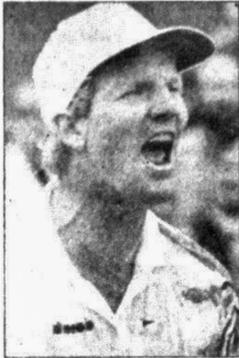


Courier denies Edberg title

MELBOURNE, Jan 26: Jim Courier, blasting winners from the baseline almost at will, overcame top-seeded Stefan Edberg's serve-and-volley game to take the Australian Open men's final 6-3, 3-6, 6-4, 6-2 Sunday, reports AP.



JIM COURIER

him at the net, only to see it land on the line. After he saved one break point, Courier nailed a backhand service return for a winner that gave him a 4-2 lead.

Courier held serve at love, then broke Edberg once again with two brilliant crosscourt service returns, a forehand and a backhand, that Edberg had no chance of reaching.

He raised his hands in the air before going to the net to shake Edberg's hand.

Edberg, as he has throughout the Grand Slam tournament, appeared to get sharper after a slow start and pushed his net-charging attack into a higher gear in the second set.

But Courier's ripping forehand and two-fisted backhand suddenly started finding Edberg's feet and the lines on

both sides of the court. Suddenly, Edberg's confidence appeared to sag and he often found himself in baseline rallies.

Courier, who snapped a string and switched rackets just before the end of the second set, was broken in the first game of the third set.

He fought back from 0-40 and staved off four break points before a forehand hit the tape and fell wide, and Edberg finished off the game with a solid volley into Courier's backhand corner that he flailed long.

But Edberg's prosperity was short-lived. He fell behind 0-40 in the next game and after saving two break points, he knocked a forehand volley wide to give Courier his first break since the first set.

Edberg had to bounce back in the next game when he double-faulted to give Courier two break points at 15-40, but he scrambled back to tie the score at 2-2.

Both men held serve the next five games, and the set appeared to be heading for a tiebreaker. But with Edberg leading 40-30, he netted a backhand crosscourt pass attempt, then double-faulted twice to hand the set to Courier.

Edberg gave his very vocal Swedish contingent, numbering about a couple hundred, little reason to cheer until he held serve to start the second set, then broke Courier for the first time in the next game.

At the third deuce, Courier

netted a forehand, and Edberg then executed a perfect lob that landed just inside the baseline. Courier could only watch from the net.

At 5-4, Edberg wasted two set points with volleying errors and then faced two break points before closing out the game and second set on a crisp serve-and-volley.

The turning point in the first set came with Courier facing two break points at 15-40 and the score 2-2. He ripped three consecutive winners off his powerful forehand, and held to go ahead 3-2 when Edberg hit a service return long.

After Edberg moved ahead 40-30 in the next game, Courier sliced a service return at Edberg's feet that he netted. The Swede then double-faulted, and Courier cemented the break with another service return at Edberg's feet that he netted again.

Both men held serve the rest of the way, although Edberg had a chance to break at 30-40 and down 5-3. After Courier opened the door by missing an overhead long, Edberg netted three consecutive backhands, the last on a strong serve by Courier.

Despite Courier's victory, he only narrowed the gap between him and Edberg in the points standings. Edberg still leads 4-3 in head-to-head meetings.

Top-seeded Monica Seles won the women's final on Saturday, beating No 7 Mary Joe Fernandez 6-2, 6-3.

Yeltsin, Samaranch find a way



Russian President Boris Yeltsin greets Juan Antonio Samaranch (R), chief of the International Olympic Committee, prior to their meeting in Moscow on Jan 25. — AFP photo

MOSCOW, Jan 25: Athletes from five former Soviet republics will compete and be recognized as one Olympic team at next month's Winter Games while a different arrangement will be used at next month's Summer Games under an agreement reached Saturday between Russian president Boris Yeltsin and IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch, reports AP.

The agreement will bring together athletes from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan as teammates at next month's Winter Games in Albertville, France.

"If the team is a winner, we will raise the Olympic flag and play the Olympic anthem," Samaranch said. "If an individual is the winner, the same thing, but after mentioning the name of the athlete belonging to the united team, we will also mention the name of the republic where he comes from."

Samaranch said the team members would wear the same uniform, except for a small emblem on the arm indicating the athlete's home republic.

He said he expected that National Olympic Committees of the 12 former Soviet republics will be recognized by the International Olympic Committee before the Summer Games in Barcelona, Spain. He said if that happens, a slightly different procedure will be used in ceremonies after the events.

"If there is a team, we will raise the Olympic flag and play the Olympic anthem," he said. "If the winner is an individual, we will raise the flag of the National Olympic Committee of the athlete's country, and we will play the anthem of this republic."

Samaranch, who met with Yeltsin in the Kremlin, said he and the Russian leader shared one goal. "To protect the athletes, to help the athletes take part in the main competition, in this case the winter games in Albertville and the summer games in Barcelona."

Following the Winter Games, Samaranch said the IOC would meet on March 9 in Lausanne, Switzerland, to discuss recognition of the national committees of the 12 former Soviet republics.

"I think, I hope we will be in a condition to recognize all the national committees of the different republics asking for recognition," Samaranch said.

Samaranch said he agreed with a Yeltsin proposal that the former Soviet National Olympic Committee, headed by Vital Smirnov, become the

Russian National Olympic Committee.

"We agreed that the former Soviet national committee should be transformed to the national committee of Russia in the near future," Samaranch said, adding that it would probably be recognized at the March 9 meeting, along with the committees of other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

He said that starting Jan 1, 1993, the former Soviet republics would have full and equal rights with other Olympic national committees, under one condition: "During the year 1992, all the republics have to take part not only in the Olympic Games, but in all major sports competitions around the world as a unified team."

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Samaranch gives Yeltsin the dodge

MOSCOW, Jan 26: The head of the International Olympic Committee ducked out of a tennis match with Russian leader Boris Yeltsin on Saturday, saying he wanted it postponed until the Summer Olympics in Barcelona, reports Reuter.

"I will play President Yeltsin in Barcelona... because I have to train," said 71-year-old IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch after talks in Moscow with Yeltsin.

Yeltsin, 60, a keen tennis and volleyball player, issued the challenge after a report last week that he was in poor health.

Speculation about his heart condition mounted after he cancelled previously scheduled talks with Samaranch on how the former Soviet republics should be represented at the Olympic Games.

Samaranch, a former Spanish ambassador to Moscow, told a news conference he respected Yeltsin as a politician and sportsman.

"He is not only a very important political leader of a very important state, and a very important country in the Olympic movement, but he is also a man who knows sports very well."

The heavily-built Russian President accepted an invitation to Barcelona and said he would visit IOC headquarters in Lausanne during a future official trip to Switzerland.

"I think we will be very happy to receive him because we know his high interest in sports," Samaranch said.

Yeltsin also plans to visit the International Volleyball Federation headquarters in Lausanne.

Tyson faces toughest fight of his life

INDIANAPOLIS, Jan 26: Judges and decisions, in and out of the ring, have been part of Mike Tyson's life for more than a decade. Starting Monday, the ex-heavyweight champ encounters them again, with much more at stake this time than a boxing match, reports AP.

teens, when he was sent to a New York juvenile home for involvement with a robbery gang. It was there that he took up boxing, a sport that made him millions of dollars accom-



MIKE TYSON

panted by parking lot punchups and lawsuits for sexual harassment.

The latest charges are the most serious and place the 25-year-old Tyson's boxing career, and much of his life, in jeopardy. A conviction could bring up to 63 years in prison.

"The man's life is at stake in this case," boxing promoter Don King said when he joined Tyson at the initial court appearance.

The woman who brought the rape charge, a New England native and a college freshman, faces risks as well.

Under a prosecutor's sympathetic questioning, she will tell her story of being forcibly restrained on a bed in suite 606 at the Canterbury Hotel while Tyson fondled her, en-

gaged in oral sex and raped her.

Tyson says she consented. "The woman knows what happened. I know what happened. I'm innocent," he said following his initial court appearance last year.

The victim and Mr Tyson both testified before a grand jury, and Mr Tyson was indicted, countered David R Hennessy, an Indianapolis lawyer who represents the accuser.

The woman will face a cross-examination plotted by Washington lawyer Vincent J Fuller and James H Voyles Jr, among Indiana's best-known trial attorneys.

Fuller defended John Hinckley in the attempted assassination of President Reagan and won a verdict of innocent by reason of insanity. In 1985, Fuller won an outright acquittal for King in a federal tax fraud trial.

Marion County Prosecutor Jeffrey Modisett has hired 43-year-old Greg Garrison, a private lawyer who prosecutes cases on a contract basis, to assist Deputy Prosecutor David J Dreyer.

"One of the best," said Richard P Good, director of the Indian Prosecuting Attorneys Council, of Garrison.

"Gus, fire in the belly. He's a great tactician. He has just a great manner in court and his enthusiasm spills over to the jury."

The defense attack will sift the woman's story for inconsistencies, legal experts say.

"Tyson doesn't have to prove she consented. All he

needs to do is create reasonable doubts in the minds of the jurors," said Indiana University law professor Thomas Schornhorst, a former trial attorney.

The woman will be asked to recount the evening with Tyson, how she left the Omni-Severn hotel in his limousine and wound up in during the taping of a pageant promotion.

The trial will take place in a 50-seat courtroom, with television news cameras barred by the rules of the Indiana Supreme Court. Closed-circuit TV will pipe the trial to reporters in a separate press room, but no farther.

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High-priced lawyers square off

INDIANAPOLIS, Jan 26: In this corner, a group of scrappy young local prosecutors and one hired gun. In this corner, one of the nation's most celebrated defense lawyers, who learned from the master and helped acquit a man of taking a shot at a president, reports AP.

That will be the legal lineup Monday when Mike Tyson goes on trial on charges of rape.

Leading the former heavyweight champion's defense will be Washington attorney Vincent J. Fuller, who in 1982 persuaded a jury to find John Hinckley innocent by reason of insanity in the attempted assassination of President Reagan.

Heading up the state's case will be J. Gregory Garrison, a flamboyant and well-respected free-lance prosecutor, who's worked on several death penalty cases.

Tyson, 25, is accused of attacking an 18-year-old Miss Black America contestant in a downtown hotel room last July. He faces charges of rape, confinement and deviate sexual conduct.

Fuller is a senior partner in the law firm of Williams and Connolly, co-founded by the late Edward Bennett Williams III, the acknowledged master of American legal defense. Like

his mentor, Fuller has a reputation as one of the nation's top defense attorneys with an aptitude for detail.

"He's a very resourceful and competent trial lawyer, and he has been since 1955 when he left law school," said Plato Cachets, a fellow Washington defense lawyer and a long-term friend of the 60-year-old Fuller. "His magnificent victory on the Hinckley case just demonstrates his prowess."

Fuller, a graduate of Georgetown University law school, also successfully defended Don King, Tyson's promoter, on tax fraud charges in 1985.

King and an associate were accused of skimming more than \$1 million from his company. After analyzing 140,000 documents, Fuller found thousands of dollars in bookkeeping errors and convinced the court that King's accountants were the ones to blame. King was acquitted.

On the state's side, Marion County Prosecutor Jeffrey Modisett will be working behind the scenes as an adviser to Garrison, whom he hired last fall to handle the Tyson case.

Modisett, a former assistant US federal attorney in

California, is in his second year as prosecutor. He has downplayed speculation that his own political future may ride on the outcome of the Tyson trial.

"All I can do is to try to make sure we handle this case in a fair manner and as competently as possible," Modisett, 37, said last fall.

Garrison, a redhead with a penchant for cowboy boots and leather suspenders, graduated magna cum laude from the Indiana University School of Law in 1973.

Sichard P. Good, director of the Indiana prosecuting Attorneys Council, calls the 43-year-old Garrison "one of the best."

Assisting Garrison is David J. Dreyer, 36, who became Modisett's chief counsel last January and handled most of the pre-trial motions in the Tyson case.

"David's a good lawyer, a top-notch lawyer. Very aggressive and a clear thinker," said Richard Swanson, who serves with Dreyer on the board of the Legal Services Organization. "David's a very vigorous advocate and the prosecutor's office is lucky to have him. I think he'll be a tough opponent."

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