

Seles struggles to beat Huber

MELBOURNE, Jan 21: World number one women's tennis player Monica Seles is on track for successive Australian Open titles but had to battle to beat Germany's teenage star Anke Huber 7-5, 6-3 today for a place in the last four, reports Reuter.

The close quarter-final match on Centre Court mirrored the earlier encounter in which seventh seeded American Mary-Joe Fernandez won through to the semifinals with a 6-4, 7-6 (8-6) match against compatriot Amy Frazier.

While Seles had a tough match against her semifinal opponent, Spain's Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario had an easy passage when ninth seeded Swiss Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere withdrew after a foot injury sustained in a doubles match on Monday.

Seles' match against another of the women's game's hardest hitters opened with the Yugoslav racing to a 4-1 lead in the first set.

In contrast to last year's Open quarter-final in which Huber won only four games, the 12th-seeded Huber gamely fought back to level at 5-5. Huber later told reporters she was not surprised to find herself trailing so early in the match.

"It takes a little bit of time before you are used to her (Seles) fast game. It took a little while to get going," she said.

However, Seles drew ahead to 6-5 and then broke Huber's service to take the set 7-5 in a game that saw the score

locked at deuce five times before Huber double faulted to lose the game.

In the second set Huber continued to chase every point, which Huber said was part of the game plan.

"You have to mix it up and go to the net a lot, but it's very hard because she is so fast," she said.



MONICA SELES

Seles said: "I think she (Huber) is hitting the ball very hard and not making many bad balls. It was a great match and a lot of fun."

The withdrawal of Maleeva-Fragniere who had suffered tendon strain in the big toe of her right foot sets up the first encounter in Australia between Seles and Sanchez-Vicario, who is seeded fourth for the tournament.

"She's a very tough opponent and I always have a hard time against her," she said.

Fernandez, Sanchez in semis

MELBOURNE, Jan 21: Mary Joe Fernandez struggled into the semifinals of the Australian Open Tuesday.

Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario made the same journey without hitting a ball, reports AP.



MARY-JOE FERNANDEZ

Seventh-seeded Fernandez defeated unseeded fellow American Amy Frazier 6-4, 7-6 (8-6) in the first of the women's singles quarterfinals.

Sanchez-Vicario, the No. 4 seed from Spain, advanced when No. 9 Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere of Switzerland withdrew with an injury to her right big toe.

Maleeva-Fragniere suffered the injury during a doubles match Monday. It did not respond to treatment and she was forced

to default. Maleeva-Fragniere said she still was limping and found it painful to wear a tennis shoe.

"I was hoping the trainers could tape it or do something, but it's impossible to even touch it a little bit," Maleeva-Fragniere said.

"It's sore and painful. The doctor prescribed some painkillers, but I can't even walk without limping."

Maleeva-Fragniere never had previously defaulted in a Grand Slam tournament.

Fernandez, a 20-year-old born in the Dominican Republic, advanced to the Australian Open semis for the third straight year. She was beaten finalist in 1990. She also made the US Open semis in 1990 and French Open semis in 1989.

The smooth baseliner took one hour 43 minutes to wear down her fragile opponent in an error-filled contest.

Frazier led 5-2 in the second set and 5-2 in the tiebreaker — but both times she crumpled under pressure.

"I started taking more chances," Fernandez said.

Frazier made a total of 63 errors in the match, but kept herself in contention with an impressive 16 winners off her double-handed backhand.

Fernandez was the more consistent player despite being troubled by a jammed toe injury that needed padding. She played the key points more impressively.

Fernandez made 45 errors, but kept her nerve late in the second set, breaking Frazier's serve twice when her oppo-

ponent was serving for the match. Fernandez scored her third win in three meetings with Frazier, who was playing in her first Grand Slam quarterfinal after benefitting from Steffi Graf's withdrawal from her quarter of the draw.

Frazier, who made the most of her draw after defending champion Steffi Graf withdrew due to illness on the tournament's eve, at one stage looked as if she could again benefit from an opponent's misfortune.

While leading 2-1 in the first set Fernandez, 20, ranked seventh, had to request time for treatment to an injury.

She later told reporters: "I had jammed my toe and cut my toe-nail. I got it padded so that there would be no friction and it didn't bother me any more."

After losing the first set, 6-4, it seemed as though the match would go to three sets when 20-year-old Frazier had a 5-2 lead in the second set only to lose the next four games.

"At five-two down I decided to become a little more aggressive, return her serve a little harder and take more chances," Fernandez said.

Fernandez said she needed to be more consistent, despite her victory.

"I still don't play the way I practise. I am practising well and being aggressive but when I get to a game it's still hard. Hopefully it will get better," she said.

Fernandez' opponent will be either third-seeded Gabriela Sabatini or American teenager Jennifer Capriati who play later today.

AUSSIE OPEN NOTEBOOK

MELBOURNE, Jan 21: John McEnroe is alive and well, despite all the wild rumours flying around the Australian Open.

McEnroe practised for more than an hour Tuesday with his brother Patrick on Court 3, far from Centre Court, amid especially tight security and a huge throng of fans, reports AP.

The report that McEnroe had an intravenous drip of saline and glucose solution after his match Sunday against Emilio Sanchez touched off false rumours Monday that he had been hospitalized, had a heart attack or other problems.

The truth was that McEnroe was fine right after the five-set, nearly five-hour match, and was in excellent health when seen by a trainer for routine treatment the next day.

McEnroe looked in good condition and good humour during practice for his quarterfinal match against South African Wayne Ferreira. At one point during the practice, a scarf that McEnroe wore loosely around his neck fell on the court as he lunged for a ball and missed.

"You want to play a let?" he asked his brother. "Nope," responded Patrick.

Australian John Fitzgerald, the world's top-ranked doubles player, is able to escape from the pressures of the sport when he's with his wife, Jenny, who admits she doesn't even like tennis.

"I must say I don't enjoy watching," she said. "I'd almost prefer to find out if he won or lost on the phone."

"Because I've never been a tennis player, I find it hard to get into the game."

Tennis and cricket are Australia's two major summer sports — and the players form a mutual admiration society. The Australian cricket team watched John McEnroe's victory over Emilio Sanchez at the Australian Open.

"I still find him the most interesting guy to watch in tennis," said Australian cricket captain Allan Border.

American player Pam Shriver made the short journey from the National Tennis Center to watch a match between Australia and India at the famous Melbourne Cricket Ground.

"I find cricket fascinating," said Shriver, who got her love of the game from her former coach, Australian Don Candy.

Laurent Giammartini of France, the No. 1-ranked wheelchair tennis player in the world, leads up to 60 players entered in the 5th Australian Wheelchair Tennis Open, which follows immediately after the Australian Open at the National Tennis Center next week.

Players from the United States, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, the Netherlands and other countries have entered.

Suzanne Lenglen is Seles' model

MELBOURNE, Jan 21: Monica Seles dreams of going back in time to trade volleys with 1920's French tennis great Suzanne Lenglen, reports AFP.

Always one with a colourful turn of phrase, high-voltage Seles describes Lenglen as "The Michael Jordan of women's tennis," comparing her to the modern day US basketball star.

The world number one was asked after beating Anke Huber in Tuesday's quarter-finals of the Australian Open which player she most admired.

"If ever I would want to go back to whichever era to play tennis that would be it, to play against Suzanne Lenglen," said Seles.

"She had volleys that I would love to have. I always figured she was the Michael Jordan of women's tennis."

"You look at the pictures, how she volleyed and she could leap and fly."

"When Ted Tinling would tell me different stories it made me feel like I knew her more than reading books about her. So that's the player I admire most, even though I never saw her play," said 18-year-old Seles.

Lenglen won the first of her six Wimbledon singles titles in 1919, and the first of six French titles the following year.

Samaranch's worry

MADRID, Jan 21: Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee, said on Monday he was worried about security at the Barcelona Olympic Games in July after a spate of ETA shootings, reports Reuter.

"We're deeply worried — to the extent that I had an interview with the interior minister to say that we were willing to do anything we could to help," Samaranch told Spanish radio.

Basque separatist guerrillas of the ETA (Basque homeland and freedom) group have shot dead three servicemen at point-blank range in Barcelona in the past two weeks. Two people were shot in other attacks last week.

Skah wins race

SEVILLE, Spain, Jan 21: Khalid Skah of Morocco, the double world champion, won the 10th Italcra cross country here on Sunday, staving off a strong Kenyan challenge, reports AFP.

Indonesia eye Olympic gold

TOKYO, Jan 21: All-England champions Susi Susanti and Ardy Wiranata don't want to say it aloud, but their ambition is to rewrite Indonesian sports history by striking gold when badminton makes its Olympic debut in Barcelona, reports AP.

Indonesia came of Olympic age when Lilies Handayani, Nurfitriyana Saiman and Kusuma Wardhani took silver in the women's team archery in 1988 — the country's first medal since debuting at Helsinki in 1952.

But more medals are likely to come Indonesia's way in Barcelona via their talented cast of badminton players.

"I hope to win the gold medal in the Olympics. I'll try to do my best," Wiranata said after retaining his men's singles title Sunday at the 110,000-dollar Japan Open championships by beating the current world champion, Zhao Jianhua of China, 10-15, 15-11, 15-4.

It was Wiranata's second consecutive defeat of Zhao, who along with Wu Wenkai, also of China, Rashid Sidek and Foo Kok-Keong of Malaysia and Poul-Erik Hoyer-Larsen of Denmark he names as the main obstacles to an Olympic Gold.

Susanti, winner of eight titles last season, thrashed Chinese challenger Ye Zhaoying 11-2, 11-0 to become the first non-Chinese player to win the Japan Open women's singles.

Susanti is almost certain to qualify for Barcelona as she is ranked second on the latest International Badminton Federation (IBF) computer list.

Nicknamed "Srikandi" after a mythical heroine said to fear no one, Susanti became Indonesia's first female shuttler to win the All-England trophy in 1990.

She made it a Wembley double with Wiranata last year as Indonesia claimed both singles titles for the first time in the 90-year history of the world's most famous badminton tournament.

"Susanti is always full of confidence when she goes out onto court. She has never played a match without it," said her coach, Liong Chhishia.

Susanti is expected to face fierce challenges from China's Tang Jihuang and Huang Hua and South Korea's Lee Heung-Soon and Kang Soo-Hyun.

But with a 6-3 win-loss record against Huang and 5-6 against Tang and having never lost to the Koreans — although she had to save two match points to beat Lee in the semifinals in Tokyo on Saturday — she has to be close to odds-on favourite.

"I am steadier in my plan and mentally stronger than be-

'J.P. McEnroe Memorial Open'

MELBOURNE, Jan 21: It's already being called the J.P. McEnroe Memorial Open.

And if the great veteran goes on to win his eighth Grand Slam title the city of Melbourne will probably put a plaque on the site where he dramatically collapsed after his epic five-setter against Spain's Emilio Sanchez.

McEnroe, 32, having also disposed of the world number three Boris Becker in a remarkable three sets, now meets Wayne Ferreira, 12, years his junior and in his first Grand Slam quarter-final, on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

"He's a young kid who doesn't know the word fear right now and hopefully he'll start to feel it," the 28th ranked McEnroe said after Sunday's marathon against the 13th seeded Sanchez.

The unseeded American had already done enough with his brilliant win over an angry, frustrated Becker to earn the crowd's forgiveness for his dismissal in disgrace from the Australian Open in 1990 for repeated misbehaviour in a fourth round tie.

In the match against Sanchez played in stifling heat, the left-hander somehow produced one of the game's classic encounters, a match that ebbed and flowed for four hours 41 minutes climaxing in an amazing nine-match points.

The ageing New Yorker drew on the reserves that mark great players in any sport to win on his own sixth match point with a rifled forehand down the line which left the Spaniard stranded.

Exhausted, the two men embraced at the net and to a long standing ovation from the 15,000 Centre-Court crowd, they walked off arm in arm.

Sanchez was gracious in defeat and praised McEnroe's impeccable manners.

"I think if he behaves like he did today it is great for sports. Usually he doesn't have such a good image because he gets very angry with the other players," Sanchez said.

And it was the nice-guy McEnroe who saw the embrace and the consoling words at the end of the match as an appropriate occasion to bury the hatchet.

"In the past there has been some misunderstanding between us," he said. "The best part was that we played tennis and didn't get involved in anything besides playing great tennis."

McEnroe's new control was

never more in evidence than on his third match point which Sanchez saved with an ace that looked out.

McEnroe pointed to the spot with his racket, gritted his teeth and without a word carried on. Sanchez later confirmed the service was wide.

"At that point I'd gone so far



JOHN MCENROE

to blow it would have been a big disappointment... and I really didn't have the energy to be perfectly honest to get involved in it," McEnroe said.

He said he had made a conscious effort to avoid any dissent over line calls. "I just kept my mind on the job and let the crowd go crazy," he said after the Becker match.

But despite the change in behaviour, controversy continues to stalk McEnroe and his intravenous treatment for exhaustion after the Sanchez match has sparked debate over the dangers involved.

The risks of receiving fluids to overcome dehydration were minimal, according to the Association of Tournament Professionals (ATP) trainer, Rob Hanna.

But he said the drip was used at the insistence of McEnroe's handlers and against medical advice.

"I think it was really for his general feeling... probably as much psychological as anything else," Hanna said.

McEnroe himself was reluctant to talk about his treatment in his post-match news conference.

"It's nothing I'd particularly want to tell you about, everything's fine though, I feel okay now," he said. "I just don't feel like making a big deal out of it — I prefer to just keep it quiet."

The use of the drip is becoming more routine in the United States — Jimmy Con-

nors for example had intravenous treatment after a rehydration solution after at least one of his US Open matches last year.

Israel's top player Amos Mansdorf, who won his first ever berth in a Grand Slam quarter-final seemed to speak for a number of the players when he said he did not think the drip was unfair.

"I think it's unfair we have to play five sets in these conditions," Mansdorf said.

Mansdorf, who plays rising star Richard Krajcek of the Netherlands for a place in the semifinals had said he had no inspiration from McEnroe's game against Sanchez when he felt ill from the heat in the second set.

"I said to myself how can you do well if you don't keep fighting like them. So I kept pushing myself," he told reporters.

Now that McEnroe has got what he called a big monkey off my back — it was his first win over a top five player since June 1989 his thoughts of retirement turn on going out with one more Grand Slam title under his belt.

"To win a Grand Slam once more before I stop playing would be unbelievable. To go out on a note like that it would be the ultimate," McEnroe said.

The new McEnroe, who has never won an Australian Open, would certainly please his lawyer father.

"My father always told me that if I didn't question calls I would be a better player," he said.

Sievinen's third swimming mark

HELSINKI, Jan 21: Finland's Jani Sievinen broke his third record in three days when he swam to a new European mark of 53.26 seconds in the opening leg of a men's 4x100 metre short course medley at the Finnish indoor championships on Sunday, organisers said.



JANI SIEVINEN

Sievinen beat the previous record of 53.86 seconds set by Franck Schout of France in Paris last month.

Sievinen, 17, set a new world record of 1:57.19 for the 200 metre individual medley on Friday and, on Saturday, swam to a new European record of 4:11.86 in the 400 metres medley.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	DOWN	ACROSS	DOWN
1 It might be grand	5 Pirate's drink	8 Locate	12 Debussy's "Clair de lune"
13 Nice season	14 Authentic	15 Actor Arkin	16 Baseball great
18 Eric Clapton would pick this	20 Part of a flower	21 Excited	23 G's address
24 Wimbledon champ	28 British gun	31 Cuckoo	32 Silent star
34 Before	35 Rolling stone's lack?	37 Tennis star of the '30s	39 Guevara
41 Jewish month	42 Ravel composition	45 Hire	49 Olympic discus thrower
51 Actor Jannings	52 Word before case or pilot	53 Boat or box lead-in	54 Nest of pheasants
55 Does a garden job	56 Bovine mouthful	57 Arboretum star	10 River in England
11 H.S. student	17 Schedule abbr.	19 Culture medium	22 Italian seaport
24 Los Angeles player	25 Yoko —	26 Reveal	27 Melted down
29 Work unit	30 Society page word	33 Israel's Abba	36 Household linen
38 Pressing	40 Make a boo-boo	42 British health resort	43 Bread spread
44 Of the ear	46 Arab ruler	47 French novelist	48 Gen. Robert —
50 Old French coin			

Solution time: 26 min.

SONOF SCAMPS
BIKINI ELMIRA
OLIVER GOINON
GLEE SCOT IMA
NATO HEM
EEL RARE AURA
STORMINORMAN
LANE DELL SET
DON AIDA
BRO OWLS SADA
AUNTIE TRITON
GNIESS EUDORA
STREET DEEMS

Yesterday's answer 7-22

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13					14	
15				16					17	
18				19					20	
24	25	26				27	28		29	30
31				32					33	34
35				36					37	38
				39					40	
42	43			44					45	46
48				49					50	51
52				53					54	
55				56					57	

CRYPTOQUIP

AB E IN QXSUQ FX TSYZ
 WT ASN UBE PSYBUNB
 TPIFBN, IUH, S INZBH
 FX FIQ IPXUQ

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AFTER THE PRICE OF SUGAR DOUBLED, MORE FARMERS HAPPILY BEGAN TO RAISE CANE.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: Q equals G

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.



Ataul Haq, Chairman of Viquarunnessa Noon School and College governing body and Secretary, Foo, giving away prizes at the annual sports meet held yesterday. Ms Omar Banu, Principal of the Rawalpindi Viquarunnessa Noon School, and Begum Hamida Ali, Principal of the school are also seen.