

Sport

Partial revenge for Jansher

VALE DO LOBO, Portugal, Mar 12: Jansher Khan of Pakistan reached the final of the Portuguese Open on Friday with a revenge victory over Australian world number five Rodney Eyles, reports Reuter.

But the world number one was deprived of a chance of more vengeance in the final when Peter Marshall of England beat giant-killer Peter Nicol of Scotland in the other semifinal.

Nicol upset Jansher in the Leekes Classic in Cardiff last Month. "Now I will have to wait for another time to put the record straight with him," Jansher said.

Last year Eyles caused a major surprise when he defeated

Jansher at the same semifinal stage, recovering from two games down and saving two match points.

But the top seed was determined that lightning would not strike twice on the same court as he scored a convincing 13-15, 15-8, 15-10, 15-6, victory in 73 minutes.

"Last year it went for him, but today was my day," said Jansher. "I was not worried when he won the first game, I knew I was playing well and was very confident."

Nicol, who upended world number two Brett Martin of Australia in the quarter-finals on Thursday, went down 15-6, 15-14, 9-15, 15-6 in 95 minutes to Marshall, the defending champion and third seed.

"It is a pity, I wanted to play Nicol," said Jansher. "Now I will have to wait for another time to put the record straight with him."

a record of equal worth.

Takanohana's elder brother, ozeki Wakanohana, is 23 years old. He will fight for his second tournament title.

Wakanohana will not fight against Takanohana or the other ozeki Takanonami, 22, unless they meet in a crucial bout deciding the winner of a tournament. That is because all three belong to the same stable, or sumo gym.

"I sure will look forward to such an opportunity in the final bout against my brother," Wakanohana told a recent press conference.

Takanonami, who went 13-2 in January, was promoted to ozeki along with Musashimaru. He will seek his first tournament victory.

Just below the top five wrestlers, rising star Musoyama, 22, will face a tough test as a newly promoted sekikawa, or junior champion. He will have to meet all the top-ranking wrestlers as a sekikawa.

All the ranking opponents have seen and studied my tactics, so I assume I'll have a hard time outsmarting them," said Musoyama, who had a 10-5 mark in the New Year tournament.

A former collegiate star, Musoyama made the shortest

ascent to sekikawa in sumo's written history. He needed only eight tournaments after turning pro in 1993.

Musoyama's 10 wins in January included a victory over Akebono, the fast-moving Musoyama outmaneuvered Akebono in their first faceoff on the fourth day of the New Year tournament, handing the yokozuna his first defeat in the 15-day event.

Well below, there's American Konishiki, 30, who has been in a slump due to his bad knees and demoted to 9th-ranked maegashira, or rank-and-file member in the 40-man top division of makuchi. He was 2-13 in January.

Konishiki, or Salevaa Fuauil Atisanoe from Hawaii, was ozeki until the November tournament in 1993.

The quarter-ton Konishiki, the biggest wrestler sumo has ever known, was granted Japanese citizenship on Feb. 1.

Japanese citizenship is required for sumo stablemasters, so the move could clear the way for Konishiki to take that career route.

"I'm still as strong as anyone out there," Konishiki told reporters during the last tournament. "I'll drop out on the 24th," he joked. The New Year tournament ended on Jan. 23.

The Americans and all three other ozeki wrestlers are the new generation in their early 20s.

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