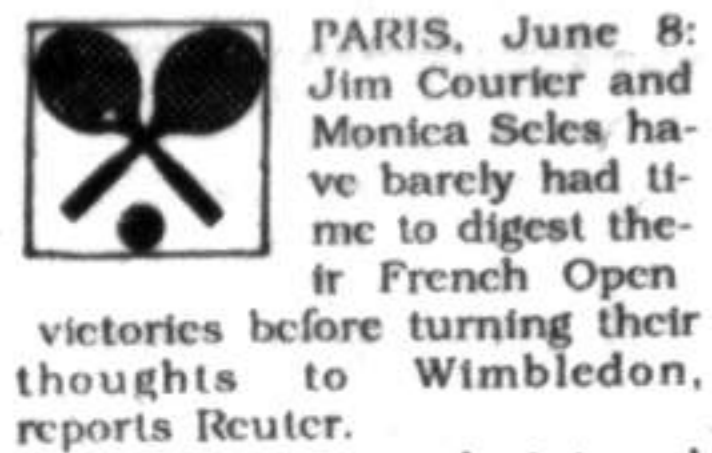


Courier, Seles must now turn to Wimbledon



PARIS, June 8: Jim Courier and Monica Seles have barely had time to digest their French Open victories before turning their thoughts to Wimbledon, reports Reuters.

The two-week interval between the two Grand Slam events is a source of dismay to many players who must adjust their game from the slow clay of Paris to the fast grass of London.

This year, the difficulties of transition are compounded by the Barcelona Olympics — only three weeks after Wimbledon — when the tennis players will have to go back to clay.

Some players are pressing for Wimbledon to be moved back a week in future — a suggestion that is not popular with organisers of the grass-court event.

"I wish there was a bigger gap," said Courier, who was flying home to Florida after his win in the final here to seek out a grass court to practise on.

Winning at Roland Garros almost precludes winning Wimbledon.

In the last 30 years only two men and five women have achieved the feat in the same year, the last being German Steffi Graf in 1988, the year she achieved the Grand Slam.

The phenomenal Bjorn Borg won both events three years running, from 1978 to 1980, but for Courier and Seles, neither of them at their happiest on grass, the task looks a lot harder.

Courier's biggest rivals on the grass, defending Wimbledon champion Michael Stich of Germany and former winner Stefan Edberg of Sweden, will probably now see their third-round exits in Paris as an advantage, giving them extra time to readjust to their favourite surface.

German Boris Becker, the times champion at Wimbledon,

decided not to play Roland Garros because of injury. Like Edberg, he is due to play the Queen's Club grass tournament in London this week.

Courier, who had his best showing at Wimbledon last year by reaching the quarter-finals, is aware of the need to rush to change his mental and physical attitude from clay to grass.

But he was a bit disconcerted to be constantly asked about Wimbledon during his news conference only minutes after his triumph here on Sunday.

"We are at the French Open and they ask questions about Wimbledon," he said despairingly.

Seles knows, too, that she is going to face a lot of flak from the unrelenting British media for her mysterious late withdrawal from Wimbledon last year which earned her a fine from the Women's Tennis Association.

"I never got so much attention in the years I played Wimbledon as I did last year which is not good," Seles said in Paris.

"I am prepared for it," she said, running her hand through the now brunette woman's hair style.

"I know there are going to be questions from last year but it doesn't matter what anybody writes, I am going there to play tennis."

"I know the truth and I know how I feel inside. That is the most important thing."

Seles, whose reached the fourth round and quarter-finals in her two previous visits and whose baseline game is not at its most effective on fast grass courts, admitted: "Wimbledon is going to be the toughest challenge but I will just have to go for it."

"Hopefully I'm not going to be satisfied with a quarter-final loss or anything, but I shall be thinking that I can go right until the end."

Seles said that preparing for the All England Championships in London would have to be seriously considered in the light of travel difficulties.

"I have three choices," said the 18-year-old world number one who took the crown in a thrilling three-set final against Steffi Graf.

"One choice is to go back to the states. The others is going to Scotland. And the third is going to England."

"I shall decide in the next few days — but first I am going to take a few days off."

Seles was fined and banned from the Olympics last year after her mysterious last-minute withdrawal from the All England Championships and her refusal to play in the Federation Cup.

"Two years ago when I prepared there it was taking 45 minutes to get to the court and 45 minutes to get back — so maybe it's not such a good option."

"May be we shall go to a smaller city... or Scotland."

"In Scotland there are tennis grass courts and they are very private places where hopefully nobody is going to bother me."

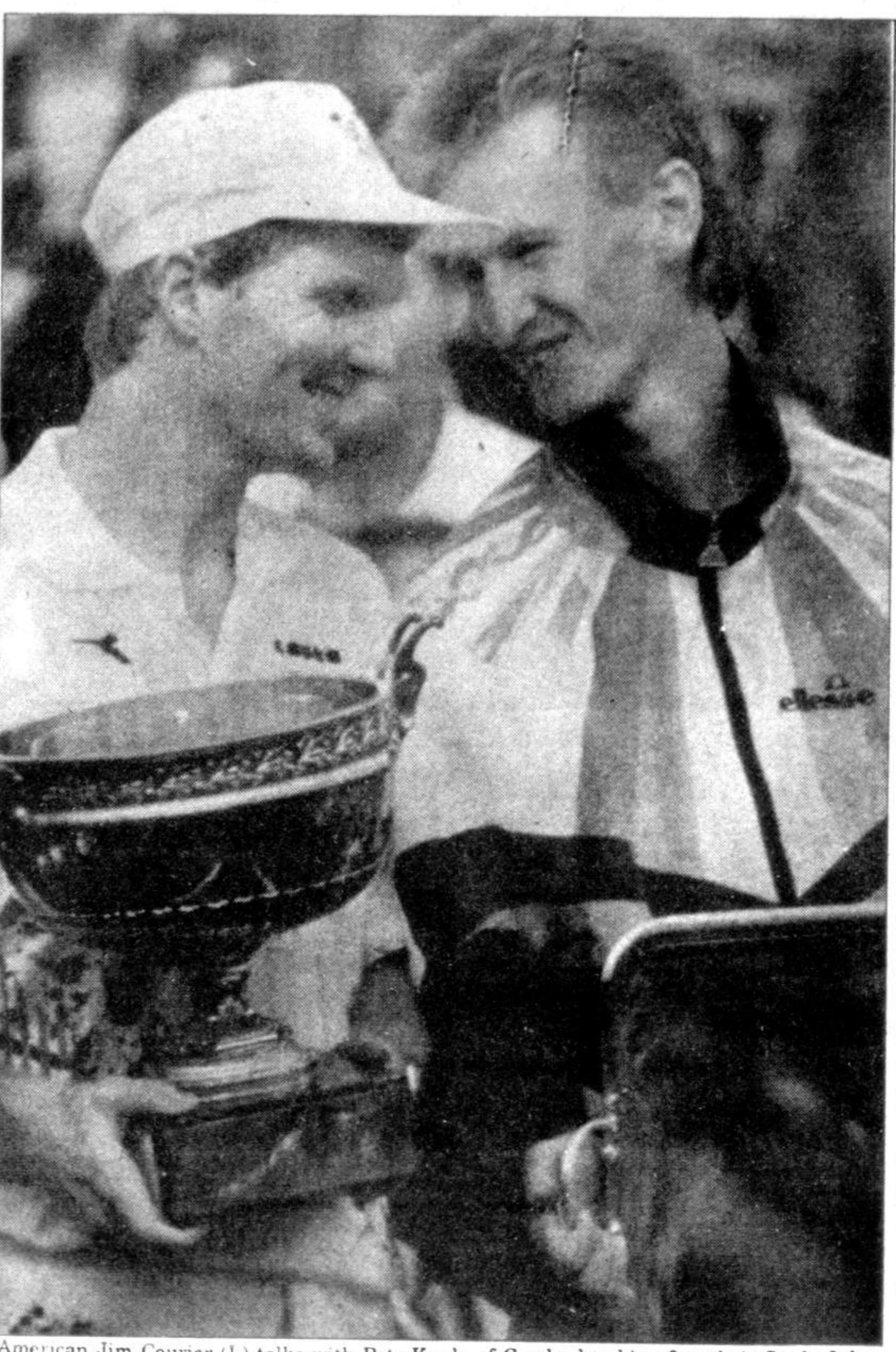
"The only problem could be rain. That is why we haven't ruled out going back to the States. But they say that when it rains at the French Open it doesn't rain at Wimbledon. That's what all the players are hoping."

"Two years ago when I was preparing in London it rained every day."

Like Courier, Seles is now halfway to the Grand Slam but it is Wimbledon that she expects to prove the most difficult part.

"The key thing will be that I will have to forget the French Open," Seles said.

After her superb victory over Graf on Saturday in the third longest women's final ever at Roland Garros, it seems a shame to relegate the French fortnight to history so quickly.



American Jim Courier (L) talks with Petr Korda of Czechoslovakia after their final of the French Open in Paris on Sunday. —AFP photo.

Pakistanis lift BMW Trophy



AMSTERDAM, June 8: Pakistan beat the Netherlands 2-1 in an exciting match here on Monday to lift the BMW Trophy, their first success in Europe for at least 20 years, reports AFP.

Pakistan only needed a draw to win but went out for a win and pulled it off in a display of great speed and superb ball skills.

The Dutch goal led a charmed life in the first ten minutes. Several shots skimmed just wide of the target and keeper Frank Leistra gave an acrobatic performance, saving spectacularly on a number of occasions, particularly from Shahbaz Ahmed.

Against the run of play, the Netherlands snatched a lead in the 24th minute when Floris Bolverlander converted a short corner.

In response, Pakistan's Musaddiq Hussain, the first hockey player to return a positive dope test, will not be sanctioned because of the minor nature of the offence, the International Hockey Federation said on Saturday, reports Reuters.

A meeting of the International Hockey Federation disciplinary commission accepted on Saturday that Musaddiq had taken a banned substance but said the breach was of such minimal degree that no blame could or should be allocated to the player.

Musaddiq, a 24-year-old employee of the Pakistan International Airlines, tested positive at the Champions Trophy in Karachi on February 23.

He had declared on a form before the test that he had taken a headache pill containing a minute quantity of a banned substance.

ROK beat Britain 5-4

AMSTERDAM, June 8: The South Korean women produced their best game of the BMW Trophy hockey tournament here on Monday to beat Great Britain 5-4 and force their opponents out of the medal positions, reports AFP.

South Korea exploited huge gaps in the field to build up leads of 4-1 and then 5-2. Only their own folly allowed the British women to get two goals in the last two minutes to comeback to 5-4.

Led by Lim Gae-Sook, the South Koreans were faster and more forceful and dominated both periods of play.

Field goals by Chang Eun-Jung and Ro Young Mi, gave South Korea a 2-0 half time lead. Ro added the third in the 41st minute after a combined assault from the left.

Jane Sixsmith launched the British revival two minutes later with a well-taken field goal, but then substitute Jang Dong-Sook got South Korea's fourth.

Susan Fraser hit home from a short-corner but the Asian champions again pulled away with Chang converting a 62nd minute short corner for her second goal of the game.

moved up a gear and gained a deserved equaliser when Tahir Zaman struck in the scramble that followed a short corner.

The winner came in the 51st minute when Shahbaz was impeded inside the circle.

Tahir Zaman, who had failed to beat Leistra from the spot right at the start of the second half, made no mistake with his second attempt.

Although the Dutch also missed a penalty stroke — Marc Delissen firing wide of the target in the 56th minute — Pakistan held on comfortably to their lead.

Moses' dream may be dashed

IRVINE, Calif., June 8: Time is running out for Edwin Moses in his quest to become a five-time Olympian, reports AP.

The 36-year-old may have lost his last chance to qualify for the US Olympic track and field trial when a pinched nerve in his left ankle kept him from competing in the 400-meter hurdles Sunday at the Irvine Elite Track Classic.

Moses, the world record-holder in the event, won Olympic gold medals in 1976 and 1984 and a bronze in 1988.

"I'm very disappointed because I really thought I had a good opportunity to make my fifth US track and field team," he said.

June 13 is the deadline for qualifying for the June 19 trials in New Orleans. Moses' only remaining opportunity to qualify by posting a time of 50.30 seconds or faster would be at next weekend's Indy Games in Indianapolis.

"My training has been going very well and I expected to run very fast both at the trials and in Europe this summer," Moses said. "I have a pinched nerve in my left ankle and I'm just not able to compete at this time. I don't know whether I'll be able to compete next weekend or not."

Moses has only competed a few times since the 1988 Olympics.

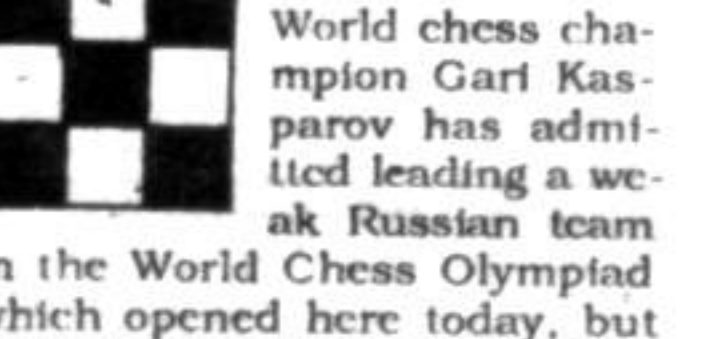
Winners in Sunday's competition included Gail Devers in the 100 in 11.10 seconds, Steve Scott in the 3,000 in 8:05.54, Alisa Hill in the 800 in 2:02.74 and Tony Li in the 110 high hurdles in 13.61.

STAR TV PRIME SPORTS Tuesday

00:00 hrs Trans World Sports
01:00 European Soccer
02:00 Tennis: Lufthansa Cup Finals
06:00 TBA
08:00 US Basketball League
10:00 Prime Bodies
10:30 Best of American College Sports
13:00 National Hockey League: Stanley Cup Major Indoor Soccer League
16:00 Prime Bodies
18:00 Best of 1992 Winter Olympics
18:30 Extravaganza
21:00 Aquatics
22:00 TBA

(Please deduct 2 hours from airtimes for Bangladesh Standard Time)

Kasparov misses the old days



MANILA, June 8: World chess champion Gari Kasparov has admitted leading a weak Russian team in the World Chess Olympiad which opened here today, but vowed to "prove we can still do something," reports AFP.

Kasparov told AFP that stronger teams had been fielded by England, the United States, and Ukraine in the 30th Olympiad, and lamented the absence of his compatriot and former world champion Anatoly Karpov for the tournament.

Kasparov, 29, represents Russia, the biggest remnant of the former Soviet Union, which had long dominated world chess.

"I think we still have good chances to win the Olympiad, but the problem is that our five players, except me, have never participated in Olympiads. They are not well experienced," he said in an interview late Sunday.

The Russian team, confessed Kasparov, is "not stronger than the English, or the American, or the Ukrainian team," but he vowed to "play all

the games just to give moral support to the rest of the players."

The chess Olympiad saw the attendance of strong chess players from other republics which got their independence since the break-up of the Soviet Union.

One of them is Vasily Ivanchuk, the world number three, who represents Ukraine.

What happened to the Soviet Union is "bound to affect the Russian team," attested Nigel Short, 27, the world's fifth ranking player from England.



GARRI KASPAROV

Looking at the lopsided prospect of his team against emerging big team players, Kasparov said, "It's not good news for us, it's probably good news for the spectators because it definitely promises very exciting competition."

Kasparov admitted it was "a fact of history" that the breakdown of the Soviet Union into independent republics would affect the supremacy of his compatriots in future world chess events.

He narrowed down the prospective winner to the Russian, England, Ukrainian, and American teams, but pointed to the English as the strongest with their "experienced players" who closely followed the Soviets in the past.

The English players, said Kasparov, "will try to use the end of the Soviet Union and the fact that the Soviet Union is not playing anymore."

Even the United States has profited for the Soviet Union's demise. The American team will be led by 18-year-old grandmaster Gata Kamsky, a Soviet defector who is ranked eighth in the world.

Wheaton lifts Beckenham title



BECKENHAM, England, June 8: American David Wheaton stole a March on the rest of the world's top grass court tennis players by winning the

The 23-year-old American had to contend with loud pop music and an irate spectator to win a dour final dominated by heavy serving.

Van Rensburg was left to curse a controversial incident when he held a break point for

a 2-1 lead in the final set after Wheaton had called for the referee to tone down the noise of disc music wafting onto the packed Centre Court.

As he arrived at courtside a woman spectator took up the American's cause, yelling at the bemused referee: "We are here to enjoy a day's tennis, not to listen to music."

Wheaton applauded her intervention but Van Rensburg was clearly unsettled as he lost the next three points and was broken in the following next game. His challenge then folded.

"The noise was distracting," Wheaton said. "But once that lady started complaining I knew something would be done. It was quite funny — she was more upset than I was."

Earlier he won his semifinal by default when compatriot Brad Gilbert withdrew with a recurring stomach muscle injury.

Wheaton's girlfriend, Mary Joe Fernandez, semifinalist at Wimbledon 12 months ago, completed a good day for the Americans when she stormed to the women's title with a crushing 6-4, 6-2 victory over jaded-looking Czechoslovakia Helena Sukova.



DAVID WHEATON, winner of Beckenham title

Beckenham title on Sunday, reports Reuters.

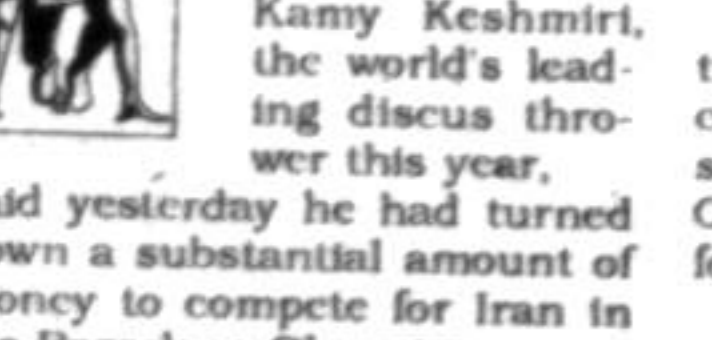
Wheaton beat Christo van Pensburg 6-3, 1-6, 6-1 after the South African had ousted Ivan Lendl 6-7, 6-3, 7-6 in the semifinals of the rain-delayed event.

Lendl, the top seed and world number 11, put a brave smile on his defeat by saying he was happy with his grass court preparation.

Wheaton, who won an astonishing 2 million dollar for taking the Grand Slam Cup in Munich last year, pocketed a paltry 5,000 pounds sterling (9,000 dollar) for this triumph but he, top, pronounced himself well satisfied.

"I have got a head start on grass over everyone else and it's a nice feeling." Most of the world's top players have not begun their grasscourt preparation for Wimbledon which starts in two weeks.

Keshmiri prefers US to Iran



AUSTIN, Texas, June 8: American Kamy Keshmiri, the world's leading discus thrower this year, said yesterday he had turned down a substantial amount of money to compete for Iran in the Barcelona Olympics.

"They offered me money, a substantial amount, if I would compete for Iran," Keshmiri said of Iranian government officials whom neither he nor his father would identify.

His father, Djelal-Ali, competed for Iran in the 1968 Olympics, and Keshmiri would be eligible to represent either the United States or Iran in

the Games because his father was born in Iran.

"But despite a lot of things that have happened in this country with track and field, I said to myself, if I make the Olympic team, I want it to be for America."

"My dream since I was little was to stand on the number one podium at the Olympic Games and watch the United States flag come up and listen to the national anthem," said Keshmiri, who last week threw the discus 70.84 metres (232 feet 5 inches), the best throw in the world this year.

Keshmiri, who led qualifying in the discus throw at the US National Collegiate

Championships on Wednesday with a toss of 64.38 metres (211 feet 3 inches), also lashed out at US Olympic and athletics officials for their support of the sport.

"Track is dead in this country," said the recent University of Nevada graduate. "It is like a ripe tomato, squeezed all out and left to dry."

He said the sport was mismanaged in the United States and that financial support for athletes was so poor that he was considering retiring after this year even though he is only 23.

"It's a shame, it's a crime. I wonder where the money is going," he said.

how Krabbe and the others allegedly manipulated the urine tests.

That move cleared the way for the athletes to compete in Germany in preparation for the Olympics, but a decision by the IAAF is not expected until its arbitration panel meets in London between June 26-29, Bild am Sonntag said.

The newspaper printed what it said was excerpts of IAAF legal advisor Gay's report which concludes that the DLV legal panel "reached an erroneous conclusion", in lifting the suspensions.

Krabbe's ban likely to be upheld, says paper

HAMBURG, Germany, June 8: World champion sprinter Katrin Krabbe and two other German athletes will likely be banned from competition for manipulation of urine tests, a major newspaper reported Sunday, reports AP.

The Hamburg-based Bild am Sonntag, said British legal advisor, Mark Gay of the International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF), has concluded that Krabbe and sprinters Grit Breuer and Silke Moeller took part in manipulation.

Krabbe, 22, the world champion at 100 and 200 meters, and the two others were tested for use of performance enhancing drugs while training in Stellenbosch, South Africa in January.

The urine samples were drug-free but were found to be identical when tested by an IAAF sanctioned laboratory in Cologne.

Krabbe is a product of former Communist East Germany's athletic programme, which for years gave its athletes performance-enhancing drugs.

Krabbe, a top medal hope at the upcoming Summer Games in Barcelona, has repeatedly denied using drugs or manipulating urine tests.

The German Track Federation (DLV) initially suspended the Krabbe, Breuer and Moeller for four years on Feb 15.

Olympic flame arrives in Athens

ATHENS, June 8: The Olympic flame arrived in Athens on Sunday after its kindling at Mount Olympus on Friday, reports AFP.

Hurdler Voula Patoulidou completed the 365-km relay of Greek Athletes by carrying the torch to the foot of Parthenon where she lit a large flame which burned through the night.

Greek Actress Irene Pappas then recited an ode dedicated to the Olympics.

The flame will be passed on to a delegation from Barcelona today at a ceremony in the Olympic Stadium, built for the first modern Games in 1896.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS
- 1 Salonga of "Miss Saigon"
- 4 Singer Zadora
- 7 Emulated Killy
- 12 Earn an Oscar, maybe
- 13 Remnant
- 14 Patchy pony
- 15 Menagerie
- 16 Alpine woe
- 18 Blueprint addition
- 19 "OK," on the CB
- 20 Ego
- 22 Barbie's beau
- 23 African antelope
- 27 Cote d'Ivoire
- 29 Washington of "Glory"
- 31 Hirsute
- 34 Advocacy of morality
- 35 Jackson or Johnson
- 37 — pye weed
- 38 Collar piece
- 39 Start of a Latin I trio
- 41 Tramp's love
- 45 Frighten
- 47 Haw antithesis
- 48 Super-victory of a sort
- 52 Cagers' org.
- 53 Eskimo boat
- 54 Sharp turn
- 55 Foul up
- 56 — the lily
- 1 French school
- 3 Bikini, e.g.
- 4 Bartlett, for one
- 5 Summon up
- 6 Saw
- 7 Mast
- 8 Relatives
- 9 Letter-head abbr.
- 10 Biblical verb suffix
- 11 Anonymous John
- 17 Give temporarily
- 21 Mersey
- 23 Geneflect
- 24 Terrorist's weapon
- 25 — Moines
- 26 Einstein's birthplace
- 28 Zed
- 30 Conductor de Waart
- 31 "Spring — Sprung"
- 32 Picnic intruder
- 33 Mrs. Eddie Cantor
- 36 Dumpty's perch
- 37 Dead Sea feeder
- 40 Corn
- 42 Spiro of politics
- 43 Paget or Winger
- 44 "The Best — of Our Lives"
- 45 Sends out invitations
- 46 Million (prefix)
- 48 Schlepp
- 49 Parisian pal
- 50
- 51 June honoree

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CRYPTOQUIP

Z U A S P S A N M Y M Z X S

T I E N Z K Y M K N R S V E I S ,

Q H N M H A U V E K T P S V V

N R A M H Y R .

Today's Cryptoquip clue: Y 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.