Top seeds sail on



28 : Top seed Boris Becker led the top five men the second round of the US

Open Tennis championships on Tuesday, but Ivan Lendl was lucky to be among the survivors, reports Reuter.

The fifth-seeded Lendl was taken to the brink of first round elimination by hardserving 19-year-old Dutchman Richard Krajicek, who had the three-time champion on the ropes but could not deliver a

knockout punch. Second seed Stefan Edberg, eager to avoid the first round humiliation he suffered here last year, also had some tense moments before beating 124th-ranked American Bryan Shelton 6-4, 2-6, 7-6, 6-1.

The second-ranked Swede fought off three successive set points in the third set to force the tiebreak and gain control of the match.

"It sort of took me nearly two hours before I found any rhythm," a relieved Edberg said. " I didn't want to lose today after what happened last year."

All three of this year's Grand Slam winners kept alive their chance of adding a second major title.

A bearded Becker, who first became number one in the world after winning the Australian Open in January, defeated Argentine Martin Jaite 7-6, 6-4, 6-4 as a glowing orange sun set behind the National Tennis Centre.

Becker, the 1989 champion who claims to have regained his motivation after suffering defeat in the Wimbledon final to fellow German Michael Stich, was sharp for a first round encounter.

French Open champion Jim Courier, seeded fourth, dropped his serve just once on the way to a 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 win over Niclas Multi of Sweden.

Stich was taken to a first set tiebreak before rolling to a 7-6, 6-1, 6-0 win over Dutchman Jacco Eltingh. Stich, who has more accs than

28: The Stadium

Court at the US

Open had it all

Tuesday night -

Connors

After a marathon match

McEnroe, disputed line calls,

an unruly crowd and, above all,

New York crowd firmly in his

third game of the fourth set.

after Connors had rallied to

take the third set and was

looking to go up a break in the

with an ace and a service win-

ner to erase a double-break

point, when another first serve

was called good for an ace by

the line judge even though

television replays showed it

two earlier line calls, crupted,

demanding that chair umpire

Ivan

US Open first-round comeback

victory on Tuesday, reports

said Lendi, after his 3-6, 2-6,

6-4, 6-0 comeback left

Richard Krajicek exhausted

and sick to his stomach. "I just

enjoy winning more than los-

ing so I just try."
The combative spirit of the

31-year-old Lendi of

Czechoslovakia has been a

powerful weapon in helping

him collect 91 career singles

1984 when he won the first of

his eight Grand Slam singles

titles by rallying from a two set

deficit to beat John McEnore

to take the last three sets to

beat American Malivai

Washington in a second round

tion is feared and respected by

free point, said second seed

Stefan Edberg, who lost to

Lendl last weekend in the

Lendl's dogged determina-

"He's not going to give you a

This year he charged back

in the French Open.

match at Wimbledon.

His iron will surfaced in

"I just don't like to lose,

drove fifth seed

through searing

heat to a gripping

Lend

Connors, who had disputed

was several inches wide.

McEnroe had just come up

That moment came in the

corner.

fourth.

great tennis, reports AFP.

anyone on the men's tour this year, blasted 18 past Eltingh.

Promising American David Wheaton, seeded 11th after reaching the Wimbledon semifinals, advanced with a 6-0, 4-6, 7-6, 6-3 win over Australian Davis Cupper Richard Fromberg and ninth seed Sergi Bruguera rallied from two sets down to beat fellow Spaniard Tomas Carbonell.

Women's first round play went according to expected with one minor upset when 14th seed Nathalie Tauziat of France fell to Argentine Florencia Labat 7-5.

In a night match, four-time champion Martina Navratilova, 34, and the No 4 seed, seemed to enjoy her 6-2 6-2 romp over Argentine Patricia

Ivanisevic, Prpic won't play for Yugoslavia

BELGRADE, Aug 28: Yugoslavia's top tennis players Goran Ivanisevic and Goran Prpic, both from the breakaway republic of Croatia, have said they will not play for Yugoslavia in the Davis Cup semi-final against France on September 21-23 at Pau, reports AFP.

The Croatian news agency Hina reported Tuesday that the players' decision was taken because of what it called the "Aggression against Croatia" by Serbian and government

Yugoslavia's non-playing captain Radmilo Armenulic confirmed the non-availability of the two players in the Wednesday edition of the daily newspaper Borba claiming that they been ordered to make their decision by the Croatian authorities.

"I know what they really think. But they are being forced to hide their true feelings," he said.

Armenulic said he would wait until Sept 9, before posting the Yugoslav team.

Crowd pulls Connors thru'

"It was a real pleasure to be out there," said Navratilova, who had not played a tourna-

ment match since Wimbledon. Earlier fourth seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain blew out Italian Katia Piccolini 6-0, 6-1. Fifth-seeded American Mary Joe Fernandez and eighth seed Conchita Martinez of Spain also easily advanced.

Most of the day's drama was provided by Lendl, whose superior conditioning, nerves of steel, vast Grand Slam experience and French foreign legion hat helped him to survive, while Krajicek wilted in the blistering heat.

"I said to myself 'this is my court, if I go down, I go down kicking," said Lendl, who reached eight consecutive finals here between 1982 and 1989. "I'm not going to roll over for anybody.

When Krajicek began to falter in the tiebreak after well over three hours in the stadium court heat, Lendl knew the Dutch teenager, who wore no protective headgear, was on his last legs.

Krajicek, whose booming first serve was consistently clocked at over 115 MPH (185 KPH) could barely move in the

"I was dead. I felt the sun burning right through my head," Krajicek said. "I was rushing because I just wanted to get off court so badly."

Jaite gamely tried to extend Becker, but was no match for the three- time Wimbledon champion on a fast surface.

The Argentine broke Becker to level the third set 4-4, but the top seed broke right back for 5-4 and served out the match, ending it with an emphatic overhead smash. Becker was pleased with his

performance. "From beginning to end I served always good. It was pretty good tennis for the first

But Becker knows there is a lot of hard work ahead.

"Of the four Grand Slam tournaments, this is the toughest one to win," he said.

The final game was a mi-

crocosm of the entire match.

with Connors falling behind 0-

40, only to rally back to deuce

and triumph on the third set

point - a service winner that

McEnroe deflected into the

Afterward, Connors re-

"The crowd won it for me,"

McEnroe, who was playing

sets behind the chair umpire.

ceived a standing ovation from

the crowd to whom he gave all

he said, adding, "They pulled

on the Stadium Court for the

first time, confessed that he

had underestimated his oppo-

match," he said, "But that's

when Jimmy Connors is his

most dangerous. Obviously, he

got a second wind. Its a great

was a factor, McEnroe re-

sponded: "I expect it to be like

that. If I were in the crowd I'd

have been rooting for him.

looked bleak in the third set.

said. "Once I got on the board

and broke at 3-2 then by game

lifted, by racket felt better, my

feet felt better and I was play-

"I hate to lose more than

"I'll know when it's time to

stop playing. But I won't stop if

I can keep going out their and

doing this to the crowd."

ing more like I should have.

like to win. I enjoy the grind."

But he refused to give up.

Connors admitted things

"It wasn't looking good," he

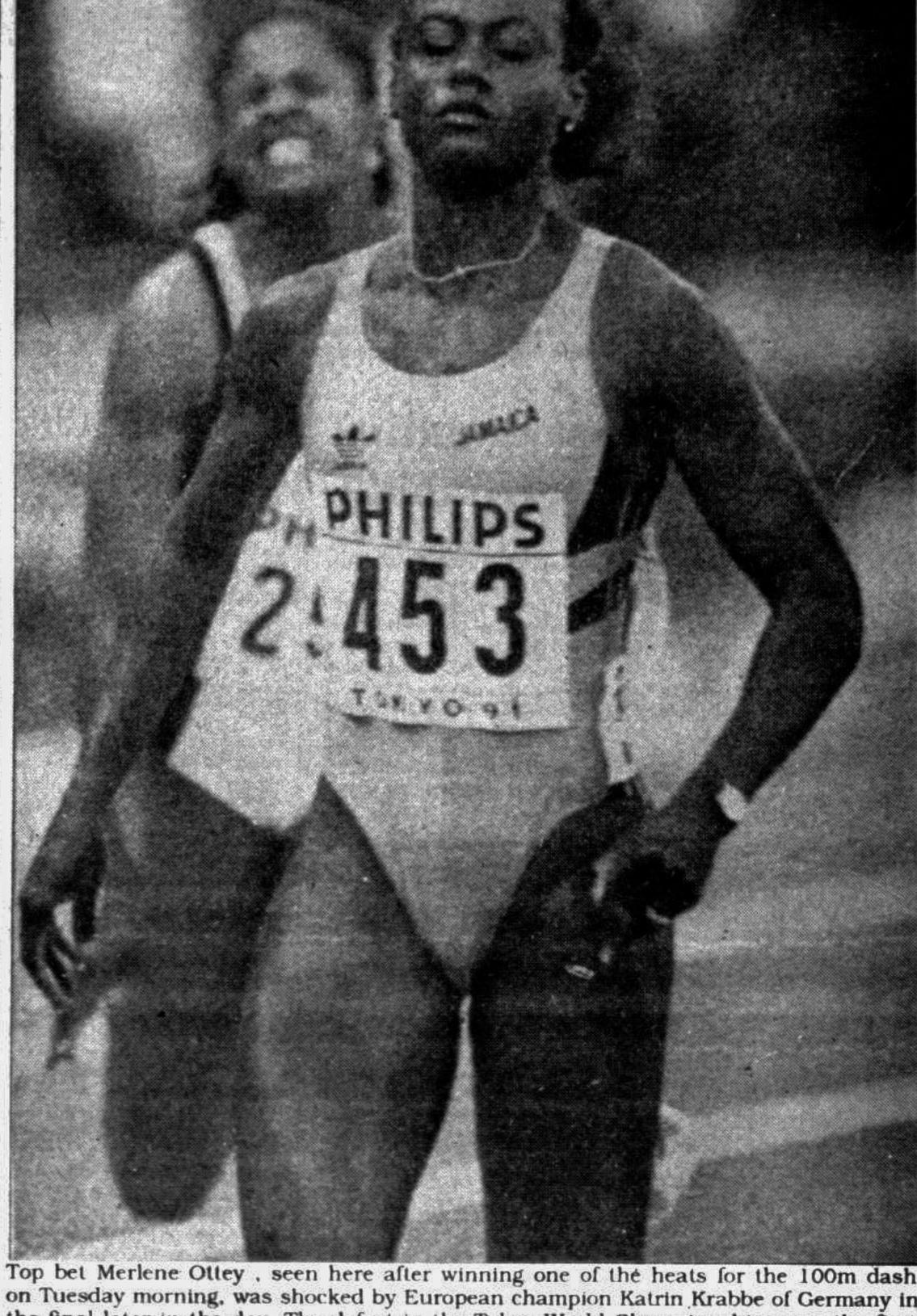
Asked whether the crowd

comeback for him.

"I thought I had won the

me through this match."

the credit.



on Tuesday morning, was shocked by European champion Katrin Krabbe of Germany in the final later in the day. The defeat in the Tokyo World Championships was the first for the Jamaican sprint queen after a winning streak of 56 races. - AFP photo

English booters defy drug tests

LONDON, Aug 28: Drug tests in English football have been abandoned until further notice after objections from the Players' Union, reports

The Football Association tried to introduce the mandatory checks on the opening day of the season at the Chelsea-Wimbledon match, but the players refused to take

Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, said "We urged our members not to co operate because neither ourselves nor the managers had been consulted and we were not made aware of the methods of testing, the banned substances or the penalties.

"I've received the support of quite a lot of managers, par ticularly those in the First Division, which has been heartening. Now we intend to liaise with the FA to produce a concise pamphlet on drugtesting."

Rajshahi soccer

Rajshahi Krira and Sangskritick Sangha drew goalless with Sheroil SC in the Rajshahi Coca Cola Super Division football league played yesterday at the Rajshahi Stadium, according to a UNB report in Dhaka yesterday (Wednesday). League champions Allied SC

will meet Diganta Prasari in today's (Thursday) match.

E Bengal new Calcutta champs



CALCUTTA, Aug 28 : East Bengal won the prestigious Calcutta Super Division

league title with a hard earned solitary goal victory over a fighting Eastern Railway at their home ground here today, reports PII.

Needing only one point to regain the title which they had won in 1989, the men in red and-yellow found the spirited railwaymen a hard nut to crak on a slushy ground.

However, East Bengal prevailed over the Railway team which was reduced to a nincmen outfit after the referee sent off two players for arguing

Soviets beat Norway 1-0 KRISTIANSAND, Norway,

Aug 28: The Soviet Union beat Norway 1-0 (halftime 1-0) in a European Under-21 championship Group Three soccer qualifier on Tuesday, reports Scorer: Yuri Tishkov (10th

minutel Standings (tabulate under -

Played, Won, Drawn, Lost Goals For, Goals Against, Points)

4 0 1 3 1

over a disputed spot kick deci-

The winning goal was scored by striker Kuljit Singh just two minutes before the final whistle. Four Bangladesh stars- Aslam, Rumi, Munna Sr. and Golam Chous -- played for East Bengal this season.

The match, witnessed by an overflowing East Bengal crowd, could have ended in an anticlimax had a brilliant attempt by Railway striker Nandapradhan not hit the post after East Bengal custodian Debashis Mukherjee was comprehensively beaten.

However, the estimated 40,000 people in the ground were relieved when Kuljit, after getting a ball from medio Bikash Panji, scored the match-winner with an angular right-footer.

The victory brought East Bengal the toughest league title in the country. The champions accumulated 46 points from 18 matches spread over three months, winning 14 outings and drawing four. They did not concede a single goal scoring 23 in total. With this East Bengal equalled Mohun Bagan's record of 21 wins in the league.

Their nearest rivals Mohun Bagan are to play one more match, but even if they win that match their tally of points will be 43 only.

Arsenal back to winning ways



LONDON, Aug 27 : Swedish winger Anders Limpar was sent off as Arsenal broke

scason's duck at the fourth attempt with a 2-0 home victory over Luton in the English First Division here Tuesday night, reports AFP.

He was shown the red card after relling Luton's Welsh International Mark Pembridge with an elbow off the ball 10 minutes into the second half.

Limpar's dismissal came just five minutes after Alan Smith had scored the champions' second goal, but they comfortably maintained their to the finish.

Paul Merson had shot Arsenal ahead on 18 minutes when he finished clinically after Lee Dixon's pass had been defected to him 10 yards out.

At the opposite end of the capital three players were sent off as the crackdown on the professional foul produced an explosive clash between Crystal Palace and their new tenants, Wimbledon, at Selhurst Park.

The touch paper was ignited, perhaps inevitably, by Wimbledon striker John Fashanu before Palace won 3-1.

He was carried off with a torn thigh muscle following an ugly challenge on Richard Shaw just three minutes after notching his third goal in as many games in the 10th minute.

in the 33rd minute Palace goalkeeper Nigel Martyn was dismissed for brining down Robbie Earle out of his area and England winger John Salako took over the green jer-

Mark Bright equalised in the third minute injury time and two minutes later Wimbledon defender Terry Phelan was shown the red card for punching a bright header off the line. Wimbledons' misery was compounded when Andy Gray thumped home the resultant penalty.

The drama did not end there, however, Wimbledon's Vaughan Ryan being ordered off in the 81st minute and early pulling a goal back three minutes from time.

There was no such Drama to Liverpool, where record 2.9 million pound signing Dean Saunders scored his first league goal for the injury-ravaged mersey siders to secure a 1-0 home triumph over Queen's Park Rangers.

The Welsh International

clinched the points with an unstoppable, left-footed 20yard drive in the 61st minute:

In the Skol Cup third round the shock of the night was the 2-0 defeat of premier division St Johnstone at first division High Flyers Ayr, who reached the quarter-finals with firsthalf goals form Greg Shaw and Ally Graham.

Celtic also went behind to first division opposition in Raith, but they recovered to triumph 3-1.

Two goals in the last 18 minutes from Gerry Greaney and Steve Fulton put paid to the part-timers' gallant challenge after Alan Mackenzie had headed them into a 22nd minute lead.

Ernesto Brazil's caretaker coach

RIO DE JANEIRO, Aug 28: Brazil, still looking for a permanent replacement for sacked soccer coach Paulo Roberto Falcao, named unheralded Ernesto Paulo as care taker trainer on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Paulo, who will continue his current job as trainer of Rio De Janeiro Club Botafogo, takes charge of Brazil for their friendly international against Wales in Cardiff on September 11, the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) said.

CBF director Jorge Salgado said a permanent trainer would be chosen later, probably in the second half of next

Paulo is expected to call up foreign-based stars such as Careca, Mozer, Taffarel and Romario for the Welsh game. The squad will be named on September 2, Salgado said. Paulo, 37, took over as

Botafodo coach, his first coaching job at senior professional level, two months ago, previously, he coached at youth level with various Rio clubs. Falcao was sacked seven

days ago following a disagreement with the CBF after just over one year in charge. Results under Falcao were disappointing by Brazil's standards, with five wins in 15 full internationals.

Brazil are desperately trying to re-establish themselves as a major soccer power. They were knocked out in the second round of the 1990 World CUP finals and finished second in the South American Championship this year without ever performing convinc-

Juventus to go allout



ROME, Aug 28: Juventus, desperate for their first league title since 1986, have grabbed centre stage

in the build-up to Italy's new soccer season which kicks off on Sunday, reports Reuter.

After a disastrous season in which they finished seventh in the league and failed to qualify for European competition for the first time in 28 years, the Turin team has been stripped down and rebuilt for the coming campaign. Nothing less than the

championship will satisfy new coach Giovanni Trapattoni and the man whose word is law at Juventus: Gianni Agnelli, boss of the Flat car company. "We've started from the

bottom and now we'll see what happens. Agnelli cautiously told reporters last week. He and striker Roberto

Baggio - the world's most expensive player who cost Juventus 13 million dollars last year - have come to an agreement, he added. "I've told him I'll sack his if we don't win the champi-

onship this year, and he's agreed, smiled Agnelli. This could indeed turn out

to be Juventus' year.

Of the other teams in Italy's big-four, champions Sampdoria will be the team everyone wants to beat while AC Milan and Internazionale may be held back by injuries. Two of Internazionale's trio

of Germans, Adreeas Brehme and Lothar Matthaeus, have fitness problems and may not last the season out. Brehme has been troubled

by a thigh muscle injury while Matthaeus has knee trouble. Doubts also persist about

Milan's Dutchman Ruud Gullit who has had four knee operations in the past two years. Juventus themselves are bubbling with confidence after

the return of Trapattoni, who guided the club to six league titles between 1976 and 1986. Striker Salvatore Schillaci,

who failed to impress last season after his success as leading scorer in the 1990 World Cup. attributes his return to form in pre-season games entirely to the former Internazionale

"His arrival has been fundamental in my improvement, he said. Last season was a total disaster but that's all changed

Juventus have strengthened their suspect defence by buying Bayern Munich players Juergen Kohler and Stefan Reuter and have brought back in an executive role Giampero Boniperti who was president of the club in its glory years.

Early results have been impressive. Juventus won cight out of nine friendlies in August, culminating in a thrilling 2-1 win over Milan last week

Overall, the league itself may lack a touch of its usual sparkle this year, with Diego Maradona gone from Napoli and no obvious successor in sight to assume his twin roles of soccer genius and media

Of the newcomers, the most expensive close season signing has been David Platt, the 25-year-old English international midfielder who moved to Bari from Aston Villa for 9.45 million dollars last Platt quickly earned respect

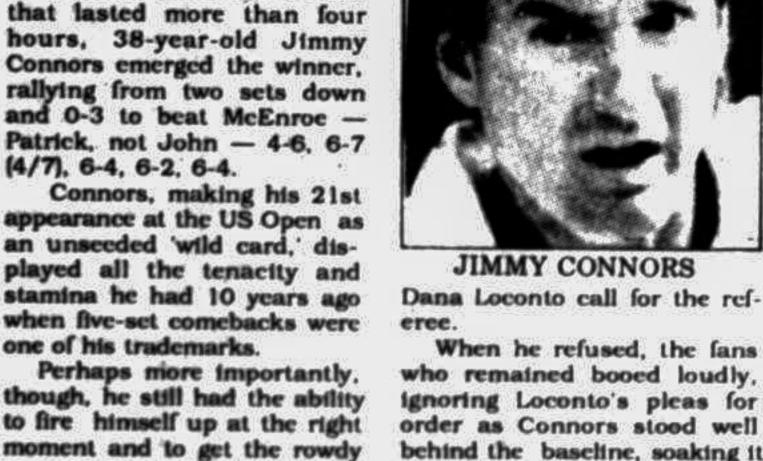
on the pitch with hat-tricks in two consecutive friendlies though his more recent from has been less impressive - and he has cuddled up to the notoriously fickle Italian press with a string of gushing compliments.

"Sorry England but I like Italy more every day. He told approving Italian reporters last week.

Lazio midfielder Thomas Doll, bought for some nine million dollars from Hamburg, has already shown signs of combining well with Giovanni Storoppa formerly of Milan.

But last season's knee injure to England international Paul **Gascoigne** has deprived Lazio of what they had hoped would be their real crowed-puller The 24-year-old Tottenham

midfielder will join Lazio for a reported 8.8 million dollars, providing the regains full fitness, but will not play for the Roman team until the 1992-93 season.



who remained booed loudly. ignoring Loconto's pleas for order as Connors stood well behind the baseline, soaking it

Amidst the commotion, McEnroe found the poise to' serve and win the game, but it was the beginning of the end for the younger brother of Flushing Meadow's favourite bad boy.

Connors won the next five games to draw even at two-sets apiece and bring the crowd to its feet. The several thousand spectators who had stayed would be glad they had.

Connors broke McEnroc's serve in the third game but McEnroe fought on bravely to the very end, turning the final set into a pitched battle.

Lucky Lendl survives a close call Hamlet Challenge Cup final. "He'll work as long as the sees

there is a chance to get back

into the match." Though bombarded by the Dutchman's blistering serves and strong volleys through the first two sets, Lendl never considered abandoning hope.

Even when he he was down double match point against Krajicek's serve at 5-6 in the



two years, Spaniard Arantxa Sanchez Vicario says she is ready to win, reports Reuter.

"I think I am playing really well on the hard court now and I have a lot of confidence," said the fourth-seeded Sanchez Vicario after opening with a 6-1, 6-0 runway win over Taltan Katia Piccolini on Tuesday.

"It's a possibility, for the first time, I can say I can win."

Learning the game on her country's clay courts, Sanchez Vicario gained initial fame in 1989 by winning the world's foremost clay court title - the

fourth set, Lendl found strength in the rapidly deteriorating fitness of his opponent. Lendl saved the first match

point with a return winner. With Krajicek unable to move after more than three hours in the blazing heat, Lendl raced through the last set in 19 minutes.

"I always felt I could come back," Lendl said.

French Open - with a stunning upset of world number 28 : After reaching the US one Steffi Graf. Open tennis Sanchez Vicario reached semifinals and the French Open final for the quarters the last second time this year when she beat Graf in the semifinals

> before losing to Monica Seles. But the 19-year-old has also been adding a stronger serve and more aggressive groundstrokes to round out her game for faster surfaces. She prepared for the

courts by winning last week's Virginia Slims of Washington and two weeks ago reached the Virginia Slims of Los Angeles semifinals. "I am more aggressive and I can finish the points at the net, said Sanchez Vicario,

who scored 11 volley winners

against Piccolini.

National Tennis Centre hard



American Carl Lewis (R) raises his arms in triumph after setting a new world 100 metres record in Tokyo on August 25.