

Germans denied golden double

BARCELONA, Aug 8: Boris Becker and Michael Stich ended South Africa's dreams of an historic Olympic triumph here on Friday, but American Jennifer Capriati denied Germany a widely-predicted second tennis gold, reports AFP.

Becker and Stich, who paired up to win the Monte Carlo title earlier this year, beat South Africans Wayne Ferreira and Piet Norval in four sets to win the men's doubles title.

But Germany's hopes of a golden double were dashed when top seed Steffi Graf, who had won in Seoul and at the Los Angeles demonstration event, fell to Capriati after leading by a set and 3-2.

The Springboks gave everything they had, but the former Wimbledon champions — particularly a resurgent Becker — were simply too strong for them.

Becker said proudly: "We have the gold and it's a very special moment. I think we are among the best players in a singles. Our game is serve and volley and that's why we can play great doubles together."

Stich was defensive about letting South Africa back in the match after a hard-fought tie-break in the first set.

"It's just frustrating when you're playing really well at the end of the second and they're just getting the racket to every ball," he said. "It wasn't our fault."

The South Africans, who had been watched by Olympic chief and veteran anti-apartheid campaigner Sam Ramasamy, had few regrets about the defeat.

Norval summed up the feelings of the Springboks tennis squad: "We're disappointed not to be taking the gold home, but we're the first South Africans to win a medal and we're pretty happy about that."

Ferreira was particularly moved by the medal ceremony and the flags.

"It was an experience I'd never felt before — something I'll cherish for a long time," he said.

Capriati will certainly cherish her first ever victory over Graf.

She showed great determination to overwhelm the runaway favourite, who gradually lost her way by making a string of unforced errors.

"It was really tough," said the American. "I just had to keep pointing her back to her backhand and just wait for the right opportunity to go down the line."

"I could have been more aggressive on certain points and made it a little easier on myself."

Looking to the future, the third-seeded Capriati reckoned: "I'll be going into the US Open with my confidence really high."

Graf, the world number two, paid tribute to the 16-year-old from New York and shrugged off the defeat.

"I'm not very disappointed," she said. "Capriati deserved to win. She closed up well at the end of the match and she played a consistent and patient game. That was her strength."

The turning point came in the ninth game of the third set, when Graf planted three consecutive returns into the net, fought back to deuce, but lost a protracted rally as the match slipped away from her.



OLYMPIC SPECIAL



Men's tennis singles gold medalist Marc Rosset of Switzerland is all set to return this ball from opponent Jordi Arrese of Spain during yesterday's final in Barcelona.

Rosset bags tennis gold

BARCELONA, Aug 8: Marc Rosset won the first Swiss medal of the Barcelona Olympics — and it was gold. The unseeded Rosset won the men's singles tennis title Saturday, overcoming a hostile crowd and outlasting Spaniard Jordi Arrese 7-6 (7-2), 6-4, 3-6, 4-6, 8-6, reports AP.

The final two points were long ones, and Rosset finished them both with forehand winners down the line. Then he fell on his back with his arms outstretched in celebration. Earlier in the game, Arrese led 40-15 when he hit a forehand near the sideline that was called out. Arrese questioned the call and the crowd jeered, but the ruling stood.

Midway through the five-hour match, Rosset appeared to tire in the hot sun. But clouds rolled in, the temperature dropped for the final set, and Rosset found his second wind.



A supportive crowd of about 7,000 responded to Arrese's comeback with singing, flag-waving, rhythmic applause in unison and frequent chants of "Jor-di, Jor-di." When Rosset double-faulted on break point to reduce his lead to 4-3 in the final set, the fans responded with a gleeful standing ovation.

ROK girls retain handball gold

BARCELONA, Aug 8: South Korea defended their Olympic women's handball gold medal Saturday, using team speed to overcome an early three-goal deficit and rout Norway 28-21 in the final, reports AP.

The Unified Team, grouping former Soviet athletes, beat Germany 24-20 for the bronze medal.

Superior size and strength got Norway, the 1988 silver medalist, out to 4-1 and 5-2 leads in the final.

But South Korea rallied to repeat the gold medal they won before home crowds at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul.

The Unified Team won the bronze earlier Saturday, beating Germany 24-20 to also match the performance of their predecessors, the Soviet Union, four years ago in Seoul.

Korea went unbeaten in the Olympics, the only blemish being a 27-27 draw with Austria in the opening round.

The Unified Team matched the bronze medal won by the Soviets in 1988, as Marina Bazenova and Natalia Morskova led the scoring against Germany with six goals each.

US girls dash Spanish hopes

BARCELONA, Aug 8: Overcoming a hometown crowd and a royal reception, Americans Gigi and Mary Joe Fernandez beat Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Conchita Martinez of Spain 7-5, 2-6, 6-2 Saturday to win the Olympic gold medal in women's doubles, reports AP.

It was the second medal for Mary Joe, who shared the bronze with Sanchez Vicario in singles.

Inspired by the entrance of King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia early in the second set, the top-seeded Spaniards won six straight games to take a 1-0 lead in the final set. But after Sanchez Vicario held serve to even it at 2-2, the US team won four consecutive games to win the match.

On the last point, Mary Joe hit a hard forehand volley that Sanchez Vicario barely got her racket on. Gigi Fernandez fell on her back in celebration, and hugged her partner when she got up from the red clay court.

The Spanish pair, both from Barcelona, took a 3-1 lead in the first set, breaking Mary Joe in the third game and then holding serve after saving three break points in the next game. But the second-seeded Americans broke Martinez at love to make it 3-3 and won the set on an overhead by Gigi Fernandez that broke Sanchez in the 12th game.

After the royal couple arrived, the Spanish pair quickly saved two break points and evened the set at 2-2 when Mary Joe hit a forehand over the baseline. The hometown team then broke the Americans twice and closed out the set on a service winner by Sanchez.

Neither team lost a set en route to the finals.

Natalia Zvereva and Lela Meskhi of the Unified Team, and Rachel McQuillan and Nicole Provis of Australia shared the bronze medal.



Siri Eftedal (No.8) of Norway squeezes his way through two South Korean opponents in the women's handball final on August 8 in Barcelona. South Korea won the gold by beating Norway 28-21.

Brazil upset US in men's semis

Cuban women win volleyball gold

BARCELONA, Aug 8: Cuba won their first Olympic volleyball title, and their first women's medal in the sport, with a spectacular 3-1 victory over the CIS on Friday, reports Reuter.

Excellent blocking and consistent play gave Cuba a 16-14, 12-15, 15-12, 15-13 win in the final and dashed the CIS team's hopes of repeating the success of their predecessors, the Soviet Union.

The Soviet women had the Olympic title four times, including four years ago in Seoul, and the World Championship four times.

The United States, silver medalists at the Seoul Games, took bronze by beating Brazil 15-8, 15-6, 15-3 in the playoff.

In the men's event, 1984 silver medalists Brazil and the Netherlands won through to Sunday's final with relatively straight forward victories over the United States and Cuba respectively.

Cuban spiker Mireya Luis, one of the most effective players of the evening, said a victory over the CIS was particularly sweet for her team.

"Between the Cuban team and the Russians there is always a tremendous feeling of rivalry because we are always competing for the same medals at the major competitions and perhaps because we play the same sort of game," she said.

Cuba boycotted the last two Olympics.

The CIS players are all from Russia and so are one of the few teams from the Commonwealth who will stay together after the Barcelona Games.

CIS coach Nikolai Karpol was unhappy with the silver medal.

"I think that we could actually have won with this team," he said. "I am only ever satisfied with victory."

A nervous Brazilian men's team were delighted with their 12-15, 15-8, 15-9, 15-12 semifinal win over the US.

"Last night the players got only about three hours sleep because this was an absolutely crucial match," coach Jose Guimaraes said. "Then we were very nervous when we started."

The Brazilians, accompanied by crowds of fans dancing and singing in the stands, tried to score as many points as possible on serve to start with, but overdid it and hit the serve out 13 times in the first set.

"From the second set we started to reduce the strength of the service and began to improve our defence and our blocking," Guimaraes said.

American coach Fred Sturm said his team had made things difficult for themselves.

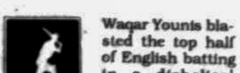
"I can't remember when we had so many over-the-line violations out of the back row, so that gave Brazil a lot of points," said Sturm, whose side will play Cuba for bronze on Sunday.

The Netherlands have been the revelation of the tournament, beating world champions Italy in the quarter-finals despite losing their star setter Peter Blange with an Achilles tendon injury.

Cuba, the world silver medalists, badly underestimated them and were stunned to lose 15-11, 15-13, 15-9.

"They didn't come out very well mentally prepared for the match and we jumped on them," Dutch coach Arte Selinger said.

Waqar has England on the rack



Waqar Younis blasted the top half of English batting in a diabolical spell of extremely quick bowling on the third day of the fifth and the last Cornhill Test between England and Pakistan at the Oval yesterday, according to BBC Test Match Special monitored in Dhaka last night.

England, trailing Pakistan by 173 runs on the first innings, were still 36 runs in arrears, being precariously placed at 137 for five in their second innings with Robin Smith batting with an unbeaten 59 and Chris Lewis not out on eight.

Waqar finished the day with the superb analysis of four wickets for 44 runs.

Alec Stewart was the first casualty, falling leg before to Waqar for eight.

Graham Gooch was snapped up by Amir Sohail off a Waqar stuzler for 24.

One-down Michael Atherton nicked one behind to debutant keeper Rashid Latif — who had earlier played a superb knock of 50 in Pakistan's first innings of 380 — again off Waqar for only four, far out of his defiant 60 in the first innings.

A rampant Waqar then shattered the stumps of David Gower for just one and the hapless Mark Ramprakash was caught at close by Mujtaba off leggie Mushtaq Ahmed for seven.

Robyn Smith batted doggedly till the end for an unbeaten 59 while Lewis remained unbeaten, albeit uncertainly, on eight.

Earlier, Devon Malcolm took three wickets before lunch as England fought back but could not stop Pakistan building a solid first innings lead.

At lunch Pakistan were 353 for eight — a first innings lead of 146 with two wickets in hand.

The tourists resumed at 275 for four overnight with Salim Malik on 38 and Asif Mujtaba on 31. After a frustrating day in perfect batting conditions on Friday, England had better luck immediately Saturday.

Within 30 minutes Malcolm had bowled Malik for 40 and had Wasim Akram caught behind by Alec Stewart for seven. Mujtaba became the third Pakistan player to reach his half-century, but was then run out by Robin Smith.

Malcolm took his fifth wicket when Graham Gooch caught Waqar Younis for six. Malcolm had five for 82 at lunch.

Rashid Latif, making his debut as wicketkeeper replacing Moin Khan, was not out 30 with Mushtaq Ahmed on eight. Despite Malcolm's efforts Pakistan look in control of the Test. Victory would give them the series 2-1 — their fourth consecutive series against

England. First innings 207 PAKISTAN: First innings (overnight 275 for four) Salim Malik b Malcolm 40 Asif Mujtaba run out 50 Wasim Akram c Stewart b Malcolm 7 Rashid Latif c Smith b Mallender 50 Waqar Younis c Gooch b Malcolm 6 Mushtaq Ahmed c Lewis b Mallender 9 Agib Javed not out 0 Extras: 36 (2 bye, 6 legby, 4 wide, 24 no-ball) Total: 380 Fall: 5-278, 6-292, 7-332, 8-342, 9-359, 10-380 Bowling O M R W Neil Mallender 28.5 6 93 2 Devon Malcolm 29 6 94 5 Chris Lewis 30 8 70 1 Phil Tufnell 34 9 87 1 Derek Pringle 6 0 28 0

Mallender, Devon Malcolm, Phil Tufnell.

Bowling O M R W Wasim Akram 11 2 19 0 Agib Javed 9 2 25 0 Waqar Younis 12 1 44 4 Mushtaq Ahmed 18 5 35 1 Aamir Sohail 1 0 6 0

Aussies have no illusions

COLOMBO, Aug 8: Australian Test captain Allan Border said today that Sri Lanka was a potentially dangerous side and should not be under-rated, reports Reuter.

"We have a healthy respect for Sri Lanka and its players. They are a competent side and we cannot drop our guard against them," he told a news conference.

The Australians arrived in Colombo on Friday for a three-Test series and two one-day internationals against Sri Lanka, in addition to two three-day games.

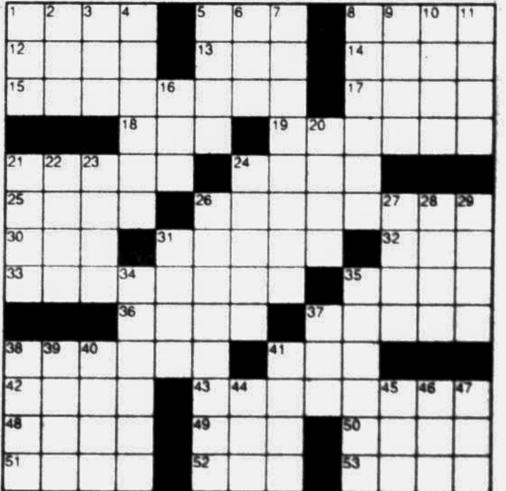
Sri Lanka is hosting a Test side for the first time since April 1987 when a bomb blast in the city cut short a tour by the New Zealanders.

Border picked Sri Lanka captain Arjuna Ranatunga and top batsman Aravinda de Silva as the two players the Australians would like to dismiss early.

"Ranatunga is a dangerous player. He has a lot of experience. De Silva is a batsman we would have to watch very closely," he said.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Biblical reproach 5 "Bei — Bist Du Schoen" 8 For Pete's — 12 Inland sea 13 Sioux Indian 14 Teen follower 15 Henry Hudson's ship 17 Actress Anderson 18 Free 19 St. George's toe 21 "A man — his own heart" 24 Hoover Dam's lake 25 Bar or house follower 26 Shoe-repair job 30 Entire amount 31 Civet's cousin 32 Brow or boy leader 33 Flag's position, at times 35 Part of a bird's beak 36 Bail 37 Ardent 38 Some vacation homes 41 Stately tree 42 Biblical ruler 43 Small person: slang 48 Alan Alda TV opus 49 " — See You in My Dreams" 50 River in Spain 51 Formerly 52 Footlike organ 53 Wander DOWN 1 Stadium cheer 2 Brazilian 3 Neighbor of Nev. 4 New York's Gov. Smith 5 "In the —" (Glenn Miller theme) 6 TV actor Robert 7 Poetic form 8 Caesar, et al. 9 Greatly excited 10 Gambling game 11 Emerald Isle 16 Russian space station 20 Actor George 21 Oriental Solution time: 24 mins.



CRYPTOQUIP

U P F Z Q F O D A A Q O E W V U P Z W S W P F V P A B P L S P X V V X W B V D E Q L D X S O " E D Q E D Q E D Q . "

Today's Cryptoquip clue: E 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.