

Lendl follows Becker's tracks

MELBOURNE. Jan 19: First it was Boris Becker. Then Ivan Lendl. Swede Christian Bergstrom upset No 8 seed Ivan Lendl 6-4, 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 Tuesday in the first round of the men's singles at the Australian Open, reports AP.

On Monday, fellow Swede Anders Jarryd upset former champion Becker.

Bergstrom, a 25-year-old ranked 62 in the world, took advantage of Lendl's lack of match practice. He had been unable to play warmup matches because of a groin injury.

Lendl, the 32-year-old No 8 seed, suffered a first round loss in a Grand Slam for the first time since Wimbledon in 1981, when he lost to Australian Charlie Fancutt.

Two-time champion Stefan

Edberg and sixth-seed Michael Chang began their campaigns with impressive straight-set victories on a day when 26,214 fans — the largest attendance in the 88-year history of the event — came through the gates.



IVAN LENDL

Sampras storms into Round 2

MELBOURNE, Jan 19: World number three Pete Sampras dazzled the Australian Open tennis Tuesday night with the performance of the tournament to destroy German Carl-Uwe Steeb in straight sets, reports AP.

Sampras, fresh from his New South Wales Open triumph last Saturday, hammered the 27-ranked Steeb, 6-1, 6-2, 6-1 in just 76 minutes.

The 1990 US Open champion provided breathtaking show of his skills, with eight aces and a combination of scaring forehands and backhands.

There was little Steeb could do as the 21-year-old American ripped apart his service game, breaking him a total of seven times.

Sampras held a total of 10 break points and successfully negated Steeb's three break points against him in his second service game of the night.

Sampras is in the bottom half of the draw and scheduled to meet Stefan Edberg in the semifinals.

"I played really well tonight," said Sampras afterwards. "I didn't serve all that great my timing of my service was little bit off, but I was hitting my groundstrokes as well as I could."

Sampras' next opponent in the second round will be Swede Magnus Larsson, who overcame South African Marcos Ondruska in straight sets in the first round.

Edberg, the No 2 seed from Sweden, celebrated his 27th birthday by outgunning Mexican Leonardo Lavalle 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.

Chang, who arrived Down Under only Sunday, looked very much at home on the synthetic Rebound Ace courts as he downed English qualifier Chris Bailey 6-3, 6-1, 6-1 in just one hour 37 minutes.

Edberg has won the tournament twice on grass at Kooyong, but never at the National Tennis Centre, where the tournament moved five years ago.

"It's not going to be easy. There are a lot of good players here," Edberg, the US Open champion, said. "I always set a goal to win at least one Grand Slam tournament a year and I still feel eager. That's important."

The Swedish second seed, whose birthday always coincides with the year's first Grand Slam tournament, served particularly well during the match and was in good form afterwards too, blowing out the candles on his obligatory cake with one easy breath.

"At least I've got a good record... I've won on all my birthdays," said Edberg, a twice-winner of the men's title, doing his best to look surprised when his cake was carried in.

"Today was nothing magic. I did what I had to do but I

thought I served pretty well."

In fact, Edberg dropped only four points in eight successive service games after being broken at his first attempt, a level of consistency which Lavalle, like many before him, found impossible to match.

Even more memorable was Edberg's finely-judged angled drop-shot at full stretch which set up the crucial first break for 5-4 in the first set, a sign that he is still hungry for further success after a decade of top professional competition.

"It's still my goal to be number one," admitted the current world number two. "If you win in Australia it takes some of the pressure off for the rest of the year."

"So far, so good... after this tournament, Courier, Sampras or I could be number one."

GRAF WINS EASY SABATINI STRIVES

In the women's singles, three-time winner Steffi Graf of Germany overwhelmed error-prone Nathalie Herrerman of France 6-2, 6-1 in just 54 minutes.

Graf had to pull out of last year's Open with rubella and said she was motivated.

"I'm ready for it," she said. "It's difficult to say what shape I'm in, but I felt fairly good today."

No 3 seed Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina found her route to the second round strewn with more obstacles.

Sabatini had to save four set points in the second set before defeating hard-hitting American teenager Chanda Rubin 6-1, 7-5.

Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain, the No 4 seed who split with her coach Mervyn rose on the eve of tournament, downed Noelle van Lottum of France 6-2, 6-3.

"I'm not too worried. I'm playing well," said Sanchez Vicario. "We didn't communicate well and Merv wasn't teaching me the things I needed to improve my game."

Chang, meanwhile, delighted the crowd with a flamboyant shot from behind his back in the first set and quickly established control against Bailey.

From 3-3 in the first set, Chang won 15 of the next 17 games, including a stretch of 11 in a row.

Chang mixed up his game superbly, serving strongly and nipping passing shots against the jumpy Bailey. The American looked confident coming to

the net and volleyed crisply.

"He pounces on all those small chances," Bailey said. "He's in with a good shot here."

Bailey is nine inches (21-centimetres) taller than Chang, but was never able to use his physical advantages against an opponent who has spent the last 18 months working on being more aggressive.

"I have to do things a little better, or a little different," Chang said. "My mentality has to change, and it's tough making that transition."

Chang earned a second round meeting with unseeded compatriot David Wheaton, who fought his way past Australian Sandon Stolle 7-6 (7-5), 6-3, 2-6, 6-2.

"Chang is the fastest player in the world and mentally the toughest player in the world," said Wheaton, an Australian Open quarterfinalist in 1990.

Wayne Ferreira of South Africa, seeded 10 and a semifinalist here last year, beat American Todd Martin 6-4, 6-4, 6-2, while No 13 MaliVai Washington of the United States downed compatriot Francisco Montana 7-5, 6-2, 6-3.

Also advancing in the men's draw was No 16 Alexander Volkov of Russia, 7-5, 6-4, 6-1 winner over Gabriel Markus of Argentina.

Markus' compatriot Sabatini looked very uncomfortable against Rubin, 16, in a mistake-filled match.

Rubin twice served for the second set but her nerves failed her both times.

"I fought very hard in those moments. That's the only reason I won," Sabatini said.

Rubin's 64 unforced errors also contributed.

Sabatini, who served nine double faults, said Rubin needs to be calmer in a crisis.

"She can be a good player, but she needs to be more stable, more consistent," Sabatini said. Jennifer Capriati, seeded No 7, took only 48 minutes to beat fellow American Linda Harvey-Wild 6-0, 6-1.

French baseliner Mary Pierce, the No 10 seed, advanced with a 6-2, 6-2 win over Australian Jenny Byrne, while No 12 Lori McNeil of the United States progressed with a 6-2, 6-3 win over Australian wild card Nichelle Jaggard-Lai.

The Open, sponsored by Ford, offers total prize money of US \$1.482 million and continues through Jan 31.

Ondieki takes on McColgan in London Marathon

LONDON, Jan 19: Australian Lisa Ondieki, 1992 New York marathon winner, takes on Britain's Liz McColgan, world 10,000 metres champion, in the London Marathon on April 18, reports Reuter.

Both bounced back from disappointment at the Barcelona Olympics, McColgan with her world half-marathon win in September and Ondieki with her New York triumph in November.

The London race produced the world's best time for women when Norway's Ingrid Kristiansen clocked two hours 21 minutes six seconds in 1985.

C'wealth Games formality

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 19: Malaysia on Tuesday formally accepted the host role for the 1998 Commonwealth Games, reports AP.

In an acceptance ceremony, Olympic Council of Malaysia President Hamzah Abu Samah handed over 75,000 pounds (US \$120,000) to Commonwealth Games Federation Chairman A de O Sales of Hong Kong.

Under the contract, a total of 300,000 pounds (US \$480,000) has to be paid in five installments within five years.

"We are confident that we will be able to fulfil our commitments for the 1998 Games," Hamzah said.

Sales said the 1998 Kuala Lumpur Games will be a significant event — the first Commonwealth Games held in Asia and the second staged outside the developed countries of the Commonwealth.

Kuala Lumpur won the host role by a 40-25 vote over Adelaide, Australia, in Barcelona last July.

Money can't heal Reynolds' wound

NEW YORK, Jan 19: Money — not even \$19.2 million owed him by track and field's world governing body — can't heal the wounds inflicted on Butch Reynolds, he says, reports AP.

Money — which has been lacking the past 1 1/2 years but could come in a windfall if Reynolds receives his due from the International Amateur

Athletic Federation — also won't keep him from competing in the near future.

Reynolds, the world record-holder at 400 metres, was banned from competition for two years by the IAAF after being accused of testing positive for the anabolic steroid nandrolone after a meet at Monte Carlo, Monaco, on Aug 12, 1990.

Since then, he has maintained his innocence, and defied his suspension last year by competing in the US Olympic trials at New Orleans in June and a couple of earlier meets in the United States. For that alleged transgression, the international federation added 4 1/2 months to Reynolds' suspension, extending it until the end of 1992.

Meanwhile, Reynolds sued the IAAF for damages. Last month, US district judge Joseph Kinneary awarded Reynolds \$19.2 million in compensatory damages and \$19.2 million in punitive damages.

Now, Reynolds says he is "free to run anywhere I choose."

Reynolds, his psyche still battered but his energy renewed, will return to competition in the Millrose Games Feb 5 at Madison Square Garden. He has not drawn an easy assignment for his legal comeback.

Also in the field will be Kevin Young, the 1992 Olympic champion and world record-holder in the 400-metre hurdles; Antonio Pettigrew, the 1991 world outdoor 400-metre champion, and Antonio McKay, a two-time world indoor champion and six-time Millrose winner.

Reynolds is not concerned about the strength of his opposition nor the fact that he has

not run on an indoor banked track since 1990. He is concerned about competing again.

"I'm nervous," he told the Metropolitan Track Writers Monday on a phone hookup from his training base at Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo.



BUTCH REYNOLDS

The money he gets from that race and other meets in which he competes this season will help defray the legal fees he has accrued fighting his suspension, until he receives his payments from the IAAF.

"The first year I was able to pay my legal fees," Reynolds said, "but after that I didn't have the money to pay them."

"I have liquidated all my assets to prove my innocence. I've tried hard to clear my name and my reputation."

Reynolds said that so far his legal fees have amounted to about \$1.7 million before the case is completely settled.

The long legal manoeuvring also has been very distracting to Reynolds, who has been training diligently for many months.

"It's been very hard... very difficult," he said. "It's been difficult going to the track not knowing whether you'll be able to compete again... going to

the track when you don't have any assets.

"I wouldn't want to go through it again."

Although judge Kinneary's ruling was in his favour, Reynolds said, "I couldn't really win."

"My name was tarnished... when they announced that I had tested positive for anabolic steroids," he said. "I missed the 1992 Olympic Games, the 1991 World Championships... I will never get those back."

"And I missed the opportunity to make money from endorsements and from competing. I suffered a great deal..."

"I'm looking forward to competing again," he said.

His attorneys are working to collect the money from the IAAF.

Stone medals!

OSLO, Jan 19: Medals given at the Lillehammer Winter Olympics next year will be made of stone, reports AP.

The Lillehammer Olympic Committee has decided to give winners something to remind them of Norway, so designer Ingerd Hanevold has lent heavily on the country's mountains.

The jeweller said he set out to prove that solid Norwegian rock can be beautiful and unique, once given a good design and polished to perfection.

The medals contain the International Olympic Committee's required minimum of six per cent gold, silver and bronze. But the precious metal comes in the form of snow crystals engraved into the surface.

"They symbolically remind us that the earth and the nature are the most precious things we have," Hanevold said.

Chang ready for the big boys

MELBOURNE, Jan 19: Don't talk to Michael Chang about his lack of size. The little big man of tennis is quite happy with things just the way they are, reports AP.

Chang may be only 5-foot-8 (1.73 meters), but he's developing the tactics to match the big men at their own power games.

Chang cruised past 6-foot-5 (1.96-meter) Englishman Chris Bailey 6-3, 6-1, 6-1 Tuesday in the first round of the Australian Open and earned a meeting with another hard-serving giant — compatriot David Wheaton, 6-foot-4 (1.93 meters).

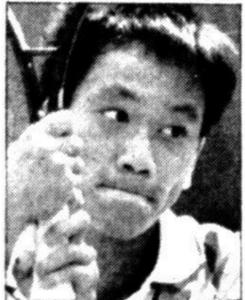
Asked if he wished he were taller and heavier, Chang had a sharp response.

"I like myself just the way I am," he said.

"If I were to say it would be nice to be bigger, stronger, that kind of thing, I probably would have to sacrifice a little bit of movement or agility, a little bit of speed, and for me I don't really think that would

be worth giving up."

Chang has spent the last 18 months beefing up his ability to serve and volley, so he can match powerhouses like Jim Courier and Stefan Edberg on



MICHAEL CHANG

faster surfaces.

"I feel the serve I can work on and it can be strengthened," he said.

"I have to have a little bit of power now and then to keep the other players honest and it is becoming more and more important because if I am

content to stay in the backcourt, day in, day out I'll lose a lot more matches than I win."

But Chang concedes his lack of size and power means he has to play the game a different way.

"I have to do certain things a little bit better, or maybe a little bit different than some of the players who maybe have a height advantage or maybe a reach advantage," he said.

"Obviously I have to take advantage of the speed that I have to be able to move the ball around."

"There is no real time for complaining, saying the game is too fast or the game is too powerful. You have to change with it. I'm not afraid to come in any more and that has helped me to just be more confident and not play so much of a defensive game."

Chang has changed his game slowly, gradually becoming more aggressive.

"My mentality has to change — and it's tough making that transition," he said.

Becker to opt out of Davis Cup

MELBOURNE, Jan 19: Boris Becker has decided not to play Davis Cup tennis for Germany in 1993, his manager Ion Tiriac said Tuesday, reports AP.

Becker's crowded schedule had forced the decision, Tiriac told The Associated Press.

Becker led Germany to victory in the 1988 and 1989 Davis Cup competitions.

He limped out of the Australian Open with a thigh muscle pull on Monday, when he lost in five sets to Swedish qualifier Anders Jarryd, but Tiriac said Becker also was suffering from fatigue.

"He's tired. He just didn't have enough of a break," Tiriac said.

He said Becker, who had won three straight tournaments going into the Australian Open, would not play again until the Milan tournament in early February.

"It is very simple. Either he plays the tournaments he is scheduled to play, or he plays Davis Cup and drops tournaments to play it," Tiriac said.

'Bad Boy' of squash fined again

ZURICH, Jan 19: Australian Tristan Nancarrow, the "Bad Boy" of squash, faces a certain fine and probable ban after being given two conduct warnings and having a game awarded against him in the Super Series finals on Monday, reports Reuter.

Playing against England's Peter Marshall in the match to decide fifth place, Nancarrow lost a closely fought opening game 15-13.

But early in the second game world number five Nancarrow was given a conduct warning for ungentlemanly behaviour after barging Marshall in the back during a rally.

Then, with the Australian trailing 10-8, referee Bruce Kettle brought the game to an abrupt halt when he gave Nancarrow a second conduct warning for uttering an "audible obscenity" and automatically awarded the game to Marshall.

Mansur — a maker in the making

By Chandrasekhar Das

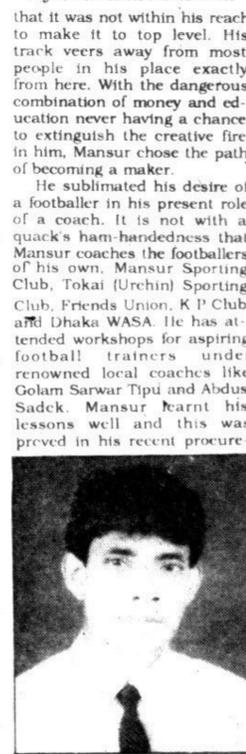
It has been in the grip of darkness for how long only Heaven knows. Because withered, wizened, wise men of our generation have always been carefully callous about records. Without their loathing of history and all other aids that lead to the detection of loopholes, our sports could have not entered the rat's alley it is in now. Not that we are very uncomfortable in the subterranean darkness. Some among us are, however, fret and strut from the rich complexities of their chemistry.

Mansur Ali, a 23-year-old young man possibly suffers from that salubrious syndrome. You bother to know that he is from Chandpur only when you scribble about him, because he is so unavoidably attached with the stadium arena. But he is one guy you would love not to avoid at a place, infested with people ranging from hoodlums to backbiters.

Full of life, this enterprising young man with a ready smile first made his presence felt in 1987.

If ever rather than never, through some upheaval, sports in this country learns to live under sunlight, people, in the new unseen future would then do well to mark the foundation of a club, Mansur Sporting Club, who now have enough players of diverse talent and interest to field teams in games like football, cricket, Kabaddi and handball.

Always a keen sportsman with an extra-ordinary passion for football, Mansur, unlike others got the message in time



MANSUR ALI

ment of a certificate from a visiting German coach.

Even agile in admitting the inspirational indebtedness to

his father Idris Ali. Mansur has reasons to be proud of his achievement because three of his finds are playing in Senior Division football league; 25 in Second Division, 40 in Third Division and another 55 are playing in Pioneer league.

Mansur will be always one up when compared with other organisers because of his un-sullied love for the street-urchins, better known as tokais. These talented but unprivileged kids, who would have otherwise spent the best part of their life in entertainingly amused and temporarily tolerant critics like us, have a reformer or a redeemer in Mansur. With his limitations he feeds them, gives them breaks in games that best suit their talents. Mansur cannot make gags out of the tokais because he is too little educated to feed on the feed-back of an art that thrives on the craftsmanship of putting unwarranted words into the mouth of the urchins. He does what he does perhaps from a sense of urgency to stop the proliferation of ragged, aimless, lonely urchins who make the birds fly with their well-aimed stones; to whom news of two girls are raped, two boys knife a third are axioms and who have never heard of any world where promises are kept or one can weep because another weeps.

Mansur would never be so articulate as to put thoughts into words like Auden. But the concern is same in both the cases. Unfortunately, people, who matter, are not concerned.

Mac not so keen about Davis Cup

LOS ANGELES, Jan 19: John McEnroe, who helped the United States beat Switzerland 3-1 in the 1992 Davis Cup semifinals and Jakob Hlasek and Olympic Gold medalist Marc Rosset of Switzerland in the finals.

Gorman said he may be leaning toward a doubles team

The doubles team of McEnroe and Sampras beat US Open champ Stefan Edberg and Anders Jarryd of Sweden in the 1992 Davis Cup semifinals and Jakob Hlasek and Olympic Gold medalist Marc Rosset of Switzerland in the finals.

Gorman said he may be leaning toward a doubles team



JOHN MCENROE

of Jim Grabb and Richey Reneberg to play against Australia.

Gorman has led American teams to the Davis Cup finals in three consecutive years and has come away with championships in 1990 against Australia and last year against Switzerland. The United States lost to France in 1991.

China brush aside western reports

BEIJING, Jan 19: China's state sports commission denied today western allegations that medal-winning Chinese women swimmers were taking drugs to enhance their performance, reports Reuter.

A New Zealand medical officer of the International Swimming Federation (FINA) and a prominent coach last week challenged China to prove they were not taking drugs.

A Chinese sports commission official interviewed by telephone said Chinese swimmers did not take any drugs.

"Their exceptional performance is due to combined training methods of Chinese and western techniques," the officials said.

"The western press's false reports are irresponsible."

The allegations by David Gerrard, a member of FINA's medical committee, and well-known swimming coach Bill Sweetenham appeared in the Times of London.

Gerrard cited jutting jawlines, severe acne and bulky muscles as evidence that Chinese women swimmers were taking steroids and/or human growth hormones.

China won 54 medals at the Barcelona Olympics, 16 of them gold and four of them for swimming.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Jupiter's a.k.a.

5 Lizard's river

9 Pick up the tab

12 Glenn, in "Fatal Attraction"

13 Burden

14 Past

15 Nepal's capital

17 Scarlet

18 Followed

19 — apso

21 Peak (abbr.)

22 Passed bad checks

24 Casino rollers

27 Actor

28 Cow's gift

31 Botch up

32 School dance

33 Cousteau's milieu

34 Shed tears

36 Curvy character

37 Not merely pretty

DOWN

1 Fatman's partner

2 "Good Earth"

3 Ex-GIs heroine

4 Dig up

5 Pleased

6 Charged particle

7 Young fellow

8 Grow-up

9 Eden

10 Shakespearean septet

11 Sky-walker's adviser

16 Ran into

20 Height of

Solution time: 22 mins.

FURS RIM AGAR
TNEE ETA SAGA
GANGUPON SNUG
SUTURE IMAGES
ENA COIL
BUG SLY ALIVE
ADAR SAP SNAG
NONES MET GIG
GLEN TAA
DELETE UNRIPE
ELAN GANGFLOW
LINT URI ALOE
LADS SEA DENS

22 Newsstand

23 Little devils

24 Morning moisture

25 Anger

26 "Troilus and —"

27 New York stadium

29 Law (Lat.)

30 El

35 First name of 38

37 "Out of Africa" star

39 One of the Brothers Grimm

40 — Beta

41 Senate employee

42 Cupid

43 Lean-to

44 "M*A*S*H" star

45 Simon or Diamond

46 Central structure of the hull

49 Parrot

50 Haley's "Oz" costume

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CRYPTOQUIP
GEQY SKU ZEWNUW SH
XHXDI JEWAI EWY JWPREW:
"ZQAERRI, IHVW PHGUG
QG XHHDUY."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IN SERVING ARTICHOKES THAT I'VE COOKED, I SAID TO OUR GUESTS, "HAVE A HEART."

Today's Cryptoquip clue: W equals R

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.