



Yugoslavia national soccer team captain Dragan Stojkovic (front, 4th L) holds a card in Chinese that reads "I love Yugoslavia" while teammates hold the trophy after winning the Hong Kong Chinese Lunar New Year Series yesterday. — AFP photo

Yslavia return in style

HONG KONG, Feb 4: Darko Kovacevic scored in the 50th minute to give Yugoslavia a 1-0 victory Saturday over South Korea in the final of Hong Kong's Carlsberg Cup soccer tournament, reports AP.

The Yugoslavs, who returned to the international soccer scene last September after more than two years away because of United Nations sanctions over the Bosnia conflict, had advanced to the final after beating Hong Kong 3-1 on Tuesday.

South Korea had upset Colombia 1-0 in the semifinals in the four-team tournament, which is held annually as part of the Chinese New Year festivities.

Like the Colombians, the South Koreans fielded only several players who had participated in last year's World Cup finals in the United States.

Yugoslavia's emergency goalkeeper, Zvonko Milojevic, who flew into Hong Kong only Friday after the team's first two choices were injured, was hardly tested against the South Koreans.

Both teams played tentatively in the first half before a crowd of 30,000 at the Hong Kong Soccer Stadium.

The match came to life in the fifth minute of the second half when Kovacevic headed the ball into the net. South Korean defender Choi Yoo-yul made a desperate lunge but could not stop the ball from crossing over the goal line.

The Yugoslavs were captained by Dragan Stojkovic, who plays in the Japanese J-League for the Nagoya Grampus Eight.

The South Koreans, made up mostly of the Olympic squad, are coached by Russian Anatoli Bychovets.

Colombia beat Hong Kong 3-1 to finish in third place with the visitors leading 1-0 at half-time with a goal by Arley Betancourt in the 4th minute.

Dale Tempest equalized for Hong Kong in the 64th minute.

Colombia struck back with a goal by Victor Danilo Pacheco in the 77th minute and teammate Luis Quirones made it 3-1 seven minutes later.

Davenport's date with Date

TOKYO, Feb 4: Hard-hitting American Lindsay Davenport will meet Japan's No. 1 female player, Kimiko Date, in the singles final of the Toray Pacific Open tennis tournament, reports AP.

Fifth-seeded Date became the first Japanese player to reach the final of the tournament after trouncing eighth-seeded Ivan Majoli of Croatia, 6-1, 6-4 Saturday.

Third-seeded Davenport overwhelmed seventh-seeded Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria, 6-3, 6-2 on the carpet court at Tokyo Metropolitan Gym.

"I thought I played pretty well today. I was able to take the ball early, attack and hit the ball cleanly. I thought I was able to dictate the pace of the match and move her around a lot more than she could do with me," said Davenport, the world No. 6.

Date, No. 10 in the world, said: "I was able to concentrate very well. That's the most important thing for me. I started with my pace and kept it throughout."

Despite a doublefault, her second of the match, Majoli was able to keep the fourth game of the first set.

In the second set, Date, firing well-controlled passing shots, led 4-1 but Majoli fought back, winning the next three games to tie 4-4, but Date recovered to win the match in 1 hour, 3 minutes.

Date took the fifth game of the first set and the second game of the second set at love.

"She (Date) played really well. I could not concentrate," said Majoli, whose well-placed passing shots of the earlier rounds disappeared Saturday.

Davenport, 18, and 19-year-old Maleeva were tied at 3-3 in the first set before Davenport won the next three games, the seventh game at love.

Davenport dominated the second set, firing well-placed passing and cross-court shots, breaking in the fourth and eighth games.

Maleeva hailed Davenport, saying: "She served pretty well and returned well in both the first and second sets. She did not miss. She played a steady match and everything was well."

"I think it will be a very tough match against Kimiko in the final. Obviously she's in her home country, and the fans will be heavily favouring her to win, but that is pressure on her as well. The winner will be the player that handles the situation best," Davenport added.

Mary Pierce of France, who won the Australian Open last week, and Wimbledon champion Conchita Martinez of Spain made quick exits from the quarterfinals Friday.

The singles champion takes home \$148,500 and the runner-up \$66,500 from the total purse of \$185,000.

Not quite a day for locals

Sports Reporter

Of the six Grandmasters (GMs) participating in the second United Insurance International Grandmasters chess tournament, four won their respective first round matches yesterday. — Niaz Murshid was not one of them.

At the Jalsha Ghar of Purbani Hotel, Niaz, country's lone GM, settled for a draw with Indonesian counterpart Ruben Gunawan after 20 moves in a game of Benony defence to mark a rather dismal day for the local cerebral warriors.

Both Reefat-been-Sattar and fellow International Master Zillur Rahman lost their tournament openers to theoretically superior opponents.

Former national champion Reefat, vying for a GM norm, faltered at the starting block when Russian Grandmaster Mikhail Krasenkov won submission in the 43rd move.

Krasenkov, who has the highest rating among the GMs in the meet at 2595, manoeuvred his white pieces to winning positions after Reefat accepted the Russian's Queen's

Gambit approach. Zillur, the second Bangladeshi IM in the fray with the other being national champion Ziaur Rahman, withstood the pressure from the English GM Mark Hebden's white pieces until

for an adjournment of his first round match against familiar Pakistani International Master Mahmood Ahmed Khan Lodhi upheld. The match will now be played on the rest day.

Hebden's compatriot and fellow-GM Stuart Conquest bowed down to Filipino IM Enrique Sivilano, who was grafted in for Gabriel Christien after the German had pulled out at the last moment.

Playing with white pieces in a game of Ruy Lopez opening, Sivilano crushed Conquest's defence after 38 moves for a creditable victory.

Indonesian Grandmaster Edhi Handoko took two moves less to prevail over IM Veruguese Koshi with the Indian's defence completely in disarray.

The other GM in the meet, Gregory Sherper of Uzbekistan was forced to a draw after only 16 moves with Tajikistan's IM Magaram Magedov.

Fourteen players representing nine countries are taking part in the 14-strong Swiss league tournament.

Gregory Sherper of Uzbekistan was forced to a draw after only 16 moves with Tajikistan's IM Magaram Magedov.

Fourteen players representing nine countries are taking part in the 14-strong Swiss league tournament.

Fourteen players representing nine countries are taking part in the 14-strong Swiss league tournament.

Fourteen players representing nine countries are taking part in the 14-strong Swiss league tournament.

Fourteen players representing nine countries are taking part in the 14-strong Swiss league tournament.

Fourteen players representing nine countries are taking part in the 14-strong Swiss league tournament.

Fourteen players representing nine countries are taking part in the 14-strong Swiss league tournament.

Fourteen players representing nine countries are taking part in the 14-strong Swiss league tournament.

Fourteen players representing nine countries are taking part in the 14-strong Swiss league tournament.

Fourteen players representing nine countries are taking part in the 14-strong Swiss league tournament.

Fourteen players representing nine countries are taking part in the 14-strong Swiss league tournament.

Fourteen players representing nine countries are taking part in the 14-strong Swiss league tournament.

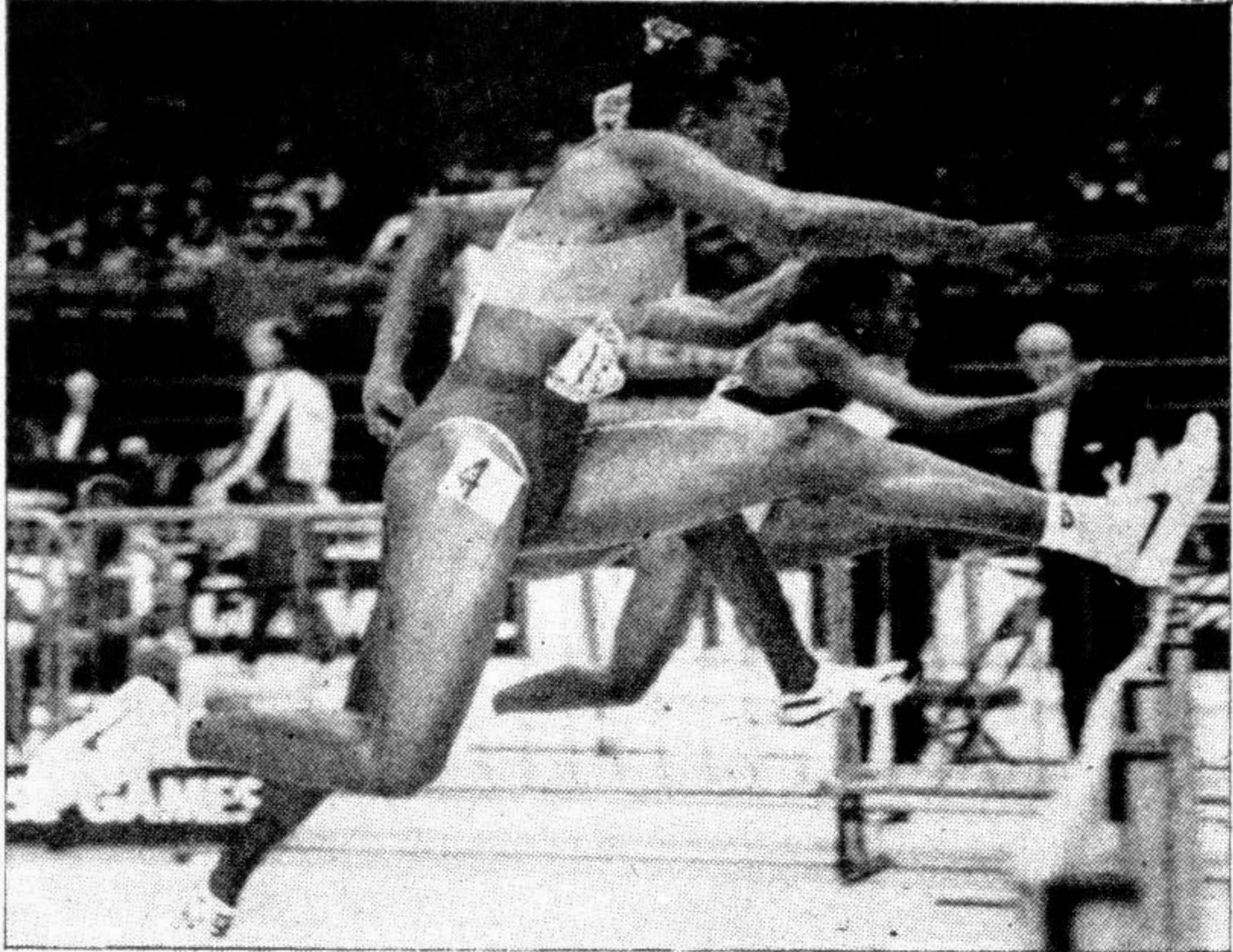
Fourteen players representing nine countries are taking part in the 14-strong Swiss league tournament.

Fourteen players representing nine countries are taking part in the 14-strong Swiss league tournament.

Fourteen players representing nine countries are taking part in the 14-strong Swiss league tournament.

Fourteen players representing nine countries are taking part in the 14-strong Swiss league tournament.

Fourteen players representing nine countries are taking part in the 14-strong Swiss league tournament.



Jackie Joyner-Kersey crosses the final hurdle on her way to winning the 60-metre in the 88th annual Millrose Games at Madison Square Garden in New York on Friday. Joyner-Kersey's time was 7.96 secs, fastest in the world this year. — AFP photo

Bubka's Millrose nightmare

NEW YORK, Feb 4: The world's greatest pole vaulter Sergei Bubka fell flat in his celebrated return to the Millrose Games on Friday, reports Reuter.

The holder of the indoor and outdoor world records and the only man ever to soar past 20 feet (6.10 m), Bubka failed to clear 19, 2-1/4 feet (5.85 m) and finished second to the 1994 Goodwill Games champion Igor Trandenkov of Russia in his first Millrose jump since 1986.

Though Trandenkov also failed to clear the final height, he was the winner by making 19-1/4 (5.80 m). Bubka passed on that height after an initial jump of 18, 8-1/4 (5.70 m).

"He was embarrassed and he didn't feel good about his performance and didn't want to talk anybody about it," an official met spokesman said of the Ukrainian's hurried departure from the arena.

The 88th annual running of the Millrose Games featured a glittering field of a dozen more Olympic gold medalists, but the meet never really got off the ground before a near capacity Madison Square garden house.

The famed Wanamaker Mile went to unknown Canadian Graham Hood, who caught five-time champion Marcus O'Sullivan off the final turn to edge the Irishman at the tape.

"On the last turn I knew it was going to be close, I knew I had to chase him to the finish," O'Sullivan said.

There were no meet records and even the long jump showdown between the 1992 Olympic champion Heike Drechsler and the 1988 champion Jackie Joyner-Kersey failed to meet expectations.

Drechsler had come to the Millrose Games with the explicit purpose of challenging her American rival for the only time this indoor season, and the German rose to the challenge with a 22-foot 10-inch (6.96 m) jump on her sixth and final lift-off to surpass Joyner-Kersey's 22-5 1/4 (6.84) best.

By the time she made her final jump, Drechsler had already clinched the victory by leaping 22 feet, 8-1/2 inches (6.92) on her first attempt.

Drechsler also hurried off without comment to catch a flight back to Germany where she is scheduled to compete on Sunday.

Verlato shot a 5-under-par 67, with five birdies.

Verlato shot a 5-under-par 67, with five birdies.

Verlato shot a 5-under-par 67, with five birdies.

Verlato shot a 5-under-par 67, with five birdies.

Verlato shot a 5-under-par 67, with five birdies.

Verlato shot a 5-under-par 67, with five birdies.

Verlato shot a 5-under-par 67, with five birdies.

Verlato shot a 5-under-par 67, with five birdies.

Verlato shot a 5-under-par 67, with five birdies.

Verlato shot a 5-under-par 67, with five birdies.

Verlato shot a 5-under-par 67, with five birdies.

Verlato shot a 5-under-par 67, with five birdies.

ish," Graham said of his three-minute, 57.08 seconds finish to O'Sullivan's 3:57.11 clocking. "He's got a lot more experience. Tonight I just had a little more speed."

Foster's bid to tie pole most Millrose victories in a single event with his 11th victory in the 60-meters hurdles never got off the mark as the American came in a distant fourth to surprise winner Allen Johnson of the US.

After being charged with one of three false starts made by the field, Foster was slow to respond to the gun on the fourth try, and the two-time defending champion never could catch Johnson's time of 7.54 seconds.

"There were too many false starts," said Foster after his 7.68 time.

There was no slowing down reigning 200-meter Olympic champion Gwen Torrence as she sped away from the field to cruise to the 60 metre dash victory. Torrence's 7.09 time made the American a Millrose winner for the first time since she had won her fourth in a row in 1989, but not an especially happy one.

"It was a horrible start but I am glad to have the win," Torrence said.

Defending champion Henry Neal of the United States easily won the 60-meter dash. Last year's top ranked sprinter Dennis Mitchell of the US finished in sixth and last place.

Jearl Miles put on a closing lap surge to charge from third place to win the 400 metres. The American, the 1993 world outdoor champion, overtook defending champion Maicel Malone on the final turn of the banked track to win in 54.35.

Malone was also caught by Natasha Kaiser-Brown of the US and finished third.

"I felt really good and I was confident," Miles said.

Mozambique's Maria Mutola, the dominant figure at 800 meters for the last two years, cruised to a controlled victory in 2:02.00.

"It was very comfortable for me," Mutola said of her third straight Millrose victory. "The last two times I had a cold, so this was much easier."

Mutola said of her third straight Millrose victory. "The last two times I had a cold, so this was much easier."

Mutola said of her third straight Millrose victory. "The last two times I had a cold, so this was much easier."

Mutola said of her third straight Millrose victory. "The last two times I had a cold, so this was much easier."

Mutola said of her third straight Millrose victory. "The last two times I had a cold, so this was much easier."

Mutola said of her third straight Millrose victory. "The last two times I had a cold, so this was much easier."

Mutola said of her third straight Millrose victory. "The last two times I had a cold, so this was much easier."

Mutola said of her third straight Millrose victory. "The last two times I had a cold, so this was much easier."

Mutola said of her third straight Millrose victory. "The last two times I had a cold, so this was much easier."

Mutola said of her third straight Millrose victory. "The last two times I had a cold, so this was much easier."

Mutola said of her third straight Millrose victory. "The last two times I had a cold, so this was much easier."

Mutola said of her third straight Millrose victory. "The last two times I had a cold, so this was much easier."

Mutola said of her third straight Millrose victory. "The last two times I had a cold, so this was much easier."

Breuer plans a comeback

BONN, Feb 4: Germany's former world 400 metres silver medalist Grit Breuer has set a date for her comeback to athletics following a doping ban, reports Reuter.

Breuer, banned with ex-double world sprint champion Katrin Krabbe and compatriot Manuela Derr in August 1993 after they admitted taking the drug clenbuterol, said on Friday she planned to run at a meeting at her new club of Schwerin on August 25.

Derr, who has also switched to Schwerin from Krabbe's old club Neubrandenburg, is also scheduled to compete at the meeting.

Breuer, who won the silver medal at the 1991 World Championships in Tokyo, will be unable to take part in this year's World Championships in Gothenburg, to be held earlier in August, because the ban will still be in force.

But she is expected to launch a serious bid for a medal at next year's Olympic Games in Atlanta.

Krabbe, by contrast, is unlikely to compete again and is expecting her first child.

Bradtke bests two seeds on way to final

AUCKLAND, Feb 4: Australian Nicole Bradtke austered a pair of victories over seeded players Saturday to move into the final of the US \$107,500 Amway Classic women's tennis tournament, reports AP.

Bradtke, who needed a wild card into the tournament, first ousted top-seeded Julie Halard of France 7-6 (7-5), 6-3 in a quarterfinal that began Friday night but was suspended in the first set because of rain.

After a two-hour break, Bradtke came back on court to outlast Italian No 6 seed Silvia Farina 7-5, 2-6, 6-3 in a two-hour baseline struggle.

Bradtke, 25, who as Nicole Provis was a French Open semifinalist, will now meet defending champion Ginger Helgeson Nielsen of the United States in Sunday's final.

The No 2 seed dethroned Ukraine's seventh-seeded Natalia Medvedeva 6-4, 6-4 in the other semifinal.

"I've won a lot of matches by just hanging in there," Bradtke said.

"I have a reasonable serve and good ground strokes and I can volley, so on a given day, if I'm going well, I can be a danger."

Bradtke is making a return to the WTA Tour after taking time off last year following her marriage to Australian Olympic Games basketball player Mark Bradtke.

Helgeson Nielsen's success in reaching her second WTA Tour final came with a touch of controversy.

The American, who is noted for her lengthy preparation between points, was given a point penalty for the first time in her career.

It came as the 25-year-old American was leading 4-1 in the second set, but down 0-30. She went on to drop the game.

Medvedeva rallied to 4-4 only to lose the next two games and the match.

She complained about the "ridiculous" time Helgeson Nielsen took to serve, saying: "I could have gone to drink a cup of coffee."

"It's absolutely not intentional. It's just the way I play," she said.

Kiwis keep Windies at bay

CHRISTCHURCH, Feb 4: New Zealand batsman Stephen Fleming kept the West Indies pace attack at bay with an elegant innings of 56 today as the home side grafted their way to 221 for six, reports Reuter.

Fleming and wicketkeeper Adam Parore added 82 for the sixth wicket to rescue their side after West Indies had threatened to take control.

Fleming, one of three New Zealanders returning to the side after being suspended for smoking marijuana on the recent tour of South Africa, found the perfect way to put the affair behind him.

Playing with increasing fluency after a slow start, he stroked seven fours and hooked Kenny Benjamin for a six over fine leg.

At the other end, Parore flashed wildly several times outside off stump, and twice fell flat on his back ducking bouncers from Winston Benjamin and Courtney Walsh.

But he hung in grittily and survived to make his way to an unbeaten 34 that included two fours.

Overcast conditions and a bouncy wicket favoured the bowlers on the second day, after all but 45 minutes of Friday were lost to rain and bad light.

Opener Darrin Murray recorded his highest Test score of 43 and provided a solid early platform for the innings, although without looking fully comfortable against Walsh and Curtly Ambrose.

All the New Zealand batsmen succeeded in playing themselves in, but few survived long enough to prosper.

Bryan Youngs was first to depart for 19, falling to a straightforward catch by wicketkeeper Junior Murray off the bowling of Walsh.

Andrew Jones then went for 12, well caught by Stuart Williams above his head at third slip from the bowling of Kenny Benjamin.

New Zealand were 92 for two at lunch, but were soon in trouble after the interval as Ambrose struck twice in his first two overs.

Captain Ken Rutherford gave Murray his second catch from the second ball after

the second day of the first Test match between West Indies and New Zealand today.

NEW ZEALAND

B Young c Murray b Walsh 19

D Murray c Campbell b Ambrose 43

lunch. And in Ambrose's next over, Darrin Murray was well taken low down at second slip by Sherwin Campbell.

Kenny Benjamin struck the net blow for West Indies when he tempted Shane Thomson into a skied hook shot which was easily taken by Winston Benjamin at long leg.

Fleming and Parore then carried the score to 210 before Fleming was caught by Brian Lara at first slip from the bowling of Walsh.

Winston Benjamin was the only one of the four frontline bowlers to go without a wicket, earning slow handclaps from the crowd as he struggled with his run-up and repeatedly ran up to the wicket without delivering the ball.

Matthew Hart and Parore looked less than convincing against Walsh and Ambrose, but managed to progress to 221 for six before bad light stopped play for the day.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at the end of

the second day of the first Test match between West Indies and New Zealand today.

NEW ZEALAND

B Young c Murray b Walsh 19

D Murray c Campbell b Ambrose 43

A Jones c Williams b K Benjamin 12

K Rutherford c Murray b Ambrose 11

S Fleming c Lara b Walsh 56

S Thomson c W Benjamin b K Benjamin 20

A Parore not out 34

M Hart not out 2

WEST INDIES: J Murray, S Campbell, S Williams, B Lara, K Arthurton, J Adams, S Chanderpaul, W Benjamin, C Walsh, K Benjamin, C Ambrose.

Extras: (b-8, lb-3, nb-13) 24

Total: (six wickets, 87.3 overs) 221

Fall of wickets: 1-32; 2-63; 3-92; 4-97; 5-128; 6-210.

To bat: D Nash, S Doull, D Morrison

Bowling

C Ambrose 22.3 10 38 2

C Walsh 22 4 48 2

W Benjamin 21 4 55 0

K Benjamin 17 5 56 2

S Chanderpaul 3 1 10 0

K Arthurton 2 0 3 0

WEST INDIES: J Murray, S Campbell, S Williams, B Lara, K Arthurton, J Adams, S Chanderpaul, W Benjamin, C Walsh, K Benjamin, C Ambrose.

Extras: (b-8, lb-3, nb-13) 24

Total: (six wickets, 87.3 overs) 221

Fall of wickets: 1-32; 2-63; 3-92; 4-97; 5-128; 6-210.

To bat: D Nash, S Doull, D Morrison

Bowling

C Ambrose 22.3 10 38 2

C Walsh 22 4 48 2

W Benjamin 21 4 55 0

K Benjamin 17 5 56 2

S Chanderpaul 3 1 10 0

K Arthurton 2 0 3 0

WEST INDIES: J Murray, S Campbell, S Williams, B Lara, K Arthurton, J Adams, S Chanderpaul, W Benjamin, C Walsh, K Benjamin, C Ambrose.

Extras: (b-8, lb-3, nb-13) 24

Total: (six wickets, 87.3 overs) 221

Fall of wickets: 1-32; 2-63; 3-92; 4-97; 5-128; 6-210.

To bat: D Nash, S Doull, D Morrison

Bowling

C Ambrose 22.3 10 38 2

C Walsh 22 4 48 2

W Benjamin 21 4 55 0

K Benjamin 17 5 56 2