Navratilova's 159th title

SAN ANTONIO, Mar 30: Martina Navratilova demolished France's Mathalie Taoziat 6-2, 6-1 Sunday to win the US Women's Hardcourts tourna-ment for her 159th career singles title, reports AP.

Navratilova made it a clean sweep by winning the doubles title with longtime partner Pam Shriver later Sunday night after a long rain delay.

Navratilova and Shriver first won a semifinal match over Ann Henricksson of San Francisco and Jessica Emmons of Phoenix 7-5, 6-3.

They then won a dramatic final against Patty Fendick of Sacramento, Calif, and Andrea Strnadove of Czechoslovakia 3-6, 6-2, 7-6 (7-9).

Navratilova and Shriver in 10 years of playing together now have won 79 doubles titles, 20 of the in Grand Slam tournaments.

Navratilova broke Chris Evert's career Tennis singles title record of 157 when she her 158th at the Virginia Slims of Chicago on Feb 16.

It was the Navratilova of old Sunday, serving and volleying her opponent into oblivion. She never lost a set in her four matches this week.

"I wasn't really pressed," Navratilova said. "It was a comfortable week for me like in the old days when I rolled over people. But it doesn't happen very often, so it felt good this week."

"I wanted to play serve-and-volley, but she was before me to the net", said Tauziat, ranked No 15 in the world and the tournament's No 2 seed. "I didn't lose this match. She won it."

Navratilova survived two break points in the second game of the first set to establish a pattern of winning all the big points and squelching all of Tauziat's opportunities.

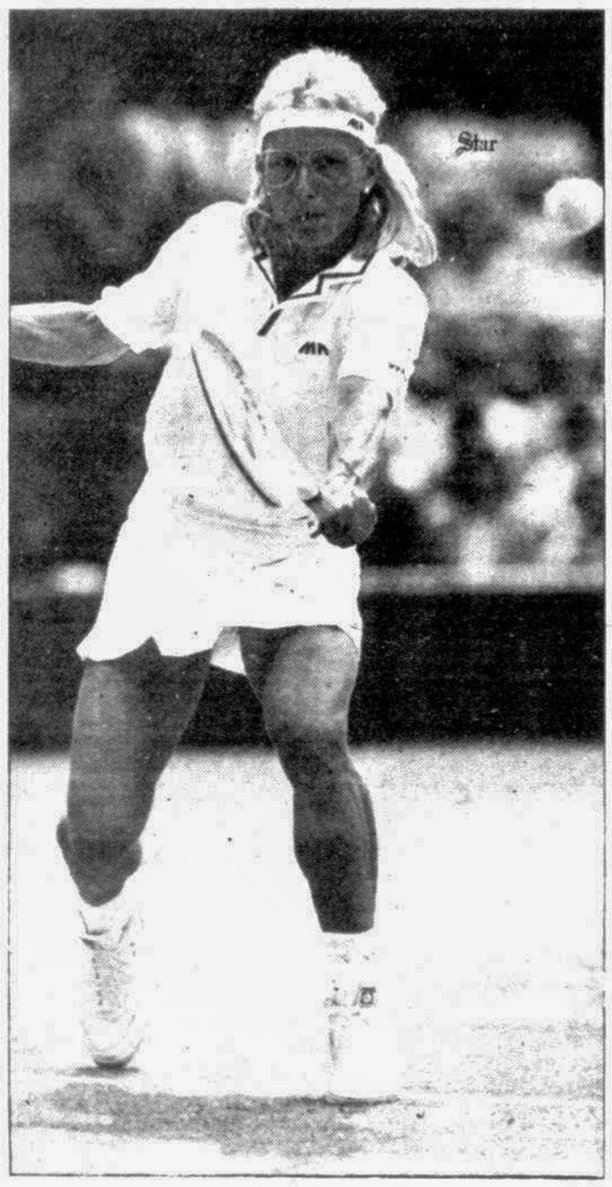
Navratilova said she did not feel in control of the match until she broke Tauziat's serve a second time in the first set to take a 5-1 lead, but it was two consecutive drop volleys at the net in the fifth game of the second set that put the match beyond any doubt.

Navratilova broke Tauziat's serve in that game, "I felt they were the appropriate shots."

Between those two drop volleys, Navratilova dropped her racquet when a loud thunderclap sounded from an approaching stors.

But she finished the match well before the torrential stors arrived, delaying the start of her semifinal doubles match with partner Pam Shriver.

Navratilova won a dlrs 45,000 check for the singles victory, plus a new car. Tauziat takes home dlrs 20,200 for second place.



MARTINA NAVRATILOVA...recapturing magic of yore

Adelaide to host '94 C'wealth Games

ADELAIDE, Mar 30: The Australian city of Adelaide on Monday declared itself willing to host the 1994 Commonwealth Games if Victoria, Canada, is unable to do so, reports AP.

International media reports during the weekend, including one in the Times of London, said Victoria still had several uncompleted sites and was facing a crisis.

Adelaide has been competing against the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur for the right to host the 1998 Games, but has nearly all of its facilities already in place.

State government ministers in South Australia said Adelaide would be willing to switch its bid to 1994 if Victoria was unable to go ahead, leaving Kuala Lumpur a clear run at the 1998 nomination.

A decision on the future of the 1994 games is expected to be made at a meeting of Commonwealth delegates before the Barcelona Olympics in July.

Kym Mayes, the South Australian state Government minister for sports and recreation, said Adelaide would be able to host the Games in 1994.

"It would be very tight and we would need to cut some corners, but it can be done," Nayes said in an interview with the Associated Press.

Construction of an athletes village would be the major project, nearly all sporting facilities are already in place.

Mayes said Commonwealth Games Federation delegates already had approached Adelaide to gauge the city's ability to take over the multisport games held every four years. Commonwealth Games Federation delegates will visit Victoria in May to assess progress being made by the British Columbia city.

Yamaguchi is world champion

OAKLAND, Calif, Mar 30: Olympic champion Krishti Yamaguchi on Sunday became the first American woman to win consecutive World Championships since Peggy Fleming in 1968, reports AP.

But United States failed to repeat last year's unprecedented medals sweep.

Olympic bronze medallist Nancy Kerrigan did add a silver medal to the bronze she won in last year's worlds. But Tonya Harding-Gillooly, the world runner-up in 1991, plummeted to sixth with a mediocre free skate punctuated by a fall on a triple axal.

China's Lu Chen, a 15-year-old in her second year of senior competition, won the bronze, followed by Laetitia Hubert of France and Josee Chouinard of Canada.

For Yamaguchi, these world championships ended a perfect year. She had never won a major singles event before taking the 1991 World Championships. Then she won the US championship in January, and was the first American women's Olympic gold medalist since her idol, Dorothy Hamill, in 1976.

The 21-year-old from Fremont, Calif — who was a two time US pairs champion with Rudy Galindo before concentrating on a solo career — then capped her spectacular streak by winning her second world crown. Hamill only won the title once.

Before a sellout crowd heavily stocked with fans from her nearby hometown, Yamaguchi staged a near-duplicate of her performance at the Winter Olympics in Albertville, France. She had no trouble with her difficult triple lutz-triple toe loop combination and cleanly executed the first three minutes of her programs, to " Malaguensa."

This time, she fell on a triple salchow: in the Olympics, it was on a triple loop that she went down.

That fall probably cost her any perfect 6.0 marks. But she got 115.9s and was first with every judge.

Kerrigan fell once and had several shaky jumps. She also cut a triple lutz to a single lutz. Her artistry and the more difficult elements of her program, however, lifted the 22-year-old from Stoneham, mass, from third after the original program.

She and Yamaguchi, roommates at Albertville and close friends, hugged for several moments on the victory stand.

Chen, meanwhile, cried for joy. She was a surprising sixth in the Olympics, but to medal in the World Championships so soon was an outstanding achievement.

Chen did not fall, but her routine lacked the sparkle she displayed in France. Still, it was strong enough to keep her in the top three.

Harding-Gillooly fell on the triple axal, a jump that has troubled her ever since last year, when she became the only American woman to complete it. From there, she struggled mightily and slipped from fourth after the original to sixth overall.

YAMAGUCHI. . . the first US woman winner since 1968

S. Africa to join Barcelona Games

JOHANNESBURG, MAR 30: South Africa will participate at the Barcelona Summer Olympics, the International Olympic Committee director-general said Sunday, reports AP.

Francois Carrard said an IOC delegation on a three-day visit to South Africa would work out details of the nation's return to Olympic competition after an absence of 32 years.

"We are actually discussing practical problems of South Africa's participation," Carrard said of the five-member delegation's planned meetings with President F.W de Klerk, African National Congress president Nelson Mandela and sports leaders.

South Africa last participated in the Olympics in 1960, with an all-white team. It was expelled from the IOC in 1970 because of its apartheid policies of racial segregation and white dominance.

The IOC readmitted South Africa last year and invited to participate at Barcelona, but it set conditions for the country's renewed membership in the organisation.

Those conditions included an end to apartheid, unification of segregated sports bodies and programme to provide equal opportunity for all athelets.

Since then, de Klerk has abolished all apartheid laws and launched negotiations with the ANC and other black groups on giving full political rights to the black majority.

Agassi wins the day for US

FORT MYERS, Fla, Mar 30: Andre Agassi saved the US Davis Cup team from an embarrassing collapse. His Czechoslovak opponent fell apart instead, reports AP.

Agassi beat Karel Novacek 7-6 (7-5), 6-0, 6-0, giving the Americans a shaky 3-2 quarterfinal victory Sunday at the Sonesta Sanibel Harbour Resort.

Before Agassi won, the US team was in danger of blowing a 2-0 lead for the first time since 1960. The Czechoslovaks upset John McEnroe, and Rick Leach in doubles Saturday, then drew even in Sunday's first singles match when Petr Korda beat Pete Sampras in four sets.

"To go out in a situation where it boils down to you and your country —it's unequaled. . . especially when you spend a day and a half thinking you've got it won," Agassi said. "A Grand Slam final doesn't even come close to that."

He recorded a simflar save in last September's semifinal against Germany. The Americans squandered a 2-0 lead before Agassi beat Carl-Uwe Steeb in the final match for a 3-2 victory.

Novacek, ranked 12th in the world, said a disputed line call in the tiebreaker was partly to blame for his unraveling. Regardless, as the Czechosivak's unforced errors rapidly rose to 64, Agassi felt no sympathy.

"There are two things I live by. You can never drive too far for Taco Bell, and you can never beat somebody too bad, especially in Davis Cup," Agassi said referring to a franchised Mexican fast- foot restaurant chain in the United States.

Agassi has yet to reach a tournament quarterfinal this year, and an 0-3 record in Grand Slam finals has saddled him with a reputation for losing big matches.

But the colorful, controversial 21- year- old baseliner won all six sets against the Czechoslovaks and improved to 16-4 in Davis Cup with seven consecutive wins.

ANDRE AGASSI

"I'm taking positive steps toward achieving my full potential," he said. "Today was a big step for me."

The Americans advanced to a September semifinal match against Sweden, which completed a 5-0 quarterfinal victory over Australia on Sunday. The United States, which has a 5-1 record against Sweden, will choose the site (probably Minneapolis) and surface (probably clay) for the semifinal.

Novacek, a clay-court specialist playing on a hardcourt, saved eight break points and six set points in the opening set. But he was fighting a losing battle.

When an Agassi crosscourt forehand was ruled good to give him a 4-2 lead in the tiebreaker, Novacek and Czechoslovak captain Tomas Smid became enraged.

"That terrible call didn't give me much of a chance," Movacek said.

Agassi finally won the tiebreaker with a backhand winner that hit the baseline. Then, Movacek came unglued, continually knocking groundstrokes long or into the net. He won only six points in the second set and 17 in the third.

"I felt OK, except I don't know how to win a point," Movacek said.

"If you look at my record when I'm playing my best tennis," Agassi said, "I usually have a tough early set and then break away down the stretch. I think I make a person work and stay focused. It's wearing on the body and the mind, and that's my strength."

Agassi finished the match with an ace and collapsed face-first on the court, hands to his eyes. He and McEnroe then held an American flag aloft to cheers from a crowd of 5,100.

The victory made Tom Gorman the winningest US Davis Cup captain ever. In seven years, Gorman has led the team to 15 victories, one more than Tony Trabert.

Pallister voted player-of-year

LONDON, Mar 30 : Manchester United defender Gary Pallister finally shrugged off the pressure of his record 2.3 million pounds sterling (3.9 million dollars) tag when he was voted player-of-the-year on Sunday by his fellow professionals, reports Reuter.

United did the double for the second year in succession when Ryan Giggs won the young player-of-the-year title. Last year, United striker Mark Hughes won the main award, with Lee Sharpe rated the best youngster.

Professional Footballers' Association chief executive Gordon Taylor, whose union is involved in a looming players' strike, said : "It is a tremendous tribute to United's scouting team — having unearthed one jewel in Sharpe, and then coming up with another this year in Giggs."

GARY PALLISTER

Taylor added : "It's a tribute to Gary that he has overcome the tag of being the most expensive player in England. He's death with the pressure of that superbly."

Pallister, who struggled in his early career with United, pipped Nottingham Forest and England full-back Stuart Pearce into second place. Popular striker Gary Lineker, considered one of the favourites, missed out.

Swedes make it a clean sweep

LUND, Sweden, Mar 29 : Stefan Edberg and Christian Bergstorm won Gunday'e reverse singles in straight sets to complete a 5-0 sweep for Sweden over Australia in their Davis Cup quarterfinal, reports AP.

Edberg, the world's top-ranked player, downed Wally Masur 6-4, 7-6 (7-4) while Christian Bergstrom beat Richard Fromberg 6-4, 7-5 on the fast carpet at the Victoria Hall. Bergstrom replaced Magnus Gustafsson, who withdrew because of an ankle injury.

Australia, which has won the Davis Cup 26 times, three short of the record held by the United States, was also swept by Sweden in 1985 when Masur made his singles debut against Mats Wilander and Jarryd.

The final singles matches were shortened to best-of-three sets after Edberg and Anders Jarryd defeated John Fitzgerald and Todd Woodbridge in a four-set doubles match Saturday, clinching an unbeatable 3-0 lead for the hosts.

It was the best showing by the Swedes in the Davis Cup since 1989, when Boris Backer led Germany to a 3-2 win in the final at Stuttgart, Germany. Sweden dominated the tournament during the 1980s, winning the trophy three times in seven final appearances, but lost first-round away matches to Italy in 1990 and Yugoslavia in 1991.

For Edberg, the weekend series proved sweet revenge after suffering two of the worst setbacks in his career earlier this year.

He lost to 238th-ranked Daniel Nestor Jan. 31 in the opening singles against Canada in the first round of the Davis Cup. Earlier this month 289th-ranked American Robbie Weiss upset him in the third round of the International Players Championships at Key Biscayne, Fla. Still, Edberg regained the No 1 world ranking from Jim Courier.

The 26-year-old Edberg, who also won his first singles match here over Fromberg in straight sets turned in a near flawless performance in the doubles.

The Swedes won 6-3, 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 and "Stefan hardly made a mistake, except for losing his serve once in the third set," Swedish captain John-Anders Sjogren said.

In the semifinals, Sweden will meet either the United States or Chechoslovakia. The Americans, who took a 2-1 lead into Sunday's reverse singles of their quarterfinal at Fort Myers, Fla, will host the semifinal Sept. 25-27 they beat Czechoslovakia.

Australia also lost in the quarterfinals last year to eventual champion France.

"We probably need hungrier players and maybe on (singles player) ranked in the top 10 to get past the quarters next time," said Neale Fraser, who has guided Australia to four Davis Cup triumphs in 23 seasons as team captain.

Masur and Fromberg are only ranked 57th and 90th on the ATP Tour computer.

Leconte denies charges

NIMES, France, Mar 30 : Henri Leconte has denied allegations he was dropped from the singles for France's Davis Cup tie with Switzerland here this weekend because he was too fat, reports AFP.

"I was unable to train any more than I did because I had been injured," he said here Monday after the holders had lost 3-2.

"I went to Key Biscayne for four days on holiday after spraining an ankle in Rotterdam. I've nothing to feel guilty about," he said.

Press reports alleged he interrupted his training for a romantic visit to Florida where he was reportedly seen with Agrentine star Gabriela Sabatini.

French captain Yannick Noah picked Thierry Champion and Arnaud Boetsch for their Davis Cup singles debut when he saw Leconte was overweight and Ggy Forget burnt out after too much tennis.

"I picked the best side available," Noah said.

Italy's Costantino Rocca (L) shares a light moment with South Africa's Ian Palmer on the last day of the Dunhill Cup golf qualifying tournament in Hong Kong on March 29. Palmer, 34, is finally able to compete in all international events now that anti-apartheid bans have been lifted. Both Italy, placing fourth, and South Africa, placing fifth, secured berths in the USD 1.7 million Dunhill Cup in Scotland. —AFP photo

Forest's cup

LONDON, Mar 30 : Nottingham Forest clinched their sixth Cup triumph at Wembley in the last 14 years when they beat Southampton 3-2 after extra time on Sunday, reports Reuter.

The match was the final of only a minor competition open to English League clubs, but it attracted 67,000 spectators.

Forest will be back at Wembley on April 12 for the League Cup final against Manchester United, a tournament Forest have won twice since 1989.

Scot Gemmill cracked in two superb volleys, including the winner eight minutes from the end, to give them victory on Sunday. Southampton had come from 2-0 down in the second half of normal time to force the extra 30 minutes.

He paused only to bow to Forest supporters on his way to the changing rooms before his team were presented with Sunday's trophy.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

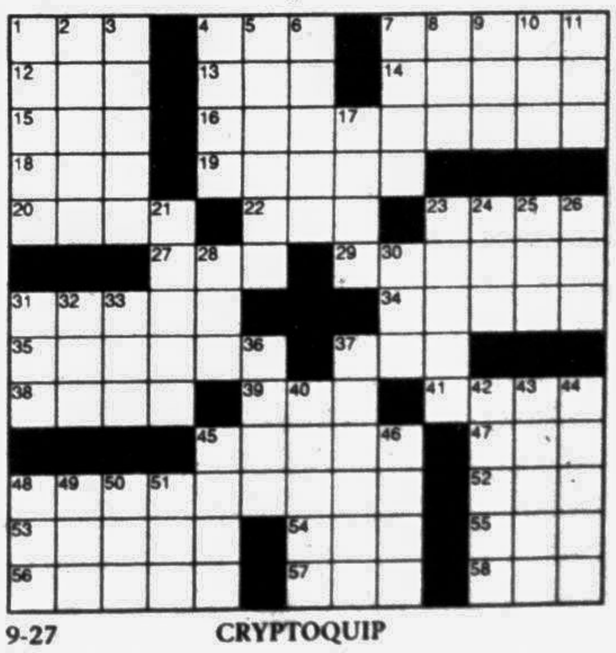
ACROSS
1 Motorist's aid
4 Capp and Capone
7 Wisconsin city
12 Mellow
13 Backtalk
14 Diamond or ring
15 Understand
16 Misfit
18 — jiffy
19 Snow leopard
20 Tranquil
22 Mamie's man
23 Cautionary verb
27 Unmatched
29 Donaldson's cohort
31 College VIP: colloq.
34 Ribald
35 Remarks from Siskel and Ebert
37 Gridlock component
38 Curved molding
39 — Dhabi
41 Off-key
45 Marketplace
47 Botheration
48 Go head-to-head
52 Mass. school
53 Pugilistic prize
54 To be (Sp.)
55 Spelldown
56 Sudden pulls
57 Teeter-totter quorum
58 Bottom line

DOWN
1 Penn & Teller's field
2 Recon satellite
3 "Loves me (not)" determinant
4 To boot
5 Convertible
6 Liveliness
7 Exceptional
8 Incense
9 Vim and vigor
10 Hamlisch showstopper
11 Run-down roan
17 High cards
21 Pluck: slang
23 Stunt
24 Olive of the comics
25 Profit
26 Have a go at it
28 Salon application
30 Simile center
31 Money-maker
32 — U.S. Pat. Off.
33 She raised Cain
36 Carry on
37 Midnight, to Cinderella
40 Give a leg up
42 "Silence of the —"
43 Farewell
44 Clannish emblem
45 War god
46 Hair style
48 Secret agent
49 Sine — non
50 Coffee vessel
51 Interrogate

Solution time: 25 mins.

J	O	T	■	B	I	L	K	■	S	A	W	S
I	R	E	■	E	D	I	E	■	E	P	E	E
M	E	X	I	C	A	N	S	■	V	E	R	E
■	■	T	O	O	■	T	E	L	E	X	E	D
A	L	B	U	M	S	■	Y	E	N	■	■	■
B	O	O	■	E	L	K	■	E	T	H	E	L
B	O	O	K	■	Y	E	W	■	H	E	R	O
A	S	K	E	D	■	Y	E	S	■	X	I	V
■	■	N	U	M	■	D	E	F	A	C	E	■
G	R	A	N	D	A	D	■	T	U	G	■	■
R	U	L	E	■	D	E	X	T	R	O	S	E
A	B	E	T	■	A	S	Y	E	■	N	O	R
M	E	S	H	■	M	I	Z	E	■	S	U	N

Yesterday's answer 9-27



9-27 CRYPTOQUIP

N O Q H E M V N I O N E U Q F D A S C K N S M J A A N S P H J P H M :

" I V J H ' M Z D F N H H N Z O K P U ? "

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BARTENDER FOUND HE HAD TO BOTTLE UP ALL HIS ANGRY, UNHAPPY FEELINGS.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: A equals C

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.