

\$1000-fine cools Courier

MELBOURNE, Jan 20: Defending champions Jim Courier and Monica Seles scored straight-set victories Wednesday at the Australian Open, but Courier lost his temper and US dlr 1,000 along the way, reports AP.

Courier ground out a 6-2, 7-5, 6-4 second-round win over fellow American Robbie Weiss, but lost his cool on a day when temperatures on the court hit 53°C (129°F).

Seles trounced Maria Strandlund of Sweden 6-2, 6-0 and American Robin White ousted the first women's seed to fall, downing No. 8 Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic 4-6, 7-5, 6-2.

Meanwhile, No. 6 Michael Chang, ran into an old nemesis to become the fourth men's seed to lose in three days. He fell 6-4, 6-3, 1-6, 6-3 to unseeded David Wheaton, who now holds a 5-1 advantage in head-to-head confrontations.

Normally placid world number one Jim Courier received an official warning for abusing an umpire after an angry outburst.

Ister line calls. "At least you can't argue with the beep," he said.

Courier declined to reveal what he said to the umpire. "I told him how much I liked his shirt, things like that," he said.

There were no such frustrations for Seles, who needed only 56 minutes to move into the third round and won 89 percent of points in which her first serve was successful.

"I played a little better than yesterday, but not as well as I should," said Seles, who now



JIM COURIER faces patty Fendick. "I was playing quite defensively."

Strandlund made 33 unforced errors in stifling heat that caused six fans to faint. Five ballboys were treated for heat exhaustion and about 25 others suffered heat-related problems, such as nausea and headaches, according to Don Owen, the medical annex control officer.

Jennifer Capriati, suffering from fever and an upset stomach, pulled out of the doubles competition. She was scheduled to play with partner Steffi Graf. Capriati, the No. 7 seed in singles, said she would stay in that part of the tournament Thursday against Florencia Labat.

Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina, seeded No. 3, had an easy 6-0, 6-1 win over Natalia Baudouin of Italy.

"I feel I'm playing pretty good tennis and improving," Sabatini said. "I think I have everything I need to win another Grand Slam."

Meanwhile, Grand Slam Cup winner Michael Stich of Germany struggled with Fabrice Santoro of France before winning, 6-7 (3-7), 6-2, 6-2, 4-6, 6-1.

The match lasted three hours 26 minutes.

American Todd Witsken, a 29-year-old journey man who never has been ranked in the top 40 and is currently 111, upset No. 9 seed Richard Krajceck of the Netherlands 6-4, 1-6, 6-1, 6-4.

Witsken took 2 1/2 hours to defeat Krajceck, who was a semifinalist here last year before having to default through injury.

Krajceck developed blisters on the middle finger of his right hand in the fourth set and was given treatment. He faded in the sun after appearing to take command in the second set when he won 20 out of 25 points and five straight games.

"We both had our problems. It was very difficult to have a decent ball toss," said Krajceck. "I'm not making the big points and I'm missing a lot of volleys."

Krajceck was the third men's seed to be eliminated, joining No. 4 Boris Becker and No. 8 Ivan Lendl.

Swede Anders Jarryd, who ousted Becker in the first round, defaulted with a call injury Wednesday when losing 6-1, 6-1, 2-0 against Australian Todd Woodbridge.

Petr Korda of the Czech Republic, seeded seventh, breezed by Krajceck's compatriot Jacco Eltingh 7-6 (7-0), 6-2, 6-3.

Andrei Medvedev of the Ukraine, one of the rising stars on the men's circuit, joined Courier in the third round with a 6-0, 6-1, 6-0 win over Lars Koskowski of Germany.

No. 15 Sergi Bruguera of Spain moved past American Jim Grabb 6-1, 6-7 (5-7), 7-5, 6-0.

In other women's singles action, No. 6 seed Conchita Martinez of Spain defeated Monica Seles 7-5, 6-1, ending Britain's participation in both men's and women's singles.

Mary Pierce, the No. 10 seed from France, scored her second successive, straight sets victory — an efficient 6-1, 6-1 triumph over Japan's Kimiko Date.

No. 13 seed Nathalie Tauziat of France beat Wiltrud Probst of Germany 6-2, 4-6, 6-2 to join Pierce in the third round, while No. 16 Zina Garrison-Jackson beat fellow American Donna Faber 4-6, 6-4, 6-2.

Gorman will have to change plans

LOS ANGELES, Jan 20: US team captain Tom Gorman will have to adjust his plans for the Davis Cup since John McEnroe apparently had decided not to play, reports AP.

Gorman had hoped to go with the same players— Jim Courier, Andre Agassi, Pete Sampras and McEnroe — who beat Switzerland 3-1 in the Davis Cup final in December.

The US play their opening 1993 match against Australia March 26-28 in Melbourne.

McEnroe, passed over for the captain's position when the US Tennis Association reappointed Gorman, told Gorman that tennis of any kind isn't in his plans.

Gorman said he believes McEnroe's decision against playing is unrelated to his reappointment.

"At the moment, he's just not committed to playing any tennis at all," Gorman told the Los Angeles Times. "He stated to me he was very, very sure that at least the first couple of Davis Cup matches weren't even going to be a consideration at all."

Gorman said he may be leaning toward a doubles team of Jim Grabb and Richey Reneberg for the first-round match against Australia.



Tenth-seed Mary Pierce of France celebrates after having snuffed out Japan's best hope with a 6-1, 6-1 won over Kimiko Date in the 2nd round of the Australian Open in Melbourne yesterday.

Johnson retains WBA title

BOISE, Idaho, Jan 20: Reggie Johnson successfully defended his World Boxing Association middleweight title on Tuesday night when he stopped South Korean Kim Yun-Song in the eighth round after battering him against the ropes, reports Reuter.

Referee Luis Rivera stopped the fight 40 seconds into the eighth round of the scheduled 12-round bout.

Johnson, 26, was in control throughout the fight and was ahead 70-63 through seven rounds on all three judges' cards.

It was Johnson's second defence of the title he won from fellow American Steve Collins last April 22 and the first ever world title fight contested in Boise.

Johnson raised his record to 33-2-1, while the 26-year-old Kim dropped to 7-3-2 after losing his first professional fight outside his home country.

Johnson pounded Kim unmercifully from the fourth round on, but the Korean challenger hung in and took the punishment.

The champion scored repeatedly with shots to Kim's head and body and opened up a cut over the challenger's left eye in the fifth round with a series of right hands.

Stich seventy percent satisfied

MELBOURNE, Jan 20: Michael Stich won dlr 2 million in December at the Grand Slam Cup, but he isn't looking like a million-dollar player at the 1993 Australian Open, reports AP.

Stich, the No. 14 seed, scrambled to eke out a 6-7 (3-7), 6-2, 6-2, 4-6, 6-4 second-round decision over Frenchman Fabrice Santoro on Wednesday.

Stich battled for three hours, 25 minutes to secure his place in the third round of this Grand Slam event.

Despite what seemed an uncomfortable performance on an intensely sun-baked court, with temperatures soaring to 54 degrees Celsius (129°F), Stich would not admit to being unhappy with his form.

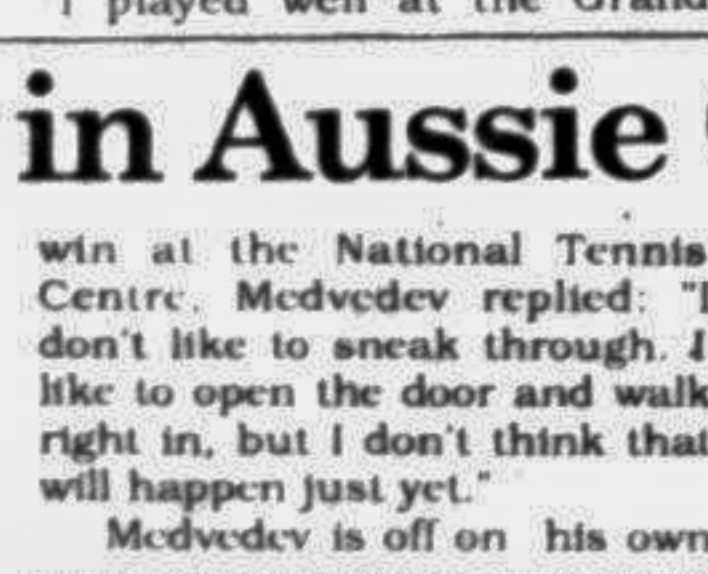
"I was 70 percent satisfied with my game, but the rest I wasn't consistent enough," he said.

Stich also lost his temper, calling supervisor Bill Gilmour on to court when he was unhappy with a number of line calls.

The rangy Stich catapulted himself from obscurity to overnight sensation on the re-

gal Centre Court of Wimbledon in 1991. That's when he pushed aside fellow German Boris Becker in three decisive sets to capture the Wimbledon title.

"It's that Wimbledon triumph that Stich is hoping to relive in the future. But for the moment, as he explained after



MICHAEL STICH his first-round victory over American Alex O'Brien, the Wimbledon magic hasn't taken hold.

"I'm not having that confidence I had at that time, maybe because I haven't played too many matches," said Stich. "I played well at the Grand

Slam Cup, but that is some time ago, about one month. You need to be ready mentally and try to show the other guys that you did well at Grand Slams before and try to do it again."

Stich participated in two special events Down Under en route to the Open. The team of Stich and Steffi Graf won the Hopman Cup in Perth two weeks ago. Last week, he played in the Rio challenge exhibition in Adelaide.

The heat was a factor in the match Wednesday against Santoro, but Stich said he just had a massage and a lot to drink following the long contest.

He realized that he shouldn't have been in such a precarious position against No. 41 Santoro.

"I would have been very sad if I lost the match because I was the better player," said Stich. "I should have won it in three sets."

Stich will be looking to improve when he faces Australian Jason Stoltenberg in the third round.

Stoltenberg won 0-6, 4-1, 6-2, 6-4 against former Italian Open champion Alberto Mancini of Argentina.

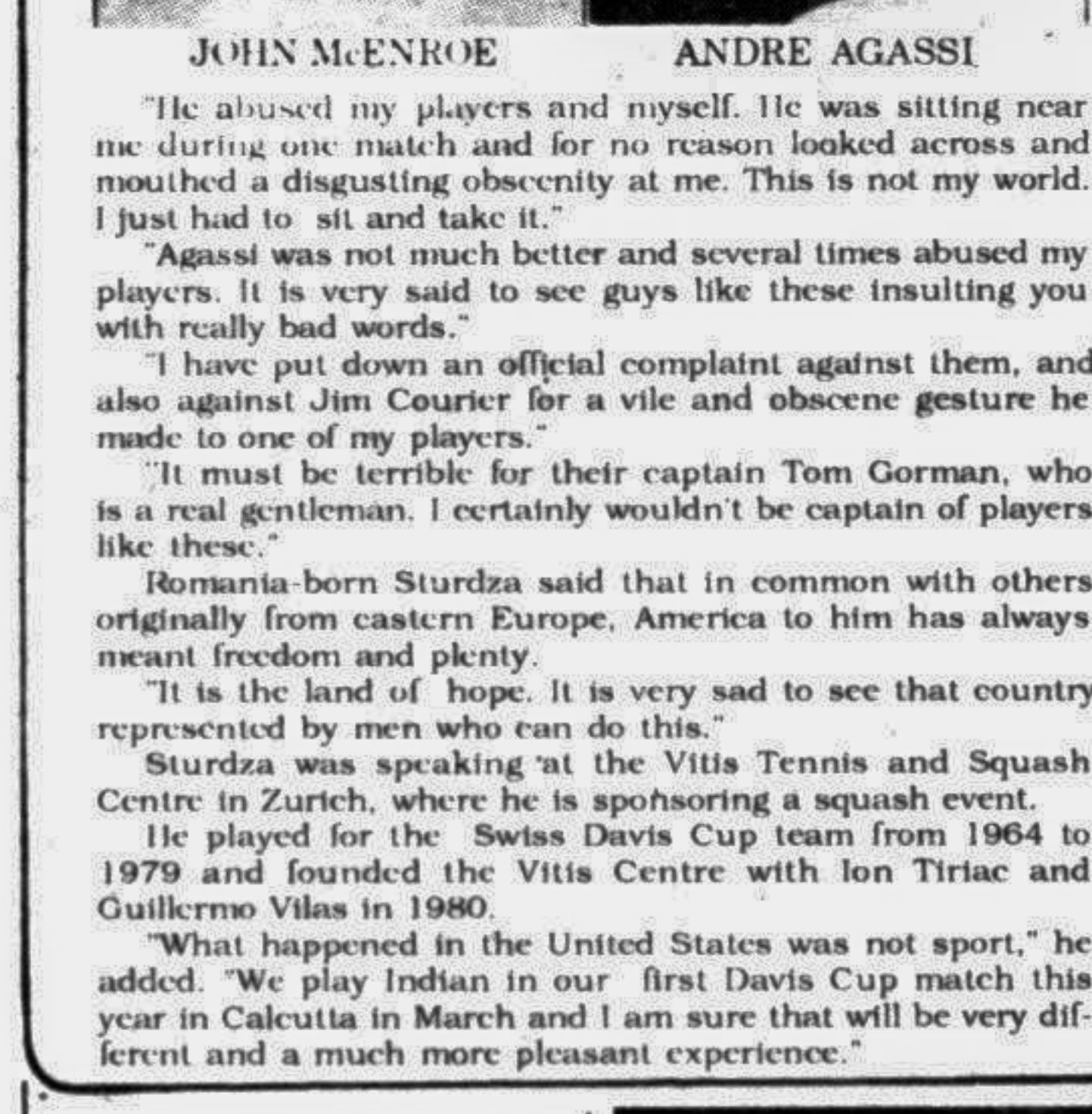
The ugly Americans

ZURICH, Jan 20: Swiss Davis Cup captain Dimitri Sturza has broken his silence about verbal abuse against his players by the American team during last month's final in Texas, reports Reuter.

Switzerland lost 3-1 but Sturza said on Tuesday he had made an official complaint to the match referees and to American captain Tom Gorman about the behaviour of John McEnroe and Andre Agassi during the tie.

"The match was not a pleasant experience for me or my team because of the way McEnroe and Agassi behaved," said the Sturza.

"McEnroe is a genius and God has given him so much. But he has balanced things by not blessing him with elementary good behaviour."



JOHN MCENROE and **ANDRE AGASSI**

"He abused my players and myself. He was sitting near me during one match and for no reason looked across and mouthed a disgusting obscenity at me. This is not my world. I just had to sit and take it."

"Agassi was not much better and several times abused my players. It is very sad to see guys like these insulting you with really bad words."

"I have put down an official complaint against them, and also against Jim Courier for a vile and obscene gesture he made to one of my players."

"It must be terrible for their captain Tom Gorman, who is a real gentleman. I certainly wouldn't be captain of players like these."

Romania-born Sturza said that in common with others originally from eastern Europe, America to him has always meant freedom and plenty.

"It is the land of hope. It is very sad to see that country represented by men who can do this."

Sturza was speaking at the Vitis Tennis and Squash Centre in Zurich, where he is sponsoring a squash event. He played for the Swiss Davis Cup team from 1964 to 1979 and founded the Vitis Centre with Ion Tiriac and Guillermo Vilas in 1980.

"What happened in the United States was not sport," he added. "We play Indian in our first Davis Cup match this year in Calcutta in March and I am sure that will be very different and a much more pleasant experience."

IAAF-athletes' row over prize-money demand

Top stars threaten boycott

RALEIGH, North Carolina, Jan 20: Olympic gold medalists Mike Conley, Michael Johnson and Gwen Torrence will boycott the IAAF World Indoor Championships in March unless the world governing body begins awarding prize money to top finishers, their agent said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

The athletes, including Olympic silver medalist Mike Powell and other top Americans, also are likely to skip the World Outdoor Championships in Stuttgart this summer, agent Brad Hunt told Reuters in a telephone interview from his office in Boulder, Colorado.

"When the athletes line up for the World Indoors (in Toronto), with the absence of such a long list of headline athletes it's going to be quite clear," Hunt said when asked about a boycott.

"The athletes feel that they have very little choice but to make their message heard through their absence."

The International Association of Athletes' Representatives (IAAR), which includes many of the top agents in the world, has on several times asked the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) to award prize money to top finishers at its championships.

The winner of each World Outdoor Championships event, it has proposed would receive 100,000 dollars with the runner up being awarded 50,000 dollars. An eighth-place finish would be worth 5,000 dollars.

The IAAF and its president, Primo Nebiolo, steadfastly has refused to consider the prize-money proposal. But the topic is sure to be discussed again this weekend when the IAAF Council meets in Jakarta, Indonesia.

"I have made it clear to my athletes that there is, in my

opinion, not a better time to take a stand than right now," Hunt said.

"I think most athletes are willing to work with the IAAF of four also meant a financial sacrifice for top athletes.

"For top level athletes to effectively prepare for World Championships they have to taper down their competition schedules, and it's these (other competitors) that the athletes make their livings from," Hunt said.

Hunt praised Nebiolo for his insight in helping the sport achieve worldwide success. "But I think he needs to become a little bit more familiar with the concept of share the wealth," Hunt said.

Of the athletes he represents Hunt said only Butch Reynolds was willing to compete in the Toronto Championships.

Hunt denied, however, rumours that the IAAF had offered Reynolds a settlement to clear up a 27 million dollars award by a US court. Reynolds sued the IAAF for damages after it had suspended him for more than two years for what it said was positive doping test in 1990.

Reynolds's suspension ended on December 31.

"If Primo Nebiolo is talking to anyone (about a settlement), that's more than he's done with us," Hunt said.

Invincible Igor Zhelevovski

INNSBRUCH, Austria, Jan 20: Igor Zhelevovski, the reigning world sprint champion from Byelorussia, remained undefeated this season after winning his fifth consecutive 1000-metre World Cup speed skating race Sunday, reports AP.

Zhelevovski finished well a head of the rest of the field in one minute, 14.74 seconds. American Dan Jansen was second in 1:16.02 and Victor Chupira of Russia finished third in 1:16.16.

The joker in Aussie Open pack

MELBOURNE, Jan 20: He's 18 and moving fast. Andrei Medvedev, a fun-loving kid from Kiev, is the joker in the pack at the Australian Open, reports AP.

Medvedev crushed German Lars Koskowski 6-0, 6-1, 6-0 in the second round of Wednesday, setting up a meeting with No. 7 seed Petr Korda.

He then wandered into the interview room, where he laughed and cracked jokes with reporters in English—his fourth language.

Medvedev was the fastest-rising name on the ATP Tour in 1992, soaring from 226th to 24th in 12 months. Two years ago, the Ukrainian was 1,008th.

The tall youngster with the cool, composed character began winning tournaments at the age of 17. Already he has three titles to his name.

Medvedev isn't even considering winning a Grand Slam title at this stage of his career, although he's probably the most dangerous outsider in Melbourne.

Asked whether he could sneak through the draw and

win at the National Tennis Centre, Medvedev replied: "I don't like to sneak through. I like to open the door and walk right in, but I don't think that will happen just yet."

Medvedev is off on his own

sions, but you know what parents are like."

Medvedev had a reputation as a clay-court specialist until the Hopman Cup teams event in Perth two weeks ago.

There he thrashed Austrian veteran Thomas Muster and then beat Grand Slam Cup champion Michael Stich of Germany in straight sets.

The Australian fans, among the most knowledgeable in tennis, immediately fell in love with his all-around game and smooth skills.

Medvedev says he has been adding the volley and faster footwork to his array of weapons, seeking more effectiveness on faster surfaces.

"I think I can do well on the hard surfaces. I think I'm close to the point where I want to be at the moment," he said.

Medvedev already has beaten players like Stefan Edberg and earned dlr 335,840 in only 15 tournaments in 1992.

"I don't feel like I'm a star," Medvedev said. "There are still holes in my game. Many things I have to improve. I'm playing like 75 per cent on quite a shot. That still gives me quite a way to go."

Fortune favours Mavericks at last

DALLAS, Jan 20: The hapless Dallas Mavericks managed to avoid a franchise-record 16 losses in a row by finally picking up their third win of the season on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

The Mavericks ended a 15-game losing streak by surprising the Detroit Pistons 113-103.

Derek Harper scored 26 points to lead Dallas and Randy White and Doug Smith each added 18 points for the Mavericks, who won for the first time since December 16th.

Isiah Thomas had 19 points and Joe Dumars scored 18 for Detroit, who dropped their third straight and lost for the sixth time in seven games.

Dallas trailed 59-50 early in the third quarter before a 25-6 spurt that gave the Mavs a 75-65 lead with 1:52 secs left.

The 3-30 Mavericks are on course for the worst season in National Basketball Association history. The Philadelphia 76 ers set the NBA record for futility with a 9-73 season 20 years ago.

In Charlotte, Jon Koncak's tip-in at the buzzer gave the Atlanta Hawks a 102-100 victory over the Hornets and their fifth win in their last six games.

In the game's closing seconds, Mookie Blaylock missed a jumper that teammate Dominique Wilkins rebounded. When Wilkins' jumper also missed, Koncak was there for the winning tip.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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CRYPTOQUIP

UDIAMUC, M HLDGT B
 IDNR HLN QBUTGRKK, QDF
 CLD WDKF XNLWMKR FL
 ARRX MF DGTRN CLDN SBF.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SAID THE FARMER TO COCKY BARNYARD BURGLAR: "FINALLY, YOUR GOOSE IS COOKED."

Today's Cryptoquip clue: D equals U

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.