

Becker beats 'Baby Boom Boom'

LONDON, June 23: Boris Becker had to produce his best form in over four months to tame the man they call "Baby Boom Boom" in an explosive four-set battle on Centre Court on Tuesday, reports AFP.

Marc Goellner, 22, has shot up the rankings, beating Stefan Edberg and Ivan Lendl on the way to the Nice Open title and reaching the last 16 of the French Open.

And when he broke the mighty Becker serve in the seventh game to take the first set, it looked as if he might be about to add his German compatriot to his growing collection of scalps from the upper echelons of men's tennis.

But Becker, who had a disastrous clay court season, is desperate to add to his three titles here. And the composed way he channelled his array of grass court weapons to contain his opponent will have sent a chill down his rivals' spines.

"He had one chance in the first set and hit a good backhand to take it," Becker said. "Then I started to play better and better and he got worse and worse."

"It was a good first round for me. My serve was excellent, I hit over 20 aces so I am content. I think he maybe lacked a little experience of the court and the tournament."

Looking sharper than at any time since coming back in April from nearly two months out with injury and illness, Becker shrugged off the loss of the first set to win 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4.

"After the first set he turned his mood on," Goellner said before backing Becker to win a fourth title. "He can win. If he serves like that for sure," he said.

Goellner, whose style is based on a high-risk strategy of striking out for winners on nearly every point, resisted right to the end — winning three break points when Becker was serving for the match at 5-4.

Becker though unruffled by his opponent's blistering backhand returns and produced two service winners and a clean ace to save the points. Another ace gave him his second match point and for once Goellner's backhand let him down under pressure from a deep volley from Becker.

Despite the defeat it was an impressive Wimbledon debut for the six-foot-five-inch Goellner who played his first Wimbledon match on grass at Queen's Club only two weeks ago. He should be a serious Wimbledon proposition next year.

"I have got great strokes for grass, I just need to get a little more experience," he said.

Becker was impressed with yet another young German following in his wake. "They seem to get taller every year," he joked. "I'd prefer it if they didn't play as good as they do."

World number one Pete Sampras dropped the first set to Australian left-hander Neil Brown but came through fairly comfortably in four sets.

Sampras was glad to feel no reaction from the shoulder injury which had forced him to ask for a Tuesday start in the tournament.

"Last Wednesday it was so bad I couldn't brush my teeth," the American said. "But today it felt fine and I thought I served very well."

Sampras had an uncharacteristic lapse when he let a first set 4-2 lead slip. He finally lost the first set 12-10 in the tiebreak but ran out a 6-7, 6-3, 7-6, 6-3 winner.

The inflamed tendon in his shoulder meant Sampras, who was beaten in his first match at Queen's started the tournament with minimal preparation.

"I was a bit apprehensive, unsure of myself but it was a good match to get under my belt. It was a bit like walking into

a match without any study." Twelfth seed Michael Chang managed to avoid an unhappy hat-trick of first round exits when he completed a five set

ten," Ivanisevic said. The Croat admitted that after getting to last year's final he felt under more pressure to do well. "Maybe I was a little bit more

Medvedev made a successful Wimbledon debut against Germany's Peter Morang, winning 6-7, 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 and now plays France's Cedric Pioline.



World number four German Boris Becker through with a forehand return during his first round match against compatriot Marc Goellner on Tuesday. Becker, a big server himself, tamed the 'Baby Boom Boom' in a four-setter. — AFP photo

victory over the Netherlands' Paul Haarhuis. The match was interrupted overnight at 3-1 for Chang in the fifth and final set. The American held serve to go to 4-1, but allowed the Dutch left-hander to pull him back to 4-4. Chang clinched the win with a final game break.

16th seed Thomas Muster, a clay court specialist who has never got past the first round at Wimbledon in the three times he has played in his eight-year career, was beaten by France's Olivier Delatre 7-5, 6-4, 6-2.

IVANISEVIC JUST MAKES IT

Goran Ivanisevic, Wimbledon runner-up last year, lived dangerously before beating Jonathan Stark in five sets.

The powerful Croat, who fired down 27 aces, was matched all the way by the American and had to save three break points at 4-4 in the fifth set.

Ivanisevic, who picked up a code violation warning for abusing a line judge who foot-faulted him, now plays Britain's Chris Bailey, who upset Patrick McEnroe.

"I am not going to say anything about English players be-

cause every time I do one of them beats me," said Ivanisevic, who was beaten by Nick Brown here two years ago.

Ivanisevic was joined in the second round by Andrei Medvedev, the tenth seed and recent French Open semifinalist.

"He was close but he didn't win that is the difference between the top 50 and the top

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GRAF, NAVRATILOVA SANCHEZ SAIL

The top three seeds in the women's singles, Steffi Graf, Martina Navratilova and Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, were all easy first round winners.

Graf shrugged off the attentions of a German fan who shouted abuse at her, to beat Australian qualifier Kirrily Sharpe 6-0, 6-0 in 38 minutes. She now plays Britain's Clare Wood.

Navratilova, revitalised by winning at Eastbourne last week and bidding for a record tenth title here, beat Australia's Michelle Jaggard-Lai 6-2, 6-1. She has a tricky second round match against South African Ross Nideffer. Under her maiden name Fairbank, Nideffer has twice reached the quarter-finals here and has given Navratilova problems in the past. "Nothing's spectacular today but I didn't have to be," Navratilova said.

Jennifer Capriati, the 7th seed, was given a tougher-than-expected battle by Britain's Shirli Ann Siddall but came through in three sets after dropping the first on a tiebreak.

"I was a little off and wasn't really into the groove like I was in the last two sets," Capriati, who is being coached by Australian Paul McNamara for Wimbledon, said.

Sanchez beat Radka Zrubakova of Czechoslovakia 6-1, 6-1. The Spaniard next plays Australia's Elizabeth Smylie, who overcame British veteran Jo Durie in three sets.

While Capriati survived, the women's singles lost its first seed. French number one Mary Pierce had to withdraw because of a high temperature only hours before she was due to make her Wimbledon debut.

Conchita Martinez, the sixth seed, and former finalist Zina Garrison-Jackson both came through in straight sets against Ginger Hegelsson and Sabine Hack.

Deng took the 12,000-dollar prize, winning 20-22, 21-13, 21-8, 21-16.

Deng and Gao advanced to the final by respectively beating compatriot Wang Chen 3-0 (21-12, 21-16, 21-10), and South Korea's Kim Bun-Shik 3-0 (21-19, 21-19, 21-15) in the semifinals.

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Boxer out of danger

FERRARA, Italy, June 23: British boxer Derek Angol underwent medical tests today but doctors said there was no cause for concern despite being knocked unconscious in a title fight on Tuesday night, reports Reuters.

Angol was beaten by Italian Massimiliano Duran in the 11th round of a fight for the vacant European Boxing Union (EBU) cruiserweight title.

Duran put Angol on the canvas with a crunching right to the side of the head sending seconds rushing into the ring to get the Briton's gum shield out of his mouth.

Medical experts gave Angol oxygen but he remained senseless for several minutes before coming round.

"He's still slightly confused," and his movements are not yet fully coordinated," said a spokesman for the Santa Anna di Ferrara Hospital today.

But the spokesman said there was no particular reason to worry about his condition.

Medal of Freedom for Ashe

WASHINGTON, June 23: President Bill Clinton awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom posthumously yesterday to tennis great Arthur Ashe, who died of AIDS February 13, the White House said, reports AFP.

In presenting the award to Ashe's widow Jeanne, Clinton praised Ashe for the "inner strength and outward dignity that marked this game every bit as much as that dazzling cross-court backhand."

The medal is the nation's highest civilian honour.

Graf in Round 3

LONDON, June 23: Top seed Steffi Graf stormed into the third round of the Wimbledon women's singles championship here today with a straight-sets drubbing of Britain's Clare Wood, reports AFP.

The defending champion from Germany provided further evidence of her recovery from a foot injury as she triumphed 6-2, 6-1 in 64 minutes.

Graf grappling with price of fame

LONDON, June 23: Safety fears surrounding women tennis stars were intensified on Tuesday after Steffi Graf was loudly abused by a fan as she began the defence of her Wimbledon title, reports AFP.

Graf was forced to interrupt her match on Centre Court to ask for a front-row spectator shouting abuse to be silenced. The vulnerability of players who earn their living within touching distance of the public was dramatically highlighted when Monica Seles was stabbed on-court in Hamburg last April.

Graf's abuser, who police identified as 29-year-old Kurt Zun Felde from Frankfurt, had followed the German world number one from the French Open, where he had also taunted her, claiming she was to blame for the stabbing of Seles.

"You are responsible for everything," he shouted. Wimbledon officials asked the man to leave his seat after Graf's match, and he was questioned by police before being released and asked to leave the stadium. He has been banned for the rest of the tournament. Martina Navratilova, shocked to hear of the incident, summed up the dilemma that it posed for tennis in the aftermath of the Seles stabbing.

"People like that, if they are willing to say that you never know what you are willing to do about it."

And it has been obvious here this week that no matter how much security is stepped up, the players cannot and don't want to completely isolate themselves from the public.

Hamburg claimed he was trying to help Graf retain her world number one spot.

There were echoes of that nightmare for Graf as Zun Felde told police he was annoyed that Graf, who won her opening match 6-0, 6-0, seemed to be winning easily after having said she was suffering from a foot injury.

He accused her of cheating and of taking advantage of Seles' stabbing to take over the world number one spot.

Graf has topped the rankings since Seles has been out recovering from the stab wound to her shoulder, but she has repeatedly said it is meaningless to her as long as Seles is not playing.

While sensitivities are running high in the wake of the Seles assault, Navratilova tried



Security guards struggle to keep up with defending champion Steffi Graf as the world number one sprints through the crowd outside All-England Club prior to her second round match against Britain's C Woods. — AFP photo

to put Monday's verbal attack into context. "I have been abused by the crowd before. This is one incident."

"There is only so much you can do. You can't screen people and ask them if they're going to yell anything before you let them out on the court."

"Look what's happened in soccer. They have armed guards on horseback and dogs and fences so people can't get into the stadium. This is what this world is coming to. So we shouldn't be surprised."

Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario like Graf, prefers to dispense with security guards shadowing her every step, even though she accepts there is always a certain risk that goes with the territory.

"Sometimes it is nice to be alone," she said.



Australian Jamie Morgan readies to serve against world number one American Pete Sampras during their second round match of the men's singles in the Wimbledon tennis championship yesterday. Morgan stretched Sampras to four sets before bowing down. — Star TV photo

Like elder like younger

LONDON, June 23: Patrick McEnroe hurled expletives at an umpire on Tuesday taking Wimbledon crowds back to the golden years of his brother, "Big Bad John," reports AFP.

McEnroe minor could not keep his cool while being beaten 7-5, 7-5, 7-5 by Britain's Chris Bailey.

Angry at line calls that went against him, the 26-year-old American, wearing the trademark headband of his brother, not to mention the scowling lip, screamed at umpire Mike Rice that he was "f...gutless."

The umpire did not replay with a code violation, surprising many people including Bailey.

In the last game of the second set, when he felt a Bailey shot was out, McEnroe said Rice was blind and shouted: "The ball was so far out, it's terrible. You're f... wrong, f... that."

When another decision went against him, he declared: "You're f...gutless."

An another tirade came in the 11th game of the third set.

Rice was told during the changeover: "You don't know what the hell is going on out there."

In his post-match press conference, McEnroe was unrepentant and argued with reporters. "I was upset," he said. "I didn't think I was abusive to the umpire. I might have used some bad language, but I didn't direct towards him."

Bailey, admitted McEnroe



PATRICK McENROE

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Sommelier's stopper
 - 5 Venomous vipers
 - 9 One of TV's "American Gladiators"
 - 12 Admitting the clientele
 - 13 Humdinger
 - 14 Bachelor's last words
 - 15 Hand, to Jose
 - 16 "Where have you —?"
 - 17 Buddhist sect
 - 18 Pianist
 - 19 Throw in
 - 20 Checkmate victim
 - 21 Neighbor of Neb.
 - 23 Card-table cry
 - 25 Ailing
 - 28 Winner at dodgeball?
 - 32 Frequent
 - 33 Future oak
 - 34 Make beloved
 - 36 Places for
- DOWN**
- 1 Robin Cook novel
 - 2 Autumnal birth-stone
 - 3 Russo of "Lethal Weapon 3"
 - 4 Suffering from varus
 - 5 Cuomo's home
 - 6 Got litigious
 - 7 PBS request
 - 8 "Yes, Virginia, ..." news-paper
 - 9 Dancer Jean-maire
 - 10 Yemen
 - 11 Prototypical video-game
 - 16
 - 19
 - 20 Seasoned sausage
 - 22 Sacrifice site
 - 24 The Donald's ex
 - 25 Yon wench
 - 26 Author Fleming
 - 27 Cow's second chew
 - 29 100 cts.
 - 30 Before
 - 31 Hosp. staffers
 - 35 Allotment
 - 36 Bait for Atlanta
 - 39 Chess turn
 - 40 Inventor's need
 - 41 Barber-shop call
 - 43 Shoppe description
 - 45 Assessment
 - 46 Estival desserts
 - 47 Calendar abbr.
 - 49 To and —

Solution time: 26 mins.

ONE	LAST	KISS
VEX	ALAT	ODIE
ABANDONS	SENT	
COLE	SHAGS	
MATTE	HOLE	
ERIE	SIBERIAN	
WIN	SOLED	MBA
SAGACITY	AMIS	
	PALS	TRUTH
MODEM	GOEN	
ALEX	MERMAIDS	
LINE	IMAM	ZOO
TOYS	RUBY	END

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54						55			56			

CRYPTOQUIP

F H E F U I E Y S J E J W S Y J E
 I J E S U K E I W F Y H G I K J S P D
 P I B D G K J J I J B K J Y S D V E
 F P E V I P F J I

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE ONLY PERSON TO SMILE WHEN THINGS GO WRONG IS A REPAIRMAN.
 Today's Cryptoquip clue: D equals G

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.