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## Saive, European men's champ

BIRMINGHAM, England, Apr 4: Belgium's Jean-Michel Saive lost the first game but hit back to win the next three.

against Sweden's Olympic table tennis champion Jan-Ove Waldner Monday to win the European Championship, his first major title, reports AP.

Saive, ranked world No 1, won 23-25, 21-10, 21-17, 21-16 in the men's final at the National Indoor Arena.

In the women's final, Marie Svensson, No 9 seed from Sweden, overpowered unseeded Dutch player Gerdi Kien 21-12, 21-14, 21-18.

Earlier, Olympic champion Jan-Ove Waldner had to make a magnificent recovery from within two points of defeat against World Cup winner Zoran Primorac to keep alive his dream of the European title.

The Swede's 21-18, 26-28, 17-21, 21-19, 21-16 victory over the Croatian came only after Waldner had been 18-19 down in the fourth game and in danger of sliding to a surprise defeat after three times losing good leads.

The elegance and timing of Waldner's backhand and forehand loops was breathtaking, but the fighting qualities of Primorac saved him three game points in the second game.

And it brought him back from 8-12 in the third and from 13-17 in the fourth.

Primorac then advanced to 19-18 in the fourth game only for a tight service return from the joint fifth seed to take a net cord and jump off.

Had it found the table, Waldner would almost certainly have been two match points down.

Instead, a backhand block down the line got him to 20-19, and he escaped to a fifth game with a serve-forehand loop-smash sequence.

Waldner tightened his concentration in the final game, but still saw a five-point advantage slip to 14-13 and then to 17-16 before he found the inspiration in some wonderful 'loop-the-loop' forehand ral-

lies to quell Primorac's fight.

The two players embraced at the end but it left the Olympic champion wondering if he could recover his physical and mental resources for another big battle in the final only two hours later with the world number one Jean-Michel Saive.

The top-seeded Belgian, who has never won a European or world men's singles title, was much too powerful in attack for the surprise French semifinalist Patrick Chila, winning 21-12, 21-15, 21-8.

Waldner has also been seeking the European title to fill the one big gap in his trophy cabinet.

Primorac's honourable defeat ended his dream of becoming triple European champion.

He contests the men's doubles final in partnership with Saive and won the mixed doubles on Sunday with Hungary's Csilla Batorfi.

Primorac was, however, certain of standing on the podium on the last day. When he and Batorfi received their trophies, the Israeli national anthem was played by mistake. An apology has been made and the ceremony is to be performed again.

On Sunday title-holder Joerg Rosskopf was dethroned at the European table tennis championships, losing in straight games in the quarter-finals to Olympic gold medalist Jan-Ove Waldner.

The German's defeat by the Swedish second seed followed Saturday's dismissal of world champion Jean-Philippe Gatten of France by 32-year-old Estonian Igor Solopov.

But while Gatten's defeat was a major surprise, the loss by Rosskopf was very much on the cards.

Former world champion Waldner took just 25 minutes to win 21-11, 22-20, 21-17.

Roskopf was seeded only joint fifth here and is ranked only ninth in Europe after a fairly modest run of late.

Roskopf took a tumble in an earlier match on Sunday, colliding with one of the hard-board barriers surrounding the court, but recovered and seemed unimpeded in the game with Waldner.

But the German said, "I said before the tournament it was not such a good idea to have barriers made of wood instead of plastic.

"But the main thing is he was playing much better than me."

He added: "I'm not disappointed. I played a fantastic tournament. I was the best player in the team event and before the tournament I was injured, so for me this was one of my best ever singles performances."

Waldner said: "When I was ahead I had to keep my nerve. Rosskopf made a lot of errors off my serve."

The Swede's semifinal opponent will be joint fifth seed Zoran Primorac of Croatia who outlasted unseeded Greek Daniel Cioica 15-21, 21-18, 23-21, 21-23, 21-13.

Earlier, Cioica beat Saturday's giant-killer Solopov in four games, the Estonian's champagne touch against Gatten falling distinctly flat.

Chila staged a brilliant comeback on Sunday to beat Saive's younger brother Philippe 19-21, 20-22, 21-18, 21-6, 21-19.

Chila, Estoril champion in 1992 made an inspired comeback to win the next five games and take the second set 7-5 against the world ranked number seven.

The Spaniard broke the dispirited Ukrainian's serve early in the third set to snatch the fifth title of his career after two hours 20 minutes of play.

The setback made him consider retirement. For a time, he set his sights on running the New York Marathon. It was a minor detour.

"I was up to six miles (10 kms) a day," he recalled. "I thought if I can run six miles (10 kms) a day, I can fight again."

The man who boxed his way around the world now trains in a small East Harlem office building, in a gym that shares the third floor with a Nation of Islam mosque.

A single ring with red, white and blue ropes sits in the middle of the gym, surrounded by tattered punching bags held together with layer-upon-layer of duct tape.

"I started in a place like this," Mamby said. "You never forget where you came from. I feel at home here."

Mamby, a father of four children, still lives in the Bronx. He was on his way to the gym with his oldest, Saoul Mamby Jr, on March 24 when

they ran into a teenager who was blocking a subway turnstile.

According to Mamby, he politely asked the teen to move. When the teen showed his father with obscenities, the son responded in kind. The pair squared off.

Mamby took his first professional fight in 1969 so he could earn enough money to buy friends beer. He wanted no part of this one.

The father stepped in only after one of the teen's friends joined the fray. But before he could throw a punch, he felt the barrel of a handgun against his chest.

Mamby's quick hands managed to push the gun away as it went off, deflecting the bullet into his shoulder. His assailants fled.

"The wind is old, but it still blows strong at times," he said, closing his right hand into a fist.

"Don't count me out."

Box again? The answer, his doctors now say, is yes; if he must, yes.

Until the shooting, Mamby made a career out of dodging bullets — lethal punches thrown by the likes of Roberto Duran and Buddy McGirt.

Never a puncher himself, the native of New York City's tough South Bronx neighborhood mastered the art of self-defence. He was so good at it, they began calling him "Sweet Saoul," the boxer who won with a toothsome tango of evasion.

"I'm clever, I'm slick," said Mamby, his svelte build like that of a dancer, his wispiness like that of a teenager.

"I'm just not there for you to beat on."

The style has helped extend his career into a fourth decade — long enough to win a championship in 1980 and lose it, to win a small fortune and spend it, to be promoted by Don King and dumped by him, to go the distance with Duran and stay on his feet.

Even though he lost, "that fight really made me because everyone thought I'd get knocked down," Mamby said of the 1974 bout.

At his peak in the early 1980s, Sweet Saoul successfully defended his junior welterweight title four times. In those days, he fought in exotic locations like Indonesia.

Today, long after most fighters are pummeled into retirement, Mamby labours in an undercard purgatory, fighting up-and-coming boxers half his age. He was knocked out for the first time in his career during a fight last summer in Maryland.

A triumphant Gianni Bugno of Italy raises his arm as he crosses the finish line to win the 'Ronde van Vlaanderen' cycle race in Ninove, Belgium on Sunday. — AFP photo

## Jager ends up winner, frustrated

FEDERAL WAY, Washington, Apr 4: Three-time Olympian Tom Jager won the 50-metre freestyle at the US Spring National Swimming Championships on Sunday, but was embarrassed by his performance, reports Reuter.

The 29-year-old record holder, after nearly two years away from the sport, apologised for winning in 22.52 seconds, a time he considered not worthy of a top American swimmer.

"To be the number one seed with a time of 22.4 I had in the morning prelims is pretty bad, to be blunt," said Jager, whose world record is 21.81 seconds.

"Matt Biondi is laughing right now and he's not swimming anymore," he said of his former American rival.

"Russian Alexander Popov is laughing and that's serious," he said of the Olympic champion. "This is sending out a pretty sorry statement for US swimming."

It was Jager's first win since the January, 1991 world championships in Perth, Australia, and his first race since the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, where he won bronze in the event.

Jager is training for his fourth Olympic team. He will be 31 when the 1996 Atlanta Games roll around.

Four-time Olympic champion Janet Evans picked up her 39th national title and third victory of the meeting with a decisive win in the 1,500 metres freestyle.

Evans won in 16:19.13, well off her world record time of 15:2.10, but nearly 14 seconds faster than Trina Jackson, who finished second in 16:33.48.

"I'm not preoccupied with time anymore. I'm just going out for the win. I'm having more fun that way," said Evans, who is eight titles shy of tying Tracy Caulkins on the all-time US list.

Evans earlier in the meeting won the 800 and 400 metres freestyle races. She still holds world records in both events.

Nineteen-year-old Attila Czene of Hungary, one of a handful of non-US swimmers competing here, won the 200-metre individual medley in a US record time of 2:00.17.

## Sites for eves soccer WC named

STOCKHOLM, Apr 4: The Swedish Soccer Association on Friday selected five sites for the FIFA women's world championships in Sweden June 5-18 next year, reports AP.

Pending approval from FIFA, the matches will be played at Olympia Stadium in Helsingborg, Arosvalen in Vasteras, Tingvallan in Karlstad, Stromvallen in Gavle and Rasunda Stadium outside Stockholm.

Rasunda Stadium will host the June 18 final. The other 25 games will be played in the other four Swedish cities.

Rasunda is Scandinavia's most famous soccer stadium and was the site of the 1958 World Cup final between Brazil and Sweden as well as several games in 1992 European Championship finals.

"There was a lot of interest in hosting the games. We had bids from 16 Swedish cities," said Lars-Christer Olsson, secretary general of the Swedish Soccer Association.

Twelve teams will play in the tournament with three four-team groups in the preliminary round. The top two teams in each round-robin group plus the two teams with the best third-placed records will advance to the quarter-finals.

The United States, led by Michelle Akers-Stahl, won the inaugural women's World Cup three years ago in China beating Norway 2-1 in the final. Akers-Stahl, as well as fellow US national team members Julie Foudy, Kristine Lilly and Mary Harvey, have signed to play for Tyreso in the Swedish First Division this season.

The aircraft, made of cardboard and Japanese paper, weighing 23 kilograms (50.6 pounds) and with a wingspan 13.5 metres (45 feet), is expected to win a place in the Guinness Book of World Records.

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## Soccer summit in Zurich

## Havelange stakes his claim



ZURICH, Apr 4: Five continental soccer chiefs converged on Zurich on Monday for a crucial FIFA presidency summit with the world game's head Joao Havelange, reports Reuter.

Havelange, the 78-year-old Brazilian who has been president of the International Football Federation since 1974, is seeking a final four-year term in the election at the FIFA congress in Chicago on the eve of the World Cup finals.

But speculation has been rife that the European governing body UEFA, wary of losing its strong powerbase in the world game and World Cup places to the emerging soccer continents, might name a rival candidate.

The presidents of UEFA and the South American, African, Asian and CONCACAF (Central and North American and Caribbean) confederations will meet with Havelange on Thursday to discuss the election.

CONCACAF and the African Confederation have hinted they would back Havelange, but there has been no inkling so far of how his fellow South Americans or the Asians stand.

Havelange, under attack since he barred Pele from the World Cup draw in Las Vegas

gun. I've got a taste for battle and I never give in," Havelange said.

The Brazilian took over from Briton Sir Stanley Rous in 1974 with the promise of greater involvement in the world game for the emerging nations.

Under his presidency the World Cup tournament was increased to 24 teams at the 1982 finals in Spain from the previous 16 to accommodate more African, Asian and CONCACAF finalists.

Havelange last month guaranteed Asia and CONCACAF an extra, third place at the 2002 finals. But he ruled out a fourth place for Africa at least until 2006.

FIFA's influential Swiss general secretary Sepp Blatter has been the subject of widespread speculation as a candidate for Havelange's seat. But Blatter has said he would back Havelange as long as the Brazilian was a candidate.

UEFA have until April 16 if they wish to nominate their own candidate. Their president Lennart Johansson of Sweden has been named among possible successors.

The competition has been

humiliating 3-2 defeat by Celta on Saturday, are five points adrift in third place.

Barcelona had briefly drawn level with Deportivo after a hard-earned 2-1 away win over Lerida on Saturday.

Deportivo weren't the only big scorers on Sunday.

Twenty-year-old Julien Guerrero became the first Spanish player to score four goals in a match this season as Athletic Bilbao obliterated Sporting Gijon 7-0.

The crushing victory was the first time in 35 years that Athletic had scored seven goals in a match and it moved them closer to a UEFA Cup place next season.

Victory came at a price though, as Deportivo will be without Jose Ribera and Salvador Voro for their mid-week clash with Atletico Madrid after they both picked up their fifth yellow cards and an automatic suspension.

Their youthful team has been built up in less than a year after the air disaster that killed 18 players last April.

The match, watched by an enthusiastic crowd of locals and European holiday-makers in the seaside resort town, was the best yet seen at the two-week tournament.

The Ivory Coast now play Nigeria in the first of the two semifinals in Tunis on Wednesday.

Earlier, Zambia had secured their date with surprise package Mali in a scrappy match against Senegal.

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## Zambia in, Ghana not

SOUSSE, Tunisia, Apr 4: Zambia's dream of a semifinal place at the African Nations Cup became reality on Sunday, but the hopes of Ghana captain Abedi Pele were left in tatters, reports Reuter.

Zambia, who said before the tournament their best hopes lay in reaching the semifinals, achieved that goal with a 1-0 win over Senegal at the Olympic Stadium in Sousse.

But Ghana, one of the pre-tournament favourites, were beaten 2-1 by the Ivory Coast in a repeat of the 1992 final.

For captain Abedi Pele, the only surviving member of Ghana's last winning side in 1982, hopes of a second gold medal 12 years on were ended in bitterly cold conditions.

Abedi missed the 1992 final through suspension and, at the age of 31, was hoping for a last chance of glory.

But Ghana were stunned by an attacking Ivorian team who scored first in the 30th minute through Joel Tchieh, who had earlier missed a penalty.

Charles Akunor revived Ghana's hopes by converting a long-range free-kick in the 77th minute but the Ivorians scored the winner just four minutes later through Abdoulaye Traore.

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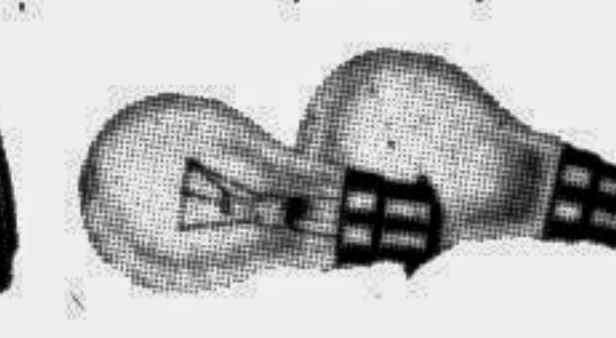
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## Quiz 1.

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