



Former champion Olympic diver Greg Louganis (R) shakes hands after signing an autograph at Columbian University's School of Journalism in New York on Feb 27 after speaking to students. Louganis is embarking on a 20-city tour to publicise his new autobiography, 'Breaking The Surface.'

Louganis silent no more

NEW YORK, Feb 28. (AP) The day that basketball star Magic Johnson announced he tested positive for the virus that causes AIDS, Greg Louganis remembers hearing the news on the radio and thinking, "Maybe I should come out and join him."

That's because the Olympic diver had tested positive in early 1988, more than three years before Johnson's disclosure. Louganis decided instead to keep his status private.

Six months after the news about Johnson, tennis great Arthur Ashe announced that he had AIDS. Still, Louganis remained silent.

Now, the silence is over. Louganis has gone public with that fact that he has AIDS.

"That's what this is all about," he said. "No more secrets."

He had kept his terrible secret too long, through the 1988 Olympics and the frightening diving accident when he hit his head on the edge of the springboard, through his second double gold medal sweep, and through the years after.

When it came time to do his autobiography, the first question co-author Eric Marcus asked was about the accident in Seoul. At that point, Louganis took a deep breath

and said, "Stop the tape. We've got to talk."

It was then that Louganis decided his book, "Breaking The Surface," would address being gay and testing positive, first for HIV and now for AIDS.

"You don't realize how powerful secrets can be," Louganis said. "I dreaded speaking engagements. I had to always watch what I said. I couldn't tell the whole story."

"When you live with a secret, you worry all the time. You worry that the maid will find you medication or a house guest will look in the medicine cabinet. You think about a thousand things. It's an awful lot to carry around."

Some people suggest that Louganis should have spoken out before the 1988 Olympics, certainly in light of what happened in Seoul when his accident left him with a cut scalp and Dr James Puffer, working without gloves, stitching the wound.

Louganis understands the criticism. "I was seared," he said, recalling the episode. "All I could do was sob."

After the Games, he still did not inform Puffer of his condition. "I probably should have told him of my HIV status then," Louganis said. "Hindsight is 20-20. But I was drained and dazed. You're not thinking properly. I made as-

sumptions that were not accurate. I thought that Dr Puffer would be tested routinely."

When he began writing the book, long after Seoul, Louganis called the doctor. Puffer, who has tested negative for the virus, expressed more concern for the diver than he did for himself. "He reassured me," Louganis said. "He was confident he'd be negative for the virus. It was a load off my mind when he was."

After the Olympics, Louganis did some acting, including a role of a chorus boy with AIDS in the off-Broadway show "Jeffrey."

"I died every night in 'Jeffrey,'" he said. "I faced a lot of my own fears. The disease is indiscriminate. That's its nature. The message is hate AIDS, not life."

So, Louganis goes on with life, raising, training and showing his Great Danes. "The dogs give unconditional love," he said. "They kiss me even when I have morning breath."

He looks and feels fine. He is tanned and relaxed, more relaxed, he said, than he can ever remember. "I have come to terms with this," he said. "I'm comfortable with where I'm at."

"With an HIV diagnosis, there's still plenty of living to do. You can still accomplish goals and make a difference."

Johnson's moment of truth

CHAPEL HILL, North Carolina, Feb 28. Allen Johnson sleeps a lot and says little, but inside the low-keyed American anger rages.

"Before every race I find something to get mad about," says Johnson, who earlier this month stopped British world champion Colin Jackson's 44-race win streak.

He now looms as the 60-metre hurdles favourite for next month's World Indoor Championships in Barcelona — if he can finish in the top two at this weekend's US Championships in Atlanta. His time of 7.38 seconds is the year's fastest, reports Reuter.

"It can be anything," says Johnson of his motivational anger. "Somebody might say hi to me and I'll say he really didn't mean to say hi, he was just joking me."

"Or is get mad at the hurdles. It's almost like I want to kill them," he says.

Part of a group of American hurdlers gradually replacing old favourites Roger Kingdom and Greg Foster, Johnson has risen to world-class status by finally channelling his tremendous athleticism into a single discipline.

"He could have been a 28-foot (8.53-metre) long jumper," says University of North Carolina coach Dennis Craddock of the 5 foot, 10 inch (1.78-metre tall) Johnson, who once cleared 6 feet, 11 inches (2.11 metres) in the high jump.

The diversity of Johnson's talents reminds his current coach, Curtis Frye, of former hurdles record-holder Renaldo Nehemiah.

"To me the most elite of all hurdlers was Renaldo Nehemiah," says Frye. "Renaldo could run 4002, long jump and could run the 100 and 200. There are only a few hurdlers who art that diverse."

Ranked sixth in the world last year, Johnson came within nine hundredths of his outdoors best when he clocked 13.34 seconds, the fastest indoor-110-metre hurdles ever, in Moscow on February 14.

Now he thinks he can approach Jackson's outdoor world record of 12.91 seconds.

"I really think I can run 13 flat or 12.9 outdoors," says Johnson, whose biggest claim to fame before his victory over Jackson was the 1992 US collegiate indoor championship.

"This is no surprise to us," he says. "It's earlier than we had expected, but it's not a surprise. And there is more to come. This is no fluke, no fly-

by-night. He's not close to maximising his speed."

Yet Johnson, who celebrates his 24th birthday on Wednesday, will not make himself the favourite for Barcelona.

"I consider myself a contender," he said. "You have mark McKay, Tony Jarrett. They have proven they can perform in a big meet. This is my first time. All I really have is a time going in."

The win over Jackson, who is skipping the indoor championships, was special, Johnson says. "Because he had not lost a race."

"But I try to keep it in perspective. I beat him, but I didn't want to sit there and think I'm the best now, he can't beat me, because that's not the case. I want to have a chance to beat him where you don't have and go look at the film to see who won."

A year ago, Johnson says, he

felt in awe just being on the track with the world's elite. "Now I feel I belong," he says.

But there is still pressure, pressure brought about by the victory over Jackson and Johnson's fast times this season.

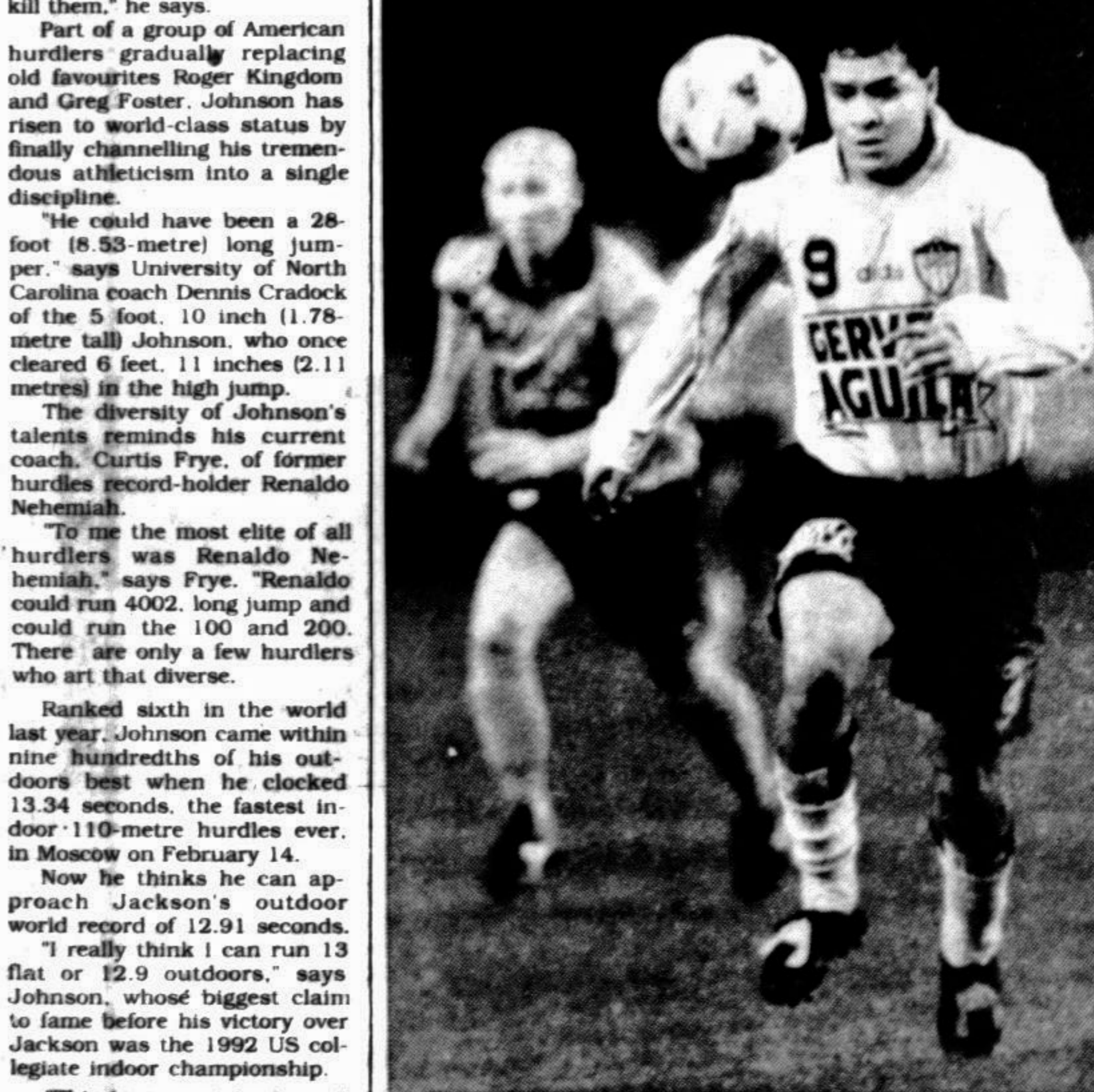
"I almost feel like I have to win," Johnson says of the US and World Championships. "But first and foremost I want to make sure I am in the top two at the US nationals so I will have the opportunity to be world champion."

Then he can look beyond — to the August World Outdoor Championships, and the Atlanta Olympics a year later.

Already he can see the Olympic final.

"It will be a bright, sunny day, and I'll cross the finish line first with my hands waving," he says.

And the self-induced anger will fade, replaced by a celebratory smile. Until the next race.



Colombian forward Ivan Valenciano is pursued by a Bellmare Hiratsuka player during a friendly match at the Tokyo Dome Stadium yesterday. Valenciano scored a hat-trick in Junior's 4-2 win.

Gandaria Famous Div III champs

Sports Reporter

Gandaria Famous lifted the Pragati Insurance Third Division football league title when they completed their successful super league campaign with a 2-1 win over Maghbazsar KC in one of the three matches billed for the Outer Stadium on the concluding day yesterday.

Needing only a point to stay beyond anyone's reach, the old town outfit, who were trailing by a lone goal at the breather scored twice in quick succession to seal the fate of the match.

Asaduzzaman and Masudur Rahman who notched his fifth goal in the super league, were the scorers for the winners while Mamun netted the lone goal for Maghbazsar KC.

With this win, Gandaria Famous, the only unbeaten team in the eight-team super league, finished atop along with 19 points from their seven matches, three points clear of Little Friends who along with Gandaria Famous earned promotion to the Second Division next year as runners-up.

In the other two insignificant matches of the day, East End Boys recorded a lone goal win over Dipali Juba Sangha while Sunrise SC prevailed over Rahmatganj by the odd goal in three.

S Africans well placed

NELSON, New Zealand, Feb 28. Craig Matthews and Steven Jack cut through the New Zealand Academy XI batting Tuesday as South Africa moved to within sight of a comfortable victory after the second day of the three-day cricket match at Trafalgar park, reports AP.

South Africa were 13 for one in their second innings — needing a total of 82 to win the match — when bad light halted play.

South Africa took a 45-run first innings lead earlier in the day after being dismissed for 165. Kerry Walmesley rounded off the innings by taking the last three wickets in quick time to finish with 5-73 after the tourists resumed at 153 for seven.

The Academy XI batsmen then struggled for the second time in the match against the fast-medium trio of Jack, Matthews and Allan Donald to be all out for 126 in the final session.

Only stubborn resistance from middle-order batsman Richard Jones, who scored a grafting 30 in 127 minutes, and medium-pacer Aaron Gale, with 20 in 102 minutes, held up the South African march to victory.

Matthews finished with 4-23 from 16 overs. Jack took 3-28 and Donald claimed 2-52.

Donald also picked up a warning for intimidatory bowling, when he bounced a succession of short-pitched deliveries at the Academy XI tail-end batsmen.

A total of 78 minutes play was lost during the day due to overnight rain and then bad light late in the afternoon.

When bad light finally halted play, the South Africans had lost opener Rudi Steyn, who was caught at first slip by John Aiken off the fast-medium bowling of Walmesley without scoring.

Andrew Hudson was on five with nightwatchman Clive Eksteen yet to score. There had been eight extras.

Jones steers NZ Select XI

WANGANUI, New Zealand, Feb 28. Andrew Jones scored a determined 66 Tuesday as the New Zealand Select XI moved into a strong position on the third day of their four-day cricket match against Sri Lanka at Victoria park, reports AP.

Jones, who was dropped from the New Zealand team to play South Africa in this weekend's Test match, helped the Select XI to 197 for five in their second innings — a lead of 332.

Jones spent 234 minutes at the crease before being dismissed 10 minutes before stumps.

The home team went to lunch at 71 without loss, and overall lead of 205.

A fine spell of left-arm spin from 20-year-old Jayantha Silva then stemmed the runs as he picked up the wickets of Craig Spearman for 47 and Roger Twose for nine.

Silva, in his debut match for Sri Lanka, gained appreciable turn from the Victoria Park pitch to finish with 2-47 off 28 overs.

Sri Lanka earlier resumed their first innings at 170 for six and lost the final four wickets for the addition of just 22 runs.

Sanath Jayasuriya was out without adding to his overnight total of 51, while Chaminda Vaas failed to score.

Right-arm pacesman Heath Davis was the most successful bowler, taking 5-46 — his third five-wicket haul at first-class level.

Playing on Antarctica's terms

ROSS SEA ICE SHELF, Antarctica, Feb 28. Golf has its "winter rules." Antarctica has its extreme versions for all kinds of games: softball, skiing, rugby, and yes, golf too, reports AP.

Die-hard Antarctic athletes are constantly making adaptations to the uniquely cold, dry environment: some rules border on the surreal.

If you're golfing, you don't merely improve your lie should the ball find its way to the ground under repair.

Standing water, leaves and other hazards normal golfers confront in late season are nothing compared to skuas — large, carnivorous Antarctic sea gulls.

New Zealanders from the Scott Base used to challenge the Americans at McMurdo Station to a periodic "Masters Classic" golf tournament.

One of the rules of the "Masters Classic" was that if a hungry, curious skua picked up your ball, you had to play it from where he dropped it — after he realized it wasn't edible.

Players used coloured golf balls, since white ones tend to get lost on the icy course.

The "Masters Classic" hasn't been played between Scott Base and McMurdo for a few years, but McMurdo held a golf tournament Jan. 29 on the ice runway. Williams Field, which was renamed the "Ice Pines

Course" for the day.

But golf is only one of the games in which athletes have to change the rules to accommodate the conditions.

If you're playing softball — like baseball and a popular recreation game with Americans — and someone hits a long home run, let it go. Any attempt to chase it down could be deadly.

The edge of the outfield is beyond the solidly frozen "ice wharf" where ships land supplies in summer, and on the Ross Sea ice, riddled with crevasses that are often concealed under the latest dusting of snow.

An outfielder who plays deep left field could easily plunge into the freezing water. A man loses consciousness in less than two minutes and is dead in a few more.

Rule Number One of the McMurdo Station's Antarctic Softball League: "Please note ice is very unstable, there is no ball retrieving onto the ice."

The softball season is flexible, depending on the progress of the US Coast Guard icebreakers each summer. Rule Number Two is: "League will end when wharf is needed for ship offload operations."

The Kiwis and Yanks do get into a rugby scrum between the bases now and then. Souvenir rugby jerseys can be bought in sporting goods shops

in Christchurch, New Zealand, the regional headquarters of the US and New Zealand polar programs.

The sporting highlight of the year at McMurdo is the annual Scott's Hut Run, a 7-kilometer 4 1-2-mile road race over the volcanic cinders of Ross Island. About 200 of the 1,200 Americans and 80 or so Scott Base New Zealanders joined the latest race on Jan. 22.

The start of the race was signalled by a bagpiper, under perpetually sunny Antarctic summer skies with temperatures hovering around the freezing point.

The runners streaked off toward the first checkpoint and landmark, the hut built by British Capt. Robert F Scott in 1902 during his first Antarctic expedition.

Lazy Weddell seals sunbathed on the Ross Sea ice near the hut; a few languidly rolled over to gaze at the runners dressed in fluorescent colors. Among the most colorful were some of the New Zealanders, who walked the course toting a wheelbarrow full of beer.

Antarctica is, in many ways, a skier's dream, and McMurdo rents cross-country skis for just a few dollars a week.

But skiers must stick to marked, flagged trails; the snow fields are treacherous,

and people who stray just 100 meters (few hundred feet) from the trail have been killed in plunges down crevasses hidden under fresh snow.

Scott Base runs the world's southernmost ski hill, complete with a 20Q-meter (600-foot) tow rope looped around the rear wheel of a truck so skiers can glide uphill. People also careen down the Scott Base Ski Run on snowboards, inner tubes and toboggans.

Some of the McMurdo scientists and support staff burn off extra energy in fierce basketball and volleyball games in the gymnasium. Erick Chang of the National Science Foundation said broken bones from these games are the most common emergencies that the base hospital has to deal with.

At the South Pole, sledding from the top of the geodesic dome at Amundsen-Scott base has been banned after too many injuries ensued.

The people staffers get into intense Frisbee matches outside the dome, in bracingly clean air and temperatures that average minus-49 degrees Celsius (minus-56 Fahrenheit), but have dipped as low as minus-83 (minus-117 F).

At those temperatures, plastic Frisbees don't bounce off you if you miss your catch, said station manager John (JP) Parland — they shatter into several large pieces.

WTA not lured by lucre

NEW YORK, Feb 28. The women's tennis tour concerned about its image and marketing, has rejected a \$10 million global sponsorship offer from the manufacturer of Tampax tampons, reports AP.

"Initially, my reaction was that it would be good to have the money," Women's Tennis Association president Martina Navratilova said Thursday. "But almost immediately I realized that the sport has the potential to be a laughingstock and just couldn't afford to do it."

Navratilova was in Atlanta for a WTA FanFare at the time the three-year offer was made last week, and she asked some of the business people attending for their reactions to a "Tampax Tour."

"One of the people who made the most impact on me," she said, "was someone who said, 'You've played all your career wanting to be known as a great tennis player, and you're known as a great woman tennis player. Think of what it would do to all the players in the future to be known just as part of the Tampax Tour. It would never get tennis beyond women's tennis.'"

Navratilova, in Thursday's editions of the New York Times, said the tour "couldn't risk losing the local tournament sponsors, which is where our \$15 million in prize money comes from, because they didn't want to be associated with a WTA Tour presented by Tampax. It shouldn't be a stigma, but apparently it still is."

Navratilova ultimately, and somewhat reluctantly, voted against the deal Wednesday despite the WTA's need to replace the sponsorship it prematurely ended last year with the Philip Morris Corporation, makers of Virginia Slims cigarettes.

The WTA had come under pressure from health advocates to distance itself from Virginia Slims, a longtime sponsor, but worried that associating with a

feminine personal hygiene product like tampons would bring on a different kind of criticism.

"As a person who believes strongly in women's rights, I also feel quite badly that everybody's embarrassed by it," Navratilova said. "But the WTA is a business, and you have to look at it as a business decision. It's not our role to crusade to change public opinion and get people over their embarrassment."

The WTA polled more than 100 sports marketing executives, players, tournament directors, sports writers and announcers, and the reaction ran 75 per cent against going with Tampax.

None of the names of those who responded to the WTA were released, but here's a sampling of their comments:

(TV talk show host) David Letterman would be doing Tampax Tour jokes every night," said a player's representative. "No comedian in the country would ever have to worry about material for a monologue."

"You would be accepting short-term cash but damaging the integrity of the sport," advised a senior sports marketing executive with international experience.

"What about the effect on your young players? Will the public make snide comments about whether or not they've begun to menstruate," said another sports marketing executive.

A Grand Slam chairman called the idea simply a "bad business decision."

Most of the tournament owners, directors and sponsors also dismissed the idea, saying they wouldn't want to be associated with a Tampax Tour.

"Tampax would be an embarrassment to the tour," a tournament director said. "It should not even be a close call."

Martin, Rafter march on

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona, Feb 28. Top-seed Todd Martin and fourth-seed Patrick Rafter posted first-round victories at the \$28 million Mass Mutual men's championships on Monday, reports Reuter.

Martin struggled to beat German Markus Zöcke 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, and Rafter defeated Austrian Gilbert Schaller from the baseline 6-3, 6-4.

Martin, ranked 12th in the world, started slowly against the hard-hitting Zöcke, who rifled 10 aces and many service winners past the American in the match — the first time they have ever played each other.

"It's been a while since I played an outdoor night match," said Martin, who had nine aces. "It took me a while to adjust to it."

After splitting sets, Martin took a 2-1 lead as neither player was able to hold service through the first three games. At 4-2, Martin broke for the fourth time in the match to claim the one hour, 39-minute match.

"I made him play a few balls in critical situations," Martin said. "Fortunately he didn't have the same shots he was hitting earlier in the match."

Rafter mixed an effective serve with a solid ground game for the sweep against the 25-year-old Austrian ranked 52nd in the world.

"It was very hard getting to the net against that guy," said Rafter, who hammered home 10 aces. "He hits the ball very deep and with a lot of top spin."

Earlier, Australia's Michael Tebbutt pulled off the first upset of the tournament, eliminating No. 7 seed Javier Sanchez of Spain in the first round.

Tebbutt, ranked 103rd on the ATP Tour to Sanchez's 31st was a 7-6 (7-4), 6-7 (7-3), 7-6 (8-6) winners.

Tebbutt, who played 3 1-2 seasons at Northern Arizona before turning pro, made good use of his booming serve.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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Solution time: 23 mins.

SAP MAR POSTS
ILL ORE ARIAS
ZOO AMBULANCE
END OUBLS
DESK UBA FRAU
YEARN RENEW
BERATV BAL
BEAN ICE DADA
SNORT WED
STRETCHER FLA
OHARA ANI ULM
PEGGY NEG LAS

CRYPTOQUIP

MFDUMJZ D KDRR XLEZZL

JMU YLFDEZ: KYZJ ISAE

VESPZE MX VESPZE

LYDJ ISA DEZ

Yesterday's Cryptquip: OUR WILD WEST BEAUTICIAN CLEARLY DYED WITH HER BOOTS ON.

Today's Cryptquip clue: F equals M

The Cryptquip 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.