

Rain reigns Lotus-Kamal cricket

Sports Reporter

Three rain-reduced encounters saw new Eagles CC, Dilkusha SC and Peereerbagh KC prevail over their respective opponents in the Lotus-Kamal second Division qualifying cricket league yesterday.

New Eagles CC defeated Jupiter KC by 6 runs at the Dhamondi Cricket Stadium through a fine all-round display from Shaem.

Sent in to bat first, New Eagles managed to score 79 for six in their rain-shortened 15 over-match. Shaem topscored with 26 off 23 balls.

They then restricted Jupiter KC to 71 for 6 at the end of the stipulated overs.

Shaem ran through the opponents' innings capturing three for 16.

At the Jagannath Hall Ground, Dilkusha SC thrashed Ihsan Youth club by 45 runs in another 15-over match.

Dilkusha SC made 73 for the loss of eight wickets in their stipulated overs after being put in. Siddiqur scored the highest with 18.

Set a score 74 to win, Ihsan Youth Club failed miserably in their quest by being bowled out for only 28 in 10.5 overs.

Sujan took three for five while Rasel claimed two for four among the Dilkusha bowlers.

In the day's other matches, Peereerbagh KC overcame Mirpur KC by six wickets at the city club ground.

Batting first, Mirpur KC scored 96 for six in the allotted 20 overs.

Mukul made a polished 42 off 55 balls. Peereerbagh raced to their victory target in only 16.4 overs losing four wickets in process.

Nahid and Zia remained unconquered on 23 and 16 respectively for the winners.

Martin joins England casualty list

LONDON, July 10: England's injury problems deepened when pacer Peter Martin was taken to hospital after damaging an ankle during Lancashire's Sunday league game against Northamptonshire at Old Trafford, reports Reuter.

Martin, who was only playing because of England's innings and 64 runs defeat in the third Test inside three days at Edgbaston, collapsed in agony after fielding a ball in the fifth over.

England already have several doubts for the fourth Test, which starts on July 27, including finger injury victims, wicketkeeper Alec Stewart and Jason Gallian, Martin's Lancashire teammate.

Spinner Richard Illingworth also faces a battle to be fit for the Old Trafford Test. He has a broken knuckle.

But England's shattered spirit could take longer to repair than the various pieces of physical damage to their players. Whether they are right or wrong, the only hope is for captain Mike Atherton and his men to convince themselves that the Edgbaston pitch was wholly to blame for their hammering on Saturday.

Opinions are split, even among those who have played cricket at the highest level.

Ex-England opener Graeme Fowler, writing in the Sunday Telegraph, had nothing but sympathy for his country's plight.

"There is only one winner — the bowler — with the batsman, the crowd and the game itself, losers. It reduces the whole thing to a lottery," he claimed.

But former Australian captain Richie Benaud, saw it very differently.

"England's batsmen, with the exception of Robin Smith, were pathetic in both innings," he commented in his news of the world column.

On Saturday, Atherton said: "The players tried hard and gave their best. The fault for the game finishing in this brief period is in the hands of the Edgbaston club for producing such a pitch."

"This pitch was quoted unsuitable for playing a Test against West Indies fast bowlers. We were hospitable to a fault to our opponents. It is the poorest Test pitch I have ever played on."

West Indies now lead the six-match series 2-1.

Pitch Ray's fixation

LONDON, July 10: England cricket supremo Ray Illingworth has hit back in the Edgbaston Test rumpus, saying he would "want a pitch to be up and down in bounce against the West Indies like a hole in the head," reports Reuter.

England lost the third Test by an innings and 64 runs on Saturday after just over two days' play on an Edgbaston pitch of acutely variable bounce.

Illingworth, chairman of selectors and also team manager, is being blamed in some quarters for the fact that the West Indies' fast bowlers were able to make some deliveries life-altering while others kept unexpectably low.

But Illingworth said today: "I've played the game long enough that I'm not going to ask for an up and down pitch again."

He had been in contact with Warwickshire — Edgbaston is their headquarters — and groundsman Steve Rouse in particular before the Test, and the outcome was a pitch green in the middle and bare at both ends.



THE SMILE SAYS IT ALL: Pete Sampras displays the prized Wimbledon trophy after winning it for the third successive time on July 9. Sampras outclassed crowd-favourite Boris Becker 6-7 (5-7), 6-2, 6-4, 6-2 in the final. — AFP/UNB photo

Sampras, a seville disciple

LONDON, July 10: Pete Sampras's coach and mentor Tim Gullikson was too ill to share his joy in person on Sunday but the champion derived inspiration from Gullikson's twin brother shouting in the crowd, reports Reuter.

A beaming Sampras, who downed Boris Becker 6-7, 6-2, 6-4, 6-2 in the final, heard Tom Gullikson urging him on.

"It sounded just like Tim. When I heard him say 'pistol,' I really knew it was him. It was really good to have him there," Sampras said.

Tim, who nicknames Sampras "Pistol Pete," is currently undergoing chemotherapy in the United States for a brain tumour and cannot travel.

But his identical twin, who used to play doubles with him on the men's circuit, has followed Sampras's matches throughout the tournament, helping out stand-in coach Paul Annacone.

"We have both dealt with Tim's situation in a very public way. He's been hanging out for the last couple of weeks and he has helped me out with my tennis and just to have him

there to have that support really felt good," Sampras said.

Sampras broke down and wept on court during the Australian Open earlier this year after Tim had collapsed. But he said on Sunday that Tim,

Pancho laid to rest

LAS VEGAS, July 10: Pancho Gonzalez, an eight-time US pro tennis champion, was buried here Sunday before about 200 mourners, including former stars Rod Laver, Alex Oniel and Dennis Ralston, reports AFP.

Final respects were paid to Gonzalez, who died July 3 at a hospital here after suffering with stomach cancer the past nine months.

"He was always a simple man. He wouldn't have wanted people to make a fuss," said his brother Ralph. "He could never understand why people wanted his autograph."

Gonzalez came to greatness by winning the US singles crown in 1948, a 20-year-old whose best matches were well before the Open era of tennis began and allowed pro players at major events.

whom he spoke to directly after his victory, was in good spirits and hoping to do some travelling by the end of the year.

"I really dedicated this win to Tim because he's a true champion today. The way he has handled his treatment is just an inspiration," he said.

The pair had talked on the telephone every day, discussing the match just played and looking forward to the next.

Sampras, the first man since Bjorn Borg to win the title three times in a row, is an unadorned character and unlikely to paint the town red in victory.

He said he was craving some junk food, but otherwise he would go home and rest by the pool and play a little golf.

He has often been criticised for his apparent lack of personality on court and the crowd was noisily behind Becker throughout the final.

But he was adamant he would not change his style or ever want to swap his title for Becker's reception from the public.

"I'm not going to throw tantrum sore act like a jerk out there. That's the way I was brought up and that's the way I will continue to be."

The boy born in C Court

LONDON, July 10 (Reuters): There are winners and losers at Wimbledon and then there is Boris Becker who is a winner even when he loses.

At the end of his losing final against American Pete Sampras, Becker got the greater applause from the 17,000 Centre Court crowd, the louder cheers and — unheard of at Wimbledon — even did a lap of honour with the runners-up trophy.

He may have lost but there will always be a special place for him in the collective heart of the Wimbledon crowd, many of whom clearly remember the 17-year-old Becker winning this title 10 years ago. For that reason he will always be special and remain the people's favourite.

"I never did a lap of honour before even though I've lost four finals here now," he said afterwards. "So it was a really nice feeling when they asked me to do the lap."

"It was one of the nicer feelings I have ever had. It made me feel like a part of Wimbledon, part of the whole tournament, and that has always been very important to me."

But despite the virtually unanimous support of the Centre Court crowd, Becker could do nothing to prevent Sampras from becoming the first American in Wimbledon's history to win the men's singles crown for three successive years.

The crowd may have willed their favourite to victory for more than

two desperately tough hours but Sampras remained the champion.

"Unfortunately he owns Centre Court now. I used to own it a few years back but it belongs to him now," said Becker, who chided the media for suggesting that at 27 he was too old still to compete for the major prizes.

"I'm really surprised now when I see you call me 'the old lion' in the newspapers. I may have a beard which makes me look a bit like a lion but I don't feel that old yet ... and until I am 30 I think I have a definite chance of winning major championships."

But he did concede that in 1985 he would have handled the sheer unrelenting power and domination that Sampras exerted over their match on Sunday very differently.

Asked how the 17-year-old Boris would have reacted, he joked: "He probably would have jumped the net trying to beat the guy up personally. Maybe I'm a bit calmer now. If I had been a 17-year-old he couldn't have walked into the changing room now."

He also conceded that he was beaten by the better player on the day and did not rule out Sampras going on to equal Bjorn Borg's record of five consecutive wins.

"He's young, he's fresh and he has to win another two, so he has a shot. Very few people have played like he did against me in a final."

Becker revealed afterwards that Sampras is one of his best friends off court.

"He's a really nice fellow. When he's on the court he doesn't say anything, he doesn't show any emotion, but that's maybe why he's playing so well too."

"He doesn't let anything disturb him. That's probably the way to be able to serve 45 times right on the line with the first service."

"You know once he's up a break early in the set, he hits those bombs ... and you just pray for rain."

Rosset terrifies Tarango

GSTAAD, Switzerland, July 10: Wimbledon hothead Jeff Tarango has pulled out of the Swiss Open for fear of a confrontation with an angry Marc Rosset, tournament officials said Monday, reports AP.

The American player sent shockwaves through the normally sedate Wimbledon fortnight by accusing French umpire Bruno Rebeuh of being "the most corrupt official in the game."

Tarango stormed off court during his third-round Wimbledon match against Alexander Mronz after a dispute with Rebeuh over a line call. Tarango's French wife, Benedicte, then slapped the official twice on the face.

Afterwards, Tarango alleged that Rebeuh had shown bias to players in return for friendship. He named Swiss player Rosset as one of those who had benefited from the official's favoritism.

Tarango was fined a record 15,500 dollars for the outburst and may now face further fines or suspension following an investigation.

"We understand that some guys from the ATP told (Tarango) to go back to the United States because Rosset is here," said Jurg Vogel, a spokesman for the 560,000 dollars tournament which opened Monday.

"I think it was because of the emotional side. Rosset is a local hero here. He is from nearby Geneva and he was very angry about the allegations."

An earlier statement from Swiss Open organisers said "personal friends of the player had apparently advised him to take this step."

Rosset, in an interview with a Swiss newspaper last week, flatly denied the charges.

Wimbledon '95 champions

WIMBLEDON, July 10 AP: Champions of the 1995 Wimbledon tennis championships:

Men's singles — Pete Sampras (USA)

Women's singles — Steffi Graf (Germany)

Men's doubles — Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde (Australia)

Women's doubles — Jana Novotna (Czech Rep) and Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario (Spain)

Mixed doubles — Jonathan Stark and Martina Navratilova, United States

Senior men's doubles — Peter McNamara, Australia, and Leif Shiras, United States

Senior women's doubles — Wendy Turnbull, Australia, and Virginia Wade, Britain

Boy's singles — Olivier Mutis, France

Boy's doubles — Martin Lee and James Trotman, Britain

Girl's singles — Aleksandra Olsza, Poland

Girl's doubles — Cora Black, Zimbabwe, and Aleksandra Olsza, Poland

Sanchez-Vicario compensates

LONDON, July 10: Spain's Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario beaten in the Wimbledon women's singles final by Steffi Graf on Saturday gained quick compensation winning the women's doubles title here on Sunday, reports AFP.

Playing alongside Czech Jana Novotna, beaten by Graf in the semifinals, they beat top seeds and defending champions Gigi Fernandez of the United States and Natasha Zvereva of Belarus 5-7, 7-5, 6-4.

The two teams had been level at 4-4 in the third set on Saturday when fading light stopped play.

Fernandez and Zvereva had been bidding for their fourth consecutive victory in the event.

Bad back suits Graf!

WIMBLEDON, July 10: Steffi Graf sparked speculations about her health with the way she talked, rather than the way she played, reports AP.

The top-ranked Graf, bothered by a bone spur in her lower back, nonetheless won Wimbledon for the sixth time Saturday to remain unbeaten this year.

But she was less than convincing when asked about returning to the All England Club in 1996.

"I do have the feeling, hopefully, to be back next year," said Graf, 26. "I really count on that."

The chronic back condition prompted Graf to withdraw from the doubles before the tournament and left her sounding uncharacteristically pessimistic even after she outlasted Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario in a classic final.

"Sometimes you don't think you can make it through," Graf said. "It's tough sometimes to see what's happening, and you cannot imagine sometimes that things are going to work."

Graf also began the tournament bothered by a wrist injury. Did she fear that her health might not hold up for the fortnight?

McRae wins Indonesian rally

555 Subaru World Rally team driver Colin McRae drove to an impressive victory yesterday afternoon in the rally of Indonesia, says a press release.

Despite a furious final day charge by Sweden's Kenneth Eriksson, McRae and co-driver Derek Ringer finished this first round of the Asia-Pacific Championship with maximum points — more than two minutes ahead of the field.

It was an impressive win for the Scottish driver in this, his first attempt at the rally. Starting the day with a lead of almost 2 and a half minutes, the 27-year-old never looked like being beaten as he cruised

through the final nine stages. McRae refused to be intimidated by Eriksson's challenge, allowing him to close the gap while he concentrated on crossing the finishing line unscathed.

Any hope the Swede had of catching McRae evaporated in the 40 C heat when a problem with his front differential three stages from the end lost the Mitsubishi driver more than 30 seconds on the leader.

Mitsubishi's Makken, who finished third and fourth place later, both maintained their overnight positions, driving hard — without taking any unnecessary risks.

Local drivers had mixed fortunes during the final nine stages. Irvan Gadding, who started the day in ninth place, crashed out of the rally three stages from the end while Pratikto Singgih, was forced to retire with engine troubles just one stage later. Nevertheless, in an impressive show of home strength, four Indonesian drivers finished in the top ten slots, led by Hutomo MP in his Subaru impreza 555.

In just less than three weeks time the second round of the Asia-Pacific Championship gets under way in New Zealand. The three-day event kicks off in Auckland on 27th July.



Arantxa Sanchez Vicario (R) and partner Jana Novotna holds the trophy aloft after winning the women's doubles final at the Wimbledon Championships on July 9. — AFP/UNB photo

Martina's verbal volley

Jersey, on July 29. "Monica may say, 'forget it, I'm going to go in as a wild card and let's see where I come out,'" Navratilova said. "She may get fed up because basically there was an agreement in principle and (the players) took it back. So, I wouldn't blame her one bit if she said, 'Forget it, I'll do it my way. I won't need any special consideration because I'll be playing great tennis.'"

"And she will be playing great tennis. She was Number One, she's 22 years old. The talent doesn't go anywhere. Look at me, I'm 38, I'm still going."

Navratilova, who won a record nine Wimbledon singles titles and is only one Wimbledon title away from equalling Billie Jean King's record of 20 titles, paired with Jonathan Stark to take a 6-4, 6-4 victory in the mixed doubles final over fourth seeds Cyril Suk and Gigi Fernandez.

And despite her retirement from singles competition following the Virginia Slims final in November 1994, Navratilova left the door slightly open to become a solo act again in 1996.

Delighted with her performance during the mixed doubles, coach

Mike Estep suggested Navratilova rejoin the singles game next year.

Navratilova is dismayed that the top women in the game aren't putting out the welcome mat for Seles, who hasn't played since being stabbed at a tournament in Hamburg, Germany on April 30, 1993.

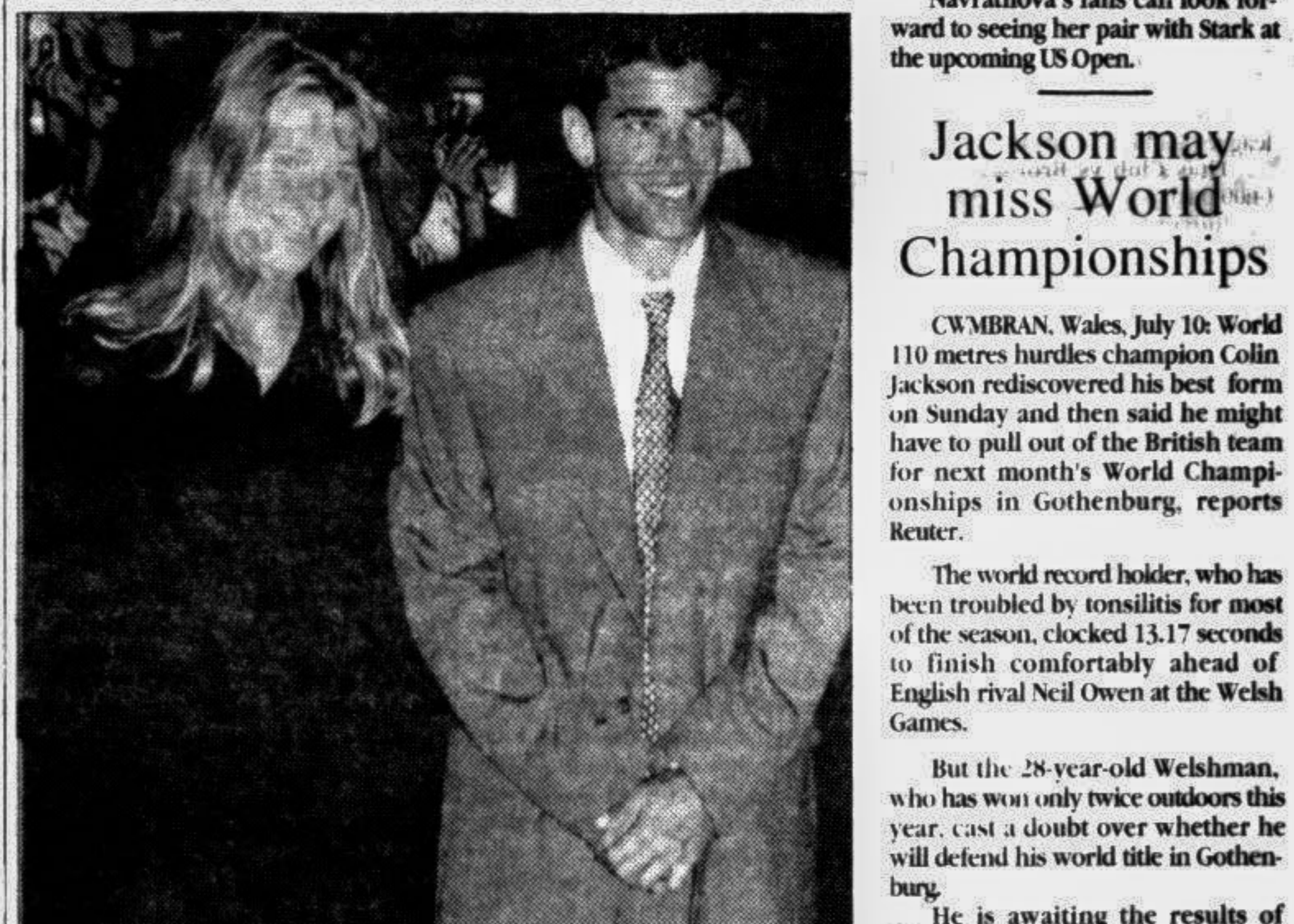
Navratilova initially believed the players would support a proposal to co-rank Seles at No 1 with Graf for six tournaments. That part was generally accepted, but the overall proposal was shot down by everyone, except Helena Sukova, when they couldn't agree on what divisor should be used to factor her results into the rankings.

Navratilova's proposal would have allowed Seles' ranking points to be divided by the number of tournament she played, rather than the minimum 14 over a year that will be used in 1996 for other players.

Among the most vocal in rejecting the proposal were Graf No 2 Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Gigi Fernandez, close friend of No 3 Conchita Martinez.

Navratilova was also supposed to play the women's doubles with Graf, who pulled out at the last moment while claiming her back and wrist hurt too much to play singles and doubles.

Navratilova's fans can look forward to seeing her pair with Stark at the upcoming US Open.



WIMBLEDON CHAMPIONS! Wimbledon's king and queen Pete Sampras and Steffi Graf arrive at the exclusive Savoy Hotel to attend the traditional championship ball in London on July 9. — AFP/UNB photo

Jackson may miss World Championships

CWMBRAN, Wales, July 10: World 110 metres hurdles champion Colin Jackson rediscovered his best form on Sunday and then said he might have to pull out of the British team for next month's World Championships in Gothenburg, reports Reuter.

The world record holder, who has been troubled by tonsillitis for most of the season, clocked 13.17 seconds to finish comfortably ahead of English rival Neil Owen at the Welsh Games.

But the 28-year-old Welshman, who has won only twice outdoors this year, cast a doubt over whether he will defend his world title in Gothenburg.

He is awaiting the results of blood tests following his recent illness and said: "I'm now off the antibiotics and I've got four or five races planned against some serious competition in the next couple of weeks."

"However, I've lost a lot of training time since coming back from Florida and in some ways I've had to go back to the drawing board."

"I'll make a decision on the World Championships when I go down to Monte Carlo for my final training camp. If I'm not happy with everything there then I might not defend my title."

Canada to host '97 Winter Games

NEW HAVEN, USA, July 10: The world's largest sports event this year, the Special Olympics World Games, ended Sunday with tributes to the courage of some 7,000 athletes, reports AP.

Timothy Shriver, the president of the organising committee, closed the Games at Yale Bowl. Then the Flame of Hope, which burned all week in New Haven, was extinguished. The flame will shine next for the 1997 Winter Games in Toronto and Collingwood, Ontario.

The Games drew athletes from more than 140 countries for nine days of competition in gymnastics, softball, soccer, swimming, sailing and many other sports.

Brian Holland, a 21-year-old speed skater from Winston-Salem, North Carolina, who earned two gold medals, said the Games were a good lesson for anyone.

"It can teach them to love each other and try to help other people out," he said.

The celebration included musical performances by the Pointer Sisters and the country group, the Moffatts.

Governor John Rowland announced the establishment of a Special Olympics Hall of Fame in New Haven. An elm tree will be planted in each town that played host to a for-

chief executive officer of Special Olympics International, said at the closing ceremonies a fund would be set up for Special Olympics athletes in Nepal in Mali's name. Then four military jets flew over the bowl in formation to salute Mali.

The disappearance of Mali and two other athletes will prompt a review of safety procedures. Special Olympics officials said a buddy or mentor system for the athletes may be instituted for the next competition.

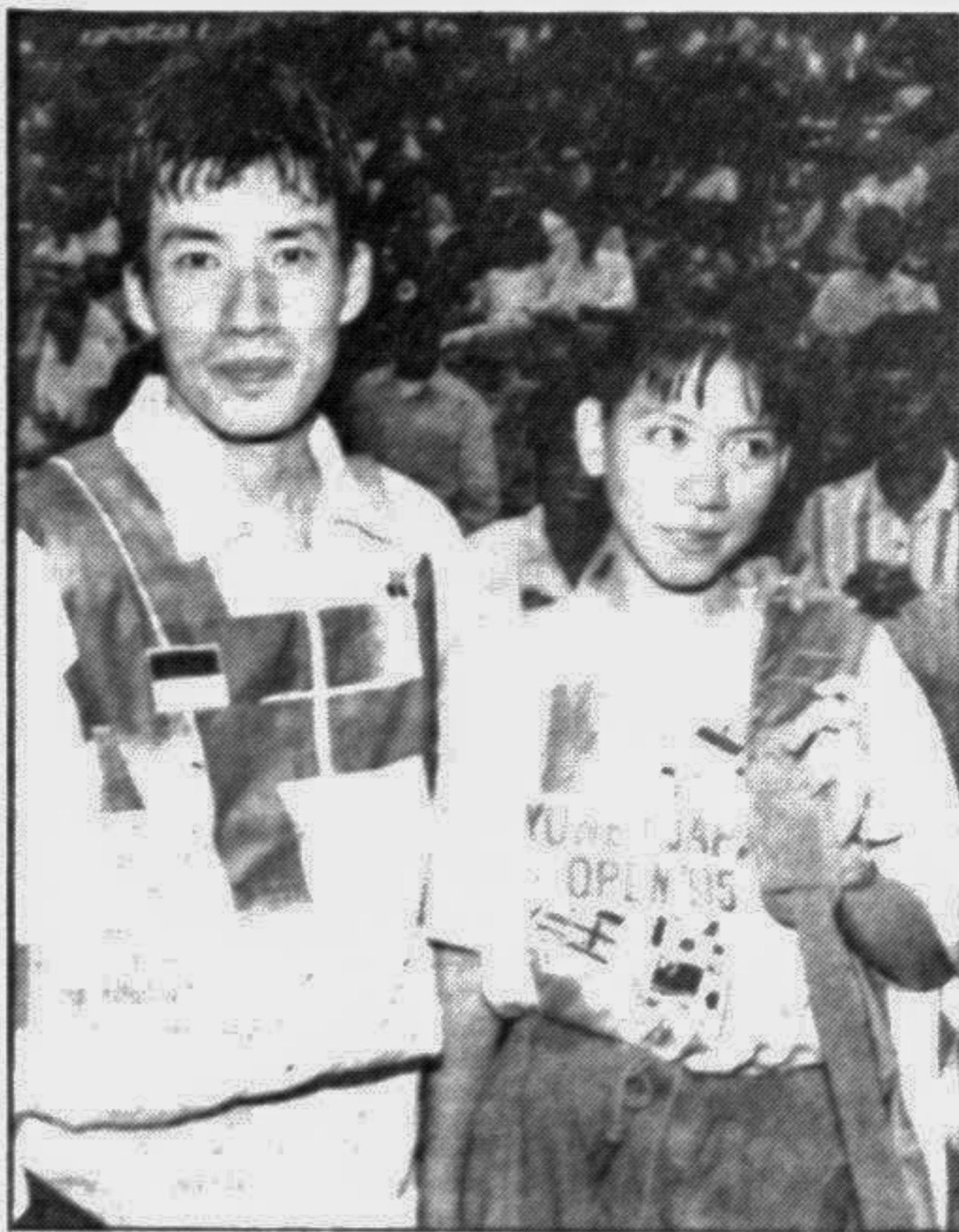
A bocce player from Bermuda was reported missing Tuesday but was found unharmed the following day. On Saturday, a Dominican basketball player vanished but officials believe he may be trying to establish US residency.

David Phelps, spokesman for Special Olympics International, said Sunday the player, Juan Carlos Balbuena, may have gone to New York to seek friends and family.

Phelps said Balbuena told teammates he might try to stay in the United States. Balbuena has an active visa, and therefore has done nothing illegal. Phelps said he did not know how long the visa is valid.

Overall, organisers and Olympians said they felt the Games helped change perceptions of the mentally retarded.

Sargent Shriver, chairman and



THE TRIUMPHANT LOVE-BIRDS: Celebrated Indonesian shuttlers Alan Budi Kusuma (L) and his girlfriend Susi Susanti repeat their Barcelona Olympics feat by winning the men and women's single titles at the Malaysian Open in Kuala Lumpur on July 9. — AFP/UNB photo