

# Chang, Ivanisevic left in the cold

**WIMBLEDON, June 27**—Jim Courier was almost a victim of a second daylight robbery in 24 hours as fellow seeds Goran Ivanisevic and Michael Chang were denied an escape route at Wimbledon on Saturday, reports Reuter.

American third seed Courier, who had 5,000 pounds sterling (7,300 dollar) worth of possessions stolen from his Wimbledon house on Friday afternoon, had to survive some tense moments before edging past Australia's Jason Stoltenberg 6-4, 7-6, 3-6, 6-4.

But last year's losing finalist Ivanisevic and former French Open champion Chang, seeded fifth and 12th respectively, found their way to the last 16 blocked by unseeded American pair Todd Martin and David Wheaton.

The Croat, who had already won two five-set matches in a row, rushed from the grounds in dismay after going down 2-6, 7-6, 6-7, 7-5, 6-0 to Martin, ranked 30th in the world.

Chang, another man who usually specialises in marathon matches, suffered an almost identical fate, losing 6-4, 6-4, 5-7, 4-6, 6-4 in four hours 22 minutes, the longest match of the championships to date.

Women's fifth seed Mary Joe Fernandez lasted less than a quarter of that time, suffering a 6-0, 6-1 thrashing by 1990 finalist Zina Garrison-Jackson.

The normally super-cool Courier was edgy enough to pick up a code violation for an audible obscenity as Stoltenberg fought his way back into the match in the third set.

Tournament referee Alan Mills was called to the court when Couriers dispute with umpire Jeremy Shales threatened to get out of hand, but Courier admitted later he was the quality party.

I swore and I deserved to get a code violation, he said. I can't not take it back but I wish I could. He was also philosophical about the burglars who took, among other things, his much-loved guitar. "We were fortunate they didn't do worse. Nothing they took wasn't replaceable."

Stoltenberg had his chances, notably when he squandered a fistful of break points in the second set to lose the tie-break 11-9.

But Couriers ability to

played comfortably his worst match of the championships yet still beat Britain's Chris Wilkinson in straight sets on Centre Court.

"I didn't play very well today... some of the shots I missed were out of this world," said Edberg, who now meets Richard Matuszewski, American-bred son of Polish immigrants, in round four.

Wally Masur gave Australia some consolation for Stoltenberg's defeat with a five-set win against Arnaud

Garrison-Jackson less accommodating.

The black American, pondering retirement after a string of poor performances, had one of those days when everything worked as she wanted, mocking Fernandez's insistence in Paris that the frail on-court person was a thing of the past.

Martina Navratilova has dropped only eight games on her way to the fourth round where she will meet 16th seed Nathalie Tauziat of France.

The outstanding women's fourth round match, however, may be between Sabatini and Germany's Anke Huber, a straight-sets winner over another Argentine, Florencia Labat.



MICHAEL CHANG



GORAN IVANISEVIC

Boetsch, and now meet another Frenchman, Cedric Pioline, conqueror of Denmark's Kenneth Carlsen.

Couriers fourth-round opponent is dangerous 13th seed Wayne Ferreira of South Africa, who kept his challenge on the straight and narrow by downing Swede Henrik Holm 6-4, 6-3, 7-6.

Gabriele Sabatini wobbled precariously yet again at a major tournament but ultimately came through 6-1, 2-6, 6-4 against Natalia Medvedeva of Ukraine.

Less than a month ago, Fernandez was recovering from a set and 5-1 down to beat the Argentine at the French Open, but found

Stefan Edberg, seeded two,

withstand pressure has been the central pillar of his four Grand Slam titles to date and he kept the Australian, only recently recovered from major shoulder surgery, at arms length throughout the final set.

Chang's defeat was not exactly a surprise given Wheaton's proven ability or grass, but Ivanisevic's shock departure — he was fined 2,000 US dollar for his subsequent walk-out — has opened up the second half of the draw even further.

The bottom eight slots in the last 16 are now filled by four Americans and one man each from Sweden, Australia, France and South Africa.

Stefan Edberg, seeded two,

## Ivanisevic fined

**WIMBLEDON, England, June 27**—Goran Ivanisevic was fined 2,000 U S dollar at Wimbledon on Saturday for ducking a press conference after his five-set defeat by American Todd Martin, reports Reuter.

The fifth-seeded Croatian, finalist last year, went down 2-6, 7-6, 6-7, 7-5, 6-0 and afterwards declined the request to attend the obligatory press conference.

Ivanisevic, who won five-set matches in the first two rounds this week, quickly left the Wimbledon club after his defeat.

## IOC urged to reject Beijing's Olympic bid

**ATLANTA, Georgia, June 27**—The local newspaper of the 1996 Olympics host city has urged the International Olympic Committee to reject Beijing's bid for the 2000 Games because of China's human rights record, reports AFP.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution said in an editorial on Saturday that the IOC should not honour repressive governments.

"Holding the Games in the Chinese capital would be a tremendous propaganda coup for the leaders who perpetrated the Tiananmen Square massacre," the newspaper said. "They should be suffering the censure of the world's nations, not preparing to play host to them."

US senator and former Olympic basketball hero Bill Bradley is a vocal member of the anti-Beijing lobby, and resolutions against the city's bid are moving through the US Congress.

The topic was discussed at IOC meeting in Lausanne on Tuesday, when IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch warned US lawmakers against politicising the bidding process.

However, the Journal-Constitution said the Games "are about more than sports, and so is the decision where they are held. They are about lifting the human spirit, not showcasing regimes dead-set on crushing it."

## Thobela takes what he deserves

**SUN CITY, South Africa, June 27**—Dingaan Thobela of South Africa won the World Boxing Association (WBA) lightweight title on Saturday by outpointing defending champion Tony Lopez of the United States, reports Reuter.

The decision was unanimous, with the three judges scoring the 12-round fight 119-112, 116-114 and 116-114.

Thobela, who apparently had problems making the weight, jabbed sharply in the early rounds and connected in the third with two solid left hooks and a stinging right to the head.

He unleashed three clubbing rights in the fourth, pinned the champion against the ropes and gave him a bleeding nose with a fine jab.

Lopez came out slugging in the sixth, damaging Thobela's left eye and drawing blood from his mouth. But Thobela absorbed the punishment and finished with a two-fisted riposte.

As the fight progressed, Lopez came forward with increasingly desperate long-range attacks, but the challengers quick hands caught him with five unanswered punches in the eighth.

Thobela tired towards the end of the fight and there were brief hopes from the champions camp of a knockout win.

But Thobela maintained his composure under pressure to exact full revenge via the judges for what many deemed to be a home town decision for Lopez. Inauguration in February when the pair first met.



NO HARD FEELINGS ... French Open finalist Mary Joe Fernandez (R) receives a consoling kiss from fellow-American Zina Garrison-Jackson after being thrashed 0-6, 1-6 in the Wimbledon tennis championship on June 26. Fernandez was seeded fifth for the tournament.

## Christie blazes in Euro Cup

**ROME, June 27**—Britain's Olympic champion Linford Christie produced a sparkling return to form in the European Cup on Saturday but could not stop France and Italy heading the halfway standings in the men's event, reports Reuter.

Christie, whose preparation for the season has been hampered by back trouble, won the 100 metres and then anchored the British squad to victory in the sprint relay.

Russia were poised to clinch the women's competition after winning five of the nine events on the first day to build a 23-point lead over Romania.

Russian Irina Privalova blazed the fastest 100 metres of the year while Olympic champion Sally Gunnell of Britain posted a 1993 best in the 400 metres hurdles.

Christie won the 100 in 10.22 seconds and then said he had his sights fixed on the world title in Stuttgart in August.

"I have won virtually everything and a world title would be the icing on the cake," he said.

The British men are bidding to avenge a bitter defeat suffered in the 1991 European Cup.

On that occasion they felt cheated when the international jury overturned a decision to disqualify the Soviet Union from the decisive 4x400 relay, thus handing the title to the men from Moscow.

Political changes in the East mean Russia and Ukraine are here instead of the old Soviet Union.

The Russians were third on 61 points behind France and Italy on 64. France lead on countback. Germany (59) and Britain (53) were fourth and fifth.

Giovanni Evangelisti

sparked the Italian challenge with victory in the long jump.

The win marked a happy return to the stadium where in 1987 a judging fraud gave the Italian a World Championship bronze, a decision reversed only after a press campaign exposed the wrong-doing.

Stephane Diagana set a French record of 48.08 to win the 400 metres hurdles. Briton Kriss Akabusi, who edged Diagana for the Olympic bronze

women's event in Frankfurt in 1991 but the Cup was later given to Germany after it emerged that high jumper Yelena Rodina had failed a dope test.

It seems unlikely that anything will stop Russia this year. Privalova shaved 0.01 off the years best 100 metres, set by Jamaican Merlene Ottey, and then shared in the Russian success in the sprint relay.

Gunnell underlined her World Championship potential in the 400 metres hurdles by slicing 0.23 off the best 1993 time of American Sandra Farmer-Patrick.

**Benn gives Gent no space at all**

**LONDON, June 27**—Nigel Benn produced a ruthless display of punching power to retain his World Boxing Council (WBC) super middleweight title against fellow Briton Lou Gent on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Referee Larry O Connel called a halt in the fourth round of the scheduled 12-round bout after Benn had flooded Gent five times.

Benn boxed with control in the opening couple of rounds, sizing up Gent and throwing fast punches with both hands.

He connected with a thudding right cross but Gent hit back with effective uppercuts.

The crucial point came in the third round when a left-right combination sent Gent crashing to the canvas for a count of seven.

Gent went down two more times in the round and again early in the fourth before a big right to the body sent him to the canvas for the last time.

It was Benn's third defence of the title he took from Italian Mauro Galvano last October.

The Soviet Union won the

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Thierry Pantel kept the French momentum going with victory in the 10,000 metres.

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## Sotomayor just misses the mark

**PAU, France, June 27**—Cuban Olympic high jump champion Javier Sotomayor and his four-year-old world record took centre stage at an athletics meet here on Saturday, reports AFP.

Sotomayor, who cleared a winning 2.39m at the first attempt, then tried to beat his world record of 2.44m, but clipped the bar at 2.45m.

Troy Kemp of the Bahamas was second with 2.37m, setting a national record.

"I felt fine today, and it was a really good feeling to be trying to beat the record," said the Cuban.

"It's not disappointing, I realise that I'm on good form — and that bodes well before the World Championships in Germany."

The other feat of the day was a Kenyan hat-trick in the men's 800m, with Nixon Koeh leading home Stephan Ole Marat and Nixon Kiprotich.

**Djibouti owes China one**

**DJIBOUTI, June 27**—Djibouti has opened a new 10,000-seater soccer stadium — thanks to China's help, reports AFP.

The stadium was officially opened here on Saturday by the republic's President Hassan Gouled Aptidon and he was joined by Chinese Sports Minister M Wu-Shaozu.

The stadium, which includes an athletics track and cost 8.5 million dollars, is the first sports facility built in the country since independence in June 1977.

China helped to finance the project with a low-cost, long-term loan.

The official opening immediately followed the country's soccer cup final and came on the eve of celebration marking the 16th anniversary of the independence of Djibouti.

## Wimbledon set for deja vu

**LONDON, June 27**—Mercurial Frenchman Henri Leconte forecasts another Wimbledon Centre Court classic when he takes on German powerhouse Boris Becker in the fourth round here on Monday, reports AFP.

The pair have already served up two marvellous matches in the grass-court showpiece — in the 1985 quarter-finals and 1986 semis — and Leconte believes Monday will be no different.

"I think we'll give a big match for everybody," said the ever-popular Leconte, who hopes for a different result this time.

The teenage Becker claimed both ties in four sets and the odds suggest a similar outcome on Monday.

But Leconte won a pre-Wimbledon tournament in Germany, has not dropped a set at the All-England Club yet this year and has half an eye on reaching next Sunday's final on his 30th birthday.

"Me, I've nothing to lose," he shrugs. "This is the sort of match that inspires me and makes me want to carry on. Boris is the best player on grass and he's serving big, but this is a big opportunity for me."

Leconte will be preparing in his usual relaxed fashion, enjoying a massage and then tripping off to a party on Sunday but Becker, who has

not been at this most dominating, hopes the Frenchman might wake up with a hang-over.

"With Henri, how he plays all depends on how he gets up in the morning," says the fourth-seeded German, who lost to Leconte in their last Grand Slam meeting, an epic five-setter in the French Open in 1988.

"It's always a difficult game with him because you never really know how he's going to play."

Victory for Becker would earn him the chance of an all-German quarter-final rematch with his 1991 final conqueror, Michael Stich, who first has to dispose of 11th seed Czech Petr Korda.

That might not be straightforward, for sixth seed Stich is playing well below his best on the show courts and Korda, an awkward 6ft 3in left-hander, holds a 5-1 career advantage over the German.

The bottom half of the draw appears to have provided tournament favourite Stefan Edberg, unconvincing in his win over Britain's Chris Wilkinson on Saturday, with a clear run to the semifinals, where he is seeded to meet American Jim Courier.

But that illustrious pair both look a little vulnerable and opportunity knocks for five non-seeds, not least 28-year-old American Richard Matuszewski, who has never before the second round of any Grand Slam event be-

fore, but now faces Edberg for a quarter-final spot.

Either Australian Wally Masur or Frenchman Cedric Pioline will take on the winner.

As for Courier, a miserable weekend in which he lost 5,000 pounds worth of possessions in a burglary at his rented home and suffered a code violation for swearing during his win over Australian Jason Stoltenberg could continue against South African Wayne Ferreira, a grass-court specialist.

After all the fuss over his body hair, racquet and relationship with film star Barbra Streisand, the serious focus will at last be on Andre Agassi's credentials to successfully defend his crown as he faces Holland's Richard Krajicek.

The Dutchman possesses the fastest serve in the game and has already beaten the champion in straight sets in a hard-court tournament this year.

But Agassi, after three easy encounters, looks favourite to progress to a last eight meeting with either world number one Pete Sampras or British outsider Andrew Foster.

The other match is an all-American showdown between Todd Martin, the bearded big-hitter who sent fifth seed Goran Ivanisevic packing, and David Wheaton, the 1991 semi-finalist, whose pre-tournament odds of 66-1 look increasingly good value.

## Becker's coach feels Wimbledon is over-rated

**BONN, June 27**—Romanian tennis tycoon Ion Tiriac, manager of German star Boris Becker, launched an attack on the prestigious Wimbledon tennis tournament in the German press on Sunday, reports AFP.

"I think Wimbledon is over-estimated," said Tiriac in an interview with the German Sunday paper Welt am Sonntag.

"The English do not have any other important sporting events, so they present the tournament like it was the English Olympic Games."

Tiriac added that the Centre Court in New York which hosts the US Open is much larger than at Wimbledon, and said that "when you compare the tournament with the Chicago Bulls basketball finals, it is completely insignificant."

The French Open is harder to win than Wimbledon because "clay gives all the players a better chance, unlike grass," according to the ex-Davis Cup player.

In those condition, Tiriac believes that Becker "should win Wimbledon this year, next year, and forever," because the German is still the player with the greatest potential.

"If he wants, he could be number one in the world for the next three years."



Showing her true colours a Stefan Edberg fan lets tennis get to her head as she sits in the stands watching the world number three Swede play his third round match against Briton Chris Wilkinson in the third round of the Wimbledon men's singles on Saturday. She wears a hat of tennis balls to go with the national colours painted on her face.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

<b>ACROSS</b>	1 Fast-forward through the commercials	4 Charlie Brown's "nemesis"	8 Nina or Pinta	12 Bobby of hockey fame	13 EPA concern: abbr.	14 Sharp, unexpected increase	15 Society-page word	16 Bird-cage liner	18 Director Elia	20 Succor	21 Dagwood's neighbor	24 Umlaut turned 90 degrees	28 They have the Wright idea	32 Use a towel	33 Sermon subject	34 Strigine								
	commentary	36 Bando or Maglie	37 Tittle	39 It's often passable	41 Dentist's advice	43 Hawaiian island	44 Harper Valley org.	46 Reagan costar	50 Fill full of holes	55 Seine stuff	56 Bogosian or Stoltz	57 Pedestal occupant	58 Office-holders	59 Barber-shop call	60 Knight's Mrs.	61 Caustic solution								
	briefly	19 "So that's it!"	22 It's over your head	23 Halloween transportation	25 Actress Bonet	26 October stone	27 Singer-actress Carter	28 "I didn't know"	29 String instrument	30 Involved with	31 Old portico	35 Two-day beard	38 Phase	40 Story of a lifetime?	42 Pen	45 Low-pH	47 Simon or Diamond	48 Wild and crazy guy	49 English river	50 Farm layer	51 Raw rocks	52 Kibosh	53 Harem room	54 Mid-May honoree

**Solution time: 28 mins.**

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**CRYPTOQUIP**

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 N T Z Z X Q G G E J D S Z E Q  
 W S Z Y C Z S Q X Z Z N T Z  
 E Q G W X D E R P Z  
**Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SANTA CLAUS'S LIVELY CANDY FACTORY AND STORE FEATURE ELF SERVICE.**  
 Today's Cryptoquip clue: D equals R

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.