

Becker bows out of French Open

PARIS, May 26: Rodolphe Gilbert of France shocked fourth-seeded Boris Becker with a straight-set upset Wednesday in the second round of the French Open, reports AP.

Gilbert's 7-5, 6-3, 7-5 victory was the second stunning surprise in two days for a little-known Frenchman. Stephane Huet, a qualifier ranked 297th in the world, ousted seventh-seeded Ivan Lendl in a first-round match Tuesday.

Aside from Becker, the big names fared well Wednesday. Jim Courier and Steffi Graf, the men's and women's favorites, advanced to the third round with quick, straight-set victories.

Gilbert, 24, is ranked 92nd in the world, has never won a tournament and only once before reached the third round of a Grand Slam, at the French Open last year.

But he outplayed Becker with fluid movement, strong serving and few errors.

"The first set was very important... I was able to relax after that because I ahead," Gilbert said. "It was told one month ago I would beat Boris Becker here, I would have laughed."

Becker has reached the semifinals of the French Open three times, but it remains the only Grand Slam event he's never won. Despite his 36 career titles, he has never won a clay-court tournament.

In the eighth game of the third set, Becker's frustrations boiled over. He was jeered harshly while arguing a baseline call, and lifted his racket to the sky in mock gratitude when he finally hit a forehand winner after two bad errors.

Courier, the two-time defending champion, routed 84th-ranked Tomas Carbonell of Spain, 6-4, 6-1, 6-0.

"Save your questions for Boris," Courier said at his post-match news conference. "I've got to go practice."

Courier's third-round foe will be fellow American Jeff Tarango, who equaled his career Grand Slam best by winning his second-round match against France's Olivier Delatre, 6-4, 6-2, 6-4.

Graf, the top women's seed in the absence of defending champion Monica Seles, breezed past 100th-ranked Andrea Strnadova of the Czech Republic, 6-1, 6-1.

Pushed into a tiebreak in her first-round match, Graf was all business Wednesday.

"I was trying to play every point as good as I can," she said. "I didn't fool around."

Richard Krajicek, the 12th

seed from the Netherlands, crushed Olympic champion Marc Rosset in a battle of big servers, 6-2, 6-3, 6-1. The 25th-ranked Swiss won Olympic gold on clay at Barcelona last year but has failed to get past the second round of the French Open in four tries.

"I expected a very tough

ing Spain's Francisco Clavet, 6-4, 6-2, 4-6, 6-0.

In women's second-round matches, No 4 Conchita Martinez of Spain overcame American Ginger Helgeson, 7-5, 6-2; No 6 Jennifer Capriati beat France's Alexandra Fusai, 6-1, 7-5; and 12th-seeded Mary Pierce of France downed Australia's Rachel McQuillan,

6, 7-5.

The youngest player in the tournament, 15-year-old Iva Majoli of Croatia, demolished Louise Allen of the United States, 6-0, 6-1.

The other seed to lose thus far has been No 7 Ivan Lendl, ousted in a first-round match by little-known Frenchman Stephane Huet. Huet had qual-



AN EPITOME OF DISAGREEMENT... With form declining and fewer friends around Boris Becker, the world number four who was eliminated from the French Open by Rodolphe Gilbert yesterday, is entangled in an argument with the chair umpire at Roland Garros.—Star TV Photo

match," Krajicek said. "I expected he was going to keep his head longer."

The men's No 13 seed, Karel Novacek of the Czech Republic, also advanced, beat-

6-4, 6-0.

No 8 Anke Huber of Germany had one of the toughest matches yet for a women's seed, but survived against American Lori McNeil, 6-1, 3-

ried for only one previous pro tour event, and promptly lost his first match to Croatia's Goran Prpic.

But on Tuesday, Huet overcame a bout of nerves and ousted Lendl, a three-time French Open champion, 3-6, 7-5, 6-0, 7-6 (7-2). Lendl ranked No 7 in the world, Huet 297th.

"The idea of playing him was magic," said Huet, 22. "During the first four games, I was very tense... When I won the second set, I thought I really had a chance."

Lendl, at 33 the oldest player in the field, also lost in the first round of this year's Australian Open. He complained of a sore right foot and said he was unsure whether he'd play in Wimbledon next month.

The men's favourite, Jim Courier, played his second-round match Wednesday against 84th-ranked Tomas Carbonell of Spain.

Courier is favoured to win a third straight title here, although he is only the second seed after Pete Sampras, No 1 in the computer rankings. Sampras looked devastating



SAD AND LONELY: Barbra Feltus-Ferbst, the fiancée of Boris Becker, grimly watches the three-time Wimbledon winner crash out of the French Open men's singles yesterday at the Roland Garros.—Star TV photo by T A Khan

Krabbe & co. may go to court

STUTTGART, Germany, May 26: Double world sprint champion Krabbe and teammates

Crit Breuer and Manuela Derr are prepared to go to the German civil courts to fight a doping suspension in a bid to run this season, their adviser said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Derr will start an appeal against the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) imposed suspension in the next few days because she wants to compete at a meeting in Germany this weekend, Thorsten Heuser said.

The IAAF on Monday postponed a final ruling on the trio, who admitted taking the drug clenbuterol last July, until their case was discussed at a meeting of its ruling council which is unlikely to take place until November.

But Heuser said the athletes were ready to fight the suspension because it contradicted a German Athletics Federation (DLV) arbitration panel ruling in March under which Derr was free to run from the end of April and Krabbe and Breuer from August 14.

"Derr wants to run at a relay meeting in Sindelfingen (Germany) this weekend," Heuser told Reuters. "We first have to go to the DLV and the DLV arbitration panel and ask them to confirm their original decision and let her run."

"If they don't then we have to take the matter to civil courts for a court injunction. I can't imagine that it will come to that. But we want to do everything to make sure she can run."

"We are prepared to do the same for Krabbe and Breuer if there are problems later in the season."

Heuser said Breuer was progressing well in training and, of course, she wants to run this season if things continue to go well. A decision on Krabbe will not be made until the last minute. It all depends on how her training progresses.

If Derr runs at the Sindelfingen meeting, which is a German qualifier for an international relay competition in England next month, any

athlete who competes against her will also be suspended under IAAF rules.

The sport's governing body confirmed on Tuesday that the athletes were not allowed to run under their rules until their doping case has been discussed.

Asked what would happen if they broke the rules, IAAF president Primo Nebiolo simply said: "They are ineligible."

But the IAAF's open-ended suspension was quickly criticised by DLV president Helmut Digel, who said it put him in a very difficult position and he needed the matter to be cleared up quickly because of the legal problems.

The case has a precedent in German law. Last year former world champion swimmer Astrid Strauss won an injunction to compete at the German Olympic trials despite a suspension for steroids although she was not allowed to go to the Barcelona Games.

American 400 metres world record holder Butch Reynolds also won a last-minute order from the US Supreme Court to compete at the US Olympic

trials in New Orleans last June despite a two-year ban although he also did not compete at the Olympics.

Last September the DLV recommended a four-year ban on world 100 and 200 metres champion Krabbe, world 400 silver medalist Breuer and Derr.

But the DLV arbitration panel was forced to reduce Krabbe and Breuer's ban to one year in March because the DLV was found to have no legal clause in its rules allowing it to ban athletes for out-of-competition tests and would have lost the case in the civil courts.

The three were penalised under DLV rules on "unsportsmanlike conduct." Derr's ban was shorter because she admitted to taking the cattle-fattening drug but was not tested positive during training like Krabbe and Breuer.

The IAAF believes a doping offence has been committed but has put off a decision on whether to put the case to its own arbitration panel for a ruling until its legal experts have studied the German legal problem.



Frenchman Rodolphe Gilbert takes a break during his second round match against world number four German Boris Becker in the French Open men's singles yesterday. Rodolphe stunned Becker 7-5, 6-3, 7-5.—Star TV photo

Litmond Open badminton in June

Sports Reporter

The Litmond Open badminton championship, organised by the Bangladesh Women's Sports Federation and sponsored by the Litmond Group of Companies (Bangladesh), will be held in the second week of June.

Women's singles and doubles will feature the meet.

Interested shuttlers have been asked to contact with the federation before June 10.

Athletes hail blood testing

OSLO, May 26: Athletes welcomed plans to introduce blood tests for doping at the Bislett Games, organisers said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

"This is a new offensive against doping and we expected some people might react against the plan," meeting director Svein Arne Hansen said. "But we haven't had one single person saying they won't support it."

The International Amateur Athletic Federation voted in January to introduce blood tests at Bislett on July 10 and at the Brussels, Zurich and Berlin meetings later in the year.

Hansen said the tests this year were a pilot programme that could end with routine blood testing in athletics.

Athletes' blood samples from all four meetings, made in parallel with urine tests, which are more easily tampered with and more likely to give a false reading, would be examined at Aker Hospital in Oslo.

Among top athletes due to run at Bislett this year are Algeria's Noureddine Morceli in the "Dream mile," Olympic champion Khalid Skah of Morocco in the 10,000 metres, and Kenyan world record holder Moses Kiptanui in the steeplechase.

Chinese exile oppose Beijing Olympic bid

SYDNEY, May 26: Chinese political exiles in Australia on Wednesday launched a campaign against Beijing's bid to host the 2000 Olympic Games, promising to lobby Olympic officials over China's human rights record, reports Reuter.

The Washington-based alliance for democracy in China, with more than 2,000 members in Australia, will urge the International Olympic Committee to reject Beijing's bid at its meeting in Monte Carlo on September 23.

"We want to bring about such influence on the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to make it unable to stage the Games in Beijing," alliance spokesman Ken Xu told reporters.

The pro-democracy group of exiled students and academics said it will begin the campaign on Sunday with marches in cities around the world, including Sydney, which is also bidding for the Games and is considered China's leading rival.

Xu said the rallies are timed to mark the fourth anniversary of army's crackdown on student-led pro-democracy protests in Beijing's Tianamen Square, and will take place in Hong Kong, Washington and several European capitals.



World No 5 Croat Goran Ivanisevic about to unleash a 'boomer' against Argentine Franco Davin during their May 25 first-round match of the French Open at Roland Garros. Ivanisevic advanced to Round Two with a 7-5, 6-3, 6-3 victory.—AFP photo

IAAF gives in to athletes' pressure

Mercedes for gold winners

STUTTGART, May 26: Each gold medalist at the Stuttgart World Championships will be given

a Mercedes car, the International Amateur Athletic Federation said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Mercedes is one of the main sponsors for IAAF competitions and the federation said cars would be awarded to every winner at both the 1993 championships and those in Gothenburg two years later.

IAAF President Primo Nebiolo said the luxury cars, worth between 27,000-30,700 dollars, were part of a new sponsorship deal between Mercedes Benz and the IAAF worth about 3.5 million dollars.

They are seen as a response to threats of a boycott by the athletes at the championships because of the IAAF's refusal to pay cash prize money.

"We are against prize money but not against helping the athletes," Nebiolo told a news conference.

"We wanted to do something for the athletes. We know the sacrifices that they make, what they are doing and what they are losing."

The prize car will be the latest Mercedes model which is due to be launched in June. Under the deal, the firm will also provide the IAAF with car and bus pools at major international events.

In Britain, the move was greeted with some amusement. "I've got a Merc already, and so has John Regis, Linford Christie and Colin Jackson,"

said Derek Redmond, who won gold as a member of the 4x400m relay team in the last Olympics.

"Mind you, I wouldn't say



PRIMO NEBIOLO

no to another two-one for the 400 metres and one for the relay. Then I could say: 'My other car's Mercedes when I'm already driving one.'

Ngugi not yet informed

NAIROBI, May 26: Kenya's five times world cross country champion John Ngugi has not yet been officially informed that athletics' world governing body has reimposed a four year ban for refusing to take a dope test, reports Reuter.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) refused at a council meeting in Stuttgart, Germany on Monday to accept a decision by the Kenyan federation to lift a ban on Ngugi.

Suprianto's lame luck

BIRMINGHAM, England, May 26: A leading Indonesian badminton player is to be flown home from the World Championships suffering from typhoid, reports Reuter.

Bambang Suprianto is in the isolation ward of a Birmingham hospital and will miss both the Sudirman Cup mixed team event and next week's worlds.

Indonesian coach Leo Wiranata said on Wednesday: "It is not life threatening. They have very good drugs these days but he has a temperature of 40 centigrade and he will be flown home on Sunday."

Suprianto's teammate Remy Mainaky is back home in Indonesia recovering from the same disease. The two often room together on the Asian circuit.

Mainaky had been top seed in the men's doubles starting on Monday with partner Ricky Subagja. Suprianto was joint fifth seed in the same event with Rudy Gunawan.

Wiranata confirmed to the International Badminton Federation on Wednesday morning that Suprianto and Mainaky would be definite absentees. Officials were drawing up a fresh seeding list.

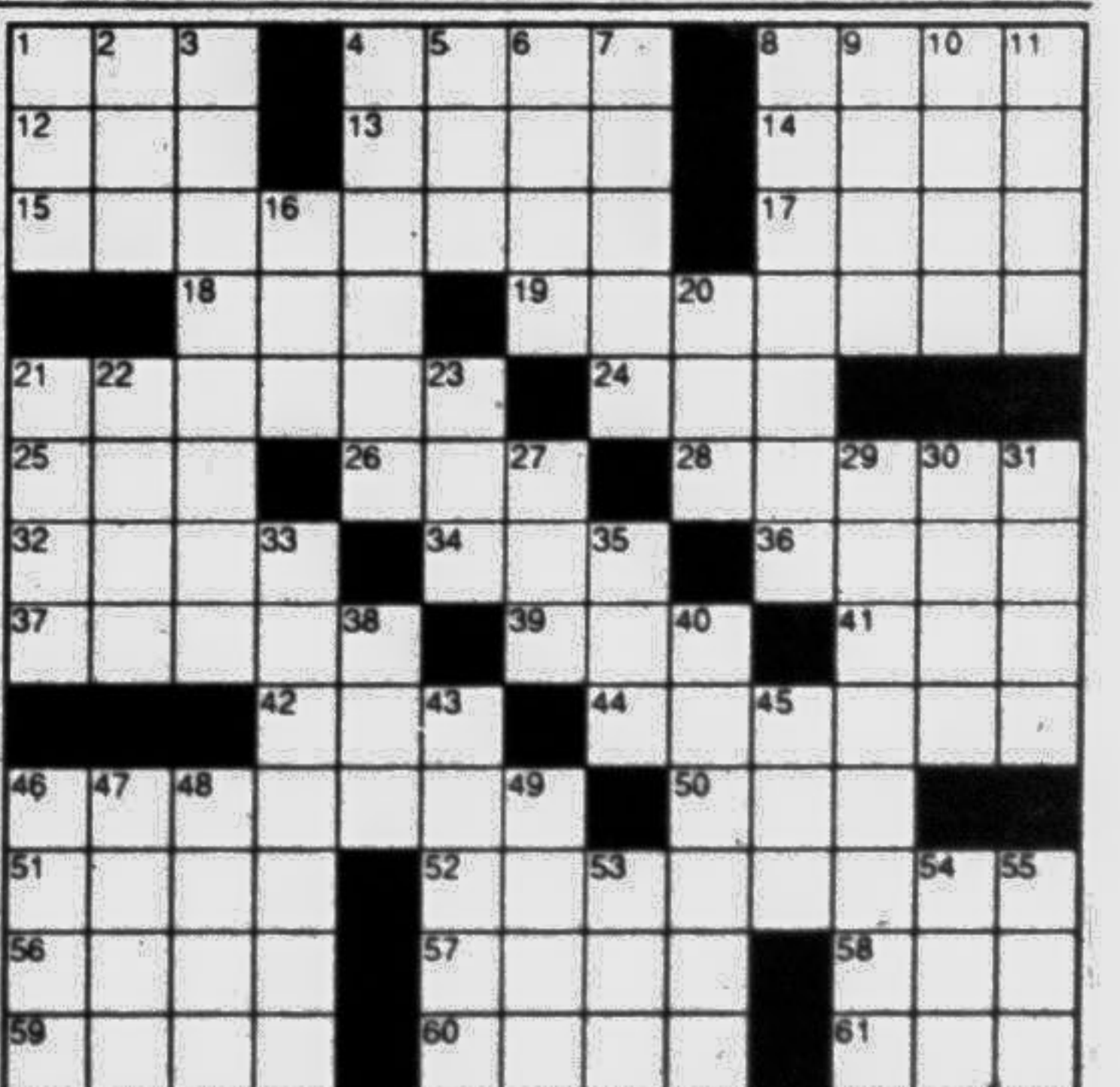
Indonesia were playing Denmark on Wednesday night in the opening match of their Sudirman Cup campaign.

Although the typhoid is a setback for the Indonesians they have formidable strength in depth. Wiranata said: "We may have lost a battle but we've not lost the war."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Football contents
 - 4 Qt. divided by 32
 - 8 Grocery store supply
 - 12 Prop for Markham's man
 - 13 Nonpayment result, for short
 - 14 Condo, e.g.
 - 15 He's over the hill
 - 17 PBS science series
 - 18 Height for Heidi
 - 19 Friday telecast?
 - 21 Gorilla's kin
 - 24 Tramcar load
 - 25 Valdez spith
 - 26 Corn serving
 - 28 Two-masted vessel
 - 32 1920s middle-weight champ
 - Harry
 - 34 "...tangled
- DOWN**
- 61 Early condensation
 - 1 "Caught ya!"
 - 2 Charged bit
 - 3 Merchant, often
 - 4 Soda-shop order
 - 5 Tennis hindrance
 - 6 Commentators' page
 - 7 Marksman?
 - 8 You can jump for joy with them
 - 9 Any day now
 - 10 Word on a slotted can
 - 11 PDQ, in
- Solution time: 23 mins.**

SHA	BIKE	SHOE	46	43	Down
TOR	ACER	PEAR	recipient	47	State for
ARA	NEWSHAWKS		sure	48	Side of a
GALEN	TAD		49	Cleo's	flower
MELD	GENET		53	Compete	
NEWSROOM	SORA		54	Links	
ELA	SANAA	TIE	gadget	55	Archery-
ASIS	NEWSREEL				bow wood
REFER	ESPY				
NAG	EERIE				
NEWSPAPER	ADD				
ETRE	LEAS	SOD			
BAYS	ANTE	PLY			



CRYPTOQUIP

W M Z E I E C L W F F L F C
 T W I Z D S L D D S M C D I V T
 R C D S M N R V F Z R D S
 D S M N R B B M C D N R G G .
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: NICE LOCAL HORSE BREEDER WAS SOON SADDLED WITH DEBT.
 Today's Cryptoquip clue: N equals B

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.