

WEEKEND SPORTS WEEKEND

ON COMEBACKS

Recent attempts at a comeback by such sporting greats as Bjorn Borg and George Foreman inspire former five-times national tennis champion Sarder Itekar to produce this piece:

The arena of sport has always been replete with instances of heroic anecdotes of athletes and sportsmen achieving the seemingly impossible...

hyperbolic jargon what is being alluded to is a dormant volcano being reawakened — the urge of an indomitable spirit to win big that last one time.

but it would be unrealistic to base our expectations on mere fiction. Having said all that, how much should one make out of these reversals of fortune...

tory. Similarly, one would rather watch Maradona score four goals in a 5-a-side soccer match played with friends on a beach than watch a Stojkovic score with a free kick in a European Cup final.

Clubs' finances worry FIFA



ZURICH, June 6: World soccer's governing body, deeply concerned at the financial mess confronting many clubs, is to examine the problem at a meeting in Lisbon next week, reports Reuter.

financial adventurism." English First Division Tottenham Hotspur are among the clubs facing a cash crisis, having debts reported to be 18 million pounds sterling (30 million dollars).

body's views on the urgent need for clubs to strive for financial stability. Blatter also said the United States organisers of the 1994 World Cup finals had been asked to elaborate further on their radical proposal that penalty shoot-outs should be scrapped in the final and the match replayed.

Wembley to host cricket

LONDON, June 6: Wembley Stadium, traditional home of English soccer, is to play host to cricket for the first time, reports Reuter.

One alternative to penalty shoot-outs has been suggested by English Football Association chief executive Graham Kelly. Kelly proposes deciding matches by giving the ball to players on the edge of the penalty area and requiring them to beat the goalkeeper in a one-on-one situation.

Hard choice for Seles, Sabatini

PARIS, June 6: Monica Seles and Gabriela Sabatini could be barred from the 1992 Barcelona Olympics if they refuse to play in an international tennis competition this summer, reports AP.

retary General of the federation. Seles would automatically qualify for appearance money from the ITF if she plays in the Federation Cup. The ITF is offering a bonus pool of 500,000 dollars with the No. 1 player getting 120,000 dollars just for showing up.

Courier despatches Edberg

PARIS, June 6: Jim Courier, in the biggest victory of his career, knocked top-seeded Stefan Edberg out of the French Open Wednesday, setting up two semifinals matching Americans against Germans, reports AP.



American Jim Courier screams with delight after defeating Sweden Stefan Edberg in the French Open quarterfinals on Wednesday.

and then he hit the line (on match point). The last time the United States had two French Open semifinalists was in 1984, when John McEnroe beat Jimmy Connors before losing the final to Ivan Lendl.

Hearns doesn't plan retirement

LAS VEGAS, June 6: Just when he was supposed to be planning his retirement, Thomas Hearns finds himself planning his boxing future, reports AP.

wait for the opportunity but I waited a bit too long." Hill, though he had made 10 previous title defenses, was stepping up a level, making his first foray into the world of big money and big name fights.

NZ changes anti-tobacco laws

WELLINGTON, June 6: An urgent session of parliament approved a change to New Zealand's tough anti-tobacco laws to allow a cigarette company to sponsor 11 matches here in the 1992 one-day cricket World Cup, reports AP.

found itself in an embarrassing position in May when the government, divided over the issue, failed to act. NZC claimed it had made commitments on the assumption that Benson and Hedges would be allowed to sponsor the Cup, and said that without an exemption the 11 matches might be played in Australia instead.

French Open milestones

Table with 4 columns: MOST TITLES ALL EVENTS INCLUDED (SINGLES AND DOUBLES), WINNERS OF SINGLES, DOUBLES AND MIXED DOUBLES THIS SAME YEAR, WINNERS OF JUNIOR AND SENIOR TITLES (Singles), and LONGEVITY RECORDS (Champions with the greatest number of years between first and last titles).

Zelezny delights home crowd

BRATISLAVA, Czechoslovakia, June 6: Former world record holder Jan Zelezny produced the fourth best javelin throw of all time on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

will not be officially approved," Zelezny said. "I'm happy with the (meeting) record I set but I wanted to do better. I was suffering more from the pain of an Achilles tendon rather than from the rain but I feel I have trained well and am in better shape than last year."