right shoulder but he and Agneor each held serve through seven games of the second set.

however, Arias captured seven of the last eight points. Next he'll meet top-seeded Andrei Cherkasov of the Soviet Union, who beat eighth-seeded Jim

is significant that we have

former players in coaching and

challenger events have been

ited fund sand we have to look

at where the money can best

Open, held at the National

Tennis Centre in Melbourne, is

the success story of Australian

top four tournaments at the

world's top venue," he said.

The depth is there among the

players, but what we need is a

"We have one of the world's

Pollard said the Australian

Additional satellite and

administration.

be spent."

tennis.

NHL star Zezel turns pro

TORONTO, Aug 3: National Hockey League center Peter Zezel of the Toronto Maple Leafs joined the ranks of the two-sport athletes when he signed with the Canadian Soccer League's North York Rockets, reports AP.

Zezel will remain under contract with the soccer team until Sept. 5, when NHL training camp opens. The financial terms of the CSL deal, signed Thursday, have not been worked out.

Zezel, a former Canadian national junior soccer team member, said Maple Leafs' general manager Cliff Fletcher has no qualms about allowing him to play another sport.

'I talked to Mr Fletcher and he gave me the Ok," Zezel said. "He just told me not to get hurt. Hopefully I'll be able to keep up with the guys."

Zezel, who will play striker, was to be in uniform for Friday night's game with Novia Scotia, but isn't expected to

The plan is as soon as he knows the strategies he'll be playing." Rockets coach Fiorigi Pagliuso said. "He sure knew how to score goals before. I'm sure he didn't just forget."

The move to put Zezel in a Rockets' uniform began month ago when he agreed to make a guest appearance at a North York-Montreal Supra

Zezel spent much of the game speaking with Rockets general manager Hector Marinaro, his coach when he played for Toronto Italia.

Zezel played for both the Ontario and national under-18 championship teams in 1982.

coach Lon Kruger. "They 've got good shooters, big people inside that are good players

EDMONTON, Canada, Aug 3: Current European champions

championship so far, the United States are expected to have little trouble eliminating Yugoslavia, while the Italians are firm favourites to eliminate

The United States won the junior men's World Championship in 1979 and 1983, but were dethroned in the 1987 final by Yugoslavia, Italy has never won the World Championship.

The likely finalists coaches were full of praise Friday for

Italian coach Mario Blasone, "has the best talent and they are very well coached. They have a big tradition."

They have come from great schools, great colleges. This is the top basket ball country in the world. So they are the favourite team for this tourna-

Told that the United States team might have been even stronger but for the fact that many eligible players were in Havana for the Pan-Am Games, Blasone shrugged and laughed,

championship.

6,839 higher than the overall league average.

Pan-American Games open live across Cuba, gave its more

than 10 million inhabitants a chance to momentarily forget the growing economic and political pressures facing what is one of the world's last orthodox communist states. Head of the Games' organis-

HAVANA, Aug 3 : Cuba's

President Fidel Castro, making

the shortest and least political

speech of his long career, on

Friday opened the 11th Pan-

American Games, the biggest

international event ever hosted

by the communist-ruled

Caribbean island, reports

letes and compatriots, I de-

clare open the 11th Pan-

American Games. Thank you,

Castro, dressed in his familiar

olive-green military uniform,

told the 35,000 athletes, offi-

cials and invited guests who

filled the brand new Olympic

Stadium built short east of

his fiery, political orations

lasting several hours. He was

scrupulously observing Inter-

competitions held under its

Following a colourful, eye-

catching opening ceremony

and a march past by the 39

national teams taking part.

Cuban high jump world record

holder Javier Sotomayor lit the

Pan-American flame on a pyre

The flags of the IOC, the

on one of the stadium's sides.

Pan-American Sports

Organisation (PASO) and the

national flag of hosts Cuba were

More than 4,550 athletes

from north, Central and South

America and the Caribbean will

be taking part in the 31 sports

scheduled during the two-

week event. The first event to-

day will be the men's

marathon through the streets

ceremony was an attractive

display of historical, cultural

and sporting themes per-

formed by students and

schoolchildren and accompa-

nied by a lively repertoire of

Cuban and Latin American

The ceremony, televised

The well-rehearsed opening

raised side by side.

of Havana.

melodies.

Distinguished guests, ath-

Reuter.

Havana.

auspices.

ing committee, Cuban Vice-President Jose Ramon Fernandez, welcomed the athletes to what he said would be 'Games without luxury or pretension but dignified and wellorganised."

Castro, smiling, stood to acknowledge the crowd's chants of "Fidel, Fidel" and their applause.

The centerpiece of the opening ceremony was a spec-It was a remarkably short tacular human picture screen speech for the veteran composed of 5.000 schoo-President, who is known for lchildren molding coloured cards. It completely occupied the stand facing the main grandstand from which Castro national Olympic Committee and other dignitaries were (IOC) regulations, which forbid watching. any political, religious or With eye-bogling precision, commercial propaganda in

the screen displayed pictorial tableaux of Cuba's most historic cities, the red, blue and with Pan-American logo and the word "welcome" in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish. A series of mass gymnastic

displays by children, students and old-age pensioners closed the opening ceremony.

AP adds : Fidel Castro opened the Pan American Games, and in what could well be a turning point for the world's lone island of hard-line communism, Cuba welcomed Americans for the first time in 32 years. If he did not exactly em-

brace the United States, Castro at least accepted its people and their dollars into a country whose economy is crumbling even more quickly than its rococo 1950s architecture. "Distinguished guests, ath-

letes and countrymen," he said at Friday night's opening ceremonies." I proclaim the 11th Pan American Games inaugurated. Thank you very much."

It may have been the shortest speech of his reign as President of Cuba. And while the crowd received him en-

thusiastically, there was an un-

dertone of worry. "Cubans don't want the Pan Americans," goes the joke-ofthe- week among its people. "They want Pan Americano."

"Pan" is Spanish for bread. At a cost of more than dirs 100 million, perhaps as much as Cuba has in its entire national reserve, the Cubans have got the Pan American Games, like it or not. With them, the Games have brought more than 10,000 foreign visitors, about 2,000 of whom are Americans. There haven't been this many Americans in Cuba since Castro took over from Batista in 1959. and they've got their dollars. with them.

The opening ceremonies were a precursor to two weeks of Games involving 39 countries in 31 sports. The actual Games began Friday and, right away, it was the United States vs. Cuba in men's basketball.

"When the US plays Cuba in basketball, I expect an enormous outpouring for the Cuban team," said ABC sports commentator Brent Musburger.

There are no tickets for the events. The Cuban people get in free until the building or stadium is full. Just another line they must endure. The others, though, are for daily necessities like bread. Gasoline and toilet paper.

The Cuban organizers put together a colorful, wellorchestrated opening ceremonies. They were highlighted by the card section, which spelled out the names of each country as it marched into the stadium and showed pastoral island scenes and the ornate architecture of old Havana.

Political slogans were conspicuously missing at the new 35,000-seat Pan American Stadium.

The US team marched into the stadium wearing drab gray shirts, khaki pants and blue baseball caps. They waved to the crowd, but the crowd didn't wave back. There were no boos, no cheers. The Cubans just seemed to watch. After all, few had ever seen so many Americans together in one place.

Europe lures Argentine stars agreed. They only paid indications of the way the eco-



BUENOS AIRES. Aug 3 Argentina's new football hero Gabriel Batistuta, top-scorer in the Copa

America with his country last week, has become the latest to quit the country for rich pickings in Europe, reports

Argentina's 10th title in the South American championship has speeded the haemorrhage of talent. Even goalkeeper Sergio Goycoechea, another national hero, agreed recently to join French Second Division side Brest, playing against largely part-time opponents.

Batistuta, the blonde haired 22-year-old striker with Argentinian championship finalists Boca Juniors, will move to Fiorentina in Italy at the end of next season.

Boca officials said a fee of four million dollars had been

250,000 dollars for Batistuta after he was dropped by River Another of Boca's interna-

tionals, striker Diego Latorre, agreed to go to Fiorentina before the Copa, but Batistuta's price has almost certainly been inflated by his six goals in the championship. Diego Maradona, now in

disgrace over drug taking, was one of the first to move to Italy after establishing himself as one of the world's greatest players by leading Argentina to victory in the 1986 World Cup.

Of other current national players. Diego Simeone plays with Pisa and Claudio Caniggia is with Atalanta, both in the Italian championship.

But Goycoechea's 1.15 million dollar move from Racing Club to the Franch Second Division is one of the biggest

nomic crisis has hit Argentinian football. Brest were forced down a

division by the French Federation because of their own debts. A sponsor is footing the bill for the Argentinian because Brest are banned from making new signings themselves.

"Life is difficult in Argentina," said Brest president Francoes Yvinec "Some professionals there do not even get the equivalent of the legal minimum wage in

France." Goycoechea, Argentina's first choice goalkeeper since 1988, was expected in the west of France port on Wednesday and could start playing this week against

Cuiseaux-Louhans, one of the part-time clubs which make up half the Second Division.

US, Italian cagers on collision course

Italy and twice world titleholders the United States appear to be on collision course for a showdown in Sunday's finals at the World Juntor men's Basketball Championship, re-Judging on the form of the

Argentina.

the other team. "The United States," said

ment."

saying: "They do ? Kill us?"

But the Americans are not counting on a walkover. Italy is the only team apart from the United States to have won six straight game at this

"Italy are an outstanding No replacement was named. basketball team", said head U.S

(and) they do a great job defensively, " he added.

WLAF chief quits NEW YORK, Aug 3: Mike Lynn, president of the World League of American Football,

resigned Tuesday, reports AP. Lynn, who took over as president of the league on Oct. 10, 1990, said his continuing association with the Minnesota Vikings of the NFL played a part in his decision to step down. Lynn is part of a group seeking NFL approval of a new Vikings ownership control ar-

"The position of World League President should he held by someone without National Football league club affiliation," said Lynn, who has been with the Vikings in some capacity for nearly two decades.

rangement.

Lynn said he believes strongly the league will suc-

"I have always believed in the enormous potential of American football on the in-

ternational level," he said. " think our first season proved not only the viability of the project, but the solid promise of escalating growth throughout the world.

WLAF games attracted an average of 33,113 fans to games in Frankfurt, London and Barcelona, the league's European cities. That was

SOCCER SCENARIO

Ban on Brest withdrawn PARIS, Aug 3: The French football league on



Friday allowed Brest, who were relegated to the Second Division and banned from making new signings because of huge debts, to take on Argentinian goalkeeper Sergio Goycoechea, reports AFP. The 1.1 million dollar fee for racing club of Argentina is coming from a local

businessman who has kept brest out of the bankruptcy court in recent months. Other French clubs have complained about the transfer because they are owed money

Goycoechea by Brest. Goycoechea, one of the stars of the Copa America winning side, is one of many Argentinians to leave because of the economic crisis in their country.

Staunton joins Aston Villa

IRMINGHAM, Aug 3: Irish national defender Steve B Staunton, transferred from Liverpool to Aston Villa on Friday for a fee of 1.1 million pounds (dirs 1.7 million). reports AP. Staunton, who signed a three-year contract, was the

second player to leave 18-time English League champion Liverpool in 24 hours following the sale of Peter Beardsley to Everton for 1 million pounds (dlrs 1.6 million)

"I'm delighted that the signing has finally been completed," Staunton said. "Aston Villa are a big club and I hope that I can be just as successful with them as I was with Liverpool." "Despite being only 22, Steve has a great pedigree," Atkinson said. "He has already won a host of top honors and I hope that he can achieve great things with

Rash of sendings off feared

IRMINGHAM, England, Aug 3: English soccer managers said on Friday that new FIFA rules for professional fouls could provoke a rash of sendings off in the coming season. reports Reuter.

FIFA introduced new rules last month requiring referees to send off a player who makes a deliberate handball to deny a scoring opportunity. This could include a goalkeeper leaving his penalty area to

handle the ball. Leeds manager Howard Wilkinson, chairman of the newly-formed Managers Association, criticised the rules after meeting league officials referees, managers and players. "These new FIFA edicts will inevitably lead to more

sendings off and it's probably that goalkeepers will suffer "Problems encountered at the beginning of last season will be repeated, and for what? "Wilkinson said

"Referees used to administer the laws. It seems the laws now administer referees," he said.

Aussies aim to lift their game champions," he said. "May be it qualified from Australia for the BRISBANE, Aug Pollard said the new plan,



France.

2: Tennis Australia President his country's tenbecome complacent and taken their compatriots' past glories

In announcing the details of a multi-million dollar, five-year corporate plan for the sport, Pollard said on Friday that Australia has fallen behind may of its rivals. The country that produced all-time greats like Rod Laver.

John Newcombe, Margaret

for granted, reports AP.

Court and Evonne Goolagong, has no one rated in the top 30 on either the men's ATP Tour or the Women's Tennis Association circuit. "We thought we had a production line and that success

was something that would

happen automatically." Pollard Tennis became complacent after Australian players were successful in the 50s, 60s and 70s. The players assumed they'd become world champtons, believed it was their

right." Nine men and nine women

main draw at Wimbledon this year - but none was good Geoff Pollard says enough to be seeded. Pollard said Tennis

JENNIFER CAPRIATI

upset seventh seed Barbara

Paulus for each the quarter-fi-

nals, regrouped and provided

more of a challenge in the sec-

She broke Martinez twice

nis players have Australia, the game's domestic governing body, needs to become more efficient in all ar-



PAT CASH eas if Australia is to regain its position of international

Pat Cash, who won Wimbledon in 1987, is the only Australian-born player to win a grand slam singles title in the past decade.

to be finalized in September. will set strategic goals in areas including participation, facilities, player performance, administration, coaching officiating marketing and promotion.

the plan still has to be finalized he said. "Tennis in Australia has a proud history and a great future, but we need to be able to

out there," Pollard said. There is a huge pool of talent and we've failed to capitalize on it. Getting grass-roots involvement and improving facilities are part of creating

tennis on a regular basis. Pollard said he hoped to see juniors learning to play on all four surfaces used in Grand Slam tournament - grass. hard-courts, clay and synthetic

"When we had clay courts in real athlete, a Greg Norman, to get the flow-on." Australia we used to produce

him back in the match at 4-1. All of the sudden it's 4-3 and Pescolido, who upset No 3 Michael Chang in the second round, won a first-set

> "Today my serve was the best I've served in quite at a while," he said." I was going for it. I wasn't serving that well at the beginning of the match and it brought back some memories.

tent than it had been in

reading his serve wrong."

BROOKLINE, Mass, Aug 3: Seventh-seeded Andres Gomez of Ecuador outlasted Soviet teenager Andrei Medvedeve 6-1, 6-7 (13-11), 6-3 to reach the semifinals of the US Pro

feated Eric Amend 6-2, 6-4. Earlier. No 5 Jimmy Arias

6-3 win over fourth-seeded Ronald Agenor. The two battled through 12

Arias had complained

In the final two games,

Capriati said. "I felt like nothing was going wrong in the first set. I served well and my shots were going in." Grabb, 6-3, 6-1.

fewer clay courts today." Pollard said Australia already had appointed former players Bill Bowrey (national coach) and Tony Roche (Davis Cup selector) to key positions and said his organization will The exact cost of adopting be seeking to involve more

added to the 1991-92 meet the challenges that are Australian tournament schedule to encourage the development of young players, he said. "We have to become more professional across the board," he said. "We don't have unlim-

future stars. "Tennis needs to become more user-friendly, with better facilities at all levels." One in eight Australians,

over two million people, play

Rebound Ace.

Meanwhile, it was a payback time for Pete Sampras on Shuzo Matsuoka of Japan sent Sampras home from the Canadian Open last week with three-set victory. On Thursday however, Sampras was in control throughout, re-

ports AP.

captured a first-set tiebreaker and moved on to a 7-6 (8-6).

to convert the first match "I just played well today."

ports Reuter.