

Kabaddi final today

The final match of the Dhaka Kabaddi league between Mirpur Jubo Sangha and Sonali Bank Club will be held today at the Outer Stadium kabaddi court.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain Khoka will witness the match as chief guest.

Shah Sports soccer
Sports Reporter

Ganoktoli Eleven moved into the semifinals of the second Shah Sports football tournament beating Kheloars Kalyan Samity by a solitary goal yesterday at the Hazaribagh Park ground.

Jahangir's plea rejected

KARACHI, Pakistan, Aug 30 Pakistani squash authorities have turned down a request by former world champion Jahangir Khan for neutral referees at the Pakistan Open, reports Reuter.

A Pakistan Squash Rackets Federation (PSRF) officials said on Tuesday that Pakistani former international players would referee at the tournament starting on September 11.

Jahangir, beaten in the recent World Championships and Australian Open, launched a blistering attack on the Australian referees when he returned home on August 15.

He called for professional referees and said Pakistan should take the initiative by inviting neutral referees from England to supervise the Pakistan Open and avoid criticism.

The PSRF official said Rodney Martin of Australia, who defeated Jahangir in the World Open at Adelaide, had decided not to take part in the tournament in Karachi.

Australia's main hopes would be left-handed Chris Dittmar, Chris Robertson and Brett Martin.

The eight top-seeded players in the championships are: Jansher Khan and Jahangir Khan of Pakistan, Chris Dittmar, Chris Robertson and Brett Martin of Australia, Ross Norman of New Zealand, Mark McLean of Scotland and Adrian Davis of Wales.

Base Zahur BAF soccer champs

JESSORE, Aug 30 : BAF Base Zahurul Hoq team clinched the title of Bangladesh Air Force inter-base football championship beating BAF Base Phar Kancharpur team 3-1 at BAF Base Matur Rahman here Thursday an ISPR press release says.

The first half ended goalless. After the breather, Zahur Base got a penalty shot which was admirably intercepted by Phar Kancharpur goalkeeper Rafi. Immediately after this, Imdad of Base Zahur scored the first goal from a melee equalised by Zahur of Phar Kancharpur in the 16th minute. Shaheen of Base Zahur, a few minutes later, netted from a free kick (2-1). Masum completed the score before five minutes of long whistle (3-1).

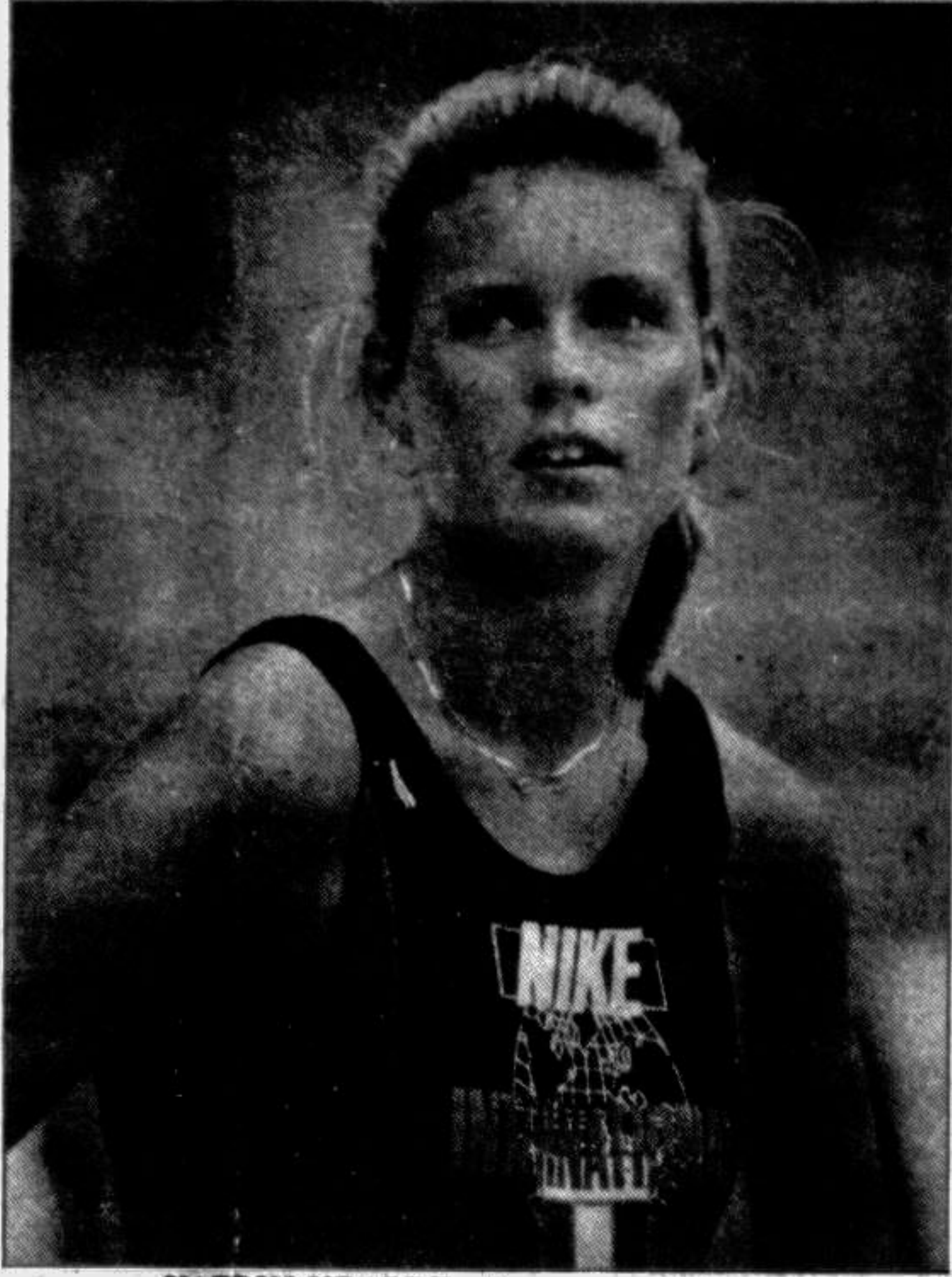
Rafi was adjudged the best player of the championship. Air Officer Commanding of the local air base Air Commodore Rasheed Ahmed witnessed the final as the chief guest and later gave away the prizes.

Another jewel in Krabbe's crown



TOKYO, Aug 30: German sprint star Katrin Krabbe became the new "queen of the track" when she added the 200-metre world title here Friday to her 100m title won earlier this week, reports AFP.

The blond haired Krabbe, who has become Japan's latest pin-up, dethroned Merlene Ottey of Jamaica with two stunning runs that left the helpless Ottey without a gold medal despite her brilliant career.



KATRIN KRABBE...the new sprint queen

Krabbe was crowned this evening when she surged ahead of the bend and turned the rest of the race into a victory procession reaching the line unchallenged.

Owen Torrence of the United States, who came second in the 100m final Tuesday, collected a second silver while Ottey repeated her 100m third place.

Meanwhile Reuter adds, Soviet sprinter Irina Silyusar became the second athlete to fail a dope test at the championships, officials announced on Friday.

They said a urine sample taken after her 100-metres second round heat on Monday, when she placed third, showed she had taken the substance Strychnine.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) said they had asked the Soviet Federation to suspend Silyusar from competition pending a hearing.

The IAAF said Strychnine, a deadly poison which can be used as a stimulant in minute doses, would normally involve a three-month ban.

Silyusar was eliminated in the semifinals 800 metres runner Delisa Floyd would be banned for four years for failing a dope test which showed she had taken amphetamines.

Unlike amphetamines, stimulants do not fall under the IAAF's new rule increasing the automatic ban from two to four years.

In the women's 400 metres hurdles, European Champion Ledovskaya blasted out from the start and was still ahead at the 10th and last flight.

Sally Gunnell was well in contention at this stage but she was forced to adjust her stride, shuffled slightly, and lost the chance to win Britain's first gold medal of the Championships.

American favourite Sandra Farmer-Patrick fared even worse. She landed heavily on her right foot, lurched across into Gunnell's lane and finished out of the medals.

The men's 400 metres was classic tactical exercise.

Black, the European champion, gamled on starting fast and holding on in the final straight.

He led off the final curve, but desperately as he fought, he could not hold Pettigrew, called on all his reserves to fight his way back to the front for the United States sixth

gold medal of the Championships.

"This is my greatest victory ever," Pettigrew said.

"I didn't get out like I was supposed to but coming off the turn I gave it everything I had. I said to myself 'Okay, let's go, I wanted this one so badly.'"

The Soviet Union head the medals table with six golds, five silver and six bronzes while the United States have gathered six golds, three silvers and five bronzes.

Liz McColgan won Britain's first gold medal of the Championships with a runaway win in the women's 18,000 metres.

The Olympic silver medalist moved doggedly to the front and burned off all her potential challengers to win by more than 200 seconds from Chinese Zhong Huanli.

Another Chinese, Wang Xuiting, took the bronze.

O'BRIEN'S GOLD
Meanwhile, Dan O'Brien revived U.S. decathlon supremacy when he flirted with world record prospects to win the 10-sport event at the Championships Friday.

He won the title with 8,812 points, below the world mark of 8,847 set by Britain's Daley Thompson in winning the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.

Commonwealth champion Michael Smith of Canada took the silver with 8,549 points and Germany's Christian Schenk, who had not been beaten since he won the 1988 Olympic gold, settled for the bronze with 8,394 points.

Almost unnoticed in the feverish excitement surrounding the long jump, the women's field assembled for the 200 metres final.

The decathletes had to battle a variety of weather conditions as well as each other when competition started on the sixth day of the Championships.

Even an ailing Bubka is unbeatable



TOKYO, Aug 30: Sergei Bubka and Greg Foster demonstrated on Thursday just why they are two of the fiercest competitors in sport when they won their third consecutive titles at the World Athletics Championships, reports Reuter.

Ukrainian Bubka, battling a painful foot injury, faced a humiliating exit from the men's pole vault, the event he has ruled since his first world title in Helsinki eight years ago.

The greatest pole vaulter in history rose magnificently to the challenge, clearing 5.95

metres with only his fourth vault to take the gold in a competition lasting four hours 20 minutes.

Foster needed a desperate lunge at the finish of the men's first positive drug test of the Championships.

FLOYD TESTS POSITIVE

Delisa Floyd, the US women's 800 metres champion, returned a positive test for an amphetamine and will become the first track and field athlete to serve an automatic four-year ban for a serious drug offence.

Bubka's performance was probably the most remarkable of a career which has seen him win two earlier world titles

and one Olympic as well as set 28 indoor and outdoor records.

In all on Thursday he took just four vaults, and succeeded with only his first and his last.

He opened with a deceptively easy clearance at 5.70 metres but, as he later revealed, he was already in severe pain with a heel injury.

Bubka had a painkiller in his hand to pip teammate Jack Pierce for the gold medal in a race in which the two Americans could not be separated on time. Both clocked 13.06 seconds.

Soviet girl wins 100m hurdles



TOKYO, Aug 30: Lyudmila Narozhilenko of the Soviet Union overcame American miracle girl Gail Denvers-Roberts to win the women's 100m hurdle final here Friday, reports AFP.

The lanky Soviet, winning her first major medal outdoors, timed 12.59 secs.

But it was the 12.63 clocked by Gail Denvers-Roberts, who was bedridden only six months ago, crippled by a severe thyroid problem.

"Of course I would have loved to win but one mistake

cost me the gold. I hit the seventh hurdle with my trailing leg and that was it. It was that close," said Denvers-Roberts.

"I didn't even know I was second until my coach yelled it out to me. Tonight proves that miracles do happen," she added.

To make sure she had a chance to make the American team Denvers-Roberts lifted weights as she lay in bed to gain strength, and by the time the US champions came round, despite little track practice she still managed to take first place.

"I just took things a day at a time," she explained.

Narozhilenko's teammate Natalya Grigoryeva of the Soviet Union took the bronze in 12.69 secs.

Narozhilenko, who has been hampered by injuries all season, suffered no problems tonight as she led coming the final hurdle.

"Despite the injuries everything was geared towards the world title. I peaked at exactly the right time," she said.

Grigoryeva was disappointed with the bronze and blamed a late bus from the athletes village.

"I definitely expected to be second I was nervous because our bus was late," she said.

men's 400 metres while Soviet Tatyanna Ledovskaya led from the gun to take the women's one lap hurdles.

As the dramas unfolded in the stadium, International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) officials announced the election before the competition but it had worn off with the contest not yet halfway through.

"I thought I had pulled a muscle," he said.

After another injection he failed with attempts at 5.90 and 5.95 and faced finishing out of the medals if he failed again.

Bubka was determined not to repeat his failure at last year's European Championships. Knees pumping, he pounded down the runway and launched himself over the bar as the camera flashbulbs exploded around the stadium.

"Nobody's going to beat Sergi at the moment," second place Hungarian Istavan Baglya said ruefully.

Foster, now 33 and balding, trailed Pierce out of the blocks in the 110 metres hurdles but came back strongly to hold a clear lead at the 10th barrier.

Pierce then made a late dash for the line but Foster just dipped to take the title. "I don't know what to say," Foster said, before going on to bellow his words. "We both ran a great race. I'm 33 now it really does not get better with age."

"I definitely expected to be second I was nervous because our bus was late," she said.

SA gymnasts can contest in world meet.

MOUTIER, Switzerland, Aug 30: South African gymnasts are eligible to compete in next month's World Championships in the United States, a top official of the sport's ruling body said on Thursday, reports Reuter.

But Norbert Bueche, general secretary of the International Gymnastic Federation (FIG), said they would first have to get permission from their own National Olympic Committee.

"As far as we are concerned there is no problem, and it is all clear for them to take part," he said.

"South Africa has been a member of the FIG since 1947 and all they need is a decision by their National Olympic Committee giving them permission to participate in the World Championships. That is their problem."

With the dismantling of apartheid, South African has been accepted back into several international sports organisations after years of isolation although the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) recently decided not to readmit the Republic.

The IAAF congress said the South African Amateur Athletics Association had not yet demonstrated sufficient unity.

An earlier report said, whether South African athletics may compete in the World Gymnastics Championships will not be decided until two days before the competition begins Sept 6, an official said

Thursday, reports AP. "We realise this is somewhat inconvenient for the South African athletes," said Mike Jacki, executive director of the US Gymnastics Federation.

Jacki said the team was expected to arrive in Indianapolis on Friday, and the International Gymnastics Federation's executive committee would meet Wednesday to vote on whether they will be allowed to compete.

South Africa last appeared in the gymnastics championships in 1966 before it was banned from international

competition because of its apartheid system of racial discrimination.

That decision followed the International Olympic Committee's lifting of an Olympic competition ban after South Africa began dismantling apartheid. The ban must also be lifted by the governing bodies of each sport.

"We were really caught off guard by the decision by the IOC," Jacki said. "It would have been better if they had said there was a six-month moratorium."

A month later, athletes began pouring into Indianapolis

to prepare for the competition, which is qualifying event for the 1992 Olympics. The top 12 teams will compete next year in Barcelona.

"We just didn't have enough time to properly respond. This is an extremely sensitive issue with significant political ramifications," Jacki said. "We were just really put in a very awkward position."

Jacki said the gymnastics governing body had planned to send a delegation to South Africa to determine whether the programme met certain criteria.

Nurul Amin dead

NAGAON, Aug 30 : Mr Nurul Amin, a prominent sports personality of Assam, died of cardiac arrest at his residence here on Thursday. He was 73, reports BSS.

Mr Amin was the former president of the All India Football Federation, former vice-president of the Olympic Association and former vice-president of School Games Federation of India.

He was the only Assamese to play for Calcutta's Mohammedan Sporting football team.



Germany's Steffi Graf serves Catherine Mothes of France on August 29 at the US Open. Graf won 6-0, 6-0 in 43 minutes. — AFP photo

A cakewalk for Graf

NEW YORK, Aug 30: Top seed Steffi Graf blitzed a helpless Catherine Mothes of France 6-0, 6-0 to gallop into the third round of The U.S. Open tennis championships on Thursday, reports Reuter.

The two-time champion from Germany may have had a noon lunch date, or perhaps she was in a hurry to escape the sweltering heat, as she blew through what amounted to a second-round "practice session" in 39 minutes.

It was the first shootout, or as they say in New York "Double bagel," of the year's final Grand Slam event now in its fourth day.

Graf again showed no sign of problems from the shoulder injury that had kept her sidelined since she was forced to pull out of Federation Cup in mid-July. She appeared to be swinging freely and with abandon, her much feared forehand as strong as ever.

Graf has now played two matches with the loss of a total of three games.

The top-ranked woman player in the world, who ended what was for her a lengthy Grand Slam drought by winning Wimbledon this year, raced through the first set in 18 minutes.

She even tried her hand at a bit of uncharacteristic serve and volley, receiving a warm ovation from the packed grandstand crowd at the National Tennis Centre with each successful venture to the

net. The match was yet another prime example of the lack of depth in the women's draw where the disparity between the top players and the rest of the field is so huge that there are precious few interesting matches before the fourth round or quarter-finals.

In the second set, the 114th-ranked Mothes resorted to hitting high, looping "Moon Balls" in an attempt to slow the Steffi steamroller. But the score and time of the match is indicative of how successful that tactic turned out to be.

"I went out there trying to concentrate on every single point," said Graf, who had 31 winners to two for Mothes. Graf said Mothes simply did not have any weapons to hurt her. "The thing she didn't have were the strokes to make the points. I would have had to make the mistakes."

Eighth seed Conchita Martinez, who helped Spain win its first Federation Cup title this summer, also had a relatively quick trip to the third round, beating Indonesian newcomer Yayuk Basuki 6-3, 6-4.

In the opening stadium court match, French Open champion Jim Courier became more dominant with each set as he cruised past fellow American Jimmy Arias 6-3, 6-2, 6-0.

Arias, a member of that lost generation of near-misses and underachievers of American

men's tennis of the mid-to-late 1980s, came face-to-face with the new breed in Courier, who has collected his first Grand Slam title at 21, and Arias just could not measure up.

Courier hails from the Andre Agassi school of tennis, with his thundering forehand groundstrokes from the baseline that handcuffed the 63rd-ranked Arias, a semifinalist here in 1983, who has never gone past the third round since.

The big difference of course is that Courier is very much alive in his quest for a second Grand Slam title this year, while Agassi went out in the first round.

"I'm playing really well and serving really well," said the confident fourth-ranked Courier. My concentration has been really high. I'm in peak form from right now.

For both the match was mercifully short—one hour 38 minutes—given the conditions of extreme heat, high humidity and a level of smog that usually leads to advice to avoid unnecessary exercise.

Temperatures were in the mid-90-degree range (35 C), and on changeovers ballpersons held umbrellas over the combatants to provide some shade, if only briefly.

Courier said his new-found notoriety as a French Open winner has already had its advantages at the Open.

"It's nice to play on the big courts early and avoid the mayhem of the outer courts."

Sampras, Courier march on

NEW YORK, Aug 30 : It's all so easy for Pete Sampras at the US Open, and all so hard for him off the court, reports AP.

Give him fortune without fame, respect without responsibilities, and he'll be happy to hit tennis balls forever.

Sampras, a manchild at 20, is caught between wanting to make the US Open his "home away from home" as Boris Becker has done with Wimbledon and feeling he must escape the inevitable celebrity.

He barely strained himself on the court to reach the third round Thursday, then looked so uncomfortable talking about it, as if every question were a volley to his throat.

On a day when fans and players were collapsing in the heat and humidity, Sampras breezed in the shade of the grandstand when his opponent, Wayne Ferreira, quit with a sprained ankle while losing 6-1, 6-2, 2-2. The abbreviated match lasted about as long as Sampras' first-rounder, a straight-sets romp in which he yielded only five games to Christo van Rensburg.

Sampras, the youngest US Open men's winner in history last year, seems poised to go for the title again. His 125-mph (200-kph) serves are kissing the corners as they did a year ago, his volleys are

crisp and his legs don't hurt the way they did most of the year after his victory here last September.

The first few months after winning the Open last year, he said, were "just utter chaos" as he bounced from exhibition to exhibition, talk show to talk show and one interview and reception after another.

"Maybe it was a bit my fault," he said. "Maybe I didn't control the situation the way I should have. But you live and learn about these things."

Yet he is caught in a contradiction here in one of the media capitals of the world, insisting that he would "like to make the US Open be my home away from home."

Becker wouldn't mind making the US Open his second home. He won here in 1989 and is looking strong this year, reaching the third round with a 6-0, 7-6(7-4), 6-1 victory over Alexander Volkov.

Volkov upset Stefan Edberg in the first round last year, but couldn't cope with Becker's power or quickness to the net. "I could sense after I won the tiebreaker that the match was over," Becker said. In truth, it looked as if Volkov just quit trying in the final set, either overwhelmed by Becker or the heat, or both.

Ferreira was one of four players who quit in midmatch for different reasons. Courtside temperatures over 100 degrees (38 C) took a toll on

Sweden's Christian Bergstrom, who retired because of heat exhaustion in a match against France's Arnaud Boetsch.

Aaron Krickstein, who upset Andre Agassi in the first round, reached the third round when Jaime Yzaga suffered a strained right knee while losing 6-1, 3-6, 6-1, 3-2.

Thierry Champion retired with a pulled stomach muscle while trailing Anders Jarryd 7-5, 6-2, 1-1.

French Open champion Jim Courier, wearing his familiar baseball cap to block the sun, needed only 1 hour, 39 minutes to beat Jimmy Arias 6-3, 6-2, 6-0.

Courier, the fourth seed, looks as comfortable on the hard courts at the National Tennis Center as he did on the clay at Roland Garros.

"I feel that the hard court is my best surface overall," Courier said. "My game is pretty adept at it. I hit a pretty big serve. I have a pretty good return of serve."

David Weaton, who reached the semifinals at Wimbledon, advanced easily by beating Horst Skoff 6-1, 6-2, 6-2. Wheaton said it's important to get matches over quickly in the heat and humidity, but sometimes would like more of a challenge.

"It's more important here than somewhere like Wimbledon, because the points are shorter at Wimbledon," he said.



The women's 177 event in the national air rifle shooting in progress yesterday at the National Shooting Complex at Gulshan. The two-day meet concludes today. — Star photo