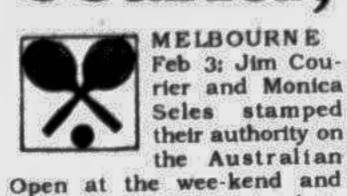
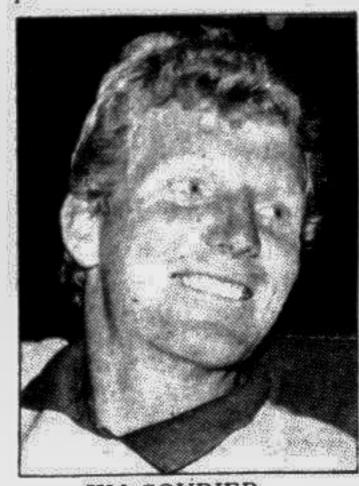
Courier, Seles will not let up



gave notice they intend to dominate tennis in 1993, reports Reuter.

The pair's title successes in the first Grand Slam tournaof the year merely proved that little has changed



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.

Now, after his 6-2, 6-1, 2-6, 7-5 win over Stefan Edberg on a furnace-like Centre Court on Sunday which earned him a fourth Grand Slam title, his rivals may have to wait months for another chance to unseat the superfit 22-year-old American.

nament is the French Open starting in May on the red clay of Roland Garros, a venue where Courier has triumphed in each of the last two years.

to be in better shape than last year when the Barcelona Olympics interrupted his care-

ful 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. "At the Grand Slams I tend to be 100 per cent for every

The exception is the grass



of Wimbledon where Courier thinks any player who suc ceeds 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."

Taking his preparations for Paris to the logical limit, Courier celebrated his win at a local French restaurant on Sunday night, but he may be back in Melbourne within two months.

The US team are due to begin the defence of their Davis Cup title against Australia at. Kooyong in March although Courier has still to determine his availability.

Edberg, the world number two who has now lost three Australian Open finals, two of them to Courier, agrees the future looks bright for the

"I think he's already a champion. He's won four slams now, he's a really hard worker... I think he is going to get more and more credit.

Edberg said. Edberg and Pete Sampras were unable to stop Courier delivering at Melbourne, and even a fit Andre Agassi or Goran Ivanisevic would have struggled to match him in a tournament which retains its reputations as the most ardu-

ous of the year. Courier was thus free to repeat his annual dive into the murky Yarra River - "At least this year I knew it was the 18th dirtiest river in the world" - but court surface temperatures during the final of 65 degrees Celsius have again prompted suggestions the event would be better staged in March.

Whenever it was played, it is a fair bet Seles would win the women's singles. Her domination of her rivals is such that she has now reached the final in 33 of her last 34 tournaments, winning 23 of them. Her Grand Slam tally is now eight end, at just 19, she remains on a heady upward

After her 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 defc. L of Steffi Graf on Saturday in a final which again demonnated her competitive inhe sounded almost in

er achievements. "It's incredible and I still don't know a lot of the time how I've done it. I just take one match at a time at 1 maybe don't look too far ahead," she

A peek into the near future suggest that an elusive Grand Slam is purch le this year although she eves the heetic tournament schedule makes that goal unlikely.

"I think it's impossible. Steffi's playing tennis, Gaby (Sabatini) is going to start playing more the year goes on and there is still Martina (Navratilov

"The thing is to just to of play the best tennis that I can and enjoy it."

Fame last year, said her love of the game was too great for their to stay away. But she added that she did not want her return touted as a fullfledged comeback. "I just really love to play

tennis," said Austin, who added that she will consider playing Grand Slam events. " want to comp ... I'm just going back because I love it: don't think I can go inexpecting to play the way I used to

This comeback attempt is the second for Austin since her e was cut short in

in Jay the circuit and played a pair of

summer when she was migure in an automobile accident and

Austin spent the last three years doing television commentary. But last December she stepped up her rehabilita tion workers and decided to try and play competitively

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 ITAR-Tass news

The previous record, 6.11 seconds, was set in 1980 by Marita Koch of East Germany, running at Grenoble, France.

Privalova, previously known as Sergeyeva, set a world record in 300 meters with 35:35 seconds last month in Moscow. She won a bronze medal in the 100 metres at last summer's Barcelona

Tuesday's record was set during the international

Below par Lendl

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.

Lendl, who lost in the first round of the Australian Open last month to Sweden's Christian Bergstrom, beat Carlsen, ranked 64th in the world, 6-3,

A solitary break point in the first set was enough for Lendl as he opened a 5-3 lead before clinching the set on his ser-

second set and had a match point at 5-3 but Carlsen hung on before finally yielding on the top seed's next service

I'm happy with the way I played," Lendl said. "I was moving better than in Australia. Because of injury l hadn't played for two months and I need to find my rhythm

Lendl, who has been having problems seeing the ball clearly, said he would be having eyesight tests when he returns to the United States and might eventually play in con-

tact lenses. Fourth seed Amos Mansdorf of Israel cruised through his first round match with a 6-4, 6-2 win over Swede Mikael Stadling, a qualifier ranked

Bruguera of Spain saved two match points before beating Czech player Martin Damm 3-6, 6-3, 7-5.

Date bows to Graf, Sabatini to flu



YOKOHAMA, Japan, Feb 3: World game. number two Steffi Graf breezed past Kimiko Date, but defending cham-

pion Gabriela Sabatini was forced out of the 750,000dollar Toray Pan Pacific Open women's tennis tournament here Wednesday, reports AFP.

The 22-year-old Argentine, the winner here in 1987, 1991 and 1992, pulled out with flu, while sixth-seeded Mary Pierce of France also withdrew with an injury to her back after trailing American Pam Shriver 1-6, 2-4. "I feel very weak, I have a

sore throat and dizzy I'm more disappointed than you are, because I wanted to play the tournament to defend my title here, but I'm still bad today I can't play," mourned Sabatini. The 18-year-old Pierce said

she seemed to have recovered from the injury she suffered during practice in the Australian Open, but felt pains when she was serving in the match Wednesday.

victories in 1986 and 1990, coasted to a 6-1, 7-5 win, pulverising Japan's best hope. After the lopsided first set,

the German again went ahead 4-3 in the second when the Japanese made an easy fore- said the 23-year-old German.

hand error to lose the seventh

Saving the match at 4-5, Date scored a timely break thanks to Grafs forehand approach shot that landed in the net and kept the hopes of local fans alive.

But the German gathered momentum to break back in the following game and completed the 75-minute match



with a flawless love game.

It was Graf's second consecutive win over the Japanese following a close three set match at Key Ciscayne last

"This surface suits me better. That's why it was easier for me. The court was very fast and gave me advantage today,

"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."

For Date, who received the 1992 WTA most improved player award following her first major career victory at the



Japan Open in April, bad luck continued for the third consecutive tournament this sea-

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

"I think I had to get to the net a little bit more, but it was very difficult because Steffi is so fast and her stroke was also fast. It's difficult to beat the number two player in the world," said Date. In the second round

Thursday, Graf will play Natalia Zvereva of Belarus, who outclassed Shaun Stafford of the

United States 7-6 (7-5), 7-5. Wednesday saw two more seeds - Lori McNeil of the United States and Helena Sukova of the Czech Republic-

bowed out of the competition. Eighth-seeded McNeil went down to Larisa Savchenko-Neiland of Latvia 6-2, 3-6, 2-6, and seventh-seeded Sukova lost to American Gigi

Fernandez 5-7, 6-7 (4/7). Mana Endo of Japan was a 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 winner over Nicole Provis of Australia earlier in the day on the artificial indoor courts at the Yokohama

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 carn a place for a rematch against the Czech-born American Thurs-

Tamaka Takagi, a lucky loser who replaced Sabatini, could not clear the first round when she lost to Rika Hiraki 3-6, 6-4, 3-6 in an all-Japanese

Volvo tennis results

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

in "he opening game of the fina et, lost only one point on serve until Grabb broke in the 10th game to even

iton, ranke 22nd in he first the world, dropp set when he lost coints of the tieb yed better in

ticbreaker, winning 7-4 and taking five of the last six points.

, "I knew I had to concentrate on my serve, especially after the first set, where I was ahead 4-1," he said. "I knew I could get one or two minibreaks against him because I was really focusing on his

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.

Hundreds of -protesting Haitians, surged around the hillside hotel where the Puerto Ricans are staying.

Team captain Manuel Diaz said pro-military protesters slashed car tiers in the parking lot on Monday and shouted opposition to a UN plan to station civilian observers in the nation as a first step toward restoring democracy. "This is completely wild,"

said Juan Oscar Rios. "I really wasn't expecting this. I just hope that we can play safely." Protesters rallied outside

the Hotel Montana because they thought a special UN envoy, Dante Caputo, would be staying there. He wasn't.

42 Office

bigwig

44 Places for

pitchers

46 Spray of a

50 Parisian

51 Bosc or

52 Car

56 Actor

Bartlett

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24 and 31

57 December

58 Antelope

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59 Year-end

60 Marathon,

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61 Emulate

Betsy

Ross

Bowe throws gauntlet to Lewis to WBC president Jose



3: Riddick Bowe, the WBA and IBP 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. That's where Bowe left it

after the WBC stripped him of it in December because he failed to face Lewis in his first defence after claiming all wree titles by outpointing der Holyfield last mber.

But the chances of the two champions clashing this year in a multi-million dollar showdown remain remote. Both boxers appear more concerned with earning some 'easy money first,

Bowe takes on compatriot Michael Dokes here on Saturday - a 34-year-old who is past his best and who may have trouble going the dis-Dokes has a respectable

record of three losses and two draws in 55 fights but he has never really recovered his stature since his spectacular knock-out by Donovan Razor Ruddock back in April 1990. On that occasion there were real fears ringside that Dokes might never recover conciousness.

Lewis, who has promised to follow Bowe wherever he goes until he humiliates the into a unifying title clash, is to make his first defence against Tony Tucker on April 24 - an American opponent managed by Don King.

Normally Tucker would not appear as a serious problem for the promising British boxer but he is managed by Don King. And with King around anything can happen.

The flamboyant American promoter is notoriously close

Sulaiman, and with his former word Mike Tyson in prison awaiting the outcome of an appeal against a rape conviction, King is impatient to get another bite of world heavy weight action.

King is currently trying to get the Lewis fight staged in Las Vegas. .

As one local sceptic re



RIDDICK BOWE

marked: "If he succeeds it means Sulaiman and King's Nevada Boxing Commission friends will pick the officials."

Looking further ahead Bowe is looking for a second defence late in the year against the powerful but woefully slow Ray Mercer and he could then offer a rematch to Evander Holyfield or give veteran George Foreman another big pay day.

If Lewis comes safely through the Tucker fight, there is talks of him meeting relatively harmless underdogs like Alex Stewart or Foreman.

The situation the British boxer finds himself in prompted Bowe's manager Rock Newsman to laugh.

They didn't know what they were getting into when they took that WBC belt out of

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.

Futch, who has recovered after a stay in hospital after being taken ill with a heart problem, has clearly been missed by the new champion in the final stages of his preparations.

The 25-year-old champion needs Futch's calming presence to guard against complaeeney. And there could be plenty of that against Dokes.

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 and not in the United States, reports Reuter.

Frank Maloney flies to WBC headquarters in Mexico City on Wednesday confident that Lewis' promoters will outbid American Don King and bring his fight against top contender Tony Tucker to London or

Birmingham on April 24. King, who managed former world champion Mike Tysop, is reported to have bid 20 mil lion dollar to stage the fight, and Maloney admitted: "If that is the case there is no argu-

"But I take it with a pinch of salt. Lennox badly wants to make his first defence here and I believe we shall win the

bidding. Lewis, who became the first British world heavyweight champion this century after undisputed world champion Riddick Bowe refused to face him in a mandatory desence, is aiming for three title fights this year.,

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer 41 — Tin Tin

DOWN

1 Despi-

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3 Song-

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4 Movie

studio

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6 Fidel's

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Alexander

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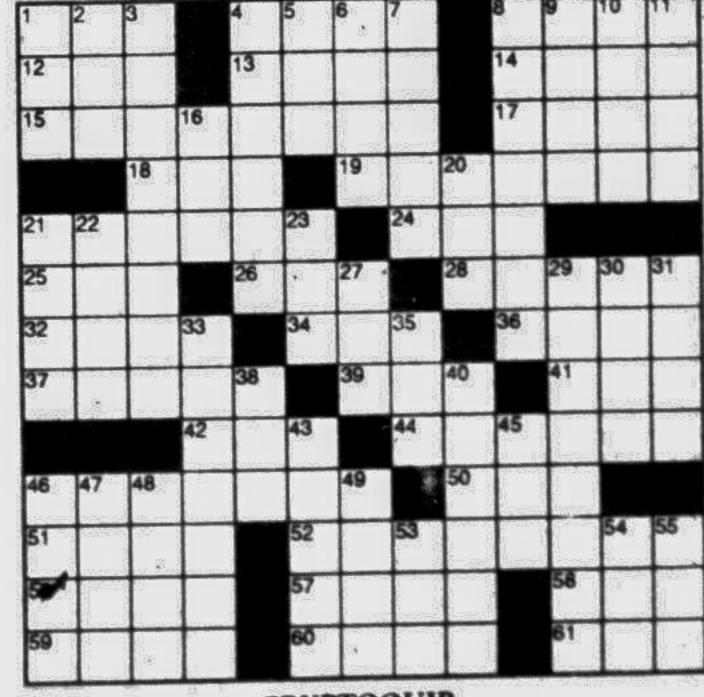
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33 Tammy Wynette song 35 Shriver of tennis **38 USSR**,

today 40 Throaty 43 Might 45 Actress Thurman 46 Tarzan's cronies

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area) 55 Go off course



CRYPTOQUIP

XDII-UOTXO,

KDTITKZYR

FZY ZO NTEUY 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.

The next Grand Slam tour-After that is Wimbledon and then the US Open, here Florida's pride and joy hopes 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. Wilkins hit a layup midway

through, the fourth quarter to

move past Hall of Famer Bob Pettit on the Hawks scoring list with 20,881 points. Mookie Blaylock added 19 points and 11 assists as the Hawks won for the fourth time in five games. Duane Ferrell contributed 17 points and Kevin Willis added 15 points and 16 rebounds for Atlanta, which scored the first 12 points of the second quarter

to turn a one-point edge into a 13 point lead. Shawn Kemp scored 35 points and Ricky Pierce added 19 for Seattle, which lost for

the fourth time in five games. Seattle, in third place in the Pacific Division, did not lost any ground, however, after the league-leading Phoenix Suns were surprised by the Clippers in Los Angeles.

Mark Jackson had 24 points, 11 rebounds and nine assists to lead the Clippers to a 112-108 victory over Phoenix. Danny Manning scored a

who have won four of their last five games and five of seven. Kevin Johnson had 23 points to pace the Suns, who had their six-game winning streak stopped. Los Angeles claimed the

victory by outscoring the Suns

27-21 in the fourth quarter.

The Clippers held a 66-57

game-high 25 for the Clippers,

halftime lead. But Phoenix stormed back for a 87-85 edge by outscoring Los Angeles 31-19 in the third quarter. Bangladesh Bank

earn promotion Sports Reporter Bangladesh Bank Club have earned promotion to next

year's First Division volleyball Bangladesh Bank beat Jiban Bima Krira Sangstha 17-15, 15-9, 15-11 in the final of the **NBL Second Division volleyball** league at the Outer Stadium

volleyball court yesterday. The match lasted only 85 minutes. Ten teams participated in this year's Second Division

league. Meanwhile, Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) and Azad Sporting Club won their respective matches of the NBL First Division volleyball league yesterday.

PDB defeated Bangladesh Pire Service 15-6, 15-6, 15-9 and Azad Sporting outplayed Dhaka Greens 15-6, 15-2, 15-

The other two matches of the First Division league between Dilkusha Sporting and Nabajagaroni Sangha and Bangladesh Water Development Board and East End Club were in progress at the time of filing this report.

Jackson scored six of his 24 points in the final minute and 22 seconds.

The Trial Blazers, second in the Pacific Division behind Phoenix, also fell on Tuesday when they were upset by the Minnesota Timberwoles in Portland, 104-91. Michael Williams scored 24 points and dished out 12 as-

who posted back-to-back wins for just the third time this The San Antonio spurs regained sole possession of first place in the Midwest Division with their 12th win in 13

games, a 111-93 thrashing of

sists and Chuck Person added

24 points to lead the T-Wolves,

the visiting New Jersey nets. Dale Ellis scored 24 points and David Robinson had 17 points and 12 rebounds as the Spurs improved to 17-3 since John Lucas took over from Jerry Tarkanian as head

rebounds and Chris Morris had 20 points and 10 boards for the nets, who fell to three games back of New York in

Derrick Coleman scored 22

points and pulled down 12

The Spurs moved half a game ahead of idle Utah. The Atlantic Division-leading New York Knicks handed

the Atlantic Division.

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. Buck Johnson scored a sea-

son-high 29 point for the Bullets. In Houston, Hakeem Olajuwon, NBA player-of-themonth for January, scored 31 points as the Rockets cooled off the Indiana Pacers 115-

bounds and blocked seen shots and Vernon Maxwell added 18 points as Houston ended Indiana's four-game winning streak, while the Rockets posted their third straight win and 11th victory in 13

Olajuwon Grabbed 14 re-

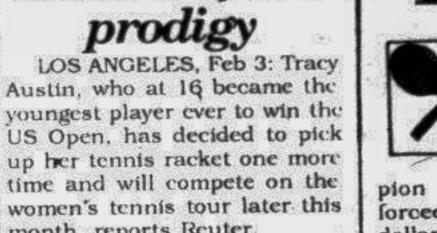
and Detlef Schrempf had 17 points and 13 rebounds to pace the pacers. At Cleveland, Gerald Wilkins scored a season-high 28 points as the cavaliers got back on the winning track at

Rik Smits scored 20 points

the expense of the struggling Golden State Warriors. Cleveland defeated Golden State 100-90 to hand the warriors their fifth loss in six the last place Washington Bullets their third straight degames.



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



time and will compete on the women's tennis tour later this month, reports Reuter. The two-time US Open champion and former top-

Return of the



TRACY AUSTIN

now 30, said on Monday she had accepted a wild card entry for the 350,000 dollars Evert Cup in Indian Wells, California, beginning on February 22. Austin, who became the

youngest player inducted into the international tennis Hall of

tin aturned to

required knee surgery.

agency reported, reports AP.

Olympics.

Russian Winter indoor competition. Privalova is a 23-yearold journalism student at Moscow State University.

still too good

Naturalised American

Lendi, broke early in the

291st in the world. Earlier, second seed Sergi

Top-seeded Graf, seeking her third title following her