

Comfort Graf's worry, Mansdorf Edberg's

MELBOURNE, Jan 23: Steffi Graf won more easily than she wanted, but Stefan Edberg had things tougher than he should have at the Australian Open on Saturday, reports AP.

Edberg, seeded second, teetered on the edge of an upset, coming back from a third-set drubbing and seven break-points in the fourth against Amos Mansdorf of Israel.

Pete Sampras had a rare display of emotion in his 7-6 (7-5), 6-4, 6-2 victory over Alex Antonitsch of Austria, who angered the American third seed.

Antonitsch jumped ahead 5-1 in the first-set tiebreaker on a lunging backhand volley winner off the frame when the two exchanged words at the change of sides, with Sampras ending it: "You want to play tennis or not?"

Asked later about the confrontation, Sampras gave his version: "I said, 'What's going on?' He put up his racket and said it was a lucky shot. He said he hit it off the frame. I didn't want to hear that. That was the last thing I wanted to hear."

Antonitsch said he wasn't trying to rub it in that he'd had a little luck. He claimed he intended his comment as an apology because the crowd cheered what they thought was a great shot.

Two-time champion Edberg had won all six of his previous meetings with Mansdorf but struggled for two and a half hours before advancing to the fourth round with a 6-3, 6-1, 1-6, 7-6 (7-5) triumph.

Edberg was cheered on by dozens of singing, cheering Swedish fans, whose raucous behaviour appeared to upset Mansdorf. After the last point, he stared hard in their direction.

"I felt I had more chances than him," said a disappointed Mansdorf before heading straight to the airport.

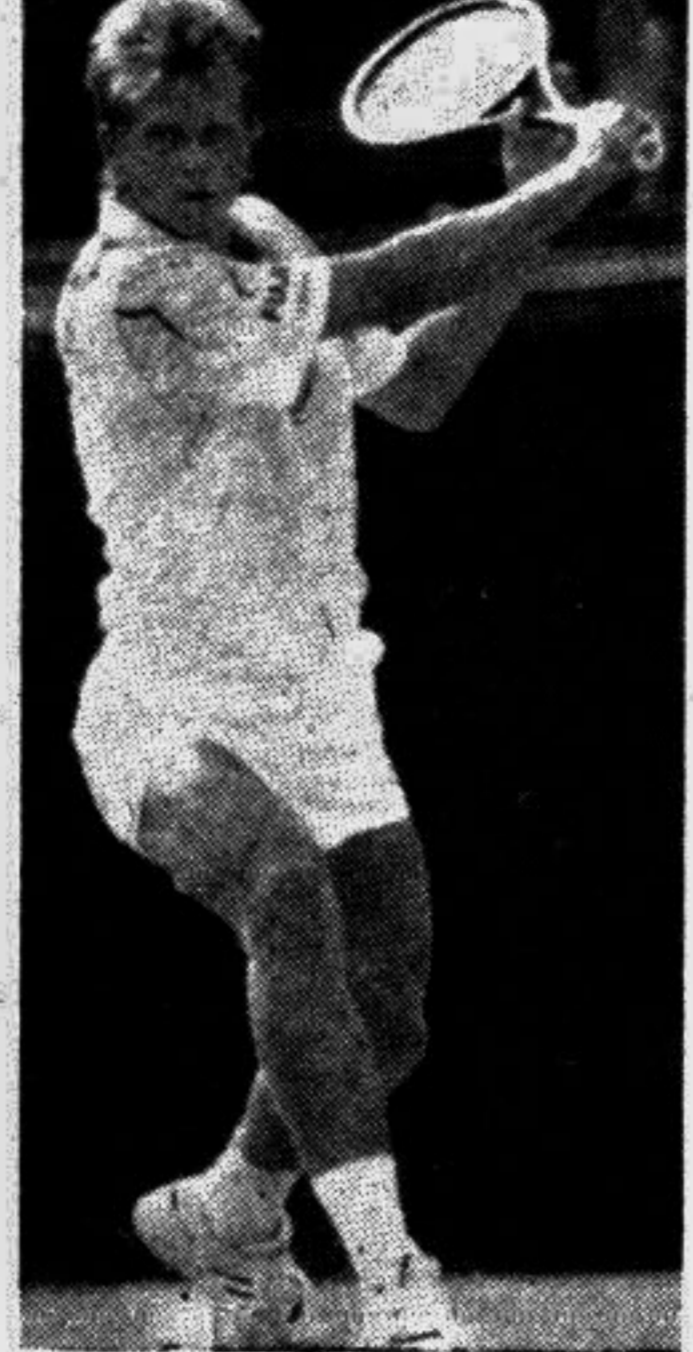
"I played very well in the fourth set. It's good to be out there a long time. I need to play matches," said Edberg.

Frenchman Arnaud Boetsch, Swede Christian Bergstrom and New Zealander Brett Steven, all unseeded, joined Edberg in the round of 16. Boetsch next plays Edberg.

Also advancing were No 10 seed Wayne Ferreira of South Africa, resurgent Australian Richard Fromberg and No 13 Malival Washington of the United States.



STEFFI GRAF



STEFAN EDBERG

World number two Graf, starved of tough match practice, got the worst possible passage to the last 16 when fellow German Claudia Porwik retired injured.

Graf, who has dropped only five games in two easy matches in early rounds of the year's first Grand Slam event, took the first set 6-1 in 19 minutes before Porwik turned badly on her right ankle and limped off court.

The ankle was strapped, but the lowly-ranked German gave up the third-round match after gamely playing a painful four points in the first game of the second set.

"It's disappointing, you definitely feel for her," Graf told reporters afterwards.

But Porwik's injury could be just as worrying for Graf, who will go into the second week of the tournament starved of real competition, particularly after dropping out of the doubles with partner Jennifer Capriati and withdrawing with a stomach virus.

"You feel unsatisfied, I would like to have played the whole match, that's for sure," Graf, 23, said before an intensive practice session only minutes after coming off Centre Court.

But last year's Wimbledon champion, the only serious obstacle to Monica Seles' bid to win an elusive four Grand Slam tournaments this year, said she was not unduly concerned by moving into the higher level of the latter rounds.

"I practise quite hard, so you don't feel such a big change, and I will probably

practise with some guys in the next few days," Graf said.

Graf said earlier this week that she disliked watching tennis so her confidence would not have been dented by seeing the 19-year-old Seles laying almost flawless tennis in Friday's 6-1, 6-3 third-round annihilation of American Patty Fendick.

She missed last year's Australian Open with rubella.

Porwik said she had injured the same ankle twice previously.

Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, the No 4 seed from Spain, had a trouble-free third-round match.

The determined baseliner continued with her more aggressive approach and ousted spirited Radka Zrubakova of Slovakia 6-1, 6-3 over her third successive straight-sets triumph.

She next plays No 11 seed Anke Huber of Germany, who beat Ines Gorrochategui of Argentina 6-2, 7-5.

American Jennifer Capriati, 16, the No 7 seed, broke through in the 11th game of each set to beat Natalia Zvereva of Belarus 7-5, 7-5 and showed no effects of the virus that left her bed-ridden three days earlier.

Two-time finalist Mary Joe Fernandez, seeded fifth, was given a first-set jolt before beating Naoko Sawamatsu of Japan 2-6, 6-3, 6-1.

No 9 Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere of Switzerland overcame an injury to her right upper thigh to defeat American Ginger Helgeson.

6-2, 3-6, 6-4.

Maleeva-Fragniere said after the match that she was unable to put weight on her leg and was unsure whether she would be able to continue in the tournament.

Two years ago she suffered a broken finger at the Open and last year she had a broken toe that forced her to default.

"I was wondering what it was going to be this year," she said.

Maleeva-Fragniere's sisters, No 14 Katerina Maleeva and No 15 Magdalena Maleeva also won. The Maleevas became the first three sisters to make the fourth round of a Grand Slam tournament.

Magdalena beat German Meike Babel 6-3, 6-2, while Katerina downed German Barbara Rittner 6-1, 6-1.

In men's action, Ferreira wasted six match points in the fourth set tiebreaker before beating Zimbabwe qualifier Byron Black 6-2, 3-6, 6-1, 7-6(10-8). Ferreira wore a bright green cap decorated with a musical score.

"I'm playing my own music out there. My tennis racket is my musical instrument," Ferreira said.

Fromberg upset 12th-seeded Spanish clay court specialist Carlos Costa 6-2, 7-6 (7-3), 2-6, 6-3. Costa double-faulted on the last two points of the match after being repeatedly called for foot faults late in the match.

"That is not the reason I lost. I have had trouble with foot faults in the past," said a gracious Costa.

Boetsch equalled his career-best Grand Slam performance by advancing to the fourth round with a 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 win over No 16 seed Alexander Volkov of Russia in just 96 minutes.

"I'm a bit surprised because I didn't play too well here last year," Boetsch said.

Bergstrom, a 1990 Wimbledon quarterfinalist, progressed with a 6-0, 6-4, 6-4 win over French left-hander Stephane Simiani.

Bergstrom, ranked 52, made the fourth round for the second straight year.

Steven, playing the first Grand Slam tournament of his career, downed Andrei Olhovskiy of Russia 6-3, 7-5, 3-6, 6-3.

The Kiwi stumbled when leading 3-0 in the third set, losing six straight games and the set before recovering his composure.

Washington beat fellow-American Jonathan Stark.

Iran win Asian club soccer championship

MANAMA, Bahrain, Jan 23: Mohsen Geroust scored the only goal Friday as Iran's Pass Club defeated tournament favourite Al-Shabab of Saudi Arabia, 1-0, to win the Asian Club Championship of 1992, reports AP.

The United Arab Emirates defeated Japan's Yomiuri, 4-3, for third place.

The Saudi side dominated the first 30 minutes but Geroust managed in the 39th minute to tap a ball in the Saudi net within the six-yard mark after a pass from Iran captain Alireza Hakimizadeh and after freeing himself from the Saudi defenders.

The 12th Asian Club Championship, hosted by Bahrain's Muharraq Club, began Jan 12. Seven nations took part — Iran, Saudi Arabia, Japan, United Arab Emirates, Pakistan, Bahrain and Indonesia.

The Iranians on Wednesday knocked out Yomiuri 2-1 in a surprise win to reach the final and play the Saudis. The Japanese had defeated Bahrain 2-0, Indonesia's Arseto 3-0, and drew 1-1 with the Saudis.

In the UAE-Yomiuri match, UAE opened in the fifth minute with a goal from Hassan M Hussain, followed by another in the 13th minute by Saleh R Saleh. Japan's Shinji Fujiyoshi netted the first goal for Yomiuri in the 26th minute and the half ended 2-1.

In the second half of the tough, fast-paced match, UAE's Walid M Hussain scored in the 62nd minute and within two minutes Japan's captain, Hisashi Kato, scored the second Japanese goal, followed in the 72nd minute by Ryuidu Yoneyama.



Tenth seed Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere of Switzerland plays against Ginger Helgeson of the United States after injuring her right thigh at the Australian Open in Melbourne yesterday. Manuela won 6-2, 3-6, 6-4.

Maleeva sisters make history

MELBOURNE, Jan 23: The three Maleeva sisters made history Saturday at the Australian Open, but one of them is beginning to think the tournament brings her bad luck, reports AP.

It is the first time that three sisters have made it to the round-of-16 in a Grand Slam event.

It was a hectic day for proud coach and mother Yulia as she scampered from court to court following the progress of daughters, Manuela, Katerina and teenager Magdalena.

Yulia was nine times national champion of her native Bulgaria.

"It is very moving for me," she told reporters.

"We are hopeful Manuela will be fit for her next match otherwise it will be not such good history," she added.

Ninth-seeded Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere pulled her upper right thigh muscle during her 6-2, 3-6, 6-4 third-

round victory over Ginger Helgeson. After the trainer taped her thigh twice — the first time the wrap was too tight — she was able to finish the match.

No. 14 Katerina Maleeva beat German Barbara Rittner 6-1, 6-1, while No. 15 Magdalena Maleeva, the youngest of the trio, downed Meike Babel, also of Germany, 6-3, 6-2.

"I got used to the pain," Maleeva-Fragniere said of her thigh injury.

"It took almost the whole second set for me to get used to running differently and not feeling 100 percent. Once I got used to the feeling, I got a lot more aggressive. I wanted very much to win this match. I was not going to pull out again."

Unfortunately for her, every year Down Under seems to bring a new disaster for the Bulgarian-born Swiss Citizen.

In 1992, a broken toe forced her to default in a quarterfinal appearance against

Arantxa Sanchez Vicario. She didn't play again until April.

In 1991, a broken finger was the culprit. She lost in the second round to Germany's Anke Huber.

"It's not lucky for me at the Australian Open," Maleeva-Fragniere said.

Following the match, she said she barely could put any weight on her leg. But she wasn't planning on quitting, not even from the doubles.

"I don't know how it will feel in two hours," she said.

"Right now, I feel like playing very much. I don't want to think about giving up too much."

Since 1982 she has played in 37 Grand Slams, reaching one semifinal and 11 quarterfinals. She lost in the semifinals of the 1992 US Open.

Although the three sisters are all in the same half of the draw, the earliest any of them could meet is the quarterfinals.

That, however, would require Magdalena to beat three-time champion Steffi Graf in the next round.

Suprianto gets lucky this time

SEOUL, Jan 23: A lucky net cord bounce helped Joko Suprianto of Indonesia take the Korean Open men's badminton crown on his third match point on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Suprianto, ranked joint fifth in the world, overcame Denmark's Thomas Stuer Lauridsen 15-3, 18-13, sweeping the first with ease before the Lanky Dane found his length to put up a struggle in the second.

The second-seeded Indonesian proved a touch faster and more accurate in the opening game, forcing the Dane continually on to the defensive and blunting the taller man's powerful smash.

After changing ends, however, Suprianto began overshooting the lines and Lauridsen's delicate net play enabling him to keep his nose three to four points ahead until the score reached double figures.

But at 13-10, just two points from levelling the match, the fourth-seeded Lauridsen's touch abandoned him.

Three powerful smashes landed beyond the sidelines and a drop shot hit the net cord and bounced back, enabling Suprianto to catchup to 13-11.

Though clecting to set to five, Lauridsen, who put out favourite Alan Budi Kusuma in the semi-finals, failed to win another point.

Top 3 hurdlers to race in Japan

OSAKA, Japan, Jan 23: All three Olympic medalists in the men's 110-metre hurdles at the Barcelona Games will race against each other at an international indoor event in Japan next month, organisers said on Friday, reports Reuter.

Winner Mark McKoy of Canada, silver-medalist Tony Doss of the United States and third-placed American Jack Pierce, run in the 60-metre hurdles at the Yomiuri Chitose International Indoor in Osaka, western Japan, on February 11.

Four indoor world record holders are also lined up for the meeting, including Ukrainian pole vaulter Sergei Bubka, Jamaican Merlene Ottey in the women's 60 metres and Germany's women's Olympic long jump champion Heike Drechsler.

American world record triple jump holder and Olympic champion Mike Conley competes in the long jump, organisers said.

British PM's son earns wrong kind of reputation

LONDON, Jan 23: Prime Minister John Major's son is earning a reputation as one of the hard men of British soccer after being sent off twice this week, reports Reuter.

James, 18, who plays left-back, has now been dismissed four times this season and could be banned for 35 days under Football Association rules.

On Sunday, James was sent off for punching an opponent in an under-18 village league match. Three days later a professional foul when playing for his school earned him another red card.

"I couldn't care less if it was Prince Charles, the procedure is exactly the same for everyone," said Maurice Armstrong, an official of Ilfracombe Football Association.

Traffic jam gets in the way

JAKARTA, Jan 23: Traffic on the roads of Athens is threatening the International Amateur Athletic Federation's (IAAF) bid to stage the 1995 Marathon World Cup on the exact anniversary of the legendary run in ancient Greece, reports Reuter.

IAAF opts for a compromise

JAKARTA, Jan 23: Athletics chiefs on Friday sought to head off a World Championships boycott with a compromise agreement which would allow national federations to reward competitors for their performances in Stuttgart, reports Reuter.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) rejected demands by leading athletes for prize money up front at the August World Championships, but agreed to hand 7.5 million US dollar to national federations with their blessing to give it to medal winners.

The IAAF's decision at Friday's council meeting to make the extra millions available to support athletes competing in World Championships effectively passed the issue of prize money into the hands of national federations.

But IAAF president Primo Nebiolo still clung to his principle that athletes may not receive direct prize money for participation in either World Championships or the Olympics.

The sport's world governing body will give federations 1,000 US dollar per athlete they send to the Champion-

ships, on top of their travel and accommodation costs.

IAAF secretary-general Istvan Gyulai said: "If they (federations) think they want to give this as an award for



NEBIOLO

medal-winning athletes at Stuttgart, they are free to do so."

"But the principle of offering prize money has been rejected," Gyulai said on the first day of a three-day IAAF council meeting in Jakarta.

"We will stick to traditional

ideals," Gyulai added and stressed that the decision did not constitute a climbdown in the face of a threatened boycott.

But it remained to be seen whether the IAAF decision would satisfy top athletes who are threatening to boycott the Championships to force the issue.

Athletes and their agents want a slice of the 91 million US dollar the IAAF has secured from television rights in a four-year deal in the form of direct prize money to the competitors who they argue have contributed to the world governing body's wealth.

The International Association of Athletics Representatives (IAAR), which includes many of the top agents in the world, has proposed that prize money be paid to finalists in both the indoor and outdoor championships.

Earlier this week Joe Douglas, head of the powerful Santa Monica Track Club, said Nebiolo's failure to take seriously a threatened boycott could prove a costly mistake.

Nebiolo described boycott threats of the indoor and outdoor championships as "ridiculous" and "comic" in Jakarta on Wednesday.

Douglas said Nebiolo's stand was a destructive one.

IAAF deadline for Reynolds

JAKARTA, Jan 23: The International Amateur Athletic Federation decided Saturday to give world 400 metre record holder Butch Reynolds one month to retract allegedly libelous statements and call off his legal action against the sport's world governing body, reports AP.

If he doesn't it will consider what further action to take against him.

"We consider his behaviour unacceptable. We consider that his behaviour does a lot of harm to sport," IAAF general secretary Istvan Gyulai told a news conference.

Gyulai said a declaration would be sent to Reynolds, who was banned from competition for two years after testing positive for a banned anabolic steroid in 1990, explaining the IAAF's position.

According to Gyulai, Reynolds alleged repeatedly the arbitration panel of the IAAF was a fraud and a sham, that the IOC-IAAF accredited laboratory in Paris was incompetent, and that the IAAF was victimised him in order to cover up the incompetence of

his laboratory, that the IAAF has conspired to damage his reputation.

"Now the council wishes to express its outrage at this scandalous and unfounded allegations," Gyulai said. "The IAAF believes that he was properly show to have committed a doping offense under IAAF rules."

"However, the council asks Mr Reynolds to retract his libelous statements and to suspend all legal actions against the IAAF. This will be officially



BUTCH REYNOLDS

sent to him and if, in one month from now, this is not done, then the council will consider how to proceed," he

Sievinen sets new mark in swimming

HELSINKI, Jan 23: Jari Sievinen of Finland set a men's 200 metres individual medley short course world record of one minute 56.84 seconds at the Finnish National Championships on Friday, reports Reuter.

He beat the previous record of 1:57.19 which he set a year ago.

Chief trainer Karl Ormo said: "I knew Jari (would) swim a world record today."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Famous tower town

5 Poisonous viper

8 "True —" (movie)

12 Above

13 Classic car

14 Change the decor

15 — year John Wayne movie

16 1948 African antelope

20 Biblical dancer

21 Pre-Easter season

23 House wing

24 Stop sign's equivalent

28 Equally balanced

31 Undivided

32 Caravan stopover

34 Yale man

35 Crazy

37 It's often used in jewelry-making

39 Concern of NOW

41 Epic poetry

42 Lay bare by erosion

45 Wild ass

49 Depiction of Satan

51 Word before plan or show

52 Designer Cassini

53 Hot time for Henri?

54 Shield

55 Bonfire's kin

56 Abyssinian prince

57 Spanish muralist

DOWN

1 Religious

17 Actress

Solution time: 26 min.

language of Buddhism

2 Ledger entry

3 Daytime TV offering

4 Fill with dismay

5 Tin Pan Alley worker

6 Under-stand

7 Groups of seals

8 Wrought iron grating

9 Handgun

10 The same

11 Went at high speed

19 Floral neck-pieces

22 "The — Faces of Eve"

24 Stewart or Steiger

25 Alfonso's queen

26 One who protects

27 Future frogs

29 Guido's highest note

30 Nothing

33 Computer-screen image

36 Plod heavily

38 Indians and oranges

40 American humorist

42 Mail slot

43 Wriggling

44 At any time

46 Security

47 Moslem ruler

48 Pause, to Pavarotti

50 Call —

CRYPTOQUIP

G X Y M O Z H P N K W H G N V V Z

F W P G G W H A O F Y X A

P K N Y P : ' W Y N A ' P M W Y M .

Saturday's Cryptoquip: WHEN THE ANGELIC ORCHESTRA PLAYED A WRONG NOTE, THE GROUCHY CONDUCTOR STARTED HARPING.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: Y equals C

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.



State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan distributing prizes among the winners of the first Biman inter-club championships at the Gulshan Shooting Complex on Jan 22.