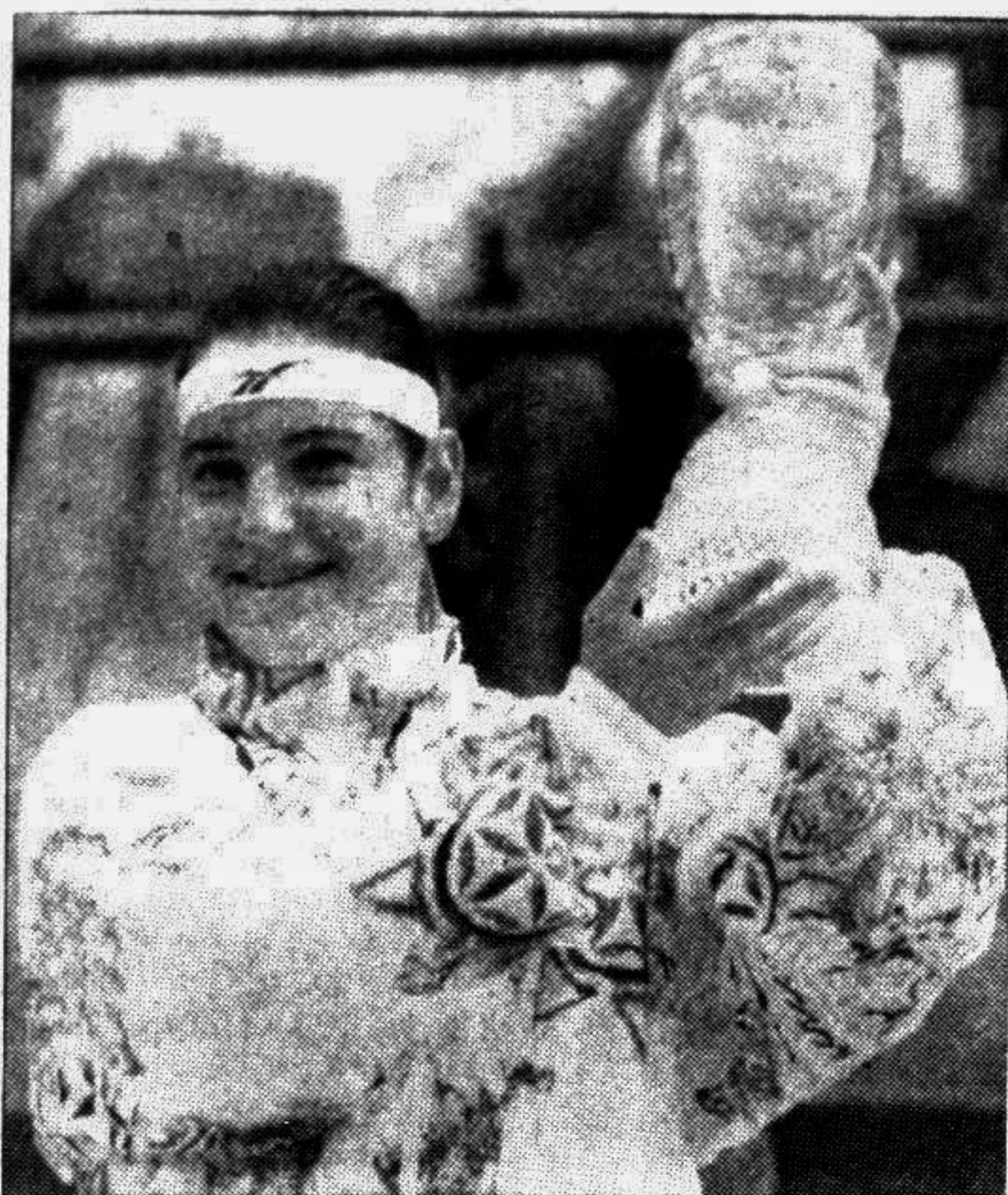


Double delight for Sanchez

TOKYO, Sept 24: Arantxa Sanchez Vicario trounced Amy Frazier 6-1, 6-2 Sunday for the singles title of the Nichirei international ladies tennis championships...



World number two Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain displays her trophy after defeating Amy Frazier of the United States in the final of the Nichirei women's tennis tournament yesterday.

Larsen blows out US hopes

GOTEBORG, Sweden, Sept 25: Magnus Larsson stunned Todd Martin 5-7, 6-2, 6-4 Sunday to clinch Sweden's victory over the United States in the Davis Cup semifinals.

matches in 61 years in the competition.

Earlier, Pete Sampras retired after the first set against Stefan Edberg because of a strained right hamstring...

in the Davis Cup because of injuries. But I can't remember that it happened in such an important match...

Edberg, who had split his previous 10 matches with Sampras, said he noticed that something was wrong with the American after four of five games.

It's not fun to win this way," Edberg said. "But on the other hand, the score is now tied 2-2."

Sampras was scheduled to play his first match Wednesday in an ATP Tour event in Basel, Switzerland...

Sampras was sidelined for six weeks with an ankle injury this summer and made his comeback in the recent US Open...

"I knew I wasn't going to win," Sampras said. "It didn't make sense to play on one leg and risk further injury."

Dr George Fareed, the US team's physician, said Sampras sustained the injury during Friday's fourth-set singles victory over Magnus Larsson.

"It may have been on one of those high jumps that he had when hitting an overhead," Fareed said.

"The specific muscle involved is near the knee, on the inner side. He doesn't have a knee problem or knee ligament problem. But he's in quite a bit of pain right now."

"It was really a noble effort of him to carry through and make an effort to win the first set."

Fareed said he expects Sampras to be back on the tour in two or three weeks or "he may have a rapid recovery."

Sampras decided to retire tied the score 2-2 in the best-of-5 series.

"They tried tight strapping, but he was in great pain," said British referee Stephen Winyard, who also talked with Sampras late in the set.

"It happens once or twice a year that players have to retire during the day and felt he was in good condition to go forward. He warmed up today and didn't complain about the problem."

Sampras improved his Davis Cup singles record to 5-4 after beating Larsson. In the quarterfinals against the Netherlands, Sampras lost the fourth match to Richard Krajicek, but Jim Courier then won the decider.

Larsson, ranked 34th by the ATP Tour, made the French Open semifinals this year, but this was easily the biggest win of his career.

"Unbelievable!" It's my best win ever. I can't describe how I'm feeling right now," Larsson said.

The tall Swede broke the sixth-ranked Martin's serve immediately in the second and third sets.

"When I broke him early in the third I felt I could win it," he said. "I was concentrated but a little bit nervous in the first set. Then I really played well. I got off to a real good start in both the second and third set."

Larsson broke for a 3-2 lead in the fourth set and he held with relative ease the rest of the way.

It was only the second time Sweden managed to rally after losing both opening singles

SA edge past India in Davis Cup

JAIPUR, India, Sept 25: South Africa defeated India in the Davis Cup group playoff tie Sunday and related last year's semifinalists to a zonal rounds, reports AP.

Marcus Ondruska beat Asif Ismail in the crucial second reverse singles, negating the victory of Leander Paes who easily defeated Wayne Ferreira in their qualifying round match.

The winners of the competition go into the top 16 Davis Cup teams.

Paes, ranked 150 in the world, beat 14th-ranked Ferreira in straight sets 6-3, 6-4, 7-5 in a match that lasted just over two hours.

Paes played a great game, with good serves and swift returns to give India a great beginning. Ferreira failed to find his rhythm and banged his rackets on the ground and side boards several times, prompting the referee to give him a warning.

"I executed my plan well," Paes later said. He broke Ferreira once in each set, although both players occasionally had problems with their first serve.

Ismail, on the other hand, said he was no match to Ondruska, who played a better game.

Ondruska broke Ismail in the ninth game with a superb backhand drive and a forehand smash. The Indian squandered at least seven break points in the final set. Ondruska, on the other hand, grabbed whatever opportunity came his way and was in total command of the game.

Swiss complete the rout

JAKARTA, Sept 25: Jacob Hlasek beat Indonesia's Suwardi 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 Sunday, and Switzerland finished with a 4-1 victory over the Indonesians in a Davis Cup tennis qualifying round match, reports AP.

Hlasek and Marc Rosset already had clinched victory by winning the opening two singles matches and the doubles. Yzaga stunned the defending champion in the fourth round.

Dr Fareed said Sampras was fine after the first match Friday.

"He began to experience this discomfort yesterday when he was practicing with Todd," Fareed said.

"We treated it intensively during the day and felt he was in good condition to go forward. He warmed up today and didn't complain about the problem."

Sampras improved his Davis Cup singles record to 5-4 after beating Larsson. In the quarterfinals against the Netherlands, Sampras lost the fourth match to Richard Krajicek, but Jim Courier then won the decider.

Indonesia, which once reached the World Group in the mid-1980s, advanced to Sunday's qualifier by beating the Philippines. South Korea and Hong Kong in regional play.

Aussies keep it up

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, Sept 25: Patrick Rafter scored an impressive straight sets victory over Brett Steven on Sunday as Australia maintained its record of never having been relegated from the World Group of tennis's Davis Cup, reports AP.

Rafter powered to a 7-5, 6-4, 6-1 victory over the New Zealand No. 1, giving Australia an unbeatable lead.

Australia then sealed its 4-1 qualifying-round victory when Mark Woodforde defeated rookie James Greenhalgh 3-6, 6-1, 6-2 in a match reduced to the best of three sets.

Rafter, a 21-year-old ranked 24th in the world, outplayed the more experienced Steven, who needed to win to keep New Zealand's hopes alive.

Rafter was relaxed and calm on court and served consistently well, unleashing 12 aces on the synthetic Supreme Court at the King Edward Barracks Arena.

He also returned serve well and his error-free play afforded Steven few opportunities. Rafter's variety of well-measured top spin lobs, shots down the line and forays to the net continually had Steven guessing.

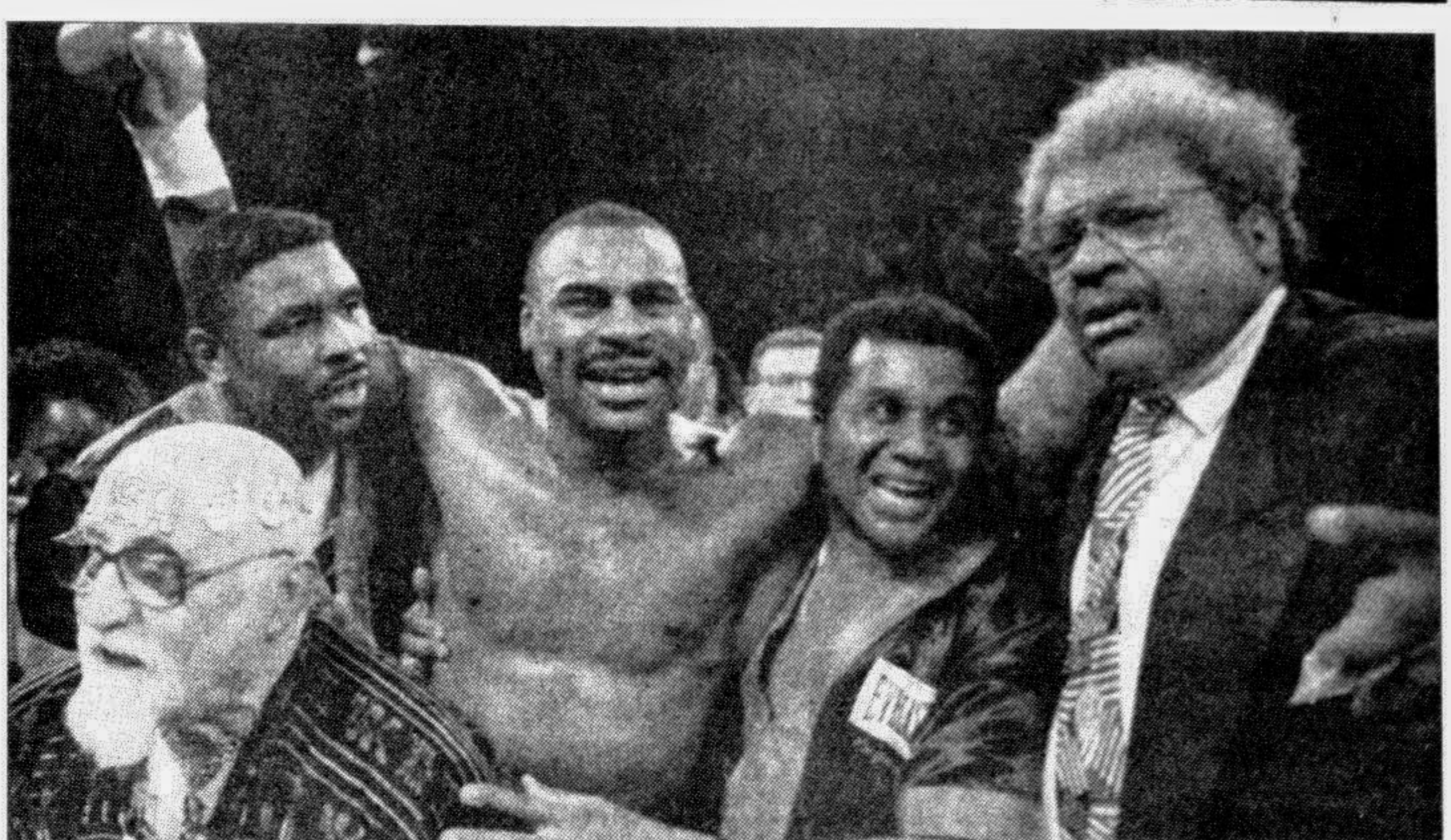
"All round I think this was one of the best matches I've played for a while," Rafter said. "My returning, serving and volleying were all spot on today."

The New Zealander injured his thigh in the second set and his movement was restricted, but Rafter already had established control by that time.

"In the later stages of the second set I pulled the top of my hamstring, and that was pretty much it," said Steven, who did not help his cause by serving 12 double faults.

Todd Woodbridge and Woodforde took just 85 minutes to score a 6-3, 6-4, 6-1 victory over Steven and Kelly Evernden in Saturday's singles after Friday's opening singles left the teams locked 1-1.

Australia now has won all 10 of its Davis Cup meetings with New Zealand stretching back to 1935.



American Oliver McCall celebrates with his corner and promoter Don King (R) after stopping British WBC champion Lennox Lewis after only 31 seconds in the second round of their title bout in Britain yesterday.

Lennox Lewis knocked out in the second round McCall, new WBC champion

WEMBLEY, England, Sept 25: Lennox Lewis called Oliver McCall just a sparring partner. Now he can call him a champion.

McCall pulled a stunning upset early Sunday morning when he knocked down Lewis with a crunching right hand counter to the jaw and stopped him in the second round of their title fight, reports AP.

"I've never regarded myself as a sparring partner," McCall said. "This proves I was right, all along."

McCall joins Larry Holmes, Ken Norton and Jimmy Allis as a fighter who rose from the ranks of sparring partner to world heavyweight champion.

His achievement will seem particularly sweet after disparaging words from Holmes, who accused McCall of being in effect a born loser.

"I did it to learn," Holmes said. "He did it as a job. He just wanted to get paid and lost and lost and lost. I won and won and won."

But McCall, who knocked down Tyson in training, was adamant after arriving in Britain that he would beat Lewis.

"I've been in more training camps than lights," McCall said. "The difference now is that I'm the man and not for hire."

McCall correctly identified a major defensive error in

Lewis' ring work, namely a tendency to leave himself exposed after throwing a right.

"If the right misses, Lewis Nearly falls over," McCall said.

The previously unbeaten Lewis, the only British boxer to hold even a piece of the heavyweight title this century, had thrown a couple of punches and started a hook when McCall came over the top with a right hook that dropped him and sent an estimated crowd of 7,000 home in disbelief.

"It was a lucky shot," a dejected Lewis said. "I can't believe it. The referee asked me if I was okay — and it was over. I thought it was an awfully fast count."

The stunning victory knocked Lewis out of a mega-back defence against Riddick Bowe, the former undisputed champion, that was being talked about for March.

It also put promoter Don King back into the heavyweight picture. King, who was not involved in the promotion of this fight, is McCall's personal promoter. It's now possible King might be in a position to offer former champion Mike Tyson a shot at the title when Tyson gets out of prison sometime next year.

It was the second stunning upset that McCall has been involved in, although his involvement in the first one was indirect.

On July 21, 1989, McCall

lost a 10-round decision to James "Buster" Douglas. In his next fight, Douglas, a 42-1 underdog, scored boxing's biggest upset when he knocked out Tyson for the undisputed title on Feb. 19, 1990, in Tokyo.

Lewis, 29, who weighed 238 pounds (108 kilograms) compared with 231 1/4 (105.1 kilograms) for McCall, of Chicago, landed some nice jabs and a hard right to the head in the first round. McCall got in a couple of body punches and also a good right to the head in the opening stanza.

Judges Franz Marti of Switzerland and Gutseppi Ferrari of Italy each scored the first round 10-9 for Lewis.

Lewis started strong in the second round, but then came the right hand from McCall. And although Lewis got up and was on his feet, there was no question he was hurt.

"I am absolutely sure of what I did," referee Garcia said. "Lennox Lewis was knocked out. To allow more punches to Lennox Lewis would have fatal consequences. My duty is to protect the health of the fighter."

McCall, who was supposed to make \$1.5 million, improved to 25-4 with 18 knockouts. Lewis, whose purse was \$1.5 million, now has a 25-1 record with 21 knockouts.

Ploenchit keeps his WBA title

BANGKOK, Sept 25: Thailand's Saen Sor Ploenchit scored a unanimous decision over South Korea's Kim Yong-kang on Sunday and retained his World Boxing Association flyweight crown, reports AP.

Judge Armando Garcia of the United States scored the 12-round fight 119-109 in Saen Sor's favour, while Kazunobu Asao and Hiroyuki Tesaki, both of Japan, each saw it 118-109 for the Thai champ.

The fight in the western province of Kanchanaburi was Saen Sor's third defence of the title he took from Venezuela's David Griman in February.

Saen Sor now has a record of 19 victories, including five knockouts. Kim's record fell to 25 victories, including 11 knockouts, and five losses.

Saen Sor started slowly, slipping to the canvas in the first round after a glancing blow from the challenger, who was the No 5 contender. But after apparently opening a cut over Kim's right eye in the third round, he dominated most of the rest of the contest.

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FIVB okays it

ATHENS, Sept 25: Japan has won its bid to extend the Men's Volleyball World Championships which it is hosting in 1998 to 24 teams instead of the usual 16, the sport's ruling body said on Saturday, reports AP.

The International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) accepted the Japanese Federation's proposal to expand the tournament, which will feature the host nation, the five continental champions and winners of the 10 qualifying tournaments.

The eight remaining teams will be chosen according to their geographic location and their previous results.

The Women's World Championships will meanwhile be run at the same time and place as the men's instead of separately during the year. The women's even will remain at 16 teams.

The FIVB congress also re-elected Ruben A Acosta, a 59-year-old Mexican lawyer, as President for another four years.

Acosta, who has held the post since 1984, had an existing mandate until 1996 but chose to seek re-election after calls for a change in the electoral cycle.

United Germany, divided Davis Cuppers

HAMBURG, Germany, Sept 25: Germany's future as a Davis Cup power looks bleak following its semifinal defeat by Russia. Disputes involving players and the federation are ripping the team apart.

the world. Becker, however, has refused to play for Germany the last two years and Stich now says he too may quit.

"I will give the German Tennis Federation a list of things that have to be fulfilled, otherwise I won't play any more," Stich said.

"I like playing Davis Cup but we'll have to wait and see what happens," he said.

Stich blasted federation officials for what he said were inadequate security measures following a death threat he received before the match against Russia.

The death threat turned out to be a hoax. Stich said the man, who introduced himself as a Becker fan, called him back a day later to apologise, saying the threat was a joke.

The threat cast a cloud over

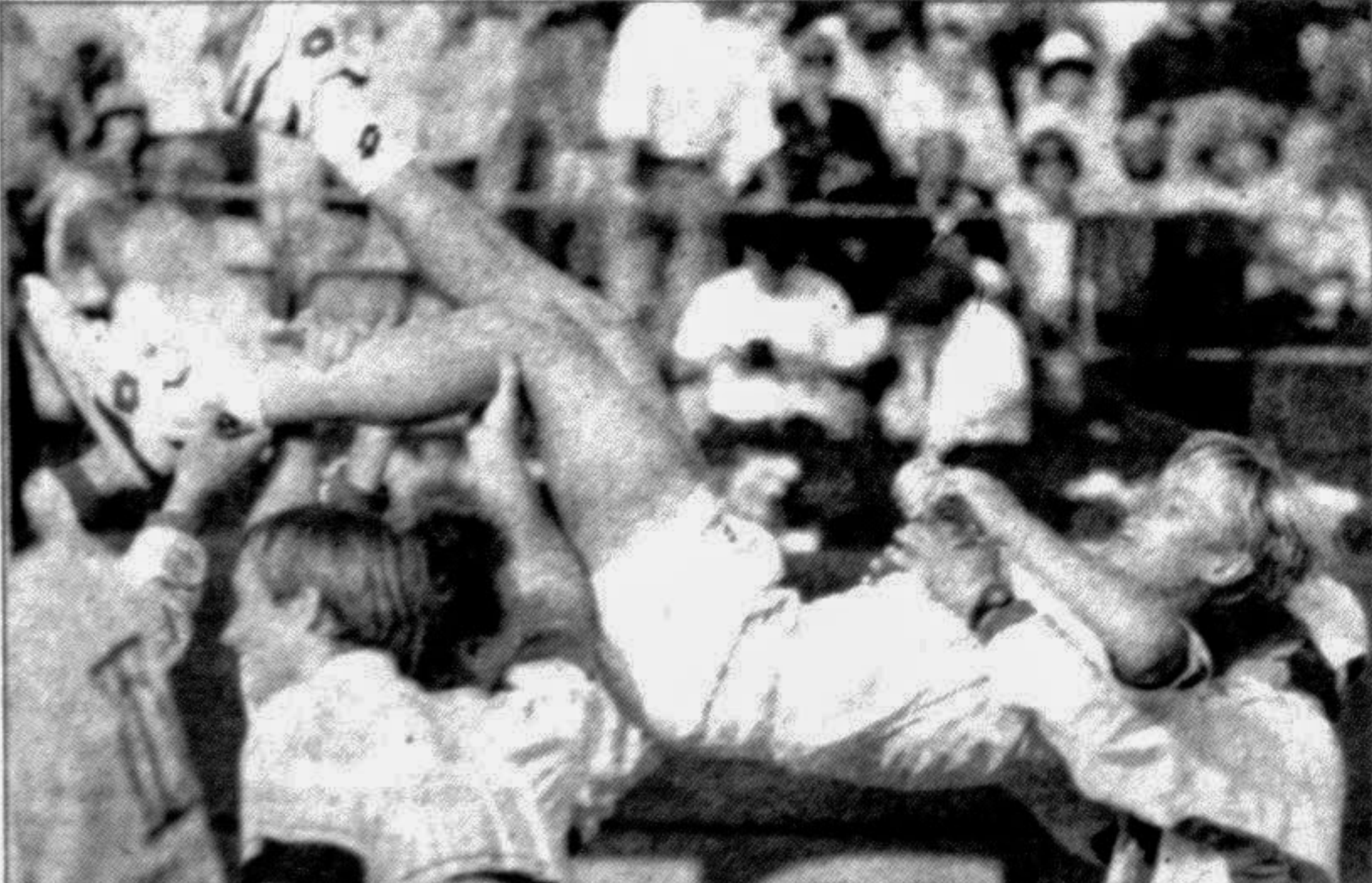
the semifinal match at the Rothenbaum club, where Monica Seles was stabbed in the back in April 1993 by a spectator who jumped from the stands. Seles, who was then the top-ranked woman player in the world, has not played since.

Stich accused the German Federation (DTB) of not taking the threat seriously and of failing to deal with the problem in a professional manner.

The federation defended its security measures, and said Stich was not aware of the 17 plainclothes policemen who were on duty at the court.

Even if the dispute over the threat is quickly forgotten, there are other problems.

For the first time in a decade, a Davis Cup match in Germany was not sold out.



THREE CHEERS FOR KAFELNIKOV! Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov, is tossed into the air by teammates, after he and his doubles partner Andrei Olhovski, beat the German duo of Michael Stich and Karsten Braash in the deciding doubles match 6-4, 7-6, 3-6, 6-7 and 10-9 in Hamburg on Sept 24, to clinch Russia's place in this year's Davis Cup final.

China's war of words continue

BEIJING, Sept 25: Escalating its criticism over the issue, an official commentary Sunday accused Japan of "playing tricks" by inviting a Taiwanese official to the Asian Games in Hiroshima next month, reports AP.

China's Olympic Committee already has asked the organisers of the Asian Games to keep Taiwan's vice premier, Hsu Li-teh, away from the competitions or risk confrontation with Beijing.

China views Taiwan as a renegade province, and it says the invitation to Hsu violates Japan's commitment to recognising only "one China," ruled by Beijing.

China's vehement attacks

on Taiwan's recent attempts to raise its diplomatic profile have put Japan in the awkward position of having to placate both sides.

"In recent years, the Japanese government has played many tricks concerning the Taiwan issue," the People's Daily, mouthpiece of the ruling Communist Party, said in an unusually harshly worded commentary.

It said that inviting Hsu to the Games was "pure self-cheating."

China threatened to boycott the Games after the Olympic Council of Asia invited Taiwanese President Lee Teng-hui to the opening session. The

council later appeared to cancel Lee's invitation, saying no political figures could attend the Games.

Japan's Foreign Ministry later announced that Hsu had been invited to the Oct. 2 opening ceremony in Hiroshima, not as a politician but as a sports official. Hsu would attend as a member of the preparatory committee for Taiwan's bid to hold the Asian Games in 2002.

Beijing since has slammed that decision.

China has not clearly said what those adverse consequences would be. However, it has hinted at a boycott of the games.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words. Includes a solution time of 26 mins and a word bank at the bottom.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with letters and numbers. Includes the title 'CRYPTOQUIP' and a list of words to be found.

CRYPTOQUIP
E F T B N O E M I M O F H
Z Y D F I B W Y I N T M Z F H
H Y I D M N W
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHY IS THE MOST POPULAR ACTRESS, JUST AMONG SAILORS, CHARMING ESTELLE JETTY?
Today's Cryptoquip clue: T equals M
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.