

## Manjrekar stems Indian rot

BRISBANE, Australia, Dec 20: India's beleaguered top order gave another pathetic display on the first day of the four-day match against Queensland here Friday, reports AFP.

Electing to bat first on the GABBA wicket, the Indians caved in just as they had done during the 10-wicket defeat by Australia in the first Test here three weeks ago.

After losing the first four wickets for 161, the tourists ended the curtailed opening day's play at 255 for six, thanks mainly to an masterly century from Sanjay Manjrekar.

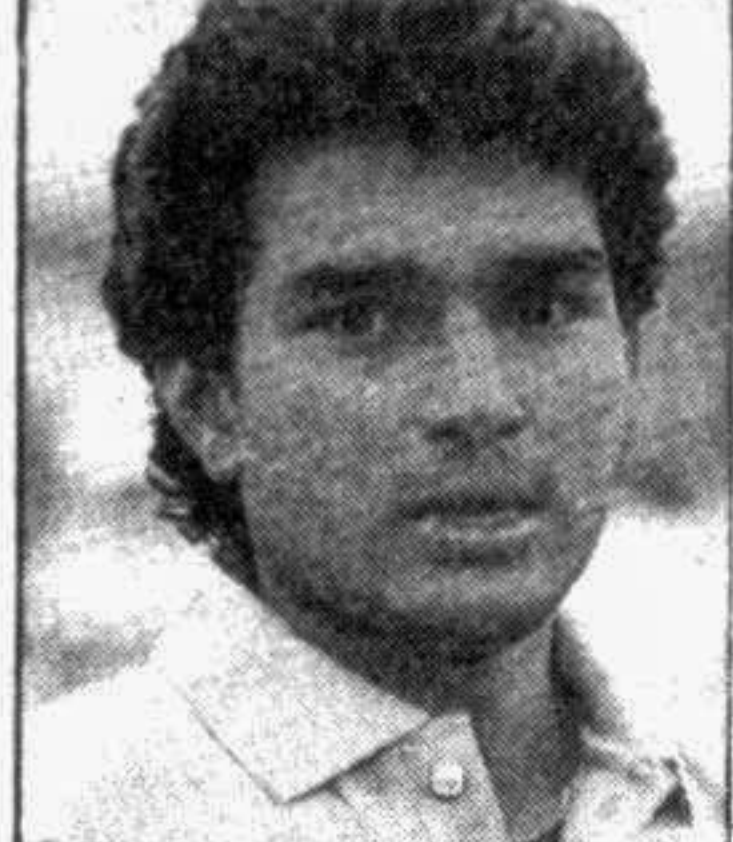
Manjrekar, who made 110, was the only Indian to take charge against a Queensland attack depleted by the absence of resting Test paceman Craig McDermott.

India were rescued from abject surrender by a defiant fifth wicket stand of 72 in 77 minutes between Manjrekar and left handed Sourav Ganguly, who contributed 29.

Scott Prestwidge, a 21-year-old fast bowler, made up for McDermott's absence with a spirited display in his

maiden first class appearance. Working up a lively pace, Prestwidge removed both openers Ravi Shastri and Krishnamachari Srikkanth cheaply.

He had Srikkanth (7) slashing straight to Peter Taylor



**SANJAY MANJREKAR** at gully and then had Shastri (35) edging to wicket-keeper Peter Anderson.

Veteran batsman Dilip Vengsarkar, struggling to retain his Test place, added 74 for the third wicket with Manjrekar before being caught behind off another rookie fast bowler Scott Williams for 27. India's woes compounded

when skipper Mohamud Azharuddin was run out in a desperate attempt to get away from the bowling.

Caught by Australian skipper Allan Border at second slip off a no ball from Williams, the off-colour Azhar fell two balls later after making 18.

He played Williams to mid-wicket and charged down the wicket for a single.

Non-striker Manjrekar, however, failed to respond to his captain's call, leaving Azhar stranded in the middle.

Manjrekar, the team's only centurion on the month-old tour after making 116 not out in a country game a Wagga Wagga last month, drove and cut his way to 20 boundaries.

But when he looked set for a big score, Manjrekar charged down the wicket to leg-spinner Bruce Oxendord and was stumped.

Rain and bad light cut into 150 minutes of playing time forcing the umpires to extend play by an hour. That ensured that only 18 overs were lost in the day.

This is India's last first class fixture before two back-to-back Tests in Melbourne and Sydney commence on December 26.

## Stewart named Gooch's deputy

LONDON, Dec 20: Batsman Alec Stewart was named on Thursday as vice-captain for England's cricket tour of New Zealand in January, reports Reuters.

The appointment will be reviewed after England's squad of 16 is reduced by two for the World Cup in February and March.

"The important thing is that no-one is guaranteed a place in the final World Cup squad," England spokesman Tim Lamb said.

"We are not even saying that Alec will definitely keep the vice-captaincy if he does make the 14."

Stewart, the son of England manager Mickie, will captain Surrey next year.

## Holyfield plans to fight in '92

NEW YORK, Dec 20: Undisputed world heavyweight boxing champion Evander Holyfield plans to fight three times in 1992, his promoters announced on Thursday, dispelling rumours of the undefeated fighter's imminent retirement, reports Reuters.

March, June and November are the most likely months that Holyfield will fight, Dan Duva, the champion's promoter and president of main events productions said.

Possible 1992 opponents include former champions Mike Tyson, who is scheduled to stand trial on rape charges next month, and George Foreman, who lost a 12-round decision to Holyfield earlier this year.

Other potential 1992 opponents for Holyfield mentioned in a release by main events were Riddick Bowe, Olympic champion Ray Mercer and Briton Lennox Lewis.

"During the coming weeks we will meet with potential broadcasters, sites and opponents," said Duva, who estimated that Holyfield will earn 50 million dollars in purses next year.

If all goes according to plans, Duva said, Holyfield will have attained a record of 30-0 shortly after his 30th birthday.

## Chess results

LONDON, Dec 20: Nigel Short, currently ranked the strongest player outside the crumbling Soviet Union, beat Michael Adams in the final of the first English Chess Championships after a four-hour struggle, reports Reuters.

A riveting fourth game in their duel late on Thursday night ended with the score at 2-2. Two tie-breaks were needed, and Short won both.

In the fourth game, Adams, rated the world's leading junior, fought cleverly to infiltrate Short's opening attack before offering a draw. But he blundered in both tie-breaks.

### RESULT:

	G1	G2	G3	G4	T1	T2	Total
Adams	1	0	1/2	1/2	0	0	2
Short	0	1	1/2	1/2	1	1	4

## Krabbe, Stich voted Germany's best

BADEN BADEN, Germany, Dec 20: Sprint queen Katrin Krabbe, Wimbledon king Michael Stich and reigning football champions FC Kaiserslautern have topped Germany's annual sports awards, reports AFP.

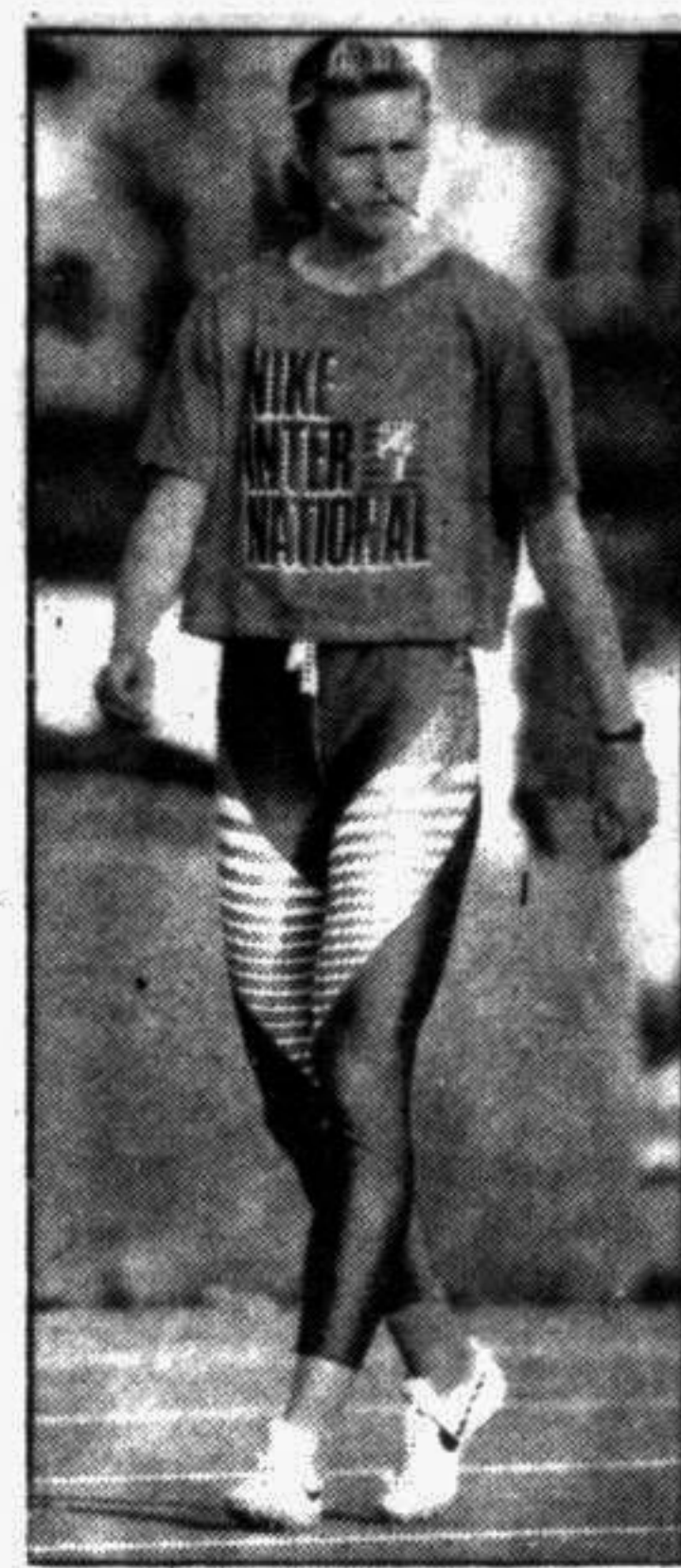
Journalists voted for Krabbe, the 100m and 200m world champion, for the second year running in the women's category. She beat world high jump champion Heike Henkel placed second with 3,141.

Krabbe was also Germany's female Athlete of the Year in 1990.

Tennis' 1988 Grand Slam winner Steffi Graf, who won the title four years in a row between 1986 and 1989, was third with 2,208 points.

None of the country's popular soccer stars was among the top 10, not even national team captain Lothar Matthaus, who was named player of the year in several domestic and international polls.

But soccer did have a winner in one category. FC Kaiserslautern, winner of the first division soccer title, was voted the country's top team of the year.



**KATRIN KRABBE** Becker received 1,905. Joerg

Hoffmann, winner of two gold medals at the World Swimming Championships, received 1,154 points to place third in the traditional year-end poll.

Krabbe, who won the 100 and the 200-meter titles at the track and field World Championships, received 4,017 points, while high jump world champion Heike Henkel placed second with 3,141.

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## Lewis to warm European winter

SANTA MONICA, California, Dec 20: World 100-metre record holder Carl Lewis will compete in at least one and possibly two European athletics meetings this winter, his manager said on Thursday, reports Reuters.

"Carl will definitely long jump in Stockholm on February 5 and there is a possibility he will compete in either Stuttgart or Karlsruhe," Joe Douglas said in a telephone interview from his Santa Monica office.

The Karlsruhe meeting is scheduled for January 31 and the Stuttgart competition is set for February 2. If Lewis competes in either, it will be over 60 metres, Douglas said.

The six-time Olympic champion also plans to run the 55 metres in New York on February 7.



Lewis's training partner, former world 100-metre record holder Leroy Burrell, will long jump at the New York meeting, Douglas said.

Burrell also plans to run the 60 metres at Madrid on February 14 and is considering other February meetings in Fairfax, Virginia, Genoa, Italy, and Birmingham, England.

As for the outdoor pre-

olympic season, Douglas said the two will run "very select" schedules.

"We may not go to Europe before the US Olympic trials (June 19-28 in New Orleans)," he said. "And we will remain in the US for 12-14 days after their last events in the trials before going to Europe."

Then we will probably compete in about three meets and go to the Barcelona area about 12 days before the Games.

"This will give us the flexibility of training or competing in another meet if one of them needs the competition," Douglas said.

Lewis will be aiming for his third Olympic gold medals in both the 100 metres and long jump at the Barcelona Games and likely will run the 4X100-metre relay.

Burrell will concentrate on the 100 metres and the relay.

## Marsh's injury minor

PERTH, Australia, Dec 20: Australian cricket vice-captain Geoff Marsh may recover from a neck injury in time to play in the second Test against India, starting in Melbourne on December 26, reports AFP.

Marsh, 32, was given the good news here Thursday by Western Australian orthopaedic surgeon Phil Hardcastle, who has established an international reputation for his achievements in sports medicine.

He performed the complex back surgery which gave Australian fast bowler Bruce Reid a new lease of life at the top level, and only last week he prescribed a new bowling action for West Indies fast bowler Ian Bishop, plagued with back problems.

Marsh injured his neck in Sydney on Wednesday night when he was involved in a collision with team-mate Dean Jones while attempting to take a catch from a shot by Malcolm Marshall in a World Series one-day game against the West Indies.

Marsh, who won the man-of-the-match award for his innings of 82 in Australia's vic-

tory, was knocked unconscious in the incident.

Western Australian coach Daryl Foster, who accompanied Marsh when he saw Hardcastle here Thursday on his return to his home state, said further X-rays had shown there was a soft tissue injury at the base of Marsh's neck.

"Fortunately, there is no fracture or crack," he said.

"Hardcastle said that Marsh is definitely in contention for the second Test. Something which delighted Marsh, of course," he said.

Foster said Marsh had been told to wear a neck brace for the next three to four days, to take anti-inflammation tablets and to apply ice to the injury.

"Whether he plays in Melbourne will depend greatly on how the injury responds in the next few days," Foster said.

"Given his usual powers of recovering from injuries, there must be every chance that he will be able to take his place."

Marsh, as well as being a key member of the Australian Test line-up, is a vital component in the team's hopes of retaining the World Cup one-day title, to be decided in Australia and New Zealand in February and March.

## Windies cricket chiefs to tour South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, Dec 20: West Indian Cricket Board president Clyde Walcott and secretary Steve Camacho will visit South Africa next month, United Cricket Board of South Africa chief Ali Bacher said Thursday, reports AFP.

But UCBSA's managing director dismissed a report here that the South African cricket team will play three matches in the West Indies next April, immediately after the World Cup in Australia, as "pure speculation".

He told AFP that while South Africa and the West Indies wished to "establish early contact," no date had been set for any tours.

The visit by Walcott and Camacho from January 14 to 23 was the first step towards exploring contacts, Bacher added.

The Johannesburg star, quoting a Jamaican source, said matches were scheduled for Jamaica, Barbados and either Guyana or Trinidad "almost immediately" after the

World Cup.

Bacher also defended the UCBSA's decision to include two black players in the squad for next year's World Cup, a move which has been widely criticised in South Africa as "tokenism" and "window-dressing".

He said the players would only be involved in warm-up matches and the tour was a "heaven-sent chance" to expose promising players to first class cricket.

It would give two players from disadvantaged areas an outstanding platform for their development into top-class players.

"We also believe their inclusion on this tour will be an inspiration to followers of cricket within their own communities," Bacher added.

He said that players could not be selected on merit in South Africa because equal opportunity did not exist.

"We have a moral obligation to redress the imbalances that have existed in our cricket for more than 100 years," Bacher said.

## Favourites march on

JAKARTA, Dec 20: All favourite individuals and teams won their round-robin matches as expected on the second day of the Coney Pacific Asian Cup badminton tournament here Thursday, reports AFP.

In the men's singles, host player Bambang Suprianto, who beat China's ace shuttler Wu Wenkai on Wednesday, lost a tough first set against Malaysia's Foo Kok Keong but recovered by easily winning the second and the decider.

Thailand's Sompol Kutsakij then lost the first set to win the two others against South Korea's Lee Kwan Jin.

China's Wan Zheng fought hard to subdue South Korea's Kim Hak Kyun in a rubber set while Indonesia's Joko Suprianto had an easy time beating Taiwan's Lee Mie Chow in a straight set.

In the women's singles, world champion Tan Jihong of China scored her second win in the cup by beating Japan's Hisako Mizui.

Tan's compatriot Ye Zhao-yung had to out to South Korea's Bang Soo Hyun after

giving her a tough time.

The South Korean and Indonesian mixed double teams easily defeated their opponents, Japan and Hong Kong respectively, in straight sets.

The first night's two withdrawals, South Korea's Park Joo Bong, Kim Moon Soo in the men's doubles and Indonesia's lady shuttler Sarwendah, pulled out of the game Thursday when they did not show up to play on the second day.

Nor did the Korean team play, citing Park's leg injury, suffered in Kuala Lumpur, while Sarwendah was down with a cold.

The cup offers a total cash prize of 100,000 dollars.

**Police athletics**  
BRAHMANBARIA, Dec 20: The annual athletics meet of Brahmanbaria District Police was held at the local stadium recently, reports UNB.

Chittagong Range Divisional Inspector General of Police M A Khaleque inaugurated the day-long meet and distributed prizes among the winners.

About 150 athletes took part in 22 events.

## 1991: The underdogs prove the form book so very wrong

PARIS, Dec 20: Few things went according to the form book in men's tennis in 1991, reports AFP.

Underdogs France, in scenes of glorious Pandemonium and national rejoicing, won the Davis Cup for the first time in 59 years when they beat the holders the United States in Lyon.

Andre Agassi, the hottest tip for a first Grand Slam title, again failed to go the full distance after reaching the finals at both the French and the United States Opens.

Boris Becker, an odds-on favourite to win Wimbledon for a fourth time when he faced unknown fellow-German Michael Stich in the final, in-



**Edberg...No. 1** stead suffered the closest thing to a nervous breakdown in public. He cursed, argued and swore at himself while crashing to a 4-6, 6-7, 4-6 defeat.

Becker's behaviour did not shock those who had watched him win the Australian Open. In Melbourne, after his victory over Lendl and before the presentation ceremony, the German rushed out of the stadium and went for a run.

"I just wanted to be alone," he said later.

Stefan Edberg, favourite to win just about everything except the US Open where he had been beaten eight times in a row, lost in Melbourne, Paris and Wimbledon—but triumphed, at last, at Flushing Meadows.

The world number-one finished the year on a more worrying note. First a knee injury forced him to withdraw from the six million dollar Grand Slam Cup and then an arm injury threatened to stop him competing at the 1992 Australian Open.

Edberg came closest to stopping Stich at Wimbledon. In their semifinal he played some of his best tennis, didn't drop his service once, but still lost 6-4, 6-7, 6-7, 6-7.

Stich, 23 and at 6ft 4 in one of the game's biggest servers, had won only one previous title

before his Wimbledon triumph. He and Becker hammered down nearly 100 aces each during the championship fortnight, feats which rekindled interest in the suggestion by outgoing International Tennis Federation (ITF) president Philippe Chatrier that the second serve should be abolished.

**WET WIMBLEDON**  
Wimbledon had one of its wettest ever starts. The weather forced organisers to play on the middle Sunday for the first time and order their strawberries from Belgium after the home crop failed.

But there was plenty for the hardy English fans to anticipate under their umbrellas.

Agassi had finally agreed to return to the championships after three years of saying he

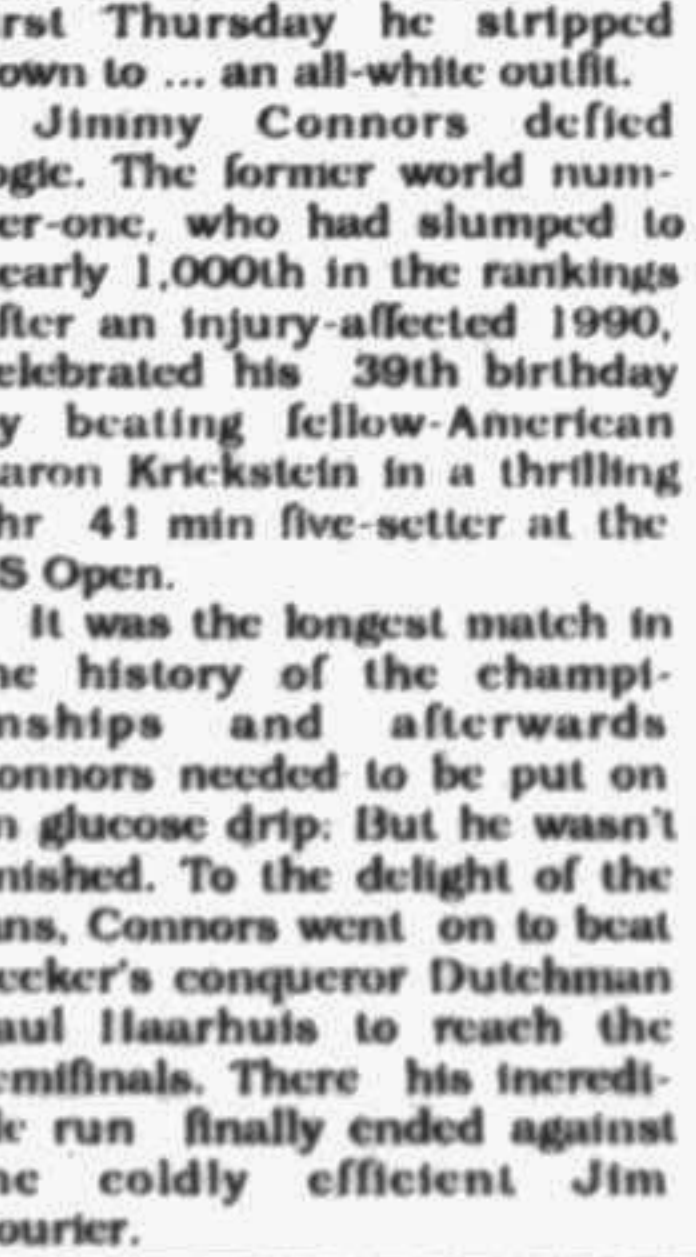


**Noah...France's hero** could not accept the All-England Club's predominantly white dress rules. Having shocked the establishment at other major tournaments, and at the 1990 French Open in particular, with his garish fluorescent colours and by wearing bicycle trunks under his shorts, speculation about what the brash 21-year-old American might wear at the All England Club too on unbelievable proportions.

When he finally came out to play his opening match on the first Thursday he stripped down to... an all-white outfit.

Jimmy Connors defied logic. The former world number-one, who had slumped to nearly 1,000th in the rankings after an injury-affected 1990, celebrated his 39th birthday by beating fellow-American Aaron Krickstein in a thrilling 4hr 41min five-setter at the US Open.

It was the longest match in the history of the championships and afterwards Connors needed to be put on an glucose drip. But he wasn't finished. To the delight of the fans, Connors went on to beat Becker's conqueror Dutchman Paul Haarhuis to reach the semifinals. There his incredible run finally ended against the coldly efficient Jim Courier.



Courier had an outstanding year—but he was left fuming at the end of it.

The 21-year-old, who enlisted the help of former Spanish player Jose Ilgueras to help his campaign at the French Open, shocked everyone by winning the title.

Courier, wearing a lucky baseball cap throughout the fortnight, outlasted Agassi, his former Nick Bollettieri Tennis Academy stablemate, in the final despite trailing by two sets to one.

Ilgueras, who had plotted Michael Chang's historic victory in the event two years earlier, taught the hard-hitting American the patience needed to master the deadly slow red clay surface.

But there was less patience shown by the world's press in



**Leconte...enigmatic genius** the interview room after on e of Courier's early-round matches. The Florida player, claiming that the match had been over too quickly, kept them waiting for nearly two hours while he went back out to practice.

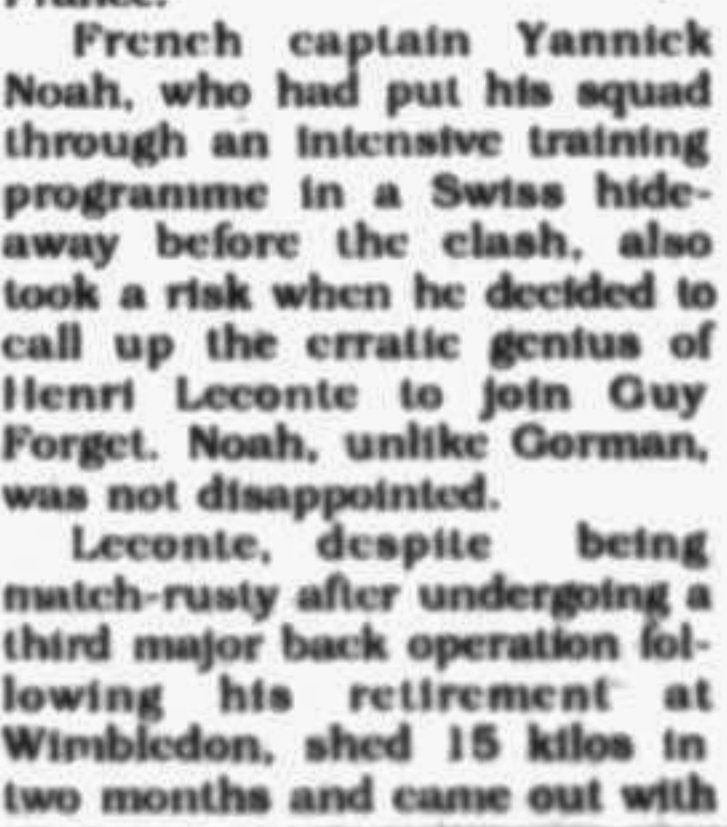
Courier became the world's number-two ranked player after reaching the US Open final—but was not picked to play in the Davis Cup final.

Captain Tom Gorman opted instead for Pete Sampras.

It was a gamble that didn't pay off. The 20-year-old, who had never played in the competition before, ruined a near-perfect end-of-season surge in which he won the Lyon Grand Prix, reached the Paris Open final and triumphed at the ATP World Championships, by losing both his singles against France.

French captain Yannick Noah, who had put his squad through an intensive training programme in a Swiss hide-away before the clash, also took a risk when he decided to call up the erratic genius of Henri Leconte to join Guy Forget. Noah, unlike Gorman, was not disappointed.

Leconte, despite being match-rusty after undergoing a third major back operation following his retirement at Wimbledon, shed 15 kilos in two months and came out with



all guns firing against Sampras on the first day of the clash.

The Americans, relaxed and confident when Agassi beat Paris Open winner Guy Forget in straight-sets in the opening rubber, looked anything but happy after Ken Flach and Robert Seguso were beaten by Forget and an inspired Leconte in the doubles.

Forget put the finishing touches to the French victory by beating Sampras in the first of the reverse singles.

The last match, between Agassi and Leconte, was never played and instead the Gerland Stadium court became the arena for some of the most emotional and jubilant scenes even seen as Noah and his men wept, embraced, danced and sang their way through a seemingly endless night.



**Becker...injury woes** France's arrival in the final for the first time since 1982, was made considerably easier when Croats Goran Ivanisevic, one of the world's most dangerous players, and Goran Prpic, refused to line-up for opponents Yugoslavia in the semifinal.

**LENDI IN DECLINE**  
Ivan Lendl had a frustrating season. After his loss to Becker in the Australian final, the 31-year-old Czech missed the French Open through injury.

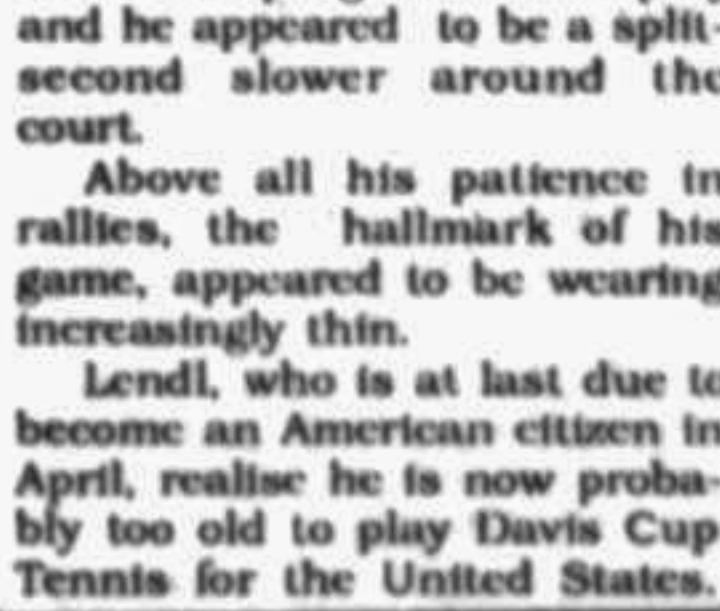
He wasn't really back at his best for Wimbledon where he made his 12th bid for the only Grand Slam title he was never won and was beaten in the third-round by big-serving American David Wheaton.

With his usual dedication, Lendl worked his way back to reach the semifinals at the US Open and Grand Slam Cup, but there were signs of decline.

Uncharacteristic errors were creeping into his play and he appeared to be a split-second slower around the court.

Above all his patience in rallies, the hallmark of his game, appeared to be wearing increasingly thin.

Lendl, who is at last due to become an American citizen in April, realises he is now probably too old to play Davis Cup Tennis for the United States.



But he would dearly like to represent his adopted country at the Barcelona Olympics in 1992.

David Wheaton earned the biggest pay packet of his life in Munich when he won the Grand Slam Cup—soundly beating fellow-American Michael Chang in the final. Wheaton pocketed to million dollars and Chang came away one million dollars richer.

**BORG'S RETREAT**  
If Connors, comeback thrilled — Bjorn Borg's effort to return flopped.

Borg, five years younger than the American and the winner of six French Open and five Wimbledon titles, played his first official tournament in a decade when he entered the Monte Carlo Open.



**Connors...never say die** But, carrying an out-dated wooden racket and clearly no longer able to cope with the new power game, Borg was beaten in straight-sets in the first round by Spaniard Jorge Arrese.

The world media didn't forgive him and some reports were unfairly savage. One newspaper went so far as to liken Borg to Jacques Tati's Monsieur Hulot.

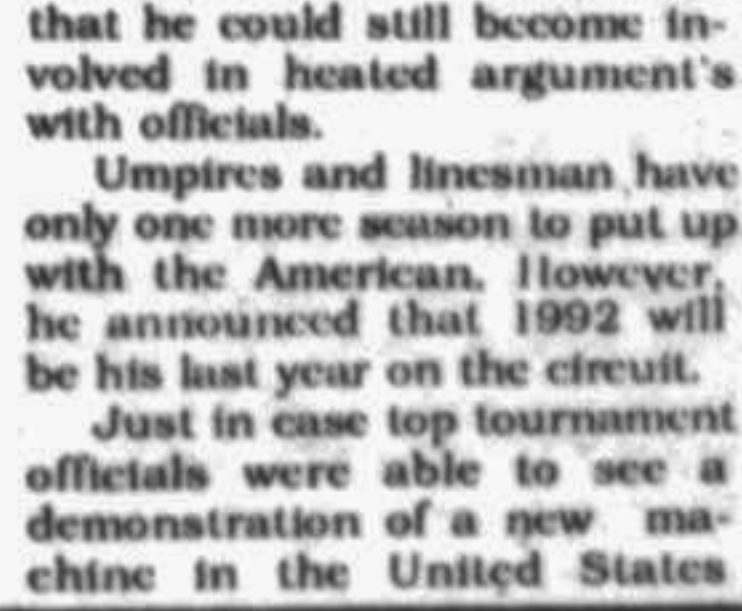
Little wonder the normally passive Swede after complained: "I was bitterly disappointed by the way I was treated."

Borg continued to harbour hopes of a return in 1992, however, and at the end of the year he could be seen going through his paces at the Nick Bollettieri Academy in Florida.

Borg's old rival John McEnroe, who will be 33 in February, showed glimpses of his old magic but could sustain it long enough to win a major tournament. But he showed that he could still become involved in heated argument's with officials.

Umpires and linesmen have only one more season to put up with the American. However, he announced that 1992 will be his last year on the circuit.

Just in case top tournament officials were able to see a demonstration of a new machine in the United States



## Lewis, Powell and Bubka eye Jesse Owens Award

NEW YORK, Dec 20: American world record setters Carl Lewis and Mike Powell and Soviet pole vault sensation Sergei Bubka are the three finalists for the 1992 Jesse Owens International Award, reports Reuters.

The winner, to be selected by an international panel of electors, will be announced next month and honoured at a formal dinner on February 4 in New York.

The prestigious award is given annually to the athlete who best personifies excellence in athletic performance.

Six-time Olympic champion Lewis, who set the 100 metre world record at the 1991 World Championships in Tokyo, could become the first athlete to win the award twice. The 30-year-old track star first won in 1985.

Powell did the impossible in 1991 when he broke the 23-year-old long jump world record Bob Beamon set at the 1968 Mexico City Olympics. Powell, who set the record in August at the World Championships in Tokyo, also snapped Lewis's 65-meeting long jump winning streak.

Bubka achieved the world's first 20-foot (6.09 metre) vault indoors in March and reached that height again outdoors in July. Bubka, who has now bettered the world pole vault record 15 times indoors and 13 times outdoors, won his third World Championship gold medal in August.