

Yet another day of whitewashes

Sports Reporter

It was again a day of one-sided whitewashes in the AB Bank metropolis table tennis league at the National Coaching Centre yesterday.

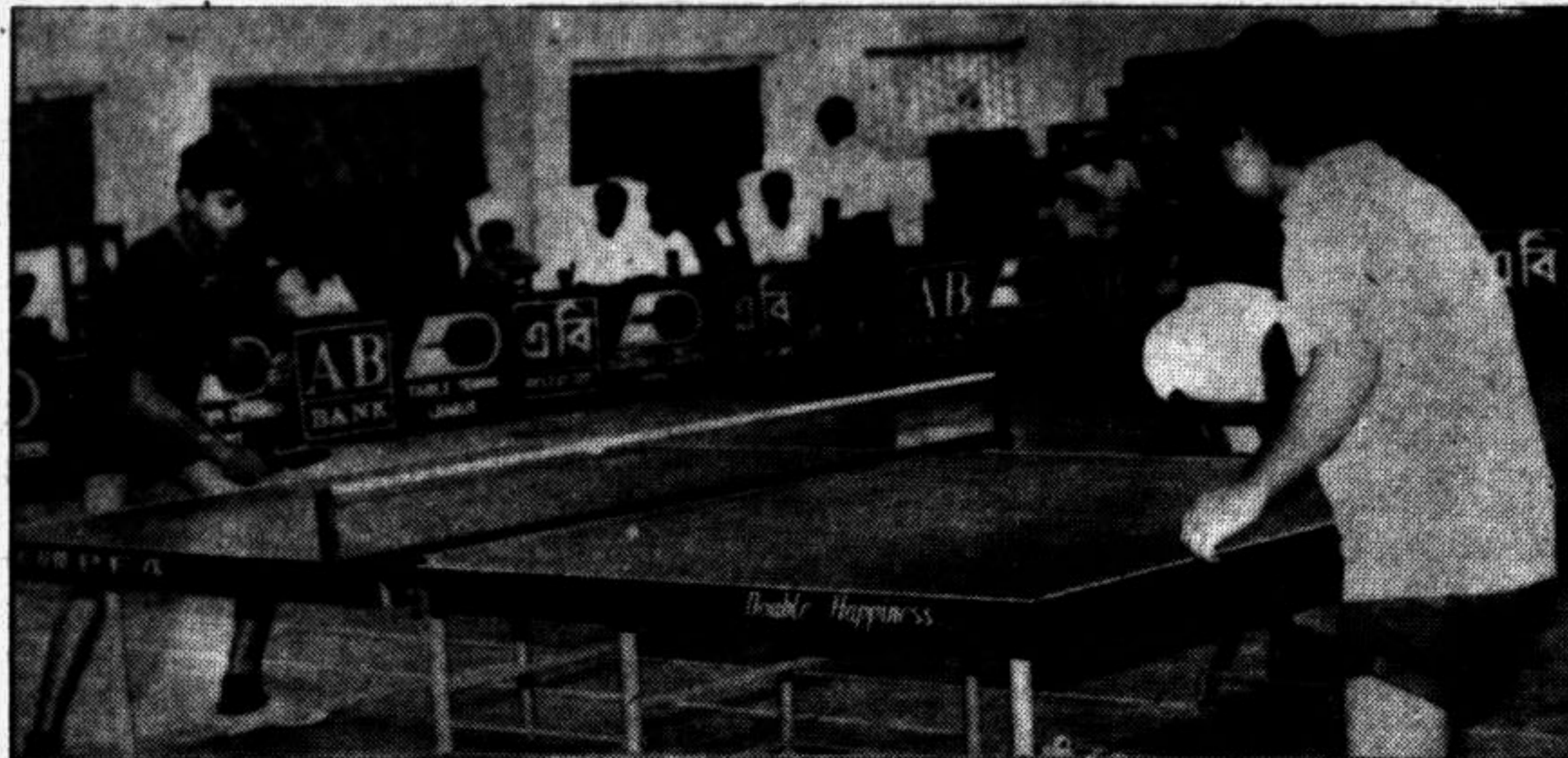
The four matches held on the day all produced straight sets 3-0 scorelines with the winners in each contest posting their fourth successive victories.

BTMC, Armanitola Juniors, Azampur Young Star and Swambagh TTS faced little difficulty in overcoming their respective opponents.

BTMC got the better of Victoria Sporting Club with promising youngsters Akhlaq and Anghi winning both their opening singles. Anghi then teamed up with Jhinu to take the doubles and clinch the tie.

Akhlaq outplayed Victoria's Shamim 21-9, 21-11 while Anghi beat Bright 21-14 and 21-10. The doubles encounter which went to three sets was won by BTMC 21-9, 21-23 and 21-13 against Victoria's Shamim and Aminur. It was Victoria's second loss in three games in Group 'C'.

Armanitola Juniors handed league newcomers Dhaka Medical College their third consecutive defeat in as many Group 'C' engagements, when they beat the aspiring doctors



AB Bank TT match between Akhlaq of BTMC and Shamim of Victoria in progress yesterday at National Coaching Centre. Akhlaq won 21-10, 21-11. — Star photo

in straight sets.

Tapash gave Armanitola Juniors the lead beating Fida 21-15, 21-19. Mahub defeated Tapan 21-16, 21-10 while Mahub and Mahid brooked no nonsense in the doubles beating DMC's Fida and Zahid 21-16, 21-10.

Azampur Young Star continued to march on by trouncing another league debutant Kalpa Taru 3-0 despite a struggle for Sagar in the opening singles when Kalpa Taru's Imran won the second set to stretch the match to a third set. But Sagar

kept his cool and prevailed 21-11, 16-21 and 21-17.

Ritu played aggressively against Kalpa Taru's Tanna, winning 21-5, 21-8. Sagar and Manash ensured Young Stars fourth straight Group 'B' triumph by claiming the doubles 21-15, 21-13 from Kalpa Taru's Tanna and Riad.

Swambagh TTS earned a walkover in the doubles against Purbachal Parishad after Sagir and Joynd had won the opening two singles.

Sagir defeated Purbachal's

Raqui 21-13, 21-4 and Joynd disposed of Purbachal's Royal in a total mismatch 21-4, 21-5. Perhaps this demoralising scoreline prevented Royal and Tareq from taking their positions across the table against Sagir and Ismail in the doubles.

TODAY'S MATCH
Young Pegasus vs Swambagh Boys.
Bangladesh Ansars vs NMS. War Club vs Lalmitia Club.
Brothers Union vs Dhaka Meriters.

Abahani in DC Cup final

TANGAIL, Oct 23: Dhaka league champions Abahani Krira Chakra moved into the final of the Tangail DC Gold Cup football tournament yesterday, reports UNB.

They eliminated Bangladesh Krira Shikha Protisthan (BKSP) by 2-1 goals in a keenly-contested first semifinal held at the local stadium this afternoon.

Abahani KC will take on the winners of Dhaka Brothers Union and Farashganj SC in the final.

The second semifinal will be held on October 26 (Saturday).

Swapan put Abahani ahead in the 16th minute while Chapal of BKSP neutralised the margin in the 13th minute of the last half.

Abahani's fresh recruit Mamun Joarder scored the winning goal just a minute before the long whistle.

Holyfield-Tyson fight may never be held

NEW YORK, Oct 23: Evander Holyfield's promoter said the heavyweight champion's next title defense will not be against Mike Tyson, reports AP.

Unable to come up with a January date for a Holyfield-Tyson fight, promoter Dan Duva said Tuesday the postponed match would be rescheduled "for some time after January 1992."

That means it is possible the fight never will take place. Tyson is scheduled to go on trial in Indianapolis on Jan. 27 on a rape charge.

So Holyfield will fight against an opponent to be decided in late November.

Duva said a site, opponent and date will be announced in the next few days.

"We were unable to find a date in January to reschedule the Holyfield-Tyson fight that would be acceptable to all parties," Duva said after meetings with representatives of TVKO pay-per-view television and Caesars Palace and with Don King, Tyson's promoter.

The fight was scheduled for Nov. 8 outdoors at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas. It was postponed last Friday because of a rib injury to Tyson.

Also last Friday, Judge Patricia J. Gifford of Marion County Superior Court in Indianapolis denied a request by attorneys for Tyson to delay the Jan. 27 trial.

Should Tyson be convicted, he would face up to 63 years in prison.

The Holyfield-Tyson fight shaped up as the richest in the history of boxing, with a gross of more than \$100 million and more than 2 million homes taking the pay-per-view telecast. Holyfield was guaranteed \$30 million and Tyson \$15 million, with both men expected to make more on percentage deals.

Cheng's gold

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 23: China grabbed the first gold medal in the opening event of Wednesday's Asian track and field (ATF) championships when Cheng Shaobo won the shot put final, reports AFP.

Cheng, the Beijing Asian Games gold medal winner, recorded a distance of 18.11 metres followed by Qatar's Bilal Saad who took the silver with a throw of 17.78m.

Japan's Okano Yuji took the bronze with a distance of 17.65m. Cheng holds the Asian Games record of 18.89m.

The shot put was the only finals event Wednesday morning. Seven finals will be concluded in the evening to round off the five-day games.

Danes maul Lerby's Bayern Munich

PARIS, Oct 23: Footballing giants Bayern Munich crashed to humiliating defeat and saw their UEFA Cup hopes all but disappear Tuesday night, reports AFP.

Bayern Munich were left shell-shocked and bewildered in Copenhagen where they were hammered 6-2 by BK 1903 Copenhagen in the first leg of their second round clash.

French sides Monaco and Cannes met with contrasting fortunes.

Monaco, after failing to score in three league games, came away 2-1 winners from Norrkoping in Sweden in the Cup Winners' Cup, but Cannes bitterly disappointed their home supporters and denied their UEFA chances when they were beaten 1-0 by Dynamo

Moscow.

Hamburg scored a goal in each half of their home clash

Neto banned for 4 months

RIO DE JANEIRO, Oct 23: Former Brazil captain Neto has been banned from soccer for four months for spitting at a referee, reports Reuter.

The incident happened during a Palmeiras-Corinthians Derby on October 13 after Neto, the Corinthians captain, had been sent off for a vicious tackle on mid-fielder Cesar Sampaio.

The Sao Paulo soccer federation tribunal banned him for "aggression" and "moral offence".

Neto, originally denied spitting but later admitted he had "made a mistake."

with Cska Solia but there were no goals in Tuesday's other UEFA Cup matches.

La Gantoise of Belgium were held to a 0-0 draw at home by in-form Eintracht Frankfurt of Germany. And Spain's Osasuna Pamplona shared a goalless draw with another German side — Stuttgart.

Bayern Munich never knew what hit them in a whirlwind second half and the return to home soil for the German side's new manager Soren Lerby turned out to be a nightmare.

BK 1903 Copenhagen, who knocked out Scottish opponent Aberdeen 3-0 on aggregate in the first round, came back from a goal down to change round at 1-1 at half time.

Then they piled on the pressure against the four-times European Cup holders

who have not won in two league matches since they sacked coach Jupp Heynckers two weeks ago.

The early Bayern goal by Brazilian Mazinho seemed to spur on the home side who took just five minutes to equalise through Michael Manniche.

They then went ahead 11 minutes after half-time with an Ivan Nielsen penalty after substitute Michael Johansen had been fouled inside the box, and scored two more goals within eight minutes — the first from sweeper Kenneth Wegner and the second from Manniche.

Substitute Brian Kaus and Loern Uldbjerg completed the rout before Markus Munch scored a consolation second goal for the visitors in the dying seconds.

Parreira wants Carlos back

RIO DE JANEIRO, Oct 23: Brazil have recalled veteran goalkeeper Carlos for next week's friendly soccer international against Yugoslavia, their first under new coach Carlos Alberto Parreira, reports Reuter.

Carlos, 35, who played for Brazil in the 1986 World Cup, has not appeared at international level since letting in four goals against Chile in a 1987 South American Championship game.

Parreira also included controversial winger Renato Portaluppi of Oremio and World Cup striker Muller of Sao Paulo in his 20-man squad for the home fixture on October 30.

He did not select European-based players or any from local clubs Santos, Cruzeiro, and Flamengo, who are involved in the South American Super Cup.

"We can't expect much from this game as we have one day to train beforehand," he said.

Squad: Carlos, Zetti, Lira, Luis Carlos Winck, Cafu, Marcelo, Antonio Carlos, Marcelo Santos, Moaer, Mauro Silva, Luiz Henrique, Raf, Geovani, Djair, Bebeto, Valdeir, Muller, Renato, Elivelto, Paulo Sergio.

Hassan humiliates Celtic

NEUCHATEL, Switzerland, Oct 23: Egyptian international Hassam Hassan turned out to be the hammer of the Scots here Tuesday when he scored four goals to help Swiss side Neuchatel Xamax notch up a shock 5-1 victory over Celtic in the first leg of a second-round UEFA Cup tie, reports AFP.

It was the Scottish side's worst defeat in a European tie in three decades. They were crushed 4-0 by MTK Budapest in the early 60's.

It was an embarrassing performance all round for Scotland's last surviving team in any of the European competitions and even severe injury problems could hardly excuse Celtic's lack of fight and skills. Liam Brady's men were completely outclassed by a team

struggling to make their mark in the Swiss First Division. It all turned the 27th birthday celebrations of Celtic captain Paul McStay into a nightmare.

Had it not been for Neuchatel's poor finishing in the second half and some superb saves by Pat Bonner — the final scoreline could have been much worse.

Celtic's only crumb of comfort came when Brian O'Neill scored a consolation goal on the hour — but the return leg in Glasgow in two weeks' time now appears a lost cause.

Hassan, Egypt's World Cup star, tore the Celtic defence to shreds and set Neuchatel on their way with two goals in the first 20 minutes, Christophe Bonvin made it 3-0 by the interval and Hassan scored two more in the second half.

Manager Brady later described Celtic's performance as "amateurish."

"We were lucky it was only 5-1," he snapped, adding "I honestly thought we had a chance of winning here but it was a hamble. I don't think it could absolve one player from criticism, although the younger players should not shoulder too much of the blame."

"We were lucky to get away with just five goals as they missed a number of sitters, we didn't underestimate them. It was just an amateurish performance."

Despite the first leg result Brady refuses to concede defeat.

"The way we defended made their confidence surge and, the funny thing is, I still think we can salvage the tie," he said.

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Graf for heavier fines

BRIGHTON, England, Oct 23: Wimbledon champion Steffi Graf believes that top players should be fined at least 100,000 dollars if they take part in meaningless exhibitions when major tournaments are being staged, reports AFP.

Graf was speaking after beating American Katrina Adams 7-6, 6-3 in the first round of the tournament here on Tuesday, an event in which she is the only top 10 player taking part.

World number one Monica Seles, who said she might play at Brighton, is competing in an exhibition in the Canary Islands instead and so is world number four Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain.

Graf, regretting their absence from Brighton, said: "I play very few exhibitions because I do not see any need."

"You must support tournaments. You only play's exhibitions for money and none of the top players need it."

Players are fined if they play exhibitions in major tournament weeks and Graf added: "I think there should be much stronger action. The fines must be much higher."

"The usual fine of 10,000 dollars is not enough. I think another zero should be added. If the fine was 100,000 dollars everyone would think about it."

Graf, however, does not believe that players should be suspended. "I'm against suspension because it is impor-

tant that the top players play in tournaments," she said.

As for her performance today, Graf was disappointed. Adams, as tiny back serve-and-volley player from Chicago, only got into the 32-strong field via the qualifying competition yet had the Wimbledon champion on the race for long periods in the opening set.

Adams, showing no sign of nerves, led 4-3, 40-0 and was even closer to winning the set when she went to 5-2 in the tie break with her service to follow. Only Graf showed her class with four successive winners to reach set point.

And the 22-year-old German superstar then produced a fierce forehand drive which Adams could only volley over the baseline.

When Graf went to 3-0 in the second set the match looked over but Adams refused to quit and broke back in the seventh game for 3-4 before gallantly conceding defeat after 74 minutes play.

Monir's new role

Monir Hossain, a former football referee of Bangladesh and the present General Secretary of Bangladesh Football Referees Association has been selected match commissioner for the second Asia Cup Winner Cup Championship, reports UNB.

He was appointed match commissioner for the second leg match of the tournament to be played between Singapore and Japan in Singapore on November 13.



Pabna DSA's ace-swimmer Abdul Hamid, who won two gold medals — 100m and 200m freestyles — on Tuesday, stole the limelight yesterday by capturing three more golds — 100m butterfly, 50m freestyle and 200m individual medley. — Star photo

Jahangir leads top seeds into semis

TORONTO, Oct 23: Jahangir Khan of Pakistan led the top four seeds into the semifinals of the Canadian Open squash championship with a straight games victory as expected from held up on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Defending champion Chris Dittmar, the third seed, outclassed eighth-seeded fellow Australian Rodney Eyles 15-8, 15-13, 15-8 to earn a semifinal showdown against Khan.

The other semifinal — an all Australian affair — pits Martin against second seed Chris Robertson, who showed an improvement on recent form in eliminating the elder Martin brother, Brett, 15-10, 15-8, 15-14.

The 40th-ranked Gregory pressured Rodney Martin in all three games.

Martin never led by more than two points until the final point of the opening game and had to fight back from a 10-5 deficit in the third to keep Gregory from extending the match.

Connors charms crowd

STOCKHOLM, Oct 23: American veteran Jimmy Connors was at his crowd-pleasing best as he overcame Argentine Martin Jaitte in the first round of the Stockholm Open tennis tournament on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Connors, at 39 a surprise semifinalist at last month's U.S. Open, broke the Argentine's serve twice in the first set and then battled back from 3-0 and 5-3 deficits in a second set tiebreak to clinch the match 6-3, 7-6.

Although ranked only 53rd in the world, the former world number one's inspired game and fighting spirit underlined why he is one of the main attractions of a tournament billing nine of the world's 10 top-ranked players.

Only eighth-seeded American Andre Agassi is missing in an entry including Stefan Edberg, Boris Becker, Jim Courier, Michael Stich and Ivan Lendl.

Connors set the tone of the encounter when he broke Jaitte's serve in the third game.

The Americans produced a job in a virtually impossible position and then saved the Argentine's smash with a diving backhand. The baffled Jaitte, a clay-court specialist ranked 42nd in the world, put the ensuing volley over for Connors' first break.

Connors, backed from a slight neck injury which forced him to withdraw from a

tournament in Lyon last week, lost his serve to be 3-4 in the second set but broke back at once.

He wrapped up the match with a netcord bouncer, throwing his racket into the air in delight.

Connors, who meets 15th-seeded Yugoslav Goran Prpic in the second round, said: "I'm still playing tennis because I can still do it. If I couldn't compete I would be doing something else."

Yugoslav 12th-seed Goran Ivanisevic overcame Swedish Clay specialist Magnus Larsson 7-5, 6-7, 7-5 in a tough second round encounter.

American Richey Reneberg knocked out Soviet Alexander Volkov, a semifinalist last year, 6-4, 6-2.

Cook keeps European title

LONDON, Oct 23: James Cook forced Finland's Tarmo Uusivirta into a sudden seventh round surrender to retain his European super-middleweight title here on Tuesday, reports AFP.

After a hectic battle, Uusivirta finally turned to his corner with both arms raised signalling that he had taken enough.

It was a dramatic and somewhat unexpected way for Cook to gain revenge over Uusivirta — the first Finn to challenge for a European title in 23 years, for Uusivirta flo-

orded and outpointed Cook in his homeland in October 1987 and at various stages of Tuesday night's clash, looked as though he could beat him again.

But the pace and ferocity of the fight never suggested that it would go the distance.

"I felt him going in the sixth round" said 32-year-old Cook, who also retains his leading contender's position in the World Boxing Association (WBA) rankings.

But there were times when he looked just as desperate as the Finn did at the finish during his first fight under the new management of Mickey Duff.

Cook, in his second defence of the title he won earlier this year, was the master of the opening round, quickly connecting with a right to Uusivirta's chin.

But the champion was prone to get caught with right counters and was drawn into a fighting rather than boxing mode, which displeased his cornermen.

Uusivirta, seeing a chance of the title at the age of 34, raised his pace in the third putting Cook under terrific pressure on the ropes, although being dropped himself momentarily by a right uppercut.

Cook was urged frantically by Duff at the end of the round not to get drawn into a battle. He responded with a good early uppercut but his work began to look untidy as well as showing a shade of fatigue.

But Uusivirta's efforts drained him as well and Cook had more success in the fifth before taking control in the sixth.

Uusivirta missed frequently while Cook managed to get his act together and lands the telling punches which were to keep his crown.

Cook was on target with another ripping uppercut at the start of the seventh, more punches landed on the target

and before Uusivirta turned away and out of the fight after 58 seconds of the round.

"This was the most satisfying performance because not many people give me a return like this man did," said Cook.

"It made the win all the more special, my pride was at stake as well as the title."

"I listened to my corner all the time. I wanted to hit him back but they kept telling me to box, box, box and I followed their advice."

"I saw him quit with his raised hands. I could have hit him again — but it was quitting time."

Duff said: "James boxed like a dream, he listened to everything, but, in fact, his interpretation was probably better than the advice. In fact, he boxed better than we told him to do."

Monaco move up

NORRKOEPING, Sweden, Oct 23: Monaco took a major step towards a third-round berth in the European Cup Winners Cup competition here Tuesday when they came away 2-1 winners from the first-leg of their clash with Swedish opponents Norrkoping, reports AFP.

After their superb start in the French league this season, Monaco appeared to have gone off the boil in recent games.

Three consecutive defeats — the third coming last week when they crashed to a 2-0 defeat at Metz — and three matches without scoring a single goal, had sown seeds of doubts, but on Tuesday the French side looked to be back at their most impressive.

Showing excellent cohesion and with Luc Sonor dominating the midfield, Monaco produced a series of dangerous raids from the first whistle. They were rewarded in the 18th minute when Roger Mendy opened the scoring.



Michael Manniche of BK Copenhagen and Bayern Munich players Thomas Berthold and Oliver Kreuzer (L-R) jump high to fight for the ball during the UEFA Cup match in Copenhagen on Oct 22. Bayern lost 2-6. — AFP photo