

Becker, Sampras shown way out

PARIS, Nov 6: World number one Pete Sampras and three times winner Boris Becker both crashed out on a bad day for stars at the Paris Open on Friday, reports agencies.

Top seed Sampras, seeking his first tournament victory in the French capital, was blasted off court by hardhitting Croat Goran Ivanisevic who fired 14 aces on his way to a 7-6, 7-5 victory.

Holder Becker, who also won the lucrative tournament in 1988 and 1989, bowed out to the only surviving Frenchman, Arnaud Boetsch, who delighted the 10,000 home crowd by scoring a hard-fought, 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 victory.

It was the most emotional win of my career, said unseeded Boetsch. I will never forget the last two points and the way the crowd supported me.

Becker, who badly needed a good result here to secure a place in the season-ending ATP finals featuring the world's top eight players, has said he is more concerned about becoming a father in a couple of months.

Sampras and Becker joined on the casualties' list world number two Jim Courier, the second seed who lost his opening match to unseeded Swede Magnus Gustafsson.

Stefan Edberg and Andrei Medvedev advanced the semifinals.

Edberg beat Michael Stich 6-2, 5-7, 6-2 before the Ukrainian Medvedev came from behind to beat Mark Woodforde of Australia, 4-6, 7-5, 6-4.

Edberg had lost to Stich in their four meetings this year and had just three victories in nine matches against the German before Friday. Last week Stich defeated Edberg in three sets in the quarterfinals of the Stockholm tournament on his way to the title.

I had a great chance last week when I should have won. I had him 3-1 in the third, Edberg said. He came up with his shots last week.

The No. 6 seeded Edberg grabbed the lead early in the match by playing nearly flawless tennis. The Swede has just one unforced error in each of the first two sets and just five

throughout the match. Stich had 22 but lost his service four times.

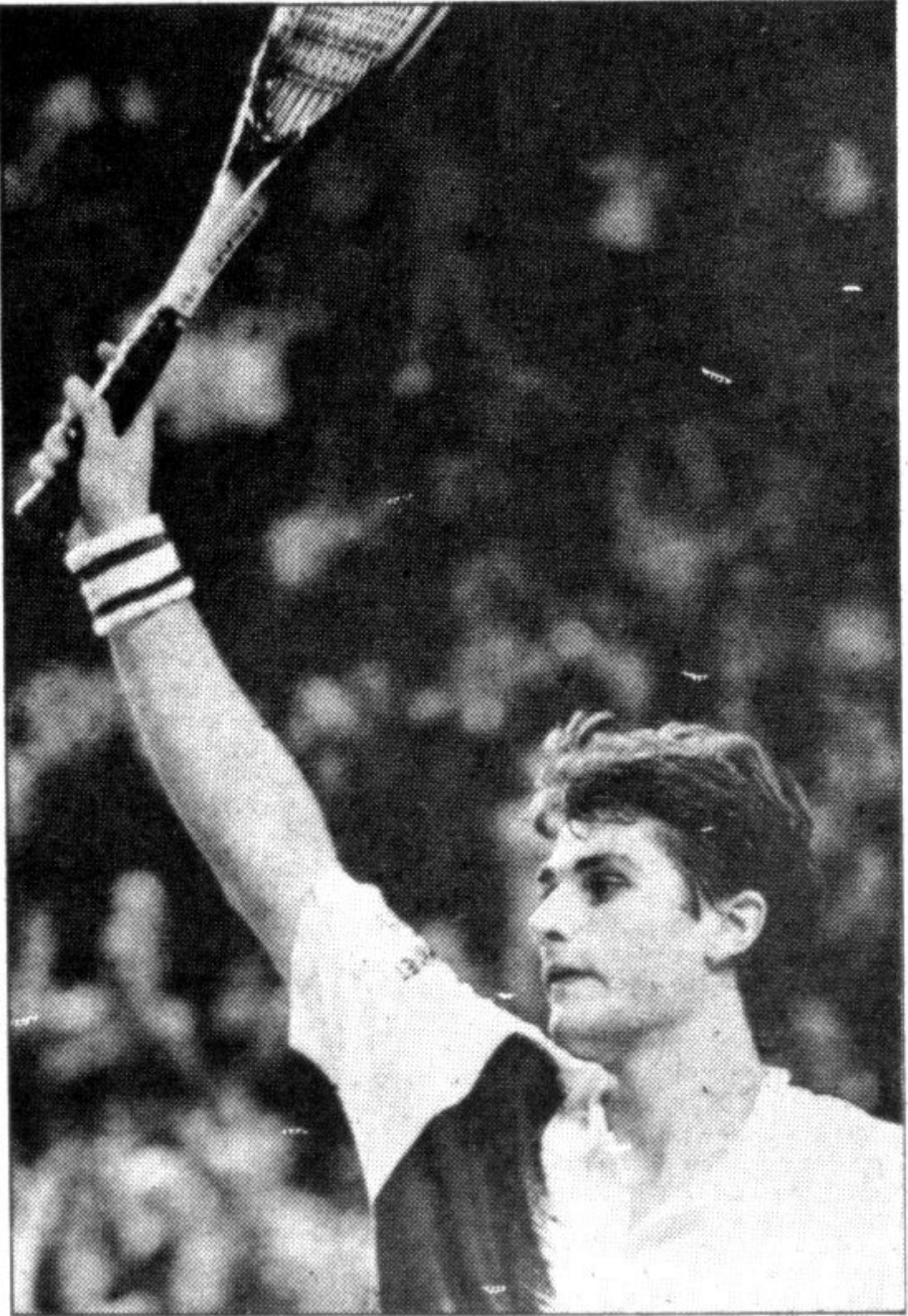
I did play very, very good today, the best I have played for quite some time, Edberg said. It is much more exciting when you feel good on the court.

Edberg faces the winner of the match between Goran Ivanisevic and Pete Sampras later Friday.

If I can serve well and return well, then they are going to have a tough time, Edberg said.

Sampras beat big-serving Marc Rousset in Thursday's third round and faces another big server in Ivanisevic.

So far it doesn't seem to matter to Sampras who has



Arnaud Boetsch of France salutes the crowd after beating German Boris Becker in three sets (3-6, 6-3, 7-6) on Nov 5 in the quarter-final of the Paris Open. —AFP photo

gotten to the quarterfinals without losing a set.

Ivanisevic thinks he can stop the No. 1 player in the world.

"I don't feel any pressure playing Pete," Ivanisevic said after beating seventh-seeded Michael Chang in Thursday's third round. The Croatian defeated Chang 7-6 (7-5), 7-5, serving 17 aces in a match that ended after midnight.

Pete doesn't like left-handers and he doesn't like my serve, Ivanisevic said. I have a good record against him.

Ivanisevic has won four of five against Sampras. However Sampras won their only meeting on an indoor carpet surface, in 1991 in the Paris tournament.

Aussie coach confident

SANTIAGO, Nov 6: Australia's coach Edie Thomson remains confident that his side will edge out Argentina for a place in the World Cup finals, reports Reuter.

Before the first game against Argentina we had never played against quality opposition... we are more confident now than we were before the game in Sydney, Thomson said.

Australia, fielding just five of the players who took part in the drawn first-leg of their playoff against Argentina, lost 3-2 in a friendly to Chilean league side Colo Colo on Thursday.

Team spirit is high, said Thomson. We only arrived (in Chile) on Tuesday night and had been travelling for 28 hours — not the best preparation for a game.

The second leg of the World Cup playoff is in Buenos Aires on November 17.

Dopers can't change that

MELBOURNE, Nov 6: The International Weightlifting Federation said Saturday that positive drug tests from two Australian weightlifters will not affect next week's World Championships in Melbourne, reports AP.

The World Championships will be the most successful ever and these two lifters have done nothing to change that, federation vice-president Sam Coffa said.

Coffa, who is also the Australian Weightlifting Federation president, said that the lifters, one from Victoria state and one from Tasmania, were registered with his federation. But he said neither were on the national team.

The tests were conducted at a national training camp in July and the national championships in September by the Australian Sports Drug Agency (ASDA).

Coffa said the weightlifters had tested positive for the steroid Stanozolol and while one of the lifters accepted the finding, the other said he would contest it before an independent tribunal.

Under IWF regulations, a national body that has turned up three positive results within the space of 12 months is penalized with a one-year suspension from competition and the guilty athletes banned for life.

But Coffa said Saturday that this was only when the swabs had been conducted by a drug tester from the IWF, not a local or national body such as the Australian Sports Drug Agency.

Controversy has plagued the sport in the buildup to the world championships, with three members of the Russian and three members of the Polish team recently testing drug-positive and being banned for life.

The Russian federation was given the choice of a year-long ban or a \$50,000 US fine and opted for the money penalty, allowing it to bring a reduced team to Melbourne.

However the Polish team has decided not to pay the fine and will miss the championships that are scheduled to begin Thursday and finish on Nov 21.

Suprianto in Thai Open semis

BANGKOK, Nov 6: Top-seeded Indonesian Joko Suprianto, defending champion and world champion, beat his compatriot No. 5/8 seed Marleve Mainaky 15-17, 18-14, 15-2 to enter the men's single semifinals in the 90,000 US dollar Thailand Open Badminton Championships here Friday, reports AFP.

All-England champion Indonesia's Hariyanto Arbi, seed No. 3/4, employed superior ability and accuracy to defeat 1990 Thai Open champion Thapal Kukasemkit of Thailand 15-6, 15-13.

Malaysia's Ong Ewe Hock, seed No. 5/8 scored the biggest upset of the day, when he eliminated second seed Alan Budi Kusuma, two-time Thai Open champion in 1989 and 1991 and gold medalist in the Barcelona Olympics, 15-11, 2-15, 15-10.

In the other men's singles quarter-final match, Indonesian Hermawan Susanto, seed 3/4, beat his fellow countryman Lui Tong Ping 11-15, 15-2, 15-2.

The semifinals will see Suprianto meet Arbi and Ong Ewe Hock play Susanto.

In the women's quarterfinals, top seed Susi Susanti, Thai Open champion in 1991 and 1992 and Barcelona Olympics gold medalist, defeated Hu Ning of China, seed No. 5/8 11-3, 11-1, while South Korea's Kim Ji Hyun, seed 5/8 eliminated Cindana of Indonesia 11-3, 11-2.

Thailand's Somharuethai Charoensiri, seed 3/4, beat China's Han Jingna 12-9, 11-12, while unseeded Ra Kyung Min of South Korea upset second seed Minarti Trimur of Indonesia 11-2, 11-2.

In the semifinals, Susanti will play Kim Ji Hyun, and Somharuethai faces Ra Kyung Min.



Miami Heat's Rony Soekalev (R) manoeuvres around Orlando Magie's Greg Kite (L) during second-period play Nov 5. The Magic won the game 116-96. —AFP photo

Kelesi on a fabulous flight

QUEBEC, Nov 6: Helen Kelesi of Canada, facing match point in the second set, rallied to beat second-seeded Natalia Zvereva of Belarus 3-6, 7-6 (7-5), 6-0 in a quarterfinal match in the dhrs 200,000 Bell Challenge women's tennis tournament Friday night, reports AP.

On Thursday, Kelesi beat fifth-seeded Pam Shriver to get a quarterfinal spot opposite Zvereva. Now she'll face No. 3 Nathalie Tauziat of France in the semifinals on Saturday.

Tauziat, ranked 18th in the world, downed eighth-seeded Linda Harvey-Wild 6-3, 6-3.

In the other quarterfinals, Patricia Hy of Canada won nine of the last 10 games en route to a 6-3, 6-1 victory over Debbie Graham and fourth-seeded Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria eliminated Angelica Gavaldoni of Mexico 6-2, 6-2.

After breaking Kelesi's serve to open the second set, Zvereva appeared on the way to a straight-set sweep. But Kelesi broke back in the 10th game of the second set and took a 3-0 lead in the tiebreaker.

Kelesi dominated the third set, allowing Zvereva only 11 points.

It marked the first time Kelesi has beaten Zvereva since the 1987 Federation Cup team competition. Zvereva won the junior world championship in 1986.

"I hadn't hit a good return the whole match so I decided to just blast it," said Kelesi. "If it went in okay, if it didn't I lost."

"I thought the match was over but she didn't finish it off," added the 24-year-old Canadian. "I was scrappy and knew that if I kept fighting she would get frustrated."

Zvereva managed to win just 11 points in the third set but at least avoided an ugly scene with the feisty Canadian.

"Before the match, I decided I would not get into a confrontation with her, and I succeeded," she said.

Hy, who beat top-seeded Helena Sukova of the Czech Republic last Thursday, countered Graham's highly touted two-handed backhand with forehand slices and moved the lanky American from side to side throughout the 66-minute match.

Tauziat and Maleeva had little difficulty in their respective matches. Tauziat won in 73 minutes, Maleeva in 56.

Hy fought off the effects of a knee injury incurred in the third set of her victory over Sukova.

"Once I got into the match, I didn't even think about it," said Hy ranked 43th in the world. "I was just trying to be aggressive from the backcourt and from the net."

China knock ROK from the top

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 6: China ousted South Korea from the top position in the medal tally at the end of the track events of the 16th biennial Asian Cycling Championships at the Velodrome in Ipoh on Saturday, reports AP.

However, South Korea's Park Min-so collected the gold in the 40-kilometre men's points race with 31 points which compatriot Cho Hung-sung, the elimination race champion, grabbed the silver with 29 points.

Two points behind was China's Wang Zheng Guan, who won the bronze.

China grabbed two golds on the final day of the track contest through Chang Yubin in the women's 20-kilometre point race and Wang Qingzhi in the Women's three-kilometre individual pursuit.

Gingzhi set an Asian record, clocking a time of 3:48.068 seconds, to erase the old mark of 3:51.674 held by Seiko Hashimoto in Barcelona last year.

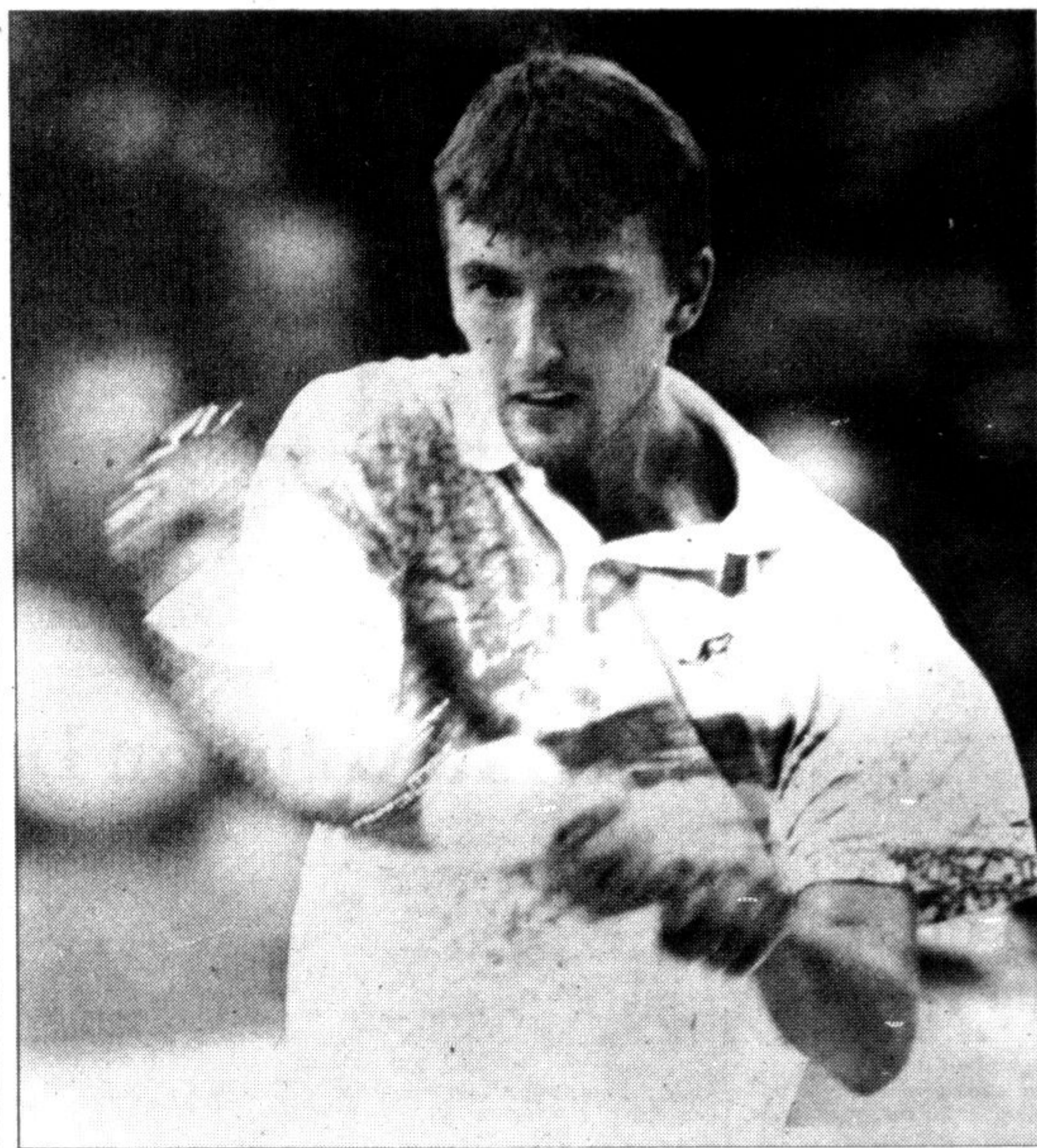
Compatriot Ma Huizhen took the silver with a time of 3:57.930 while Kazakhstan's Alla Vassilenko timed 4:00.300 to settle for the bronze, the National News Agency Bernama reported from Ipoh, 200 kilometres (125 miles) north of here.

In the 20-kilometre point race, Chang, the Asian record holder of the one-kilometre time trial, won two sprint laps to clinch her second gold with 23 points.

Guo Xinghong, also of China, won the silver with 19

points while Vassilenko again took third place, losing out by two points.

China, with four gold, three silver and two bronze, overtook South Korea who tally was three gold, two silver and two bronze.



Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia hits a backhand to Michael Chang of the US during their Paris Open match on Nov 4. Ivanisevic won 7-6 (7/5), 7-5 to advance to the quarter-finals. —AFP photo

Petrovic weary of losing

ATHENS, Nov 6: Following a series of dismal performances by Olympiakos of Piraeus soccer team, coach Ljubomir Petrovic has resigned, the club announced Saturday, reports AP.

He was temporarily replaced by Costas Polychroniou, a former Olympiakos player and current coach of Greece's under-21 national team.

The brief announcement did not explain why Olympiakos accepted the coach's resignation. But it came two days after the team's elimination from the UEFA competition, and a humiliating 1-1 draw at home against Panionios of Athens for the Greek league.

On Thursday, Olympiakos beat Spain's CD Tenerife 4-3 in a second-leg, second-round game in Piraeus for the UEFA Cup. But the Spanish team advanced to the next round on away goals.

The aggregate score was 5-5, but the Spaniards scored three goals in Piraeus and Olympiakos only one in the first leg-game in Tenerife.

Last week's draw against Panionios was the fourth of the season for Olympiakos, with three of them at home. As a result, after 10 rounds Olympiakos dropped to 3rd place with 19 points as against 23 of league-leaders AEK of Athens.

Suleymanoglu has a mission

ISTANBUL, Nov 6: Naim Suleymanoglu, weightlifting's "Pocket Hercules," wants to become the first lifter to win gold medals at three successive Olympics, reports Reuter.

Suleymanoglu, who will be competing in the World Championships in Melbourne later this month, said on Friday his big aim was to become Olympic champion in 1996.

"It wasn't for that I would have left the sport long ago," he said.

"No weightlifter has won Olympic golds three times in a row."

Suleymanoglu, dubbed "Pocket Hercules" because of his strength and diminutive stature — he is only 1.52 metres tall — will be competing for Turkey in Melbourne in the 64 kg division after scattering records as a featherweight (60 kg) since he first hit the international scene as 16-year-old.

Dale Egging surge ahead

YOKAWA, Japan, Nov 6: Dale Egging Saturday shot the days best score, six-under-par 66, and moved to share a one-shot lead with American compatriots Hollis Stacy and Tina Barrett entering the final round of the dhrs 650,000 Japan Queens Cup, the US LPGA's final tournament of the season, reports AP.

Starting three shots off the lead, Egging collected four birdies on the front nine and three birdies and one bogey on the back nine.

Barrett who was two shots off the pace after the first round, shot a bogey-free 67 while Stacy sank a 13-foot birdie putt on the 17th hole en route to a 68.

Flamengo in final

SAO PAULO, Nov 6: Flamengo (Brazil) beat Nacional de Montevideo (Uruguay) 2-1 (halftime 2-0) in a South American Super Cup semifinal, first-leg soccer match on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Scorers: Flamengo — Casagrande (10th minute), Renato (40th); Nacional — O'Neill (88th)

McNeil bounces back to win

OAKLAND, Calif., Nov 6: Sixth-seeded Lori McNeil bounced back from an opening-set loss to Oust Mary Joe Fernandez, the No 2 seed, in the quarterfinals of the Bank of the West Classic on Friday night, reports AP.

McNeil's 4-6, 7-5, 6-3 victory put her into Saturday's semifinal, where she will face childhood friend Zina Garrison Jackson, seeded third. Top seed Martina Navratilova meets fourth-seeded Lindsay Davenport in the other semifinal.

McNeil, ranked 27th in the world, came to the net often and with good success to beat sixth-ranked Fernandez, breaking her twice in the second set to force the tie breaker.

"I volleyed well today but mostly I just hung in there," McNeil said. "In the second set I started serving well and running down some balls."

Fernandez started out strong, breaking McNeil in the first set to go up 5-4 and eventually take the set. Fernandez took a 2-0 lead in the second set, but McNeil used strong play at the net to break back and even it at 4-4.

Leading 6-5, McNeil broke her opponent again to even the match and jumped out to 3-0 lead against a fatigued Fernandez in the final set. The match lasted two hours and nine minutes.

"There were just a couple of points in there that made the difference," said Fernandez, playing in only her second match since Wimbledon. "She started serving bigger on the big points."

McNeil holds a 6-2 match record against Garrison Jackson and won her only singles title this year by beating her in three sets at the DFS Classic on grass. The two came

It's a different ball game

ODESSA, Ukraine, Nov 6: Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoly Zlenko may be under strong diplomatic pressure from his Moscow counterpart Andrei Kozyrev over nuclear weapons, but he made short work of the Russian on the tennis court today, reports Reuter.

Zlenko defeated Kozyrev 6-1, 6-2 in a fast-moving 90-minute match at a seaside court before the two men started the second day of talks on disarmament and the Black Sea Fleet.

Spectators said both men played well, but the tall Zlenko's powerful drives and volleys proved too much for Kozyrev's more subtle lobs and passing shots.

"Slow down a bit. You're not up against Boris Nikolayevich now," Zlenko called out to Kozyrev in the warm-up, referring to Russian President Boris Yeltsin's ability in the sport.

"We'll have a rouble apiece from all of you," Kozyrev shouted to journalists and security men watching the match.

"Better still, a rouble per game, and a dollar per set."

The two men shook hands after the contest and headed off to the swimming pool at the military sanatorium where the talks were taking place.

"Zlenko's style is like Ukraine's foreign policy — simple and direct," grinned one Ukrainian diplomat.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
				13				14		
12										
15			16					17		
18			19		20	21				
		22				23				
24	25	26		27	28	29		30	31	
					32			34		
35			36	37				38		
42	43			44				46	47	48
					50	51			52	
					54				55	
					57				58	

Solution time: 23 mins.

23	WASH	WIT	AVOW
24	OLEO	HOE	GERE
25	EXTRA	MOUS	ONES
26	VENI	TRAM	SAGESIT
27	AXIS	POT	
28	NAVY	DYNE	IBE
29	AGE	RELAX	ARF
30	YON	ASPS	SNAG
31	DAN	HAUT	
32	EMERGE	KEBAB	
33	VATS	VENERATE	
34	INTO	ERE	ELMS
35	LEAN	RAW	OLES

CRYPTOQUIP

C I N Y Q W B M U T C N , Q U W
 J C P Q C N , U R J R
 G R K C N B Q W A C K B W :
 " C G U I A R Y T R Y J R M W ."
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: HER FIRST BEST-SELLING POTBOILER HAD A PLOT OF GOLD.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: N 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.