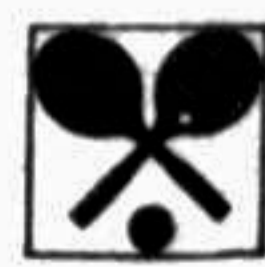


Courier maintains astonishing form



PARIS, May 31: The astonishing Jim Courier did it again on Sunday, thrashing a supposedly difficult opponent in straight sets to reach the quarter-finals of the French Open tennis tournament, reports Reuter.

Andre Medvedev of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the junior champion here last year, was the third man in a row who, on paper at least, had been expected to give the defending champion a hard time.

But the top-seeded American, who has yet to drop a set here, beat him 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 in just one hour 45 minutes, less time than it has taken for many of the women's matches at Roland Garros.

Courier had already disposed of Argentine Alberto Mancini and Austrian Thomas Muster — both considered good on clay — in similarly clinical fashion in the previous rounds.

Though Medvedev tried every shot in the coaching manual, the 17-year-old qualifier just could not stem the Courier onslaught.

Courier even found time to try out a new tactic of coming into the net more.

"It is a bit easier to win quicker point and it is less wear and tear physically," he said.

"I am feeling fitter and I think I am playing a little smarter than last year and I think I am more difficult to beat now," added Courier, who seized the world number one spot earlier this year.

Courier now plays eighth-seeded Croat Goran Ivanisevic, who is back in top form after overcoming heart trouble.

Ivanisevic had a bad-tempered but straightforward win over Spaniard Carlos Costa, considered the most successful man on clay coming into Roland Garros after two tournament wins.

Ivanisevic was given a warning when, after losing setpoint at the end of the second set,

he hurled his racket to the ground. The Croat had battled back from 1-4 down in the set, levelling at 4-4 in an extraordinary game during which he changed his racket three times before hitting an ace on game point.

Ivanisevic took a week off last month after doctors found he had a heart problem.

"It was a question of stress,"

wrapping up her match against 10th seeded Czechoslovak Jana Novotna, who knocked her out of the Australian Open quarter-finals last year.

The German second seed won 6-1, 6-4 after Novotna, a semifinalist here in 1990, had broken her as she served for the match for the first time at 5-2.

The Centre Court match was interrupted for five min-

matchpoint. But the Spaniard, champion here in 1989, broke straight back to 15 to finish just in time to watch big brother Emilio go out on Centre Court against last year's losing finalist Andre Agassi of the United States.

Argentine Sabatini, who has reached the Roland Garros semifinals four times, found only mild resistance from



Defending men's champion Jim Courier of the United States returns a backhand to Kiev-born Andre Medvedev during his fourth round triumph in the French Open yesterday. Courier reached the quarterfinals with a facile 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 victory. — AFP photo

said Ivanisevic, a quarter-finalist here two years ago and a member of the Yugoslav Davis Cup team until the nation split apart.

"I went home after Key Biscayne (in March) and saw what was happening back there so maybe it was due to that. I don't have any problems now."

TOP WOMEN SAID

None of the top four women's seeds has yet dropped a set and Steffi Graf, Gabriela Sabatini and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario all sailed into the last eight on Sunday.

Graf, though, had trouble

by light rain early in the second set and rumbles of thunder later suggested heavier showers to come.

In the last eight, Graf will play Natalia Zvereva of the CIS, the woman she humiliated with a 6-0, 6-0 defeat in the 1988 final here.

Sanchez Vicario also had trouble in finishing off her 6-1, 6-2 win over 14th seed Kimiko Date of Japan, who had beaten the Spaniard in their only previous meeting, on a carpet surface, last year.

Like Graf, Sanchez Vicario was broken as she served for the match when Date saved a

Canada's Patricia Hy, whom she had beaten five times before without the loss of a single set.

Sabatini, who won 6-3, 6-1 this time, was broken once, in the fourth game of the second set. But it was to be the 26-year-old Hy's only win of the set and Sabatini emphasised her superiority by taking the final two games to love.

Sabatini, who has never reached the finals here in seven tries, boosted her season record to 43-4. Hy, a pro since 1986, was playing for the first time in the fourth round of a Grand Slam.

Star pastimes

PARIS, May 31: To help fine-tune her already formidable game, defending French Open champion Monica Seles says she likes to watch Jim Courier and other top men's players on television, reports AP.

"He's doing everything pretty well. It's good to watch him," Seles said Saturday.

"But the problem with me is if I watch someone, let's say Courier, I will pick up his style of backhand...I don't like to watch them too long. I just like to watch a few certain shots," she said.

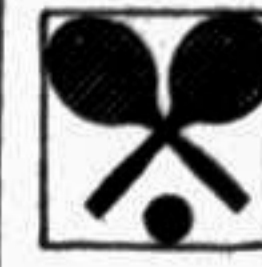
Courier and Seles are favoured to retain their titles and neither has lost a set in reaching the round of 16.

ON THE TOWN
Everyone knows Paris is a great place for nightlife and cultural diversions. So what is Jennifer Capriati's idea of an outing in the City of Lights? A racy movie.

Asked Saturday to describe the most fun thing she'd done while in town for the French Open, she blushed, giggled, paused, looked nervously at her father in the back on the interview room, and confessed, "I saw a movie — 'Basic Instinct.'"

She didn't elaborate. But the version of the erotic thriller showing in Paris is unexpurgated, with 45 seconds of sex and violence that were trimmed from the US version.

Sanctions shouldn't hurt Seles



PARIS, May 31: Goran Ivanisevic, the No 8 seed, overpowered clay-court star Carlos Costa of Spain, 6-3, 4-6, 6-1, 6-1 Sunday, becoming the first man into the quarterfinals of the French Open, reports AP.

Tournament officials said top-seeded Monica Seles, the two-time defending champion,

matches in the powerful top half of the men's draw, Courier was playing 17-year-old Ukrainian Andrei Medvedev, No 3 seed Pete Sampras faced Germany's Carl-Uwe Steeb, and No 11 Andre Agassi faced Spain's Emilio Sanchez.

Seles, who was to play later Sunday against Japan's Akiko Kijimuta, was suddenly caught up in political controversy because of the UN vote to impose

sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro. The measures include a ban on their participation in international sporting events.

Patrice Clerc, the tournament director, said Open officials had received no request to expel Seles, the two-time defending champion, and would let her continue in the competition.

"The French Open is composed of individuals," Clerc said.

"They in no way represent their country...Sportsmen can always compete for an individual title."



Defending women's singles champion Monica Seles of Yugoslavia returns a backhand to her American opponent Lori McNeil during their third round match of the French Open at Roland Garros, Paris Saturday. Seles won in straight sets 6-0, 6-1. — AFP photo

could continue to compete despite the United Nations sanctions against her native Serbia. An ethnic Hungarian, Seles was born in the Serbian city of Novi Sad, but has lived in the United States since 1986.

Ivanisevic, a Croatian who last year refused to play for the Yugoslav Davis Cup team because of Serbia's aggression, matched his 1990 showing here, when he lost in the quarterfinals. He is likely to play next against top-seeded defending champion Jim Courier.

In the other fourth-round

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"They in no way represent their country...Sportsmen can always compete for an individual

Popov swims to Euro record

LE CANET EN ROUSSILLON, France, May 31: Russian Alexander Popov set a European record for the 50 metres freestyle on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Popov, who also holds the European 100 metres record, clocked 22.31 seconds, bettering by 0.02 of a second the previous mark set by Germany's Nils Rudolph in Athens on August 24 last year.

Dazzling Dutch destroy Wales



UTRECHT, Netherlands, May 31: Dutch flair overcame a packed Welsh defence on Saturday to give the European champions a hand some 4-0 win in a soccer friendly, reports Reuter.

First half goals from Ajax Amsterdam winger Brian Roy and AC Milan striker Marco van Basten broke the back of a rugged Welsh rear line and fine solo efforts from Ajax midfielders Aron Winter and Wim Jonk in the second half completed the job.

Trainer Rinus Michels' Dutch side, playing their penultimate international before beginning their European title defence in Sweden next month, lost PSV Eindhoven fullback Adri van Tiggelen who was injured in a tackle.

The Welsh, determined to avoid a repetition of their 5-1 defeat by Romania in their first World Cup qualifier 10 days ago, fielded five defenders.

Dutch captain Ruud Gullit was responsible for the key passes leading to both first half goals, in the 16th and 37th minutes.

From deep in the right corner he picked up a pass by Jan Wouters which went over his Marker Gary Speed of Leeds United and fired the ball across the goalmouth for Roy to net the opener.

Everton keeper Neville

Southall, elected as Welsh player of the year last week, was beaten at close range a second time when Gullit, on the left this time, collected a deflection from Southampton's Barry Horne and struck it low into the path of AC Milan colleague Marco van Basten who simply side-footed the ball

Argentines lack lustre



TOKYO, May 31: Argentina beat a hard-working Japan team 1-0 today in a friendly that belied the huge gap in the countries' international soccer reputations, reports Reuter.

Japan frustrated Argentina for the first half but succumbed to a second-half goal by the World Cup winners of 1986 and runners-up in 1990.

The winning strike came in the 53rd minute when Jose Luis Villareal fed a pass to Gabriel Batistuta, who scored with a right-foot shot.

But Japan never allowed their opponents to settle and, despite occasional displays of dribbling skill, the South Americans rarely looked dangerous nor likely to trounce a country that does not yet have a professional league.

Argentine Manager Alfio Basile blamed his team's lacklustre performance on jet

lag, but World Cup striker Claudio Caniggia praised Japan's discipline and effort.

"They were dynamic and they concentrated well," he said. "They didn't let us have space."

Yet Japan, whose ambition is to host the World Cup in 2002, showed their inexperience when they were on the attack and nervously missed scoring chances.

"It was good to get away with losing just 1-0," said Japanese captain Tetsuji Hahiratani.

TEAMS

JAPAN: Matsunaga, Tsunami, Horike, Katsuya, Ihara, Ramos, Kitazawa, Hashiratani, Moriyasu, Miura (Takagi 81st), Nakayama (Takeda 81st).

ARGENTINA: Goycochea, Vazquez, Basualdo, Ruggeri, Cravotto, Franco, Villareal, Rodriguez (Astrada 82nd), Caniggia, Batistuta (Acosta 89th).

individual high point of the match when he turned on the edge of the box and shot low and left into the corner of the net in the 74th minute.

Seven minutes from time Wim Jonk, the sixth Dutch substitute, completed the demoralising destruction of the fading Welsh side, with a thundering shot from the edge of the box.

Though the game was marred by slow Welsh play when in control of the ball, their tight marking tested the Dutch attack's mobility and passing quality to the limit.

Welsh manager Peter Shreeves complimented the Dutch on their performance and said his side were punished for mistakes which they would have got away with against other teams.

Shreeves was deputising for Terry Yorath, absent after the sudden death of his 15-year-old son last week.

The dangerous combination of Liverpool's Dean Saunders and Manchester United's Mark Hughes came near to getting Wales a consolation prize, Hughes coming closest in the 81st minute when his shot demanded an equally fine save from PSV keeper Hans van Breukelen.

Dutch trainer Rinus Michels said his team were on the right path for Sweden while Van Basten added: "I think we've got 20 good players."

Crowd fails to carry luckless Edberg



PARIS, May 31: The French Open lost three of its top five seeds in the course of a few hours on Saturday when Stefan Edberg, Michael Stich and Michael Chang all fell, reports Reuter.

But while Edberg and Stich, Wimbledon champions past and present, were humiliated in three sets, Chang fought an heroic battle, saving eight matchpoints before succumbing to Swede Nicklas Kulti, conqueror of John McEnroe in the first round.

Second seed Edberg's 4-3, 3-6, 6-7 loss to Andrei Cherkasov of the Commonwealth of Independent States, a man he beat comfortably last year here, ended in controversy over a disputed line call.

The incident upset the Centre Court crowd who had earlier gone delirious with joy when local Davis Cup hero Henri Leconte, ranked only 200th in the world these days, had seen off Stich 7-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Edberg's defeat was largely his own fault. The Swede's service let him down time and again and he looked nothing

like the player who held the world number one spot until early this year.

"I don't want to remember anything about this match," said Edberg, who has won every other Grand Slam title at least once but never the French.

But Edberg also suffered from having a number of line calls in his favour overturned.

The most controversial came when Edberg, the losing finalist here in 1989, was 3-5 down in the third-set tiebreak.

Umpire Rudi Berger overturned an out call on a Cherkasov serve, taking the Russian to his third matchpoint.

The 16,500 fans, who had solidly supported Edberg, jeered and whistled so loudly for several minutes that the players had to wait to continue.

Edberg eventually saved the point but put a back and volley into the net on the next one to concede defeat in two hours 34 minutes.

Edberg, who will have a shot at a third Wimbledon title next month, refused to be drawn into criticising Berger though he was clearly disappointed.

"It is history. There is nothing I can do," he said. "I felt like sinking into the ground at the time."

Stich, who had the crowd against him when he knocked out Jimmy Connors in the first round, had to go through a similar ordeal against Leconte, a national hero since he helped France to win the Davis Cup last year for the first time since 1932.

"It's not easy to play with that many people cheering your opponent," said the fourth-seeded German.

Leconte, the runner-up here in 1988, has dropped to a series of back injuries and had played only nine tournament matches coming to Roland Garros. He needed a wild card to play here.

But the left-handed Frenchman, buoyed by the crowd's support, raised his game after fending off six breakpoints in only the third game.

He took the only break of the final set in the seventh game and then at 5-4 up saw Stich put a backhand into the net on the second matchpoint.

"I haven't played such a good match since the (Cup) final and then I never thought I would play so well again," said Leconte, who vaulted the net to embrace Stich after his victory.

Leconte now plays Uruguay's Amarello Filippini in a bottom half of the draw which has only one seed — number seven Petr Korda of Czechoslovakia — left.

Filippini entered the last 16 when his opponent, 13th seeded American Aaron Krickstein, pulled out in the second set with a badly blistered foot.

Chang, who remains the youngest French Open men's champion in history since his 1989 triumph at the age of 17, came back from 2-4 down in the deciding set against Kulti to level at 4-4.

The American, seeded fifth, saved four matchpoints at 5-4 to his Swedish opponent and four more at 7-6.

But then a double fault gave Kulti, ranked 94th in the world, his ninth matchpoint and a forehand winner settled matters in the Swede's favour.

Kulti now plays Uruguayan Diego Perez, who knocked out 12th-seeded Dutchman Richard Krajicek.

Rude awakening for Salisbury

LONDON, May 31: England's new leg-spinner Ian Salisbury was given a rude pre-Test awakening by his country's vice captain Alec Stewart in the English county championship on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Stewart hit a superb 140 in 135 minutes for Surrey against Sussex at the Oval, leaving Salisbury nursing figures of two for 81 in 12 overs.

Inspired by Stewart, finally trapped by Salisbury, having hit 24 boundaries, Surrey finished the day on 203 for four in reply to Sussex's total of 300 for six declared. Sussex skipper Alan Wells hit an unbeaten 165.

Rookie Durham fast bowler John Wood enjoyed a dream start to his championship career against Hampshire, dismissing leading English run scorer Tony Middleton and Test stars David Gower and Robin Smith in his first three overs.

He finished with debut figures of five for 68 and Durham had extended their advantage to 183 with eight wickets in hand by the close.

Rain affected most other fixtures, but South African Test player Richard Snell had enough time to hit 55 out of a big Somerset total of 376 for nine declared against Lancashire.

Sex chromosome test unfair



TORONTO, May 31: The International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) on Saturday branded sex chromosome testing unfair and unreliable and called for

UAE booters make Asia Cup finals

AL-AIN, United Arab Emirates, May 31: The United Arab Emirates has qualified for the 10th Asia Cup soccer finals scheduled to be held in December in Hiroshima, Japan, after defeating Bahrain 3-1 in a group B qualifying round match, reports AP.

Needing only to draw to book their place in the finals, the UAE team hit all three goals in the first 25 minutes as Bahrain fell apart in face of a determined attack in the game late Saturday.

The other team in the 3-nation qualifying group, Kuwait, had earlier beaten Bahrain 2-0 but then lost 3-2 to the UAE to be knocked out of the competition.

The UAE, which failed to qualify for this year's Olympic soccer tournament in Barcelona, took part in the 1990 World Cup finals in Italy, which is their greatest soccer achievement to date.

visual inspection of female athletes during doping tests as a means of gender control at sporting events, reports Reuter.

The 24-member Council of the IAAF, the world governing body for track and field, said the method of gender testing currently used by the International Olympic Committee should be eliminated in favour of visual inspection.

"Scientifically we have decided femininity control by the chromosome test is unfair, unscientific and unreliable," Arne Ljungqvist, chairman of the IAAF medical committee, told reporters at a briefing after the Council's session.

"We believe that this visual inspection, while athletes are giving urine under very close supervision, will prevent any males from attempting to enter female events," Ljungqvist said.

Ljungqvist explained that the chromosome tests were unfair because an athlete can have a chromosomal abnormality where a male athlete could have a female chromosome pattern or a woman have a male chromosome pattern.

He said also the IAAF will urge the International Olympic Committee to eliminate the chromosome test. The IOC is

expected to continue with chromosome sex testing at the Barcelona Olympics this summer.

Up until the late 1960s female athletes were required to undergo a visual inspection to verify their gender. The sex chromosome test, where a sample of saliva is taken, has subsequently been used.

The IAAF now plans to return to the previous method of visual inspection of female athletes selected for drug testing.

Voeller goal is saving grace

GELSENKIRCHEN, Germany, May 31: A second half goal from striker and new German captain Rudi Voeller gave Germany a 1-0 victory over Turkey in a friendly match played here on Saturday, reports AP.

Despite being close to full strength, the world champions failed to dominate the modest Turkish team and disappointed a packed 55,000 crowd in a match played as a warm up for next month's European Championship finals.

Defensively they looked vulnerable and the dynamism of injured captain Lothar Matthaus in midfield was sorely missed.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

1 Son of Willy Loman	37 Tuba's kin	40 New Zealander	41 Adorned	45 Velocipede	47 Lincoln lad	49 Fuss	50 Form of wordplay (abbr.)	51 Pipe angle	52 Disturb	53 Rue	54 Martian's gunshot?	55 Fencing	
2 tool	3 Lobster eaters' garb	4 British comic	5 Eric	6 Trey topper	7 Swindled	8 Paris' captive	9 Actress	10 Thurman	11 Ohioan	12 "I— Anyone 'Till You"	13 On behalf of	14 Publicity: slang	15 Neither's
16 mate	17 Coexist	18 Fabric	19 Night light?	20 Horned vipers	21 Suffers a recession	22 Small combo	23 Literally, "dedication"	24 Mozart's Symphony No. 41	25 007 foe	26 organization	27 Gab	28 Indivisible	29 Prolonged attack
30 In a strange way	31 Ex-Surgeon General	32 Adams or McClurg	33 Apportion	34 Sheepish remark?	35 Letter-head abbr.	36 — carte							

Solution time: 23 mins.

TAP	MOB
IONA	BEMAS
ARSON	EDICTS
TOGATCH	HATHIEF
ENA	HEALS LAE
PENN	PETE
START	GLASS
STOW	RIAL
EOS	DEALT LAP
TOSIR	WITH LOVE
DENIES	EAGER
STERE	RIOS
OSS	SRS

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CRYPTOQUIP

Y X J A R S V R J E N P R U A D
 Y R E N R B R A M X A U K D D P H
 A X B R J S N U M X G S A R V Y H
 U K N J N A U.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: J equals R

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