

World number one Steffi Graf (L) poses Chris Evert-Mill after receiving the Women's Tennis Tour award as player-of theyear at a ceremony in New York on August 29. Graf has won the award five times previously. Others to collect it include - AFP photo Monica Seles and Martina Navratilova.

Star parade at Paris GP

MONACO, Aug 30: Linford Christie, Sergei Bubka Noureddine Morceli and Colin Jackson are in a star line-up for Saturday's Grand Prix finals in Paris, the International Amateur Athletics Federation (LAAF) said on Monday. reports

The IAAF said would and Olympic 100 metres champion Christie would run against Jon Drummond, the sprinter who beat him on Sunday in Rieti. Italy as well as fellow American Dennis Mitchell.

A lascinating confrontation is in prospect in the women's 100 metres, too, with Russian Irina Privalova, European moord holder and the fastest wannan this season, up against Olympic 200 metres champion Gwen Torrence.

Ukrainian pole vaulter Bubka and high hurdles world record holder Jackson are favourites in their events and middle-distance runner Morceli, who leads the Grand Prix standings, well placed to win the overall prize of 100,000 dollars.

Total prize money of more than 2.2 million dollars will be paid out at a meeting which also features a tantalising women's long jump duel between Olympic and world champion Heike Drechsler and arch-rival Jackie Joyner

Kersee. The meeting takes place at the newly renovated Charlety Stadium in Paris.

Victoria not so keen to return to obscurity

VICTORIA, Aug 30: Thousands of Commonwealth Games athletes hearled home on Monday but the normally sleepy seaside city of Victoria hoped the end of the 10-day eports extravaganza would not mean a return to obscurity, reports Reuter. Traffic jams and airport

queues were expected as many of the 40,000 athletes, officials and journalists who covered the competition decamped en

Workers were dismantling Games sites, clean-up crews took to the streets and stores slashed prices on Games souvenirs as the exodus got underway.

Victoria officials were counting on Games publicity, including worldwide television broadcasts, to entice more visitors from the 64 nations which took part.

"The incredible media coverage has introduced millions of potential visitors to our province, to our island and to Victoria. Our community will reap the benefits through the year 2000," said Lorne Whyte,

chief of Tourism Victoria. Tourism is already the top money-earner for the genteel town of 300,000 on the tip of Vancouver Island off Canada's west coast. Founded as a British trading post in the 1840s, Victoria touts its stately homes, afternoon teas and whale watching in the Pacific

waters. The local visitors' board esfimated that the Games pumped an extra 37 million dollars into hotels and restaurants. It forecasted that the Games would mean a 25 per cent boost in annual tourist. revenues to about 74 smillion dollar by 2000.

Games organisers have said the event will not burean the city with a mountain of dept, as the 1976 Olympics did to Montreal. Money to cover the 11 million dollars cost of the Games is already in the bank. mostly thanks to government subsidies.

World Championships begin tomorrow

Perkins, Popov aim for more



ROME. Aug 30: Kieren Perkins and Alexander Popov, who have plucked most of swimming's big prizes, now pursue with supreme confidence their first

world titles. Both won Olympic crowns in Barcelona two years ago and both have set stunning world records this summer, boding well for the World Championships which begin on

Thursday, reports Reuter.

Perkins defied his coach's orders last week when he eclipsed two world records in one race at the Commonwealth Games in Victoria, Canada.

Coach John Carew has decreed an 800-metres world mark would suffice but Perkins felt good and smashed his 1,500 record too.

The lithe Australian aims for more record-breaking in Rome's Foro Italico where he bids to repeat his Commonwealth Games golden treble in the 200,400 and 1.500 m freestyle.

Perkins missed gold by a fingertip in an epic 1,500m duel with Joreg Hoffmann at the last World Championships in Perth, Australia, in January 1991 but trounced the German and everyone else at the 1992 Olympics.

Popov is similarly in a class of his won at the shorter freestyle distances and anything less than a repeat of the 50ry and 100m golds he won at the Olympics would be a major surprise.

The unhurried elegance of the rangy Russian's stroke belies its power and drive, and this year Popov has lowered the short course 100 m freestyle world mark four

and finals.

it wrong.

on doing it their way.

cap off the two-week tournament:

on Friday than work on Saturday.'

as president of the WTA Tour.

a tournament in New Haven, Conn.

not accepting it."

Board of Directors.

to be good for the US Open, reports AP.

times in 11 weeks while eclipsing the 100m longcourse mark of American Matt Biondi in June.

There is room at the top because a clutch of Olympic gold medalists, including Hungarian individual medley star Tamas Darny and Americans Mike Barrowman. Nelson Diebel and Pablo Morales, have quit the sport.

Americans Mell Stewart and Tom Jager, world champions at 200m butterfly and 50m freestyle respectively, are also absentees.

Olympic champion Stewart picked up and infection at the Goodwill Games in St Petersburg in July and had to delay an operation on his tonsils. Jager, world champion in 1986 and 1991, pulled out after US team chief Dennis Pursley refused his request to travel to Rome later than the rest of the squad.

Two of the best men's races could come in the breaststroke with world champion Norbert Rozsa and fellow Hungarian and European champion Karoly Guttler against new Commonwealth Games gold medalists Phil Rogers of Australia and Nick Gillingham of Britain.

China's daunting array of world beaters threaten to 'dominate the women's events. emulating the formidable East German "Wundermaedchen" of yesteryear.

The Chinese gathered their first four world titles in 1991 and collected four more at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, but a new generation has emerged in the past year.

None of the Barcelona champions will swim in Rome. Freestylers Yang Wenyi and

STICKING TO SUPER SATURDAY

Australian Open, French Open and Wimbledon continues not

ident of the United States Tennis Association, concerning the

best scheduling for the men's and women's singles semifinals

are on Thursday with their final on Saturday and the men's

day's rest between the semifinals and final, the USTA persists

semifinals are on Friday with their final on Sunday.

tive. is to feature what they call "Super Saturday."

At least that's the belief of J Howard "Bumpy" Frazer, pres-

At the three other Grand Slams, the women's semifinals

Despite the continued protests of the players, who desire a

The USTA way, with a major television contract as incen-

At the US Open, the women play their semis on Friday and

According to Frazer, it's the other Grand Slams who have

"This is a case where they are all out of step except us,"

"It gets a tremendous television audience that we couldn't

Frazer isn't convinced that a day's rest in between the

"I can't say it is not best for the players," Frazer said. "I am

Martina Navratilova is heading toward retirement at the

"Our No. I priority is to find a sponsor and we will be

possibly get, truthfully, if we played the men's singles on

Friday. And the obvious reason is that many more people work

semis and finals might produce better quality matches

NAVRATILOVA'S RETURN TO POWER

end of 1994, but she's also returning to her former position

working on marketing ideas which will go beyond playing

music on changeovers," Navratilova said, in reference to the

men's ATP Tour's recent experiment with rock music during

out a sponsor after Kraft pulled out at the end of 1993.

Directors at their annual US Open meeting Sunday.

The WTA Tour has been functioning this entire year with-

Navratilova, who will conclude her singles career following

the Virginia Slims Championships in November, was elected

president of the WTA Tour Players Association of Board

served as president of the association in 1979-80 and 1983.

Navratilova takes over from outgoing president Pam Shriver,

who held the post for three terms and will remain on the

The holder of 18 Grand Slam singles titles, Navratilova

Frazer said Monday. "We are well aware that there is certainly

comments around "Super Saturday." We believe that 'Super

Saturday is the greatest single day in American tennis.

although the players have been saying that for years.

then their final sandwiched between the two men's semifinals

on Saturday. Then it's the men's final late Sunday afternoon to

NEW YORK, Aug 30: What's always been good for the

Zhuang Yong and butterflyer Quan Hong have gone while individual medley swimmer Lin Li has been chosen only for the forthcoming Asian Games.

But freestyler Le Jingyi breaststroke and medley swimmer Dai Guohong Backstroker He Cihong and butterflyer Liu Limin won seven individual gold medals between them at the World Short-Course Championships last December and will ensure China remain a force in Rome.

China's astonishing advance in women's swimming has also had its darker side. Two have been banned after positive dope tests this year-Zhong Weiyue, who had set shortcourse butterfly world marks, and Ren Xin, who won three Goodwill Games golds.

Spearheads of the challenge to the Chinese include American Janet Evans, triple champion at the 1988 Seoul Olympics who will defend her world 400 and 800 metres crowns after convincing performances in the recent US trials

Hungarian triple Olympic champion Krisztina Egerszegi four times and individual gold medalist at the 1993 European Championships, has cut back her programme to concentrate on defending her 100 and 200m backstroke titles against He Cihong.

But perhaps the greatest confrontations await Germany's Franziska van Almsick, winner of six gold medals at the European Championships when she takes on Le Jingvi and Lu Bin and Americans Angel Martino. Amy van Dyken Cristina Teuscher and Olympic champion Nicoile Haislett in the freestyle.

FINA's double standard

ROME, Aug 30: Two separate qualifying standards will be introduced to earn places in Olympic swimming events, the International Swimming Federation (FINA) decided on Monday, reports Reuter.

Countries entering only one swimmer per individual event will have slower, easier qualifying times to meet to ensure a place in the Games programme than those entering the maximum two swimmers per event.

Countries with no swimmers achieving FINA's qualifying standards may still be represented by one male and one female, provided they have previously swum in international competition.

The same double qualifying standard will be applied for diving.

In water polo, the top five teams in the World Cup in the year preceding the Olympics as well as the host country will qualify automatically for the Olympics.

If the host country is among the top five, the sixth team in the World Cup takes the vacant automatic place.

No more wetsuits in triathlon

PARIS, Aug 30: The head of the International Triathlon Union, who is hoping to see his sport put on Olympic programme this week, said on Monday he would stop competitors using wetsuits to help them swim faster, reports

Reuter. Les McDonald said some competitors in the triathlon in which athletes first swim, then cycle and then run — had been using wetsuits even in warm water to make them more buoyant and improve their times.

MESSINA, Sicily, Aug 30: A Canadian who had both legs amputated as a child completed a 24-hour. 60 km (40 mile) odyssey on Tuesday when he swam the straits of Messina between Sicily and mainland Italy both ways, reports Reuter.

A spokesman for a local sports club said Sicilian-born Carlos Costa, 22, swam from the northeast tip of the island over to the mainland village of Cannitello, and then back down the Sicilian coast to the holiday resort of Taromina.

The narrow straits of Messina — dividing Sicily from mainland Calabria - are renowned for their treacherous waters.

They are believed to be the site of mythological perils "Scylla and Charybdis"- a seven-headed monster and whirlpool - which the legendary Greek hero Odyseeus negotiated on his 10-year journey home from the Trojan

"This should make people look at the disabled in a different light," said Costa, who lives in North York near Toronto.

Move to avert Chinese boycott of Asiad

PARIS, Aug 30: Asian Olympic leaders moved on Tuesday to avoid the threat of a boycott by China of October's Asian Games in Japan over an invitation for Taiwan's President to attend, reports Reuter.

A Chinese official said on Monday that his country might not take part in the Asian Games at Hiroshima unless the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) withdrew its invitation to Taiwan's President Lee Teng

OCA deputy secretary Abdul Muttaled Ahmad said at the Olympic Congress in Paris on Tuesday that he believed a boycott could be avoided.

"We are unhappy with the way this has escalated but we are taking everybody's point of view into account and we are optimistic of finding a solution," he said.

OCA sources said Lee's invitation would not be withdrawn but he would probably he asked to travel to Hiroshima under documents issued by Japanese authorities, making no reference to his rank or position.

Wei Jizhong, executive director of the Chinese Olympic Committee, told reporters on Monday: "Lee's appearance at Hiroshima will be considered as provocation against us. We hope such an issue will not be involved in the Asian Games.

Modahl has nothing to hide

LISBON, Aug 30: Diane Modahl, who tested positive for drugs at a Lisbon athletics meeting in June, has nothing to hide from a crucial second test, her husband and coach said on Monday, reports Reuter.

"The outcome of this test will be that she has nothing to hide, certainly," Vicente Modahl told reporters on arrival at Lisbon Airport. "Whether outcome happens here or later, we'll have to see."

When asked if the British 800 metres runner could be exonerated by results of the second test, he answered: "Well, there is a chance for everything, Isn't there?"

Corraggio Costa Exit Ivanisevic, Becker

30: Former ch-

ampion Boris

Becker survived

five match points

only to succumb

Reneberg knocked out the

seventh seed in a dramatic

fifth set tie-break at the US

Open on Monday night, re-

ever played in my life in the

fifth set. There's no way I

48th-ranked Reneberg.

could play any better," said the

compares to it," added the 28-

year-old American, who has

never been past the second

round at the year's final Grand

Becker, who came in the

hottest player on the tour.

made the earliest exit of his

join second seed Goran

Ivanisevic on the sidelines on

an opening day that began and

ended with stunning upsets.

chance," said Becker.

' "I'm very disappointed.

thought I had a very good

Wimbledon runner-up Ivani-

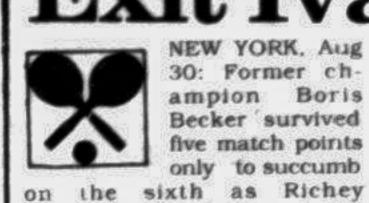
World number two and

10-year US Open career to

The seventh seeded

"No match I've ever played

"This was the best tennis!



ports Reuter.

Slam event.

Becker came into the Open after claiming two titles and posting an 11-1 hardcourt record this summer. But three hours and three

minutes after hitting his first ball on Stadium Court. Becker was packing his bags for a long trip home

He complained that the court was so slow and the balls so heavy and soft that his hardcourt preparation was of little use to him.

By the time Becker had a chance to get used to the unfavourable conditions, the three-time Wimbledon champion was already in trouble. falling two sets behind, and Reneberg found enough of his sparkling early form again in the fifth set to pull out the 6-1, 6-4, 4-6, 1-6, 7-6, (7-5) shocker.

"In the fifth set he played like in the beginning," Becker said. "Hitting all out, just going for his shots." There was only one minor

upset in women's play when 12th seed Sabine Hack of Germany fell 6-2, 2-6, 7-6 to American G G Fernandez.

Spain's French Open champions rolled into the second



seed Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia in the first round of the US Open in New York on August 29. Zoecke won 6-2, 7-5, 3-6, - AFP photo

sevic, who has never played well on the hardcourts of Flushing Meadow, opened the first-day programme on the grandstand by falling to 68thranked German Markus Zoecke 6-2, 7-5, 3-6, 7-5. There were no other major

first-round surprises in men's singles until Reneberg's fiveset shocker.

"A match like this and a match like Ivanisevic's is a good indication of what's happening in men's tennis," said Reneberg, who had won only one set from Becker in their six previous meetings.

"This shows that anyone can win. You can't take anything for granted."

abbr.

lady

25 Division

result

27 Best, on

some

scales

Davis

30 Eventual

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32 Double-

foot

stressed

extract

cartoonist

24 Lennon's

Third seed Sergi Bruguera, a first-round loser last year, demonstrated new-found hardcourt prowess by disposing of big-serving American Bryan Shelton 6-0, 6-2, 7-5 in a night match on the grandstand. Bruguera raced through the

first two sets and then saved a set point in the third to preserve his straight-sets win. "I know how to play on this

surface and "I'm getting better and better everytime." said the confident third seed. Second seed Arantxa

Sanchez-Vicario, who won her second French Open title this year, got off to a sluggish start before hitting her stride for a

7-5. 6-1 victory over 83rdranked Italian Linda Ferrando

Sanchez's Federation Cup teammate Conchita Martinez wasted no time beginning her bid for a second major title. The Wimbledon champion raced past Veronika Martinek of Germany 6-1, 6-0 in a mere

41 minutes. Mary Pierce, the fourthseeded French Open runnerup, advanced in straight sets as did both men's sixth seed Michael Chang, who beat Russian Andrei Cherkasov, and unseeded Andre Agassi, who lost just five games in crushing Swedish qualitier Robert Eriksson.

Reneberg started out looking as though he might knock out Becker almost as quickly.

"He really started in full gear," Becker said of Reneberg. "He hardly missed a ball for the first hour and a half."

Becker, however, has made a career of five-set come-frombehind wins, especially at the Open, which he won in 1989 after surviving a series of match points in the second round.

The German started attacking the net and appeared to be firmly in control when he won eight of nine games from 4-4 in the third set to force a fifth. But Reneberg came back strong in the final set.

He reached triple match point on Becker's serve at 5-4. but the seventh seed produced a trio of blistering first serves to stay alive.

Reneberg reached triple match point again in the tiebreak at 6-3. This time Becker was able to save only two of and the American sealed his victory with an overhead smash "It was an excellent fifth

set," admitted the disappointed Becker. Ivanisevic said he had only

himself and a US Open mental block to blame for his first round ouster. "Every year when I come to the US Open, I don't know

what I am doing here," bemoaned the Croatian. As soon as I come here it is

finished, I don't know why."

Parker's amazing discovery NEW YORK, Aug 30: Frank

Parker, celebrating his 50th anniversary of winning the US national championship, can't get over how hard they hit the ball in today's tennis— and he means the women, reports Reuter

"I marvelled this morning," the 78-year-old Parker said Monday at a news conference on the opening day of the 114th edition of the national championship. "I was watching them prac-

tice, especially the girls. They hit tremendously hard," he said, before speaking up for his generation, "Of course, we used wooden rackets when we were playing. I doubo very much whether they e o do the same thing when our equipment." Parker, who defeath billy

talbert in 1944 and 1945 to claim the US crown, still plays and admits the modern equipment has juiced up his won game, though his reign at the top recalls an era where angles, pace and deception had more to do with success than pure power. Parker played in his first

US championship in 1932 at age 16 and the next year began a steak of 17 consecutive years in which he was seeded, a record not broken until Jimmy Connors was seeded 18 successive times (1972-1980)

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6 Calendar 14 Caravel Across 54 Sea eagle 7 Re punish- 29 "Garfield" 55 Omega preceder 8 Scrambled 56 Tide type

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39 Ring match 42 Echo, e.g. 44 Con job 45 "Carpe —" 46 Farm fraction

33 48 49 50 55 CRYPTOQUIP Z W O E R C W J F O ' EZY OWRF

IWOULO -FREYI VYFYZWO w o HZJF-TYCYFUY. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IT'S DIFFICULT TO

TEACH A RETIRED HUNTING DOG IT'S NOT POLITE TO POINT. Today's Cryptoquip clue: H equals K

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

20 Difficulty 8 Brutus' character, for digest 23 Army rank:

3 Heart of the matter 4 They don't go to parties **52** Solve 35 5 Varmint otherwise

of the late 1400s 15 A symbol for the **57** Apportion summer? 17 Opposed 58 Chicks'

18 Hockey

19 Disputed

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26 Bumped

(Fr.)

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XXXII

36 Aerobatic

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31 Responsi-

21 Posed

team, e.g.

GATE PAD ARAB ICE

35 XLVII times

RIBFUN

MARBLESBOOST maneuvers

STOOPMONFAR ARNO MELTORME LUCK ANI FEES TEES DUO TENT

YAKONE AGNEW MOOFRI TUBES GAMBLER OPAL WAX SODA

48 Graf ---49 Verve 50 Use a keyboard 53 Exploitation