

Capriati gives Huber no chances

SYDNEY, Jan 17: Sixteen-year-old Jennifer Capriati enjoyed the latest big pay-day of her short professional career today when she subdued Germany's Anke Huber 6-1, 6-4 to win the women's singles title at the New South Wales Open.



Jennifer Capriati of the United States lifts her Waterford crystal trophy up in the air after winning the final of the New South Wales Open tennis in Sydney yesterday. Capriati defeated Germany's Anke Huber 6-1, 6-4.

The Olympic champion picked up a cheque for 55,000 US dollars, almost 18,000 dollars more than men's champion Pete Sampras received on Saturday, after cruising to her fifth tournament victory in just 70 minutes.

Huber never struck her best form in a one-sided final. The American broke her serve in the opening game and gave Huber no subsequent respite on another stifling hot day.

Capriati had won all her three previous matches against Huber, who was playing her first final anywhere for 15 months.

"I really enjoyed myself... I hope I'm back next year," a smiling Capriati told the sun-baked crowd as she held aloft the engraved crystal trophy.

Capriati is now optimistic she can carry her good form into the later rounds of the Australian Open, starting on Monday.

Last year she appeared an unhappy figure, giving a tearful news conference after losing in the quarter-finals to Gabriela Sabatini, but she says she is in better mental shape this time.

"I'd like to think I can be more consistent," she said, responding to Pam Shariver's comments on the qualities still required in her game if she

wants to match Monica Seles and Steffi Graf.

"This year I'm thinking more, and have been working on changing my game. I feel I'm moving much better and my serve has improved. I can

hit a good serve and get a free point out of it easier than I did before."

Even so Huber did break Capriati's serve once, to love in the fifth game of the second set during a sequence in which

she won eight points in a row. It proved no more than a blip, however, with Capriati's extra power often leaving her opponent stranded in the corners of the court.

"In the second set I was getting very tired, I don't know why," Huber said. "I just didn't have a very good day. She served very well."

Huber won 24,750 dollar as runner-up and, at the age of 18, is poised to establish a permanent place in the world's top 10.

Capriati can aim still higher, starting in Melbourne. She plays fellow American Linda Harvey-Wild in the first round and, as seventh seed, is scheduled to meet second seed Graf in the last eight.

Volkov's title

AUCKLAND, Jan 17: Alexander Volkov of Russia beat top-seeded Mats Wilander of the United States 7-6 (7-2), 6-4 Sunday in the final of the \$182,500 Benson and Hedges Open tennis tournament, reports AP.

In the doubles final, Grant Connell of Canada and Patrick Galbraith of the United States, the top-seeded pair, beat Alex Antonitsch of Austria and Volkov 6-3, 7-6 (7-0).

Washington served for the first set at 5-3 after breaking in the seventh game, but Volkov fought back to force a tiebreaker that he won easily. That seemed to give the Russian a boost.

"In the beginning, I wasn't very confident at all," Volkov said. "But after the tiebreaker, I became more confident. I played better and after I broke him in the second set, I hardly made any mistakes."

Chang champion in Jakarta

JAKARTA, Jan 17: American Michael Chang crushed Carl-Uwe Steeb of Germany 2-6, 6-2, 6-1 in the final of the 300,000 US dollar Indonesian Open tennis championship here Saturday, reports AFP.

The 20-year-old American, top seeded here, gunned down the second seed Steeb, 25, in a tight game to win his first of the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) tour title this year.

Besides 39,600 US dollars in prize money, world number six Chang had the pleasure of revenge over 29th-ranked Steeb, who won the pair's previous two encounters.

Chang relied on his back hand spin lobs and volley drives especially in the last two sets to pick up his victory.

In the first set, the American bowed to the powerful left-handed Steeb whose winning forehand helped break Chang's service in the fifth a seventh games.

Chang committed several unforced errors in the first set, which Steeb took 2-6.

But Chang recovered on the second set, taking Steeb's service on the fourth, sixth and eighth games to finish the set at 6-2 as the German's confidence faded.

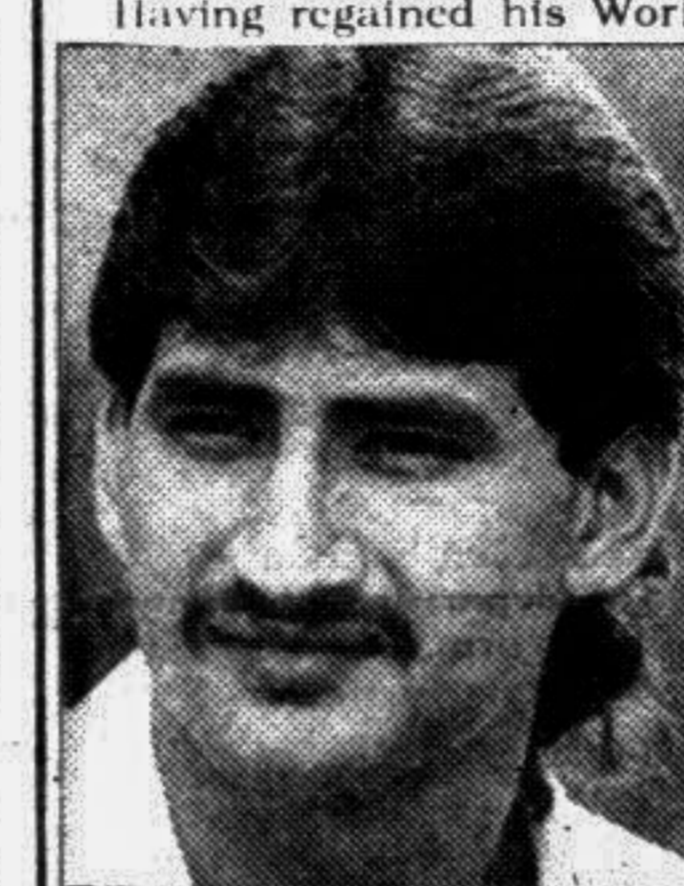
Chang took an easy 3-0 lead in the third set thanks to Steeb's uncontrolled long lobs and failed drop shots and went on to capture the set 6-1.

Jansher, Dittmar in semis

ZURICH, Jan 17: World number one Jansher Khan moved a step closer to a world squash clean sweep as he reached the last four of the 100,000 US dollar Super Series finals on Saturday, reports Reuters.

The Pakistani beat fifth-ranked Tristan Nancarrow of Australia 17-15, 15-6 in 47 minutes.

Having regained his World



JANSHER KHAN Open title and won eight other major events on the circuit in 1992. Jansher is clear favourite to win the inaugural Super Series final, which is being contested by the eight players who have gained most points in selected tournaments worldwide.

Jansher will now play Brett Martin, who defeated fellow Australian Rodney Eyles 12-12, 17-16, 11-15, 15-8 in 72 minutes.

Australian Chris Dittmar celebrated his 29th birthday with a convincing 15-11, 15-8, 15-14 win over England's seventh ranked Chris Walker.

Walker battled hard, especially in the third game, but was outgunned by the experienced world number two.

Arbie, Ye clinch Japan Open

TOKYO, Jan 17: Indonesia's new star Herianto Arbie and Chinese number three Ye Zhaoying put the badminton world on notice here Sunday by winning the singles titles at the 110,000 dollar Japan Open badminton championships, reports AFP.

Fresh from his first career victory in the Taipei Open a week ago, Arbie, who turns 21 Thursday, smashed compatriot Joko Suprianto 15-8, 15-12 to win the men's singles event, giving himself an early birthday gift.

Ye, who shocked Olympic champion Susi Susanti of Indonesia Friday, went on to win the women's trophy with a straightforward 11-6, 11-5 victory over Barcelona silver winner Bang Soo-Hyun of South Korea.

"Of course, it gave me great confidence. But I have little experience compared with my teammates, so I'll try to take part in many tournaments. Hopefully, I could win the World Championships in May," said the 18-year-old Chinese.

Her teammates, two-time Japan Open winner Huang Hua bowed to Bang in the semi-finals and World Champion Tang Juhong crashed to Lee Heung-Soon in the quarter-finals, but Ye gained sweet revenge over the two Koreans this week.

Ye defeated Chan Oi Ni of Hong Kong 11-5, 11-3, Christine Magnusson of Sweden 11-1, 11-8 and Lee Heung-Soon of South Korea 11-9, 7-11, 11-6 to reach the women's finals.

Ye received \$1,500 for her first triumph in the Japan Open.

"I felt no pressure against the Olympic silver medalist. I was able to read her shots very well so I returned well," Ye said.

"I am always determined to win when I compete in a tournament. I increased my confidence by winning the World Championship at Birmingham in May but I need more experience," she added.

Arbie, the brother of Indonesia's 1984 Thomas Cup hero Hasmono Arbie, continued his excellent giant-killing run beating Chinese world champion Zhao Jianhua, compatriots Olympic silver medalist Ardy Wiranata and bronze winner Hermanawan Susanto on his way to the final.

"It could beat them to win the title this week, but it doesn't mean I can beat them again when I meet them next time. I just know their play styles, because we have always played together," the Atlanta Olympic hopeful said modestly.

Arbie misfired his favourite jumping smashes, which completely destroyed Wiranata's strict defence Saturday, to go down 0-4 and 1-6 in the beginning, but he soon steadied himself and took a 9-8 lead. He never looked back.

"I was nervous in the beginning, but I didn't feel at all that I was losing and I was confident in turning the match round," said the Indonesian, ranked sixth in his country.

"Joko played at a slow pace. If I played slow, I would have been beaten. So I tried to keep being aggressive and hit many smashes. I just happy to win," added the 1991 national champion.

Ye was never in trouble against Bang as she raced to a



China's Ye Zhaoying raises the women's singles trophy of the Japan Open badminton championships in Tokyo yesterday. Ye defeated South Korea's Bang Soo Hyum in the final 11-6, 11-5.

comfortable 10-0 lead in the second game using long serves to cause numerous errors by the struggling Korean before winning the 30 minute match.

"I think she (Bang) was under pressure, because she is the Olympic silver medalist. I had no pressure because I couldn't compete in the Olympics," said the Asian champion.

"I could see all her shots clearly and I was confident in returning everything into her court. I just lost my concentration after taking a 10-0 lead in the second game and I was a little bit tired then."

"I feel great. I survived several tough matches this week, especially against Susi," added the Chinese.

The Chinese pair of Chen Kang and Chen Hongyong beat the Thai team of Pramote Teerarawitana and Sakrapet Thongsari 15-10, 15-10 for the men's doubles title, worth \$1,700.

The women's doubles crown went to South Koreans Chung So-young and Gil Young-ah, who downed the Indonesian pair of Finarsih and Lili Tampi 15-12, 15-5 and won \$1,600.

SWISS SUCCESS

CORTINA D'AMPEZZO, Italy, Jan 17: Swiss ace Vreni Schneider dominated the first run of Sunday's women's World Cup slalom race, leading the opponents by at least one second, reports AP.

The Swiss skier, shooting for her second season victory, mastered the Pale di Rumerlo course in 45.79 seconds.

Eli Eder edged Austrian teammate Karin Buder for the second place in the first heat, which had 56 gates and a vertical drop of 160 meters.

Eder trailed Schneider by 1.02 seconds. Buder had a gap of 1.13.



Md Kamruzzaman of Dainik Bangla (L) and A K M Mohsin of The Daily Star were elected president and general secretary respectively of the newly-formed Bangladesh Sports Photo-journalists' Association at its meeting at the Jatiya Press Club Saturday.

Off-balance India: Challenging task ahead

The Indian cricket team has returned home from their 'friendship tour' of South Africa in a listless condition—their confidence thoroughly shaken and their morale at its lowest. They were caught off-balance by the pace and bounce of the South African wickets and the home team's relentless battery of pacemen spearheaded by Allan Donald, who very ably justified his standing as the fastest white bowler in present day cricket.

On return from a dismal tour, they are not going to have a respite to get back their breath, as they will soon be measuring up to the challenge of Graham Gooch's England, who are already in India to play six one-dayers, now starting on the 18th January, and three Tests, the first of which is scheduled to start in Calcutta on 29th January.

The performance of the Indian cricketers in South Africa was, to say the least, far below expectation and left a lot to be desired. Their batting failed them miserably. On the fast bouncy wickets Indian batsmen failed to negotiate the relentless pace attack and at times it appeared they even lacked the technique to cope with the balls rising up to waist height or above. Their proneness of succumbing to the rising away swingers on or outside the offstump was so regular that hardly it appeared that they had ever played against such an attack. Their inability to play shots square of the wicket of the back foot was obvious. They found the pace rather too much to cope with. Of course, the South African bowlers allowed very few loose deliveries and very little room for the batsmen to play their shots. And O'Brien went as far as to say that Indian batting behaved "like a virgin out on her first date."

It was apparent that the Indian batsmen were ill-equipped in their technique as well as in their temperament. Playing on rather docile Indian wickets the batsmen are not likely to acquire the required temperament and technique. Their showing in their last year's tour of Australia and on their current tour leave little doubt about this drawback of Indian batting. It's not that they lack in talent and flair; what they lack is the habit and temperament of facing up to persistent attack at a good pace rising up to their waist line or above.

It is indeed a sad commentary on Indian batting when we consider that in seven 50 over one-dayers India could reach 200 or above in only three matches, of which they won two mainly due to valiant efforts from Woorkeri Raman (113) and Pravin Amre (84 n.o.). In the other match the fifth one-dayer, where India reached 207 for 4 mainly, due to an aggressive and desperate looking innings of 86 from skipper Muhammad Azharuddin. But the total was not good enough on a rather easy-paced wicket at Edenburg as South Africa easily knocked off 208 for the loss of only two wickets. Andrew Hudson's 106

saw his team clinch the one-day series 4-1. India could only win the last one-dayer to make it 2-5.

India's top order batsmen did not really come off. Their teenage batting sensation Sachin Tendulkar could compile only 144 in 7 matches (av. 20.57), his highest score being 32. In every match he did the initial hard work of settling down, but could never get on top of the bowling, which his teammates and countrymen hoped for all the time. Neither did Muhammad Azharuddin, their captain, find himself in his own mould until the fourth match and there too he departed when he looked like getting on top of the bowling. Sanjay Manjrekar was a complete failure in the one-dayers. Only Woorkeri Raman could derive some satisfaction from his innings of 113, which won the third match of the series for India. Ajay Jadeja had all the promise, but failed to flourish after initial hard work in all the matches. Pravin Amre, and for that matter Manoj Prabhakar, showed occasional courage and the former's brilliant undefeated 84 won the last match of the series for his side, and 2-5 looked a little better than 1-6.

In one-day matches Indian bowlers could hardly put any pressure on the South African batsmen. Kapil Dev, the veteran, did the containment worked well with the new ball, but could hardly do the same in his second spell. Same is

that Indians were outplayed in all the departments of the game.

The Indians could hardly give a better account of themselves in the Tests, a form of game in which the present South African team had very little experience. South Africa won the four match series 1-0. The first two were rain interrupted draws, the third was won by South Africa despite Kapil Dev's swashbuckling 129 in the second innings which retrieved India's plight from 6 for 31 to 215. The last Test was also a draw.

In Tests also the Indian batsmen failed to deliver the goods. They were too timid against the pace attack scoring about two runs an over in whole days play and losing wickets at regular intervals. Pravin Amre's 103 in the first Test and Sachin Tendulkar's 111 in the second were match saving efforts, but Kapil's brilliant 129 in the third could not save the day for India. Allan Donald (20 wickets at 19.70) and Brian McMillan (13 wkts at 23.62) were the main wreckers. Indian batsmen found it difficult to score freely off the tight South African bowling, backed up by excellent fielding. Mike Proctor must have felt satisfied to have succeeded in wedding a young talented side into a winning combination.

It is indeed unfortunate for Muhammad Azharuddin to find his team sliding into the habit of losing. And it would need

whose re-entry is definitely going to augment their batting strength.

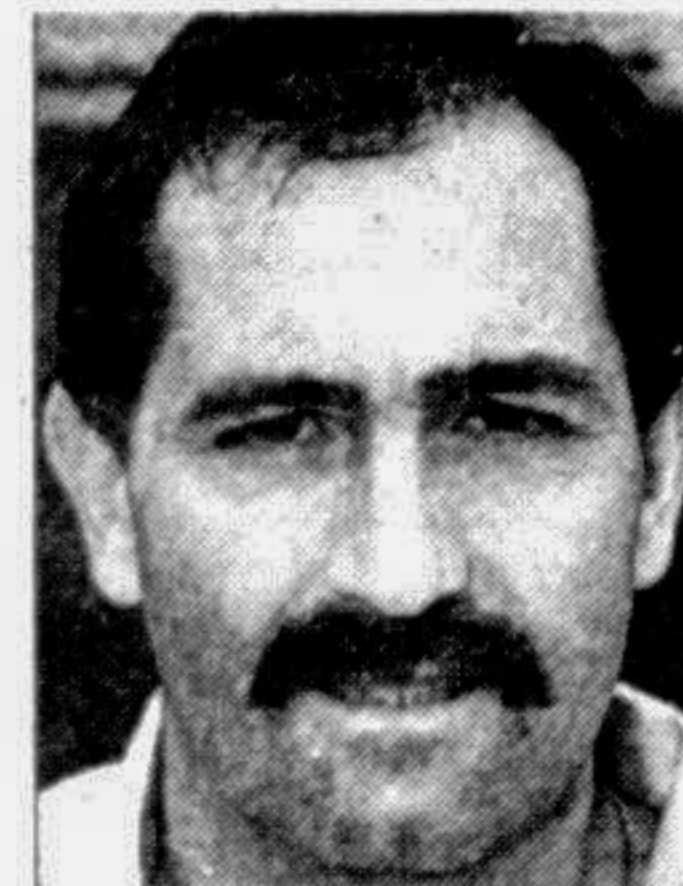
Getting, and avowedly master player of spin bowling, averages 38.09 with an aggregate of 3848 in 67 Tests, while his skipper's aggregate in 99 Tests stands at 7573 at an average of 43.77. Robin Smith is the only batsman in the side to have an average of slightly over 50, 50.86 to be exact in 36 Tests. Alec Stewart, a very gritty player, averages 40.91 in 22 Tests. Graeme Hick, already an enigma to English cricket, has to prove his worth in Tests; so far in 11 Tests he has compiled only 307 at 18.06.

England's bowling cannot really be rated as top class. Devon Malcolm, the quickest of the lot, may not find the Indian wickets to his liking. Philip DeFreitas, the experienced hand, is likely to be effective. Peter Taylor, the new face in the pace department, may make up his lack of experience with enthusiasm and ability, which earned him a place in the touring party. Three allrounders—Chris Lewis, Dermot Reeve and Paul Jarvis—maybe a point of strength in the limited over matches. The performance of the English spin attack consisting of the experienced John Emburey, who had a good haul in 1987 World Cup on Indian wickets and Phil Tufnell, will be vital in the outcome of the series. But the Indian batsmen, who are used to playing against top class spinners, may not be that easy prey for the spinning duo.

The sooner the Indian cricketers shake off the memories of South African debacle the better it is for Indian cricket. Sachin Tendulkar, yet to play a Test on home grounds, averages 39.93 with 1158 runs in 20 Tests. Muhammad Azharuddin is still India's leading batsman with an average of 45.04 in 50 Tests—his total stands at 3288. These two talented players are suffering from pressure of fame and expectation. Fame and pressure go hand in hand and the more famous one becomes the greater the pressure is.

Sachin is only 19 and in the present Indian team his position is as such that he is expected to score every time he goes out to bat. After South Africa both these players will be under tremendous mental pressure and will be keen to do well on home grounds. Hope they do not become too keen and end up in disappointment. The coming series is going to be crucial for both Azhar and Sachin. One can only imagine how glorious the game of cricket would be if these two are able to cast aside pressure and play their natural game. One outstanding mance from its talented players can bring Indian cricket back to its steady course.

A home series could very well usher in the beginning of that process. Kepler Wessell's remark that the Englishmen 'will not find it all that easy' may not just be a word of encouragement for the vanquished visitors, he may have expressed the feeling of an experienced cricket-mind.



GRAHAM GOOCH



M AZHARUDDIN

true for Manoj Prabhakar. Javagal Srinath was inconsistent. Anil Kumble did his job well, but he could hardly run through the batting on wickets which yielded very little turn. But the absence of the fifth bowler gave the South African batsmen the opportunity of getting on top of the bowling, which, in all fairness, was workmanlike without any penetrative power.

On the other hand, the South African pace quartet—Allan Donald, Fanie de Villiers, Brian McMillan, and Craig Matthews—gave little respite to the Indian batsmen, who got very very few loose deliveries to gain a feeling of confidence on the crease. The supportive role of Hansie Cronje and Dave Callaghan, filling the fifth bowler's quota, was good enough and did not allow any breathing space to the Indian batsmen. Above all these was the overwhelming superiority of the South Africans in fielding, so vital a part of one-day cricket. One cannot but feel

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Actress
 - 5 Field diligently
 - 8 Party giver
 - 12 Composed
 - 13 Caviar
 - 14 Lotion ingredient
 - 15 Dolts
 - 17 Zhivago's love
 - 18 — for the money
 - 19 Cuckoo
 - 20 Propose
 - 21 Broadway success
 - 22 Stick out
 - 23 Dull or stale
 - 26 Regular customers
 - 30 City on the Oka
 - 31 Make public
 - 32 Venezuela copper center
 - 33 Armed conflict
 - 35 Oak-to-be
 - 36 Bride part
 - 37 Lodge member
 - 38 Get lost!
- DOWN**
- 1 She loved Narcissus
 - 2 Bank business
 - 3 Flatfish
 - 4 TV comedy series
 - 5 Use block letters
 - 6 French novelist
 - 7 "Sure!"
 - 8 Army vehicle
 - 9 King of Norway
 - 10 Tender
 - 11 Lachrymal drop
 - 16 Cry long and loudly
 - 20 Umpire's call
 - 21 Not completely thought out
 - 22 Food
 - 23 Silent star
 - 24 Brazilian macaw
 - 25 Saul's relative
 - 26 Boston cream, for one
 - 27 Gold, to Juan
 - 28 And not
 - 29 — Antonio
 - 31 Museum commodity
 - 34 Ultimate goal
 - 35 Arabic letter
 - 37 Lamprey fisherman
 - 38 Source of 13 Across
 - 39 Pith
 - 40 Routine
 - 41 Finger or fish lead-in
 - 42 Lobster's "lung"
 - 43 Pilaster
 - 44 Corset support
 - 46 Chapeau
 - 47 — (Man game)

Solution time: 27 mins.

A	P	E	A	L	E	M	A	S	T		
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A	R	I	L	P	O	E	R	A	P	T	
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51						52			53		

CRYPTOQUIP
 U G A V E Q V N N E G Q
 D A D X A B Y ? W R M R D Q X E
 E G V E G A U V B O G V O
 V G V Y O W Y W E
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: TO THE WELL-TRAINED STUDENT WHO FINISHED FIRST IN BARBER SCHOOL, OUR HATS ARE OFF.
 Today's Cryptoquip clue: G 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.