

# Navratilova era nears end



**NEW YORK, Nov 14:** Never mind the other 15 players at this week's Virginia Slims Championships, this year the finale of the women's tennis season will be a going-away party for Martina Navratilova, reports AFP.

"It is all going to be so sentimental, it could be overwhelming," said Navratilova, who will retire after the championships. "I really want to do well, to go out playing the way I know I can play. It would be the ultimate to go out with a win."

"But I'm also ready for it to be over with. There is so much going on inside me and around me that it's hard to deal with. It's going to be tough to say goodbye."

Navratilova, whose 167 career singles titles include 18 Grand Slams, is seeded sixth here. She plays her opening match on Tuesday against Argentina's Gabriela Sabatini.

Her old rival Chris Evert and mentor Billy Jean King will be among those in attendance when a banner bearing Navratilova's name is raised to the rafters of Madison Square Garden, and honour usually reserved for stars of the New York Knicks basketball team.

She was afraid that after watching it she'd be crying too hard to play.

Navratilova's parents will be at court-side after making the trip from their home near Prague.

They have urged their 38-year-old daughter to reconsider her retirement plans, but Navratilova says she is looking forward to new challenges.

On the day after the championships she will get down to business as the new president of the Women's Tennis Association.

On the same day an announcement is scheduled on her participation in a legends tour with Evert and other veterans.

She already has an exhibition tour scheduled that will take her through Poland, Czech Republic, France, Italy, Brazil, Chile, Thailand and Hong Kong, and she has to start work on the second novel in her mystery trilogy: "Feet of Clay."

First, however, she has to survive her send-off, she will be given a Harley-Davidson motorcycle as a going-away present as well as an 11-foot (three-metre) tall tennis ball signed by thousands of New York fans.

Madison Square Garden has been the scene of some of

she has become a favourite of the vocal New York crowd.

"Playing in the Garden is a lot different than playing in the other indoor venues because the Garden is obviously very special, but it is also very big and open," said Navratilova's coach Craig Kardon. "And the crowd is always a factor."



MARTINA NAVRATILOVA ... last time on court

Navratilova's greatest successes.

She has won the women's championships here, sponsored variously by Virginia Slims and Avon, sometimes played in March and sometimes in November, a total of seven times. She has reached the final four other times, and won the doubles 11 times.

As the years have worn on,

it will be very interesting, I think, if she could put all her emotions aside as to this may be being her last match or last week.

Pam Shriver, who played doubles with Navratilova for eight years and it was impossible to predict how the emotion would affect her old teammate.

"I hope she doesn't get all

tidied up," Shriver said. "If she's going to go down, I'd like to see her go down swinging."

Sabatini, who won the championships in 1988 and the US Open in 1990, has not won a tournament since 1992. Navratilova, who dropped out of the top five for the first time since 1975 when she fell to sixth in the world rankings last week, has won just one tournament this year, the Paris Indoors in February.

In July she was a surprise finalist at Wimbledon, where she lost to Conchita Martinez of Spain. And she played superbly in losing the Oakland, California, final to Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario on November 6.

"I had not played tennis like that in a long time," Navratilova said. "It's nice to be able to play great tennis. I just wish I could finish it off. When I play tennis like this, I know I didn't retire too late."

Nor does she think she is retiring too soon. A look at 14-year-old Venus Williams, who made her professional debut in Oakland, was enough to convince Navratilova of that.

"I wish I had her legs," Navratilova said after watching Williams play. "Getting old really stinks. I miss winning easily. Everything is three sets these days. It's infuriating."

Sanchez-Vicario will be seeded second at the championships, in accordance with her world ranking.

But she has dominated the game this year, winning French Open and the US Open to close in on world number one Steffi Graf.

Graf herself had been fighting injuries and has not played since she lost to Sanchez-Vicario at Flushing Meadows.

She pulled out of last week's Virginia Slims Philadelphia with a sore and could yet miss the championships. If she does play, she will meet Brenda Schultz of the Netherlands in the first round.

The other seeded players in the fields are Martinez (3), Jana Novotna of Czech Republic (4), Mary Pierce of France (5), Lindsay Davenport of the United States (7), and Kimiko Date of Japan (8).

## A path spangled with stars

Martina Navratilova's 167 singles titles:

Australian Open: 1981, 1983, 1985

French Open: 1982, 1984

Wimbledon: 1978-79, 1982-87, 1990

US Open: 1983-84, 1986-87

1974 (1): Orlando

1975 (4): Washington, Boston, Denver, Charlotte

1976 (2): Houston, Sydney

1977 (6): Washington, Houston, Minnesota, Detroit, Edinburgh, Charlotte

1978 (10): Slims Championships, Washington, Houston, Los Angeles, Chicago, Seattle, Detroit, Kansas City, Eastbourne, Phoenix

1979 (9): Avon Championships, Oakland, Houston, Dallas, Chicago, Richmond, Atlanta, Phoenix, Brighton

1980 (11): Colgate Series Championships, Kansas City, Chicago, Los Angeles, Oakland, Dallas, Amelia Island, Orlando, Montreal, Richmond, Tokyo

1981 (9): Avon Championships, Los Angeles, Cincinnati, Dallas, Chicago, Orlando, US Indoors, Tampa, Tokyo (Lions Cup)

1982 (13): Toyota Championships, Eastbourne, Canadian Open, Filderstadt, Washington, Seattle, Chicago, Kansas City, Dallas, Sydney, Hilton Head, Orlando, Brighton

1983 (13): Slims Championships, Eastbourne, Canadian Open Tampa, Filderstadt, Tokyo (Lions Cup), Hilton Head, Washington, Houston, Chicago, Dallas, Orlando, Los Angeles

1984 (10): Slims Championships (March), Amelia Island, Eastbourne, US Indoors, Sydney, Orlando, Newport, Mahwah, Fort Lauderdale, New Orleans

1985 (10): Slims Championships (March), Lipton, Eastbourne, Sydney, Washington, Houston, Dallas, Orlando, Fort Lauderdale, Brisbane

1986 (12): Slims Championships (March), Slims Championships (Nov), Eastbourne, Washington, Filderstadt, US Indoors, Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, New Orleans, New England (Jan), New England (Nov)

1987 (2): Filderstadt, Chicago

1988 (9): Dallas, Oakland, Washington, New England, Chicago, Hilton Head, Amelia Island, Eastbourne, Filderstadt

1989 (8): Los Angeles, Dallas, New England, Sydney, Pan Pacific, Birmingham, Eastbourne, Canadian Open

1990 (5): Chicago, Washington, Indian Wells, Hilton Head, Eastbourne

1991 (5): Chicago, Palm Springs, Birmingham, Eastbourne, Oakland

1992 (4): Chicago, US Hardcourts, Los Angeles, Filderstadt

1993 (5): Pan Pacific, Paris Indoors, Eastbourne, Los Angeles, Oakland

1994 (1): Paris Indoors

### NUMBERS SAY IT ALL

Some records and milestones in Martina Navratilova's career:

**Number 1:** Navratilova held the world number one ranking in women's tennis a total of 381 weeks — that's seven years and 17 weeks.

**July 10, 1978-January 13, 1979 (27 weeks); January 28-February 24, 1979 (4 weeks); April 16-June 24, 1979 (10 weeks); September 10, 1979-April 6, 1980 (30 weeks); April 21-June 30, 1980 (10 weeks); May 3-16, 1982 (2 weeks); June 14, 1982-June 9, 1985 (156 weeks); October 14-27, 1985 (2 weeks); November 25, 1985-August 16, 1987 (140 weeks).**

**2:** She won at least two singles titles every year from 1975 through 1993.

**3:** She won the Australian Open singles title three times.

**4:** She won the US Open singles title four times.

**6:** Navratilova's career has spanned six US presidential administrations, from Richard Nixon to Bill Clinton.

**8:** Navratilova has won singles titles in eight different countries.

**9:** She won Wimbledon a record nine times, the only player to win that many editions of any one Grand Slam except Margaret Court, who won the Australian Open 11 times.

**12:** She won the Virginia Slims of Chicago 12 times. In recognition of that feat, Chicago declared February 12, 1992 Martina Navratilova Day.

**15:** She has a total of 18 Grand Slam singles titles, second only to Margaret Court's 24.

**23:** She reached a record 23 consecutive finals from June 12, 1983-November 25, 1984.

**37:** She won 37 Grand Slam doubles titles, 31 women's doubles and six mixed. She completed a doubles Grand Slam with Pam Shriver in 1984.

**74:** She won 74 straight matches in 1984, the longest consecutive match streak ever.

**80:** She played Chris Evert 80 times, she lost 21 of their first 25 matches, but finished their career head-to-head 43-37.

**84:** Navratilova has won both singles and doubles titles at the same event a record 84 times.

**165:** She has won 165 doubles titles on the women's tour.

**167:** She has won 167 singles titles, beating Jimmy Connors' men's tour record of 109.

**1,438:** Navratilova has won 1,438 of her 1,649 competitive singles matches, losing just 211.

**20,052,227:** Navratilova has won 20,052,227 dollars in prize money.

## Huber's hatrick

**PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylv.** Nov 14: Anke Huber kept her perfect record against Mary Pierce intact here on Sunday upsetting the second-seeded Frenchwoman 6-0, 6-7 (4/7), 7-5 in the final of the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia, reports AFP.

"She pushed me," said Huber, who nearly let slip a 4-0 lead in the third set, "she was always there and she never gave up. I just tried to play my game and it worked out."

Huber, the sixth seed, broke Pierce's serve with a forehand on match point.

It was her third victory over Pierce in three meetings, but the 19-year-old German had to work for it.

## Japan submits 2002 WC bid

**TOKYO, Nov 14:** The Football Association of Japan said Monday it had notified the Federation of International Football Association (FIFA) of its desire to host the World Cup football competition in 2002, reports AFP.

A letter expressing the readiness was sent to FIFA president Joao Havelange late last week, the Japanese association said in a press release.

The World Cup was held in the United States this year and is to be held in France in 1998.

## Athletics world mourns Wilma Rudolph's death

**WASHINGTON, Nov 14:** Jackie Joyner-Kersey and others in the US athletics world reacted with sadness Saturday to the news that triple Olympic gold medalist Wilma Rudolph had died, reports AFP.

"She was someone I could always talk to," said Joyner-Kersey, who won the heptathlon gold at the 1988 and 1992 Olympics, as well as the long jump gold in 1988.

"She was very inspirational. She was always in my corner. If I had a problem, I could pick up the phone and call her at home. It was like talking to your sister or your mother, someone you knew for a lifetime."

"I always thought of her as being the greatest, and not only athletically. You respected her as a woman."

Rudolph died of brain cancer at her home on Saturday morning.

She was just 54-year-old. She had battled illness since childhood, when she suffered polio, scarlet fever and pneumonia and was told she would never walk.

She triumphantly proved that dour diagnosis wrong, and in 1960 won the 100m, 200m and 4x100m relay gold medals at the Rome Games.

Bob Kersee, husband and coach of Jackie Joyner-Kersey, said Rudolph was an inspiration to his wife and to other black women athletes he had coached.

"I hope Jackie and her generation will be able to influence young athletes, black and white, the way Wilma Rudolph did," he said.

Praise came for Rudolph from far afield.

Italy's Livio Berruti, who became the first non-American to win the men's 200m at the same Rome Games in 1960, said: "I lost a part of me with Wilma's death."

"She had a special way of living sport, with her laughing eyes. It was a far cry from the usual tension, interests and calculations."

## Portugal edge past Austria



**LISBON, Nov 14:** Portugal edged Austria 1-0 in Sunday's European championship qualifying match and moved to the top of Group Six with nine points in three matches, reports AP.

Portugal's goal came in the 36th minute when defender and captain Joao Pinto passed the ball to Ricardo Sa Pinto who flicked it on diagonally to a charging Luis Figo.

The Sporting Lisbon midfielder hooked the ball past two defenders and Austrian keeper Otto Konrad for the only goal of the match.

Earlier, in the 19th minute, Portugal missed a chance to score from a penalty when Oceano Cruz hit the bar after sending Konrad diving the wrong way.

The foul that prompted the penalty set the tone for the match. The bigger Austrians, playing defensively from the start, used all means, including foul after foul to prevent their swifter opponents from getting near the goal.

By the 53rd minute when Austrian striker Peter Stoger was sent off for felling Juventus midfielder Paulo Sousa with a vicious clip on the calf from behind, Danish referee Peter Mikkelsen had handed out five yellow cards to the Austrians and two to the Portuguese.

Judging by the jeers from

the crowd of 45,000 at Lisbon's Alvalade Stadium, Mikkelsen should have handed out more to the Austrians.

"We were the better team, the better team from the start and I think the result doesn't really express what happened on the field," said Portuguese coach Toni Oliveira.

The result put Portugal on top of Group Six in the qualifiers for the 1996 championship finals in England. With nine points from three games, they lead Ireland with six points from two games and northern Ireland with six from three matches.

Austria remained fourth

### Khulna soccer

**KHULNA, Nov 14:** The Newsprint Mill Club clinched the District Sports Association football Cup title defeating Khulna Town Club 1-0 at the local stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Hanif netted the lone goal in the 27th minute of the first half.

### Army v'ball

**MYMENSINGH, Nov 14:** Comilla area, Log area, Dhaka Infantry and Anti-Aircraft Artillery won their respective robin league matches in the Army volleyball championship held at the Momenshahi Cantonment here today, reports BSS.

with one win and three points from three games.

Austria have never lost in Portugal. Of the eight times the two countries have played each other, Portugal have won once. The worst Portuguese result was a 9-1 defeat in Vienna during 1953's World Cup qualifiers.

In Kiev Ukraine gained their first win in the campaign to qualify for the 1996 championship, defeating Estonia 3-0 (2-0) on Sunday in Kiev's Republican Stadium.

Played out in sub-zero temperatures and in front of crowd numbering only 500 the game was heavily single-sided with the visiting Estonians failing to get one shot on target.

Relentless pressure from Ukrainian attackers paid-off in the 31st minute when winger Serhiy Konovalev broke the deadlock with a powerful 25 yard (metre) strike that looped over the goalkeeper.

The second goal came seconds before the half-time whistle, when Estonian defender Urmas Kirs pushed the ball into his own net in a fumbled attempt to clear a fierce cross from Hennady Litovchenko.

Tamerland Huseynov wrapped up the scoring in the 72nd minute, taking the ball passed two defenders before shooting the ball from edge of the penalty area into the corner of the goal.

## American Cup golf on Friday

### Sports Reporter

The day-long American Cup '94 golf tournament will be held in the lush green course of the Kurmitola Golf Club on Friday.

Organised for the first time by merchants representing American companies in the capital, the tournament is expected to be participated by about 200 golfers in the country.

### Barisal soccer

#### From Staff Correspondent

**BARISAL, Nov 14:** Abahani Krira Chakra beat Shaheed Ashish Club 2-0 in the Emma Overseas Senior Division football league at the local stadium here today.

Tuhin put the winners into the lead in the 35th minute while Shamim added another nine minutes away from the long whistle.

Babuganj Club will meet Manoj Smriti Club tomorrow (Tuesday).

## Gullit going to Japan?

**TOKYO, Nov 14:** Dutch soccer star Ruud Gullit could move to Japan next season in a move being negotiated by the Yokohama Flügels, a newspaper reported on Monday, reports Reuter.

Flügels, lying seventh in the 12-team J-League, are prepared to pay over 300 million yen (3 million dollars) including a transfer fee to land the former European-footballer-of-the-year, according to Sports Nippon.

Gullit, 32, has been looking for an opportunity to play in Japan because of recent problems in the Italian First Division. He was released last week by AC Milan to play for Sampdoria, where he played last season.

He played for Milan for six years before he moved to Sampdoria for a brilliant 1993-94 season, when he scored 16 goals. But a triumphant return to Milan this season went sour and he has found the net only three times so far.

Japan, which started its professional league in 1993, has become a favourite venue for ageing superstars hoping to wind down their playing careers on lucrative contracts.

Zico of Brazil and England's Gary Lineker were the league's first major foreign names, and Italy's 1990 World Cup star Salvatore Schillaci followed this year.

Gullit is likely to come to Japan in 1995, either for the beginning of the next J-League season in March, or after the Italian season finishes in May, Sports Nippon said. Officials at Yokohama Flügels were not available for comment.

## Games sponsors join forces



**NASHVILLE, Tenn., Nov 14:** Sponsors of the 1996 Olympics under pressure to maximise returns in an uncertain economic climate, have formed a powerful alliance to safeguard their common interest in the Atlanta Games, executives say, reports Reuter.

In a move unprecedented in Olympic annals, some of the biggest forces in American business, including McDonald's Corp., the Coca-Cola Co. and International Business Machines Corp., are meeting regularly to compare notes on games' preparations and forge lucrative marketing links.

Sponsor representatives, who gathered here late last week for the 1994 US Olympic Committee congress (USOC), say the initiative also is expected to include broadcast rights holders such as General Electric Co's National Broadcasting Co.

Come Jan. 1, the companies will be able to step up the pace of consultation thanks to a special IBM E-mail system.

As an illustration of the group's power, sponsors alone are expected to kick in 44 per cent of the 1.95 billion in revenues being sought for 1996 by the International Olympic Committee, the USOC and the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG).

With the addition of broadcasters, the group represents more than three-quarters of the budget for Atlanta centennial Olympic properties, the organisers' marketing arm.

"These companies are spending a lot of money as sponsors and they want to maximise value," said Ron Palmich, who directs IBM's 1996 times or bad, this has to be a premier marketing event."

The initiative is partly the result of the steadily rising cost of Olympic sponsorship, which comes at a minimum price of 40 million for Atlanta alone.

Corporate downsizing also has put pressure on promotional budgets and staff availability, while encouraging competitors to avoid hefty sponsorship fee and instead time big-money advertising campaigns to coincide with the Games.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

### ACROSS

1 Retriever

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4 Part of a

Batman

costume

8 Nightclub

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12 Old French

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13 Vicinity

14 Responsi-

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15 Augusta,

Maine's

county

17 Take five

18 What to fill

er up with

19 Wisconsin

city

21 Camels'

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24 Brad-

street's

partner

25 "Lorenzo's

— (movie)

26 Brunnhoff

pachyderm

32 Aerobic

stunt

34 "Holy

mackerel"

36 Unaltered

3