

# Maradona's goal for Sevilla

VIGO, Nov 23: Argentine superstar Diego Maradona scored on a free kick Sunday—his first non-penalty goal since he returned this fall following a drug suspension—to lead Sevilla to a 2-1 victory over Celta in Spanish first division soccer, reports AP.

Maradona also assisted on the game-winner turning in his finest performance since he transferred from the Italian club Napoli in September after serving a 15-month suspension

for cocaine use.

The scoring came early in the match, with Yugoslav forward Vladimir Gudelj hitting in the fourth minute to give host Celta a 1-0 lead.

Two minutes later, Maradona blasted in a direct free kick from 23 meters (yards) to even the score.

The Argentine forward, who had two penalty goals to his credit going into the match, didn't wait long to give his team the edge. In the ninth minute, his corner kick found

positive for cocaine after a Napoli match against Bari. He had led Napoli to its first two Italian league titles in 1987 and 1990 and the 1991 UEFA Cup.

He was captain of the Argentine national team when it won the 1986 World Cup and in 1990 when it finished second to West Germany.

Maradona moved to Sevilla for a dirr 7.5 million transfer fee after he refused to return to Napoli to complete the last year of his contract.



DIEGO MARADONA

# Blackburn's goal drought ends

LONDON, Nov 23: Championship contenders Blackburn Rovers ended a barren run of four games without a goal in a 1-1 draw at struggling Southampton to move into third place in the English Premier League on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Blackburn came from behind after Matthew Le Tissier put Southampton 1-0 up in the 23rd minute for his first league goal since September 12.

Kevin Moran put Blackburn on level terms when he headed Gordon Cowans' precise free kick back past diving goalkeeper Tim Foweraker after 38 minutes.

Alan Shearer, Britain's most expensive player at 3.6 million pounds sterling (5.51 million dollar) thought he had celebrated his return to the club where he spent eight years with a goal. But his 33rd minute side-foot was ruled offside.

The draw took Blackburn ahead of Aston Villa on goal difference, but they lag five points behind leaders Norwich, the last team they beat, 7-1, seven weeks ago.

midfielder Ricardo Gonzalez Bango, whose header proved the game-winner.

The match ended in chaos with the expulsion of four Celta players. The tumult began when the Yugoslav midfielder Milorad Ratkovic was shown a red card in the 60th minute.

The hometown crowd responded by throwing objects at the referee. Several fans rushed the field, forcing an end to the game in injury time.

The win gave Sevilla a 6-3-2 league record and left the team in fifth place. Celta dropped to 3-4-4 and 12th place in the 20-team division.

# 68 fouls!

RIO DE JANEIRO, Nov 23: Corinthians did their arch-rivals Palmeiras an enormous favour at the weekend by beating Guarani 4-2 in a stormy Sao Paulo Championships match which was marred by 68 fouls, reports Reuter.

The result allowed Palmeiras, who beat Mogimir 2-0, to go two points clear of Guarani at the top of semifinal Group Two with one round of matches left. Corinthians are already out of the running.

The winners of the group meet Sao Paulo, who wrapped up Group One by drawing with Ponte Preta, in the two-leg final.

Guarani left the pitch furious about two second half refereeing decisions which they claimed turned the match Corinthians' way.

Referee Oscar Roberto De Godoi awarded Corinthians a controversial penalty, converted by Nilson, with the score at 1-1 and shortly afterwards blew for offside as Guarani forward Edilson broke clear at the other end.

The match was spoiled by constant bickering and cynical fouls by players on both sides but nobody was sent off. Guarani were a pale shadow of the team that beat Palmeiras 5-2 in midweek.

# Karlsson completes golden treble

ESPOO, Finland, Nov 23: Louise Karlsson achieved a golden double on Sunday to complete a remarkable hat-trick of titles in the European Sprint Swimming Championships, reports Reuter.

The Swede, who won Saturday's 50 metres breaststroke in a world best time, added a second world best in Sunday's opening 100 metres individual medley and then swung away with the 50 metres butterfly gold.

Karlsson had failed to qualify for the butterfly final, with only the ninth-best semifinal time, but teammate Therese Lundin pulled out and she seized her chance.

Karlsson deposed Dutch defending champion Inge de Bruijn in the butterfly and very nearly collected fourth gold in the concluding 4x50 metres freestyle relay when Sweden were denied only by a magnificent anchor leg from Germany's Franziska van Almsick.

Karlsson clocked one minute 1.03 seconds to retain the individual medley crown and sliced 0.58 of a second from the world mark she shared with China's Lin Li.

world best to win an exciting duel with Russian Nian Jivanevskaya in the 50 metres breaststroke in 28.57.

World bests were set in five of the 10 individual events and all four of the relays in the two-day championships.

Germany and Sweden headed the medals table with four titles each.

Jani Sievinen collected his third gold medal in the men's 4x50 medley relay in which the Finnish squad denied Sweden by just 0.06 and beat the US world best time by 0.62.

The Finns clocked 1:38.10, led away on the opening backstroke leg by Stevinen, who won the men's 100 individual medley in a world best time and retained his 50m breaststroke title on Saturday.

Olympic champion Alexander Popov, who had not specifically prepared for these championships, failed to make the men's 50 metres freestyle final.

Ukraine's Yuri Vlasov took the title the Russian won last year, outstripping Germany's Mark Pinger and Britain's Mark Foster, who had both beaten him in the semifinals.

The Briton, who won Saturday's 50 butterfly following the disqualification of Sweden's Jan Karlsson of Sweden, had to settle for the bronze behind Vlasov and Pinger in 22.38.

Russian Vasily Ivnov retained his 50 metres breaststroke crown, once again edging out Dutchman Ron Dekker. Compatriot Dmitry Volkov, whose world best time survived, took the bronze.

Voecker was another successful defending champion but she beat Jivanevskaya by a mere 0.09.

Van Almsick, 50 metres freestyle victor on Saturday, produced a sensational performance in the concluding 4x50 freestyle relay after Karlsson had sent the final Swedish swimmer Susanne Loo off with a body-length lead.

Forteen-year-old Van Almsick, quadruple medalist at the Barcelona Olympics, caught her rival in one length of the 25-metre pool and was a body-length clear at the finish.

The German quartet of Simone Osygus, Annette Hadding, Daniela Hunger and Van Almsick clocked 1:40.63 to beat the 1:41.30 world mark set by another German squad at the inaugural championships on home territory Ingelsenkirchen last December.

# De La Hoya's turn to change Barcelona gold into solid cash

INGLEWOOD, Calif., Nov 23: In the ring, Olympic champion Oscar De La Hoya likes to take his time, pick his punches. In everyday life, the teenager lives at a split-second pace, reports AP.

"Sometimes I think things are happening too fast," he said.

"But I've handled pressure since I was 14 years old, ever since people saw my talent in the ring."

That was just five years ago. The only US boxer to win an Olympic gold medal in Barcelona, De La Hoya makes his professional debut tonight at the Forum against Lamar Williams of Eric, Pa, whose record is listed as 6-2, with two knockouts.

The lightweight bout is scheduled for six rounds.

In the Olympics, De La Hoya fulfilled a promise he made to his mother, Cecilia De La Hoya, who died of cancer in 1990. Now he has new goals.

"The gold medal was for my mother," De La Hoya said. "A world championship is for myself. Now, this is all about me. Amateur boxing is finished with. My goal is to reach a championship and unify a title."

One person extremely confident about De La Hoya's reaching that goal is his trainer, Robert Alcazar.

"He's been boxing since he was 6 years old," Alcazar said. "In 223 fights as an amateur

he's had 153 KOs and lost only five times in a 13-year career. He's so smart with so much talent. He really knows how to use the ring. His kind of speed, you don't just see everyday."

"His punches, his jabs—whether it's his left hook, his right hook, left uppercut, right uppercut—are accurate and fast. No super fast."

De La Hoya's swiftness in



De La Hoya...turns professional

the ring is practiced in the pace he keeps to attend to the whirl of publicity and other engagements.

After returning from Barcelona, De La Hoya took two months off from boxing to settle into rounds of speech-making and appearances.

"He would average three to five engagements a day," his trainer said. "TV network interviews, radio stations, all

kinds of organizations want him to go to presentations. Elementary schools want him to talk to the kids."

Alcazar believes the boxer was prepared for instant fame.

"We've been educating him about all these things to come," the trainer said. "I was expecting this, but to tell you the truth, nothing this big."

Even De La Hoya was unable to fathom the celebrity and

over in three rounds. In professional boxing you go much slower. You can take your time in six rounds, pick your shots," he said.

"I like working into the body, taking my time. My favourite is a hook to the body, and working back up comes naturally. I like confusing the fighter and using fast combinations."

Alcazar has been training De La Hoya off and on for a decade, and trained him full time nearly two years before Barcelona, he said.

He attributes De La Hoya's honed skill to training him as if he were a professional from the onset and picking sparring partners including Julio Cesar Chavez, Gabriel and Rafael Ruelas, and Generao Hernandez.

"I don't work with this kid like an amateur," Alcazar said. "And he doesn't spar with amateurs. He spars with contenders. That way, we don't have to start over. We're ready now. We just have to keep going."

# Nat'l youth kabaddi on

SHERPUR, Nov 23: Tangail, Dinajpur, Satkhira and Sherpur DSAs reached the semi-finals of the fourth national youth kabaddi championship which began today (Monday) at the local Shaheed Dargah Municipal ground, reports UNB.

Defending champions Tangail DSA take on Dinajpur DSA in the first semis while Sherpur DSA face Satkhira in the other semis tomorrow (Tuesday) morning.

The final will also be held tomorrow, in the afternoon. LGRD and Co-operatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukder is expected to be the chief guest in the final.

Tangail beat Chandpur DSA by 32-9 points earlier in the morning and confirmed their semi-finals berth eliminating last year's runners up Narail by 22-20 points in the afternoon.

Hosts Sherpur, who defeated Bogra DSA by an impressive 30-11 points in the inaugural tie, qualified for the semis without any more effort as they got a walkover against Moulvibazar DSA in the afternoon.

Satkhira booked a seat for the semis beating Dhaka DSA by 32-13 points while Dinajpur moved into the semis outplaying Munshiganj 31-10 points in the morning.

Nine teams are participating in the two-day final round matches, jointly organised by the Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation and the Dhaka Divisional Sports Association.

# Ansars lead chess league

Sports Reporter  
Last year's runners-up Bangladesh Ansars with 12 and a half points led the table of the First Division chess league after the fourth round at the National Sports Council chess room yesterday.

Title aspirants Ansars trounced Noor-e-Alam Khan Chess Sangsad 4-0 in their fourth round encounter yesterday evening.

Konica Club with 12 points followed Ansars. Konica outplayed Tilak Chess Club by four points to nil.

Fancied Brothers Union, who played their third-round match yesterday, dropped half a point on their way to defeating Dhaka University by 3.5 points to 0.5.

Brothers now have 11 points while Dhaka University, have ten points from four outings.

Defending champions Bangladesh Biman, who also played their third match yesterday, beat Pony Electronics 2.5-1.5 to raise their collection to eight points.

Mohakhal Pradip Sangha beat Protibha Chess Organisation 2.5-1.5. Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation defeated Genias Chess Club 3-1 while Chalanika Krira Chakra drew with Farashganj Sporting Club 2-2 in the other matches of the day.

Meanwhile, Yemeni IM Hamed Mansour Qadhi, who is playing for Brothers Union in the league, will leave Dhaka for home today because of a personal preoccupation, according to Mahmood Ahmed Lodhi, the Pakistani IM, another Brothers foreign recruit.

Today Biman will face Farashganj, Ansars will take on Protibha Chess Organisation while Brothers will play Konica Club at the same venue.

# Navratilova can't deny Seles her due

NEW YORK, Nov 23: It was a scary sight for other players on the women's tennis tour: Monica Seles at the net, executing perfectly a diving backhand volley, reports AP.

Seles pounded out a 7-5, 6-3, 6-2 victory over Martina Navratilova Sunday to capture her third consecutive Virginia Slims Championships title and put a forceful stamp on her standing as the world's No 1 player.

"I think today is probably as well as I've played, and I got beat in straight sets on top of that," Navratilova said. "I played pretty well and she played great."

Seles dominated with pure power.

"It is amazing to me that she can hit the ball that hard that close to the line consistently," Navratilova said when the one-hour, 36-minute match was over. "There were very few balls she misses and a whole lot of them that she makes."

"She hits closer to the side-line than anybody out there, and also with pace and topspin, which takes you out of the court."

Navratilova once dominated women's tennis herself. In 1983, she lost just three matches in the entire year, something not even Seles has done. And Navratilova still is ranked in the top five in the world.

Even at age 35, Navratilova is a force on the women's tour, constantly putting pressure on

opponents by going to the net at every opportunity. Against Seles, it was a different story. She waited until the right time to leave the sanctuary of the baseline.

"You can't just come in on a

corner. On her own serve, Navratilova was forced to stay back if she didn't get her first serve in, so heavy were Seles' returns.

But by attacking at just the



MONICA SELES... in awesome form

prayer" against Seles, Navratilova said. "Unless you come in on a really good shot, you get burned."

In the opening game, Seles kept Navratilova pinned to the baseline, dictating the point. Navratilova was able to work her way to the net only once, and she won that point with a strong forehand volley into the

right moments, Navratilova got the first service break, beating Seles at love in the ninth game. That meant Navratilova was serving for the set.

Seles, though, wasn't conceding anything. She raised her power game to another level, rifling darts to the far reaches of the blue carpet at Madison Square Garden.

The 18-year-old left-hander, who hits with two hands from both sides, won the next three games, breaking Navratilova in the 10th and 12th games to capture the first set.

"In the first set, both of us went out swinging," Seles said. "I don't think both of us were playing it safe."

After that, Seles put on a ground-stroking clinic, throwing in that diving backhand stop volley just for effect.

"It was pretty close for a while," Navratilova said. "In the last two sets I got run over by a Mack truck."

After Seles punctuated a hard-fought, lengthy point with a perfectly placed smash from the baseline, Navratilova smilingly placed her racked on the court and bowed to the new ruler of women's tennis.

Her tears came later, not because of the loss but because of the warm ovation she received from the record single-session crowd of 18,257. They were cheering not only Sunday's performance, but her stellar career.

"When you give Monica a little opening, she just takes it," Navratilova said. "She hit the great shots when she had to and I didn't when I needed to."

"You get one chance to beat Monica. You don't get two."

With the victory in the season-ending, 16-player tournament, Seles picked up a check for dirr 7,500,000. Two-thirds of that, dirr 5,000,000, came from her winning the year-long Kraft Tour point standings.

# Courier doesn't like playing singles in Davis Cup

FRANKFURT, Nov 23: Jim Courier, the worlds top-ranked tennis player, said Sunday he would like to play only doubles when the United States meet Switzerland in the Davis Cup final early next month, reports AP.

"I am hoping just to play doubles," Courier said after losing 6-4, 6-3, 7-5 to Boris Becker in the ATP Tour World Championship final.

"I have been playing a month over here (in Europe). I am a little tired," Courier said. "It would be nice to just play doubles."

Asked if he was tired mentally or physically, Courier replied: "You name it. I got the whole spectrum of tired."

US captain Tom Gorman has picked Courier, Pete Sampras, Andre Agassi and John McEnroe to play Switzerland.

# Martina's moment of truth

NEW YORK, Nov 23: Martina Navratilova smiled through her tears on Sunday as she announced that

next season would likely be her last playing singles, reports Reuter.

"I do think my time has come," Navratilova told a Madison Square Garden crowd after losing to Monica Seles 7-5, 6-3, 6-1 in the final of the Virginia Slims championships.

"I don't want to make it a farewell tour or anything like that, but I do want to give the fans a chance to come out and see me."

Navratilova, 36, brushed aside tears as the crowd of more than 16,000 presented her with an extended standing ovation for her effort in the final match of the 1992 tour.

"It was a happy cry," said Navratilova, an eight-time champion of the year-ending tournament. "I don't know how many more moments I will get like this. This was hard on my

heart. So much for me being so tough out here."

Navratilova has celebrated her 20th year on the tour with another stalwart season. She won four titles, punctuated by beating world number one

Seles in the semifinals. A second-round loss at the US Open to Bulgarian teenager Magdalena Maleeva was the only blemish on the year.

Still, Navratilova said that keeping up the standard of excellence of her brilliant career, in which she was ranked number one eight times and collected a record 161 singles titles, was getting too tough to maintain.

"It's just really hard for me to keep everything together on a top level at this age," said Navratilova, winner of 18 Grand Slam singles crowns.

"I really have to take care of my body and everything has to be just right. You know when you're 25 it's much easier to overcome a pulled muscle or whatever."

Navratilova said there was also an emotional toll to consider.

"Mentally, the way I play the game you have to have a lot of heart and be willing to take risks, and I've taken them for a long time," said Navratilova.

# Courier decides to shun Grand Slam Cup

FRANKFURT, Nov 23: Jim Courier, who ended the year that propelled him to the top of the tennis world on a losing note, is shunning the forthcoming 2-million-dollar Grand Slam Cup for a much-needed rest, reports Reuter.

After being beaten 6-4, 6-3, 7-5 by Boris Becker in Sunday's ATP World Championship final, Courier said: "The consolation prize is my year on the circuit is over. I definitely

can do with a rest."

Courier, who becomes the first American to finish the year as world number one since John McEnroe in 1984, will now concentrate on next months Davis Cup final against Switzerland in Fort Worth, Texas.

"I really feel a bit tired and it would be nice just to play the doubles," he said.

Courier started poorly in the group stage of the year-ending ATP event featuring the world's top eight players, struggling to beat Dutchman

Richard Krajicek in three sets before falling to Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia.

The baseball fan from Florida made an outstanding start to the season by winning the Australian Open before retaining the French Open.

Courier, a player with incredible physical and mental strength who likes to wear down his opponents with powerful groundstrokes, looked almost unstoppable in the French capital.

"He plays like a machine," said losing finalist Petr Korda of Czechoslovakia.

Several leading players will make their last appearance of the season at next month's Grand Slam Cup in Munich, but Courier said he would not go.

"This tournament is nothing more, nothing less than a high priced exhibition," he said.

Courier's rivals all said he deserved to be number one.

Becker said: "Surely he doesn't have as much talent as McEnroe but he has talent and he has worked very hard."

# CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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5 Bank acct.

8 Bridge triumph

12 Art cult

13 The heart

14 Immense

15 Arabic letter

16 Breakfast treats

18 Go in great haste: colloq.

20 La Scala offering

21 Malay gibbon

22 Caviar

23 Adjust garments to fit

26 Ballpark treats

30 Vast quantity

31 Decimal point

32 Intelligence

33 Quick-tempered person

36 Marshall of TV and films

38 City on the Danube

39 Witch wife

40 Mild cigar

43 Souped-up cars

47 Washing-ton-Moscow linkup, and others

49 Dutch treat?

50 U.S. author/critic

51 Before

52 Mark or water lead-in

53 Await settle-ment

54 Harem room

55 Skier's hope

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1 Esau's

2 — Alto

3 Mine access

4 Kind of lottery

5 It flows in the veins of the gods

6 — beer

7 Museum display

8 Arranged in definite form

9 Skywalker of "Star Wars"

10 Teen follower

11 High tableland

17 Bird of the rail family

19 Row

22 Decom-

23 Hard-wood tree

24 Genn or Gorcey

25 Make lace

26 Mortar trough

27 Possess

28 Card game

29 Porky's place

31 Beaver barricade

34 Flung violently

35 Word in Mark 15:34

36 Butter serving

37 Plumed wading birds

39 Hebrew prophet

40 Roughen the skin

41 Box in a theater

42 Two lives for —

43 Crowd

44 Horse god

45 Part of a pedestal

46 Small merganser

48 Classic lead-in

Solution time: 24 mins.

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CRYPTOQUIP

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Yesterday's Crypto