

Martina emulates Chris Evert

MILAN, Italy, Oct 5: Second-seeded Martina Navratilova tied a tennis record as she breezed past unseeded Belgian Sabine Appelmans in straight sets Friday night and qualified for the semifinals in the Milan ladies' indoor tournament, reports AP.

The 6-2, 6-3 victory, in 62 minutes at the Assago Forum, was a record-tying 1,309th tournament victory for Navratilova, 34. She matched the career record of retired

McEnroe bows to Krajicek

TOULOUSE, France, Oct 5: John McEnroe bowed out of the Toulouse Grand Prix tennis tournament Friday, losing his quarterfinal match to Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands, 6-4, 6-4, reports AP.

In other quarterfinals, top-seeded Guy Forget beat Marc Rosset of Switzerland, 3-6, 6-3, 6-3; and Amos Mansdorf of Israel, who upset second seed Magnus Gustafsson in the first round, advanced with a 6-4, 6-4 victory over another Swede, Christian Bergstrom.

In the semifinals, Mansdorf faces Aleksandr Volkov of the Soviet Union, the No. 5 seed. Volkov beat Frenchman Cedric Pielone, 5-7, 7-6 (7-5), 6-2.

The top-seeded Forget, seeking his fifth tournament victory of the year, battled from behind to beat Rosset, the hard-serving Swiss. They may meet again next year in the second round of the Davis Cup if France and Switzerland win their opening matches.

Volkov and Pielone battled on even terms through the first two sets, which lasted nearly two hours. Then the Soviet raced to a 5-0 lead in the third before giving up two games. Then Volkov won on his serve, finishing the match with an ace.

Graf to go on playing despite wrist injury

LEIPZIG, Germany, Oct 5: Steffi Graf said on Friday she would continue playing in the Leipzig Women's tennis tournament after treatment on strained tendons in her wrist, reports Reuter.

The German world number two, who has recently returned from a four-week layoff



STEFFI GRAF with a shoulder injury, flew back to Leipzig on Friday after a 12-hour visit to Heidelberg for treatment.

"I am happy to be back in Leipzig. Everything is okay again," said Graf who plays in the semifinals today.

The 22-year-old Graf, who on Wednesday became the youngest woman to win 500 singles matches in professional tennis, suffered severe pains in her playing wrist during her quarter final victory over Austrian Judith Wiesner on Thursday.

Kenyan govt to probe alleged misuse of cash

NAIROBI, Oct 5: The Kenyan government is to investigate sports officials who were given 300,000 dollars for their team's expenses in the Cairo All Africa Games, following reports that athletes went penniless, reports AP.

The announcement was made by Sports Minister James Njiru, when he met the second batch of the Kenyan contingent who arrived in Nairobi on Thursday from Cairo.

He said the officials "would be investigated and those found guilty would be sacked and tried for frustrating athletes in a foreign country and embarrassing Kenya in front of the world."

The minister said he had personally released the money before the team's departure.

"Why an official was left behind in Nairobi with the money to let our athletes suffer is the question I am going to be told," he added.

Kenyan athletes had also threatened to boycott the

American Chris Evert. Monica Seles, the No. 1 player in the world and the top seed in the tournament, downed Helena Sukova 6-3, 6-4 and could be headed for a meeting in the final with Navratilova.

Navratilova can equal a record of 157 tournament wins, also held by Evert, if she reaches and wins Sunday's fi-



MARTINA NAVRATILOVA in the 1985 Wimbledon tournament.

"I have been playing so many years that a record of match wins is not really important. The tournaments record is more significant and would be nice to set it," Navratilova said after her quarterfinal victory.

"I want to wish all the best to Chris, who's expecting, I believe she cares about that right now," she said.

Navratilova broke Appelmans' serve twice in each set, and lost her own in the fifth game of the second set.

The American player, who took three sets to overcome Australian Rachel McQuillan in the second round Thursday night, served well and successfully volleyed from the net as she overwhelmed the Belgian opponent, ranked 28th in the world.

Navratilova, who defaulted

in the semifinals of the Essen exhibition tournament last week following a pulled thigh muscles said she was fully recovered.

Fernandez, seeded third in the tournament, look more than two hours and struggled to down Bulgarian teenager Magdalena Maleeva 5-7, 6-3, 6-4.

Fourth-seeded Conchita Martinez also won her quarterfinal match, beating seventh-seeded Gigi Fernandez 6-1, 7-5.

The victory by Fernandez came in the longest match in the tournament, who hours and 24 minutes.

Brugera faces Muster in semi

ATIENS, Oct 5: Spain's Sergi Brugera handily defeated Renzo Furlan of Italy 6-2, 6-2 on Friday to advance to the semifinals of the \$150,000 Athens International Championship tennis tournament, reports AP.

Brugera, ranked 10th in the world and the top seed at the tournament, will face Thomas Muster of Austria. Muster defeated Argentina's Guillermo Perez Roldan 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 in quarterfinal action.

In other quarterfinals, Spain's Jordi Arrese overcame last year's winner, Mark Koevermans of the Netherlands 2-3, 6-4.

Arrese will play countryman Francisco Clavel, who beat Sweden's Lars Jonsson 7-6, 6-1.

In doubles action, the Netherlands' Menno Oosting and Finland's Olli Rahnasto advanced to the finals after defeating Holland's Tom Kemper and Michael Mortensen of Denmark 3-6, 6-2, 7-5.

They will meet the winners of Saturday's semifinal between the Netherlands' Koevermans and Jacco Elthling and Ola Jonsson and per Henricsson, both from Sweden.



Goran Ivanisevic — the Yugoslav who has recently pledged his allegiance to the break away Republic of Croatia — returns the ball to American Andre Agassi during the first quarter final of the Australian indoor tennis championships in Sydney on Oct 4. Ivanisevic won the match in tie-break but was eventually disposed of by world No 1 Stefan Edberg in yesterday's semifinal.

Aussie women wrap up series

MELBOURNE, Australia, Oct 5: Australia wrapped up the women's hockey Test series against Britain with a 3-0 victory in the second Test at the State Hockey Centre here Saturday, reports AP.

The reigning Olympic gold medalists maintained their undefeated record against the British side, scoring all three goals in the second half.

Britain offered little resistance to the Australian goal blitz. Striker Kim Rayner drew

first blood for Australia when she converted a short penalty corner 12 minutes into the second half after it deflected off a defender Adn dribbled into the net.

Substitute Shelley Andrews, brought on seven minutes into the second half in only her

Soccer results

MANAMA, Oct 5: Al-Moharrag of Bahrain were held to a goalless draw by Prouzi of Iran in the first leg of the Asian Cup Winners' Cup final here on Friday, reports AP.

The second leg in Teheran will be played on October 18.

second international, scored Australia's second goal four minutes from the final whistle.

Australia's third goal came after some careless backpassing by Britain's defenders, enabling Juliet Haslam to intercept and score the third goal.

Captain Mary Nevill stood out as Britain's best but the heat appeared to take its toll on the visitors.

The win followed Australia's 1-0 victory on Thursday.

Australia — 3 (K. Rayner 47th Minute, S. Andrews 66th, J. Haslam 67th) bt Great Britain — 0. Half — time: Nil-all.

Europeans, Americans crowd quarters

TOKYO, Oct 5: All European, North and South American teams qualified for the quarterfinals of the Bermuda Bowl World Bridge Championship on Friday, reports Reuter.

Defending champions Brazil finished first in one of the two

WTA's top 20

- ST PETERSBURG, Florida, Oct 5 Following are the top 20 women's singles rankings issued by the Women's Tennis Association on Monday, according to Reuter:
1. Monica Seles (Yugoslavia)
 2. Steffi Graf (Germany)
 3. Gabriela Sabatini (Argentina)
 4. Martina Navratilova (US)
 5. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario (Spain)
 6. Jennifer Capriati (US)
 7. Mary Joe Fernandez (US)
 8. Conchita Martinez (Spain)
 9. Jana Novotna (Czechoslovakia)
 10. Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere (Switzerland)
 11. Katerina Maleeva (Bulgaria)
 12. Zina Garrison (US)
 13. Lella Meskhi (Soviet Union)
 14. Helena Sukova (Czechoslovakia)
 15. Nathalie Tauziat (France)
 16. Judith Wiesner (Austria)
 17. Gigi Fernandez (US)
 18. Natalia Zvereva (Soviet Union)
 19. Lori McNeil (US)
 20. Barbara Paulus (Austria)

groups with 254 points after the 14th round of the qualifying stage on the fifth day of the 30th World Contract Bridge team event.

Sweden, Poland and a US (II) side reached the best eight in the same group. In another qualifying contest of the Open event, Iceland took the lead all the way to wing a quarterfinal berth with 254 points.

The remaining qualifiers were Britain, Argentina and a

US (I) team.

In the Venice Cup for women's teams, pre-tournament favourites the Netherlands surprisingly failed to qualify after suffering back-to-back setbacks against Australia and Venezuela.

The Dutch women placed a disappointing fifth with 219 points behind Germany with 221 points in their qualifying group.

Hosts Japan won their first Venice Cup quarterfinal spot, finishing second with 229 points in another round-robin competition. The other quarter finalists were Austria, China, Britain, Taiwan, Germany, US (I) and US (II) squads.

The quarter-finals will be played on Saturday and Sunday.

Final standings at the end of qualifying stage (top four teams in each group qualify for quarterfinals):

Bermuda Bowl:

- Group E:
1. Brazil 254 Points
 2. Sweden 252
 3. Poland 244
 4. US (II) 223
 5. Hong Kong 210
 6. Canada 185
 7. Pakistan 160
 8. Surinam 119

Group W:

1. Iceland 254
2. Britain 241
3. Argentina 217
4. US (I) 213
5. Australia 194
6. Venezuela 189
7. Egypt 175
8. Japan 171

Venice Cup:

1. Austria 254
2. China 242

Bridge Federation office-bearers

A 25-member executive committee headed by Mr. A. Samad, was elected in the annual general meeting of the Bangladesh Bridge Federation, held at the Dhaka Club premises on Friday (Oct 4), says a press release.

The office bearers elected are: President — Mr. A. Samad, Vice-Presidents — M/s. Farooq Sobhan and AK Feroze Ahmed, General Secretary — Mr. AYM Kalimullah, Treasurer — Mr. NC Saha, Publicity Secretary — Mr. KH. Mobinul Islam, Joint Secretaries — M/s. Mahfuzur Rashid and Quazi Habibur Haque.

Seventeen other members were also elected to the committee.

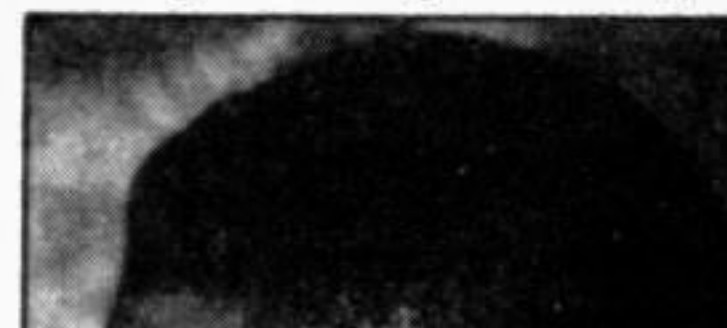
The AGM was followed by an open pair duplicate bridge contest participated by 29 pairs under Mitchell movement; following were the results:

North-South: First-AKM Azizur Rahman and A. Wahab Howlader (63.59 per cent); Second — ABM Ahsanulla and Quazi Habibur Haque (58.72 per cent);

Watson operated upon once again

LONDON, Oct 5: Britain's Michael Watson, in a coma on a life-support machine since a World Boxing Organisation title fight nearly two weeks ago, underwent surgery on Friday to help his breathing, reports Reuter.

Watson, who received brain surgery after his super-middleweight bout against compa-



MICHAEL WATSON triot Chris Eubank on September 21, was given a tracheotomy, opening a hole in his throat.

The surgery to perform the tracheotomy has proceeded uneventfully. Michael is now settled back on the intensive care unit and remains on the life-support machine. There have been no other changes in his condition. A St Bartholomew's hospital spokesman in London said.

Doctors began reducing the level of anaesthetic this week and the boxer had started to respond, but earlier on Friday the hospital expressed concern that this progress had faltered.

Edberg in final at Ivanisevic's cost

SYDNEY, Oct 5: World number one Stefan Edberg denied exciting young power-server Goran Ivanisevic the opportunity to cap an emotional week in a tense semifinal victory at the Australian Indoor tennis championship here Saturday, night, reports AP.

Edberg's famed big match temperament won the night as Ivanisevic, imbued by vociferous Croat support, threatened to steamroll yet another tennis luminary after Friday night's classic win over Andre Agassi.

The unflappable Swede fought back from a set down to get up in two tiebreak sets, 4-6, 7-6 (7/2), 7-6 (7/5) and now shoots for the 122,700 US dollar winner's pay cheque in Sunday's final against American escapologist Brad Gilbert.

Gilbert, the ninth seed, earlier in the day clawed back from seeming defeat to upset third seed compatriot Pete Sampras, 1-6, 7-5, 6-3.

"It was a very tough one. I had to give my best shot to win tonight," said Edberg. "I had problems with my timing in the first set and I did't serve well."

"The three times I broke his serve, he broke back straight away, but I came back and won the match in the end."

The semi was played against a backdrop of an emotional outpouring of Croat support for Ivanisevic, who this week declared his allegiance to the strife-torn Yugoslav state.

Ivanisevic, who slammed down an amazing 27 aces in his extraordinary quarter-final triumph over Agassi on Friday night, came up with 10 unplayable serves on Saturday night, but the Croat's ground strokes were superior and almost brought off a major win.

Edberg grappled with the Croat's thunderbolts and had to survive a Titanic seventh game in the second set when he was extended to six deuces before holding serve.

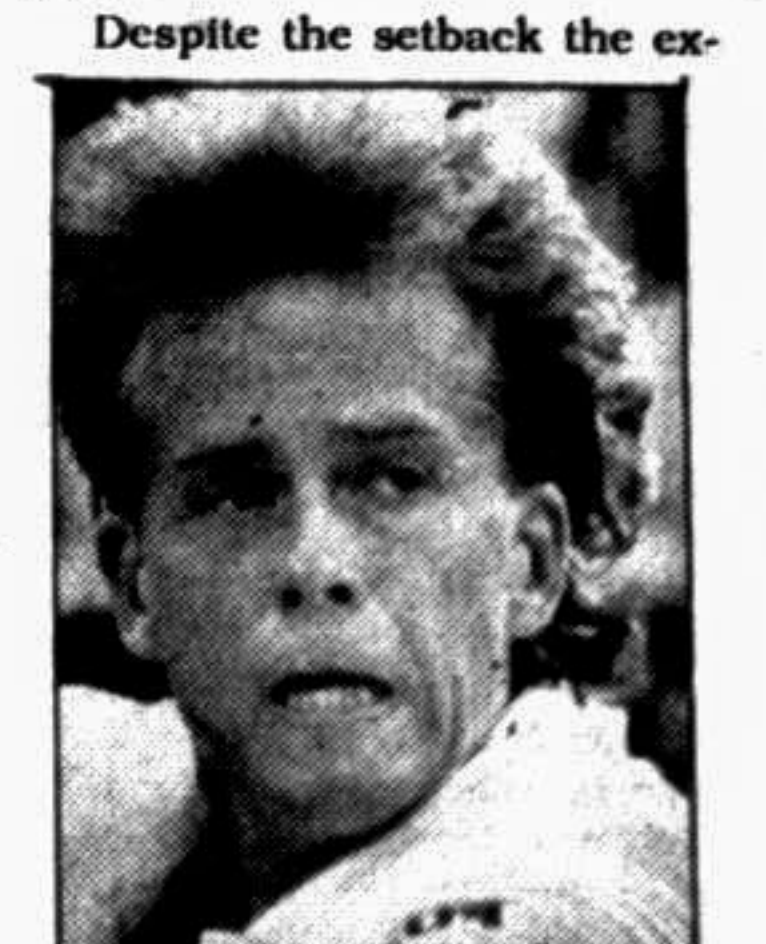
Ivanisevic was being treated during changeovers for blistered feet, but it didn't appear to inhibit his mobility.

Edberg's fortunes took an upswing when he held onto force a tiebreak which he captured 7-2.

With the tide turning the spotlight was on 20-year-old Ivanisevic's temperament under the emotional support he was receiving from several hundred chanting members of

the local Croatian community. Ivanisevic was under immediate siege when Edberg held four separate break points in the opening game of the third set, but a contentious foot fault call unsettled him to net an easy volley close to the net.

Despite the setback the ex-



STEFAN EDBERG

citing Croat star hit back breaking the Swede at 30-40 in the next game for 1-1.

Yet again the pair slugged it out, serve for serve. Despite the physical ordeal, Ivanisevic clocked up a 197 kph (122 mph) ace, and the set was forced into another tiebreak.

The world no. 19 began confidently with an ace, but Edberg played the big points expertly. A cross-court volley set up match point and he clinched it when Ivanisevic netted.

The explosive serve-volleyer congratulated Edberg, scooped up his bag and waved to his adoring supporters as he strode from the arena, beaten by the world No. 1 by two tiebreakers.

"It feels bad because you're fighting almost for three hours and then you lose by a couple of points," Ivanisevic said at his news conference.

"It's really tough to lose against Stefan and you know you had a chance to beat him."

Edberg leads Gilbert 10-4 in their head-to-head encounters but significantly the Californian won their last meeting 6-4 in the third set a Los Angeles in August.

Gilbert, who is rated one of the hardest opponents on the ATP tour because of his legendary "impossible" comebacks, has won 20 career titles to Edberg's 31.

Edberg was runner-up to Boris Becker in last year's final here and should he win on Sunday he will further increase his current 277 point lead over Becker on the ATP computer rankings.

American wins KL GP

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, Oct 5: American rider John Kocinski beat Australian Wayne Gardner by six seconds

and won the 15th and last leg of the World 500cc Grand Prix motor cycle racing, reports AP.

American Wayne Rainey, injured last week in practice for the race, still ended up as the overall champion. His 233 points from the previous 14 legs had clinched the title.

Australian Michael Doohan, riding a Honda, finished third in Sunday's race and came out second overall with 224 points.

Kocinski's triumph Sunday moved him up from fifth to fourth. Kocinski, on a Yamaha, completed 35 laps around the 3.5-kilometer (2.2-mile) Shah Alam Racing Track on Kuala Lumpur's outskirts in 50 min-

utes, 5.945 seconds.

In practice, Monday, the 30-year-old Rainey suffered fractured knee and three broken ribs.

Third over was American Kevin Schwantz. He had a total of 204 points before he returned home.

Rainey rode a Yamaha and Schwantz a Suzuki in the series.

RESULTS

500cc (35 laps, 122.68 kilometers — 76.68 miles)

1. John Kocinski, United States, Yamaha, 50:05.945 (average 146.919 kph — 91.824 mph)
2. Wayne Gardner, Australia, Honda, 50:12.090
3. Michael Doohan, Australia, Yamaha, 50:27.623

Pazienza's crown

PROVIDENCE, R.I., Oct 5: Frenchmen Gilbert Dele barely saw the first punch that sent him

staggering against the ropes. He never saw the second that took away his WBA junior middleweight title and gave it to Vinny Pazienza, reports AP.

Dele lost on a TKO with 50 seconds left in final round Tuesday night after being thumbed in the left eye with a right, then hit in the same eye with a left hook as he turned away clutching his face.

The mistake (Dele) made is that he tried to rumble with him," cornerman and inslator Jean-Pierre Charvet said, adding that Dele wanted a rematch.

It was Dele's first loss against 29 victories and a draw. It was his second defense since winning the World Boxing Association title in February.

For Pazienza (31-5), it completes his transformation in front of the hometown crowd from a former IBF lightweight champ.

"I came out here to prove, to solidify, that I'm one of the best fighters in the world," said Pazienza, 30. "I was worried about losing because I didn't know where I would turn."

Dele, 27, had the image of a big puncher and thinking man's fighter. But from the beginning — when the German instead of the French national anthem blared from Providence Civic Center loudspeakers — it was not destined to be his night.

Pazienza generally was able to fight his fight — a combination of body blows and bicycling around the ring, although early on Dele just covered up against the furies, then mockingly waved at Pazienza to try again.

In the middle rounds, when Pazienza tired somewhat, Dele landed solid left jabs that eventually opened a cut on one of Pazienza's ears.

Junior lightweight relinquishing belt

LEWISTON, Maine, Oct 5: Joey Gamache is tired of trying to lose weight so he is giving up World Boxing Association junior lightweight title to move up in weight class, his roommate, Johnny Bos said, reports AP.

Johnny Bos said Gamache wants to build up his credentials and go for the lightweight title.

Gamache, 25, has said previously he struggled to meet the lower limit.



Eintracht Frankfurt's Uwe Bein (2nd from left) makes his way through the line of Sopra Luxembourg defenders Marco Janes (R) and Jorge Lopes (L) during their first round match of UEFA Cup soccer in Luxembourg on Oct 1. — AFP photo