

Sport

Stich, Korda bite the dust

MELBOURNE, Australia, Jan 18: German number two seed Michael Stich crashed out of the Australian Open today after losing in four sets to American Malivai Washington, reports Reuter.

A lacklustre Stich lost to unseeded Washington 6-7, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 in a Centre Court Battle lasting two hours and 34 minutes.

The German Davis Cup star joined eighth seed Petr Korda, the man who beat him in last month's Grand Slam Cup final in Munich, as a notable first round casualty.

Korda, from the Czech Republic, went down in straight sets to Sweden's Thomas Enqvist 6-3, 6-4, 7-6.

Stich, 25, who led Germany to their Davis Cup triumph over Australia last month, said his mental attitude on court had been poor.

"I just wasn't on the court today. I didn't even know the score at times which doesn't say much about my mental strength. I just played a terrible match," he told reporters.

After losing the first two sets and trailing by a break in the third, the world number two appeared to have turned the corner by reeling off five games in a row to take the set.

"When I won the third set I thought I might have a chance but I didn't deserve to win. It is never easy to take a defeat like this, but life goes on. A whole year does not depend on this."

Stich's defeat ends a golden run of form stretching back to last November's ATP Finals in Frankfurt where he beat Pete Sampras, Jim Courier and Goran Ivanisevic to take the title.

That victory elevated Stich to number two in the world, the highest ranking of his career.

Washington, ranked 26th in the world, recalled leading Stich by two sets to love in Melbourne three years ago before falling away.

"I wasn't going to let the lead slip as I did in '91," Washington said.

Asked if Stich's apparent

Stich sick of Grand Slam Cup

MELBOURNE, Jan 18: An angry Michael Stich vowed Tuesday to never again play in the Grand Slam Cup—a tournament in which he has won more than \$3 million, reports AP.

American Malivai Washington defeated second-seeded Stich 7-6, (7-4), 6-3, 3-6, 6-2 in the first round of the Australian Open and the German blamed his lethargy on playing in the Grand Slam Cup last month.

Stich said his lack of a break from tennis caught up with him on center court, where he made a succession of uncharacteristic volleying errors.

"I've played the Grand Slam Cup three times but it's not worth it—even if it's a lot of money," Stich said. "I'll never play it again even if I qualify. It was a mistake to play it last year."

Jim Courier of the United States, winner of the last two Australian Open titles, refuses to play in the Grand Slam Cup, which is open to 16 players with the best records in Grand Slam tournaments each year.

Stich lost to Petr Korda of the Czech Republic in an exhausting five-set final of the Grand Slam Cup in Munich on Dec. 12. He then had a break of only three weeks before playing in the Qatar Open.

Korda also was eliminated in the first round of the Australian Open on Tuesday—and also said he was fatigued.

He had only a two-week break over Christmas.

"I was very slow, especially with my eyes. I was very slow," said Korda, who has complained of tiredness since arriving in Australia in early January.

Stich said he could not concentrate against Washington.

"I didn't even know the score at times," he said. "I cannot speak for my mental strength."

Of the eight players who have made the Grand Slam Cup final during its four-year history, only one—Stich last year—has made it past the fourth round of the Australian Open a month later.

Of the 16 players involved in last year's Grand Slam Cup, four have not made the trip to Melbourne and four have lost in the first round—Stich, Korda, Cedric Pioline and Wally Masur.

Infrastructural imbroglio

CHICAGO, Jan 18: The owner of a construction company revamping Soldier Field for the World Cup in June is vowing to remain on the job despite being fired by the city, reports AP.

"We will fight this," said Leonard Blinderman, chief executive of Blinderman Construction Co. of suburban Northbrook. The company was dismissed Friday by the city's Public Building Commission.

The city alleged serious delays and failures to meet architectural specifications on the project.

The International Tennis Federation said it would like to switch the dates of the Grand Slam Cup, but has received opposition from the ATP Tour, which stages several lucrative indoor tournaments in Europe during the preferred month of October.

"The ITF would like nothing better than to switch the dates of the Grand Slam Cup to October," said ITF spokesman Ian Barnes.

"It would then come after the final Grand Slam tournament of the year, the US Open, when the list of those qualified is already established. As things stand, it is certainly true some players have already wound down at the end of the season when the Grand Slam Cup is played."

Slater stars again

SYDNEY, Jan 18: Australian midfielder Robbie Slater, one of the stars of the recent World Cup qualifying series against Argentina, has been named the 1993 Oceania-Footballer-of-the-Year, reports AFP.

In a poll of regional football writers, Slater, who plays for Lens in France, won by a record 19 points from German-based New Zealand forward Wynton Rufer. It was announced here today.

Slater also won the award in 1991.

Australia's versatile Borussia Dortmund defender-midfielder Ned Zelic was third in the poll.

Slater will receive his award in France.

Nat'l junior chess results

International Master Reefat Bin Sattar ended Shaikat Hossain Pallab's short stay at the top when the reigning national champion outmanoeuvred him in the seventh round of the 15th national junior chess championship at the National Sports Council chess room yesterday.

Yesterday's result left Reefat and his arch rival IM Ziaur Rahman once again jointly leading the table with six and a half points each.

Becker becomes a father

MUNICH, Germany, Jan 18: Three-times Wimbledon champion Boris Becker became a father for the first time on Tuesday when his wife Barbara gave birth to a boy, reports Reuter.

"We're all delighted," Becker told reporters outside the private Munich hospital where his wife gave birth to a 3.5 kg son.

Becker said both mother and son were in good health but he and his wife had not decided on a name for the son.

Becker, who had one of the worst tennis years of his career in 1993 and dropped out of the top 10 for the first time since 1985, is taking a break from the game for the first month of his son's life.

WTA's top 20

- ST PETERSBURG, Florida, Jan 18: The top 20 women's tennis players, according to rankings issued by the Women's Tennis Association on Sunday:
1. Steffi Graf (Germany)
 2. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario (Spain)
 3. Martina Navratilova (US)
 4. Conchita Martinez (Spain)
 5. Mary Joe Fernandez (US)
 6. Gabriela Sabatini (Argentina)
 7. Jana Novotna (Czech Republic)
 8. Monica Seles (Yugoslavia)
 9. Kimiko Date (Japan)
 10. Anke Huber (Germany)
 11. Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere (Switzerland)
 12. Jennifer Capriati (US)
 13. Mary Pierce (France)
 14. Zina Garrison Jackson (US)
 15. Helena Sukova (Czech Republic)
 16. Magdalena Maleeva (Bulgaria)
 17. Nathalie Tauziat (France)
 18. Amanda Coetzer (South Africa)
 19. Lindsay Davenport (US)
 20. Natalia Zvereva (Belarus)

Partex b'ball

Angels Club began their quest for the title of the Partex First Division Basketball League '93 outplaying Fleet Club by 72-30 points on the opening day yesterday at the Outer Stadium wooden floor gymnasium, reports UNB.

In the first session, last year's runners-up Angels led 30-12 against Fleet, the Second division league champions.

Dulal and Raju caged 21 and 16 respectively for the winners while Rana collected 12 points for the losers.

The other match between Azad Boys Club and Kurmitola Apollo Club was in progress when this report was filed.

Bima beat BR

Sports Reporter
Title aspirant Sadharan Bima took yet another step to clinching this year's Milnars First Division cricket league title when he recorded his third consecutive win in the super league, beating Bangladesh Railway by six wickets at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Bima, who finished atop the points table after the completion of the first leg with 14 points from nine matches, had the match well under their control right from the moment Dear, the skipper, won the toss in the morning.

Railway, sent in to bat despite being given a solid start by their opening batsmen, who put on 52 for the first wicket in 15.5 overs, could only manage a modest total of 138 in the stipulated 45 overs, losing eight of their men in the process.

Tarique, one of the openers, notched the highest individual score of the innings with a 74-ball 32, followed by Afzal, who made 28. Shahir, who opened the innings with Tarique, made 23.

A 40-run stand for the first wicket by Shabbir and Ismail, who missed a deserved half century by a single run, set the insurancemen right on the winning trail and Bima steered home in 39.2 overs reaching 135 for four wickets.

Ismail's knock spanned 108 balls, punctuated by only a couple of shots across the fence. Shabbir followed his opening partner with a well-made 27.

The win takes Bima's collection to 20 points from the 12 matches they have played so far.



US figure skating champion Tonya Harding (R) listens to her coach Diane Rawlinson during a practice session in Portland on Jan 18. Federal and local investigators are trying to determine if Tonya Harding's money, some of it from Olympic sources, paid for the attack on Nancy Kerrigan. — AFP photo

Indonesia, the team to beat

TOKYO, Jan 18: Badminton grand slammer Susi Susanti will seek a re-match against Chinese defending champion Ye Zhaoying this week, spearheading the strong Indonesian squad at the 110,000 dollar Japan Open championships, reports AFP.

Susanti, who conquered all the major titles—the Barcelona Olympics, All-England, World Championships, World Cup as well as the Grand Prix final—tops the bill in the women's singles, which carries 5,550 dollars for the winner.

Every Indonesian shuttler is a big obstacle to the rest of the world for clinching the men's trophy and 7,150 dollars. Indonesia's Joko Suprianto, Heryanto Arbie, Ardy Wiranata, Heriawan Susanto and Marleve Mainaky pose threats in all the four corners.

Top-seeded Suprianto, enjoying perhaps his best season last year with victories in the World Championships and the Grand Prix final, has a rather comfortable way towards the semi-finals.

Receiving a first-round bye, he will take on Lee Yong-Sun of South Korea in the second in the top quarter which also includes top ninth seeds Peter Espersen of Denmark and Sompol Kukasemklaj of Thailand.

Two-time champion Wiranata, who eluded a year of no titles by winning the Malaysian Open in July, will have to face tough opponents in Darren Hall of England and Poul-Erik Hoyer Larsen of Denmark before meeting Suprianto in the same half.

Ortlieb's second

KITZBUEHEL, Jan 18: Patrick Ortlieb of Austria, the Olympic champion, clinched his second World Cup downhill victory of the season Saturday on the daunting, fog-shrouded Streif course, reports AP.

Ortlieb, who also won the season's second downhill in Val Gardena, Italy, posted a time of 2 minutes, 0.12 seconds before thousands of jubilant Austrian fans. His average speed was 141 kph (87.4 mph).

Marc Girardelli, the defending overall World Cup champion, who seeks a record sixth overall title, finished second in 2:00.59. The Austrian-born skier, who competes for Luxembourg, nearly fell on the upper part of the course and was practically supporting himself with his hand when he regained his balance to finish the course in a fast time.

William Besse of Switzerland finished third in 2:00.96.

Fog delayed the start of the race for about 45 minutes and interrupted the event several times.

Susanti suffered defeats only three times last year—twice to Ye and once to olympic silver winner Bang Soo-Hyun on the

Abedi Pele's third in a row

PARIS, Jan 18: Abedi Pele of Ghana was named African footballer-of-the-year for the third year running by France football magazine on Monday, reports AFP.

Pele, 29, was chosen by most of the continent's 50 countries, and pushed back compatriot Anthony Yeboah of Eintracht Frankfurt and Nigerian Rashidi Yekini, into second and third spots.

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1. Abedi Pele (Ghana) 150, 2. Anthony Yeboah (Ghana) Eintracht Frankfurt, 117, 3. Rashidi Yekini (Nigeria) Victoria/Setubal 104, 4. Victor Ikpeba (Nigeria/Monaco) 57, 5. George Weah (Nigeria/ Paris St Germain) 56, 6. Kalusha Bwalya (Zambia/PSV Eindhoven) 48, 7. Francois Omani Biyik (Cameroon/ Lens) 28, 8. Rachid Daddi (Morocco/WAC Casablanca) 20, 9. Peter Ndlovu (Zimbabwe/Covertry) 19, 10. Abdoulaye Traore (Ivory Coast/ ASEC Abidjan) 16.

Adams brings Gunners home

LONDON, Jan 18: England defender Tony Adams dashed Millwall's hopes with an 89th-minute goal which carried holders Arsenal through to the fourth round of the Football Association (FA) Cup on Monday, reports Reuter.

First Division Millwall were just moments away from earning a replay when Eddie McGoldrick swung over a corner from the left. Adams bundled the ball forward and it bounced in off goalkeeper Kasey Keller.

The scrappy London derby had been full of hurried passes which frequently went astray and hasty goal attempts ending with the ball in the highest rows of the stands.

Millwall defenders Pat Van Den Hauwe and Keith Stevens blotted out Arsenal's highly-rated strike partnership between Kevin Campbell and Ian Wright while David Seaman, in the Arsenal goal, had no direct shot to save in the entire 90 minutes.

Premier League side Arsenal, who have been beaten only once in 27 knock-out matches.

Eves cricket

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Jan 18: New Zealand beat Australia by three wickets in the first of three one-day cricket internationals at Eden Park here today, reports AFP.

Scores: Australia 138-9 (50 overs), (Z Goss 51, J Broadbent 27, E Drum 31-4), New Zealand 139-7 (48 overs), (T. Anderson 50, S. Billingworth 39, Z Goss 30-3).

Biman athletics

The two-day annual athletic championship '94 of Biman Bangladesh Airlines begins today at Rajarbagh Police line ground in Dhaka, reports BSS.

In all, 1190 athletes from all directorates and domestic stations under Biman will participate in 37 events of the meet.



Action from yesterday's Partex First Division basketball league match between Angels Club and Fleet Club at the Outer Stadium wooden floor gymnasium yesterday. Angel won 72-30. — Star photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
 1 Petulant
 6 Urban music style
 9 Composer Franz
 12 Knocked — cocked hat
 13 Brian Boitano's surface
 14 Without a — (broke)
 15 Hushed fabric
 18 Corpulent
 20 Cause of Ninja Turtles' mutation
 21 TV alien
 23 One Stooge
 24 Made a faux pas
 25 Stiletto, e.g.
 27 Occupied with
 29 Virgilian hero
 31 Packed away
 35 Southerner's
 37 Via, for short
 38 Detest
 41 DDE's opponent
 43 "— to Rio"
 44 Sleigh's landing strip
 45 Yours truly
 47 "Jeopardy" creator
 49 Olympic runner
 52 Switch positions
 53 Expert
 54 Office

DOWN
 11 Adjusted the strings
 17 Suffered amnesia
 19 The first of march?
 21 "Caught ya!"
 22 Appomattox
 24 Adjective ending
 26 Began
 28 Man and Wight
 30 Schedule abbr.
 32 Vacillate
 33 Work unit
 34 Twosome
 36 "— World" (movie)
 38 Gaseous element
 39 Carried up
 40 Jack up
 42 Feudal slaves
 45 Cinderella's horses, really
 46 Secular
 48 Actress Wray
 50 Yet, in verse
 51 O queue?

Solution time: 26 mins.

W A F T F I B A N K H
 A R E A A G E T O N I
 D I E M C O D O B I T
 S A L A M I S P L I T S
 L I L E L L
 W I F E I N V A S I O N
 E C U T A I T I E
 B E T R A Y E R P Y L E
 I O N I D I
 S E L D O M L O G J A M
 O D I E E L I S U M O
 I N T O S I T T R E S
 L A Y S S P Y T E N S

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15											
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38	39	40				41		42		43	
44						45			46		
47						48			49	50	51
52						53			54		
55						56			57		

CRYPTOQUIP

I J L X K I J O Z Z L J B X ' I
 C L G I B T I I T S U Z O
 S L X W Y Q Y B K G U W L
 W C B C T Z W

Yesterday's Cryptquip: CIRCUS ANIMAL TAMER TRIPPED BECAUSE HE DIDN'T PAY ATTENTION TO THE BOTTOM LION.

Today's Cryptquip: Y equals G

The Cryptquip 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.