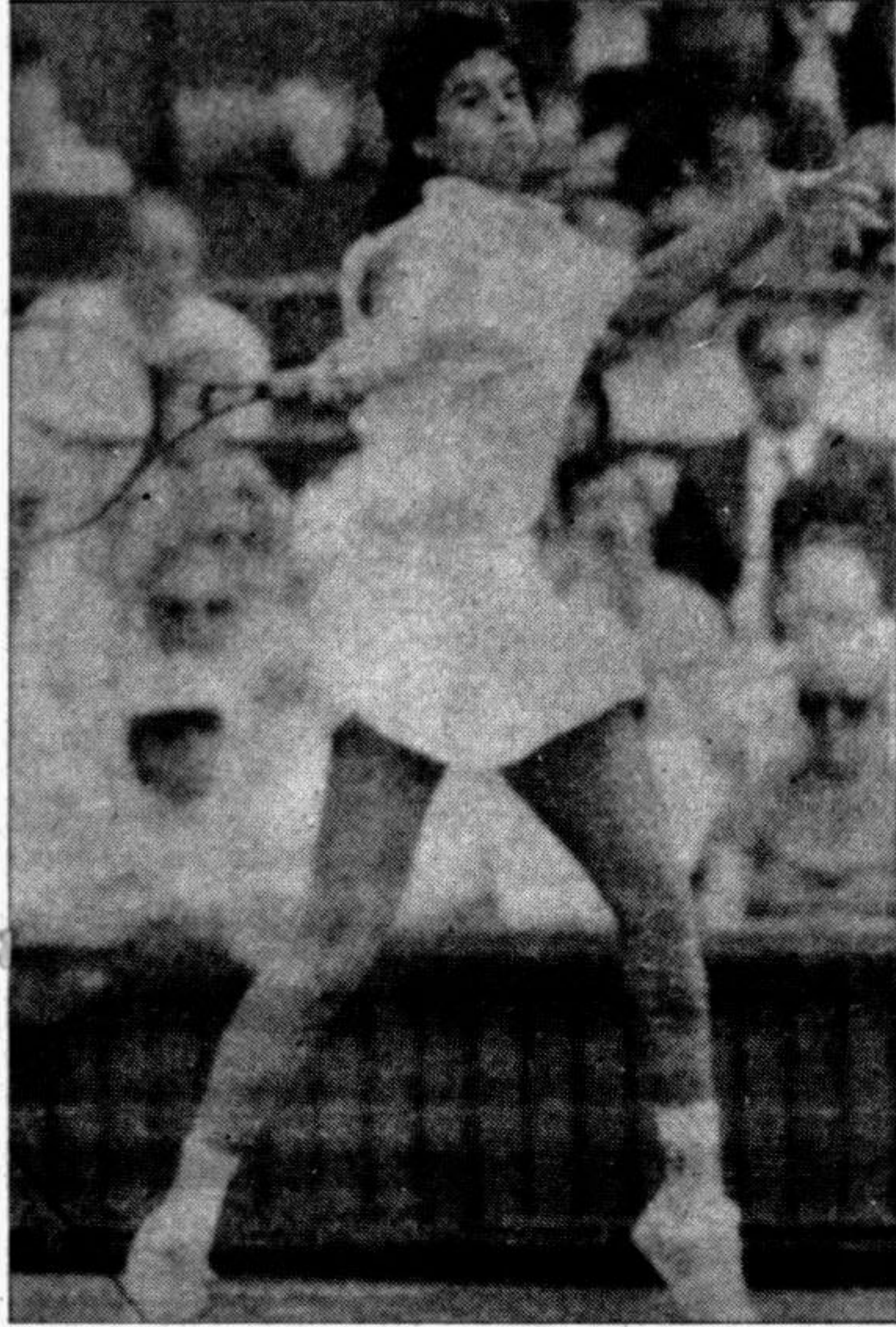


A cakewalk for Sabatini

TORONTO, Aug 7: Top-seeded Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina crushed Italy's Silvia Farina 6-0, 6-0 Tuesday to lead a winning day for seeded players in the second round of the 600,000 dollars Canadian Open, reports AP.

Monica Seles of Yugoslavia. "But if I keep playing like this I think I can be No. 1," Sabatini said. Maleeva-Fragniere, who plays Regina Rajchrtova of Czechoslovakia in the third round, was confident that Sabatini won't have things all her own way. "If I play me best tennis, I

Werdel of the United States defeated Malanie Bernard and Sonya Jeyaseelan of Canada 6-3, 6-2. RESULTS Singles, second round: Manuela-Fragniere, Switzerland (2) def. Rika Hiraki, Japan, 7-5, 6-0. Helena Sukova, Czechoslovakia (6), def. Maria Strandlund, Sweden, 7-6 (7-5), 6-4. Amy Frazier, US, (8) def. Nicole Provis, Australia, 7-5, 6-3. Helen Kelesi (11), Canada, def. Kimiko Date, Japan, 6-4, 6-4; Regina Rajchrtova, Czechoslovakia (16), def. Rene Alter-Simpson, Canada, 6-3, 6-4. Debbie Graham, US, def. Jessica Emmons, US, 6-2, 6-3; Mana Endo, Japan, def. Larisa Savchenko, Soviet Union, 6-1, 6-1. First Round: Gabriela Sabatini (1), Argentina, def. Silvia Farina, Italy, 6-0, 6-0; Naoko Sawamatsu (12), Japan, def. Cecilia Dahlman, Sweden, 6-2, 6-4. Patricia Hy, Canada, def. Sandra Dopfer, Austria, 1-6, 6-0, 6-1; Natalia Zvereva, Soviet Union, def. Yael Segal, Israel, 6-1, 6-3. Magdalena Maleeva, Bulgaria, def. Andrea Leand, US, 6-1, retired. Kathy Rinaldi, US, def. Louise Field, Australia, 6-4, 6-2; Jolene Watanabe, US, def. Camille Benjamin, US., 6-1, 6-2. Doubles, first round — Jo Durie, Britain, and Katerina Maleeva, Bulgaria (6), def. Belinda Cordwell, New Zealand, and Maria Lindstrom, Sweden, 6-4, 5-7, 6-3. Laura Gildemeister, Peru, and Nathalie Tauziat, France (7), def. Maureen Drake, Canada, and Suzanne Italiano, Canada, 6-1, 6-1; Helen Kelesi, Canada, and Regina Rajchrtova, Czechoslovakia (8), def. Renata Baranski, US, and Sara Gonner, Britain, 6-1, 6-4. Jill Smoller, and Marianne Werdel, US., def. Melanie Bernard, Canada, and Sonya Jeyaseelan, Canada, 6-3, 6-2; Eva Pfaff, Germany, and Petra Thoren, Finland, def. Julie Salmon, Britain, and Janine Thompson, Australia, 6-3, 6-7 (3-7), 6-2. Kimiko Date, Japan, and Akiko Kijimuta, Japan, def. Sophie Amtach, France, and Anne Minter Australia, 6-3, 6-2; Ann Henrickson, US., and El Iida, Japan, def. Erika de Lenc, US., and Audra Keller, US., 6-3, 7-6 (7-5).



An action study of Gabriela Sabatini.

No. 2-seed Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere of Switzerland was right behind, beating Japan's Rika Hiraki 7-5, 6-0, in her championship opener. In other matches, 11th-seeded Helen Kelesi of Canada took 52 minutes to defeat Japan's Kimiko Date 6-4, 6-4 and win a third-round match-up with Sabatini, who is 8-0 against the Canadian. "I think I played perfect today," Sabatini said. "I was very satisfied... I did everything right." Sabatini, winner of last year's US Open, is ranked third in the world behind Steffi Graf of Germany and

feel I can beat anyone," she said. "It might sound a little stuck up, but on a good day, I think I can beat Graf, Seles and Gaby." Rajchrtova, the tournament's 16th-seeded player, downed Rene Simpson Alter of Canada 6-3, 6-4, while ninth-seeded Natalia Zvereva of the Soviet Union took an easy win over Israeli Yael Segal. Patricia Hy of Canada staged a comeback to defeat unseeded Austrian Sandra Dopfer 1-6, 6-0, 6-1, and eight-seeded Amy Frazier of the United States beat Australian Nicole Provis 7-5, 6-3. In first round doubles action, Jill Smoller and Marianne

Americans defend Castro



HAVANA, Aug 7: US athletics officials on Tuesday came to the defence of Cuban President Fidel Castro in a controversy about whether he snubbed an American sprinter by not presenting her with a medal during the third day of the Pan-American Games, reports Reuter. The incident during Monday's medal ceremony for the women's 100 meters has become one of the hottest topics of discussion among foreign journalists seeking clues to whether the Games will set off an improvement in US-Cuba relations. Castro presented the gold medal to Cuba's Liliana Allen and bronze medalist Beverly McDonald of Jamaica but the silver medal was presented to US sprinter Chryste Gaines, who was holding an American flag, by Pan-American sports organisation president Mario Vazquez Rana of Mexico. The head of the US track team, Jose Rodriguez, told a

press conference Tuesday the incident disturbed American officials so much that they raised it with top Cuban officials and were now convinced it was a simple misunderstanding with no snub intended. "There was confusion and Castro deferred to a Pan-American sports organisation official to place the silver medal," Rodriguez said. Rodriguez said he raised the matter with Cuba's National Sports Institute vice-president Alberto Juantorena, a former 400 and 800-meter Olympic champion. "It was a miscommunication and not deliberate," Rodriguez said. Rodriguez pointed out that at the end of the medals' ceremony Castro shook hands with Gaines while she was still holding her flag. US women's team coach Karen Dennis said "Gaines also was convinced that Castro did not intend any snub."

"She was elated that Castro shook her hand and she had her American flag in her other hand," Dennis said.

Hosts way ahead in Pan-Am Games

HAVANA, Aug 7: This is a first for the Cubans, and they're coming in first all over the place, reports AP. Cuba owns the 11th Pan American Games, the largest international sports soiree ever held on this island, and that's bad news for the rest of the Americas. Through four days of competition, the Cubans amassed 51 total medals, 33 of them gold, distancing the US collection of 41 medals, only 12 of which were gold. Canada was third, but so far back no one was counting. George Steinbrenner, a new US Olympic Committee member, is mad, and you can ask Dave Winfield what that means. US athletes have more excuses than a pickpocket in a lockup, and their coaches shrug it off as a bad day at the OK Corral. Their peaking has been primarily for the Pan American Games," US men's track coach Joe Vigil said of the Cubans. "And they will try to do even better because this is their show."

With Cuban President Fidel Castro and his ministers watching, this is a good time and place for the Cubans to do well, and it's apparent that the Pan American Games have taken on a new meaning for them. "The people have inspired me to prepare for getting a gold medal," said Ana Quirot, who set a Pan Am record of 49.61 seconds when she won the 400 meters Monday. "I consider this the greatest event... because never has my country had an event like this one."

Cuba's track stars led the early medals rout. In the first three days of track and field, the Cubans won eight golds, two silvers and three bronze. The United States, meanwhile, had one gold, six silvers and five bronze. Tuesday was an off day for track, but the Cubans were sure to be on when action resumes Wednesday. In terms of the medal count, we've been behind at the rest day and have come on hard in the second half before. Vigil said. "We're not performing exceptionally well, but we're doing our best."

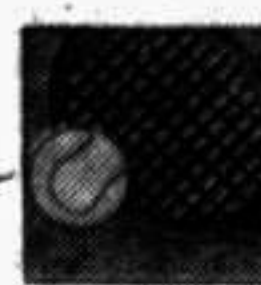
Cubans also were dominating fencing and weightlifting, the Cuban baseball team was a considerable favourite to add another gold — adding a no-hitter by Jorge Valdes and four more home runs Tuesday in a 14-0, seven-inning rout of Canada — and the powerful Cuban boxing team wasn't even scheduled to throw a punch in anger until Wednesday. Three US boxers — Bradley Martinez, Denard Trapp and Sanson Pouha — were paired against Cubans in the first round, although none were scheduled to fight Wednesday. While the US baseball team, which beat Mexico 12-4 for its second victory of the games, is an underdog to Cuba, there are some glints of gold for America. The heavily favoured US women's basketball team already had clinched a spot in the medal round when the men advanced on Tuesday with an 87-81 victory over Argentina. The US men aren't exactly dusting the credenza with anybody, but they did clinch a berth in the quarterfinals. And team captain Christian Laettner says he and his teammates are comfortable with the way they're playing. "I think we felt in control, just as we had in the first two wins," said Laettner, who had 15 points. "We show our youth and international inexperience, and that's what we have to work on."

The US team left for Miami immediately after its victory

and will work out in private before returning to Cuba for its quarterfinal game Friday night against the Bahamas. US wrestlers, some of the best in the world, went 20-for-20 in their qualifying matches Tuesday, and Americans have swept all three diving events so far. The diving was a US-Cuba showdown, one of the few that Americans have won. Mark Lenzi of Fredericksburg, Va., beat Cuban Abel Ramirez on his last dive in the 1-meter springboard event. Earlier, Americans won the men's and women's 3-meter springboard events. The US women got a taste of gold Tuesday night in gymnastics, edging the Cubans. And then there's the young gunner from El Monte, Calif., with the scary name and the even scarier fastball, Debbie doom has thrown two perfect games in women's softball, and the Cubans are calling her "La Supersonta." She struck out 17, including 10 in a row in one stretch, against Nicaragua for a 5-0 victory. **Medals Table**

| | G | S | B | Tot |
|---------------|----|----|----|-----|
| Cuba | 33 | 12 | 6 | 51 |
| United States | 12 | 16 | 13 | 41 |
| Canada | 3 | 5 | 11 | 19 |
| Colombia | 2 | 5 | 6 | 13 |
| Mexico | 1 | 4 | 6 | 11 |
| Brazil | 3 | 1 | 3 | 7 |
| Venezuela | 1 | 5 | 3 | 9 |
| Argentina | 0 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Nicaragua | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Trinidad | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Uruguay | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Dominican Rep | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Ecuador | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Jamaica | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |

Seles misses deadline



LONDON, Aug 7: Monica Seles has missed a deadline for submitting a medical certificate explaining her absence from the recent Federation Cup, and could be barred from the 1992 Summer Olympics, reports AP. Seles had until Monday to present a doctor's note justifying her late withdrawal from the Federation Cup. But International Tennis Federation spokesman Ian Barnes said Tuesday the certificate had not yet arrived. "We've heard nothing from her and we've heard nothing from the Yugoslav Federation," Barnes said. Since playing in the Federation Cup in a prerequisite for Olympic eligibility, Seles could be blocked from the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona. Barnes said her absence at the Federation Cup could have been justified by proving it was due to injury or bereavement, and the ITF gave Seles until Monday — two weeks after the start of the Federation Cup in Nottingham, England — to offer such proof. "One of the conditions of participating in the Olympic Games is that you should be in good standing with your national federation, and one of the conditions for that is being available for the Federation Cup or Davis Cup in 1991," Barnes said. The Federation Cup is the premier women's tennis event between nations. The Davis Cup is the equivalent event for men. Even if the Yugoslav Federation ignores Seles' late withdrawal from the Federation Cup and considers her in good standing, the ITF

still could determine she is not eligible for the Olympics. Barnes said the next meeting of the Federation Cup Committee, at which the Seles case could be discussed, is scheduled for Oct. 1 in London. Seles pulled out two days before the start of the July 22-29 Federation Cup, saying she

week, losing in the final to Jennifer Capriati. The medical certificate technically should have been sent by Seles to the Yugoslav Federation and then to the ITF, since the fine of up to \$10,000 because of Seles' unexplained absence. Seles has played in only one official tournament, the San

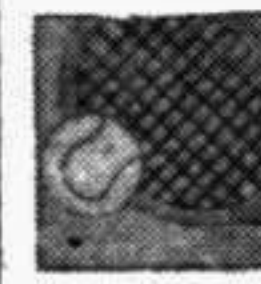


Monica Seles couldn't bear to watch her No.1 ranking slipped away when she lost to American Jennifer Capriati 4-6, 6-1, 7-6 (7-2) on August 4 in Carlsbad, California.

wanted to avoid re-aggravating shin splints. Regardless, she played in an exhibition in Mahwah, NJ, on the day she pulled out and on the following day. Seles also played in a tournament in San Diego last

Diego event, since winning the French Open early June. She pulled out of Wimbledon at the last moment — which drew a \$10,000 fine from the Women's Tennis Association — saying she was injured "in a minor accident."

Becker back in business



CINCINNATI, Aug 7: World number one Boris Becker made a successful return to tournament play with a straight victory at the 1.3 million dollar ATP Championship on Tuesday, reports Reuter. The top-seeded Becker, who received a first round bye, defeated Frenchman Jean-Philippe Fleurian 6-3, 6-3 in his first match since losing the Wimbledon final to fellow-German Michael Stich. Becker had little trouble making the transition from grass to hardcourt and the lack of match play over the past month did not appear to adversely affect his performance. "I'm surprised how well I started," Becker said. "There were some close games, but the important points I played well."

All the other matches in a programme delayed by nearly six hours of heavy rain were first round encounters. Thirteenth-seeded American Michael Chang struggled early then cruised through the second and third sets on his way to a 4-6, 6-2, 6-1 over Rodolphe Gilbert. Brad Gilbert, seeded 12th, fought off fellow American Brad Pearce 7-5, 6-3 to reach the second round, but ninth seed Emilio Sanchez of Spain proved no match on hard court for Australian Jason Stoltenberg and def 6-3, 6-4. Second seed Stefan Edberg, third seed Ivan Lendl, fourth seed Jim Courier and fifth seed Andre Agassi were all scheduled to open with second round matches on Wednesday. Becker was the first to face break point in his match with the 65th-ranked Fleurian. The Frenchman had two chances to go ahead in the

fourth game, but Becker saved both break points. Fleurian's error in the next game — an errant groundstroke long at 30-40 — gave Becker the necessary edge to take the first set. Becker looked equally comfortable in the second set as he broke Fleurian's serve in the sixth game and held that advantage to secure his victory. After the match Becker said his loss at Wimbledon had provided added incentive as he prepares for the US Open later this month. "The fact I lost to another German in a tournament I always do well at was not easy to cope with," Becker admitted. "That loss lifted my spirits because I believe I'm a better player than him and I want to prove it."

Another seeded player unseated was No. 15 Richey Reneberg, defeated by Aaron Krickstein, ranked 50th on the ATP Tour computer. "It's nice to win a first-rounder like that, but physically you'd like them to be a little easier," Krickstein said after his two-hour, 23-minute 7-6, 3-6, 7-6 victory. "But when you're not seeded, you've got to expect some tough matches right off the bat, especially in a tournament as good as this one."

Some of the 33,630 first-day fans preferred to watch the stars practice. Former champions Ivan Lendl and Brad Gilbert drew autograph-seeking crowds to the outside courts, as did Andre Agassi. Edberg, who has reached the final here four straight years, plays qualifier Grant Stafford in his first match Wednesday, then would play either Jarryd or Amos Mansdorf if he wins. He won't face a seeded player until the quarterfinals if he captures his first two matches.

Rain the spoiler HYDERABAD, India, Aug 7: Heavy rains washed out the Kuwait-Oman tie in the Asian Group B pre-Olympic football tournament here Tuesday, reports AFP. The match will now be played Wednesday, pushing back the tournament schedule by a day, chief AFC technical delegate Hafeezuddin Ahmed of Bangladesh said. The tournament will now end August 14. Syria, Lebanon and hosts India are the other teams taking part in the round-robin event, which decides a spot for the final qualifying round for next year's Barcelona Olympics. A sharp downpour 10 minutes before the scheduled start left the turf at the Lal Bahadur Shastri Stadium waterlogged, first prompting a 90-minute delay. But as groundstaff were completing mopping up operations, more rain forced a postponement of the match. In two matches played so far, India and Oman drew 1-1 Sunday, while favourites Syria edged out Lebanon by a solitary goal Monday.

Albanian veterans to celebrate lifting of ban

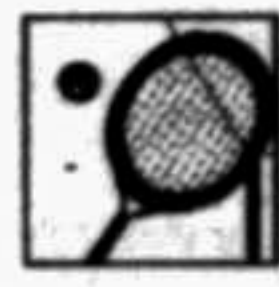


TIRANA, Aug 7: Two elderly Albanian boxers are planning a return to the ring to celebrate the lifting of a 28-year communist ban on the sport, reports Reuter. The newspaper Bashkimi on Monday said the bout between Ahmet Golemi and Dhori

Cernjoti, both aged 50, would symbolise the revival of boxing in the small Balkan state. The report did not say when, where or over how many rounds the match would be. It said both men were ex-prisoners but did not say if they had been jailed in connection with the sport. The late Stalinist leader

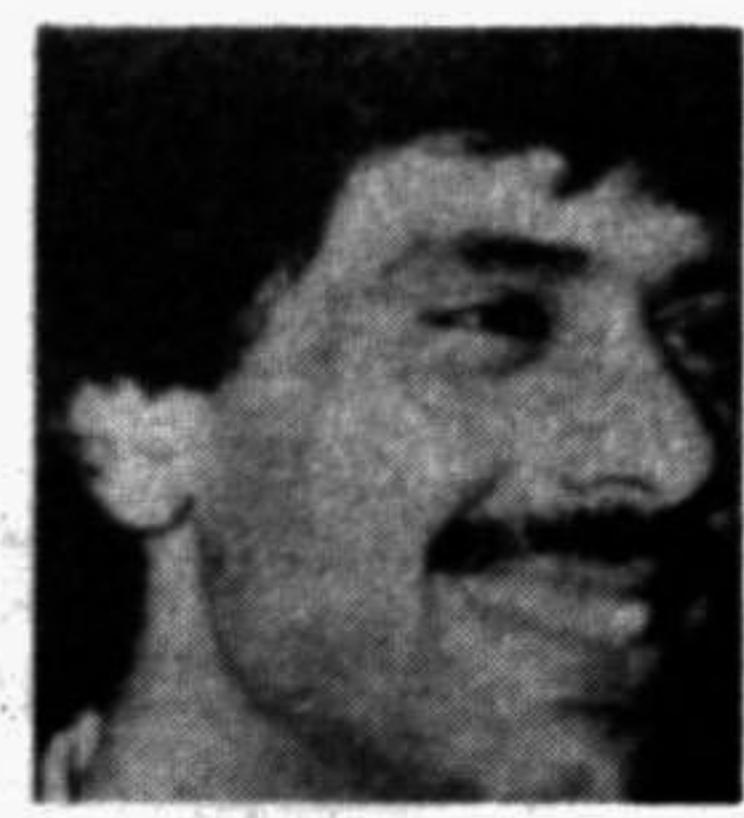
Enver Hoxha, who died in 1985, banned boxing in 1963 as bourgeois and inhumane. Albanians say Hoxha clamped down after one of his sons came home from a boxing outing with a bloodied nose. A national boxing federation was revived last month, one month after the collapse of one-party communist rule.

Jahangir Khan top seed



MELBOURNE, Aug 7: Six time world champion squash player Jahangir Khan may have an early chance to gain revenge for his defeat in the World Open final on Sunday by Australian Rodney Martin, reports Reuter. The Pakistani, surprisingly beaten in four games by Martin in Adelaide, should face him again in Melbourne on Saturday in the semifinals of the Australian Open. Jahangir, 27, the top seed, is scheduled to meet Martin in the last four because, though he is the defending champion, the Sydney-born player is ranked only fifth in the world. The expected showdown, may become something of a grudge match following Jahangir's claims that Martin used tough tactics on Sunday. Jahangir's father Roshan Khan, a former world number

one himself, said the match was "disgraceful and very disappointing." Martin's coach, former world champion Geoff Hunt, said the refereeing in the final had been the best of the week.



JAHANGIR KHAN "He was awarding strokes against Jahangir for not making every effort to get out of the way, which is how it

should be," he said. The ill-feeling in the final followed some harsh words and collisions in Cardiff last February and a fought contest in Paris in March in which Jahangir was warned six times for leaving the court to argue. Jahangir has said he is afraid to try drop shots because Martin is looking for collisions and penalty shots. The Pakistani will open his campaign against New Zealand's Glenn Wilson on Wednesday with his ankle strapped after injuring ligaments in Sunday's final. Martin begins against fellow Australian Adam Schreiber and may have to beware of another talented compatriot, Rodney Eyles, in the quarter-finals. Second-seeded Chris Dittmar, four-times World Open finalist, is seeded for a semi final with Brett Martin, Rodney's brother.

US cagers keep winning

HAVANA, Aug 7: After a rough opening weekend at the Pan-American Games, the US men's and women's teams rebounded with easy victories Tuesday, reports Reuter. The men beat Venezuela 91-66 in a much easier game than their opening 92-88 win over Cuba. The women crushed Argentina 97-40 in their first game since Brazil snapped their 42-game winning streak in major international competition. The men (2-0) got off to another slow start against Venezuela (0-1), leading 43-37 at halftime. The second half was completely different as the United States dominated the boards and held a 20-point lead for the last nine minutes. "Once again we had trouble getting started," coach Gene Keady said. "When we did get untracked we played well. I guess we could be called lethargic. The rebounding hurt

us early, but we played well from the middle of the game on."

The United States finished with a 31-25 rebound advantage, led by reserve Clarence Weatherspoon, who had 10, including six on the offensive end. "The team is getting a better feel for international play," Keady said. "Everybody contributed against another team that is very good."

Jim Jackson led the United States with 18 points, while Christian Laettner had 15 and five rebounds. All 12 US players scored as the crowd got behind the visitors from the north. The loudest cheer came when Adam Keefe dunked a behind — the back pass from Terry Dehere on a three-on-one break. "We thought the crowd would get behind us after we beat the host country," said

Keefe, whose dunk gave the United States a 70-52 lead. "They like the way we play. They recognize the good quality of basketball and (their support) built from the start."

Ivan Olivares led Venezuela with 14 points, while Carl Herrera a Houston Rockets draft choice from the University of Houston, had 11 points and six rebounds. The largest US lead was 91-62 with a minute remaining. The men play Argentina on Tuesday. The US women (2-1) clinched a berth in the medal round of their five-team competition. The US team, which allowed Argentina (0-2) just three field goals in the second half, was led by Katrina McClain, who had 20 points and 10 rebounds. The US women led 52-30 at halftime and allowed field goals with 17:25 to play, 9:32 and 11 seconds left.



Young girls touch a statue of a baseball player sliding into a plate on August 6 outside the Pan-American stadium in Havana. The statue is one of many representing various sporting events taking place at the IX Pan-Am Games. — AFP photo