

Tyson leaves no doubt

LAS VEGAS, June 29: Mike Tyson insulted Donovan "Razor" Ruddock before the fight, hit him with mean intentions during it, and hugged him afterward, reports AP.

"We got to fight again eventually," Tyson said after scoring a 12-round unanimous decision over Ruddock in their rematch Friday night outdoors at the Mirage.

With his arms around Ruddock's shoulder, Iron Mike said, "I just hope this guy doesn't go out and make a mistake against somebody because, God, boy, you've got a future."

Of course, so does Tyson, and in that future stands undisputed heavyweight Evander Holyfield. The fight will be held when Don King, who promotes Tyson, and Dan Duva, who promotes Holyfield, stop bickering.

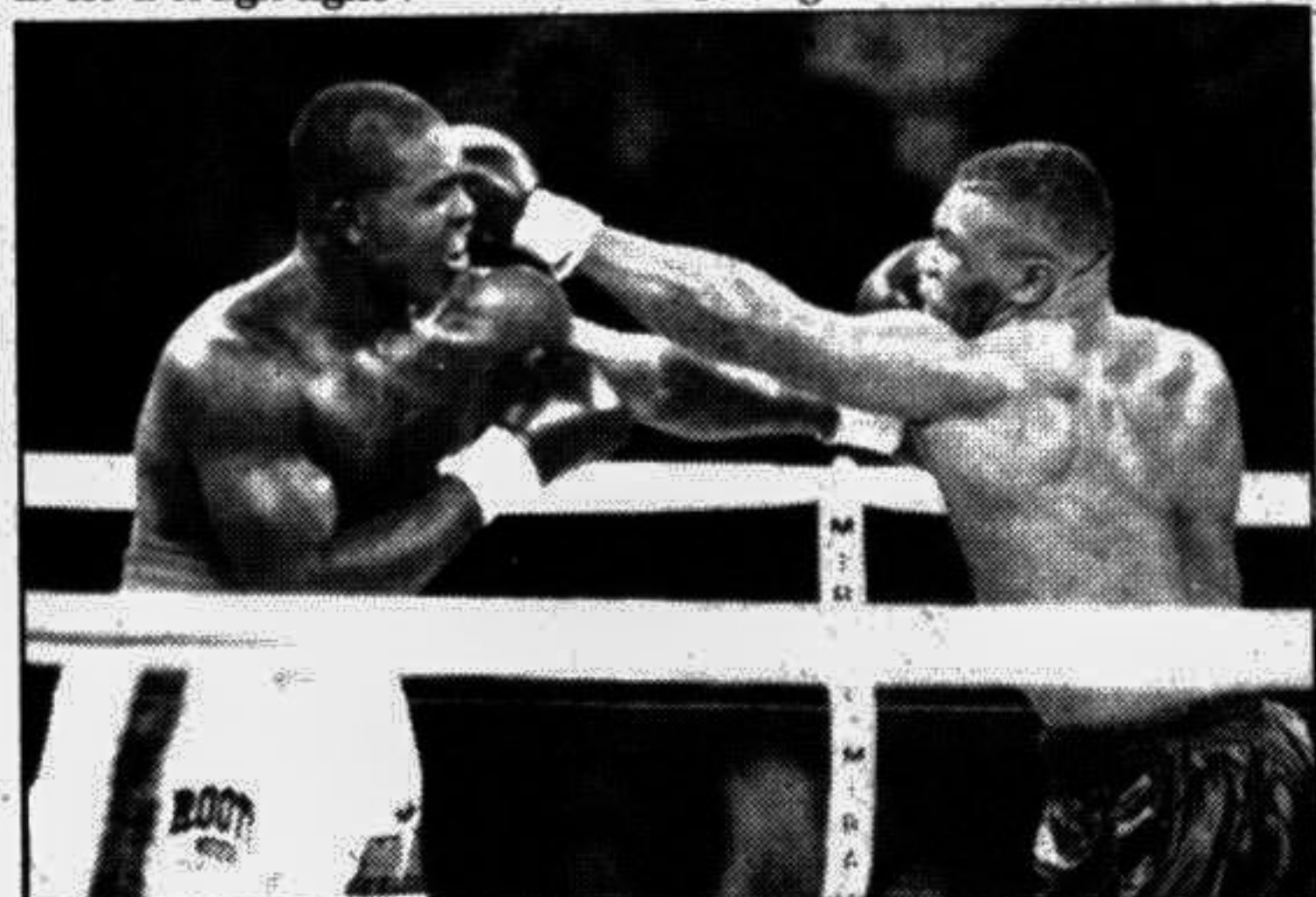
Tyson knocked down Ruddock twice, cut his lower lip and marked him below both eyes, but could not put him away in 12 foul-plagued rounds.

Referee Mills Lane deducted two points from Tyson for hitting low and one for holding. Ruddock also lost a point for holding. Both men also punched each other after several of the rounds.

Tyson also had scored two

knockdowns in the first fight on March 18, a bout stopped in the seventh round with Ruddock against the ropes. Referee Richard Steele was roundly criticized for stopping that fight.

Of Friday night's fight, attended by some 15,000 fans, Tyson said, "I knew I was in for a tough fight."



Mike Tyson gives Donovan 'Razor' Ruddock a treatment.

Ruddock had hurt Tyson with a barrage in the sixth round of the first fight and landed several large shots in the rematch, including a pair of right hands that wobbled Tyson in the 10th.

But nobody could criticize his effort.

Ruddock also said he had no quarrel with the decision.

Judge Chuck Gimpa scored it 113-109 while Ary Lurie and Dalby Shirley each had it 112-108, all for Tyson. The AP card favored Tyson 114-110.

While Tyson showed that he could knock down taller, heavier men, it again was demonstrated that Iron Mike could be made to look bad by taller, stronger men.

right to the jaw put Ruddock down with the round 35 seconds old. Again, Ruddock bounced up and took a mandatory 8-count. Ruddock's mouthpiece was also knocked out and Lane stopped the fight for several seconds to have it put back in.

This was one of the rounds in which both fighters hit after the bell.

Ruddock returned the favour by knocking out Tyson's mouthpiece in the sixth round, then began finding the range in the seventh and eighth.

In the 10th round, Ruddock hurt Tyson with two rights to the head, but Tyson had the edge in the round because he landed 10 hard punches to the head.

In the 11th round, Tyson was 'booed' every time he landed to the body, while Ruddock landed a blow that, very, very low, and he wasn't penalized.

The fight ended with both landing low blows at the bell.

Tyson now has a 41-1 record with 36 knockouts. Ruddock's second straight loss gives him a 25-3-1 with 18 knockouts.

Each boxer was guaranteed 5 million dollars, with Tyson to get a percentage of pay-per-view television revenue.

Ruddock spoke to a television reporter in the ring, but did not attend the post-fight news conference.

Kaiser, Johnny for Calcutta MSC

Sports Reporter

Two more Bangladeshi football stars — Kaiser Hamid and Imtiaz Sultan Johnny of Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club — will be playing in the Calcutta Super Division league.

According to reliable sources in Dhaka yesterday, Kaiser and Johnny will be following in the path of the three Abahani stars Aslam, Rumi and Munna who have joined Calcutta giants East Bengal Club earlier this month. Kaiser and Johnny have reportedly signed for Calcutta Mohammedan Sporting and will be donning their black and white jerseys in the two prestige encounters against East Bengal and Mohun Bagan. The matches are scheduled for July 6 and 13.

For this purpose the two players have received clearance from their local club and the Bangladesh Football Federation for the period from July 3 to 14th. However, the two may also play for Calcutta MSC in some other matches in between.

Although neither Kaiser nor Johnny would disclose the monetary aspects of their agreement it is learnt that each player demanded a sum of 1000 dollars per match but may eventually settle for a lesser sum, in the vicinity of six to seven hundred dollars a game.

The pair is likely to leave for Calcutta July 3.

Becker, Agassi add colour

LONDON, June 29: A tennis player turned philosopher and a brash product of US gambling capital Las Vegas paraded contrasting styles and temperaments at Wimbledon on Friday, reports Reuter.

Boris Becker, a 23-year-old German pursuing his fourth men's singles title, demonstrated his serve-and-volley game on Centre Court with a straight-sets win over compatriot Carl-Uwe Steeb.

He was preceded by 21-year-old American Andre Agassi, a baseliner playing only his second game on grass, who completed a five-set victory over Canadian Grant Connell.



BECKER, the philosopher,

In a remarkable interview shortly before the championships Becker revealed that he was haunted by the high casualty rate in American show business.

"They are a lesson to me, Elvis Presley, James Dean and Marilyn Monroe," he said. "Their examples cross my mind again and again."

A celebrity at 17 when he won his first Wimbledon title, Becker has been forced to reach maturity in the harsh glare of constant publicity.

He has painfully re-evaluated his priorities and one side-effect has been public criticism of the amount of money being pumped into the game.

At a post-match news conference on Friday Becker reluctantly admitted that he had given money to Greenpeace and to an appeal for Romanian orphans.

"It's true," he said. "But I don't really want to talk about it."



AGASSI a marketing product,

Agassi, two years Becker's junior, is a pure marketing product, carefully handled for maximum commercial benefit.

The hype surrounding his appearance here reached absurd heights on Thursday when the marketing director of the firm which manufactures his outfits gave a news conference to describe his all-white outfit.

But Agassi is also an undeniably talented tennis player and revealed a likeable personality.

His sentiments seemed genuine when he described his excitement at playing on Centre Court and he revealed a nice unforced sense of humour at some of the more nonsensical questions.

The Las Vegas background came through when he was asked for his thoughts on grass courts.

"It's really like a crap shoot out there — you just roll the dice and hope it rolls your way," he said.

Becker and Agassi could hardly be more different. But between them provided a dash of colour in the first week to a tournament as much in need of genuine personalities as sunshine.

England call up Reeve

LONDON, June 29: All-rounder Dermot Reeve was called into England's Test cricket squad on Friday and had a personal telephone call from captain Graham Gooch to ensure there was no mistake this time, reports Reuter.

Hong Kong-born Reeve, who plays for Warwickshire, was named in a party of 13 for the third Test against West Indies starting at Trent Bridge, Nottingham, next Thursday.

Reeve, a medium-pace bowler and useful middle order batsman replaces Glamorgan seamer Steve Watkin in an otherwise unchanged squad. He received confirmation of his selection from Gooch after a cruel misunderstanding before the first Test when he was thought for several hours he was in the Headingly squad, only to learn a reporter had got it wrong.

Although Reeve is uncapped at Test level, he played for England in the third and final one-day international against West Indies in May.

Chairman of selectors Ted Dexter said: "It is very pleasing to be able to include Reeve's all-round strength following his performances for Warwickshire in helping them to the top of the county championship."

Reeve has scored 457 first-class runs this season at an average of 57.12 and taken 17 wickets at 23.64 apiece.

England lead 1-0 the five-match series.

LAMBERT LASHES TON

Meanwhile, another Reuter report from Trowbridge says: Opener Clayton Lambert lashed a run-a-ball century as West Indies romped to a nine-wicket victory over the League Cricket conference in a one-day match on Friday.

Lambert, drafted into the touring team when Gordon

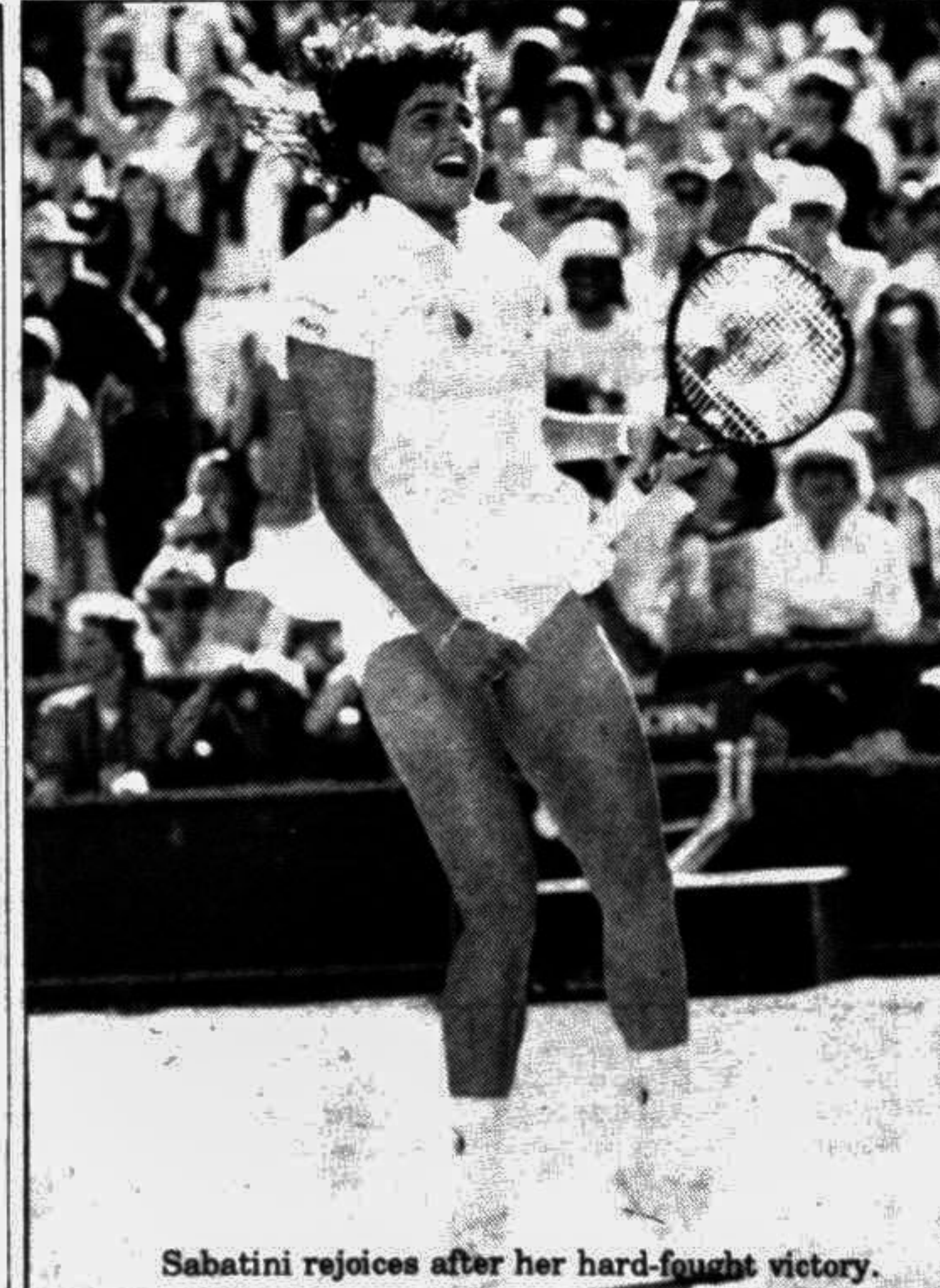
Greenidge was sidelined by knee surgery last month, hammered an unbeaten 101 from 99 deliveries, with three sixes and 10 fours.

The Guyana batsman's sparkling innings spurred West Indies to success at 195 for one from 31 overs after the League side had made 194 for four in their quota of 55 overs.

Lambert shared an opening stand of 162 in 26 overs with Phil Simmons, who made 70 off 79 balls.

The Conference, including West Indian trio Roger Harper, the discarded Test off-spinner, Ken McLeod and Victor Walcott, nephew of former Test batsman Clyde, were given some easy runs late in their innings.

Queensland opener Geoff Foley (36), Mike Ingham (48 not out) and captain Nigel Heaton (44) all chipped in, but viv Richards underlined the relaxed mood when he dropped Heaton two-handed behind his back.



Sabatini rejoices after her hard-fought victory.

Sun shines at long last

LONDON, June 29: Second seed Gabriela Sabatini struggled with her serve but still won through to the third round of the Wimbledon tennis championships on Saturday, reports Reuter.

As officials and fans rejoiced at the sight of sunshine and blue skies after days of rain, the day's programme got off to a good start with swift wins by Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and last year's finalist Zina Garrison as well.

But though all three seeds won in straight sets, each had her own problems.

Sabatini, the reigning US Open champion, beat Frenchwoman Karine Quentrec 6-4, 6-2 in a Court One match which saw 11 service breaks.

In hot sets the Argentine had to come from behind to beat the dogged Quentrec, ranked 68 places below her in the world at 71st.

"I wasn't happy with my first serve," Sabatini said. "I was missing too many. I gave her the chance to put pressure on me."

The first set alone took 49 minutes, by which time the fourth-seeded Sanchez Vicario had almost completed her 6-4, 6-1 win over South African Amanda Coetzer on the neighbouring Centre Court.

Sanchez Vicario, the 1989 French Open champion, won only three points as she lost the first three games but surged back to take 12 of the next 14 games.

Garrison, like Sabatini, had problems with her serve, dropping it three times in the first set against 19-year-old Bulgarian Elena Pampoulova.

But Pampoulova was in even deeper trouble, allowing herself to be broken four times in the set before Garrison, who lost the Wimbledon final to Martina Navratilova last year, won 6-3, 6-1.

An earlier report said: The sun finally shone on

Wimbledon on Friday, allowing Boris Becker to launch his campaign to wrest the title back from Stefan Edberg.

Ivan Lendl, French Open champion Jim Courier and Andre Agassi, the teenagers' heart-throb, preceded Becker into the second round after four frustrating days of watching the rain fall.

But Michael Chang, the French Open winner in 1989 and seeded ninth here, bowed out to fellow American Tim Mayotte who saved four matchpoints in the fourth set to win 6-7, 4-6, 6-1, 7-6, 6-2.

Top seed Steffi Graf, the women's champion in 1988 and 1989, became the first player into the third round — before many others had even got through their first matches — with a 39 minute, 6-0, 6-1 win over American Peanut Louie-Harper.

For Becker and for Lendl too, victory was pretty routine when it finally came.

Becker, triple champion at Wimbledon and the losing finalist to Edberg last year, beat fellow German Carl-Uwe Steeb 6-4, 6-2, 6-4 while Lendl defeated New Zealander Killy Evernden 6-2, 7-5, 7-6.

But through the whole of the women's first round was completed, and even some second-round matches played, officials still decided to play on the middle Sunday — traditionally a rest day at Wimbledon — for the first time since the championships began in 1877.

Agassi, who now plays Yugoslav Goran Prpic, needed two days to finish his first-round match against Canadian Grant Connell after rain halted play on Thursday at one set all and 1-1 in the third.

Courier found the switch from the Roland Garros clay, where he beat Agassi in the French final earlier this month, easier than expected and romped past Frenchman Rodolphe Gilbert 6-4, 6-2, 7-6.

But 11th seed Emilio Sanchez of Spain was beaten 6-3, 7-6, 6-1 by Patrick McEnroe

BFF donation

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) and the Metropolitan Club Samity yesterday donated Taka 17,20,000 to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for the victims of the April 29 cyclone, reports UNB.

The money was raised from the recently concluded BTC Club Cup tournament jointly organised by the BFF and the Club Samity in Dhaka and participated by six leading soccer clubs of Bangladesh and India.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka and BFF President Siddique Rahman handed over a cheque for the amount to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at Sugandha last evening.

BFF Acting Secretary Serajul Islam Bacchu, Club Samity President S A Sultan, Organising Secretary Kazi Mishu and BFF member Ferdous Islam were also present.

The total collection from the tournament amounted Taka 37 lakhs 63 thousand which came from gate-money and sponsorship. The organisers spent more than Taka twenty lakhs for conduct of the tournament.

Mohun Bagan win

League champion Mohun Bagan Club registered fifth victory defeating Eastern Railway by a solitary goal in the Calcutta Super Division Football League yesterday, reports UNB.

Chima Okert, the Nigerian striker of Mohan Bagan, scored the match-winner by a nice header from goalmouth mere three minutes before the final whistle, according to Akashbani monitored here.

Nelson's title intact

LAS VEGAS, June 29: Azumah Nelson of Ghana made Jeff Fenech's American debut a frustrating affair as the two battled furiously to a 21-round draw that left Nelson with his World Boxing Council (WBC) super featherweight title intact, reports Reuter.

Lawrence stakes claim

LONDON, June 29: Gloucestershire fast bowler David Lawrence, who is pressing Devon Malcolm for his England Test place, produced a five-wicket burst to rock Northamptonshire in the English county championship on Friday, reports Reuter.

Lawrence named in England's 13 for the third Test against West Indies next week, ripped through Northamptonshire's top order batting on the first day at Luton.

Lawrence took the first five wickets as Northants crashed to 32 for five and his figures were five for 46 when a thunderstorm ended play early with the home side 150 for seven.

Rob Bailey, with 57 in 141 minutes, and Ex-West Indies Test pace bowler Eldine Baptiste, who hit nine fours in his 51, led a revival.

Lawrence, seeking to make the XI for the third Test at

Trent Bridge after being omitted at Lord's, said: "I was disappointed not to get in last time, but that's the way it goes. We'll just have to wait and see what happens on Thursday."



DAVID LAWRENCE

Leaders Warwickshire were held up by an accomplished century from Derbyshire's Indian Test captain Mohammad Azharuddin on a seaming pitch at Edgbaston.

Azharuddin scored exactly 100, reaching three figures off 109 deliveries and hitting 16 fours, to steer his county to 260 all out as pacer Tim Munton (five for 77) and Gladstone small (four for 36) did the damage.

Opener Alan Butcher, shrugging off injury, and Indian all-rounder Ravi Shastri hammered centuries to spur Glamorgan to 393 for three declared off 101 overs against Lancashire at Old Trafford.

With Pakistan pacerman Wasim Akram injured, Lancashire's bowling was savaged by Butcher 9129) Shastri (133) and Matthew Maynard (89).

Butcher was on 94 when he was hit in the face by a ball from England pace bowler Phillip DeFreitas and had to leave the field for stitches in a cut lip. But he returned to complete his century with 20 fours off 126 balls.

Shastri's hundred was his second in successive championship innings, coming off 171 deliveries with 12 boundaries.

Connors creates history

LONDON, June 29: Former champion Jimmy Connors defied the long march of time on Friday by puffing and grunting his way through his 100th Wimbledon singles match, reports Reuter.

Then he asked himself what he was doing there.

Visibly loving every minute, he delighted the Court One crowd by easily beating Finland's Veli Paloheimo 6-2, 6-0, 7-5 in the first round to complete his 99th singles appearance.

Employed off-court as a sports pundit for American television, the 38-year-old double winner was asked what his first question would be if he could interview himself.

"I'd ask him if he's nuts playing," Connors said. "You know, what's going on here, why is he still playing?"

And what would be the reply from the 'ageing warhorse'?

"Tune in to NBC, I'll tell you," he suggested.

Battling through his opening match on the adjacent Centre Court, he appeared to be as bowled over by the atmosphere as the old veteran on Court One had been all those years ago.

"Wimbledon is a shot-maker's tournament... I like it, it's my kind of tennis... on grass every point you are throwing the dice... it's just exciting being part of it," he said.

Connors, back after missing last year's Wimbledon through injury, was more ambivalent about his place in it all nowadays.

"In my honest view, if the game rests on the shoulders of a 38-year-old guy and a 32 or 33 year-old John McEnroe to create excitement, then I don't know if that's good or not."

"I'm caught in two minds. I love to create excitement and I love playing against these young guys half my age."

"But I don't know if it's right for somebody like me to still be able to get in there and to grind it out against the top players of the world," said

Connors, whose world ranking is now so low that he is entered as a wild card here this year.

Injured last year, Jimbo nearly missed out this year too. "By all laws of medicine I should not be playing right now. I came back and my wrist was 100 per cent," he said.

"I came back a little quicker than the doctor wanted me to... They said that I may never be playing again, so this is a whole surprise for me just to be out here playing."

His fans and the Wimbledon fans have learnt to love Connors over the years — have no doubt he remains good value even though the bookmakers rate him at 200-1 for the title.

Connors, winner in 1974 and 1982, begged to disagree with the odds: "I'm worth a pound or two, just for old times sake."

Stepping on court in the wake of fiery Yugoslav Goran Ivanisevic, it was a case of Gentlemen Jim as Connors dished out some mildly-comical wisecracks and more serious tennis.

"I really don't mind if he calls it in or out but at least let it bounce first," he told

SOCCER SCENARIO

Calcutta MSC struggle

ALCUTTA, June 29: Mohammedan Sporting continued their run of poor performances when they registered a hard fought solitary goal victory over Port Trust in their Super Division soccer league match here yesterday, reports PTI.

The match winner was scored in the dying minutes of the first half by striker, Abid Hussain. The goal came when Mohammedan's Nigerian medio, Christopher, took a shot from about 30 yards which rebounded off a defender and Abid Hussain utilised the rebound to score from close.

Mexico, Honduras win openers

LOS ANGELES, June 29: Honduras upset Canada 4-2 and Mexico beat Jamaica 4-1 Friday night in the opening games of the CONCACAF Gold Cup, the inaugural championship of soccer's North and Central American and Caribbean region, reports AP.

The United States plays Trinidad and Tobago on Saturday at the Rose Bowl in the second half of a doubleheader that begins with Costa Rica playing Guatemala.

Honduras took the lead in the first half on a penalty kick after Canadian goalkeeper Craig Forrest pulled down Eduardo Benett as he approached the net. Forrest got the red card.

Mexico's Benjamin Galindo scored two goals for his team's victory. He kicked the ball from outside the 18-yard mark past Jamaican goalie Clive Smith at 28 minutes into the first half to give Mexico a 1-0 lead. Galindo scored again, nine minutes into the second half on a penalty kick granted to Mexico for rough play by Jamaican player Winston Anglin.

Rounding out the scoring for Mexico was Luis Roberto Alves, known as "Zague," and Carlos Hermosillo.

US booters' tour itinerary

COLORADO SPRINGS, June 29: The US national soccer team will play at least three matches in Europe this summer, the US Soccer Federation announced on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

The US team will play the Soviet Union on August 17 in Moscow, followed by an August 28 match against Romania in Bucharest and a September 4 date against Turkey in Istanbul. Two more matches in Europe may be added within that time frame, the federation said.

Dutch Cup replay delayed

AMSTERDAM, June 29: A row over the Dutch Cup final sank further into the legal quagmire on Wednesday when a court delayed Sunday's scheduled replay of the second half, reports Reuter.

The Dutch ANP news agency said the court in Utrecht upheld a complaint from Feyenoord Rotterdam, who beat BVV Den Bosch 1-0 in the final earlier this month, that they could not raise team by Sunday. It ruled that the second half of the game should be replayed on July 30 or as soon as possible thereafter.

The KNVB will now have to seek a dispensation from UEFA to allow a late entry from the Netherlands.