

Seles waltzes past Basuki

MELBOURNE, Jan 17: Top seed Monica Seles came a little closer Friday to defending her Australian Open title, waltzing 6-1, 6-1 over Yayuk Basuki of Indonesia, reports AP.

Basuki was the fastest-rising player in women's tennis last year—moving from 266th to 35th—but had no answer to Seles' power and poise from the baseline.

Seles, 18, never has lost a match at the Australian Open. She won the Championship last year on her debut.

In other matches, Omar Camporese of Italy, No. 15 David Wheaton of the United States and Andrei Chesnokov of Russia all won their third-round matches.

Camporese ended the giant-killing run of Lars Wahlgren of Sweden with a 6-4, 6-2, 7-6 (17-15) win, after being down 2-5 in the third set. Wahlgren, ranked 256 in the world, had beaten Americans Brad Gilbert and Derrick Rostagno in the first two rounds.

The tiebreaker was incredible. Camporese used his power game to defeat Lars Kosowski of Germany 6-4, 6-3, 6-3, while Chesnokov defeated Patrick McEnroe of the United States 6-4, 1-6, 1-6, 6-1, 6-3. McEnroe was a semifinalist here last year.

The win over Basuki took Seles just 49 minutes in cool, breezy conditions on the fifth morning of the \$4.7 million tournament.

The Florida-based Yugoslav has lost only 11 games in her first three matches in Melbourne and has spent barely three hours on court.



MONICA SELES are going to get tougher and I'll have to lift my game to another level.

Seles, who own three of last year's four Grand Slam tournaments, said she wasn't thinking about winning all four this year.

"It is a tough task and too much pressure to put yourself under," Seles said. "It is not something you shoot for because you can so easily be disappointed."

Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere of Switzerland, the No. 9 seed, also advanced with a 6-2, 6-1, win over Tami Whitlinger of the United States.

In a later match Friday, Boris Becker, the defending champion in the men's singles, faced John McEnroe, Patrick's more famous elder brother.

McEnroe, 32, has won seven Grand Slam titles in his career, but never has won the Australian Open. The No. 3 seed here, Becker has not won a Grand Slam title for a year.

Also Friday, Stefan Edberg of Sweden, the two-time clumpion and top seed in the men's singles, was to play John Fitzgerald of Australia, his occasional doubles partner, in a third round match.

But she was still working to improve her serve and cut down the number of her unforced errors.

"My game is still not where I'd like it to be," she said.

"From now on the matches are going to get tougher and I'll have to lift my game to another level."

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Kumi Saiki, wife of the Japanese ambassador, tries a putt during yesterday's Japan Cup golf at Kurmitola. —Star photo

Seles tipped for Grand Slam

MELBOURNE, Jan 17: Expectations are exorbitantly high of Monica Seles. Not only is she rated odds-on to lift back-to-back Australian Opens, but she is being committed to Grand Slam immortality, reports AP.

Seles, the winner of the Australian, French and US Opens and only deprived of last year's Grand Slam by her failure to appear at Wimbledon, is being touted as a four title champion in 1992.

Only three women have captured the elusive Grand Slam—Margaret Court (1970) and Steffi Graf (1988). Martina Navratilova completed a non-calendar year Grand Slam in 1983-84.

But that conjecture is just unnecessary pressure, says the remarkable 18-year-old Yugoslav-born Seles.

The worked number one skated into the fourth round of the Australian Open here today with a 6-1, 6-1 win over Indonesian Yayuk Basuki to set up a fourth round encounter with either 13th seeded Georgian Leila Meskhi or German Marketa Kochta.

With chief rival Graf now back at home in Germany recovering from a virus which forced her out of the tournament without hitting a ball, the odds are shortening that Seles will win in Melbourne.

"It's very tough what Steffi and the others did it's a very tough task, you have to have a little luck just not to get sick and to win every one of them is tough," Seles told her post-match conference.

It's not something that you shoot for because you can be easily disappointed and if it happens it's really great.

"At the beginning of last year I didn't think I would win three Grand Slams and have a chance of the Grand Slam if I didn't miss Wimbledon."

"It's tough task to do and that's a lot of pressure to put yourself under and I would not like to have that because that's through the whole year."

"If it's going to happen, it will but it doesn't have to happen this year. I'm going to play for a few more years yet... I'm just going to take each Grand Slam at a time in the same style that I did last year."

"Because if I look at it that I have to repeat my titles I'm not going to play well and I learned that lesson in 1989 and 1990."

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Hosts in quarter-finals

MELBOURNE, Jan 17: Patrick McEnroe is still wondering what happened, Andrei Chesnokov doesn't have any doubts, reports AP.

McEnroe appeared to be well in charge of his third-round match Friday at the Australian Open against the 31st ranked Russian after a slow start. But Chesnokov suddenly turned around his game—and the match—after a racket change to advance to the round of 16 with a 6-4, 1-6, 1-6, 6-1, 6-3 victory.

"I only have five rackets," Chesnokov said. "I switched to the looser one. Finally I found a better feeling."

The switch, combined with a more aggressive approach, suddenly had Chesnokov ripping winners off the same shots that had been sailing off the court. McEnroe's confidence, so high after the third set, faded so much that he double faulted at match point.

By the time it was over, McEnroe had rolled up 92 errors, including five double faults. Chesnokov wasn't any better with 95, but only 12 came in the fourth set when he took charge.

Asked what happened, McEnroe said, "I'm trying to

figure that out. I think he raised his game in the fourth set and I didn't raise mine. I obviously felt I could break him at any time. Maybe I got a little complacent."

McEnroe held serve in a monumental, 15-minute first game, fending off four break points and surviving eight deuces amid some of the match's best rallies. But the pressure on his serve was just beginning.

At 2-2, Chesnokov reaped the first of three straight breaks as McEnroe's game suddenly fell apart. The crisp volleys began sailing wide and long; the baseline line drives found the net with dismaying regularity.

Serving at 3-5, McEnroe saved one match point with a solid serve-and-volley. Chesnokov pressed ahead again when he guessed right on back-to-back overheads as the New Yorker then volleyed wide. McEnroe then double-faulted to hand Chesnokov the victory.

"The first and second matches, I felt a lot of pain in my hand," he said. "Now it's OK."

But he's made two definite resolutions.

"I will restring the other rackets," he said. "And I'm never going to play doubles."

DAKAR, Senegal, Jan 17: Hosts Senegal clinched their place in the quarter-finals of the African Nations Cup soccer finals with a rousing 3-0 victory over Kenya in their final Group A fixture on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Backed by a frenzied 28,000 crowd at the Stade de l'Amitie, Senegal scored twice early in the second half to take control and secure a quarter-final meeting with Group B winners Cameroon on the same ground on Sunday.

Striker Souleymane Sane opened the scoring with a 46th minute goal and captain and fellow-striker Jules Bocande put the game beyond doubt with a second after 68 minutes. Victor Diagne made it three with one minute remaining.

The result meant Senegal finished second behind Nigeria in Group A. Nigeria will meet Group B runners-up Zaire in the other quarter-final in the top half of the draw.

Zaire clinched their place in the last eight when they drew 1-1 with Cameroon.

In Groups C and D, have clinched a place in the quarter-finals. The final Group C and D games, which will settle the remaining quarter-final places, are to be played today.

Senegal overcame a frustrating first half and rode their luck to beat Kenya who provided stubborn opposition.

in the first half at least, on a hot night in Dakar.

Bocande, who was booked for handball, saw one effort cleared off the line in the first half and also fired wide from one good opening.

But the second half was different story once the speedy Sane had capitalised on a mistake in the Kenya defence to fire home from close range.

Diagne supplied the second with a free-kick which was headed on by Adama Cisse for Bocande, the 33-year-old veteran who plays in France for Lens, to score from 10 metres.

Diagne himself scored the third with a well-judged header from a cross by Thierno Youm to send the Senegalese crowd into raptures.

Pat McEnroe left dazed

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LONDON, Jan 17: Dutch soccer star Marco Van Basten has denied there is a "Dutch clan" at AC Milan and said he would be happy to sign a new contract with the Italian league leaders, reports Reuter.

"If Milan asked me to, I would renew my contract immediately, without problems," the sports daily Gazzetta Dello Sport on Thursday quoted Van Basten as saying.

Van Basten's compatriot Rini Gullit, whose contract with Milan expires in 1993, said earlier this week that if the club released one of their Dutch trio, which also includes Frank Rijkaard, the other two would leave.

NEW YORK, Jan 17: The US Tennis Association on Thursday nominated three men and four women for the teams that will compete in the Barcelona Olympics. As significant as those named were those not named, reports AP.

Among the missing American players were John McEnroe, Andre Agassi and Martina Navratilova.

Chosen to the men's singles team were Jim Courier, Pete Sampras and Michael Chang, with Courier and Sampras picked for doubles.

Selected for the women's team were Jennifer Capriati, Mary Joe Fernandez and Zina Garrison in singles, and Fernandez and the unrelated Gigi Fernandez in doubles.

Navratilova, ranked fourth in the world—higher than any women's player chosen for the US team—was ineligible because she skipped last year's Federation Cup tournament.

However, the outspoken McEnroe, who has lobbied for a spot on the men's team, and the fiery Agassi, ranked No. 11—higher than Chang's No. 16 ranking—were bypassed, even though they made themselves available for international competition in 1991.

The nominations are subject to the approval of the US Olympic Committee. Following approval by the USOC, the names must be submitted to the International Tennis Federation. The ITF is expected to announce the accepted competitors next month.

The selection procedure was based upon three criteria: availability for the 1991 Davis Cup or Federation Cup teams; current world rankings; and availability.

Among the men, Courier is ranked No. 2, Sampras No. 6 and McEnroe No. 28.

No Olympics for Sabatini

BUENOS AIRES, Jan 17: The International Tennis Federation has formally barred Gabriela Sabatini from competing at this summer's Olympics because of her refusal to participate in last year's Federation Cup, Argentina, tennis officials said reports AP.

"This is a tremendous blow to us," Juan Vasquez, president of the Argentine Tennis Association, was quoted in published reports Thursday.

"The International Tennis Federation just sent us a fax saying Gabriela is not eligible for the Games and they will not accept her registration."

Sabatini, who is ranked third on the women's tour and earned the silver medal at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul while losing to Graf in the finals, was declared ineligible because of her refusal to make herself available for the Argentine Federation Cup team, last summer. She has refused to



GABRIELA SABATINI the first Olympics that professionals were allowed to compete.

The 21-year-old Sabatini will not be the only major

play in the Federation Cup, the women's equivalent of the Davis Cup, since she turned professional in 1986.

But the Federation Cup requirement was not enforced in 1988, mainly because it was women's player barred from the Olympics. Top ranked Monica Seles of Yugoslavia and fourth-ranked Martina Navratilova of the United States also are ineligible because of their absence from last summer's tournament.

Seles had said she would not compete and then claimed a shin injury prevented her from playing. The ITF rejected her claims after reviewing medical documents.

Navratilova played in pro team tennis in the United States during the Federation Cup as a favour to her friend Billy Jean King, who stages team tennis.

Sabatini won last week's New South Wales Open for her 21st career title and has reached the fourth third round at the Australian Open.

The sanction has been pending for a while. A member of Argentina's Olympic Committee, Martin Rosenbaum, noted last year that Sabatini was named to the country's last three Federation Cup teams and refused to play.

Nevertheless, she looked forward to the Barcelona Olympics and hoped for a waiver of special invitation.

"Now, nothing can be done because the decision of the international federation is inflexible," Vasquez said.

Sabatini's absence damages Argentina's chances for medals. At Seoul four years ago, she won one of only two medals by the South American nation. The other was a bronze in men's volleyball.

Argentina's women's team at Barcelona will be led by Mercedes Paz, ranked 36nd, on the women's tour and Alberto Mancini, ranked 22nd on the men's ATP tour.

USTA bypasses Mac, Martina for Barcelona Olympics

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Capriati, No. 6, was the highest-ranked women selected. Mary Joe Fernandez is No. 7, Garrison No. 15 and Gigi Fernandez No. 19.

Garrison is the only member of the 1992 team who competed in the 1988 Seoul Olympics, she won a gold medal in doubles and a bronze in singles.

Overall, the 1988 US Olympic tennis team won two golds, one silver and two bronzes.

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Ali, The Greatest, turns 50 but says he's only getting started

WASHINGTON, Jan 17: Cassius Clay, the 'Louisville Lip' who became Muhammad Ali and boxing's greatest showman is 50 today and says he is just getting started, reports AP.

Ali, who must rank with Joe Louis and Sugar Ray Robinson as the greatest fighter of all time, is suffering from Parkinson's disease most doctors believe was caused by injuries from fighting.

But he remains defiant.

"I ain't dead yet," he said recently. "I'm just getting started. All of my boxing, all of my running around was just the start. Now my life is fighting crime, fighting racism, fighting illiteracy, fighting poverty."

Ali, who became a Muslim in 1964, spends his time raising money for Islam but is a sad reminder of that one nobility of artists.

His three greatest fights were with Sonny Liston, Joe Frazier and George Foreman.

Liston, the bully, virtually handed Ali the world title in 1964. The loudmouth who could "float like a butterfly, sting like a bee" had three title fights before running into trouble with the law over his refusal to serve in Vietnam.

He finally won his appeal over conviction for draft evasion but lost the first of three momentous fights to Frazier in New York in 1971. He gained his revenge in 1974 and 10 months later regained his world title by fooling George Foreman in their "Rumble in the Jungle" in Kinshasa.

The following year he outlasted Frazier in what was probably the hardest fight of his life. Frazier quit after 14 rounds of that "Thriller in Manila" but Ali admits he was on the point of abandoning

when Frazier's cornerman called the referee over.

Frazier, always made to look the dummy by Ali, admits he respected him as a fighter but still cannot conceal his dislike for the man.

"He shook me in Manila. He won but I sent him home worse than he came," Frazier says. But the years of being made a fool by Ali have left their scars. "Tell me which

one talks worse now," Frazier says.

Ali's boxing career began as a 12-year-old in Louisville when his bike was stolen. He was worried what his father would do so he reported the theft to a policeman who ran a gym. One look was enough to convince him he wanted to be a boxer.

He won the Olympic light heavyweight title in Rome in

1960 but threw his beloved gold medal in the Ohio river after a fight with Ken Norton, who had broken his jaw in 1973, he lost his title to Leon Spinks, a novice, in 1978 but regained it eight months later to become the first man to win the championship three times.

A sorry affair against Larry Holmes in 1980 ended in 11 rounds but he was tempted back for one more embarrassing showing against Canada's Trevor Berbick in 1981.

That was only his fourth defeat in 61 fights. But the statistics tell only half the story. Ali was bigger than boxing.

An undated AP story adds: Muhammad Ali is 50 years old, an on Friday night his family and friends will celebrate with a bash.

"They'll remember the beauty... the grace... the charm... the daring... the power... the speed. All were attributes that made Ali the most recognized sports figure in the world."

Ali, is no longer the vibrant personality who transcended generations, whose beliefs extended far beyond the ring. One of those beliefs cost him dearly.

"We never saw Muhammad at his best," trainer Angelo Dundee said. "He would have been at his peak sometime during those 3 1/2 years."

Those years (1967-1970) were lost because Ali was not permitted to fight when he refused military induction over his opposition to the Vietnam War.

"I got no quarrel with them Vietcong," he said at the time.

Ali had raised the ire of conservative America long before, changing his name from Cassius Clay and pledging his life to the Black Muslims. But it didn't hurt his performance. Dundee believes.

"...People ask me, 'Who

would have won, the Muhammad Ali after the exile or the Cassius Clay before the exile? I say the Muhammad Ali after the exile."

Born Cassius Marcellus Clay Jr. in Louisville, Ky. on Jan 17, 1952, he gained prominence and a nickname—the Louisville Lip—on a run that resulted in a light-heavyweight gold medal at the 1960 Olympics.

In his 20th pro-fight, on Feb 25, 1964, Ali stunned the boxing world by dethroning Sonny Liston.

"Don't you go saying this was no flx," Ali shouted from the ring after Liston was unable to answer the bell for the seventh round.

Ali won his rematch with "the big, ugly bear" a year later, knocking out Liston with what became known as "the phantom punch." That victory was suspect, especially in the minds of those who believed Liston to be indestructible.

"The Greatest," as Ali called himself, never had to justify his victories again.

He waged epic battles with the likes of champions Joe Frazier and George Foreman. Ali ducked no on, fighting nine men who at one time were designated as heavyweight champions.

A promoter-extraordinaire, Ali mixed poetry, with training, frequently predicting the outcome of his fights. He scornfully nicknamed his foes and labeled his fights. Perhaps the most famous were "the Thrilla in Manila," the final of his three battles with Frazier, in which Ali retained his crown in 1975; and the "Rumble in the Jungle." In that fight, Ali stunned the world—as he had against Liston—by knocking out an awesome Foreman at Kinshasa, Zaire, in 1974.

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An AFP file photo of that historic day in the life of Muhammad Ali and the history of boxing: Sonny Liston (L) the defending world heavyweight champion lost to challenger Cassius Clay on Feb 25, 1964.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Inhale suddenly

5 Morse code character

8 Ten-centers (abbr.)

12 Author/critic James

13 Mine output

14 Entice

15 Long-running TV series

17 African antelopes

18 Bird dog

19 Ancient city on the Nile

21 Famous "uncle"

22 Long lunch?

23 Joplin opus

26 Actor Aykroyd

28 Tropical vine

31 Astringent

33 Gratuity

35 Sweet, pulpy fruit

36 Important exam

38 Church

DOWN

1 Jokes

2 Chills and fever

3 Dispatched

4 Nuisances

5 "Welcome" item

6 Irritate

7 They're enameled

8 Country on the Mediterranean

9 Large shoes (slang)

10 "Grit" (movie)

11 Soap-frame bar

16 Honey drink

20 Daughter of Loki

23 Brit. air arm

24 "The Greatest"

25 "Shane" highlight

27 Pinch

29 Classic lead-in

30 Poisonous snake

32 Sousa's forte

34 Sinner's reparation

37 Civil War VIP

39 Very cordial

42 Mystery writer's Oscar

44 Fragment

45 Russian despot

46 Singer Stevens

48 American Indian

49 Flying jib

50 House wings

53 Scottish chemist

Solution time: 21 mins.

P	A	L	I	G	E	L	G	O	D	S	
I	G	O	R	E	R	O	R	E	L		
M	A	K	E	G	O	O	D	O	L	E	
A	R	I	O	U	T	A	D	E	P	T	
			N	A	P	U	R	N			
P	E	R	I	L	A	D	M	I	R	A	L
A	G	A	G	E	D	O	G	A	G	E	
M	O	T	H	E	R	S	C	H	E	E	R
			T	A	N	A	R	T			
B	R	A	C	T	O	D	A	T	O		
L	O	L	L	C	L	O	U	B	S	O	D
A	T	T	U	O	I	L	A	G	O	N	
B	O	O	B	S	O	T	L	A	R	K	

Thursday's answer 7-17

CRYPTOQUIP

H M V Z V Q Q V A C P X V H Z C V F Z

M E H Q M X V - M E Q V A Z F L Q F E Z A

A C A J V Y C L P H R V A Z

Y L Q R J V Q F U U V Z M Z V

Thursday's Cryptoquip: AFTER DISCOVERING A PATCH OF POISON IVY, I'M ITCHING TO SEE MY DOCTOR.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: X equals V

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.