



Top seed and world No 1 Stefan Edberg on his way to a men's singles 1st round victory over Switzerland's Marc Rosset on Centre Court at the Wimbledon on June 27. He won 6-4, 6-4, 6-4. — AFP photo

Edberg wins a 73-hour battle

WIMBLEDON, England, June 28: After three days of rain delays, top seed Stefan Edberg finally completed a 73-hour victory over Marc Rosset on a drizzly Thursday at Wimbledon, reports AP. Edberg won 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 in a match originally scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. Monday, but not before a light rain had once more mocked the defending champion's effort to wrap up the contest.

Rain delayed the start of play Thursday, but the match finally resumed at 1.38 pm as Edberg quickly took a 5-4 lead, but the rain returned at 2:01 pm Edberg prepared to serve for the match. After another 39-minute delay, Edberg held his serve to complete the match at 2.44 p.m. — exactly 73 hours and 44 minutes after it had been scheduled to start. Both players were laughing as they left the court, as another shower began. The incessant rain this week already has wrecked a couple of Wimbledon traditions and now is challenging one of its most hallowed rituals: the mid-tournament break. All England Club officials have mandated for more than a century that, "On the seventh day, we rest." But a backlog of matches caused by four days of miser-

able weather could call that commandment into question. "At this stage it is too early to decide if we will have to play on the middle Sunday," said chief executive Chris Goringe. "It has never been done in the past and of course we have had this sort of weather before." Yet Wimbledon librarian Alan Little, who has been at the Grand Slam event for 46 years, said he cannot recall such soggy weather. "I can't remember a wetter first three days," Little said. "This is certainly the wettest start we've ever had." After three days of Wimbledon, the rain was winning 134-46. Instead of the 180 matches that should have been completed by Wednesday night, only 46 had been finished.

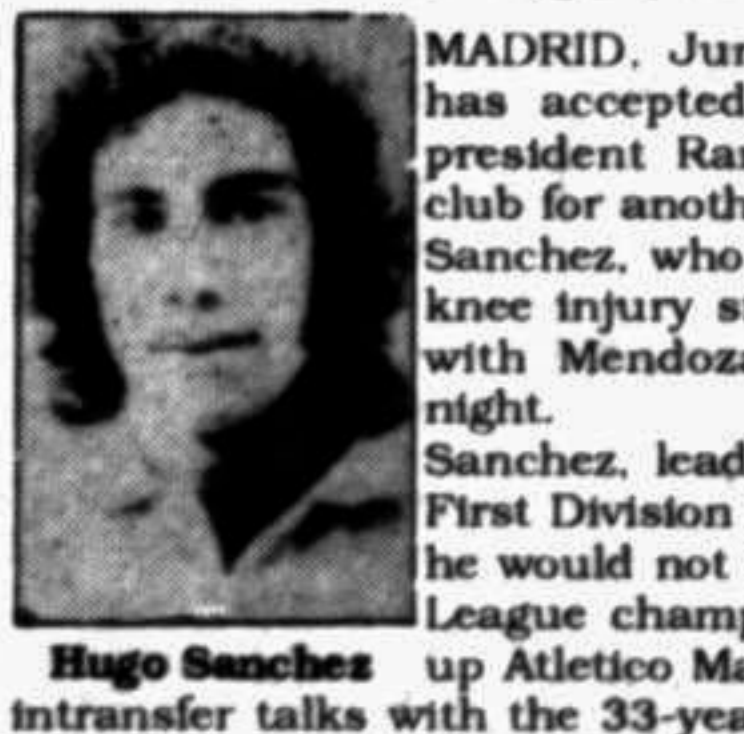
WC draw Dec 8

NEW YORK, June 28: The qualifying draw for the 1994 soccer World Cup will be held on December 8 and in New York City, the US organisers said on Thursday, reports Reuters. Current plans call for the draw ceremony at Madison Square Garden to begin at noon local time (1600GMT) and to be broadcast internationally along with a programme of entertainment. World Cup USA 1994 chief executive officer Charles Cale said in a statement. The draw divides the expected 120 countries entering the World Cup into continental groups. It begins a nearly two-year process in which teams

play in regional and continental groups to determine the 22 nations which will join the United States, the host country, and Germany, the defending champions. The draw has never been held outside Switzerland, home country of soccer's international governing body FIFA (Federation International de Football Association). The format for the 1994 World Cup calls for 14 teams including Germany from Europe, three from Africa, two from Asia, three from South America and two including the United States from North, Central and Caribbean America. The 24th team will emerge from an intercontinental play-off structure involving Oceania, South America and the North.

SOCCER SCENARIO

Sanchez agrees to stay at Real



Hugo Sanchez

MADRID, June 28: Striker Hugo Sanchez has accepted an offer from Real Madrid president Ramon Mendoza to stay at the club for another season, reports Reuters. Sanchez, who has been out of action with a knee injury since April, reached agreement with Mendoza at a meeting on Thursday night. Sanchez, leading goalscorer in the Spanish First Division until his injury, originally said he would not renew his contract with Real. League champions Barcelona and runners-up Atletico Madrid had both been involved in transfer talks with the 33-year-old Mexican this week.

Super League decision shelved

LONDON, June 28: Football Association chief executive Graham Kelly has shelved a final Super League decision, due this weekend, until after next month's high court hearing, reports AFP. Kelly confirmed on Thursday that all but one of the 22 English First Division clubs are ready to quit the Football League who have gone to court to stop the move. He is now seeking a declaration that the FA has the power to set up the new league, which is planned to start in 1992-93, and disallow a Football League rule that requires clubs to give three full seasons' notice to leave. The 90-strong FA council, meeting Torquay on Saturday, were originally set to rubber stamp Kelly's blueprint for the future of football.

Birmingham seeks Shilton

BIRMINGHAM, England, June 28: Third Division club Birmingham City want former England keeper Peter Shilton as their manager, reports AFP. The post has been vacant since Lou Macari departed and Birmingham chairman Samesh Kumar has been given permission by Derby manager Arthur Cox to speak to the 41-year-old Shilton. Shilton, who has a year left of his contract at Derby, recently applied for the managerial vacancies at Leicester and Southampton. "We have granted permission for them to speak to Peter who wants to further his career in this way," Cox said.

Fans observe 'black day' today

LONDON, June 28: The Football Supporters Association have declared June 29 as a black day in the history of the sports, reports AFP. Saturday is the day when the FA council is almost certain to support the blueprint for the much publicised restructure of the League. The FSA oppose the plans for a super-league because they fear it will reduce competition and limit promotion to the top division to teams with 20,000 all-seater grounds. FSA vice-chairman David Lee said: "The FA's guidelines mean only one team automatically wins promotion to the new elite division. What if that team cannot meet the FA criteria? Then we are on the slippery slope to the self-perpetuating elite that exists in American football. The dream of smaller clubs to rise to the heights must not be taken away."

Jt Korean team back home

TOKYO, June 28: A historic joint football team of North and South Korea returned to the northern capital of Pyongyang Friday from the World Youth Championships, the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported, reports AFP. Despite simmering mistrust between the two Koreas after 46 years of hostile separation, a warm welcome greeted the team which KCNA said had demonstrated "the resourcefulness and courage of the Korean nation to the world."

Morceli runs yr's fastest 1,500 m

HELSINKI, June 28: Noureddine Morceli of Algeria ran the year's fastest 1,500 metres time at the World Games athletics Grand Prix meeting on Thursday but missed out in his bid to break the world record, reports Reuters. In the meeting's other top race, world cross-country champion Khalid Skah of Morocco won the 5,000 metres in 13 minutes 17.22 seconds — another best time of the season. In his first outdoor competition over 1,500 metres, Morceli, 21-year-old world indoor champion, won in three minutes 31.00 seconds, a per-

sonal best. Morceli, who had said he would attempt to break Moroccan Said Aouita's six-year-old world mark of 3:29.46, took the lead with 600 metres to go and passed 1,200 metres in 2:49.83. "I would have liked the pacemaker to help until 1,200 metres but he stepped down already after 900 metres," Morceli said, adding he felt he could run 3:29. Simon Doyle of Australia was second in 3:32.79 with Abdi Bile of Somalia third in 3:34.72. Skah had forecast the winning time in the 5,000 metres would be the season's fastest. He hit the front with about three laps to go and completed

4,000 metres in 10:41.32. Skah, too, was unhappy with the pacemaking. He said he had been hoping for a 3,000-metre intermediate time of 7:52. The actual time was 7:59. Cuba's Ana Quirot won the women's 800 metres in one minute 57.91 seconds — one more season's best. Irina Sergeyeva of the Soviet Union, world indoor champion over 60 metres, won the 100 metres in 11.01 seconds without any assisting wind, the fastest time of the season by a European. World record holder Sepp-Raty, in front of his home crowd, won the javelin with a throw of 89.62, well down on his world best of 96.96 metres.



Sports Minister of Brunei, Datuk Haji Salamat-bin Haji Munap, receiving the crest of NSC from Youth and Sports Minister, Sadeq Hossain at NSC yesterday.

Pollock weeps as Sobers talks of S African isolation

JOHANNESBURG, June 28: World cricketing legend Sir Garfield Sobers arrived in South Africa Tuesday and reduced some of his welcoming party to tears by telling them what could have been during their decades of apartheid isolation. Sobers, who set numerous records during a sensational career, paid tribute to South Africans such as batsman Graeme Pollock and all-rounder Clive Rice who missed test careers because of Pretoria's race policies. "It was such a great pity that a player like Graeme Pollock never got the chance to prove himself on the pitches of the world," 54-year-old Sobers told a news conference. Pollock, who was at the airport with senior officials to greet Sobers, wept as the West Indian doyen of the game talked of South Africa's exclusion. Fellow former Springbok Jackie McGlew stood beside Pollock, fighting back the tears. "I always wished that the opportunities were there for South Africa to play the West Indies in my day... the chance never came to prove which was the better team," he said. Sobers has arrived in South Africa to attend Saturday's inauguration of the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA), the new non-racial body which is spearheading the Springboks' return to the international scene. He was accompanied by Austin Sealy, president of the Barbados Olympic Association, and influential British cricketing writer Jim Swanton. The International Cricket Conference is to decide next month at its meeting in London whether to readmit South Africa in the light of the repeal of apartheid legislation and the success in unifying rival, racially-aligned controlling bodies. All Bacher, managing director of the UCBSA, said he was hoping for a unanimous vote when the conference decides South Africa's fate. "We are quietly confident of a lot of support from the ICC — possibly even unanimous — in our bid for international acceptance," Bacher said. — Reuters

Agassi conforms to dress regulations

LONDON, June 28: Andre Agassi descended on Wimbledon on Thursday in a carefully orchestrated combination of marketing hype and showmanship, reports Reuters. After weeks of speculation, largely fuelled by the agents who have turned the 21-year-old American into a multi-millionaire, Agassi turned up in a snow white outfit in line with the All England Club's strict dress regulations. For good measure the fifth-seeded American also showed some authentic grass-court tennis skills after dropping the opening set in his first-round match against Canadian Grant Connell. When the atrocious weather

which has created havoc with the 105th championships finally held sway on the tournament's fourth day, Agassi had fought back to level the match at 4-6, 1-1, 1-1. Agassi has played only once at Wimbledon, winning just five games as a 17-year-old in the first round of the 1987 tournament against Frenchman Henri Leconte. His reluctance to appear since has been attributed as much to his preference for colourful clothing, banned by the All England Club which runs Wimbledon, as much as a dislike of grass courts. Agassi favours garish pink and lime green outfits with cycling tights under his shorts, he wears his hair long like a 1960s Californian hippie.

sports designer stubble and has been fined in the past for swearing and spitting. But when the exotic Las Vegas gorn-again Christian made his rain-delayed entrance on Thursday both his appearance and behaviour were impeccable. He betrayed an obvious case of nerves by double faulting twice in the opening game and was noticeably reluctant to move to the net in the opening set. One break was sufficient to give Connell the set but any thought of an early upset was promptly scrubbed by Agassi who took command of the second set. Some searing returns of service with his double-fisted backhand left Connell stranded and the American began to show altogether more confidence with his volleying. Agassi's only outburst was a harmless "gee whiz" after a fluffed shot, and when rain halted the match after 74 minutes he bowed briefly to an empty Royal Box and left the court to warm applause. That, it turned out, was not the end of the Agassi saga for the day. As the rain poured, Ian Hamilton, marketing director for the firm which provides Agassi's outfits, held an impromptu news conference during which he denied that any marketing ploy had been planned. "He likes the outfit," Hamilton said with a straight face. "He also likes coloured outfits."

US therapist for Soviet Olympians

MOSCOW, June 28: American sports therapist Leroy Perry, healer of Hollywood stars and top US athletes, will be working his magic on the Soviet side at next year's Barcelona Olympics, reports AP. The 45-year-old Perry, a Los Angeles chiropractor with no free to formal medical training, said Thursday he offered his services for the Soviet team to promote harmony between the superpowers. Soviet sports officials confirmed he will be working for them. "The Soviets say I'm the first doctor of the new world order," Perry said. He will work as a volunteer member of Soviet Olympic team's medical staff, the first American ever to do so. The man dubbed "Dr Magic Fingers" by one friend has a patient list that includes

American actors Jack Nicholson, Jane Fonda and Shirley Maclaine. Even Madonna hired him as her personal physical therapist during her Japan concert tour. He has treated US skier Suzy Chafee, Olympic high jumper Dwight Stones, discus thrower Mac Wilkins, and javelin hurler Tom Petranoff. In 1977, he said, he worked briefly for the Los Angeles Dodgers. Last month, Perry said he treated Soviet runner Olga Markova for an infection that threatened to keep her out of the Los Angeles marathon. She went on to compete and placed third. The Soviets accepted Perry's offer because of his success in treating athletes and because the American was willing to work for no salary, said Dr Anatoly Kovrizhkin, chief of medical services at the state sports committee, or Gosport.

The Soviets also are eager to heal their athletes with physical therapy because it's more cost-effective, Kovrizhkin said. "The Soviets don't care what kind of doctor I am," Perry said. "They just like my results." Kovrizhkin said Soviet teams in each sport "always have one or two athletes who need this help, people for whom medicine is not effective." "Also, it is cheaper than using medicine, which we buy mostly with foreign currency," Kovrizhkin said. The government plans to name Perry as an official member of the team staff on Friday, Kovrizhkin said. Perry, a chiropractor for 19 years, said he agreed to work for free because "I'm not here to make money. I'm here to teach and to learn." The American sports healer first came to the attention of the Soviets at the 1976 Summer Olympics, where he worked as therapist for the team from Antigua, the Caribbean island nation. During the Games, Perry successfully treated the back injury of an East German pentathlete who went on to win a bronze medal. At that time, Perry said, sports medicine experts at the Olympics frowned upon physical therapists, who do not use drugs or surgery to treat injuries. "It was also extremely unfavorable to help the East Bloc," he said.

Ivanisevic impresses despite unrest at home

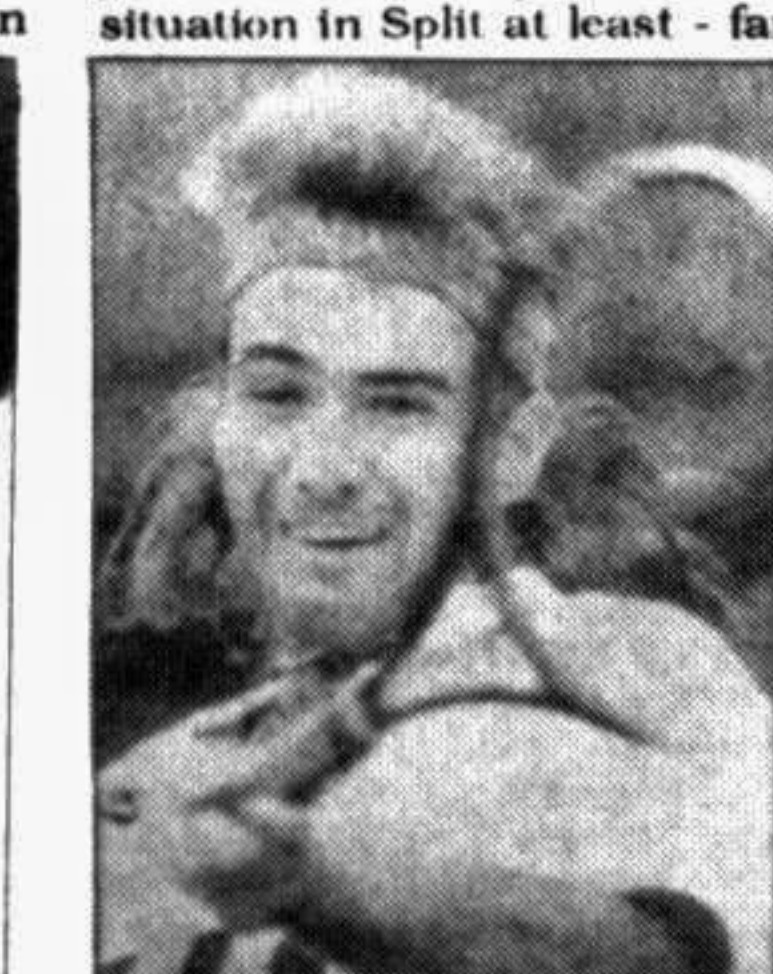
LONDON, June 28: Yugoslav Goran Ivanisevic pushed his country's current internal strife to the back of his mind on Friday as he surged impressively into the second round at watery Wimbledon, reports Reuters. Ivanisevic, who has been

last year's French Open fourth round, and pronounced himself a good bet to improve on his semifinal appearance at Wimbledon 12 months ago. "I'm not here to think about politics, I'm here to play my best tennis," said Ivanisevic, reassured by his 25-year-old sister Srdjana that the situation in Split at least far-

able to win only six points in the last four games as the Czechoslovak runner-up at the Australian Open earlier this year, ran away with the match. Bulgarian eighth seed Katerina Maleeva needed only 21 minutes to complete her interrupted first-round match against Briton Julie Salmon. Maleeva, leading 7-5, 1-0 when play resumed, broke Salmon in the eighth game of the second set and went on to win it 6-3.



GORAN IVANISEVIC



ANDRE AGASSI

receiving the latest news of the troubles in Slovenia from his sister in Split, beat Britain's Andrew Castle 7-6, 7-6, 6-2, setting a personal record of aces in the process. The 10th seed blasted 25 first serves past the resigned Castle, eclipsing his performance against Boris Becker in

away from the conflict in the north — was calm. For the fifth successive day, it was anything but hot and nice at Wimbledon. Just 95 minutes play was possible before more rain arrived, briefly interrupting two intriguing matches involving Americans Andre Agassi and Jimmy

Wiranata likely to start smoothly

KUALA LUMPUR, June 28: Top seed Ardy Wiranata of Indonesia is expected to breeze through the first two rounds of the 165,000 U S dollars Malaysian Open badminton championships starting here next week, reports AFP. Wiranata, the reigning All-England champion, meets Hong Kong's Chan Kin Ngai in the first round the other England's Anders Nielsen or Chris Bruil of the Netherlands in the second round. The Malaysian, who has been playing erratically since the win last year, is up against Taiwan's Lu Ep Hing in the third round.

Stars' exodus worries Vogts

BONN, June 28: German coach Berti Vogts, worried a growing flood of his top stars to the rich Italian league will hinder the national team, on Thursday criticised young players for being lured abroad by big money too early in their careers, reports Reuters. Former East German Thomas Doll and defenders Juergen Kohler and Stefan Reuter are set to boost the number of German squad players earning their living in Italy to nine next season. Vogts, whose side have a tough battle on their hands to qualify for next year's European Championship, said the ever-increasing exodus would make life more difficult for the World Cup winners. "There is no doubt that departing for internationals is

going to become a great deal harder," Vogts said. "European federation rules say players should be made available (by their clubs) 48 hours before an international. But that's not enough for me. I need them for training camps too." Vogts said he tried to persuade the 25-year-old Doll, who has just finished his first Bundesliga season, to put off a move from Hamburg to Lazio. The clubs agreed the main transfer terms on Wednesday. "Of course I've tried to (put off young players from moving)," he said. "I tried hard to persuade Doll that it would be better for him to develop more in the Bundesliga. He's not mature enough yet and, in my view, he isn't ready for Italy. But when they pay net annual salaries up to three million dollars (1.7 million dollars),

I'm wasting my breath," he said. In the past, German players generally left the Bundesliga in the twilight of their careers. Former captain Karl-Heinz Rummenigge was nearly 29 when he joined Inter Milan in 1984. Now, players are 25 or under when they pack their bags. Reuter, 24, and the 25-year-old Kohler, both from Bayern Munich, continued the trend this month when they confirmed transfers to Italian First Division club Juventus. Their future opponents every week will be familiar faces from the German national team, which is struggling three points behind leaders Wales in European Championship qualifying Group Five. Strikers Juergen Klinsmann, Rudi Voeller and Karlheinz Riedle, midfielders

Hard time for TV producers

WIMBLEDON, England, June 28: Wimbledon officials aren't the only ones who have to perform a juggling act with the schedules to cope with the rain, reports AP. Just ask those trying to put together television coverage of Wimbledon when the only action on court is the rolling out of the tarpaulin. "There comes a point when you throw your hands up and say you quit," said Ross Greenburg, the executive producer of the Wimbledon coverage for the U S-based cable channel Home Box Office (HBO). "Maybe we will have to have a white flag suspended from the complex." HBO has scheduled 2 1-2 hours of daily coverage the first week, plus two 30-minute daily highlight segments. On Monday, when rain washed out all matches, the network aired highlights from the 1990 Championships. HBO covered the few matches which were squeezed in between rain delays on Tuesday and Wednesday. If the situation doesn't improve, even the most diehard tennis fans are likely to lose interest and switch channels, Greenburg said. "You can only give them so much taped matches from previous days," he said. "If it's a wash-out tomorrow, I think I'd be for throwing it back to New York and having them air a movie."