

### Pak stickwinders keep winning

**DUBLIN, Sept 6:** Pakistan continued their successful tour of the United Kingdom and Ireland by beating the Irish national team in Dublin Thursday night, reports AFP.

Wasim Feroz, the visitor's talented left-winger, struck the winner after 51 minutes from a sixth short-corner attempt.

Goalkeeper Ivan Bateman was kept busy throughout the game, while defender Alan Down saved on the line from Shahbaz Ahmad.

Midfielder Jimmy Kirkwood was unfortunate not to score a late equaliser when his flocked shot came off the crossbar.

Pakistan play two more matches against Ireland in Belfast on Saturday and Sunday.

### Bush plays golf

**WASHINGTON, Sept 6:** Now that he's home from vacation, President George Bush has been practicing his putting on a new nine-hole green at the White House, reports AFP.

White House spokesman Gary Foster said the President tried out the green Tuesday with his wife Barbara and Vice President Dan Quayle, an avid golfer himself.

"He was pretty pleased with it," said Foster.

The nine-hole green is 18 meters by 12 meters (55 feet by 35 feet) and cost 2,000 dollars to make, according to Foster. It is tucked away from public view behind large trees and shrubs near the White House Tennis Court.

# Only Capriati stands between Seles and No 1 spot



**NEW YORK, Sept 6:** Only Jennifer Capriati stands between Monica Seles and No. 1, reports AP.

The two teen-agers battle Friday for a spot in Saturday's U.S. Open final. Seles would regain the top spot in the computer rankings by being in the final, whether she wins or loses.

Other semifinal pits No. 1 Steffi Graf against four-time champion Martina Navratilova. Seles, the No. 2 seed, is seeking her third Grand Slam tournament this year, having won the Australian Open in January and the French Open in June. She skipped Wimbledon, citing an injury.

"I lost to Jennifer a few weeks ago, so... I would definitely play a little differently than I did there," the 17-year-old Seles said, "I just have to go out there and really play my game."



MONICA SELES



JENNIFER CAPRIATI

"I am just really going to have to go for winners to win a point: not wait for them to make the mistake."

This is the first U.S. Open semifinal for Seles, but her ninth Grand Slam singles semifinal. Since turning pro in February 1989, the Yugoslav has won three Grand Slam titles—the 1990 French Open and the two this year.

At 15 years, 5 months, Capriati is the youngest U.S. Open semifinalist since Andrea Jaeger (15 years, 2 months) in 1980. It is her second trip to a Grand Slam semifinal, reaching that round at Wimbledon in

July when she defeated Navratilova.

"Every match gets tougher," Capriati said.

The two youngsters have played three times, with Seles holding a 2-1 lead. But Capriati won their last meeting, in the final of the Mazda classic last month.

"I am going to try to play like I did against her in San Diego," Capriati said. "I am going to try to be aggressive and really go for it, and do the same on her serve."

Graf, 22, a two-time U.S. Open winner, has been beset the last two years by injuries, a series of losses and a lack of concentration.

Following her third Wimbledon championship in July, Graf suffered a torn shoulder muscle that sidelined her until the U.S. Open began only a week ago. And the matches now are tougher than when she was winning everything in sight.

"I think people had an attitude, sometimes, going into the match, not really believing," said Graf, who no longer is considered invincible. While she has yet to drop a set in this year's tournament, she had two battles early, beating Eva Sviglerova 6-4, 7-5 and Judith Wiesner 7-5, 6-4.

Now comes Navratilova, who is seeking her fifth U.S. Open singles title, but her first since 1987.

"I haven't played a serve-and-volleyer in a long time," Graf said. "But I think it is more up to me, what I am going to do out there."

# Connors faces Courier in semis

**NEW YORK, Sept 6:** Jimmy Connors added another chapter to his comeback saga on Thursday by claiming the last semifinals berth at the U.S. Open tennis championships, reports Reuter.

Connors, the 39-year-old five-time champion, took a while to warm-up but once he got started there was no stopping him as he ran over Dutchman Paul Haarhuis 4-6, 7-6, 6-4, 6-2 before 20,000 roaring fans at Louis Armstrong Stadium.

"The crowd was all right," said Haarhuis. "What bothered me most was Jimmy Connors. He played very good tennis."

The victory put Connors into his 14th Open semifinal, most among the men, where he will face French Open champion Jim Courier.

Courier, who earlier ousted defending champion Pete Sampras in straight sets 6-2, 7-6, 7-6 had said he would look forward to a match against Connors.

"Four years ago when I started out my goal was to play

against Connors and McEnroe before they retire so I could tell my grandkids about it," the fourth-seeded Courier said.

Courier will have quite a tale to tell, one way or the other, after the men's semifinals on Saturday.

"I'll have a workout tomorrow and a little massage," Connors said. "I'll be ready."

The other men's semifinal will feature second-seed Stefan Edberg against three-time champion Ivan Lendl.

Lendl, the fifth seed, reached his ninth Open semifinals in 10 years by beating Wimbledon champion Michael Stich of Germany 6-3, 3-6, 4-6, 7-6, 6-1 after trailing 3-0 in the fourth-set tiebreaker.

Connors started sluggishly and found himself trailing 4-0 after just 13 minutes of play.

But then he began finding his rhythm and pressed the Dutchman by breaking his serve in the eighth game before falling 6-4.

In the second set, Connors began running Haarhuis around the court but the Dutchman stayed on serve despite the American's pressure.

A spate of forehand errors,

however, opened the door for Haarhuis who took advantage by breaking Connors at love to lead 5-4.

With Haarhuis serving for a two sets to non lead, Connors once again produced his best when his back was against the wall.

From 30-15, Connors rifled a return of first serve back at Haarhuis who sent a forth and long. Connors returned another first serve at Haarhuis's feet to reach break point.

The next point was the turning point of the match. Four times Haarhuis had chances to fight off the break point with overhead smashes but each time Connors managed to reach the ball and keep the point alive with lobs.

Finally Connors blasted back a forehand and brought the set back on serve with a searing backhand winner down the line.

Connors took the tiebreak 7-6 and never looked back.

"That was the biggest point of the match," Connors said about his series of lobs that helped him break Haarhuis.

"The whole match hung on that one point. I chased them

down. That was the point of the match. That turned the whole tie."

After Connors evened the match, he poured on the pressure, forcing Haarhuis into the corners and looking for any opportunity to finish off points with punishing volleys.

Rarely threatened on his own serve, Connors broke the Dutchman in the ninth game of the third set to go up 5-4 and then served out the set at love.

Service breaks in the third and fifth games gave Connors smooth sailing in the fourth and final set as he continued his unlikely journey at his 21st Open championship.

"The third and fourth sets I played my best tennis of the tournament," said Connors, who survived two five-set matches among his five victories here.

"There's no describing this. Is this for real?" Connors said. "I don't know if I can describe this to you."

"Talk to me in six months and I'll tell you what happened here."

Connors thoroughly enjoyed his closing punch line.

"It's not over yet."

# It isn't over yet, says Open veteran



JIMMY CONNORS

**NEW YORK, Sept 6:** Jimmy Connors wasn't nervous — he hadn't even broken a sweat yet — but he might have been the only person among the 20,541 people packed into the National Tennis Center on Thursday night who was not, reports AP.

"C'mon Jimmy! Wake up!"

The same crowds that had cursed Connors in his youth had become his salvation in his old age. And after carrying him through a series of already improbable adventures, they were not about to begin taking chances with this one.

So when Dutchman Pan

**NEW YORK, Sept 6:** Jimmy Connors has confounded the experts by reaching the US Open semifinals at the age of 39, reports Reuter.

"Don't think for a minute that the five-time Open champion is content with his showing."

"It's not over yet," he said. "If I'd been satisfied with my run so far I would have lost tonight. I'm not proud of myself because it's not over yet."

Connors, who beat Dutchman Paul Haarhuis 4-6, 7-6, 6-4, 6-2 in his quarter-final on Thursday, dared somebody to beat him at the national championships.

"The only way it is over is for somebody to step up and beat me," Connors said. "That person will have to play some darn good tennis to do that."

Up next for Connors will be French Open champion Jim Courier, who has modelled his own grinding style on the never-say-die combativeness of Connors.

"He really has been a role model in that sense," said Courier. "Jimmy Connors gives it everything he's got."

Connors's inspiring victories in this tournament have enlivened the championships and brought stars and dignitaries flocking to Stadium Court at the National Tennis Centre.

Thursday's sellout night crowd included the Duchess of York who created a stir but nothing compared to the excitement generated by the old man of the Open.

Even Connors has trouble believing what he has accomplished after fearing that wrist surgery last October would finish his career.

"How can you not laugh at this?" asked Connors. "Is this for real?"

But given the opportunity, Connors is taking the challenge seriously.

"I've been given a second chance," he said. "I'm not going to blow it."

# Rowdy crowd helps Jimbo

Haarhuis took the lead they stubbornly turned up the volume.

And when Connors began climbing back into the match late in the first set, the cheers grew louder. Serving at 4-4 in the second set, Connors slid to 0-40 and was preparing to serve when off to his left a lone voice pierced the quiet.

"Play your game, Jimmy!" someone howled.

Connors looked up from the baseline, paused with his hands on his hips and shot back. "What the hell do you think I'm doing?"

The turning point in the match came in the very next game, when Haarhuis had a chance to serve for the second set. Trailling 30-40, he pinned

Connors to the baseline with a sizzling forehand and made a rare foray into the net. Four straight times, Connors ran down overheads and threw up a lob in defense and each time the roar of the crowd rose to meet the ball at the height of its arc.

When he finished the point and grabbed the service break with a backhand winner up the line on the dead run, the crowd cheered. Connors could have sneezed and received a standing ovation.

By comparison, Haarhuis could have developed the cure for the common cold and he wouldn't have gotten a slap on the back from this gathering.

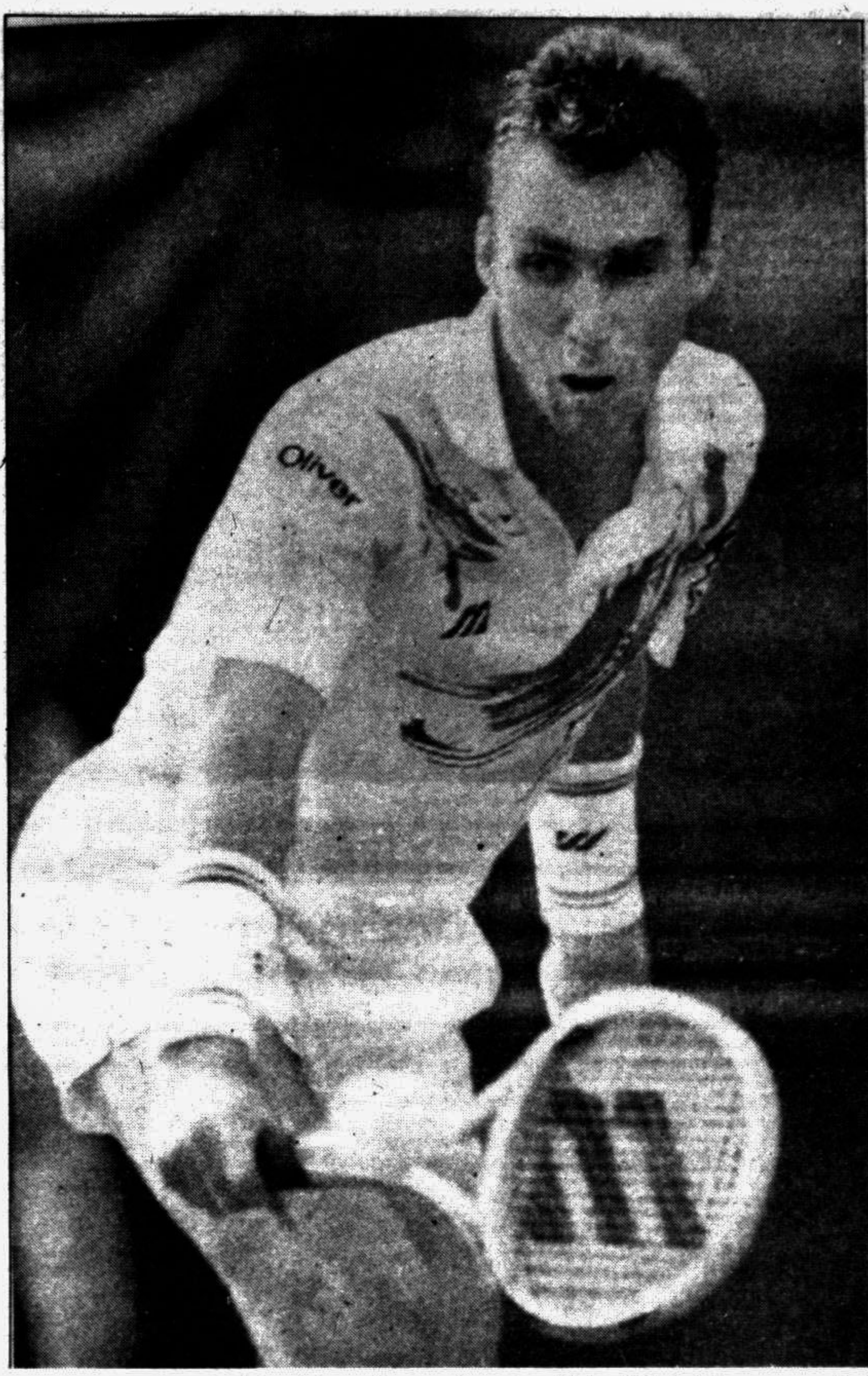
They even found unusual ways to give him a breather

when he needed one. In the third set, Connors was preparing to serve leading 5-4 and 40-0 when a fracas broke out in the stands nearby.

"I went over and said, 'Don't you all know it's tennis match?' That that's not supposed to happen in this country club game."

## SA for world meet

**INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana, Sept 6:** Five gymnasts will be the first South African athletes to take part in international sports competition, in three decades when they perform in the world Gymnastics Championships this weekend, organisers announced on Thursday, reports Reuter.



Ivan Lendl returns a backhand during his match against Michael Stich of Germany on Sept 5 at the US Open. Lendl won 6-3, 3-6, 4-6, 7-6, 6-1.

# Tyson may face trial

**INDIANAPOLIS, Sept 6:** Former world heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson, accused of raping an 18-year-old beauty queen in July, will face trial—his alleged victim's lawyer predicted here Thursday, reports AFP.

"She's proceeding because it is the right thing to do," said lawyer David Hennessey. "She didn't stand a chance against Mike Tyson. She hopes she stands a chance with the criminal justice system."

The beauty queen claims she was raped by Tyson after participating in a Miss Black America contest in Indianapolis.

But the former world champion's lawyers claim that Tyson, who rejects the charges, is often the target for rape allegations.

A grand jury will decide today if there is enough evidence for Tyson to stand trial.

An earlier report said, Tyson should know within a few days whether a grand jury will charge him with rape.

The grand jury, deliberating whether former heavyweight champion should be charged, heard more testimony Wednesday and was expected to hear its final witness Friday. Three witnesses, including an officer from the Indianapolis Police Department's crime lab, testified Wednesday morning.

The grand jury was expected to begin deliberating Friday and make a decision by Monday.

"It is our intention to support whatever the grand jury's decision is," said David Dwyer, a deputy prosecutor for Marion County. "If they decide there is

something to be charged, we will pursue that. If they decide there is no need to charge anything, I kind of expect we will support that."

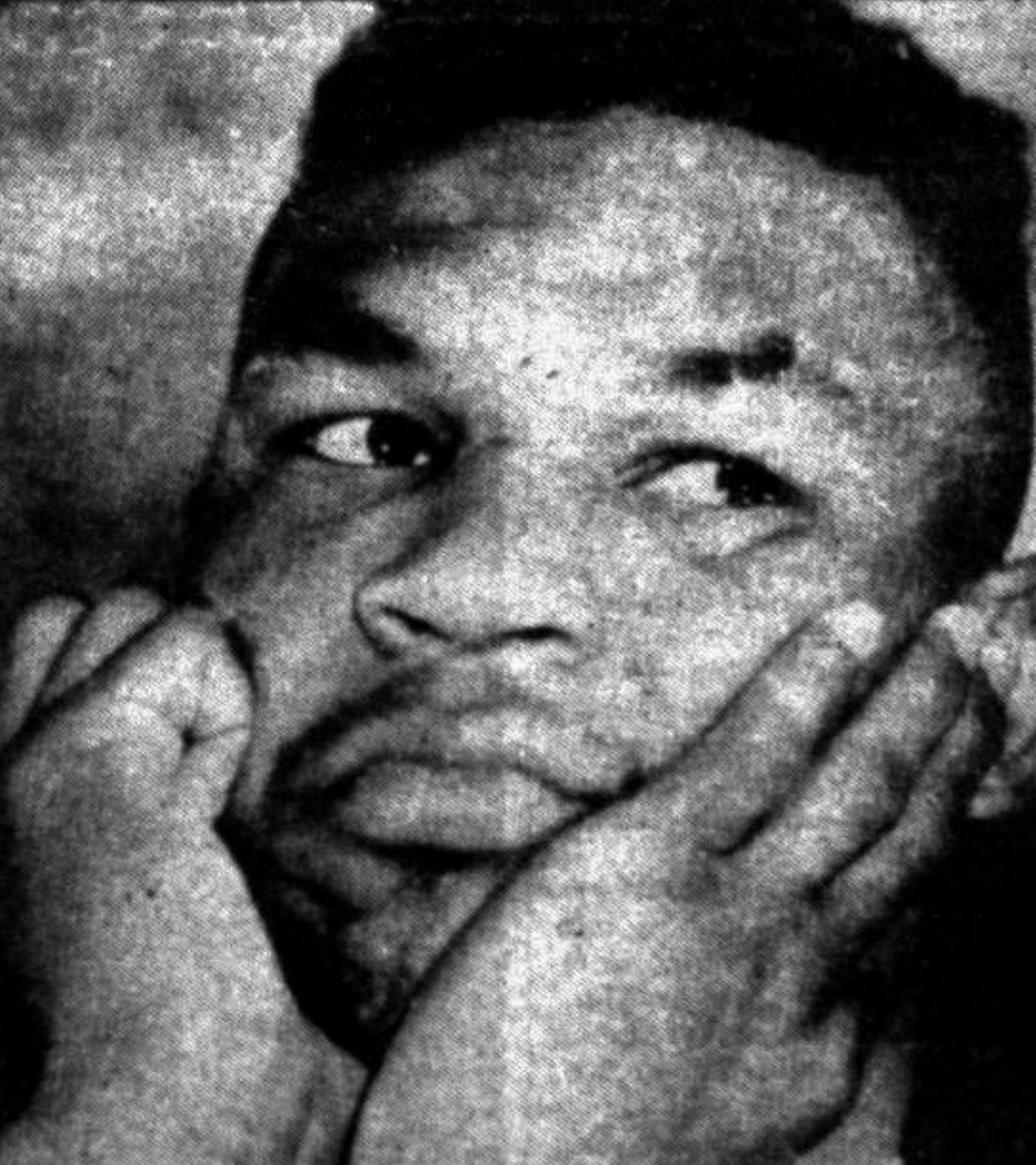
Marion County prosecutor Jeffrey Modisett said earlier that Friday was "being reserved for an out-of-state witness or two."

The grand jurors will return their recommendation to Marion Criminal Court judge Patricia Gifford.

America pageant told police Tyson raped her July 19 in a room at the Canterbury Hotel, where he was staying as a guest.

Tyson, who has denied the accusation, testified before the grand jury last Friday. The woman who made the allegation reportedly testified Aug 16.

The grand jury began investigating the charge on Aug 12. Under Indiana law, testimony



MIKE TYSON

An 18-year-old woman who competed in the Miss Black before grand juries is confidential.

### Dutch pair stuns Sanchez siblings

**NEW YORK, Sept 6:** The unseeded Dutch team of Manon Bollegraf and Tom Nijssen upset second-seeded siblings Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Emilio Sanchez of Spain to win the mixed doubles title at the US Open, reports Reuter.

The 6-2, 7-6 victory, in the first final of the championships, was worth 46,000 dollars to the winners. The runners-up shared 22,000 dollars.

The defeat brought a disappointing and to what had been a glorious tournament for the tennis playing Sanchez family.

Arantxa reached the women's quarter-finals before losing to four-time champion Martina Navratilova.

Emilio made it to the round of 16 before falling to fourth-seeded Jim Courier and brother Javier reached the quarter-finals, where he was eliminated by Stefan Edberg, the second seed.

The path to the final for the Dutch was cleared when top seeds Elizabeth Smylie and John Fitzgerald of Australia were beaten in the second round by South Africans Elna Reinach and Christo Van Rensburg, who fell in the semifinals to the eventual winners.

### Oldest US Open men semifinalists

- NEW YORK, Sept 6:** Oldest US Open men semifinalists by The Associated Press.
- A list of the oldest men's singles players to reach the US Open Semifinals:
- 39 years, 10 months — Ken Rosewall, 1974.
  - 39 years — Jimmy Connors, 1991.
  - 31 years, 7 months — John McEnroe, 1990.
  - 31 years, 6 months — Ivan Lendl, 1991.
  - 31 years, 1 month — Rod Laver, 1969.
  - 30 years, 3 months — John Newcombe, 1974.
  - 30 years, 1 month — Ilie Nastase, 1976.
  - 30 years — Guillermo Vilas, 1982.

### Japanese doctor suspended

**TOKYO, Sept 6:** The Japan Amateur Athletic Federation (JAAF) said yesterday it had suspended a doctor for two years for administering a banned drug to an athlete selected to run at July's World Student Games, reports AFP.

Minoru Fukushima, 51, was suspended from JAAF's register of doctors but the athlete whose name was withheld was not penalized, officials said.

The 19-year-old runner, a Tokyo University student, tested positive to Nandron, a steroid drug, in a doping test conducted by the Japanese Olympic Committee prior to the Games in Sheffield, England.

The student who came second in 5,000m and 1,000m trials for the Games, later dropped out of the squad citing a leg injury. He said he thought the doctor had been injecting him with vitamins.

### 'Most GDR coaches acted for Stasi'

**BERLIN, Sept 6:** Most sports administrators and many coaches and sports doctors in East Germany worked for the Stasi secret police, according to the ex-president of the country's Winter Sports Federation, reports AFP.

Martin Kilian, who today is vice president of the German Sports Federation (DSB), admitted in a radio interview that he had not always "protected" his athletes from the tentacles of the powerful secret police.

But he said the Stasi had never put him under any pressure.

Administrators, athletes and doctors agreed to cooperate with the Stasi mainly because the state security forces granted the permits needed to travel abroad, Kilian said.

## ITTF may admit 3 Baltic republics

**TOKYO, Sept 6:** The International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) is expected to approve the membership of the Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia shortly, Japan's Kyodok news agency reported on Thursday, reports Reuter.

ITTF head Ichiro Ogihara said the Federation would admit the three states after the International Olympic Committee (IOC) concludes an executive board meeting in Berlin on September 17.

Lithuania and Latvia had been ITTF members before they were forcibly annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940.

Lithuania declared independence in March 1990, while the other two republics formally broke away after the August coup.

## Another Hendry-Davis semi

**NEW DELHI, Sept 6:** Stephen Hendry and Steve Davis set up another semifinal showdown in two weeks Thursday after impressive wins in the India leg of the 555 challenge snooker series here, reports AFP.

World No. 1 Hendry fought back from a two-frame deficit to overcome Steve James 5-3 in an absorbing quarterfinal tie at the Hotel Taj Place.

Arch rival Davis, who lost to Hendry last week in the semifinal of the first event of the three-leg series in Hong Kong, produced three century breaks in a stunning 5-2 win over Neal Foulds.

The other semifinal today will be contested by world professional champion John

Parrott and giant killer Gary Wilkinson.

Parrott brushed aside stomach troubles and the loss of the first frame to trounce Mike Hallett 5-2, while world No. 5 Wilkinson shocked third-ranked Jimmy White 5-2 in the fourth quarterfinal.

Hendry, who was taken the full distance Wednesday by unheralded Indian Sonu Multani, failed to score in the first frame and managed only five in the second to allow James an early 2-0 lead.

But the talented Scotsman, winner of the Hong Kong event, won the next three frames to lead 3-2.

James made it three-all, but Hendry galloped to victory with breaks of 80 and 92 in the final two frames.

Davis, the legendary six-

time world champion and looking to hit the top spot again, potted superbly against Foulds to emerge an easy victor. He secured breaks of 118 in the third frame, 101 in the next and sealed his win with a brilliant 117 in the seventh and final frame.

The honour of recording the highest break in the tournament, however, went to Parrott and Wilkinson, who both struck 125.

Parrott came to the table after spending a restless night because of his stomach upset, but did not let the ailment affect him. He ran up a 4-1 lead after breaking 125 in the third frame and 105 in the fifth, and despite Hallett's 104 in the sixth he was clearly a deserving winner.