

Johnny won't leave MSC

Dhaka Moham-medan Sporting's national left full-back Imtiaz Sultan Johnny's decision to stay put at his present club was the main feature of yesterday's trading of the soccer players for the 1991-92 season.

Johnny collected his token yesterday from the Senior division league office and gave it to the expectant Mohammedan officials, thus ending all rumours of his leaving the club to join either Brothers Union or Abahani Krira Chakra.

Brothers Union, said to be planning a serious challenge to

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the coming championship race, had quite a satisfactory day yesterday, succeeding in acquiring the services of Abahani's regular left-back Kazi Kamal. Fakirpool right full-back Pijush and midfielder Uttam also decided to sign in favour of the Gopibagh Club.

Abahani right-back Aman took a transfer in favour of Bangladesh PWD. Munna (Jr) is another Abahani player who has joined PWD for the next season.

It is being widely speculated that Sri Lankan Packer Ally will be playing as a player-cum-coach for PWD Club next season.

BJMC's upcoming right full-

back Sohail of Rajshahi has decided to join Arambagh K.S.

The leading players — who collected their tokens yesterday also include Mohammedan's medio Ayaz Khan and Nurul Islam of Brothers Union.

Sheikh Mohammed Alam, the star Abahani forward who has already scored 90 goals for the reigning champions, seems to have settled his differences with the Abahani officials and will most likely stay with them.

Thirty-one footers changed their jersey colours yesterday, taking the total number of those changing clubs for the next season to 170.

Ansars handballers assert

Six matches were decided on the inaugural day of the fifth Karnaphuli Insurance women's handball championship, organised by the Bangladesh Women's Sports Federation yesterday at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex.

LORD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukdar inaugurated the four-day competition. Chairman of the Karnaphuli Insurance Company, Nizamuddin Ahmed was also present.

Title-aspirants Bangladesh Ansars started their championship quest by registering

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victories in both their matches on the opening day.

In the morning session, Ansars overwhelmed Bandarban 35-1 while in the afternoon they humiliated Chapainawabganj 40-2.

Rajshahi DSA, another formidable side in the tourney, also won both of their matches yesterday. Rajshahi outplayed Netrokona 30-11 in the morning and in the afternoon they scored an exciting 20-18 victory over Dhaka DSA.

Jessore, like Ansars and Rajshahi, also posted victories

against Chapainawabganj by a 40-2 margin and against Netrokona by 8-6 goals.

Seven teams are taking part in the championship.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Ansars vs Netrokona (9 am)
Dhaka vs C'nawabganj (10 am)
Jessore vs Bandarban (11 am)
Rajshahi vs Rangmat (12 am)
Bandarban vs Netrokona (3 pm)
Rangmat vs C'nawabganj (4 pm)
Ansars vs Dhaka (5 pm)
Jessore vs Rajshahi (6 pm)

Olympic solidarity course on

A five-day sports leadership course organised by the Bangladesh Olympic Association in cooperation with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) began at the conference room of the National Sports Council yesterday.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka inaugurated the high-level course as the chief guest.

Forty sports organised from different national sports federations and sports journalists are taking part in the course,

being conducted by two IOC instructors — the treasurer of the Olympic Council of Asia Santiparb Tejavantja (Thailand) and secretary general of the Australian Olympic Association Heinz Jungwirth.

Speaking on the occasion, the State Minister stressed the need for such courses for the overall development of sports in the country.

Acknowledging the poor organising capabilities, Mr Hossain said good organising abilities can help improve the standard of games and sports.

Chairman of the National Sports Council Major General Mahbubur Rahman, Additional Secretary in charge of the Ministry of Youth and Sports and president of Bangladesh Olympic Association M A Rouf and course conductors spoke on the occasion.

The background of the Olympic movement, its structure, participation in Olympic Games, sports for all, Olympic solidarity and fair play were the subjects discussed on the opening day.

Age converts Connors from a villain to a hero

NEW YORK, Sept 9: Times has hardly mellowed the brash young man who once ruled tennis, but the years have transformed former bad boy Jimmy Connors into a beloved hero of the game, reports Reuter.

The 39-year-old Connors captivated the US Open championships and ageing sports fans around the world with his inspiring campaign that ended in the semifinals on Saturday.

With Louis Armstrong Stadium crowds of 20,000 roaring encouragement, the scrawny battler outlasted 124 other players less than a year after career-threatening wrist surgery.

Ironically, his single-minded, burning desire to win, which at his current age has made him the darling of tennis, once made him a detested "villain" in the sport.

"Fifteen, 20 years ago, I was able to fight not only my opponents and the linesmen, but the crowd also, and I liked it," Connors said.

Things began to change as Connors neared 30 and was perceived as more of an underdog against the likes of new bad boy John McEnroe and the stoic Ivan Lendl.

"At this point in time I can't fight 20,000 people anymore. For them to be on my team and push me through a couple of matches like they did over the past 12 days has been really quite something."

Connors, five times winner of the Open and the only player to win the championship on grass, clay and hardcourt, has always seen himself as a warrior.

"I go out there and give it my best — and they like that. They like the blood dripping and the falling and the stumbling and the showing them

celebrity charts. His romance with Chris Evert made for a "love match" between tennis royalty, Connors and his fiancée both winning Wimbledon in 1974.

The Evert romance did not last and it was not until marriage to playboy playmate of the year Patti McGuire and the birth of their two children that Connors began to show signs of cooling his on-court act.

But self control was always touch-and-go for Connors.

In 1988 he incurred a lengthy suspension and hefty fine for failing to continue in the fifth set of his semifinal match against Ivan Lendl at the Lipton International Players' Championship because of a disputed line call.

The fire that so often got him in trouble in the past, however, helped draw people to him through his Open heroics.

Particularly among the older set, Connors became living proof that by giving total effort, success was still within reach.

Connors demurred.

"I am not carrying a flag for guys 35 or 45 years old. I'm really not," he said.

But Connors admitted there was something special about the exploits of ageing stars such as Nolan Ryan, who hurled his record seventh baseball no-hitter this season at the age of 44, retired baseball legend Pete Rose and basketball star Kareem Abdul Jabbar.

"There is a certain something that guys like that have, like a Nolan Ryan or like a Jabbar or Pete Rose when he was playing that enables them to compete at a certain level at a certain age," Connors said.

"And it has nothing to do with their game. Their game has always been constant."

"You know, once you get past the game, there is a little bit of something extra that somebody has to be able to go beyond perfection, to go into the outer limits of themselves, to just push themselves — push themselves so far that it doesn't matter what happens to them."

"Now I am not afraid to tell you that I have that."



JIMMY CONNORS... a never-say-die fighter

Connors' battling of officials and obscene gestures during matches tarnished his reputation in the days when he was dominating tennis with a record 159-week reign as world number one.

In the 1977 US Open final, the last played at Forest Hills, Connors lost to Argentine Guillermo Vilas, who was carried off on the shoulders of people in the crowd overjoyed that Connors had been beaten.

how you really feel."

Connors demonstrated championship ability by winning six tournaments in his first year as a pro.

He followed that with 11 wins in 1973 to stand third in the first computer rankings behind Ilic Nastase and John Newcombe.

The next five years ended with "Jimbo" on top of the chart.

Connors also climbed the

Zimbabwe beat Australian B side

HARARE, Sept 9: Zimbabwe beat Australia B by six wickets in a 50-over one-day cricket international on Sunday, the opening match of the Australians, three-week tour.

Scores: Australia B 172 (T Moody 42; A J Traicos four for 20); Zimbabwe 176-4 (K. Arnott 85).

Leconte not in Davis Cup squad

BORDEAUX, France, Sept 9: Henri Leconte, who helped France to its quarterfinal victory over Australia, was not on the team announced Monday for the upcoming Davis Cup semifinal match against Yugoslavia, reports AP.

National coaches Patrice Hagelauer and Eric Deblicker along with Francois Jauffrey, the French Tennis Federation's technical director, announced a four-man team that will meet Yugoslavia, Sept 20-22, in the southern French city of Pau.

The victor meets the winner of the semifinal between the United States and Germany.

Leconte has had surgery on his back and his ranking dropped to No.132 after being as high as No.5 in 1986. He has not played a tournament since Wimbledon in June.

Guy Forget, currently No. 6 in the world, leads France again. He has been a part of all the Davis Cup victories this year, splitting his singles matches against Australia.

Forget and Leconte teamed up for a key doubles win in the 3-2 victory over the 1990 finalists last May in Nimes, France.

Fabrice Santoro, who provided the clinching point against Australian veteran Wally Masur, also is part of the team. The other two members are Thierry Champion and Arnaud Boetsch.

"That leaves the door open to Leconte if he has a good tournament at Bordeaux," Jauffrey said.

Li Fang lifts Volvo crown

BANGKOK, Sept 9: China's top seed Li Fang emerged as women's singles champion when she defeated her second-seeded compatriot, Tang Min, in the final of the 10,000 dollar Volvo Ladies Cup tennis tournament here Sunday, reports AFP.

Li downed Tang in straight sets, 7-5, 6-2.

Chess results

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Top favourites Almasur Rahman and Fide Master Jamilur Rahman continued their winning streaks by defeating Shamsul Kabir and Abul Kashem respectively in the 17th national chess qualifying championship yesterday.

Almasur Rahman and Jamilur Rahman, both of Bangladesh Ansars, maintained their leading positions with two points each, along with fifteen other players, while Rani Hamid lost half a point to Mintu by drawing her second round match yesterday.

The leading players with two points each are: Fide Master Rifat-Bin-Sattar (Biman), Almasur Rahman (Ansars), Fide Master Jamilur Rahman (Ansars), Shahnoor Hossain (Dhaka Metropolitan), Syed Ruhul Kabir, Rafiqul Islam (Chittagong), Syeda Shabana Parveen (Faridpur), Shahabuddin Korashi (Syhet), Ziaul Kader (Metropolitan), Mainuddin Mamon (Metropolitan), Afroza Khanam Babil (Munshiganj), Nahid Mizid (Cox's Bazar), Ahmed Hossain Mozumder (Chittagong University), Md Sharifuzzaman (Jhenedah), SM Millat Hossain (Sirajganj), Syed Moniruzzaman (D Air Force) and Nazrul Islam Delu (Tangail).

They are followed by Rejaul Iluq, Rani Hamid, Khandakar Kayes Hasan, Khorshed Alam, Sheikh Anwar Hossain, Newamul Hogue Niru, Anisur Rahman, Khalid Suakhat, Manzur Hossain, Kalam, Mintu, Amir Hossain, Subrata Chandra Shaha, Surwar Sanaad, Salil Chowdhury and Aminul Islam with one and half points each.

Rifat defeated Sayed Ahmed while Jimmu and Reza drew yesterday.

World XI win festival match

SCARBOROUGH, England, Sept 9: Carl Hooper and Phil Newport grabbed three wickets apiece to steer a World XI to a 34-run victory over Yorkshire in the Scarborough cricket festival on Sunday, reports AFP.

Yorkshire lost their last six wickets for 16 runs in six overs to be all out for 187 in 45 overs as they chased 222 for victory.

West Indian spinner Hooper took three for 12 and England seamer Newport claimed three for 29.

Yorkshire's top scorer David Byas, who hit eight boundaries in his 59 made from 72 balls before being caught on the long-off boundary by Winston Davis off Hooper in the 40th over.

The World XI, who won the toss, were restricted to 102 for four after 31 overs but were boosted by a stand of 80 in the next 14 overs between Worcestershire wicket-keeper Steve Rhodes and New Zealander Grant Bradburn.

Rhodes hit 55 from 50 deliveries with six boundaries and Bradburn's 51 came from 86 balls.

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Edberg tops them all with title

NEW YORK, Sept 9: Stefan Edberg played the match of his life on Sunday to crush Jim Courier 6-2, 6-4, 6-0 and win the US Open championship with an awesome display of serve and volley prowess, reports Reuter.

"It was almost like a dream," Edberg said. "I felt like I could do almost anything out there."

Edberg, who lost only 15 points against his serve during the two-hour two-minute match, rendered the French Open champion helpless with his tricky kick serves, flowing approaches and masterful net play.

The victory, worth 400,000 dollars, gave the 25-year-old Swede his first US Open championship to add to his two Wimbledon crowns and a pair of Australian Open titles.

Courier, who had not lost a set in six matches before crumbling in his first Open final, received 200,000 dollars.

The usually stoic Edberg, who never dropped serve in the match, thrust his arms up and broke into a huge smile after he knocked a net-cord stiffer down the line to complete his victory.

"Honestly, this is the best match I ever played," Edberg told the Louis Armstrong stadium crowd during the awards ceremony. "I didn't think I could play this well."

Courier, the fourth seed, agreed.

"I can't really say I played too badly today," the 21-year-old American said.

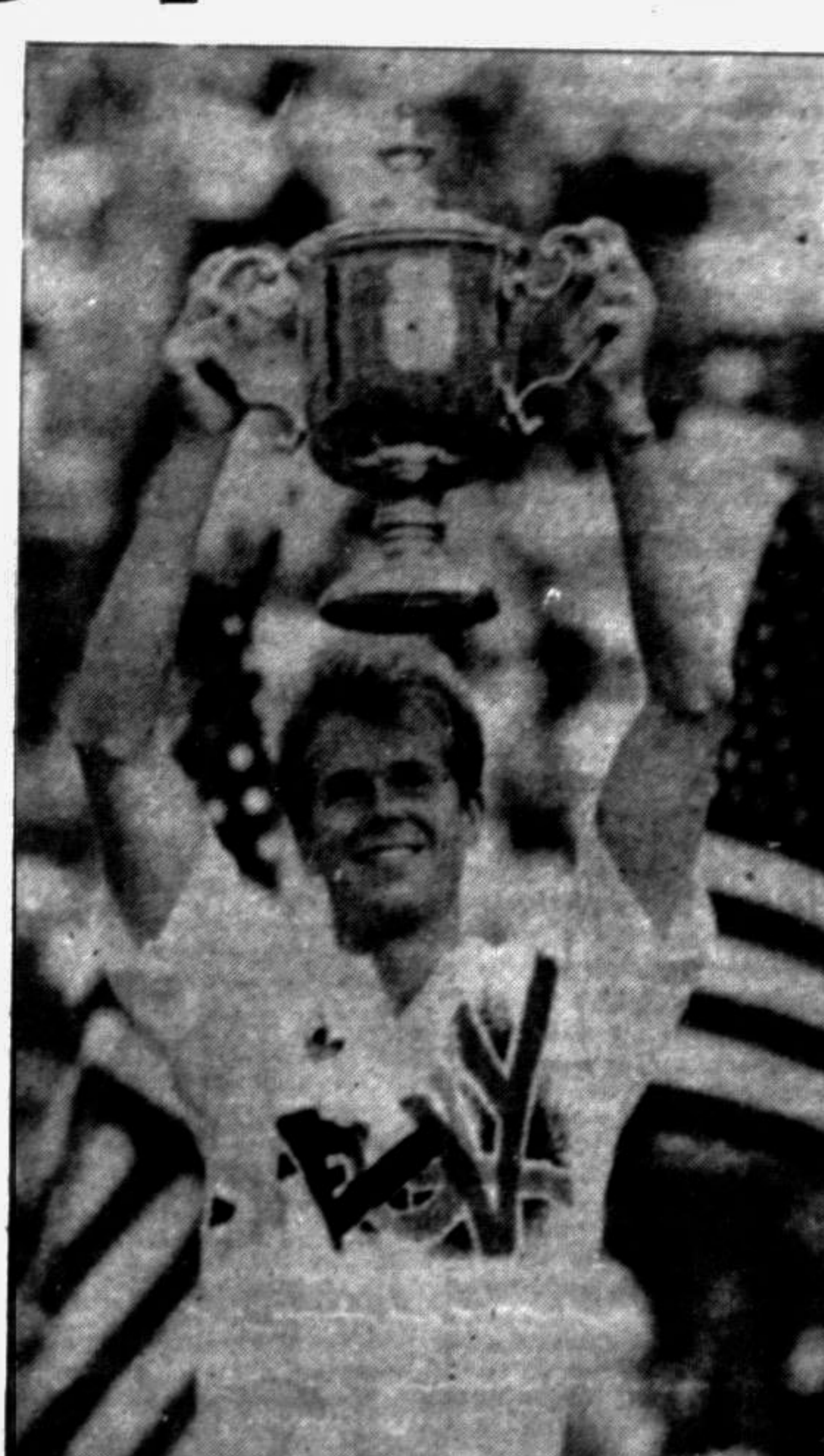
"He was just all over me I've never seen him play that well. He's a great champion."

The one-sided victory was especially gratifying to the second-seeded Edberg, who has not fared well here in the past.

Last year he was ousted in the first round by Alexander Volkov of the Soviet Union in straight sets.

On Sunday Edberg played on an entirely different level than Courier, the hard-hitting baseline battler who ended the inspirational run of 39-year-old Jimmy Connors in Saturday's semifinals.

Edberg, who seemed to flow rather than charge the



Stefan Edberg of Sweden holds up the US Open trophy on Sept 8 after defeating Jim Courier of the US in the final. Edberg won 6-2, 6-4, 6-0.

net, was the picture of unruffled elegance as he smoothly smothered the groundstroking game of Courier.

Not even five foot faults called against the Swede, who drags his right foot to the line as he serves, were a bother on this day.

Courier, who was broken only seven times in his six previous wins, lost his serve twice to Edberg in the first set.

"Jimmy was missing his serves by a couple of inches, while I was hitting the lines with mine. That makes a big difference," Edberg said.

The first break came after a titanic struggle in the third game, in which Edberg succeeded on his fifth break point after Courier had been denied on the same number of game points.

Edberg, who dropped just five points on his serve in the first set, broke again in the

seventh game for a 5-2 lead. A topspin lob had Courier whiffing at air and Edberg blasted back a crosscourt forehand winner off a second serve to set up the break.

The Swede took the only break of the second set in the third game.

Courier double faulted twice to fall to 15-40 and Edberg broke for 2-1 on a soft touch backhand volley after sending the American deep into the corner with his previous shot.

The American had his last chance to get back into the match in the final game of set when he reached break point after Edberg sent a forehand volley wide.

An Edberg overhead put-away brought the game to a close. A brilliant ankle-high backhand volley set up an angled overhead winner and the Swede quelled the last threat with a sizzling ace.

Nothing Courier tried worked.

His topspin lob failed to clear the range of Edberg's but the Swede was always there.

Courier won only nine points in the last set as Edberg swept to victory.

"I've been pummeled before but this is the worst beating I've taken this year," said Courier. "Life goes on." The two had split their previous Grand Slam encounters this year. Courier beat the Swede in the quarter-finals of the French Open on his way to the title, while Edberg ousted Courier in a five-setter in the round of 16 at the Australian Open.

Edberg has often complained in the past about the various distractions at the open — planes flying overhead, noisy fans, terrible traffic to the tennis centre, smells of hamburgers cooking on the outdoor grill.

But nothing disturbed the Swede on Sunday as he mirrored the path of first-round loser one year to champion the next last accomplished by Australian Mal Anderson when he won in 1957.

"New York hasn't been the greatest place for my tennis, and to turn it around here is really hard to describe," said Edberg.

"I'm starting to really like New York."

Shriver bags doubles title without Martina

NEW YORK, Sept 9: Pam Shriver finally won one without Martina Navratilova on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Shriver won her 21st Grand Slam women's doubles title, but her first minus Navratilova, by teaming with Soviet Natalia Zvereva to beat the top-seeded team to Czechoslovak Jana Novotna and Soviet Larisa Savchenko 6-4, 4-6; 7-6; (7-5) in the US Open final.

"It is one of the most special things in my career," said Shriver. "This was terrific to have won without Martina."

Shriver and Navratilova won their first Grand Slam title at the 1981 Wimbledon. The Americans won four more Wimbledon, seven Australian Opens, and four French and US Open titles.

"It is very special because I always with have some insecurities," said Shriver. "Any time you play with somebody as great as Martina and you win so many titles, people are going to assume the obvious that a majority of the reason is your partner."

Ironically, Zvereva was available to play for the first time with Shriver because her usual partner Savchenko broke apart the pairing for this tournament.

"At the start we were really struggling and we just worked our way out of it," said Zvereva.

Hockey result

BARCELONA, Spain, Sept 9: Malaysia tied their three-match hockey series with Spain here after drawing 4-4 in the final game on Friday, reports AFP.

The Spaniards won the first game 5-3 on Tuesday, but the visitors fought back for a 3-1 victory on Wednesday.

Cool Swede's NY nightmare ends in double delight

NEW YORK, Sept 9: Stefan Edberg ended a disappointing Grand Slam year with a dream win at a dream venue on Sunday, reports Reuter.

At the Grand Slam event that has been a traditional source of frustration for the soft-spoken Swede, Edberg played the best tennis of his career to trounce American Jim Courier 6-2, 6-4, 6-0.

"It's really hard to believe. It was almost like a dream out there," said the 25-year-old Edberg, who will regain his world number one when the new rankings are released today.

"As the further the match went on, the more comfortable I felt. I just felt great out there, I felt like I could do almost anything and the strategy which I had going out today worked as well as I could have ever hoped."

"It's fantastic that you can actually play such a good match in a Grand Slam final for three sets without losing the concentration once," he added.

Ironically, Edberg had often been accused of lacking the mental toughness necessary to win the Open, considered by players to be the most difficult of the four Grand Slams.

He had suffered a series of disappointments here in the past.

In 1989 Edberg fell to Jimmy Connors, who was then considered over the hill. The previous year he was upset by Aaron Krickstein, also in the fourth round.

Edberg always seemed to be bothered by the noise, the wind, difficult night match

conditions or swirling garbage floating around the Louis Armstrong Stadium. There was always some excuse for Edberg's inability to play up to expectations at the Open.

The two-time Wimbledon and Australian Open champion suffered his greatest humiliation here last year when he came in as top seed and hot silver trophy by his side.

"The last four matches I played here, I think I played as well as I can," said Edberg, whose previous best showings have come on Wimbledon's Centre Court against Boris Becker, who must surrender his beloved number one to the Swede.

"I really peaked, especially for the last two matches here where I played very solid tennis, first to beat (Ivan) Lendl yesterday (6-3, 6-3, 6-4) and then to beat Courier today."

"Still winning Wimbledon the first time is always going to be very special to me," said the London resident, who claimed in his first Wimbledon crown in 1988. But this ranks number two or three to me. "It's just great to win here."

Edberg had been frustrated by is showings at this year's first three Grand Slams.

"I have been number one most of the year, but I haven't really done it in the Slams," he said.

"I lost to Lendl in Australia (in the semifinals). I had him down two match points. In the french I'd lost in the quarter-finals," he said of his four set loss to eventual champion Courier.

"Then Wimbledon when I had everything going for me I lost that incredible match to (Michael) Stich," he said referring to their amazing semifinal in which Edberg lost in four sets without ever dropping his serve.

But no one can take away his sensational US Open victory.

"This has sort of made up for the year," Edberg said.

"Whatever happens the rest of the year, I will be a happy man."



COURIER...outplayed favourite only to crash out in the first rounds.

But at the 1991 Open, Edberg put it all together.

His graceful serve-and-volley game, a perfect combination of power and finesse, was firing on all cylinders from his brilliant fourth-round victory over Michael Chang through his demolition of Courier on the final Sunday.

"It's really something to actually win it here after what happened last year and the last couple of years where New York hasn't been the greatest place for my tennis."

"Actually to turn it around here, it's really hard to describe," Edberg said in the post-match interview, his huge

SPORTS LEADERSHIP COURSE
9-13 SEPTEMBER, 1991: DHAKA

SPONSORED BY: INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

ORGANISED BY: BANGLADESH OLYMPIC ASSOCIATION

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka yesterday inaugurated a five-day Olympic Solidarity course on sports leadership at the National Sports Council.