

THREE BATSMEN AT THE CREASE? Dermot Reeve (R) seen in consultation with his England batting partner Neil Fairbrother (L) during yesterday's one-day international against India at Jamshedpur, which England won by six wickets. In the middle is Robin -Star TV photo

# Smith who came on as a substitute runner for the injured Fairbrother. Experience bails Agassi out



Arizona, Mar 1: Wimbledon champion Andre Agissi survived a strong upset bid

by unheralded Marcos Ondruska of South Africa to win the final of the 300,000 dollar Scottsdale tennis championships 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 on Sunday, reports Reuter.

The second-seeded Agassi's victory ended a streak by the unseeded 20 year-old in which he upset seeds Francisco Clavet of Spain, American Brad Gilbert and Russian Andrei Chesnokov without losing a set.

"I did what I had to do out there today. There's no question my experience helped me," said Agassi, who added his second title of the year and 19th in 26 career finals to carn 39,600 dollar.

Despite the victory, the eighth-ranked Agassi said he wasn't focusing on the number one ranking just yet. "I'm closer but in my mind I'm not there yet. If it comes along with hard work and results, I'll be ready for it."

The 22-year-old American, who is 12-1 and off to the quickest start of his seven-year career, quickly carried a oneset advantage by breaking service four times while losing his own twice.

Agassi felt Ondruska, 20, raised his game in the second set and began wondering if he could keep it up.

"I felt threatened the entire match," said Agassi, whose serve was broken four times.

INDIAN WELLS.

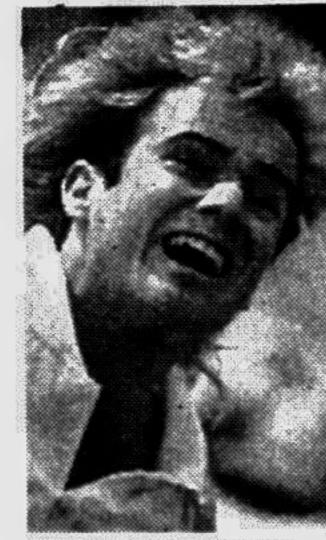
California, Mar 1:

Top-seeded Mary

"Anytime someone is breaking you like that, they can start serving better and then it's anybody's ball game. Fortunately I got him early in the

Agassi hadn't been tested all week, steamrolling through four opponents while losing only 11 games.

"Believe it or not, I wanted three sets," said Agassi, ranked eighth in the world, "I would have taken a two-set win, but it was nice."



ANDRE AGASSI

"It's tough to go through a tournament with every match easy. You don't feel you deserve the tournament. You really want to see yourself under all circumstances.

And today, it got close, then to a situation where it could have gotten either way. It's nice to get through those as well as go out there and beat

guys easy. Both players agreed the turning point of the two-hour 22-minute contest, played in cold, windy, drizzly conditions, came in the fourth game of the decisive set as Agassi survive five match points to go ahead

"I felt in the third set, pulled it together. I think that (the fourth game) was the turning point," said Agassi.

"That state of the match was where a wind was blowing either way and I was against it on my serve. I knew getting by that game was going to be a big step in winning the match."

"Yeah, the fourth game was key, said Ondruska." "I wasn't able to convert there."

A break in the seventh game gave the American a 5-2 lead before Ondruska broke back. But at 5-3, Agassi scaled the victory, breaking for the eighth time in the match.

Ondruska, who collected 23,330 dollar paid tribute to Agassi's game.

"It was a very physical match and he put me under pressure," said Ondruska who after starting the week at number 67 will move into the top 50.

"Today, I wanted to take my game towards him, make him play around," added Ondruska. "It has to do with our stubbornness that we both have good games from the baseline. But he came through strong in the third set."

## Fernandez clinches Evert Cup points, the seventh-ranked

loe Fernandez nearly let a badly needed confidenee builder get away from her on Sunday but saved two match points to beat fourth seed Amanda Coetzer of South Africa in the final of the

#### 3,75,000 dollar Evert Cup, re-Huber, Ticci win it for Italy

LILLEHAMMER, Norway, Mar 1: Gunther Huber and Stefano Tieci of Italy captured the World Cup two-man bob sled finale by just four-hundredths of a second Sunday, reports AP.

Huber and Ticci had a combined time of 1 minute, 47.16 seconds down the Hunderfossen Olympic track, edging Canadians Pierre Lueders and Jack Pyc.

Wolfgang Hoppe and Carsten Embach of Germany finished third in 1:47.23 Huber and Ticci totaled 168

points in the final overall standings after six races, seven ahead of Switzerland's Gustav Weder and Kurt Meter.

Weder and Meier were sixth Sunday in 1:47.45.

Americans Brian Shiemer and Randy Jones placed eighth In 1:47.52 and third overall with 140 points. Lueders and Pyc were fourth overall with 133 points.



Fernandez beat Coetzer 3-6, 6-1,7-6 (8-6) in two hours 42 minutes to win only her third career title despite having been ranked in the top 10 for the past three years.

I haven't won a tournament in over a year. It's a good



MARY JOE FERNANDEZ breakthrough, said the 21-old American, who lost to top ranked Monica Seles in six of the 10 semifinals she reached in 1992.

Hopefully, it will give me confidence to win more tournaments when I get to the semifinals and finals, said Fernandez, who earned 75,000

I tried to block out that it

was a final and just play the

American said. Coetzer, who earned 30,000 dollar, was also encouraged, pointing to the

closeness of the match. Anybody who saw the match knows I could have won, Coetzer said. It gives me confidence to know that I can beat

the top players. Fernandez, who now leads Coetzer 3-0 in career meetings, squandered a 4-2 lead in the third set when she abandoned her aggressive play and let Coetzer engage her in long

paseline rallies. Coetzer, ranked 18th in the world, then reached double match point at 5-4 on Fernan dez's serve but missed a forehand long on the first and a backhand long on the second, as the match went into a decisive tiebreak.

in the tiebreak, Fernandez went ahead 6-4 but Coetzer saved both match points, the second with a crafty net approach which resulted in a

winning backhand volley. Fernandez finally closed out the tiebreak 8-6 on her third match point when Coctzer net-

ted a forehand. The field at the 56-player, hardcourt tournament was diluted the weekend before the tournament began when Germany's Steffi Gral and American Jennifer Capriait, who would have been seeded one-two, withdrew, both due to pulled stomach muscles.



C K Md Abdullah, Chairman, Petro Bangla giving away the men's individual championship trophy to Milon at the conclusion of the organisation's annual sports meet held in the city last week.

### Bruno to face 'The Truth'

LONDON, Mar 1: British heavyweight Frank Bruno, hoping to position himself for a third shot at the world title, will fight American Carl "The Truth" Williams at Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre on April 24, reports AP.

The fight, announced Monday, could move Bruno in line to challenge fellow Briton Lennox Lewis for the WBC title or Riddick Bowe for the WBA and IBF crowns. "If Frank has a convincing

win over Williams, then he is in as strong a position as anyone else," said promoter Mickey Duff.

The 31-year-old Bruno, who lost world title challenges to Tim Witherspoon in 1986 and Mike Tyson in 1989, is 35-3 for his career. Williams, 33, has won 26 of his 32 fights and is expected to be the toughest opponent Bruno has faced since beginning a comeback two years ago.

proached Witherspoon and Jesse' Ferguson but both turned down fights with Bruno, Bruno, meanwhile, declined an offer to fight Alex Garcia for the vacant WBO heavyweight title.

Duff said he had ap-

"He doesn't want to win a cheese championship," Duff said. "Ilc wants to win a championship that's recog-

Bruno's last fight was an eighth-round victory over Pierre Coctzer on Oct 17. Williams was stopped in the eighth round by Tommy Morrison in his last bout on

"This time, nobody can knock the opponent," said Duff, nothing that Williams was ahead on two of the judges' scorecards when he was stopped by Morrison.

"He's fresh, he's tall, has a good jab and he's a good mover," Bruno said. "I'm taking him very seriously." If Bruno beats Williams, matchmakers are likely to seek a fight in September against Lewis- provided Lewis successfully defends his WBC title against Tony Tucker on May 8.

Duff said a Lewis-Bruno bout could draw 80,000 at Wembley Stadium, \*potentially the biggest fight ever held in this country." 'If Lewis says no, we'll see

if Riddick Bowe says yes," Duff

Bruno would now seem to be a better prospect for Bowe than Herbie Hide, who won the vacant British heavyweight crown Saturday by stopping Michael Murray in the fifth

Bowe came to London to watch Hide and discuss a possible fight later this year. But Hide failed to impress and is no longer considered a legitimate world challenger.

"It would be a total mismatch." Bowe said. "I would knock him out in the first round. To be honest, I know of some amateurs who could beat Herbie.\*

## Al Cole retains IBF crown

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., Mar 1 : Al Cole retained his International Boxing Federation cruiscrweight title Sunday night with a unanimous 12round decision over Urtah Grant, reports AP

Cole, from Spring Valley N. Y. improved to 22-1 with 12 knockouts. Cole, who weighed 85,5 kilograms (190 pounds) for the fight, now wants a chance to unify the cruiser weight title in a meeting with WBA cruiscrweight champ Bobby Czyz.

Grant, who had not fought since March 1992, fell to 22-10.

He hit me with some good shots but didn't hurt me. Cole. 28, said

Cole broke open a close fight by landing several flush right upper cuts and left hooks. Unlike his early rounds performance, Cole managed to land some combinations.

Grant, 31, fought hard against the champ for most the fight until appearing to tire in the late rounds when Cole put together some punishing combinations to the head.

This guy has 21 knockouts with his 22 wins. He was a hell of a challenge. Cole said of his Miami opponent.

#### Volleyball results Sports Reporter

Sher-e-Bangla Physical Training Centre and Chand Textiles Mills won their matches of the qualifying meet for the Metropolis Second Division volleyball league which began at the Outer Stadium volleyball court yesterday.

Sher-e-Bangla Physical Training Centre deseated Christian Youth Club 15-8, 15-12, 15-11 while Chand Textiles beat Agrani Club 8-15, 15-5, 15-5, 15-3 in yesterday's matches.

Four teams are taking part in the Bangladesh Volleyball Federation organised meet with the champions qualifying for the Second Division league next season.

# Gazza gets marching order



Paul Gascoigne's troubled debut scason with Lazio high-priced recruit Gianluigi plunged to its nadir on Sunday

when he was sent off in a heated Italian league match against Genoa which was also interrupted by a minor pitch invasion, reports Reuter. The former Tottenham

player, whose fitness and form have been a constant worry for the Rome Club, was given his marching orders 25 minutes into the second half for lashing out at Genoas Mario Bortolazzi. Lazio coach Dino Zoff said later on Italian Radio he didn't

think there was anything mali-

cious in the incident. He didn't kick the player, there was just a bit of elbowing and Gascoigne pulled him over, Zoff said. It was just one of those things. The news for Gascoignes

teammates was much better. They overcame a two-goal deficit to beat Genoa 3-2 and move into third place behind Milan and Internazionale. German Karl Heinz Riedle

leading scorer Giuseppe Signori hit Lazios third from the penalty spot. But the game had to be held up for three minutes after the final Lazio goal when up to a

dozen Genoa fans invaded the

scored twice and the leagues

On a day which saw 29 goals in nine matches, Milan beat Sampdoria with ridiculous case, 4-0 at San Siro, to take their unbeaten run to 56

Jean-Pierre Papin contin-

ucd his outstanding recent form with two goals, while



GAZ%A . . . sent off Lentini emerged from a form

slump to score the other two. A last-minute Florentina goal earned them a 2-2 draw against Internationale and left inter 10 points behind their Milan rivals in second place.

Genoa shook Lazio with two goals in a minute midway through the first half from Michele Padvano and Tomas Skuhravy.

Riedle pulled one back within two minutes in the 26th and Signori drew them level with a penalty in the 69th after Gascoigne was fouled.

Gascoigne was dismissed a minute later, but Lazio did not miss him as they went on to

beat Genoa with an 85th

minute winner from Riedle. That goal prompted a minor pitch invasion from upto a dozen aggrieved Genoa fans, who got as far as the advertising hoardings behind the goal before being beaten back by

police. Zoff later said the on-going public debate about Gascoignes worth to Lazio had placed great pressure on the 25-year

Sometimes he is very tense when he goes out to play, Zoff

England manager Graham Taylor said recently he was concerned about Gascoigne after his poor performance in their 6-0 World Cup win over San Marino 11 days ago.

There is something there with the player that isn't right and its affecting his fitness, said Taylor. It's a matter of concern.

Gascoigne's dismissal meant he has completed just four of Lazios 21 matches this season.

Lazio's neighbours Roma also came from behind to win 2-1 against fifth-placed Juventus, who had opened the scoring through a brilliantlytaken Roberto Baggio free-

Giuseppe Giannini equalised in the 60th minute, then a thundering 25-metre drive from Thomas Haessler in the 71st gave Roma the points.

A brace of goals from Udineses Argentine striker Abel Balbo in a 3-2 win over Foggia took his total to 18 for the season, one shy of Signori.

golden chance LONDON, Mar 1: Injury-hit

Norwich miss a

Norwich missed the opportunity to make up significant ground on leaders Aston Villa when they were held at home to a goalless draw by Blackburn in the English soccer Premier League on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Villa and second placed Manchester United, who notched home wins on Saturday over Wimbledon and Middlesbrough, ended the weekend respectively seven and five points clear of third placed Norwich.

Club captain Lan Butterworth and midfielder Gary Megson became the latest players to join Norwich's lengthening casualty list and in the end, Norwich were happy to carn a point against impressive Blackburn.

Manager Mike Walker brought in David Smith for his first appearance of the season as a replacement for Megson and moved Chris Sutton to centre-half for Butterworth but his side were rarely able to present a threat.

Norwich who still have two games in hand on Villa and one on United have another chance to close the gap when they entertain Arsenal on Wednesday.

But, with five first choice players currently sidelined by injury, their hopes of having a significant say in the champions run-in are dwindling.

#### Gijon buried in Barcelona avalanche international against Denmark Roberto Rodri in the 70th and



MADRID, Mar 1: Barcelona buried Sporting Gijon under an avalanche of seven goals on Sunday in an

action-packed game which saw four penalties and a Barcelona player sent off, reports Reuter.

Danish international Michael Laudrup, Bulgarian striker Hristo Stoichkov and Julio Salinas scored two goals each, as Barcelona triumphed 7-2 over lowly Sporting, maintaining their pressure on league leaders Real Madrid.

Madrid, who beat Deportivo Coruna 2-1 on Saturday, have the same number of points as Deportivo but a better goal difference. Barcelona are two points adrift but have a game in hand.

Earlier in the week Barcciona coach Johan Cruyff criticised his team's international stars. Stoichkov and Laudrup, for not playing well enough in recent matches. The pair responded in

style, scoring four goals between them, including a penalty apiece - two goals in the first half for Laudrup and two in the second for Stoichkov. Barcelona went into the

second half 3-0 up thanks to Laudrup's elforts and a goal from Aitor Beguiristan, also created by the omnipresent

Four more goals followed in he last 20 minutes of the match, with Salinas beating hapless Sporting goalkeeper

# Schools kabaddi

Sports Reporter The 1993 schools kabaddi championship under the aegis of the Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation (BKF) will begin from April 10, says a press re-

Interested schools have been asked to contact the BKF with an entry fee of Taka 50.

12 Star

partner

13 Adam's

20 Tarzan's

21 Toast

23 Succor

transport

topping

24 Forehead

fringe

27 Bribable

29 Jeannie's

"home"

creased?

finger's

first name

31 De-

35 Gold-

37 Pianist

Peter

38 Nasality

41 Rep.'s

25 18 and 65,

83rd minutes and Stoichkov scoring with a 79th-minute header and a penalty in the dying seconds.

Stoichkov began the season with a blaze of goals but had not scored for a month before Sunday's match. Sporting's two goals in-

cluded a penalty after Barcelona's midfielder Miguel Nadal had been sent off for handling in an open goal mouth. Sporting missed an earlier penalty in what was a thoroughly grim evening for

Sevilla's two Argentine stars Diego Maradona and Diego Simeone received a rousing reception from the Seville crowd when they went out to face Athletic Bilbao, having returned from their midweck in Argentina. The pair got a cooler re-

ception from club officials for

returning 24 hours later than

stipulated from Argentina's previous match against Brazil and for travelling again to Argentina straight after last Sunday's game at Logrones, again without club permission,

to play against Denmark.

Sevilla are due to announce today what disciplinary action they plan to take.

But if club officials were worried the Argentine internationals would not be fit to play, they were soon proved wrong. Simeone scored once and Maradona created two of the goals as Sevilla beat Bilbao

Ignacio Conte scored twice for Sevilla, who are now sixth in the table. However, Maradona's fa-

mous hand got him in trouble Maradona, whose hand helped the ball into the net in the first of two goals he scored

against England in the 1986

World Cup quarter-finals in Mexico, was booked for deliberate handball. A 53rd-minute goal from Andoni Imaz gave Real Socieded a 1-0 win over Valencia. It was the 23rd year Valencia had failed to win in San Schastian,

six points behind the leaders. On a bitterly cold Sunday the games between Real Oviedo and Cadiz, and Real Burgos and Atletico Madrid had to be postponed, because, of heavy

but despite the defeat they

remain fourth in the league,



Sevilla's Argentinian superstar Diego Maradona challenges Athletico de Billbao's Del Campo (on ground) during the Spanish league tie Feb 28 at Seville. Maradona's team won. -AFP photo

#### CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer ACROS 19 Entree

ACROSS	rival	3 Drop	19 Entree
1 Bolivian	43 Comedian	sharply	loathed
capital	44 Western	4 "Darling,	by kids
6 Seek an	st.	Je Vous	21 Poke
apple?	45 Bond	Beau-	22 Past
9 Once	47 Ideal	coup"	24 Saloon
around	49 Descend,	5 Striped	26 Verse
12 Stan's	as a bird	equine	28 More
partner	of prey	6 Neighbor-	pleasan

7 Kiln madam on the 8 Pon-14 - Khan Seine 53 "- Blue?" 15 Absolutely derosa pa 9 Terence's 54 Trunk 16 Byrd or 55 AL batters tongue Hatch 10 "Merrily 56 Still 18 Camelot 57 Re-We Rol conjurer

quested

DOWN

52 Summer

1 Cut off of wax

Solution time: 26 mins.

11 Combus-

AGAMORE OUT REDDENED ANNA CRIMES IMPART

follower 42 Hostess

Perle i 45 A handful 46 Noah's passen-48 Festive 50 Sugar suffix 51 Spacecraft

compart-

ment

A LIMB.

pleasant

30 Schlepp

32 Gotham

goal

persis

tently

tional

raphy

corded

40 Buenos

38 Prere-

39 Ire

autobiog-

36 Sensa-

**33 NOW** 

34 Follow

CRYPTOQUIP

TCEXMLZUW XCCRACCOU M O X M D E T U U - X L U U . DEW Yesterday's Cryptoquip: RELIABLE CLEANER OF THE COLOSSAL STATUE FOUND HIMSELF OUT ON

Today's Cryptoquip clue: T 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.

HDTSUACL