

Seles, Sanchez fire up for a showdown

NEW YORK, Sept 12: Monica Seles, ranked No 1 in the world, was to play her fifth consecutive final at a Grand Slam event on Saturday as she took on Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in the

four seeds have reached the men's semifinals since 1985. Seles has won six of the last eight Grand Slam tournaments, skipping Wimbledon last year and falling in the final of the British grass court tournament in July. But it was at Wimbledon that her grunting

her voice midway through the second week. But against Fernandez, she was in fine voice and form. The only time Fernandez hurt Seles was when she inadvertently rifled the ball across the net after a point in the second set, hitting Monica in the back.

seed from Switzerland. "She is the type of person that if you sort of get a jump on her right away, she really doesn't come back," the Spaniard said. Sanchez Vicario so dominated her match that even Maleeva-Fragiere was im-



Top-seeded Yugoslav Monica Seles: Can she do it twice in a row? US Open women's title match, reports AP. It was to be Arantxa Sanchez Vicario's her second appearance in a Grand Slam final. The last time, at the 1989 French Open, she beat the world's top-ranked player at the time, Steffi Graf. Before the women battle defending men's champion Stefan Edberg was to face fourth-seeded Michael Chang in the first semifinal. Following the women's final, the second men's semi was to pit top-seeded Jim Courier against No 3 Pete Sampras. It was the first time the top

Spaniard Arantxa Sanchez Vicario first US Open final "She's very tenacious and she raises the level of her game when she has to," Fernandez said of Seles. "I think the score looks a lot easier than the match was. I was in it the whole way. It was a matter of few points." "It was a close match," Seles said. "But I always felt I was in control of it. I never let her into the match too much. I never let her too close except for the first set when it was 3-2." The fifth-seeded Sanchez Vicario was in total charge against Manuela Maleeva-Fragiere, the tournament's No 9

Lendl at the end of the road, feels Edberg

NEW YORK, Sept 12: Ivan Lendl pushed Stefan Edberg to the fifth-set, tie-break limit on Friday but his stirring effort was seen as a last gasp at the majors by the depending champion, reports Reuter. Edberg said that Lendl's near-miss at reaching the US Open semifinals was the last hurrah for the former world number one. "He's 32, he's played his best tennis," said the second-seeded Swede after wrapping up the 6-3, 6-3, 3-6, 5-7, 7-6 win after rain forced an overnight suspension early in the final set. "He is not going to get back to the level where he was in '85 and '86. I think that is impossible."

Lendl, who has not won a tournament in a year and has struggled through various injuries, had been the target of sniping from earlier forces over a perceived loss of nerve on court and snap on his groundstrokes. The Czechoslovak-born Lendl, playing his first US Open as an American citizen, answered back by grinding out a four-set victory over sentimental favourite Jimmy Connors in the second round. In the fourth round he beat seventh-seeded Boris Becker in an exhausting five-set marathon that lasted a tournament record five hours one minute. Despite his own close call, Edberg was not convinced that Lendl still had Grand Slam championship capabilities. "Once you get past 30 you

can still play good tennis, but you can't be as consistent," the second-seeded Edberg said. "It is a matter of fact. That is the way it works." Lendl reigned as number one from 1985-87. Playing with machine-like efficiency, Lendl pounded out three successive US Open titles starting in 1985 and won the French Open in 1984, '86 and '87. But since winning his second consecutive Australian Open crown in 1990 Lendl has been stuck on eight Grand Slam titles. "I think it would very, very tough for him to win it," Edberg said. "There are a lot of good guys out there today and you got to play several matches to win it." This year Lendl lost to Edberg in the Australian Open quarter-finals and in the French Open second round to

Jaime Oncins of Brazil. He was forced to retire with a sore back in the fourth set against Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia in the Wimbledon fourth round. Lendl, however, refuses to give up the chase. "I don't even think about it," the ninth-seeded Lendl said. "I mean you worry about it, I am not. It is going to come." Edberg, who saw Lendl fight off four of his match points on the way to forcing a fifth set in their quarter-final, was careful not to write Lendl off completely. "I'm 100 per cent sure he will win more tournaments. He is playing well enough to really threaten a lot of guys and he is going to be a danger for anybody." "He still thinks he can play good tennis," he said. "He'll be back next year, that is for sure."

After Mac only Sampras budes Budge

NEW YORK, Sept 12: Don Budge, who knows a little bit about the tennis Grand Slam, doubts any man will sweep the four major tournaments again, reports Reuter. Fifty-four years ago the Australian, French, Wimbledon and US championships were all won in the same season by Budge, the first player — man or woman — to accomplish the Grand Slam sweep. "There are numerous reasons why I don't think a male player will ever win the Grand Slam again," Budge, still vibrant at 77, said by telephone from his home in Dingmans Ferry, Pennsylvania. "Don't forget that only one other man, Rod Laver, a great Australian player, did it, and he did it twice before tennis became a busy professional 12-month sport. "Today, the talent is so abundant, no one player stands head and shoulders above the rest. Anyone can beat any other one." Indeed the chance of one man winning all four majors appears so remote that the question now is whether one country can. If an American wins the US Open this weekend, it would be the first time all four titles were in American hands in the same season since Budge's Grand Slam. This year world number one Jim Courier won the Australian and French and Andre Agassi captured Wimbledon. Courier is still alive in the US Open, as are countrymen Pete Sampras, ranked third, and Michael Chang, number four, along with Sweden's Stefan Edberg, the defending champion. All of them have won at least one Grand Slam but Budge doesn't see any way players today could win all

four. "They don't take time to prepare properly for the different games on different surfaces. They don't work on their weaknesses." "In my playing days, our season was eight and one-half months long," Budge said. "There was time to rest and heal wounds. We had time to get ready for the next season, even for the next tournament." "Confidence built up. I felt I could beat anybody." Budge pointed out Ivan Lendl as the only modern number one player he knows of who took time off the lucrative year-round tournament schedule to work on his weaknesses. Budge acknowledged that even with the advantages of his era, it wasn't easy to win the Grand Slam. "We had great tennis players ... (Bill) Tilden, (Fred) Perry, (Ellsworth) Vines (Jack) Kramer to name a few. Yet none of them was able to win the Grand Slam. Tilden, who some say was the best ever to play tennis, spent three months away from tournaments working to improve his backhand. But the Grand Slam is elusive. It's something you must aim for and go after 100 per cent." Budge will be at the UN Open this weekend for the first

nals. He will attend the tennis Hall of Fame dinner as a member and director of the board. He and his wife Lortel will sit in the US Tennis Association's box as honoured guests. "It doesn't seem possible my Grand Slam was so many years ago," he said. "I remember distinctly when Tene Mako, my doubles partner, and I boarded a ship in San Francisco for the trip to the Australia Championships being held in December of 1937. "I told Mako that on one had ever won all four championships in the same season and I was going to be the first. I guess I was hoping more than prophesying." Budge had won Wimbledon and Orest Hills the previous season, beating Baron Gottfried Von cramm in each final. The boat trip to Australia took 23 days, with stops in Honolulu, Pago Pago, New Zealand. "The trip was fun with time to limber up on tennis courts at each stop," Budge said. Budge won the four championships that year with the loss of only five sets. The tension mounted as each championship progressed and culminated at Poest Hills where he stopped mako in a six-day delayed final, 6-3, 6-8, 6-2, 6-1. "A hurricane caused postponement of this final for three days," Budge remembered. "And the tournament people extended the delay until the following weekend so the crowds could come out. "The match didn't make me nervous, the delay did." In an interview 30 years ago, Budge named his all-time top 10 players: Americans Vines, Kramer, Tilden and Pancho Gonzales, Britain's Perry, Germany's Von Cramm, and four Australian — Laver, Ken Rosewall, Frank Sedgman and Lew Hoad.

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Pete Sampras of the USA cannot hide his anger at one of too many controversial line calls during his quarterfinal against Alexander Volkov of the CIS on Thursday. — Star TV photo

Joyner sues LA city for \$2m

LOS ANGELES, Sept 12: Olympic gold medalist Al Joyner has filed a 2 million dollar claim against the city of Los Angeles, alleging that he was stopped, handcuffed and forced to kneel at gunpoint by city police because he is black, reports Reuter. Joyner, who won a gold medal at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics in the triple jump, said in the claim that police did not explain why they stopped him as he was driving along Los Angeles' Sunset Boulevard on May 8, 1992.

The incident occurred just days after the Los Angeles riots which followed the acquittal of four white policemen in the beating of black motorist Rodney King. "The police officer defendants stopped traffic in both directions on Sunset Boulevard in broad daylight and ordered Mr Joyner. . . From his car by loudspeaker, forcing him to kneel at gunpoint and handcuffing him in front of numerous officers and civilians," said the claim, filed on Thursday. Joyner was not officially charged with any offence. If the city rejects the claim, Joyner can file a lawsuit.

A spokesman said the city attorney's office will not comment on the matter during a 45-day review period. Joyner said he was so humiliated afterwards that he could not concentrate on training for this year's Olympic trials. The 32-year-old Joyner is the husband of Olympic champion Florence Griffith-Joyner and brother of Olympic gold medalist Jackie Joyner-Kersey.

British journal critical of IOCMC

LONDON, Sept 12: A British medical journal has branded Olympic medical experts who draw up lists of banned drugs "Scientific Amateurs," reports Reuter.

The Bulletin of Medical Ethics claimed the rules for policing drug use were unfair and had little scientific basis, saying there was a huge potential for mistakes in testing for anabolic steroids. In the latest issue, Editor Richard Nicholson said the International Olympic Committee's Medical Commission (IOCMC) was a "self-perpetuating oligarchy."

The sweeping attack followed drugs controversy which dogged the Barcelona Olympics and coincided with Friday's recommendation of the German Athletics Federation that a four-year ban be imposed on double world sprint champion Katrin Krabbe for failing a dope test. British sprinter Jason Livingstone tested positive for steroids and weightlifters Andrew Saxton and Andrew Davies were sent home from the Barcelona Games in disgrace after they were positively tested for clenbuterol, a stimulant and anabolic agent.

Controversy surrounded the decision because clenbuterol, sometimes used in the treatment of asthma, was not named on the list of banned drugs. Krabbe and fellow former East Germans Grit Breuer and Manuela Derr admitted use of clenbuterol and Krabbe's lawyer may appeal, citing experts as saying there was no connection between the substance and anabolic steroids. Nicholson claimed there was no evidence that clenbuterol was anabolic in humans.

"When such decisions are based on a total absence of evidence that any of the drugs involved could enhance any athlete's performance, it is hard to avoid the conclusion that the IOCMC is interfering unethically with people's lawful sporting pursuits," he said in reference to the case of the weightlifters.

Olympic solidarity course begins today

Sports Reporter The second Olympic solidarity sports leadership course under Dr WK Low of Hong Kong begins today at 10 am at the National Sports Council conference room. Forty persons including three sports journalists will take part in the five-day programme jointly organised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA). State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka will inaugurate the programme as chief guest. The first Olympic solidarity course was held from September 6 to 10 in Chittagong.

Lewis to spare sweat for future

RALEIGH, North Carolina, Sept 12: World 100 metres record holder Carl Lewis will skip a possible showdown with

Office(HBO) was one of the parties seeking to stage the race. Lewis, the 1984 and 1988 Olympic 100-metre champion, failed to qualify for the Barcelona Olympics in either the 100 or 200 metres after being slowed by a virus at the

Olympic champion Linford Christie at this month's World Cup in Havana in favour of a more high-profile clash with the Briton next year, an official of Lewis's club said on Friday, reports Reuter.

"Carl will not run in Havana in anticipation of a major race against Linford Christie next year," David Greflinger, legal counsel for the Santa Monica Track Club, told Reuter in a telephone interview from his office in Santa Monica, California. Sites in both the United States and Britain are being considered for a 100-metre race during the early portion of next year's outdoor season, Greflinger said.

"No contracts have been signed," Greflinger said. But he confirmed that the US cable television company Home Box



CARL LEWIS US trials. But he showed he was fully re

covered by winning his third successive long jump gold medal and anchoring the US 4x100 metre relay team to a world record. Christie, meanwhile, claimed the 100-metre gold, and promoters have tried unsuccessfully to arrange a clash between him and Lewis this year. The 32-year-old Christie will be in Havana as captain of the British team and will run the 100 metres. US officials were still attempting on Friday to finalise their team for the September 25-27 meeting.

Greflinger said there was a slight possibility that Olympic 200 metres champion Mike Marsh might run for the United States in Havana, but details remained to be confirmed.

The World Cup's late date is expected to deprive the event of many Olympic stars. The preliminary list of Americans shows only two 1992 gold medalists, shot putter Mike Conley, and Conley is expected to compete in the long jump.

DLV imposes ban on Krabbe & co

DARMSTADT, Germany, Sept 12: The German Athletics Federation (DLV) on Friday recomm-

ended a four-year ban be imposed on double world sprint champion Katrin Krabbe for failing a drugs test, reports Reuter.

DLV chairman Helmut Meyer told reporters the decision was unanimous. He said Krabbe had violated a spirit of fair play among athletes by taking an illegal muscle-building drug. Meyer told reporters the decision was unanimous. He said Krabbe had violated a spirit of fair play among athletes by taking an illegal muscle-building drug.

The DLV Board recommended that a similar ban be imposed on two of Krabbe's teammates— world 400 metres silver medalist Grit Breuer and Manuela Derr, a member of the East German team which won gold in the 4x400 metres relay at the 1990 European Champ-

onships. The board left it for the international Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) to confirm the four-year ban, which would last until July 2, 1996.

Meyer told a news conference in Darmstadt that the three members of the East German club Neubrandenburg had taken the drug clenbuterol from April to June this year. All three admitted at a final hearing of the DLV's Anti-Doping Commission on August 24 they had used the stimulant and anabolic drug. Derr was suspended the day after the final hearing. Krabbe and Breuer were suspended on August 14 after random dope tests in July showed they had taken clenbuterol.

Krabbe and Breuer have said they never knew that the drug was on the list of banned substances. Their lawyer, Peter

Woesner, had asked the Anti-Doping Commission to lift the suspensions. The four-year ban from international competition is mandatory in the case of proven drugs violations.

In June, Krabbe, Breuer and former world sprint champion Silke Moeller avoided a four-year ban for manipulating dope tests on a legal technicality after returning identical urine samples during random tests in a training camp in South Africa in January. The DLV was found to have no clause in its regulations allowing for out-of-competition tests and the IAAF decided not to impose the ban.

There was no immediate comment on Friday's decision from IAAF headquarters in London. The federation's general secretary, Istvan Gyulay, was on his way to an athletics meeting in Seoul.

Chang: A baby who can bite

NEW YORK, Sept 12: Michael Chang was 11 years old when he was first noticed on the international tennis stage and he remembers well his goofy beginnings, reports Reuter. It happened in Disney World.

Chang won an International Tennis Federation-sanctioned tournament named "Sport Goofy" in the children's paradise inhabited by Mickey Mouse and company. Five years later Chang won a more prestigious tennis championship — the French Open — and now he is the fourth-ranked tennis player in the world.

"You don't forget the beginning," said Chang, who became a semifinalist at the US Open championships for the first

time on Thursday night by beating 12th seed Wayne Ferreira of South Africa, 7-5, 2-6, 6-3, 6-7 (4-7), 6-1. "I had already won the boys (US Tennis Association) 12 years and under) championship. I was a member of the American team entered in the Disney tournament." Sport Goofy was a short-lived international event for 12 and 14 year division boys and girls. The best young talent weeded through qualifying events involving some 300,000 competitors from more than 70 nations, were gathered on the Disney courts in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. The year Chang swept to the younger group's boys title, there were other players from the 45 countries represented who are now quite famous. Among the boys in the 14-year division were Americans

Jim Courier, currently number one in the world, and Andre Agassi, the Wimbledon winner. Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands, who extended defending champion Stefan Edberg to five sets in the fourth round of this year's Open, and Sweden's Nicklas Kulti were also playing in the same Sport Goofy event.

And the girls' 12-year division was dominated by a grunting nine-year-old, 77-pound (35 kg), 4-foot 7-inch (1.4 m) stringbean—Monica Seles. Chang and Seles, now the women's world number one, won the competition for 12-year-olds. But Chang, American-born of Taiwanese heritage received the most plaudits. "Chang is the best 12-year-old player I've ever seen," said Mike Shore, then coach-manager of the United States team. "One like him appears only once in a long time. He was born to play tennis." Chang said that tennis wasn't a planned career. "Tennis was part of family fun when I was growing up," he said. "My parents and my brother Carl (now his coach) and I played tennis and my father was and still is my teacher." Chang says that his success depends a great deal on family. "My family is a supporting unit," he said. "That's the way I grew up."



Turning professional was a soul-searching decision. He was 15 years, six months when he became the youngest ever to win a main draw match at the US Open, eliminating Australian Paul McNamees. As US junior champion, he had received a wild card into the Open. Three months later, in December he was a member of the US junior team playing in Florida. It was there that his mother, Betty, wondered if the family should put Michael to the professional test. "It is not an easy decision," she said then. Two months later, when Michael was 16 he turned professional. "If things didn't work out, I'd have quit and gone on to college," he said. "Winning the French Open the next year opened a lot of doors for me." At 17 years, three months, he was the youngest ever to win the men's singles crown at Roland Garros. A gentle, soft-spoken person, he hates the hustle that usually accompanies the tournament tour. Fishing is his escape. "I love tranquility," he said. "I like to disappear for hours and just fish quietly. I'm more of a thinker." "They can't treat me as the baby of the top 10," he said. "I'm a baby who can bite."

Azad Boys' skipper Moby watches anxiously as a Dhaka Winners' eager fails to exploit a scoring chance in yesterday's Partex First Division basketball league match at the wooden-floor gym. — Star photo