



Michael Chang of the US whacks a double-fisted backhand return against Bernd Karpfacher to post his first win against the German. The tenacious American entered the third round of the US Open quite effortlessly with his September 4 win, at the Flushing Meadow, New York. — AFP photo

## Sampras, Chang spark in sprinkle

NEW YORK, Sept 5: Pete Sampras ruled the stadium court, Michael Chang the grandstand, and side by side Saturday night they avoided this year's US Open jinx to move a match away from a quarterfinal showdown, reports AP.

Ill-timed sprinkles wrecked most of the day matches as the week that wasn't at the Open disappeared in the mist.

A record crowd of 22,495 in the afternoon turned the Open into little more than a shopping mall. Players killed time huddled over backgammon boards and games of hearts.

The scheduled switches fit right in with the tenor of this tournament, plagued by injuries, illness, heat, mugginess, rain and a record number of upsets — including seven seeded men falling in the first two rounds.

But when Sampras and Chang finally got on the courts, another crowd of 20,829 packed the stands, they skirted the pitfalls that caught so many others.

Sampras, No. 2 overpowered Arnaud Boetsch 6-4, 6-3, 6-1 moments after the indefatigable Chang, No. 7, wore down Bernd Karpfacher 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4.

No big surprise there. But there was out on Court 21, where Maria Jose Gaidano, the "lucky loser" from qualifying who replaced ailing Mary Joe Fernandez at the last moment,

reached the round of 16 by beating Jenny Byrne.

"This has been one of the biggest emotions I've ever felt and one of the most beautiful," said Gaidano, a 20-year-old Argentinian making her first trip to New York.

Sampras threw a scare into

Boetsch in the first game of their match. The Frenchman survived seven break points and managed to hold serve after 10 minutes, but it was obvious then that it was just a matter of time before he broke.

"I try as much as I can always to look forward, regardless of past matches. You can get in a negative frame of mind. I was taught to press ahead. Do your best to run for the prize. Keep your focus and not worry about the past, even the good things like winning the French Open in '89. I want bigger and better things."

Besides the weather, Zvereva didn't much like the "hamburger courts" she's played on earlier "that didn't smell very nicely."

The whole day was sort of stinky.

Sampras' match being moved from day to night caused the postponement to Sunday of the match between Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, the women's No. 2, and 17-year-old Chanda Rubin. Also pushed back a day was No. 3 Martina Navratilova against Barbara Rittner.

The Malveva trio was happy, though. Magdalena Malveva, No. 10, beat Kimberley Po 2-6, 6-3, 6-4, and advanced along with sister Katerina, a 6-1, 6-1 victory over Gigi Fernandez. Eldest sister Manuela already had reached the fourth round making this the first time in Grand Slam history three sisters have gotten so far in a tournament.

The switch from day to night did not disturb him, though the court wasn't as dry as he'd like.

"It was a cool night and the court played a bit slick," he said. "I thought I served a little up and down. There was one streak where I couldn't buy a first serve, but I'm pretty pleased."

Chang had lost all three times he played the tall, powerful Karpfacher, but hardly needed that for incentive in a

match. "I didn't do much all day," Sampras said. "I go here at 10, figuring I'd play at 2. There's not much you can do. It's a little uncomfortable in the players' lounge. There are times you want to be left alone and not bothered. It's tough to get privacy."

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## Brazil can do sans top trio

RIO DE JANEIRO, Sept 5: Brazil won't have their two top goal scorers, nor their best midfielders when they take on Venezuela in a World Cup qualifier — no need to worry, reports AP.

At least that's the way the Brazilian national team is approaching Sunday's match at spacious Mineirao Stadium in the southeastern city of Belo Horizonte (2000 GMT kickoff).

Bebeto, who got his second yellow card against Bolivia, and midfielder Dunga, who was ejected, are serving their one-game suspensions in Europe with their club teams.

Muller, a standout in the 6-0 thrashing of Bolivia, was scratched from the lineup on Thursday when he pulled a thigh muscle during practice at Teresopolis, the team's mountain training camp north of Rio.

Valdeir, Muller's replacement, hasn't scored a goal in his last 607 minutes.

It still is not sending shock waves through Brazil.

Strong showings this week in practice and scrimmage games by strikers Valdeir and Evar and midfielder Palhinha bolstered confidence and eased pressure on besieged head coach Carlos Alberto Parreira.

Palhinha, the speedy, imaginative playmaker from Sao Paulo, looked sharp in scrimmages on Thursday and Friday in which the squad outscored opponents 17-2.

On Friday, when the team rolled to a 10-0 win over local club team Canto do Rio, Palhinha seemed to be everywhere, fueling the attack with quick-touch passes and marking well at midfield.

Evar scored five goals, Valdeir added another.

"They're two killers," Parreira said. "They're accustomed to winning games."

And Branco, the veteran

fullback who had a slow start in qualifying, continued to improve, scoring twice.

Still, Parreira doesn't want to see his club Waltz through the game against the hapless Venezuelans, who have been outscored 20-2 in six straight losses in Group B play.

"I want a good, hard effort,"

he said. "And I want two points with a win."

Brazil, in second place in South America's Group B with eight points, need the win to keep ahead of third place Uruguay, who face Uruguay in Montevideo also on Sunday. Uruguay have six points, and Bolivia lead with 10.

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However, Shonekan refused the main demand of the congress' 4 million members: that he had over power to the winner the annulled June 12 elections, billionaire tycoon Moshood Abiola.

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