

Courier, Seles will not let up



MELBOURNE, Feb 3: Jim Courier and Monica Seles stamped their authority on the Australian Open at the week-end and gave notice they intend to dominate tennis in 1993.



JIM COURIER

since they both stood on the victory rostrum at Flinders Park 12 months ago. Courier's success in 1992 propelled him to the forefront of the men's game where he stayed for virtually the whole year despite failing to win a tournament beyond the French Open in May.

to be in better shape than last year when the Barcelona Olympics interrupted his careful preparations. "I am always better prepared for a Grand Slam than I am for a tournament," said Courier, admitting he would swap his six other career titles for another Grand Slam crown.



MONICA SELES

of Wimbledon where Courier thinks any player who succeeds at the French Open is at a disadvantage. "Unless you lose early in the French, you're just not going to be your best prepared. There's no way you can do it but that's what makes it tough to win."

Return of the prodigy

LOS ANGELES, Feb 3: Tracy Austin, who at 16 became the youngest player ever to win the US Open, has decided to pick up her tennis racket one more time and will compete on the women's tennis tour later this month, reports Reuter.



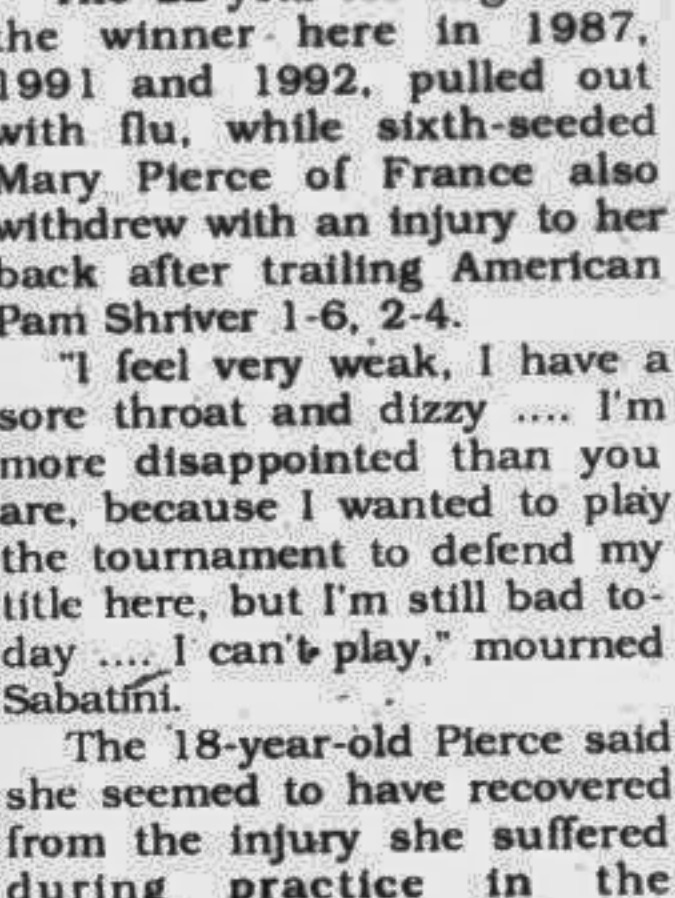
TRACY AUSTIN

now 30, said on Monday she had accepted a wild card entry for the \$50,000 dollars Ever Cup in Indian Wells, California, beginning on February 22. Austin, who became the youngest player inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame last year, said her love of the game was too great for their to stay away.

Date bows to Graf, Sabatini to flu



YOKOHAMA, Japan, Feb 3: World number two Steffi Graf breezed past Kimiko Date, but defending champion Gabriela Sabatini was forced out of the \$750,000 dollar Toray Pan Pacific Open women's tennis tournament here Wednesday, reports AFP.



STEFFI GRAF

with a flawless love game. It was Graf's second consecutive win over the Japanese following a close three set match at Key Ciscaeayne last year. "This surface suits me better. That's why it was easier for me. The court was very fast and gave me advantage today," said the 23-year-old German.

hand error to lose the seventh game. Saving the match at 4-5, Date scored a timely break thanks to Graf's forehand approach shot that landed in the net and kept the hopes of local fans alive.



GABRIELA SABATINI

Japan Open in April, bad luck continued for the third consecutive tournament this season. She crashed to Sabatini in the New South Wales Open first round, bowed to Pierce in the Australian Open second round and picked up her own card against Graf when the draw was held here Sunday.

"It could have been close if I would have lost the second set, but I felt whenever I was aggressive and whenever I went for my shots, she was in a lot of trouble. My serve was definitely stronger than here and I never felt I would lose it."



STEFFI GRAF

Yayuk Basuki of Indonesia, who lost to Martina Navratilova in the second round last year, outplayed Ayako Hirose of Japan 6-4, 6-3 to earn a place for a rematch against the Czech-born American Thursday.

Wilkins enters NBA Hall of Fame

ATLANTA, Feb 3: Dominique Wilkins scored 34 points to become the all-time scoring leader in Hawks' history as Atlanta beat the Seattle SuperSonics 118-109 on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Jackson scored six of his 24 points in the final minute and 22 seconds. The Trail Blazers, second in the Pacific Division behind Phoenix, also fell on Tuesday when they were upset by the Minnesota Timberwolves in Portland, 104-91.

feat with a 105-100 win at Madison Square garden. John Starks scored seven of his 28 points in the final two minutes to secure the victory. Anthony Mason had 17 points and Patrick Ewing added 16 points and 13 rebounds for the Knicks, winners of five of their last six games.

Bangladesh Bank earn promotion

Sports Reporter Bangladesh Bank Club have earned promotion to next year's First Division volleyball league.



A scene from the final of the NBL Second Division volleyball league final between Bangladesh Bank and Jiban Bina Krira Sangtha. Bangladesh Bank won 3-0 to earn promotion to next year's First Division.

Privalova runs down 50m mark

MOSCOW, Feb 3: Irina Privalova set an indoor world record Tuesday in the 50-metre dash, clocking it in 6.05 seconds, the ITR-Tass news agency reported, reports AP.

Puerto Rican Davis Cuppers confused

PETIONVILLE, Feb 3: Members of Puerto Rico's Davis Cup team, not too happy at playing in Haiti in the first place, had added cause to be nervous, reports AP.

Below par Lendl still too good

MARSEILLE, France, Feb 3: Top seed Ivan Lendl was well below his best but still opened the indoor season with a straight sets victory over Dane Kenneth Carlsen at the \$500,000 Marseille Open on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

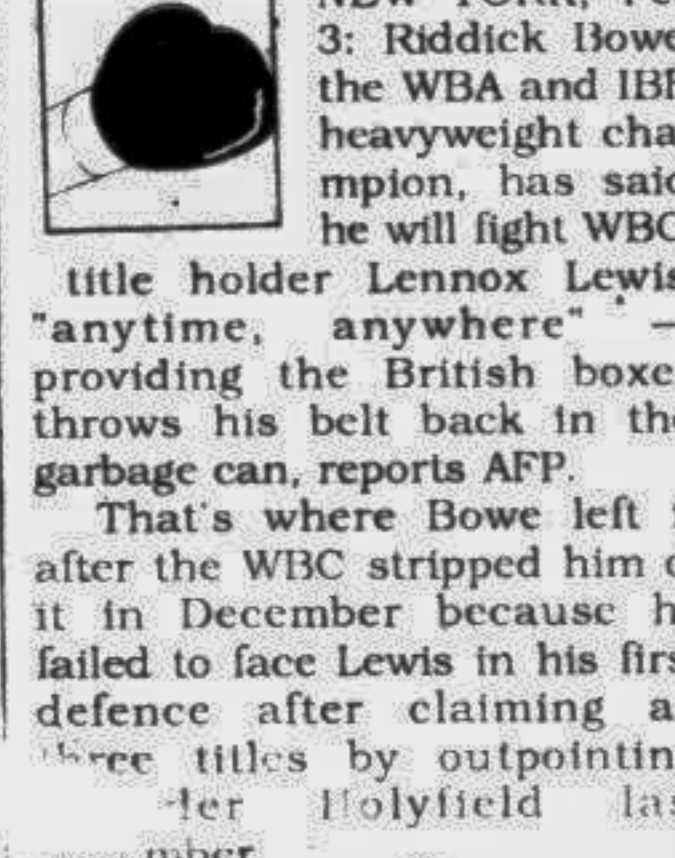
Volvo tennis results

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb 3: Bryan Shelton upset fifth-seeded Jim Grabb 6-7, 6-3, 7-6 Tuesday in the first round of the Volvo-San Francisco tennis tournament, reports AP.

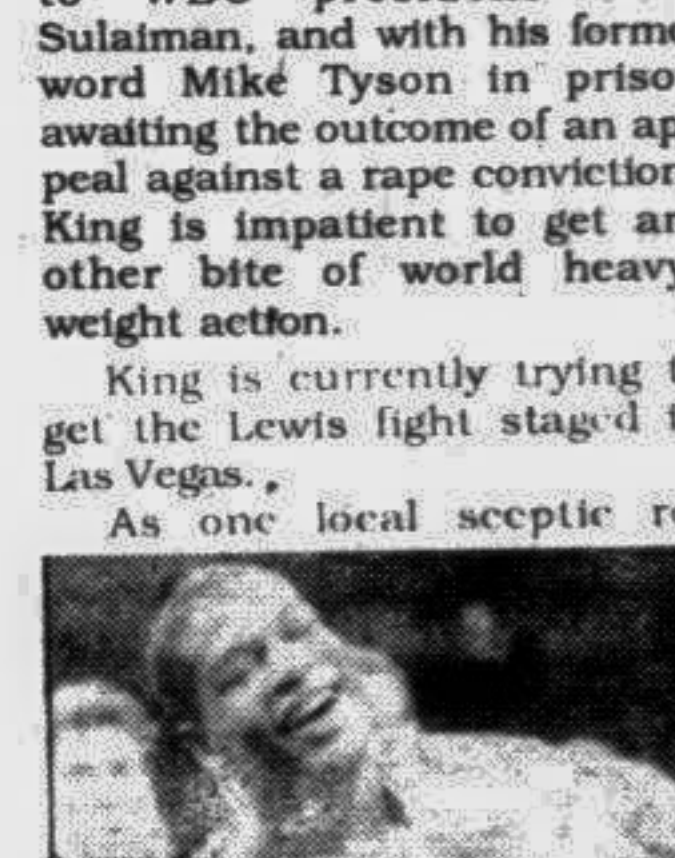
Maloney's belief

LONDON, Feb 3: Lennox Lewis' manager believes the British World Boxing Council (WBC) heavyweight champion will make his first defence of the title in his own country, reports Reuter.

Bowe throws gauntlet to Lewis



NEW YORK, Feb 3: Riddick Bowe, the WBA and IBF heavyweight champion, has said he will fight WBC title holder Lennox Lewis "anytime, anywhere" — providing the British boxer throws his belt back in the garbage can, reports AFP.



RIDDICK BOWE

the garbage," he grinned. Bowe, who will start a massive 12-1 favourite against Dokes, is hoping to have his legendary 81-year-old trainer Eddie Futch in his corner for the Dokes fight.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS: 1 Douglas Brackman's concern; 4 Service-women; 8 Drake or cob; 12 Brutus' breakfast?; 13 Chills and fever; 14 On in years; 15 Closet fill; 17 Requisite; 18 Chignon; 19 Tell's skill; 21 Mobilist Alexander; 24 — Paulo, Brazil; 25 Jackie's second mate; 26 Puffer; 28 Beach blanket; 32 Impart for a time; 34 Kennel cry; 36 Victor Borge, e.g.; 37 Legerdemain; 39 Scroogean; 41 — Tin Tin; 42 Office bigwig; 44 Places for pitchers; 46 Spray of a sort; 50 Parisian pal; 51 Bosc or Bartlett name; 52 Car dealer's realm; 56 Actor Bogosian; 57 December 24 and 31; 58 Antelope of India; 59 Year-end word; 60 Marathon, e.g.; 61 Emulate; 16 Failure pet; 20 Popular; 21 Tranquil; 22 Carpet installer's concern; 23 Dale's mister; 27 Chest protector?; 29 Cautions; 30 Oklahoma city; 31 Camera part; 33 Tammy Wynette song; 35 Shriver of tennis; 38 USSR, today; 40 Throaty; 43 Might; 45 Actress Thurman; 46 Tarzan's cronies; 47 Bizarre; 48 Picnic hamper; 49 Stromboli spith; 53 — room (rumpus area); 54 Place-kicker's pride; 55 Go off course

Crossword grid with numbers 1-61

CRYPTOQUIP: B X D I I - U O T X O, D E E D O . R N Z E K D T I T K Z Y R F B P. N T E U Y Z O F Z Y F D B P. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: VERY PUNY GUY IS GRIPING THAT ELEVATOR SHOES ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY. Today's Cryptoquip clue: X equals W. 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.