

Seles, Sabatini on collision course

MANHATTAN BEACH, Calif. Aug 16: Monica Seles and Gabriela Sabatini continued toward an anticipated showdown, each decisively winning third-round matches in the Virginia Slims of Los Angeles women's tournament on Thursday, reports agencies.

Seles, the top seed who is ranked No. 1 in the world, overpowered Amanda Coetzer of South Africa 6-4, 6-1. Sabatini, the No. 2 seed from Argentina who begins defense of her US Open championship later this month, breezed past Debbie Graham 6-3, 6-1.

Aranxa Sanchez Vicario, the tourney's No. 3 seed, had little trouble beating Pascale Paradis-Mangon of France 6-1, 6-3. Sanchez Vicario lost only one point on her serve in the first set and had her serve broken only once, that in the second set.

Sabatini, the defending US Open champion, said Graham was difficult to play because she hits the ball hard.

"She doesn't give you much rhythm. That's why it was very hard for me to get into the match," the Argentine said. "But I felt very confident the whole time. I never thought I was in trouble."

Sanchez Vicario, the third seed, was an easy 6-1, 6-3 winner against Pascale Paradis-Mangon of France.



MONICA SELES

continued her run of success with a 6-3, 6-4 victory over American Gretchenj Magers.

Kimiko Date of Japan surprised 10th-seeded Yayuk Basuki of Indonesia 6-2, 6-2, and Mercedes Paz of Argentina beat seventh-seeded American Amy Frazier 3-6, 7-6, 6-1.

In the quarters, Seles goes against Paz, and Date duels Durie.

Sabatini meets eighth-seeded American Lori McNeil, who beat Catarina Lindqvist of Sweden 6-7, 6-0, 6-1, while Sanchez Vicario plays sixth-seeded Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia, a 6-7, 6-2, 6-2 winner against American Mary Pierce.

Durie rallied in the final set to upset the fourth-seeded Garrison on Wednesday's second round match.

Durie, ranked 160th in the world, won the final three games to prevail 6-3, 6-7 (3/7), 7-5 in a match that lasted nearly three hours.

"It was my nerves that got me through," said the 31-year-old Briton. "I'm just a battler, you know."

After evening the match at one set apiece, Garrison jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the final set and was serving for the match up 5-4.

Durie broke her at love, however, then broke again to win the match.

"I think she got nervous serving for the match," Durie said.

"It's always harder for a seeded player to lose. I was actually fairly relaxed. I'm just happy with the results."

Garrison, 27, complained afterward that she was "stressed out" and suggested that a leg cramp late in the third set may have cost her the match.



GABRIELA SABATINI

On Wednesday's other match.

The nine-time Wimbledon women's singles winner's net worth as of Dec. 31, 1989, was slightly more than \$10 million, the court document showed.

"Nobody disputes that this woman has made a great deal of money, has earned a great deal of money, in her life. But what her net worth is has no relevance to this lawsuit," McCurley said.

Nelson filed suit in June contending she is owed half of the money, property and other assets her former partner made while the two were together. Nelson broke with Navratilova last winter.

Attorney Mike McCurley, asked about Navratilova's statement in light of the new figures, told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram newspaper on Thursday, "My client didn't say she doesn't have that kind of money. She said she doesn't have enough money to make the kind of settlement offers the other side was indicating."

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Evert, Billie Jean may testify in palimony suit

FORT WORTH, Aug 16: Chris Evert and Billie Jean King are among potential witnesses in the palimony lawsuit against tennis star Martina Navratilova, whose net worth was listed at more than \$10 million, reports AP.

A judge was scheduled to hear arguments today to determine whether the lawsuit, filed by Navratilova's former companion Judy Nelson, would be delayed. An initial hearing had been set for Sept. 9.

A financial statement filed this week in Fort Worth civil court shows Navratilova's assets at about \$5.5 million more than what she was worth when she signed a disputed "non-marital cohabitation agreement" with Nelson.

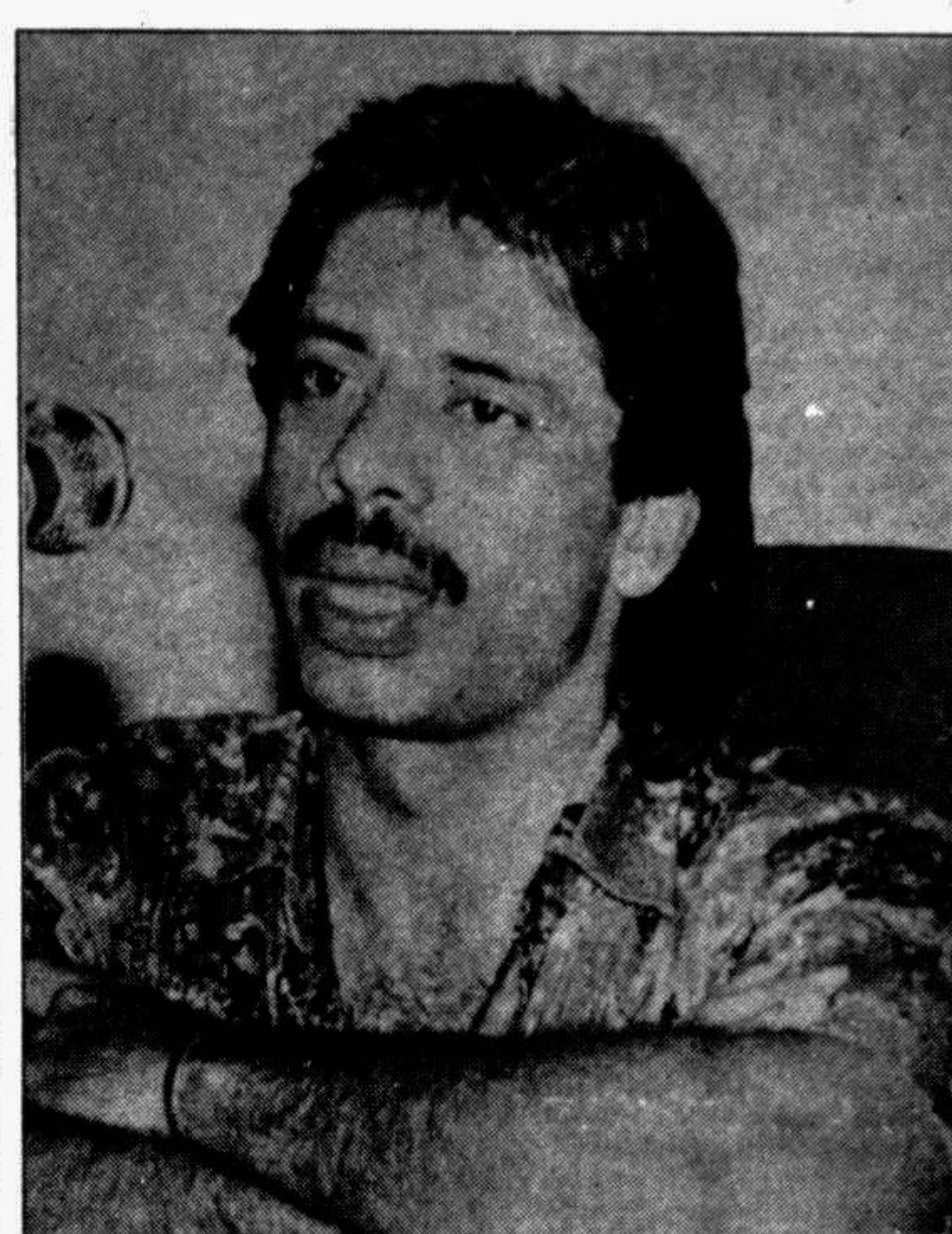
Last month, Navratilova denied reports that she had offered Nelson \$2 million to settle the lawsuit. The tennis star told ABC's "20-20" that "I don't have that kind of money" and that Nelson tricked her into signing the agreement in 1986.

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Squash legend Jahangir Khan of Pakistan addresses a press conference in Karachi on August 15. Jahangir said that neutral referees were needed for important matches, and blamed poor refereeing for his defeat at last week's Australian Open.

Jahangir for neutral umpires

KARACHI, Aug 16: Squash legend Jahangir Khan said Thursday that neutral referees were needed for important matches, and blamed poor refereeing for his defeat at last weekend's Australian Open, reports AFP.

Khan, a frequent critic of refereeing in the sport, was beaten in Melbourne by Australian second seed Chris Dittmar.

"The game was purposely spoiled by the woman referee," Khan said, adding that "since playing conditions for male and female players are different, confusion was bound to happen."

Khan had also complained earlier this month about standards of refereeing after losing the World Open final in Adelaide to another Australian, Rodney Martin.

He said he would make his proposal for neutral, foreign umpires at a meeting in London later this month of the International Squash Players Association (ISPA) to help "avoid such controversies."

Khan, the ISPA chairman, said the Pakistan Squash Racket Federation should take the initiative by inviting umpires from the United Kingdom to officiate important fixtures in the September 11-15 Pakistan Open.

Hot servers subdue Edberg, Lendl

NEW HAVEN, Conn. Aug 16: Two heavy hitters gave heavy hits to Stefan Edberg and Ivan Lendl at the Volvo International on Thursday, report AP.

Richard Krajicek consistently hit 120-mph (190-kph) serves Edberg couldn't handle and beat the top-seeded Swede 4-6, 6-3, 6-3.

"He made a lot of return mistakes," Krajicek said. "After a while I started serving so good that I could go for my returns and I just went for it."

"He played better and better as the match went on," Edberg said. "I served worse and worse as the match went on."

Mark Rosset also consistently hit 120-mph (190-kph) serves, but he beat a tentative Lendl 6-4, 6-4 by outlasting him on the baseline.

"I tried to put the ball on the court and not make too many mistakes," said Rosset, ranked No. 41. "For sure he didn't play well. I don't know if he was trying or not."

Of the top eight seeds, only fourth-seeded John McEnroe and fifth-seeded Goran Ivanisevic remain in the tournament. They'll play Friday in a quarterfinal match.

McEnroe beat Fernando Roese, 6-0, 6-3 in the third round, while Ivanisevic beat Jan Sieremnik, 6-2, 6-4.

But the upsets still don't match last year when five unseeded players advanced to the quarterfinals.

In other third-round action Thursday, defending champion Derrick Rostagno, the ninth

seed, beat Paul Haarhuis, 6-3, 7-5; No. 10 Michael Chang beat No. 7 Jonas Svensson, 6-3, 6-3, 6-3; No. 11 Petr Korda defeated No. 6 Richey Reneberg, 6-3, 7-6, (7-5); and No. 13 Omar Camporese beat Danilo Marcelino, 6-2, 6-2.

Krajicek, a 20-year-old from the Netherlands, had eight aces, but more damaging were the services Edberg got his racket on and couldn't rein in.

"I had a few chances to break him in the second set but I didn't make enough returns," Edberg said. "I missed a lot of volleys I don't usually miss. I wasn't very sharp."

Krajicek broke Edberg in the second game of the second set then held serve to win.

He took control of the match when he broke Edberg

in the third game of the third set.

"I didn't even think about trying to break him again," Krajicek said. "I just thought about hitting the crap out of the ball."

But Krajicek did break Edberg again at match point.

Both players attacked the net, but Edberg wasn't very successful. He frequently mis-hit into the net and missed with his passing shots.

"He's not that good a volleyer, but he didn't have to volley that much tonight," Edberg said.

Although both Edberg and Lendl lost to hard hitters, the games were sharp contrasts. While Edberg and Krajicek played aggressively, Lendl and Rosset settled for a baseline contest.

Lendl said he didn't plan to

stay back, he just wasn't playing well enough to attack.

"Whenever I tried something I didn't do it right," he said.

Rosset didn't overpower Lendl. His serve was clocked at 128 mph (206 kph), but he got only 55 per cent of his first serves in.

"I thought once I got the ball into play I should be able to control the point and run him around," Lendl said. "He rallied quite well, but I thought he would hit ground shots harder than he did."

The first set was interrupted 53 minutes by rain in the eighth game of the first set at duce on Rosset's serve. Rosset said he was nervous when play resumed.

"I didn't want to lose my service right there for two points," he said.

He didn't. After two more duce points, Rosset fired consecutive 122-mph (196-kph) serves Lendl couldn't handle.

Rosset then broke Lendl and won the first set.

"I knew then he was a little nervous and had lost his confidence. He was missing so many balls," Rosset said. "He was missing some easy balls on the forehand and overhand smash."

The decisive point in the second set came on a long rally in the ninth game when Rosset hung in there until Lendl finally missed and was broken.

"I was very nervous because I knew if I broke him and I served well I could beat him so I just tried to keep the ball in. I didn't try to make a winner shot," he said.

Graf to miss US Open



STEFFI GRAF

BONN, Aug 16: World tennis number two and Wimbledon champion Steffi Graf could miss the women's US Open at Flushing Meadows this month.

Graf's doctor Hartmut Krahl said the German star's injured right shoulder and arm are only gradually improving.

Krahl, also the German Tennis Federation's doctor, said "If the healing continues at its present rate, it can't be ruled out that Steffi takes part in the US Open — but today I would not give my permission under any circumstances."

Graf is expected to leave for the New York tournament, which starts on August 26 and ends September 8, and decide whether to play once she is there.

The 22-year-old star is currently training with coach Pavel Slozil, but Krahl has forbidden Graf to practice her service and volley.

ITF bars Seles from Olympics

LONDON, Aug 16: The International Tennis Federation (ITF) barred women's world number one Monica Seles from competing in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics today, reports Reuter.

The ITF said in a statement that the Yugoslav's late withdrawal from the Federation Cup last month was not justified by the medical documents she had subsequently provided.

"The (ITF Management) committee has informed Miss Seles, with regret, that she is therefore not eligible for nomination to the Olympic Games in 1992," the statement said.

The Yugoslav Tennis Federation was fined 2,000 US dollars for Seles's withdrawal from the Federation Cup.

The 17-year-old Seles, saying she was suffering from shin splints and a stress fracture, pulled out of the Federation Cup 36 hours before the event started in Nottingham, England.

The Yugoslav, who also pulled out of Wimbledon at the last moment in June despite being the top seed, played in an unofficial exhibition tournament in the United States the day after she announced she would not be in Nottingham.

She was fined 20,000 dollars by the Women's Tennis Association for playing in the Mahwah, New Jersey, tournament.

The ITF said that after a thorough investigation into Seles's withdrawal from the Federation Cup, they had determined that the Yugoslav had broken the competition rules.

Medals table

Following is the medals table of the Pan American Games:

(Through Thursday, Aug. 15):

(302 events)=

	G	S	B	Tot
United States	115	112	80	307
Cuba	118	59	57	234
Canada	17	36	48	101
Mexico	14	19	34	67
Brazil	18	15	32	65
Argentina	8	14	25	47
Colombia	4	13	18	35
Venezuela	3	11	17	31
Puerto Rico	2	4	7	13
Dominican Rep	0	5	4	9
Jamaica	2	1	4	7
Chile	2	1	3	6
Guatemala	0	1	4	5
Surinam	1	1	1	3
Nicaragua	0	1	2	3
Trinidad	1	0	2	3
Costa Rica	1	0	1	2
Bahamas	0	1	1	2
Ecuador	0	1	1	2
Bolivia	0	1	0	1

Santoro sends Agassi packing

INDIANAPOLIS, Aug 16: Fabrice Santoro, seeded 14th and playing his second three-set match in less than four hours, upset an ailing Andre Agassi 2-6, 7-5, 6-2 Thursday in the third round of the US men's hardcourts championship, reports AP.

Top-seeded Boris Becker

Top stars to run in Jakarta mile

JAKARTA, Aug 16: The world's leading runners led by Briton Steve Cram and Moroccan Said Aouita will race in the "million dollar mile" here in October, Indonesia's official Antara news agency said today, reports AP.

The race was named after the distance and prize money offered to anyone who breaks Cram's current world record of three minutes 46.32 seconds, Antara said, quoting organisers of the event.

Aouita is the current world record-holder in the 1,500 meter, 2,000 meter, 3,000 meter and 5,000 meter races.

Police Lieutenant General Kunarto, the chief organiser, said at least 11 athletes of international calibre will run in the October 3 race, to be held in the evening rather than under daytime heat to increase the chances of a new world record.

Competitors include Algerian Noureddine Moreel, world record-holder in the 1,500 meter indoor run, Americans Joe Falcon and Steve Scott and Kenyan Peter Rono, the 1,500 meter run gold medalist in the 1988 Olympics in Seoul.

beat 16th-seeded Christian Bergstrom 6-2, 6-2 in just over an hour to set up a quarterfinal Friday against No. 9 Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland.

Becker, ranked No. 1 in the world and winner here twice in the last three years, opened both sets with service breaks.

"I had a good feel for my serve right away. He never really got in the match," said Becker, who connected on 94 percent of his first serves to Bergstrom's 54 percent.

Bergstrom lost to Becker in four sets at Wimbledon. The Swede had the best first-serve percentage in the Indianapolis tournament before his loss.

"I knew how well he can play," Becker said. "That start was extremely important."

The German won two games with aces in the 32-minute first set as both players slugged it out from the baseline.

Meanwhile, No. 3 Agassi, the sixth-ranked player in the world, never found his power game against his 18-year-old opponent.

Agassi immediately left the Indianapolis Sport Center after Santoro's backhand winner ended the 1 hour, 48 minute match.

ATP Tour spokesman George Rubenstein said Agassi went to his hotel for treatment after he tried to vomit before match point.

Agassi's coach Nick Bollettieri said in a statement that Agassi felt nauseous leading 5-2 in the first set.

"Andre lost the strength in his legs, and he just wasn't able to react," Bollettieri said. "He wasn't able to concentrate."

Agassi felt sick on court last week at the ATP Championships, losing to Brad

Gilbert in the third round.

"When it happens twice, you have to be concerned," Bollettieri said. "He's going to back home and get himself checked out."

Santoro noticed Agassi eating bananas late in the match, but he said Agassi didn't indicate she had a problem.

"Maybe he was underestimating me," Santoro said. "At times I thought his behavior was a little strange."

Santoro beat countryman Cedric Pioline 6-4, 5-7, 6-2 in a rain-delayed second-round match completed Thursday.

Santoro looked like he'd played too much tennis after Agassi won the first set 6-2 in 33 minutes.

"He was hitting the ball early and I wasn't moving too well," said Santoro, the only survivor among five French players in the \$1 million tournament.

But he rebounded with a 2-0 lead in the second set, fell behind 4-3, then tied it at five games apiece with a smash that ticked the net and landed in.

Santoro's backhand winner broke Agassi at 40-51 and another backhand winner won the second set 7-5.

"He started missing. Maybe he was impatient," Santoro said. "He never hit 10 balls (in a row). He tried to make the points early."

Agassi's impatience showed as he sprayed shots long, whiffed an overhead smash at one point, and served 2 meters (5 feet) long.

Santoro stepped up the pace, barely giving Agassi 10 seconds between points. Santoro won 68 percent of his first serves compared with Agassi's 60 percent.

"I felt he was tired so I was

trying to make it even faster," he said.

The final set featured four service breaks, including Agassi getting broken at love-40 to lose the match.

Farlier, French Open champion Jim Courier used four service breaks to defeat No. 15 Francisco Clavet 6-2, 6-1.

Joining Courier and Santoro in the quarterfinals were No. 5 Pete Sampras, No. 6 David Wheaton, No. 9 Jakob Hlasek and unseeded Australian Richard Fromberg.

Courier needed just 1 hour, 13 minutes to dismiss Clavet, a Spaniard ranked 43rd in the world.

"I played solid and I didn't give too much away," said Courier, who is playing on his favourite surface this week.

Courier held serve at 40-love to take a 3-2 lead in the first set. He went up 40-love on Clavet's serve in the sixth game before winning it.

"He served very well," said Clavet, who went to dance three times on his serve before Courier wrapped up the first set 6-2.

He broke Clavet in the second game at love and in the sixth at 40-15 to take the set 6-1 and the victory.

Sampras, who will defend his U.S. Open title later this month, beat No. 12 Patrick McEnroe 6-3, 6-4; Wheaton topped wild card Steve Bryan 6-3, 7-5; Hlasek defeated Jason Stoltenberg 6-3, 6-4; and Fromberg upset veteran Tim Mayotte, 6-1, 7-5.

Sampras had little trouble with McEnroe, who at times lost his temper with the officiating.

"Patrick got a little discouraged with some line calls and it had some effect on his tennis," Sampras said.

He can soar, but he can't dance

HAVANA, Aug 16: The man who can jump higher than anyone else in the world has a secret. He can't dance, reports Reuter.

For Cuban high jump world record holder Javier Sotomayor, the lilt, local rhythms of rumba, mambo and cha cha cha strike no answering chords in his gangling 1.90 metre frame.

But put him in front of a high jump bar and he soars like a bird.

"When I'm jumping, I don't think of anything. My mind goes blank," Cuba's top athlete told reporters in Havana Wednesday at a news conference.

Asked if his skill with his feet extended to the dance floor Sotomayor replied sheepishly: "No, I like music but I can't dance."

Sotomayor, "Soto" to his fans, is gearing himself for a new attempt to break his own

world mark of 2.44 metres after failing to clear 2.45 during the Pan-American Games in Cuba last Saturday.

His first objective will be the Tokyo World Championships later this month when he will pit himself against the rest of the world's best. Then the summer 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

"In Tokyo, my first aim will be to win and to do that I'll have to jump well. And if the conditions are right, I'll try to beat my record," 23-year-old Sotomayor said.

He easily outjumped two of his closest world rivals to win the Pan-American high jump gold, urged on by a fanatical home crowd including one of his biggest fans, Cuban President Fidel Castro. His winning leap of 2.33 metres beat his own Pan-American Games record set four years in Indianapolis.

But despite frenzied chants of "Yes, yes, you can do it" from the Cuban crowd, he three

times clipped the bar at 2.45 metres and had to settle for the gold without a world record.

Sotomayor said his rivals in Havana, Bahamian Troy Kemp and Hollis Conway of the United States, both jumped well. They cleared 2.32 metres but Kemp needed fewer attempts to get to the height and won the silver while Conway took the bronze.

The Cuban world number one said the slow start to the competition, which began with the bar at 1.90 metres, and the strength-sapping heat and humidity took their toll on his power and concentration. "It wore me out a lot," he said.

He is still fighting to find his best form again after recovering from a nagging knee and heel injury to his left jumping leg that kept him out of competition for more than six months in late 1989 and early 1990.

He was seen clutching his left knee after clearing 2.29 metres last Saturday. "I took a wrong step and my foot twisted a little, but the pain stopped after a while," he said.

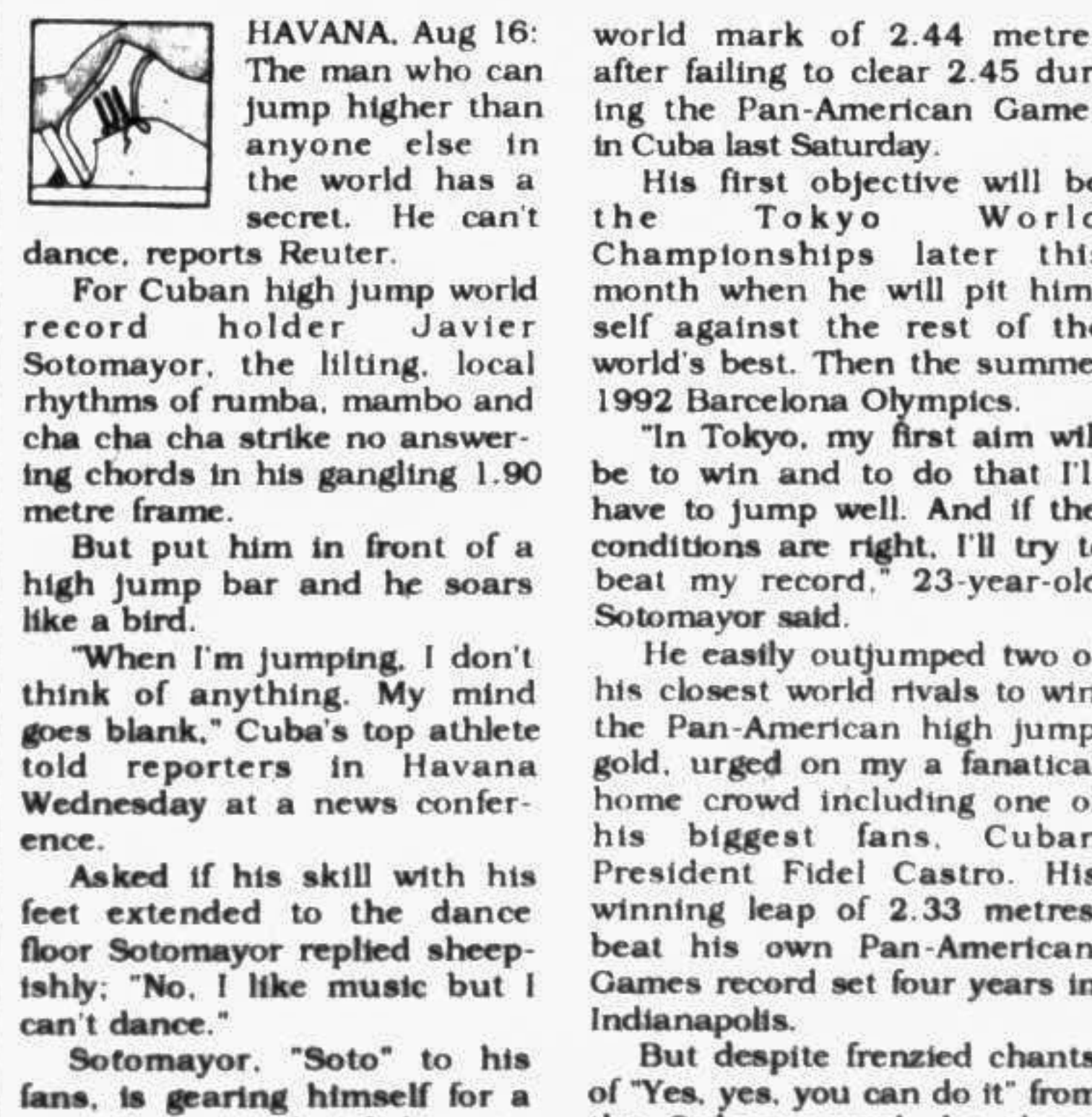
Since his 1989 injury, doctors have recommended he wear a heel support, which he says still sometimes bothers him.

"I've set all my world records without wearing a support," he said with a touch of stubbornness. Besides his 2.44 outdoor world record, set on July 29, 1989 in San Juan, Puerto Rico, he also holds the world indoor record of 2.43 metres.

Like all world champions, Soto has his little quirks.

Between jumps, he fiddles with his shoe-laces, obsessively changing from one set of jumping shoes to another.

To build up concentration, he lies flat on his back, legs splayed, as he mentally runs through his next jump.



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