



Top-seed Steffi Graf of Germany proudly shows her trophy to photographers after beating Spain's Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in the final of the Virginia Slims Championships in New York on Nov 21. — AFP photo

Kiwis make it look easy

ADELAIDE, Nov 22: The New Zealand cricket team continued its resurgence by cruising to a seven-wicket victory over the South Australian state side Monday at Adelaide Oval, reports AP.

The New Zealanders needed 143 runs for victory and reached that total or the loss of three wickets with more than a session to spare.

Openers Mark Greatbatch and Blair Pocock paved the way with a stand of 131 for the first wicket.

Greatbatch top-scored with 64, while Pocock made 60.

Dipak Patel hit the winning run with a single off part-time bowler Tim Nielsen, the South Australian wicketkeeper.

Nielsen did enjoy a moment of success, however, when he claimed first wicket of his first-class career.

Nielsen had Pocock caught by Tim May at backward square leg.

The tourists earlier set up the victory by dismissing South Australia for 260 in its second innings.

The home team resumed at 247 for seven and the innings closed in the space of 30 minutes with last-man Peter McIntyre unable to bat due to a chipped right index finger.

Richard De Groen had may caught at slip by Ken Rutherford for 13 while Simon Doull dismissed Brad Wigney for seven, giving both bowlers a three-wicket haul.

De Groen finished with match figures of five for 80 from 41 overs and looks set to slot into the Kiwi team for the second test, which starts Friday at Bellville Oval in Hobart.

New Zealand have recovered from a disastrous start to their tour, beating New South Wales and South Australia and drawing the first Test in Perth during November.

Stand-in captain Ken Rutherford was pleased with Monday's triumph, which was secured in the absence of injured pair Martin Crowe and Willie Watson, both of whom will miss the remaining two Tests.

South Australia 158 and 260 for nine decl New Zealand 276-6 decl and 143 (Mark Greatbatch 64, Blair Pocock 60). New Zealand won by seven wickets.

Aussie spin duo reunites again

ADELAIDE, Nov 22: Australia are likely to re-unite Ashes spin heroes Shane Warne and Tim May in their team after both bowlers were named today in an unchanged 12 for the second Test against New Zealand starting in Hobart on Friday, reports Reuters.

Warne and May took 55 wickets between them in Australia's successful defence of the Ashes in England this year and both have been taking wickets in the Sheffield Shield.

May was 12th man for the drawn first Test in Perth but is set to return to the side on a Hobart pitch which has given little help to the pacemen this season.

Captain Allan Border said before the Perth Test that he favoured using his two spinners as often as possible because they bowled so well in tandem.

"If two of your best bowlers happen to be spinners, that shouldn't matter at all", Border said.

The spinners did a great job for us in England and I've got no problems about playing both of them if the wicket suits it.

AUSTRALIA — Mark Taylor, Michael Slater, David Boon, Mark Waugh, Allan Border (captain), Steve Waugh, Ian Healy, Paul Reiffel, Shane Warne, Tim May, Craig McDermott, Glenn McGrath.

Graf wears Sanchez down

NEW YORK, Nov 22: World number one Steffi Graf concluded a dominating year on the women's tennis tour with an impressive victory over courageous second seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario to win the season-ending Virginia Slims Championships on Sunday, reports agencies.

"I'm incredibly happy to end the year like this," the world's No 1 woman player said after a 6-1, 6-4, 3-6, 6-1 victory over Arantxa Sanchez Vicario. "It couldn't be any better."

The title, her first at Madison Square Garden since 1989, was worth \$250,000, raising her women's season-record total to \$2,753,837 and boosting her career total to more than \$13 million. It was her 79th career singles title, tying her with Hall of Famer Margaret Court.

Graf was simply overpowering. Her big served set up easy points. Her feared forehand zipped deep into the corners. She repeatedly left Sanchez Vicario standing flatfooted on the baseline as the ball went whizzing by.

"From the beginning, I was able to take control of the points," Graf said. "I tried to be as aggressive as I could, and it worked well."

What also helped was the long, tough road Sanchez

Vicario took to reach the final of this season-ending tournament. She had a 2 1/2-hour semifinal Saturday before beating Mary Pierce, and earlier needed three sets, including two tiebreakers, to eliminate Jana Novotna in three minutes short of three hours.

She also played two rounds in the doubles, losing a tight three-setter in the semifinals Thursday night.

"I feel a little tired," said Sanchez Vicario, who was treated by the trainer and examined by tournament doctors during two changeovers.

She played a lot of tennis the last few days. I'm not disappointed. Today I had a very tough opponent.

In 1988, Graf won the four Grand Slam tournaments plus the gold medal at the Seoul Olympics. In 1989, she won the year's first Grand Slam, the Australian Open.

Since then, she was overshadowed by Monica Seles, until Seles was sidelined after being stabbed during a tournament at Hamburg, Germany, April 30. With Seles missing, Graf won the French Open, Wimbledon and the US Open en route to regaining the No 1 ranking.

Sunday, Sanchez Vicario, the quickest player on the tour who runs down nearly every ball, began the match by breaking Graf's serve at 30. It turned

out to be a rare moment because the Spaniard didn't win another game until the second game of the second set, and that was another service break.

The first time Sanchez Vicario was able to hold service was the next game, when the match was 43 minutes old.

"I thought Steffi played very well," Sanchez Vicario said. "She didn't let me get into the match until the middle of the second set. I gave it my best, but she was much better than me."

While Sanchez Vicario was playing fetch, Graf was rolling along behind her big forehand shots. Not only was she good, she was lucky, getting the net cords to fall her way.

Then, Sanchez Vicario finally showed the crowd why she's ranked No 2 in the world.

After holding through two deuces to begin the third set, Sanchez Vicario received on-court treatment during the changeover. She came back to win the next two games while losing only two points.

Graf fought back, winning the next three games to pull even. But Sanchez Vicario ripped off a three-game spurt, breaking Graf at 15.

With the match 1 hour, 43 minutes old, Sanchez Vicario finally had won a set. Twenty-seven minutes later, Graf had won the title.

Kerrigan's chances bright

PARIS, Nov 22: American figure skating champion Nancy Kerrigan may be considered the top contender for the Olympic gold medal, despite her problems at the World Championships in Prague last March, reports AP.

Weekend competitions in Germany and France produced some interesting results, with two-time Olympic champion Katarina Witt and current world champion Oksana Baiul the biggest losers, although Witt didn't even skate.

Kerrigan, the bronze medalist at the 1992 Olympics was rated the favourite heading into Prague. She led going into the free skate but stumbled and finished fifth. Her credentials for the Olympics in 1994 tumbled.

This year Kerrigan appears to be back in form, winning the pre-Olympic meet at Hamar, Norway, last month with a brilliant performance. She didn't compete this weekend.

Baiul was expected to have an easy road to Lillehammer after winning the world title in her first try at Prague when she was 15.

But Baiul, of Ukraine, was upset by 16-year-old Tanja Szewczenko at the Nations On Ice competition at Gelsenkirchen, Germany. The rapid rise of the teen-age German does not help Witt, who is attempting a comeback after being reinstated for amateur competition in time for the Olympics.

The Lique Trophy competition in Paris completed a skating doubleheader. Now five of six major international competi-

tions are completed. The NHK Trophy in Japan is left before the various national championships and the European Championships, where are used to qualify skaters for the Olympics.

Among the results from the other disciplines, reinstated Russian skaters and reigning Olympic champions Natalia Mishkutenok and Artur Dmitriev won the pairs competition in Paris.

Viktor Petrenko, another returning gold medalist, had to rally to beat American Scott Davis at Gelsenkirchen, and another American, Todd Eldredge, won at Paris.

The first national meet of major interest is the German Championships at Herne, Dec 16-18, where Witt will contend with Szewczenko and Marina Kielmann, both in the top eight at Prague.

Witt, a more artistic than athletic skater when she won consecutive Olympic golds during the 1980s, always has been criticized for her lack of triple jumps. Szewczenko and Kielmann perform them often.

All three Germans should advance from the nationals to the European Championships at Copenhagen in January, but only two of the three can go to the Olympics. The German Federation has said the Copenhagen meet will determine which one gets left behind.

However, Surya Bonaly, a three-time European champion who won at Paris over the weekend, was not surprised by Baiul's weekend defeat.

"Nobody is unbeatable," Bonaly said. "Everyone thought Midori Ito was dangerous, but she's not here any more."

Ito, after winning the world title in 1989, was expected to dominate the sport for several years. But she never won another world championship.

The American women and men have two qualifiers each for the Olympics, the number based on the results at Prague.

The US men's situation is tough. Along with Eldredge, the 1990 and 1991 national champion, there also is Brian Bottano, the 1988 Olympic gold medalist who pushed for the reinstatement rule. And there is Mark Mitchell, fourth in the world last season.



Russian skaters Natalia Mishkutenok (L) and Artur Dmitriev (R) performing their routine in the Lique Trophy at Paris-Bercy Stadium in Paris on Nov 20. — AFP photo

ITF masters leg begins today

The Masters' leg of the Gold Leaf ITF Thailand-Bangladesh Satellite Circuit tennis begins at the Ramna Tennis Complex, today, reports BSS.

Eight singles matches and two doubles matches will be held on the opening day.

Eight seeded players received first round byes they are: Top seed Frank Ofori (Ghana), second-seed Barry Cowan (Great Britain), third seed Gonzalo Corrales (Spain), fourth-seed Adam Skrzypczak (Poland), fifth seed Narathorn Srichaphan (Thailand), sixth seed Dajji Mori (Japan), seventh-seed James Fox (Britain) and eighth-seed Martijn Belgraver (Netherlands).

The top seed Ofori has earned 48 ranking points so far in the circuit, he became singles champion in the first and second-legs in Bangkok and lost in the quarter-finals at Rajshahi.

The second-seed Cowan lifted the singles title in the third leg at Rajshahi beating Martijn Belgraver and has collected 30 ranking points.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman will formally inaugurate the meet at 9 am.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain will be present as special guest.

More bad news for Kiwis

ADELAIDE, Nov 22: New Zealand pace bowler Willie Watson will return home Tuesday after failing to recover from a hamstring injury and will miss the final two cricket Tests against Australia, team manager Michael Sandlant said, reports AP.

Watson tore his left hamstring during the drawn first Test in Perth last week and Sandlant said Monday that it had been decided to send him home when it became obvious he would not be fit for the back-to-back Tests in Hobart and Brisbane.

"Willie had a fitness test last night and he's at least 10 days away from being able to play," Sandlant said.

"In that circumstance it's, best he goes home, but he's obviously very disappointed."

Sandlant said it had not yet been decided whether Watson would return for the limited-overs World Series tournament against Australia and South Africa.

The second Test starts Friday in Hobart and Sandlant said all-rounder Chris Cairns is making good progress from a bruised heel and is expected to be available for selection.

Watson's return home follows the departure of team captain Martin Crowe, who went back to New Zealand for surgery after aggravating a knee injury during the first Test.

Australia, meanwhile, Monday named an unchanged squad of 12 for the second Test at Bellville Oval.

Spinner Tim May may be called into the starting line-up ahead of rookie pacesman Glenn McGrath.

The Australian team is: Mark Taylor (vice-captain), Michael Slater, David Boon, Mark Waugh, Allan Border (captain), Steve Waugh, Ian Healy, Paul Reiffel, Shane Warne, Tim May, Craig McDermott, Glenn McGrath.

Army hockey

JESSORE, Nov 22: Four robin league matches were held on the second day of the Army hockey championship at the Jessore Cantonment today, reports BSS.

Stich spoils Sampras' finale

FRANKFURT, Nov 22: Michael Stich played his best tennis of the year and Pete Sampras played probably his worst. The outcome was predictable.

Stich became the new No 2 in the world by beating Sampras 7-6, 2-6, 7-6, 6-2 Sunday to win the ATP Tour World Championship, reports AP.

The loss in the last match of the tour left a little blemish on Sampras' record, but did not affect his No 1 ranking.

Sampras was hearing home to Tampa, Fla., on Monday. He has a date with Vitas Gerulaitis on Tuesday on the golf course. Stich's season is not over.

He will lead Germany in the Davis Cup final Dec 3-5 in Dusseldorf.

"Five weeks in a row in Europe and may be there at the end I just got a little mentally tired," Sampras said after the upset defeat.

But Sampras wasn't looking for excuses.

"I had my chances today, but when we get to crunch time he seems to get through it. Today he deserved to win. He just played a little bit more solid than I did. But I will get over it," Sampras said.

"It's disappointing," Sampras said. "But I obviously had a great year and I can hold my head up high."

Stich blasted 27 aces in his

victory, while Sampras only had 11. He led the tour this season with a total of 1,011 aces.

"It's a great finish to a great year," Stich said after preventing Sampras from winning his 10th final in a row.

Sampras had an even greater year, but he faded in the last match.

He dropped his serve in the opening game and struggled from then on.

Stich won both key tiebreaks against Sampras, bringing his tiebreak record this season to 37-19.

"Everybody tends to play a bit loose the first couple of points in a breaker. I try to play every point very seriously and to be 100 per cent there on the first point. That pays off," Stich said.

He fired 12 aces in the final set.

"In the fourth set he just served huge. I had no chance," Sampras said. "The air was out of the balloon."

Stich collected \$1.24 million for his sixth title of the year and became the second German in a row to win the tour-ending event. Boris Becker won last year but failed to qualify this time.

"After the (1991) Wimbledon victory, this is for sure is the most important win I had," Stich said. "I can say I am playing my best tennis of the whole year right now."

He moved one place up in the computer rankings to No 2, replacing Jim Courier, who dropped to third. For the second time in his career, Stich won titles on all four surfaces in a year.

Sampras, whose eight titles this year included Wimbledon and the US Open, took home \$1,610,000.

That brought his earnings to \$3,648,075 for the year, the biggest annual purse in the history of the tour.

His 1993 singles record of 83-15 was the best since Ivan Lendl won 84-7 in 1985 and he was the first to win eight titles in a year since Lendl won 10 in 1987.



German Michael Stich (L) and American Pete Sampras (R) are all smiles after their ATP Tour final in Frankfurt, Germany on Nov 21. Stich won the match to become the new world number two. — AFP photo

Krabbe loses battle not war

BERLIN, Nov 22: Katrin Krabbe still isn't ready to quit. The day after an International Amateur Athletic Federation arbitration panel decided not to overturn a two-year drug-related ban against the German sprinter and two of her teammates, the 1991 world champion in the 100 and 200 meters vowed to continue the fight to clear her name, reports AP.

"I don't feel good but we want to compete indoors," a glum-looking Krabbe told a news conference Sunday. "Regardless of the decision."

The ruling Saturday appeared to signal the end of Krabbe's international career in competitive running. It means Krabbe, Grit Breuer and Manuela Derr will not be able to compete in the 1995 World Championships in Goteborg, Sweden.

But while the IAAF ruling was announced as final, Krabbe's advisor, Thorsten Heuser, said the three athletes will appeal to the German Track and Field Association (DLV) — which had lobbied on their behalf — to be allowed to run in the country's indoor championships in February.

Heuser said he would appeal to DLV president Helmut Digel

on Monday and expects to file a civil court suit against the IAAF this week.

The German track official who argued Krabbe's case before the IAAF panel in Monaco, Clemens Prokop, said the German association would accept the decision. To defy it, in the worst case, could mean suspension from international competition for German track and field athletes who compete against the banned runners.

An IAAF source in Monte Carlo said the organization would have to study the implications if Krabbe competed in domestic German meets.

"Normally there is a contamination rule, but I'm not sure if it would apply here," said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "I'm not even sure she (Krabbe) would be able to compete in German meets."

Krabbe, who turns 24 on Monday, admitted to feeling "worn out" by the struggle. Her eyes were moist with emotion, but her tired voice was void of passion. Heuser said she was in tears Saturday after learning of the decision.

Krabbe incredulously shook her head when asked why the three sprinters aren't planning to just lay off training and do something else until the ban ends in 1995.

"We want to run," Breuer

said. She and Krabbe added they didn't want to quit on the basis of decisions that haven't stood the test of the German court system.

Krabbe, Breuer and Derr train together in Neubrandenburg near Berlin and run at a sporting goods store. Krabbe said she hoped the store would keep them going financially.

The suspension cost Krabbe, a slim blonde with a model's good looks, million of dollars in endorsement money.

The IAAF originally suspended the three sprinters for four years after they tested positive for the banned substance Clenbuterol, an anabolic stimulant, in an out-of-competition examination last year.

The DLV, however, said it did not recognise out-of-competition testing, questioned the legality of the four-year ban under German law and reduced it to a one-year suspension for unsportsmanlike conduct.

When the DLV suspension ended, the IAAF in August extended it by two years, saying it was not strict enough.

The athletes have acknowledged they took the drug, but said they did not know it contained a banned substance.

That ban was lifted by the IAAF arbitration panel on a technical loophole.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS 1 Proficient people 5 Entry on baby's schedule 8 Robin Cook book 12 William of 'The Big Chill' 13 'I' problem 14 Topping 15 Gumbo 16 Manner 17 Flex 18 Private remark? 20 Balanced 22 T.R.'s slogan 26 Carnival attractions 29 Super-man's foe, Mr. Luthor 30 Singer Sumac 31 Bessemer input 32 Bankroll 33 Blood line 34 Buddy 35 Broadcast 36 Columnist Hopper 37 Dietitian's forecast 19 Smart figures? 21 Irritate 23 Burglary deterrent 24 Surrounded by 25 Turner or Wood 26 Lens holders of a sort 27 OPEC member 28 Paper 32 Cookout fare 9 Alert 10 Calendar abbr. 11 Besides which 35 'Chances —' 36 'Ball —' 38 Staff 39 Nudge 42 '— the Mood for Love' 43 Barcelona boy 44 Expanded 45 'Fat farm' 46 Listening device 48 Story of a lifetime

Solution time: 23 mins.
SAP MAE BURY BOUGH FLAIR UNDIERS LOVEANDKISSES OWE MIDSTY TAU TINY HELP PRUDE BLURS LOEB BOOB ARC CHANT EMU DEATHANDTAXES SPRING ELATE SOCKS RICH TOY YET

CROSSWORD grid with numbers 1-44 indicating starting points for words.

CRYPTOQUIP
M J T E S Z U Q P J K V F V T E F
Q J J S V J K E A F V J B I F C O I
Z U Q Q J V V Z O M F A T K V F
J B T H H I P F E J J C F E V
Yesterday's Cryptokuip: PHOTO LAB'S BIG SIGN CLAIMS "PRINTS CHARMING."
Today's Cryptokuip clue: E equals R
The Cryptokuip 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.