

TORONTO, Aug 11: Top-seeded Gabriela Sabatini. in pain from a huge blister on

her left foot, withdrew from her semifinal match in the Player's Challenge tournament against Jennifer Capriati on Saturday, reports

Sabatini withdrew with a 3-2 lead in the second set after Capriati won the first set 6-4.

"It just started to hurt at the end of the first set and I wasn't able to run," Sabatini said. " I had some padding put on it after the first game of the second set but it still hurt too much.

" I'll have a couple of days' rest now and have it treated and it will be fine for next

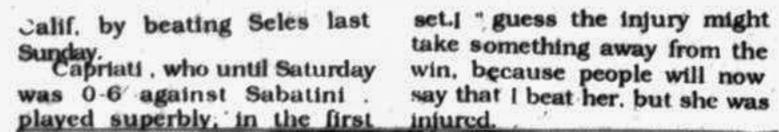
Sabatini said the blister was some four centimeters (2.5 inches) in diameter and had probably come up because this was her first hard court tournament since March.

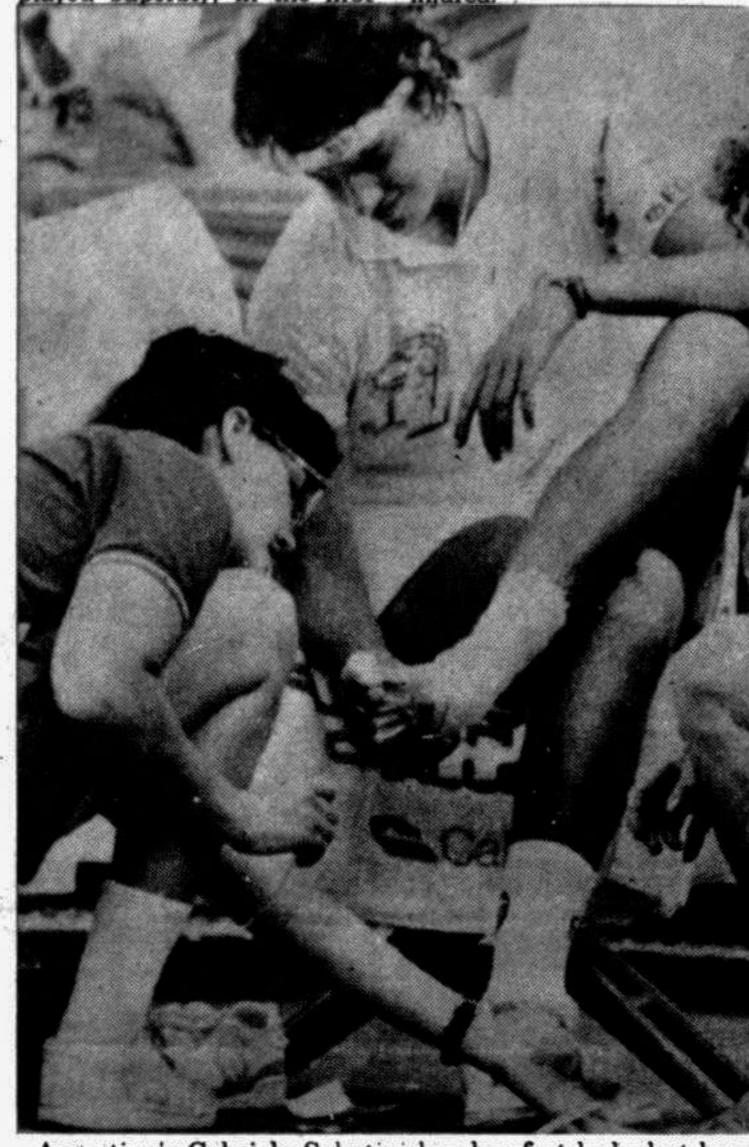
The 21-year-old Argentine called a physiotherapist for an injury timeout after Capriati won the first game of the second set. She broke Capriati's serve in the fifth game of the pulling out. The injury ends Sabatini's

chance of becoming the world's top-ranked player before the U.S Open starts. Currently third behind Monica Seles and Steffi Graf, Sabatini could have reached No. 1 by winning this tournament and at Los Angeles next week.

Sabatini said she would still play at Los Angles, and will be at Flushing Meadow, N.Y. when the U.S Open starts Aug.

The third-seeded Capriati advanced to her second straight final, having won the Mazda Classic in San Diego, Calif. by beating Seles last





Argentina's Gabriela Sabatini has her foot looked at by a trainer during her match with American Jennifer Capriati at the Canadian Open in Toronto Aug 10. A painful blister on her left foot forced top seed Sabatini to quit the match allowing Capriati to advance to the But I felt I was playing well, and I won the first set, so was happy with how things were going."

KATERINA IN FINAL

Capriati, who beat reigning French and Australian Open champion Monica Seles in last week's San Diego final, will play Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria in today's final.

The fourth-seeded Maleeva also won a shortened and match when she beat her older sister Manuel a Maleeva-Fraginere for the first time in eight tries when the secondseed retired in the middle of their match due to an inflamed tendon in her playing shoul-

Katerina Maleeva won 6-

4.1-0. "I knew Manuella 's shoulder was bothering her and it's hard to play either sister," said the 22-year-old Maleeva of the troubles hindering her 24year-old sister. " I wanted to get it over with as quick as possible and didn't care if I won or lost."

Earlier in the week. Katerina Maleeva had defeated the third and youngest of the family's tennis playing siblings Magdalena Maleeva.

Maleeva-Fragniere of Switzerland had been receiving treatment and taking pain killers for the shoulder problems all week.

" I didn't think I would have to default, but it was getting worse, she said.

After a competitive opening set, Sabatini was slowed by the injury on her left foot which was treated by the trainer after the first game of the final set.

"If there was something to get the blister better, I wanted to play to play. I never thought about losing," said Sabatini, who defends her U.S Open title in two weeks.

Sampras faces Forget in ATP final



U.S Open champion Pete Sampras won a battle of Grand Slam

winners Saturday night by knocking off French Open champion Jim Courier 6-2,7-5 to advance to the finals of the dlrs 1.3 million ATP

Championship, reports AP. Sampras, the seventh seed, will take on France's Guy Forget in Sunday's final Forget, enjoying the best season of his 10-year pro career, surprised top-seeded Boris Becker 7-6, 4-6 6-3 in the

first semifinal. "My game is pretty good right now. I'm playing with a lot of confidence," Sampras said after beating Courier, the No. 4 seed. "I think I'm on a

Sampras made the semifinals by eliminating secondseeded Stefan Edberg, the de-

fending champion, 6-3, 6-3. "He was really focused, really playing with a purpose." Courier said. " He played well, and he deserved to win."

Forget, seeking his first U.S

title, frequently has played doubles with Becker: until Saturday, Becker was the senior partner.

The last couple of matches we played were getting closer It wasn't like I was beating him eastly," said Becker, the toprated player on the men's tour.

"I guess it was just a question of time when he was going to beat me once hopefully he's not going to beat me again."

Forget, 26, has been a winner this year at Sydney and Brussels. Prior to that, he had won just three tournaments, all in France, including Toulouse in 1986 -20 years after his father, Pierre, and 40 years after his grandfather.

Paul, also won there. "I think this kind of court suits my game," Forget said of the Decoturf II courts, similar to ones used at the U.S Open.

"I've always enjoyed playing the top guys you've got nothing to lose. "I try my best. If I win. It's not a matter of life and death."

Forget said it may have hurt Becker to take a month off following Wimbledon.

"When a match gets long and it gets hot, I think he gets tired before me, Forget said. He's a more powerful player

Becker said he was encour-

loss, was surprised how well I played all week after not playing for four weeks," Becker said. "Of course, I would have liked to go out a winner. But the last time I lost a semifinal

worth dirs 170,200 to the winner. A win by Forget could cost him some of the anonymity he has come to rel-

walk around with my wife and

in his first nine season as a

seventh. Becker thinks he knows why Forget has improved.

"He has calmed a lot off the court, probably because of his wife and (2-year-old) child, and that makes him calmer on

"His problem was that he got so nervous that he couldn't play anymore. For the last eight or nine months, he has kept his head all the time, and I believe it's because of his wife and his child."
Forget agrees.

"Since I got married and have a family, now I play for my

Sampras played solidly despite missing a lot of first serves to beat the current

dent even though I was serving mediocre," said Sampras, winner of the Los Angles tour stop last week. "Jim was not playing as well as he'd like. He's capable of playing better tennis."

Courier managed just one break point in the match and failed to captalise on that opportunity in the second game

Halard, Fernandez clash in final

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico, Aug 11: Top-seeded Julie Halard of France and second-seeded Gigi Fernandez will be seeking the first major title of their respective careers today when they meet in the of the 150,000-dollar Virginia Slims of Albuquesque women's tennis tournament,

dez beat fellow American fourth-seeded Susan Sloane 6-3,5-7,6-2 in the other semifinal.

South Africa battled from the baseline all the way to 4-4 in the last set.

Halard got the lone service break of the final set to lead 5-4 and wrapped up the match with a forehand winner on her

and happy to be playing in the final, "Halard said.

Spurs hold Gunners 0-0 Weah goal keeps

-Star photo

row up front, worked hard on

a hot, Sunny day and often

linked well with Vinny

Samways as the midfielder

chance for Nayim in the 36th

minute but Arsenal goalkeeper

David seaman made a superb

block with his leg to keep out

the Moroccan-born mid-

second half with Arsenal's

Tottenham's Pat Van Den

Hauwe both booked for wild

trol with Merson a constant

mained few and far between

although the Norweigan

Thorstvedt did save coura-

geously at Smith's feet to deny

the Arsenal striker in the 75th

threat on the let wing.

Arsenal gradually took con-

But scoring chances re-

Tempers flared early in the

Rocastle and

The two carved out a clear

pushed forward.

fielder's header.

challenges.

minute.

George Weah led French league leaders Monaco to a 1-0 victory over Lyon on Saturday. the fifth win in as many matches for the club from the principality, reports Reuter.

Weah, the league's top champions Marseille.

Marseille were held to a disappointing goalless draw by ambitious Paris St Germain on

Weah. African player of the year in 1990, converted a from Portugal's Rui Baros to score the only goal of a one-sided match against Lyon, but missed several other

chances.
Monaco's victory was a timely present for veteran goalkeeper Jean-Luc Ettor, in his 500th league match

Sotomayor's new Pan-Am mark



HAVANA, Aug 11: won the silver and Sotomayor's Cuban high jumper Javier Sotomayor failed to break his own

world record at the Pan American Games in Havana on Saturday but the hosts, cheered on by an upbeat and smiling President Fidel Castro, swept further ahead of the United States in the gold medal race, reports Reuter.

Castro, who celebrates his 65th birthday on Tucsday, was present for one of the major upsets of the Games when Cuba's women basketballers beat the United States 86-81 in a semifinal match denying the Americans the gold medal for the first time since 1983.

The bearded Cuban President, looking his most relaxed for months, led the crowd in a wave of support for the women.

Cuba's success at the Games, in which they are 20 gold medals ahead of arch rivals the United States at the start of the last week, has been a major political boost for Castro as he battles to hold the country together as one of the world's last orthodox communist states.

Sotomayor, Cuba's most popular athlete, dedicated the attempt to break his own world record to Castro, but he had to be content with just a Pan American Games record and the gold medal.

The 24-year-old champion, who saw his wife Maria Del Carmen win the silver medal in the women's high jump earlier in the week, made three attempts at 2.45 mctres, one centimetre more than his world mark of 2.44 metres.

He was urged on by the stadium crowd chanting, "Yes, Yes, you can do it".

Sotomayor almost cleared the height at the first attempt but just brushed the bar and held his head in disappoint-

He told reporters after the record attempt: "I felt good. wasn't really thinking about the world record but it would have been great to break it in front of my home crowd."

Sotomayor took the gold medal with a leap of 2.35 metres beating his own games record of 2.32 metres set four years ago in Indianapolis. Troy Kemp of the Bahamas

HAVANA, Aug 11: Cuba de-

livered a 1-2 punch to U.S.

gold-medal aspirations in

women's basketball and diving

Saturday, while an American

boxer found that fighting

Cubans wasn't the only way to

lose at the Pan American

United States 86-81 in the

semifinals of the basketball

tournament, and the long faces

of the U.S. women told the

the moment," said Teresa

Edwards, who sat on the

bench with her head in her

hands after it was over. "Just as

you soak up the victories, you

have to soak up the losses, and

For the first time since the

that's what I was trying to do."

1982 World Championships.

the American women went

home without the gold. They

had won eight straight interna-

tional titles since then, includ-

ing two Olympics. Cuba plays

Brazil for the title on Sunday.

while the United States faces

also won the men's 10-meter

platform diving, ending 16

years of U.S. Pan Am domina-

second here for the U.S.

women. They lost in the first

round to Brazil, ending a

streak of 42 straight major in-

ternational victories, but this

Cuba took the lead for good

loss ended their major streak.

with 8:42 to play, inspired by

15,000 screaming Cubans, who

were joined in their celebra-

tion by Cuban President Fidel

was its shooting. The U.S.

women went 5:42 of the first

half without a field goal as

Cuba took the lead. Cuba led

37-34 at halftime and 51-44

with 14:24 to play. The United

States went on a 9-2 run for a

53-53 tie with 11:27 to play.

but that was the last hurran for

loss was in the 1982 World

Championships to the Soviet

The last U.S. tournament

The United States' problem

A Cuban, Rioger Ramirez.

The basketball loss was the

Canada for the bronze.

tion in the sport.

Castro.

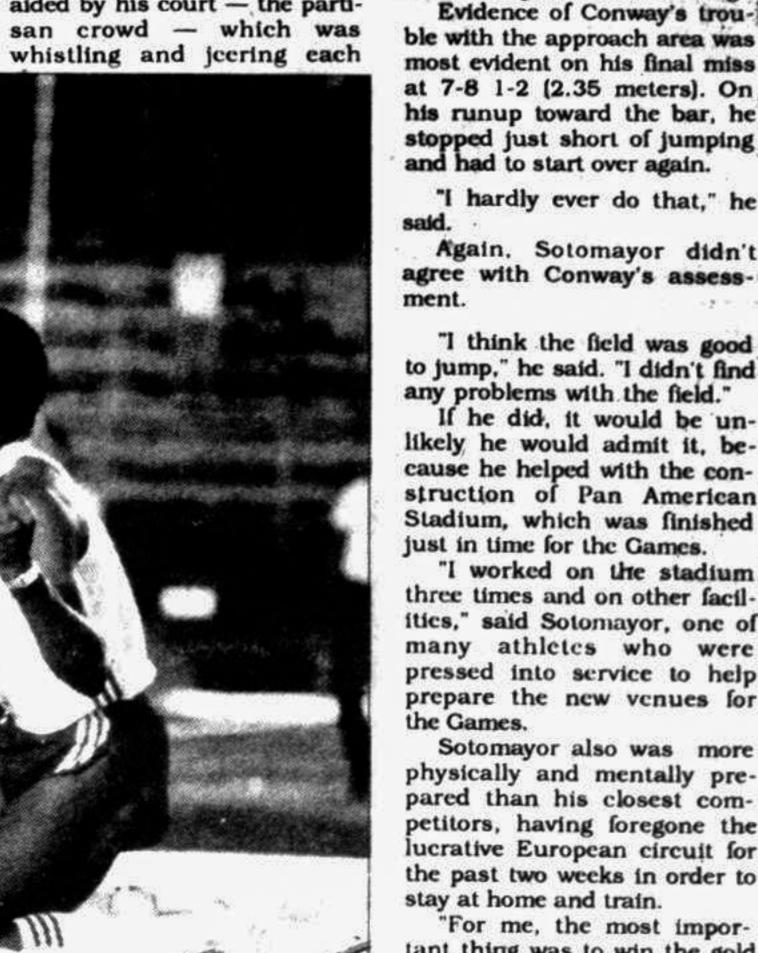
"I was just trying to soak up

The Cubans eliminate the

Games, reports AP.

close rival Hollis Conway of the United States the bronze. They both cleared 2.32 metres but Kemp needed fewer attempts

The king might have been aided by his court - the partisan crowd - which was



Javier Sotomayor of Cuba celebrates his new Pan-American Games record in Havana on Saturday. to get to the height. time his two closest rivals,

Sotomayor, known as "Soto" to his fans, set the world record on July 29, 1989 in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

But soon after a nagging injury to the knee and heel of his jumping foot kept him out of competition for more than six months.

Treated by Cuba's top doctors and guided by his coach Guillermo De La Torre, Sotomayor this year had made a successful come-back to international competition.

He jumped his best height this year, 2.40 metres, in the south of France in July.

AP adds: Afterward, when Conway finished his interviews with the media and Sotomayor entered the room, the American jokingly said, "talk to

Cubans compound US misery

Union in the gold medal game.

complained of crowd noise at

the pool complex. But they

hadn't heard anything yet.

When Cuba won its first Pan

Am diving gold medal, the new

steel girders shook with jubi-

Ramirez ended a U.S. domina

tion of Pan Am diving that had

dated back to 1975. When he

sliced into the water on his

10th and final dive of the plat-

form competition, the score-

board flashed a score of 63.

Jesus Mena of Mexico won

giving him 560. 79 total.

The victory by 17-year-old

Mexican and U.S. divers

Conway and Troy Kemp of the Bahamas, jumped. The Cuban dismissed such

an idea, saying, through a translator, the crows was making noise toward Conway and Kemp "because they were my competition. That happens in every meet."

Conway, however, didn't

"I let the crowd get to me," the travel - weary Conway said. "The jeering bothered me. I thought about the crowd instead of jumping.

"I have had people clap and cheer for me. But I never had people whistle at me - except women.

Conway also complained about the slippery runway surface, saying he had to borrow a pair of shoes from Canadian

rude, it was bad. After that

dive. I didn't feel like diving

CASTRO THE WINNER

games has been President

But the biggest victor of the

Nine days after he opened

what is the biggest interna-

tional event ever hosted by the

Island diplomats and analysts

agree the game have turned

out far better for Cuba than

The Cuban hospitality and

victories in the event shave

helped Cuba's international

image, said Wayne Smith.

anyone could have hoped.

anymore."

Cory Siermachesky, so he could compete without falling.

Evidence of Conway's trouble with the approach area was most evident on his final miss at 7-8 1-2 (2.35 meters). On his runup toward the bar, he stopped just short of jumping and had to start over again.

"I hardly ever do that," he

Again, Sotomayor didn't agree with Conway's assess-

"I think the field was good to jump," he said. "I didn't find any problems with the field."

likely he would admit it, because he helped with the construction of Pan American Stadium, which was finished just in time for the Games. "I worked on the stadium. three times and on other facil-

ities," said Sotomayor, one of many athletes who were pressed into service to help prepare the new venues for the Games. Sotomayor also was more physically and mentally pre-

pared than his closest competitors, having foregone the lucrative European circuit for the past two weeks in order to stay at home and train. "For me, the most impor-

tant thing was to win the gold medal in the Pan American Games," he said.

Sotomayor's record-breaking performance and victories by men's triple jumper Yoelvis Quesada and women's 400meter intermediate hurdler Lency Montelier gave the Cubans 15 golds in track and field and helped them regain the overall lead in medals from the United States, 38-37, with one day remaining.

The only American gold Saturday went to Tony Washington, the U.S. champion in the men's discus, with a throw of 213 feet, 5 inches... (65.06 meters), his career,

Quesada took the triple jump at 55-11 3-4 (17.06 meters), Montelier the hurdles in 57.34, while the day's other gold medalists were Martin Pitayo of Mexico in the men's 10,000 meters in 29:45.49, and Eronildes Nunez of Brazil in the men's 400 hurdles in ...

MEDALS TABLE

Following is the Pan American Games medals table : (Through Saturday, Aug 10) (186 total medals) B Tot

United States 64 52 188 42 31 165 Cuba 30 55 Canada 9 9 24 42 Mexico Brazil Colombia 10 12 24 Venezuela Argentina Dominican Rep Puerto Rico Jamaica Nicaragua Chile Trinidad Bahamas Ecuador



Cuban President Fidel Castro (C) participates in the "wave" while watching the Pan-Am Games women's basketball semi-final between Cuba and the US Aug 10 at the Latinoamericano Stadium in Havana, Cuba won 86-81 assuring at least the silver medal. - AFP photo

former head of the U.S. inter-

the silver with 544.08, and Patrick Jeffrey of the United States, won the bronze with rently the director of Cuban 539.73. Both Mena and Jeffrey asked and were granted redives when crowd noise interrupted their concentration. "It had to be stopped."

Jeffrey said. "It has no place in diving. Someone let out a real shricking whistle as I left the platform, and my whole dive was a split second off. It was ests section in Havana and cur-Studies at John Hopking of Advanced School International Studies.

As a welcome distraction from their daily hardships. Cuba's sports-mad public have lapped up the unprecedented blanket television coverage of their favourite athletes.

Boxer-of-month TURMERO, Venezuela, Aug

11: The World Boxing Association (WBA) have named That Khaosal Galaxy the boxerof-the-month for July following the successful defence of his junior-bantamweight title against Venezuelan David-Griman in Bangkok on July 20.

Host punchers set to sweep it clean sponding to a question said on Saturday. US fighters split stronger puncher landing



the Americans.

Cuban boxers kept on course Saturday to win all 12 gold medals at the Pan

while their main rivals the The first US loss of the day Americans were eliminated was to Brazilian flyweight Claudio Freitas, who beat John from a fourth weight division, Herrera when the referee stopped the fight with about The Cubans, who have yet to 40 seconds left in the third

lose a bout, won both of their and final round. fights - in the flyweight and light middle-weight divisions

Freitas, 24, by far was the

flyweight and flyweight divi-

head-snapping rights to their bouts, winning a light Herrera's head and knocking middleweight fight against him down with a right cross to Venezuela on a close decision the head in the third round. and losing a flyweight, light Moments later a hard left to the head staggered Herrera. 22, and not long after that referee Jaime Vargas of Venezuela stopped the fight. "He caught me a couple of

times," Herrera said. "I waited too long (to get going) and he was more aggressive. Herrera, from Texas, re-

very hot, "the heat here both-Ravea Springs kept US hopes alive in the light middieweight class when he won a close points decision over a

Martinez of Venezuela. The fighters spent the first round probing for openings, and the Canadian got inside Springs's jabs and began land-

tough, classy-looking Jose

ing hard shots.

the final.

side Arsenal failed to beat in the First Division last season, both league fixtures finishing Tottenham also swept Arsenal out of the F A Cup with a 3-1 victory at Wembley last

Wembley, reports Reuter.

each holding for six months.

Arsenal had the better of a competitive game but, with the league programme still a week

April before lifting the trophy

for a record eighth time by

beating Nottingham Forest in

Arsenal striker Alan Smith did get the ball in the net with a header from Paul Mersons

away, lacked sharpness up

Narayanganj vs Patuakhali DSA match of the fourteenth national hockey champion-ship in

progress at the Hockey Stadium yesterday Narayanganj won 5-4.

LONDON, Aug 11:

League champio-

ns Arsenal once

again failed to get

north London

the better

rivals Tottenham Hotspur on

Saturday, drawing 0-0 in the

English Football Association (F.

Charity Shield match at

They now share the trophy.

Tottenham were the only

It was only the second time the Charity Shield match, first contested in 1908, has finished goalless.

cross after 22 minutes but was

Arsenal striker Kevin Campbell should have scored in the 17th minute. Paul Davis's superb pass

sent him clear of the Tottenham defence but the 21-year-old lost his composure and sliced over from eight metres as goalkeeper Erik Thorstvedt came off his line. Tottenham, deprived of the

mercurial skills of long-term injury victim Paul Gascoigne. employed a five-man midfield and played some neat football. England captain Gary Lineker, ploughing a lone fur-

than me, but I think he was getting a little slower at the aged by his play, despite the

here (1989) I won the U.S Open." Sunday's title match is

"In France, some people know me," Forget said. " But in the United States with all the great athletes, you really have to be someone like Boris to get all the people around you. I can

my kid and enjoy myself." He didn't crack the top 10 pro. but currently is ranked

the court, Becker said.

family."

French Open champion.
I'm feeling pretty confi-

of the final set.

reports Reuter. Halard outlasted sixthseeded Fina Reinach 6-3, 3-6, 6-4 on Saturday while Fernan-

Halard and Retnach of

second match point.
I was lucky to win today,

Monaco ahead PARIS, Aug 11: Liberian

marksman, scored his sixth goal of the season as early as the third minute as Monaco moved two points clear of second-placed Metz and reigning

reports Reuter.