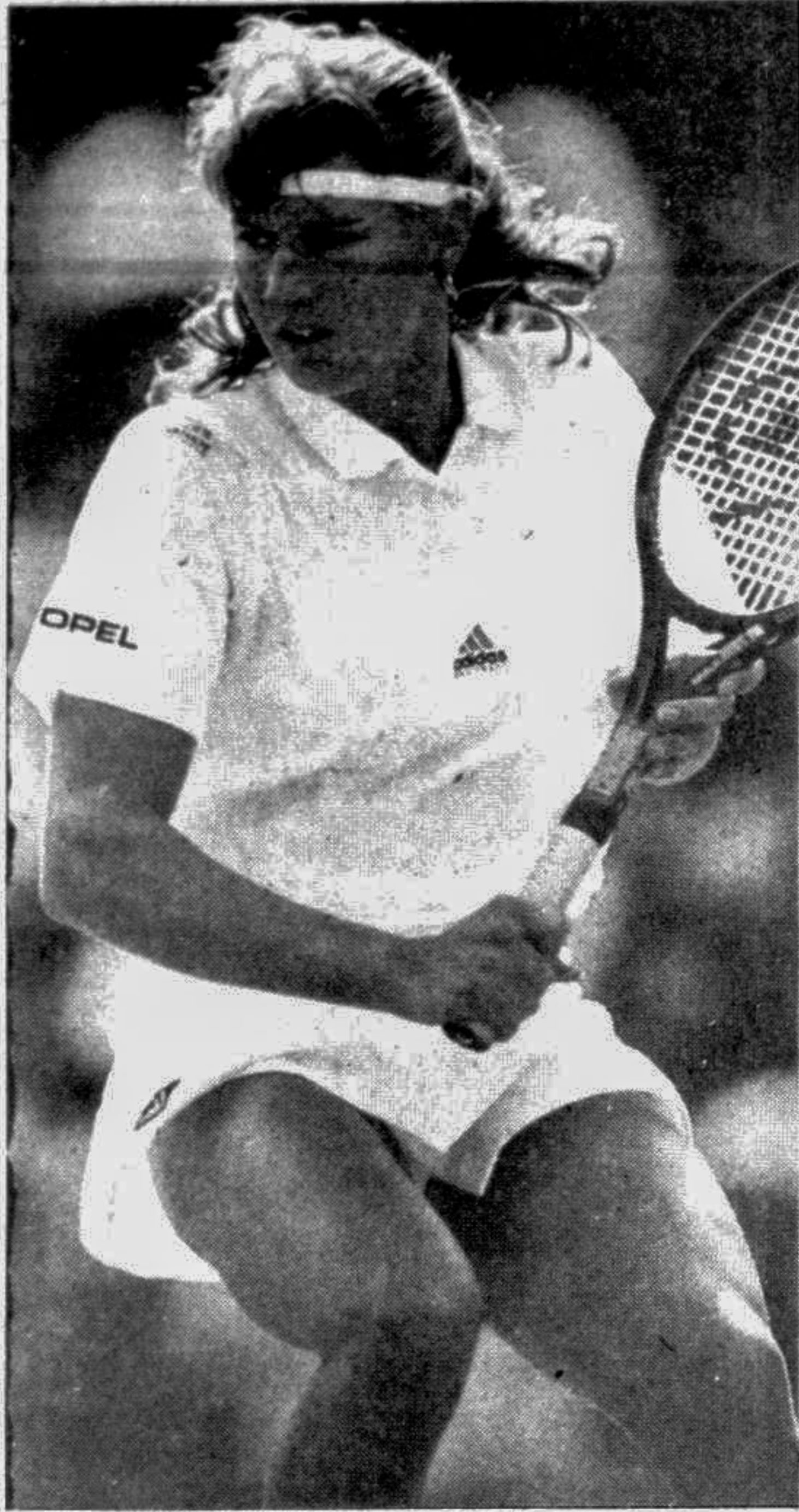


Sport

Graf remains Wimbledon queen

LONDON, July 4: Defending champion Steffi Graf of Germany kept her Wimbledon singles title by defeating world number one Monica Seles of Yugoslavia 6-2, 6-1 in the final today.



STEFFI GRAF ... fourth Wimbledon title

An earlier report said: Graf led Seles 6-2, 4-1 when the match was interrupted for a third time by rain.

Graf was up a break and looked overpowering when play was stopped.

The match was interrupted for the first time with Graf up 1-0 in the second set. Play resumed after a 45-minute delay but was halted again by rain after only three points had been played.

The women went back on the court after a break of 1 hour 45 minutes and Graf quickly took control. She won the third game at love and broke Seles on Seles' second double fault in the next game.

Seles, the No 1 ranked woman in the world, seemed unable to cope with Graf's powerhouse game. The German set the pace with a formidable first service, then moved Seles from side to side with line-drive ground strokes. As the match went on, Graf rushed net more, often, scoring points on volleys and overheads and blunting Seles' usual attack.

In the first set, Graf kept Seles off balance with powerful forehand drives and scored several crucial points on rushes to the net.

Top seed Seles was playing her first Wimbledon final, while Graf has won the grass court classic three times.

Seles has won the Australian and French Opens this year. A victory here would leave only the US Open next month in her path for a Grand

Slam sweep, a feat accomplished by Graf in 1988. The 18-year-old Seles bases her game on powerful two-handed ground strokes and admits she's uncomfortable going to the net. Her 22-year-old German opponent follows up her powerful serve with the best fore-



MONICA SELES

hand in the women's game and will occasionally rush to net.

Seles was taken to three sets by Martina Navratilova while Graf crushed Gabriela Sabatini in straight sets in the semifinals. Until then, Seles had not lost a set in the tournament while Graf seemed to struggle in several matches.

Since the start of the tournament, Seles has been embroiled in controversy over her grunting during matches. She drew a warning from the chair umpire in the quarterfinals after a complaint from Nathalie Tauziat, the first player to lodge a protest.

In the match with Navratilova, Seles drew two more warnings.

The Wimbledon final was their ninth career meeting. Graf holds a 5-3 head-to-head edge, although Seles won the last time they met in the finals of the French Open, an epic three-set match that finished 6-2, 3-6, 10-8.

In their only meeting at Wimbledon, Graf won in two sets, 6-0, 6-1, in 1989.

McEnroe bows out to a standing ovation

Ivanisevic faces Agassi in today's final

WIMBLEDON, July 4: Andre Agassi swept aside John McEnroe 6-4, 6-2, 6-3 Saturday to reach the Wimbledon final for the first time, report agencies.

He'll face Goran Ivanisevic, who put on an amazing display of power serving to defeat Pete Sampras 6-7 (4-7), 7-6 (7-5), 6-4, 6-2 in the other semifinal. He had 36 aces and was never taken to deuce on his own serve.

The victory by the Croatian left-hander, who upped his tournament-leading ace total to 169, spoiled the July Fourth party and prevented the first all-American final since McEnroe beat Jimmy Connors in 1984.

McEnroe, playing in perhaps his last Wimbledon, couldn't cope with Agassi's crushing service returns and pinpoint passing shots.

The match lasted just one hour and 51 minutes. After McEnroe hit a backhand volley long on match point, the two embraced warmly at the net, with Agassi patting his opponent on the cheek.

Agassi is a surprise finalist, his game more suited to clay and hard courts than to the grass of Wimbledon. He has reached the final of the French Open twice and the US Open once, losing each time.

The three-times singles champion McEnroe bowed out of Wimbledon for the last time to a standing ovation from a packed and appreciative Centre-Court crowd.

The 33-year-old McEnroe, winner here back in 1981, 1983 and 1984 and ready to retire at the end of the year, had no answer for his opponent's awesome pace and power.

Although bright sunshine unexpectedly broke through the gloomy conditions, the Fourth-of-July fireworks which had been expected from the all-American confrontation failed to materialise.

Agassi never allowed McEnroe to light the blue touch-paper and restricted his friend and hitting partner to just occasional nostalgic hints of the magical tennis which once dominated the world.

For McEnroe it was an ironic end to his marvellous run at the championships. He had come through to the

last four unseeded just as he'd done as an unknown 18-year-old back in 1977.

The Ivanisevic-Sampras match hinged solely on who served best. The Croatian hit

Brett and kept an iron control over his old volatile self.

Even when he was down a set he remained totally concentrated on the job in hand — something he might not have been in previous years.

seeded Croatian in his clipped English after his win.

"I never keep my mind so well as now. One more day — then I can relax my mind."

Ivanisevic, who needed to be fitted with a back corset in his quarter-final clash with second-seed Stefan Edberg, said he had felt "not too much pain" against Sampras.

"Back is OK. I can't complain. I am still serving a lot of aces so it is good," he said, adding with a thought of Sunday's showdown: "Final is final. With sore back or broken back you go out to play and do your best."

Ivanisevic's best previous Wimbledon performance was to reach the semi-finals unseeded two years ago and force Boris Becker through a tough five-set match.

Asked about the clash with Agassi Ivanisevic admitted: "We shall see how he is going to return tomorrow."

"Twice in a row I beat him last year so he doesn't like to play me very much."

The left-handed Ivanisevic also said that he had worked out a strategy if he ran out of ideas in the final.

"If he is doing everything too great, then maybe I change hand. Maybe I start to serve with right one."



GORAN IVANISEVIC



ANDRE AGASSI

"I'm not afraid of anyone if I serve well," said the eighth-

WIMBLEDON NOTEBOOK

WIMBLEDON, July 4: Fans who had Centre Court and Court One tickets for Friday's washed-out play can either claim a refund or apply for a ticket for next year, reports AP.

This is the first year that Wimbledon has offered refunds or rain checks.

All England Club chief executive Chris Gorringe made the announcement to the fans after play was abandoned 5 1/2 hours after it should have started.

Fans who want a 1993 ticket instead of a refund will have to pay at 1993 prices, Gorringe said.

MAC ATTACK: Hear the one about the John McEnroe opponent who once needed psychiatric treatment BEFORE he went on court?

According to Dr Peter Tudor Miles, Wimbledon's official doctor, the player, whom he declined to name, went to him complaining of hyperventilation.

"He was due to play John McEnroe on Centre Court. He had gone rigid all over," Tudor Miles said.

"I got him to breathe into a paper bag and got him to turn on the television to take his mind off things."

"There was McEnroe on the screen. It made him worse."

Tudor Miles declined to name the player or the year the incident occurred.

Another player, who was in the world's top 10 at the time, went on court with a broken hand caused in a bar-room fight, said Tudor Miles, who strapped it up before he played.

And there was the case of the player who twitched every time he served.

After consulting various doctors, the player came up with his own obscure remedy.

"He tied a long shoe lace round his throat and knotted the other end tight round one of his teeth," Tudor Miles said.

"As a result his neck couldn't whip round when he served."

TONGUE THA'D: Having gotten used to pronouncing Slobodan Zivojinovic, Goran Ivanisevic and Manuella Makevragianni correctly, Wimbledon umpires have found two more tongue twisters among the juniors.

In the boys' singles was Sarawuth Yongchantanakul and another Thai player, Sudoop Chartuthiphpan played in the girls' tournament.

Thankfully for the umpires, they were knocked out in the first round.

SMARTEN UP: Ted Schroeder, who won Wimbledon on his first and only appearance in 1949, believes the stars of the 90s are scruffy.

"Most of the today's men are a bunch of bums," he said.

"Their shirt-tails hang out, their navels are on show and, of course, they need to shave. And they should get their hair cut," Schroeder said.

"If you are a champion you should like a champion."

Andre Agassi probably is the most hirsute with long, fair hair cascading over his shoulders. Three-time champion Boris Becker now has a ginger beard to match his ginger hair.

While several other lower ranked male players have pony tails, Pat Cash came up with a sumo-type knot to keep his long hair in order.

Exciting time for SA soccer

JOHANNESBURG, July 4: Triumphant soccer officials came home Saturday with their new FIFA membership and an invitation to play in qualifying rounds for the 1994 World Cup, reports AP.

"We are now living in exciting times," said Solomon Morewa, secretary general of the South African Football Association, after arriving from the FIFA meeting in Zurich. "Everybody now wants to play us."

FIFA, the governing body of world soccer, readmitted South Africa on Friday after a 28-year ban because of apartheid. South Africa hosts Cameroon for three matches starting Tuesday to officially return to international competition.

Morewa said FIFA confirmed South Africa's entry in World Cup qualifying, probably in a group with Zambia, Madagascar and Tanzania. FIFA officials previously said South Africa's readmittance would come too late to enter the World Cup, but withdrawals by other nations helped it secure

a berth. Brazil wanted to tour South Africa next year, Morewa said, and matches have been set up against Zimbabwe, Botswana and Swaziland.

"I cannot tell you how delighted and thrilled we are at all these fantastic developments which will gauge our strength," he said.

Political turmoil almost cancelled the Cameroon tour last week. Cameroon President Paul Biya suspended the tour after a massacre in a South African black township and the subsequent breakdown of black-white political negotiations on ending white minority rule.

But African national congress President Nelson Mandela met with Biya and persuaded him to allow the tour to proceed as scheduled.

Cameroon, quarterfinalists at the 1990 World Cup in Italy, will play South Africa's national squad in Durban on Tuesday, Cape Town on Thursday and Johannesburg on Saturday.

The players will be asked to wear black armbands and a minute of silence is planned at

each game to honour victims of the recent massacre in the Boipatong Township south of Johannesburg, Morewa said.

Soccer, by far the most popular game among South Africa's black majority, was the first sport in the 1970s where races mixed strongly. Most players and administrators, however, are black.

Top games in the professional national soccer league draw crowds of 50,000 or more.

During the ban, a few players managed to join professional teams abroad. Perhaps the best known is Jomo Sono, who played with all-time great Pele on the New York Cosmos club in the 1970s.

FIFA suspended South Africa in 1964 — barring the country from international competition — and voted to expel it in 1976. South Africa's last international match was in 1963.

Other sports bodies, including the International Olympic Committee, have readmitted South Africa in the past year to reward President FW de Klerk's reforms aimed at ending apartheid.

Africans fail to change FIFA

ZURICH, July 4: African soccer, dejected at Morocco's defeat by France to host the 1998 World Cup, were snubbed again on Friday when its bid to change the balance of power in FIFA was voted down, reports Reuter.

A proposal by Egypt, Tunisia and Cameroon to increase the number of members from soccer's junior confederations of FIFA's powerful executive committee which chooses World Cup hosts, won an overall majority but was well short of the three-quarters majority needed.

The three countries wanted an extra member from Africa, Asia and the North and Central American and Caribbean confederations on the 21-man decision-making committee effectively controlled by European and South American members.

The changes would have given the smaller confederations just two members less than the European and South American grouping, who are sometimes considered to act as a block vote. Cameroon Soccer Association, who supported Egypt's proposal, said they were naturally disappointed.

Mitchell couldn't care less about Lewis

STOCKHOLM, July 4: Dennis Mitchell, the new American 100 metres number one, has adjusted quickly to life without Carl Lewis, reports Reuter.

Lewis's sensational failure to qualify for either sprint event at this month's Barcelona Olympics has shifted the limelight to the new generation of American sprinters, headed by Mitchell and Leroy Burrell.

"I was kind of shocked Carl didn't make the team," Mitchell reflected this week. "But we haven't been together long enough after the trials to discuss it."

Analysing the trials, Mitchell said: "I thought Lewis and the Santa Monica group would kick some of the younger and weaker athletes out of their minds."

"It didn't happen in the earlier round. Then I thought they were going to come out in the semis and really blast and it didn't happen."

"So in the final I wasn't worried about Lewis."

Mitchell clearly believes sentimentality is for sportswriters, not athletes.

Asked if the absence of the defending champion and world record holder would detract from the Olympics, Mitchell replied: "Do you want me to send you guys a get well card? That's the best I can do."

Looking to the post-Lewis era, Mitchell said the Barcelona Olympic final could be as fast a race as last year's World Championship race where Lewis set the current world record.

"I don't see why not," he said. "Barcelona is going to be a very fast race and I hope to be in the hunt. At the present stage I consider myself the favourite."

"I don't think I've run the perfect race yet. The perfect race would be a world record and that hasn't happened yet."

Mitchell, bronze medalist in Tokyo last year behind Lewis and Burrell, is a known quantity on the international stage.

the World Championships to this year's American number one Danny Everett. He ran in the 4x400 relay team, which finished second to Britain, and clocked the fastest leg in both the semifinals and final.

"He has tremendous discipline, he's hungry and it's all new to him," Smith said before Thursday's Stockholm Grand Prix. Watts' first race in Europe.

Watts, who easily defeated Trinidad's Alvin Daniels and Britain's world silver medalist Roger Black on Thursday, was a multi-talented schoolboy athlete who excelled at basketball, boxing and American football as well as the track.

At the age of 14 he ran an astonishing 21.66 second for the 200-meters before his progress was halted by a series of injuries.

Tall, strong and confident, Watts is clearly an athlete of vast potential.

"I haven't reached the plateau that I want yet," he said before Thursday's race. "I want to be the best yet."

The Americans will again be prominent at Saturday's Bissett Games in Oslo, third and final leg of the Nordic circuit although world champion Michael Johnson has pulled out of the 200-meters.

Organisers said on Friday that Johnson, who ran the fourth fastest time ever at the US trials, was suffering from hamstring problems.

They confirmed European champion Linford Christie, who must fancy his chances of winning in Barcelona now that Lewis is not taking part, would run over 100 metres.

Christie has also entered the 200, where he comes up against Namibia's world silver medalist Frankie Fredericks, who defeated Johnson at the Rome Grand Prix on June 9.

The traditional highlight of the meeting, the Dream Mile, will not now feature Britain's Commonwealth champion Peter Elliott, who has withdrawn through injury.

The race will be an important test for Algeria's world champion Noureddine Morceli, who comes up against Italian Gennaro di Napoli, the man who ended a two-year unbeaten run at the Rome Grand Prix.

Morceli was almost beaten at the Helsinki Grand Prix on Tuesday and he looks well short of both form and confidence after missing nearly two months training because of a hip injury.



DENNIS MITCHELL ... 100-metre No 1

Quincy Watts, the third member of the Olympic 400-metres team, is not.

Yet his coach John Smith, a former world record holder for the 440 yards, believes Watts has the potential to slash Dutch Reynolds's four-year-old world record of 43.29 seconds.

"I told him he could break 43.29 when he was running 45.6," Smith said.

Watts gave up his place in

Ivanisevic serves one for Croatia

LONDON, July 4: Bispering Croatia's Goran Ivanisevic fired off a broadside against the world's number-one women's player Monica Seles just hours before his men's semifinal against Pete Sampras at Wimbledon today, reports AP.

"I hope she loses. I want Graf to win," said 20-year-old Ivanisevic, a Croat who has been actively campaigning for his newly-independent homeland since last year.

Seles, who will win her fourth consecutive Grand Slam singles title if she can beat defending champion Steffi Graf in eagerly-awaited women's final later Saturday, was born in Nout Sad, in the Serbian-controlled region of Vojvodina. But although she has lived in the United States since she was twelve, Seles has infuriated many by refusing to make any public comments about the fighting that has riven Yugoslavia.

The 18-year-old was already the target of a bomb threat during the Wimbledon fortnight and has sidestepped any political questions.

"Maybe she does not want to know her country anymore and she does not know which flag to live under," said Ivanisevic.

"But I'm torn up about what is happening. How does she feel? I am a Croat and I shall dedicate this Wimbledon to my people."

If Seles and Ivanisevic win the singles titles it could lead to a delicate situation at the end of tournament, for the new champions traditionally lead off the dancing at the Wimbledon ball.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS
- 1 Insensitive sort
- 5 Cassini of fashion
- 9 Chew the fat
- 12 Hautboy
- 13 Un-matched
- 14 Actress Thurman
- 15 Judy's daughter
- 16 Square every-where
- 17 Anderson's "High —"
- 18 Act
- 19 Bother
- 20 "Dweeb"
- 21 Ruin the veneer
- 23 Strigine query
- 25 Nymphs' pursuers
- 28 Shakespearean format
- 32 Spry
- 33 Stiller's partner
- 34 Half-mask
- 36 Tin-lead alloy
- 37 Anti-bellum?
- 38 Skill DOWN
- 39 W.W.II losers
- 42 Bear hair
- 44 Letter openers?
- 48 "— favor, senior"
- 49 Army post
- 50 Picture of health?
- 51 See next clue
- 52 With 51
- 53 Facility
- 54 Plato's H
- 55 TV's
- Jeannie father
- 56 Celeb
- 1 Adventurous
- 2 Theater award
- 3 Seep slowly
- 4 Start of a Bush quote
- 5 Kate Hepburn's quartet
- 6 Noisy
- 7 Nudges
- 8 Whiz precursor
- 9 Burlap base
- 10 Cupid
- 11 Beaver's
- 20 Follow-up to 4 Down
- 22 Where the action is
- 24 Bart's old man
- 25 Blue
- 26 Past
- 27 Comical Conway
- 29 Singer Cole
- 30 Prior to
- 31 Nicotine partner
- 35 Shoe style
- 36 "9 to 5" star
- 39 Church section
- 40 Delete
- 41 "My Friend —"
- 43 Desire
- 45 Neighbor's kid?
- 46 House down south?
- 47 Batik artisan, for instance
- 49 Lawyer's due

Solution time: 27 mins.

OKS	DIME	HEMO
PIT	ENID	OVAL
STARLETS	AIDE	
RITZ	AXLES	
MECCA	KALE	
ACHE	MOLASSES	
THE TARTS	TRA	
HOSPICES	JAIL	
IDEA	FIRES	
FUZZY	WOLF	
ATOZ	STARLING	
NANA	PINT	SOU
SHES	ANDY	HRS

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CRYPTOQUIP

VKRHJYAI DBZ KR KOKCPQZ
ZKHYB PRCIQVYKVC: IKO,
BD ABQZVP.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: I equals H

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.