

# Graf departs, Seles sails

**TORONTO, Aug 16:** Monica Seles played her happiest 60 minutes of tennis in more than two years on Tuesday, beating American Kimberly Po 6-0, 6-3 to celebrate her return to tournament competition at the Canadian Open, reports Reuter.

The 21-year-old Seles' comeback from 28 months off the tour after being stabbed at a tournament in Hamburg was a smashing success as she blasted two-handed groundstrokes with pace and precision to outgun the 133rd-ranked Po.

But in another second-round match, her co-number one seed Steffi Graf was upset 6-3, 2-6, 6-7 (7-5) by South African Amanda Coetzer.

It was Graf's first loss in seven tournaments this year and ended a 32-match winning streak for the 26-year-old German.

Seles lapped up the fans' appreciation of her return. After belting a forehand winner on match point, she shook hands with Po, then ran over to embrace her parents seated in a court-side box. She then walked back out onto the court and spent two minutes waving to spectators who were on their feet applauding.

"For a long time everything was dark. Now I see the sun again," Seles said.

"I think I played pretty well," she said. "But all I could ever ask for is just to be out here playing again, so it's great."

Even though it took Po 38 minutes to finally win a game — at 6-0, 2-0 — the match was fairly competitive, with nine of the 15 games going to deuce. But Seles was able to hold off Po when she closed to 3-4 in the second set.

Seles was to go back on court to play 17th-ranked Frenchwoman Nathalie Tauziat less than 18 hours after beating Po.

"It should be a tough

match so I'll have to be ready," Seles said, contrasting it with her exhibition with Martina Navratilova on July 29. "It's not like when I played Martina when I slept for a day and a half afterward."

Giggling, she added: "I can't do that."

Po said she enjoyed playing before the enthusiastic Centre Court crowd of 8,206 and noted: "Monica hit deep and with great angles. I thought she played really well."

To a suggestion that Seles was not moving as well as she used to, Po replied: "Maybe

netted a backhand. In the tiebreak, Graf made two unforced forehand errors and double faulted to trail 0-3.

Down triple match point at 3-6, she rallied to 6-all but then a lame backhand service return into the net and a forehand drive into the alley allowed Coetzer to record her first victory in seven matches with Graf.

"This is without a doubt the best win of my career," said Coetzer, who said she has been helped by new coach Gavin Hopper of Australia.

"I just made too many mistakes," said Graf, who was playing her first tournament since winning Wimbledon on July 8.

Graf said she had been able to practice for only nine or 10 days before the tournament and recently had been unable to train at all for five or six days because of her recurring back problems.

"I can't expect not to practice and get into tournaments and win. That's not something I believe in."

Graf said the spotlight of Seles' return had not contributed to her downfall. "Not at all," Graf said. "All the attention was on her so it made it even easier on me."

Graf said she had spoken briefly with the former Yugoslav, now a US citizen.

"I just said hello and told her it was good to see her back. I wished her good luck," said Graf.

Graf was playing in her first tournament since her father's arrest in a tax evasion probe, a front-page story in Germany.

Graf denied that had anything to do with her loss, but at the end of the English-language news conference, when a German reporter asked a question, she walked out without acknowledging him.

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STEFFI GRAF

she seemed a little slow a couple of times when I wrongfooted her. But I've only played her once before. Maybe if Steffi played her..."

Graf and Coetzer played in very high humidity and an on-court temperature of 45 degrees Celsius (113 Fahrenheit). The conditions were extreme enough to qualify for a 10-minute break which Coetzer requested at the end of the second set.

The third set was a seesaw affair in which Graf trailed 2-3 but then led 4-3, 40-15 before Coetzer drew level at 4-4.

Graf eventually served for the match up 6-5 in the final set. But at 30-all Coetzer blasted a screaming forehand service return winner, then won the game when Graf

good game when I served for the match and I paid the price for that," Courier said. "I just didn't take advantage of my chances, and I had some."

Courier never got into the tiebreaker against the left-handed Golmard, losing the first six points.

"I just played a bad breaker," Courier said. "He didn't have to do anything. I just made mistakes."

Sampras, who visibly faded from the heat to Michael Stich of Germany at last week's ATP Championship, said that although it was still humid Tuesday evening, he was in much better shape this week.

"I've learned to deal with the heat the hard way in Cincinnati," Sampras said. "This summer has been excruciating. It felt good to play at night. It's still humid, so I was sweating quite a bit."

Sampras never offered the 81st-ranked Spadea a chance to break his serve. Sampras capitalised on two of three service break opportunities — in the 11th game of the first set and the ninth game of the second set.

All top eight seeds received first-round byes.

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END OF EXILE: Former world number one Monica Seles waves and sings towards her fans while receiving a standing ovation after winning her comeback-match to the professional circuit against Kimberly Po of the United States at the Canadian Open in Toronto on Aug. 15. The Yugoslav-turned-American, currently co-number one with Germany's Steffi Graf, beat Po in straight sets 6-0, 6-3. — AFP/UNB photo

## US Open on Star TV

DATE	BST	ROUND	COVERAGE
Aug 28	9 pm	1st Round	Day Session
Aug 29	5:30 am	1st Round	Night Session
Aug 29	9 pm	1st Round	Day Session
Aug 30	5:30 am	1st Round	Night Session
Aug 30	9 pm	1st Round	Day Session
Aug 31	5:30 am	1st Round	Night Session
Aug 31	9 pm	2nd Round	Day Session
Sept 1	5:30 am	2nd Round	Night Session
Sept 1	9 pm	2nd Round	Day Session
Sept 2	5:30 am	2nd Round	Night Session
Sept 2	9 pm	3rd Round	Day Session
Sept 3	5:30 am	3rd Round	Night Session
Sept 3	9 pm	4th Round	Day Session
Sept 4	5:30 am	4th Round	Night Session
Sept 4	9 pm	4th Round	Day Session
Sept 5	5:30 am	4th Round	Night Session
Sept 5	9 pm	Ladies Quarter-finals	Day Session
Sept 6	5:30 am	Ladies Quarter-finals	Night Session
Sept 6	9 pm	Quarter-finals	Day Session
Sept 7	5:30 am	Quarter-finals	Night Session
Sept 7	9 pm	Men's Quarter-finals	Day Session
Sept 8	5:30 am	Men's Quarter-finals	Night Session
Sept 8	9 pm	Ladies Semi-finals	Day Session
Sept 9	9 pm	Men's semi-finals & Women's Final	Day Session
Sept 10	2 am	Men's Final	Day Session

### Big blasters blaze

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut, Aug 16: Fourth-seeded Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia and eighth seed Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands scored 49-minute routs on Tuesday to reach the third round of the 1.4 million dollars Volvo International, reports Reuter.

Kafelnikov slammed his groundstrokes with power and accuracy in a 6-1, 6-2 conquest of Germany's Marc Goellner in a second-round match.

Goellner had extended Kafelnikov to a long three-setter when they met in the quarter-finals here last year.

Krajicek is known for his blistering service but the tall Dutchman didn't really need his biggest weapon to get by ailing veteran American player Derrick Rostagno 6-2, 6-2.

Other seeds advancing to the second round were 11th seed Arnaud Boetsch of France, 13th seed Jan Stomerink of the Netherlands, 14th seed Marcelo Rios of Chile, 15th seed Patrick Rafter of Australia and 16th-seeded American Patrick McEnroe.

Boetsch was a 6-3, 6-2 victory over Stefano Pescosolido of Italy.

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### Fire scare at World Student Games

FUKUOKA, Japan, Aug 16: A small fire broke out at the press centre of the World Student Games here today casting a minor shadow over the opening ceremony of the Athletes' Village built for the Games an official said, reports AFP.

The fire broke out shortly after noon at a 250-seat hall of the press centre in the southwestern Japanese city, though his defence blamed high blood pressure.

Some 320 people, including 80 athletes from Canada and Mexico, had been in the press centre when it occurred, but nobody was injured. "The fire department is investigating the cause of the fire now," an official said.

National flags were put up following the opening ceremony at the village, where some 6,000 athletes and officials from 161 countries and regions are expected to arrive for the 12-day competition which will start in a week.

The British team, which arrived in Fukuoka Tuesday, became the first delegation to enter the village.

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# A super Saturday night

LAS VEGAS, USA, Aug 16: With 13 cameras, a boxful of technological toys and a host of ringside celebrities, television producers promise Mike Tyson's comeback fight against Peter McNeeley will be a good show — no matter what happens in the ring, reports AFP.

"The telecast is far and away the most ambitious ever," said executive producer Jay Larkin.

Showtime will produce the fight for its pay-per-view channel of Showtime Entertainment Television network. In the States, the broadcast is being sold for up to 50 dollars per household.

Even at that rate, network officials are cautiously optimistic that they will sell to about one million homes. But traditionally 90 per cent of boxing pay-per-view orders are placed on the day of event, so no one will know until Saturday just how well Tyson's first fight in nearly four years will sell.

"It will be tough to know exactly," said executive vice president and general manager McAdory Lipscomb.

"We're looking for a million homes, maybe slightly more. There's a chance it could become an all-timer, but it's still a little too early to tell."

The current record holder is rival TVKO's telecast of George Foreman-Evander Holyfield in 1991, which was bought by 1.36 million homes and grossed 48.9 million dollars.

Tyson, the former undisputed world heavyweight champion fighting for the first time since he served a three-year prison sentence for rape, is the prohibitive favourite to beat McNeeley, a 26-year-old Bostonian whose record of 36-1, with 30 knockouts, does not include any name opponents.

Showtime is making every effort to insure that the likely one-sided bout will not be a

bore. "We're certainly not going to shortchange the public on this one," Larkin said. "Whatever toy or innovation we've got, we'll use. There will be lots of bells and whistles."

"We're also promising a very new and exciting entrance for Mike Tyson," he added, although he was coy about the details. "This entrance will be used only once, for Tyson, because the public hasn't seen him in four

years."

Among the innovations in store for US viewers is the first ever use in boxing of the telestrator — the on-screen illustrating device beloved of gridiron commentators.

Four other World Championship fights bolster the card. Bruce Seldon defends his World Boxing Association heavyweight crown against native American Joe Hipp.

World Boxing Council middleweight champion Julian Jackson meets Quincy Taylor and Mexico's Miguel Angel Gonzalez defends his World Boxing Council Lightweight crown against Lamar Murphy.

Earlier in the day, World Boxing Council super welterweight champion Luis



MIKE TYSON

Santana defends his title against Terry Norris in a bout that will be shown on tape delay on overseas broadcasts.

As of Tuesday, the fight was scheduled to be beamed to some 71 countries, including China.

Returning home late on Tuesday to sharp criticism of the team's overall performance from respected former chief coach Mike Kosgel and Nairobi-based newspapers, Muchoki conceded:

"The mood is unhappy. The team ... could have done better."

Kenya won only two titles at the championships, Moses Kiptanui in the 3,000 metres steeplechase and Ismael Kirui in the 5,000 metres.

Muchoki mentioned dampened spirits stemming from technical problems, but did not elaborate. He also cited "management problems," for Kenya's poor performance.

Kosgel, sacked in May for criticising Kenya's track body, has blamed Muchoki and his colleagues for failure.

Muchoki would not say whether he would resign.

The East African nation with a great history of middle distance stardom placed no one in the finals of the men's 800 and 1,500 metres, had no medal placing in the marathon, and managed only third place in the 10,000.

Kenyan women, who have in recent times dominated world cross country running and won some international marathons, had only a bronze medal from Tecla Lorupe in the 10,000.

# Touretski the terrible

SYDNEY, Aug 16: Australian Institute of Sport head swimming coach, Russian Gennadi Touretski, was suspended today after being convicted of assault during a flight across the Pacific, reports AFP.

Touretski was fined 10,000 US dollars last week and sentenced in Honolulu to 30 days in jail after pleading guilty to four assault charges.

The 46-year-old former Russian Olympic team coach, who came to Canberra two years ago, admitted poking a fellow passenger in the eye, jumping on another passenger, shoving a flight attendant and biting the forearm of the first officer.

The prosecution alleged Touretski was drunk when he disrupted the United Airlines flight from Sydney to Los Angeles last week, though his defence blamed high blood pressure.

He is due to begin serving his jail sentence in Honolulu

on October 10 and is now back in Canberra, but was not available for comment today.

Australian Sports Commission (ASC) executive director Jim Ferguson said Touretski, had been suspended by the ASC board with full pay pending talks on his future.

Ferguson said the ASC would conduct an urgent investigation into the Touretski case, adding: "No further discussion will be made until the completion of the investigation."

During his court appearance, a lawyer representing Touretski said he suffered from high blood pressure, develops circulatory problems and gets dizzy when he stands up after sitting too long.

Under a plea agreement with prosecutors, Touretski pleaded guilty to four counts of misdemeanour assault.

Ferguson suggested last weekend that Touretski may have reacted badly to some sleeping tablets he had been prescribed.

# All-Africa Games at stake

HARARE, Aug 16: With barely a month to go before Zimbabwe hosts the All-Africa Games, the continent's premier sporting event, organisers are battling to overcome severe funding problems, reports Reuter.

Officials are publicly optimistic that preparations will be complete before 6,000 competitors and officials from 42 African countries arrive, but in private many are dismayed at government de-

lays in providing cash.

Organising committee chairman Tommy Sithole told a news conference on Tuesday night that despite "some problems" the Games would go ahead on time.

"The truth is that there has not been enough money allocated by government. When we started preparing we knew that there was not going to be enough money coming," he said.

The committee says President Robert Mugabe's cash-strapped government has spent over 200 million dollars (23.3 million US dollars) on facilities and an unspecified amount on preparations.

In Zimbabwe's 1995-96 national budget announced last month, the government set aside 6 million dollars for the National Sports Commission, tasked with overseeing the September 13-23 Games. But the vote has still to go through parliamentary procedures before the money is handed over.

"There is need for government to quickly disburse the funds which they have set aside for the Games," said Macloud Chaora, the Games' general manager.

"Time is running out and provision of funds is late. If the money is released now, something can be done to salvage the situation."

Organisers have already cancelled some shooting events because the organising committee failed to raise the 350,000 dollars needed for ammunition, targets and building a storeroom. Officials expect further cancellations.

The likelihood of his dismissal followed criticism of his behaviour this week by Sports Minister John Faulkner.

"For my own part, and I'm sure I speak for every Australian, that sort of behaviour is just totally unacceptable," Faulkner said.

As Russian Olympic coach Touretski guided Alexander Popov to Olympic and World Sprint Championships.

The Touretski incident was another blow for the ASC and the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS), which has already hit the headlines over its female gymnastics programme and controversy within Australian rowing.

The AIS has also been without a director since February when Robert de Castella, now a member of the ASC board, stepped down after five years in the job.

International Rowing Federation chief executive John Boulbee will arrive next month to take over the vacant AIS director's position.

Work on the volleyball venue and refurbishment of the football stadium in Harare have yet to begin.

Toilet facilities at several venues are totally inadequate, as are medical facilities — no physiotherapy equipment, no standby ambulances and only rudimentary first aid at the 18 Games venues in the capital Harare, Chitungwiza and Bulawayo.

The Games' medical committee asked for 550,000 dollars. It got only 70,000 dollars.

Zimbabwean athletes have also been hit by the cash drought, "the biggest headache we have at the moment is the lack of funds to have the team adequately prepared. Time is not on our side," team Manager Edgar Rodgers said.

"I will be the last person to say we have no problems but it is also important to note that we are doing everything in our power to solve these problems," said