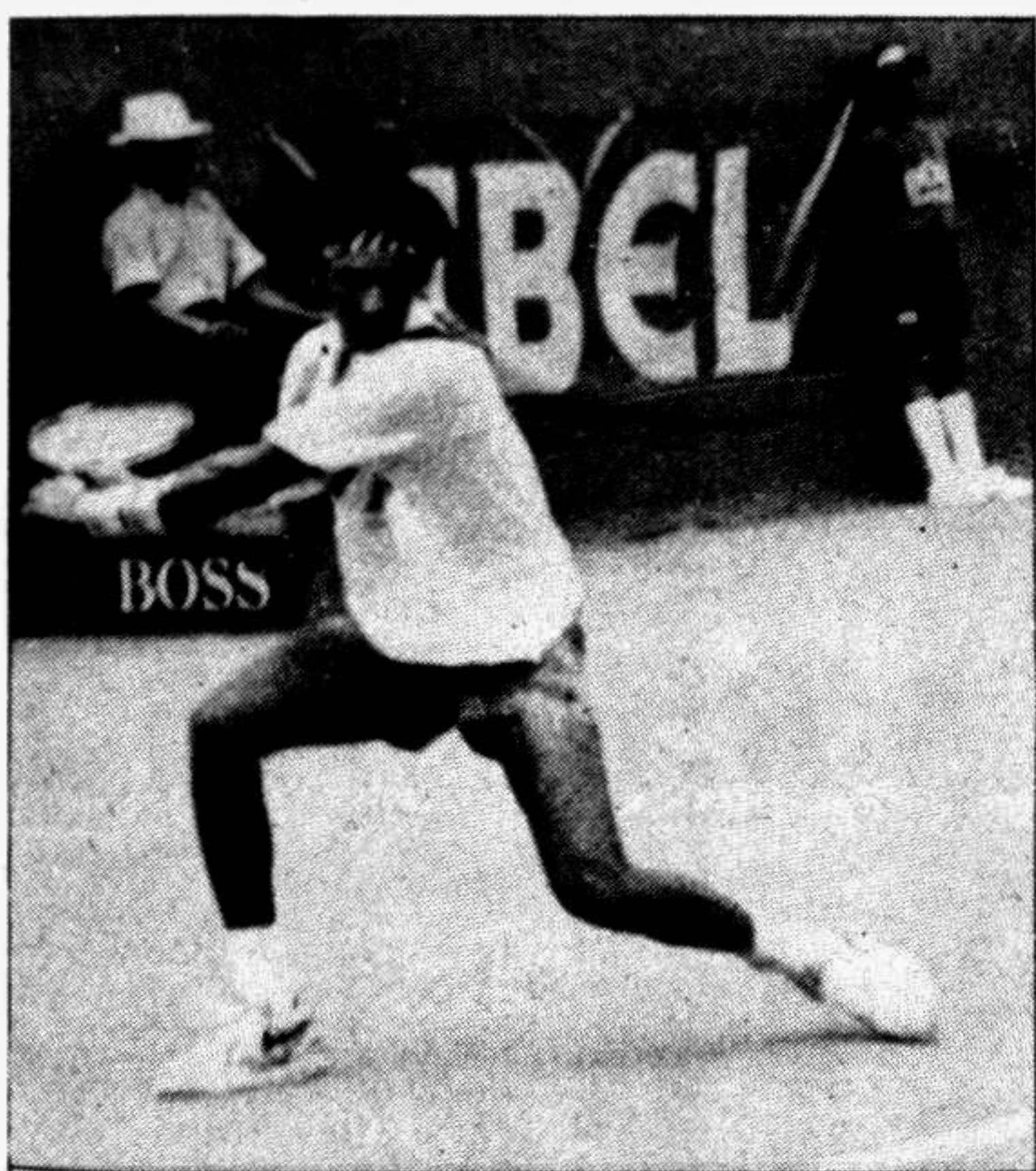


Sri Lankans lead 2-0

Sports Reporter

Sardar Iftikhar's style to a T. Himself a counter-puncher like Sarder. Fernando kept the

net. The ease with which De Silva returned his serves made Shovon strive all the more for



Lankan skipper Arjun Fernando unleashes a powerful backhand on way to his straight sets victory over Sardar Iftikhar.

ball deep, putting very little pace on the ball which upset Sardar's rhythm. In trying to generate pace and force the issue Sardar only managed to make a series of unforced errors, either hitting out or into the net.

Some remarkable passing shots that punctuated long rallies gave Sardar little room to manoeuvre and he lost the second set 6-1. It was a similar story in the third and deciding set, with a similar scoreline. Shovon Jamaly, too, couldn't play his usual steady game against the younger Rohan De Silva despite rallying well in the second and third sets. At five-all in the third, Shovon appeared to have a chance of making a comeback but the left-handed De Silva won the tie-break to clinch the match at 7-5.

Shovon, the deaf and mute prodigy of the country, was left searching for solutions by the hard-hitting De Silva. The absence of someone who could communicate with him in sign language at the sidelines made it all the more difficult for the young man to find the answers. A serve-and-volleyer who likes to hit the ball hard, Shovon, for some inexplicable reason, felt shy to come to the

England names Test side

LONDON, June 14: England named a squad of 13 on Friday for the second cricket Test against West Indies starting at Lord's next Thursday, reports Reuter.

Graham Gooch (captain), Mike Atherton, Graeme Hick, Allan Lamb, Mark Ramprakash, Robin Smith, Jack Russell, Derek Pringle, Phillip DeFreitas, Richard Illingworth, Devon Malcolm, Steve Watkins, David Lawrence.

Malik takes a short break

CHELMSFORD, England, June 14: Pakistan batting star Salim Malik is taking a short break from his run feast with English county side Essex, reports AFP.

Peter Edwards, Essex's secretary cum general manager, said that 28-year-old from Lahore had flown home for family reasons and would miss Essex's Sunday League game against Hampshire here this weekend.

However, Edwards stressed that Malik, who has scored three county championship centuries this season, would return for the next match in the competition against Sussex at Mersham starting next Friday.

30 paddlers picked for SAFC camp

Thirty leading table tennis players joined the first phase for the selection of the Bangladesh team which will take part in the fifth SAFC Games scheduled to be held in Colombo in December.

The training camp began yesterday at the National Coaching Centre.

The players have been picked from the three day open trial held June 11-13 in which 70 players from different country participated.

Sixteen men, six women and eight boys are included in the camp.

The selected players are: Men: Rochi, Saadi, Happy, Mustafa, Ankhil, Badal, Ripon, Jhinu, Rashed, Munna, Mohammed Ali, Ritu, Pappu, Maroof, Sohail and Iqbal.

Women: Zulekha, Linu, Shamima, Bacchi, Rinu, and Binu.

Boys: Rubel, Selim, Shaon, Manosh, Bulbul, Shamim, Asit and Maheed.

Eight players — three men, three women and one player from boys section — will finally be selected for the Games.

Maradona longs to rejoin Napoli



NAPLES, Italy, June 14: Diego Maradona, banned from soccer for 15 months and planning to quit the sport for good, could still be reunited with Italian club Napoli in a reconciliation prompted as much by economic necessity as nostalgia, reports Reuter.

The club have said they want him back while his new manager says Maradona longs to return. Vincenzo Siniscalchi, Maradona's Neapolitan lawyer, said he neapoli to travel to Argentina as soon as possible to discuss the details of his client's return.

Naples sources said one of the club's executives closest to Maradona, Dino Celentano, would also go there soon to discuss the former Argentine World Cup Captain's comeback.

Maradona, who skipped training sessions and missed matches last season, was banned from soccer for 15

months after testing positive for cocaine in March. He flew home early in April to Argentina where he was later arrested during a drugs raid. He said during a television interview in Buenos Aires in mid-April that he intended to give up soccer. "I've been thinking about it for years. I don't want any more training camps, I want to start living," he said.

Siniscalchi said Maradona's new manager, Marco Franchi, who is in Italy sorting out financial and legal problems, had told him the Argentine player was deeply moved by the support shown by Naples fans and was longing to return. The star's Naples fans have created a new association called 'le Diegum' (a play on the opening words of the 'te deum' psalm of praise) which is bombarding him with daily telegrams and faxes of encouragement.

Napoli president Corrado Ferlaino Wednesday told reporters: "We hope that

Maradona can play again with us. He's still an idol for Naples fans. We hope he can solve his problems soon and start playing again. We'd be happy to have him with us."



DIEGO MARADONA

ing again. We'd be happy to have him with us."

After Maradona's departure, Napoli tried unsuccessfully to get permission from the Italian

soccer league to have four foreign players. Apart from Maradona, Napoli also have Brazilians Alemão and Careca on their books. And with their recent decision to sign Frenchman Laurent Blanc, the club will exceed the league limit of three and must therefore sell one of the foreigners.

With Maradona banned until June 1992, he is the last one Napoli can trade and the club is apparently resigned to a reconciliation while the Argentine remains a crowd-puller. The Napoli president stressed the club had not asked for Maradona's contract to be cancelled. It expires in 1993.

Maradona faces a hearing in Naples on June 26 on charges of cocaine possession. His passport has been confiscated and his lawyer has said he would ask for the trial to be postponed. Even if Maradona is found guilty in Italy, he has the right to lodge two separate appeals and the legal battle is likely to be very protracted.

FloJo plans comeback



NEW YORK, June 14: Whatever happened to Florence Griffith Joyner?

The sensation of the 1988 Olympics — on and off the track — is quietly preparing for a comeback. But not in the sprints in which she reeled off two world records four years ago and won three gold medals and one silver medal, reports AP.

Her husband, Al Joyner, the 1984 Olympic triple jump champion, also is making a comeback of sorts. Al Joyner is a visitor at this week's Mobil national championships, taking some time off from coaching his wife.

"She's training for the marathon," Joyner insisted, even though FloJo never has run longer than 400 meters in competition. "It's always something she wanted to do. She loves running distances. That was always her forte. In 1988, she put in a lot of mileage. Now she reads every book about marathoning."

"She's up to training 40 miles (65 kilometers) a week. You will see her in a distance running event in 1992. Her goal is to eventually run the marathon at the 1996

Olympics."

FloJo has been training every day since late December, six weeks after giving birth to her first child, a daughter. At the time, she had ballooned to 196 pounds (89 kilograms). Now she weighs 129 (58 kilograms). Running and motherhood have not been the only jobs occupying FloJo's time.

She also has been doing television commentary, taking acting lessons, writing screenplays and children's books, doing charity work, speaking at schools, designing clothes and making commercials. But she has maintained a low-key profile.

"Florence has always been a quiet person," Joyner said. "She doesn't try to get attention. She couldn't help but get attention in 1988 with her electrifying performances on the track and her glamorous outfits on and off the track."

She smashed the world record in the 100 meters, with a 10.49-second clocking at the US Olympic Trials in Indianapolis, and shattered the world record in the 200 with a time of 21.34 at the Seoul Olympics, where she won gold in the 100, 200 and 400-meter relay, and a silver in the 1,600 relay.

FloJo has not competed since October 1988, shortly after the Games. She announced her retirement in February 1989. Now, she appears serious about marathoning. "She misses the competition, she misses the training,"



GRIFFITH—JOYNER

Joyner said. "She's training every day."

Joyner never has retired, but he has not been very active since failing to make the 1988 Olympic team in the triple jump and the 110-meter high hurdles.

Missing in the triple jump — he finished fifth in the trials — was devastating. When he was preparing for

his final jump, his sister, Jackie Joyner-Kersey, was completing the final event in her record-setting heptathlon and his wife was on a record-setting binge.

"When Jackie passed me on the track in the 800.... I said this would be a great time for me to set a world record," Joyner said.

"But it didn't happen." Afterward, his sister and his wife shed tears in his behalf, and that, along with the sympathy shown by fans and friends, was comforting. But, still, Joyner was brokenhearted. Since then, he has not long-jumped in competition.

"I knew I had to wait four years to redeem myself," he said. He has, however, continued competing in the hurdles, but only occasionally. His last appearance was a third-place finish at a meet in April.

But his time was slow because he has been slowed by injuries to his back, hamstring and knee, suffered during an auto accident in October. Still, Joyner harbours notions of regaining his world-class standing in both events.

"I'm coming back," he said. Just like his wife.

Haynes fighting form

DERBY, England, June 14: West Indies opener Desmond Haynes, trying desperately to play himself into form before next week's second cricket Test, was out without scoring against Derbyshire on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Haynes, who missed all but one of the first-class games leading up to the first Test defeat by England because of back trouble, is a vital cog in West Indies' batting line-up, especially since his opening partner Gordon Greenidge has been ruled out of the series following knee surgery.

But Haynes, opening with Clayton Lambert, who was called into the squad to replace Greenidge, faced only

four deliveries before missing a straight ball from Alan Warner



DESMOND HAYNES

and being bowled.

He scored 31 in the first innings following scores of 19 and seven in last week's first Test.

Lambert fared little better, falling lbw for four as West Indies finished the second day of their three-day game struggling at 17 for two in their second innings, 74 ahead.

Earlier, Indian Test captain Mohammad Azharuddin hammered 72 and shared a fourth wicket stand of 84 with Chris Adams (55) as Derbyshire made 204 for eight before declaring.

West Indies took care not to overwork their leading Test bowlers, with Curtly Ambrose sending down only 11 overs and Malcolm Marshall eight.

Off-spinner Carl Hooper took three for 50.

E Bengal win

CALCUTTA, June 14: East Bengal managed to beat Kumartuli by a solitary goal in a Super Division soccer league match today marked by mis-passes and insipid display by East Bengal, reports PTI.

The match winner was scored by medio Bikash Panji in the closing minutes of the first half following a move by young winger Somnath Parui.

Site for Holyfield defense announced

LAS VEGAS, June 14: Promoter Dan Duva has the heavyweight champion, a winning purse bid and, now, a site for the fight, reports AP.

Duva threw down the gauntlet to Tyson and his promoter, Don King, on Thursday, announcing Caesars Palace

A Cash-Edberg quarterfinal

LONDON, June 14: Stefan Edberg and Pat Cash, Wimbledon champions present and past, set up an intriguing quarterfinal clash with wins at the London grass court tournament at Queen's Club on Thursday, reports Reuter.

World number one Edberg, who will defend his Wimbledon title later this month, beat Cash's Australian compatriot Jason Stoltenberg 6-4, 6-4, in a match interrupted for an hour by rain.

The unseeded Cash, who has had recurring injury problems since taking the Wimbledon crown in 1987, thrashed another Australian, eighth seed Todd Woodbridge, 6-2, 6-1.

Edberg has beaten Cash five times in seven previous meetings but the Australian, now ranked 77th in the world, holds the edge on grass with two wins out of three.

The last time they met on the fast surface was in the 1987 Queen's quarter-finals, just weeks before Cash's surprise Wimbledon triumph, when the Australian won 7-

6, 7-6.

"He is always going to be a threat," Edberg said of Cash. "He is such a natural grass court player and he seems to be playing fairly well at the moment."

American qualifier Mark Keil, who made a name for himself by beating US Open champion Pete Sampras in the second round on Wednesday, put up a brave fight before going down to compatriot Malival Washington 6-7, 6-3, 6-2 in the next round.

Washington, now plays Aus-

tralian John Fitzgerald, who knocked out 1989 finalist Christo Van Rensburg of South Africa 6-7, 6-4, 6-4.

Canadian Grant Connell, who beat defending champion Ivan Lede in the second round, reached the quarter-finals by beating Japanese number one Shuzo Matsuoka 6-4, 7-5.

Fourth seed Michael Chang, a quarter-finalist at the French Open last week, continued his smooth transition to grass with a 7-5, 6-2 win over bespectacled Frenchman Guillaume Raoux in the third round.

Burrell, Lewis in fine fettle

NEW YORK, June 14: Leroy Burrell and Carl Lewis ran strongly through their 100-metre preliminaries and Dan O'Brien posted the second best score ever in the decathlon at the US national championships on Thursday, reports Reuter.

The meeting also saw the return of Butch Reynolds, the 400-metre world record-holder who defied an international doping ban to clock a non-qualifying — and unimpressive — 47.40 seconds in the 400-metre preliminaries.

Jackie Joyner-Kersey easily won her 13th consecutive heptathlon, finishing with 6,678 points and world cross-country champion Lynn Jennings won the women's

10,000 metres in 32 minutes, 45.88 seconds.

Burrell, the fastest 100-metre runner for the past two years, twice clocked the top times in the world this year, and Lewis was a close second in his semifinal as they headed into today's showdown.

Burrell dashed to a clocking of 10.1 seconds in his opening round, then won his semifinal impressively in 10.05. Lewis cruised home in 10.13 in his opener and finished a shade behind teammate Floyd Heard in a wind-assisted 10.04 seconds, the same time as Heard.

"My objective is to win here and I'm not worrying about anyone else," said Lewis, the 100-metre world record-holder who will be the underdog to training partner Burrell in today's final. "It felt okay."

Lewis said of his semifinal. "But I didn't start as well" (as in the first round).

Burrell, who dethroned Lewis in the Goodwill Games last year, said he was looking for improvement after his start. "I go out better, but I think I can improve in middle of the race. I didn't accelerate as much as I'd like, but I'm satisfied," Burrell said.

WIND AIDS O'BRIEN

O'Brien's score, a wind-assisted effort of 8,844 points, was just three points shy of Daley Thompson's world record of 8,847 points in decathlon. But had O'Brien exceeded the total of the British Thompson, who was present for the competition, it would not have been a record because of a wind-aided 110-metre

hurdles on Thursday and two events on Wednesday where there was no wind gauge present.

Joyner-Kersey added another 1991 world-leading performance when she won the heptathlon.

Zia memorial chess begins

Sports Reporter The Shaheed Zia Memorial chess tournament, organised by Bangladesh Chess Club, began yesterday at the Moonlight Coaching Centre at Manikdi, Dhaka Cantonment.

Moshir Rahman, Principal of Adamjee Cantonment College inaugurated the competition as chief guest.

SOCCER SCENARIO

Bayern buys Brazil's Mazinho

SAO PAULO, Brazil, June 14: Brazilian all-star midfielder Mazinho of the Bragantino club was sold for 2 million dollars to Bayern of Munich, major newspapers reported Thursday, reports AP.

The reports said Mazinho would transfer to the German club after the America Cup, a South American tournament to be held next month in Chile. Mazinho is expected to start for the Brazilian team, which will defend its title. A skilled ball handler and playmaker, Mazinho was a key to the rise of unheralded Bragantino last year.

The team, from the small interior city of Braganca Paulista, was the surprise winner of the 1990 Sao Paulo state championship. In its first appearance in the first division, Bragantino reached the finals before losing to Sao Paulo.

Koreas under single flag

LISBON, June 14: Teams from Asia, Africa, Australia and the Caribbean hope the Junior World Cup will show they are ready to challenge the big names of international soccer. But for 18 Korean youngsters the championship that kicks off today has a greater significance, reports AP.

Their match against Argentina in Lisbon on Saturday will be only the second time Korea has fielded a united team in an international sports event since the Korean peninsula was cut in two in 1945.

An unwarranted showdown

GOTHENBURG, Sweden, June 14: The Soviet Union beat Sweden 3-2 after extra time in a four-nation soccer tournament on Thursday to set up an unwanted final against Italy, reports Reuter.

Striker Igor Kornejev broke a 2-2 deadlock with a blistering 15-metre shot three minutes before the end to extra time. Sergei Juran and Dmitri Kuznetsov struck the Soviets' earlier goals in the 69th and 94th minutes.

Tomas Brolin, who plays for Italian club Parma, hit both Swedish goals — the first in the fourth minute and the second tied the scores at 2-2 in the 114th minute. The Soviets and Italy clash in a vital European Championship Group Three qualifier on October 12, and the managers of both teams have said they were not eager to reveal strengths and weaknesses before then.

A relief for Vicini

MALMO, Sweden, June 14: Italy recovered some of their deflated pride with a 2-0 victory against Denmark on Wednesday in a friendly four-nation soccer tournament, but they were taken to extra time, reports Reuter.

The victory was a relief for manager Azzoglio Vicini who has come under pressure to resign after his side lost 2-1 to Norway in a European Championship game last week, which could cost them a place in the finals. Roma's Ruggiero Rizzitelli, a 75th minute substitute for World Cup hero Salvatore Schillaci, struck the opener 17 minutes into extra time with a spectacular overhead kick. Striking partner Gianluca Vialli of Italian champions Sampdoria, who came on in the 46th minute, rolled in the second past helpless goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel a minute later after the Danes failed to clear a Nicola Berti cross.

Clough sets bidding record

LONDON, June 14: Nottingham Forest have bid a record three million pounds (4.9 million dollars) for Derby's Welsh international striker Dean Saunders, manager Brian Clough said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Clough, who recently paid 1.5 million pounds (2.5 million dollars) for defender Carl Tiler, would break the English transfer record of 2.3 million pounds (3.75 million dollars) Manchester United paid for England defender Gary Pallister, two years ago. Several other clubs have bid for Saunders, who was put up for auction by Derby with England defender Mark Wright. The club has not said when the pair will be transferred.

TENNIS TIDBITS

Connors gets wild card

WIMBLEDON, June 14: Two-time champion Jimmy Connors was given a wild card Thursday to play in Wimbledon as the 128-player men's field was completed for the grass-court event beginning June 24, reports AP.

Connors, 38, whose ranking of 218 is too low to qualify for the tournament without a wild card, was one of three men's wild cards announced Thursday. The others were Britons Nick Brown and Chris Wilkinson.

Connors, who won the Grand Slam tournament in 1974 and 1982 and was a finalist four other times, was not among the five men who received wild cards on Tuesday. Tournament officials said then they were still considering Connors' request for a wild card. A tournament spokesman said Thursday the delay "was a matter of whether he was fit or not." Connors received a doctor's approval to play in Wimbledon earlier this week.

Connors had not originally planned to play in Wimbledon because of his commitments as a television analyst and because he thought it might be difficult to play on grass following wrist surgery this winter. He forced Michael Chang into a fifth set in a dramatic third-round match at the French Open, then had to withdraw because of exhaustion and a sore back.

Stich, Hlasek move up

ROSMALLEN, Netherlands, June 14: Michael Stich of Germany and Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland decisively knocked out their opponents Thursday to reach the quarter-finals of the Continental Grass Court Trophy tennis tournament, reports AP.

However, fifth-seeded US player Richey Reneberg was ousted by unseeded Diego Nargiso of Monaco. Nargiso claimed the first two sets on tiebreakers and won 7-6, 7-6. Stich, the No. 2 seed at the 250,000-dollar tourney, trounced Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands 6-3, 6-3.

Fourth-seed Hlasek also won in two sets, beating Dutchman Jan Siemerink 7-6, 7-5. Andrei Olhovskiy of the Soviet Union, who upset the tournament's top seed, Guy Forget, on Tuesday, also made it to Friday's quarterfinal round. He defeated Kelly Evernden of New Zealand 6-3, 3-6, 6-4. In the closest match of the day, Israeli Amos Mansdorf ousted sixth-seed Soviet Alexander Volkov 6-7, 7-6, 6-3.

A Sanchez-Gilbert quarter

NEWPORT, Rhode Island, June 14: Emilio Sanchez, ranked No. 12 in the world, will meet No. 17 Brad Gilbert to begin the Spain-United States match in the Davis Cup quarterfinals on Friday, reports AP.

The winner of the three-day match on the grass courts of Newport Casino will meet Germany in the semifinals in September. Yugoslavia and France already have secured their places in the semifinals. John McEnroe, No. 14 and Tomas Carbonell, No. 70, will play the second match on the opening day.

Jim Pugh and Rick Leach will face Sergio Casal and Emilio Sanchez in doubles on Saturday. Pugh and Leach are ranked sixth and seventh, respectively. Casal and Sanchez are 13th and 15th. The closing day of the quarterfinal round, Sunday, will see McEnroe and Sanchez in the first match, and Gilbert and Carbonell in the second.

HK leads Singapore 2-0

SINGAPORE, June 14: Hong Kong took a 2-0 lead over Singapore after the first two singles matches in their Asia/Oceania Zone Group 11 second round tennis tie today, reports Reuter.

Results (Hong Kong names first): Colin Grant beat Lau Wai Yaw 6-0, 6-0, 6-0; Michael Walker beat Fredrik Ho 6-1, 6-0, 6-1.