



Spain's Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario (R) smiles while holding her trophy after beating world number two Steffi Graf of Germany 6-3, 6-3 in the final of the Hamburg Open tennis tournament on Sunday. Graf failed to become the first player to win a tournament seven times in a row. —AFP photo

Sanchez shatters Graf's dream

HAMBURG, Germany, May 3: Steffi Graf failed to become the first player to win a tournament seven consecutive times when she was beaten in straight sets by Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario in Sunday's final of the Hamburg Open here, reports AFP.

Graf, the number two seed and defending champion, carried over her indifferent form from the semifinals and rarely offered the third seeded Spaniard a real challenge.

She held serve just once in the first set, in the seventh game, but even then had to hold off two break points.

In the 2nd set Graf broke serve to lead 1-0, but Sanchez-Vicario hit back with a backhand volley at the net to level for 1-1, and she took another

vital break to lead 5-3 when Graf put a smash into the net. While Graf was listless, Sanchez-Vicario pressed by repeatedly coming to the net on the short ball and volleying away a winner. She covered the angles there very well, as Graf sought in vain to find a way to tame her.

While Graf strove to find any rhythm or ways to place Sanchez under pressure, the Spaniard was aggressive, put more pace on the ball and made less unforced errors. "I was much more mentally strong than Steffi," said Sanchez, who earlier visited Monica Seles in hospital.

Seles, stabbed on court on Friday, was sleeping, but her brother Zoltan assured her that Seles now feels much better.

Since taking on coach Carlos Kirmayr, Sanchez has been working on her net game and she was particularly pleased that the work appears to be showing results.

"I've been working on my attacking game and on taking more risks, and I was very happy with the way I played," she said.

Graf was very disappointed to finish the week so poorly and admitted that her game just wasn't there when she needed it. "I didn't feel very confident with my forehand and all together I didn't know how to win a point. I had trouble putting the ball in play," she confessed.

"But she played well, she rarely made mistakes and concentrated well. She played very few bad games."

Jansher expects stiff challenge from Aussies

KARACHI, May 3: Pakistani world squash champion Jansher Khan said Monday he expected a formidable challenge from Australia in the World Team Championships scheduled here in November, reports AFP.

"The Australian challenge is increasing day by day and we have more than a 50 per cent chance in the next team championships," he said on his return from victories at the British Open and Tournament of Champions in New York.

The World Team Championships will be hosted here from November 24-29 following the 120,000 dollar prize money World Open, which will also be held here from November 18-23.

"Despite home advantage we will be under tremendous pressure to win the events and for this some of our youngsters may have to stay out of international tournaments before this event to train themselves," said Jansher.

He said Jahangir Khan's back troubles have added to the problems of Pakistan's squash playing.

Pakistan lost the team championship title to Australia in 1989 in Singapore and was relegated from second to eighth in 1991.

Resting after scoring his tenth successive victory in the finals of Tournament of Champions at New York over Australian Chris Dittmar, Jansher has pleaded for "long-term planning to train youngsters if we wish to remain in contention."

Jansher and Dittmar are seeded to meet in the finals of the 140,000 dollar Brazilian Open which begins in Rio de Janeiro on May 12.

"I'll do my best to maintain the winning spree, but I am too tired and my body needs rest," said Jansher, who remains the lone Pakistani contender on the international circuit following Jahangir Khan's health problems which have forced him to remain out of competition.

Unique!

BUCHAREST, May 3: Thieves have stolen the gold, silver and bronze medals won by Romanian gymnast Lavinia Milosovic at the Barcelona Olympics, reports AFP.

The theft occurred on Sunday at the family home in the village of Esculita, southwestern Romania, press reports here said on Friday. Milosovic won the floor gold, team and vault silvers and the all-round bronze.

Jankovic safe

ATHENS, May 3: Serbian centre Slobodan Jankovic was reported improving Friday after spinal surgery following his self-inflicted injury while reacting to a referee's foul call, reports AP.

Doctors at the Athens KAT hospital said the 30-year-old Jankovic may recover use of his arms and legs after emergency surgery on his damaged spine late Thursday.

Jankovic was in danger of becoming a paraplegic after he rammed his head against a cement pylon supporting the basket after he was called for his fifth and final foul in a Greek championship playoff semifinal game. Despite his 17 points, his team, Panionios of Athens, lost to Panathinaikos 58-65.

The blow fractured a neck vertebrae, damaged his spinal cord and left him paralyzed from the waist down with little feeling in his arms.

A medical bulletin said the operation was successful but that the "next few days will continue to be critical."

The 2.06-metre (6-foot-8) Jankovic played for Red Star of Belgrade before moving to Panionios last year.

The incident occurred with six minutes remaining and Panionios trailing by four points.

Schools kabaddi

Sports Reporter Motijheel Model High School and Ansar and V D P School recorded antithetic victories in their respective matches in the BGIC fourth schools kabaddi competition at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

Motijheel Model High School overpowered Segun Bagicha High School 29-15 in the first match after trailing 7-13 in the first sessions.

The winners scored two losses against the losers' one. In the other match of the day Ansar and VDP School edged Maniknagar Junior High School 31-27 in a cliff-hanger.

The first half score was 24-8 in favour of the winners.

Both the teams earned two losses each. Maniknagar Govt Primary School take on Notre Dame School while Gandaria High School meet Haider Ali High School in today's fixtures.



Briton Henry Akinwande rejoices after defeating German Axel Schultz to become new European heavyweight champion on Saturday. —AFP photo

World amateur championship

Cubans expected to dominate

HELSINKI, Finland, May 3: Cuba vs the Rest of the World. That's the setup in the quest for gold in the world amateur boxing championships beginning Friday in Tampere, Finland, reports AP.

Cuba is fielding an accomplished team for the event, which features a record 348 entries from 62 nations.

Eight of the 12 Cuban team members are gold medal winners in either World championships or Olympic Games.

The team is led by two men who have dominated the amateur rings. Heavyweight (91 kilos-201 pounds) and under) Felix Savon won the last three world titles, in 1986, 1989 and 1991, and captured the Olympic gold in Barcelona last year. Cuba did not compete in the 1988 Olympics.

Roberto Balado, the super

heavyweight (over 91 kilos) has won the last three major titles, two Worlds and the Olympics.

Rogelio Marcelo (48 kilos-106 pounds), Joel Casamayor (54-119), Hector Vincent (63.5-140), and Ariel Hernandez (75-165) are Olympic champs from last year. Enrique Carrion (57-126) and Juan Hernandez (67-148), the 1992 Olympic runnerup, are former World titlists.

Still, there is room for newcomers like flyweight Waldemar Font and lightweight Damian Austin, both junior World champions from Montreal last year.

The rest of the world has five former World or Olympic champions competing — Germany's Marco Rudolph (60 kilos-132 pounds) and Torsten May (81-176), Hungary's Istvan Kovacs (54-119), Bulgaria's Serafim Todorov (57-126) and Francis

Vastag of Rumania (71-157).

The United States fields a relatively inexperienced team whose members could take the first step towards Olympic representation in Atlanta 1996.

Bantamweight San Fletcher, 25, an 22-year-old featherweight Julian Wheeler, both US Navy boxers, have the biggest international experience. They are reigning CISM (International Military Sports Federation) champions, winning their titles in Copenhagen last year. Fletcher also boxed at the World championships in 1991 while Wheeler was a member of the Olympic team last year.

Competition in this year's World amateur championships will be tougher than ever. While only 12 boxers could compete for the former Soviet Union, now the area submits nearly 80 boxers from 12 nations.

Kohl assures Samaranch

MUNICH, Germany, May 3: German Chancellor Helmut Kohl met International Olympic Committee president Juan Antonio Samaranch here on Sunday and defended Berlin's application to host the 2000 Games, reports AFP.

Before the final of the ice hockey World Championships between Russia and Sweden, Kohl met Samaranch for 40 minutes. Kohl assured the IOC chief that if Berlin were chosen, the government would do everything possible to make the Games an unforgettable success for sport, Europe and Germany, according to the Chancellor's press service.

Kohl emphasised: "10 years after German reunification, the 2000 Games would be very important to us. The entire world would realise how far the new German Republic had progressed in a decade, after the fall of the wall and the end of the east-west conflict."

The IOC will decide the venue for the 2000 Games on September 23 at Monte Carlo.

Steven Settles it for Kiwis

SAGA, Japan, May 3: Brett Steven powered past Shuzo Matsuoka in straight sets here today to give New Zealand a decisive 3-1 lead over Japan in the Davis Cup Asia-Oceania zone second round, reports AFP.

With a 6-4, 6-1, 6-2 win, New Zealand secured a berth in the play-off round in September vying for a place in the elite 16-team world group.

Steven and Matsuoka, number one players of the two teams, split the first two singles matches on Friday beating Yasufumi Yamamoto and Kelly Evernden, while the two New Zealanders won their doubles match Saturday.

It was a repeat performance for New Zealand, which defeated Japan 3-0 in their previous Davis Cup meeting in 1979.

The last match between Evernden and Yamamoto was to be played later in the day on the artificial indoor court at the Saga Prefectural Sogo Gymnasium, Western Japan.

Rookies give Russia a jolly ride

MUNICH, May 3: It seems you've got to have a lot of rookies to win the World Hockey Championship.

Last year, Sweden had 16 rookies, but still went on to win its second straight title. On Sunday, a Russian team with 15 rookies beat the Swedes 3-1 to capture its first-ever championship, reports AP.

Goalie Andrei Treflov, the big hero on the Russian team in the final, remembers very well when he was a newcomer on the former Soviet team. Treflov allowed two goals as the Swedes edged the Soviets 2-1 to clinch the first of two consecutive titles in the 1991 worlds in Turku, Finland.

"I was too young and too nervous in Finland," said Treflov, whose team also lost last year to Sweden 2-0 in the quarterfinals.

In Sunday's final, Treflov

made 35 saves and was named the Russians' MVP.

"I have finally achieved what I wanted for three years," Treflov said. "I'm very happy."

After the final buzzer, Swedish goalie Tommy Soderstrom, a rookie with the Philadelphia Flyers this season, gave Treflov a big hug.

"He's been blamed for a couple of losses in past World Championships," Soderstrom said. "He's really worthy of this gold medal."

Treflov played only one NHL game for Calgary and spent the remainder of the season with the Flames' International Hockey League farm team in Salt Lake City, Utah.

"I didn't know what to expect when I came to Germany," Treflov said. "We had a lot of new players. For every game we played a little bit better. But we didn't play real well until the final against Sweden."

The Russians scored twice

in the first period to take command. It was the first world title for Russia, who made their debut in last year's tournament.

The former Soviet Union won a record 22 titles since 1954, the last in 1990.

German Titov, Andrei Nikolishin and Andrei Khomutov scored the Russian goals before a near-sellout crowd of 10,500 in the Olympic Hall that included Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee.

Boris Mikhailov, the Russian coach and a star on the powerful Soviet teams in the 1970s, praised Treflov.

"Our goalie played so well," Mikhailov said. "We played real good defence tonight. We're unbelievably happy."

"Today's victory means a lot to me, even more than all the titles I collected as a player. But this was not a success for the coach only. It's a success for all players and all people

who worked for the team.

Mikael Renberg spoiled Treflov's shutout bid with a controversial goal at 9:36 on the third period that first was disallowed by American referee Rob Hearn.

The goal came after a wild scramble in front of the net. A Russian defenceman fell backward in the crease and glided into the net, his body covering the puck.

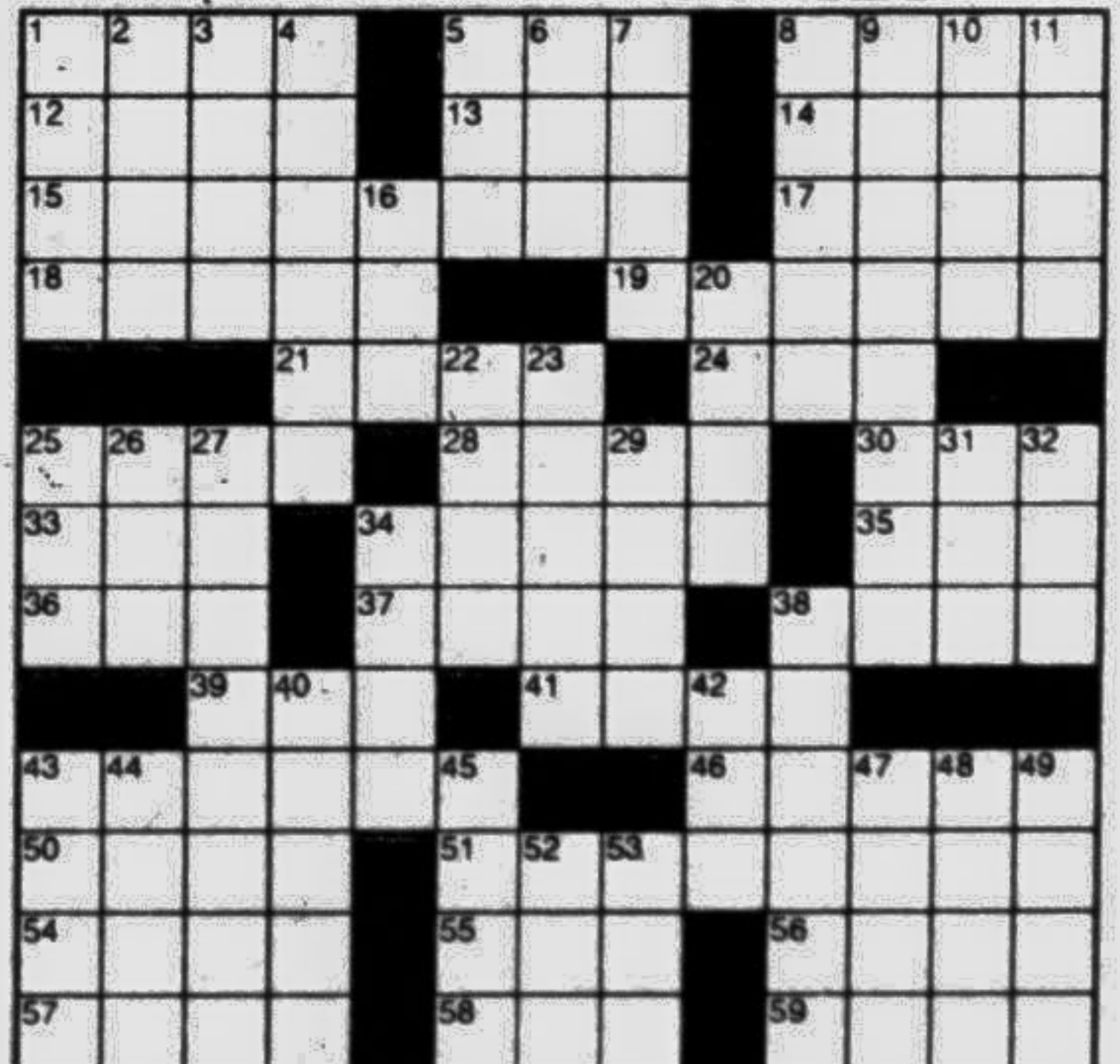
The Swedes, who won the last two championships, beat the Russians 5-2 in the preliminary round. But they trailed 2-0 just 7:03 into the games as Valery Karpov set up linemates Titov and Nikolishin.

"The game was decided in those seven minutes," said head coach Curt Lundmark, who was an assistant when Sweden won its last two world championships.

The importance of the World Championships has ebbed in recent years because of the Canada Cup.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	force	George	captive
1 Heart of	38 It's before	2 Medley	22 Depend
Italia	game or	3 Soft,	23 Sheeplike
5 — You	test	chalky	25 Former
Lonesome	39 Malay	loam	chess
Tonight?	isthmus	4 Medieval	champ
8 Prepare	41 Jacob's	helmets	26 Once —
for the	twin	5 Cool —	lifetime
bout	43 Hits and	cucumber	27 String
12 Apple-	rebounds	6 Charles	savers
growing	46 Treatment	Dutton	29 Folk
chemical	50 Street	sitcom	singer Burl
13 The sun	urchin	7 Lodge	31 Hawaiian
14 Scarlett's	51 Wrapped	members	dish
home	for trans-	8 Pursue	32 Weight
15 Tourist's	porting	stealthily	unit
need	54 Very small	9 Hiker's	34 TV actor
17 Start of	sum	traveling	West
the play	55 Bank acct.	bag	38 Sarandon
18 Library	56 Pianist	10 Funny-	and St.
heavy-	Peter	man	James
weights	57 Mountain	Johnson	40 Judicial
19 Soft,	gap	11 Weather	gowns
smooth	58 Forty winks	word	42 Diving
or glossy	59 Appear	16 Chi	bird
21 Novice	DOWN	follower	43 Army life
24 Gives the	1 Actor	20 Hercules'	44 La Scala
nod to	Solution time: 21 mins.	treat	45 Washer
25 Gratuities		47 Author/	cycle
28 Wicked-		critic	James
ness		48 Actor	Richard
30 Quick to		49 Ancient	Asian
learn		kingdom	
33 Literary		52 Brazilian	
collection		bird	
34 "Bring 'Em		53 Place for	
Back —"		a feather	
35 Bill's			
partner			
36 Varnish			
ingredient			
37 Unit of			



CRYPTOQUIP

L V C N T W J L V M V W J
E K E N X G C W G X K K T
M G C T K T V

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: OUR INSTRUCTOR, A FIRST-CLASS FENCER, FOILS ALL OPPONENTS.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: E equals P

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.



Action from the BGIC fourth schools kabaddi tournament match between Segun Bagicha High and Motijheel Model High at the Outer Stadium yesterday. Motijheel Model School won. —Star photo