

Column One

Sports

WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN

Rules of the Sports WHIZZ KID competition

1. The Sports WHIZZ KID Competition is a property of The Daily Star.

2. The Competition is open only to school-going children.

3. Participants should send only Sports WHIZZ KID Competition Form printed in The Daily Star. No photo copies or any other duplication of the form shall be accepted.

4. Entries should be posted or hand-delivered to Sports WHIZZ KID Competition, The Daily Star, House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhamondi R/A, Dhaka 1205.

5. No other contact should be made with The Daily Star regarding the matter.

6. Results shall be published in The Daily Star the following Saturday after closing.

7. The first five correct entries drawn shall be declared as the Sports WHIZZ KIDS of the week.

8. Sports WHIZZ KIDS shall collect from The Daily Star prize books worth Tk. 200 on presenting an identification letter from their respective Heads of the school.

9. The decision of The Daily Star management shall be final and binding regarding any matter with respect to the Sports WHIZZ KID Competition.

Seles to face Huber in qtrs



TORONTO, Aug 18: After all the fuss about where to seed Monica Seles upon her return to tennis, it turns out her two main rivals have been eliminated before the quarter final stage of her first tournament back, reports Reuter.

Third seed Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario was beaten 7-5, 6-4 by Czech Helena Sukova in the third round on Thursday, two days after Seles' co-number one seed, Steffi Graf, lost in the second round to South African Amanda Coetzer.

Sukova next meets sixth-seeded Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina, a 6-0, 6-1 winner over unseeded Yone Kamio of Japan.

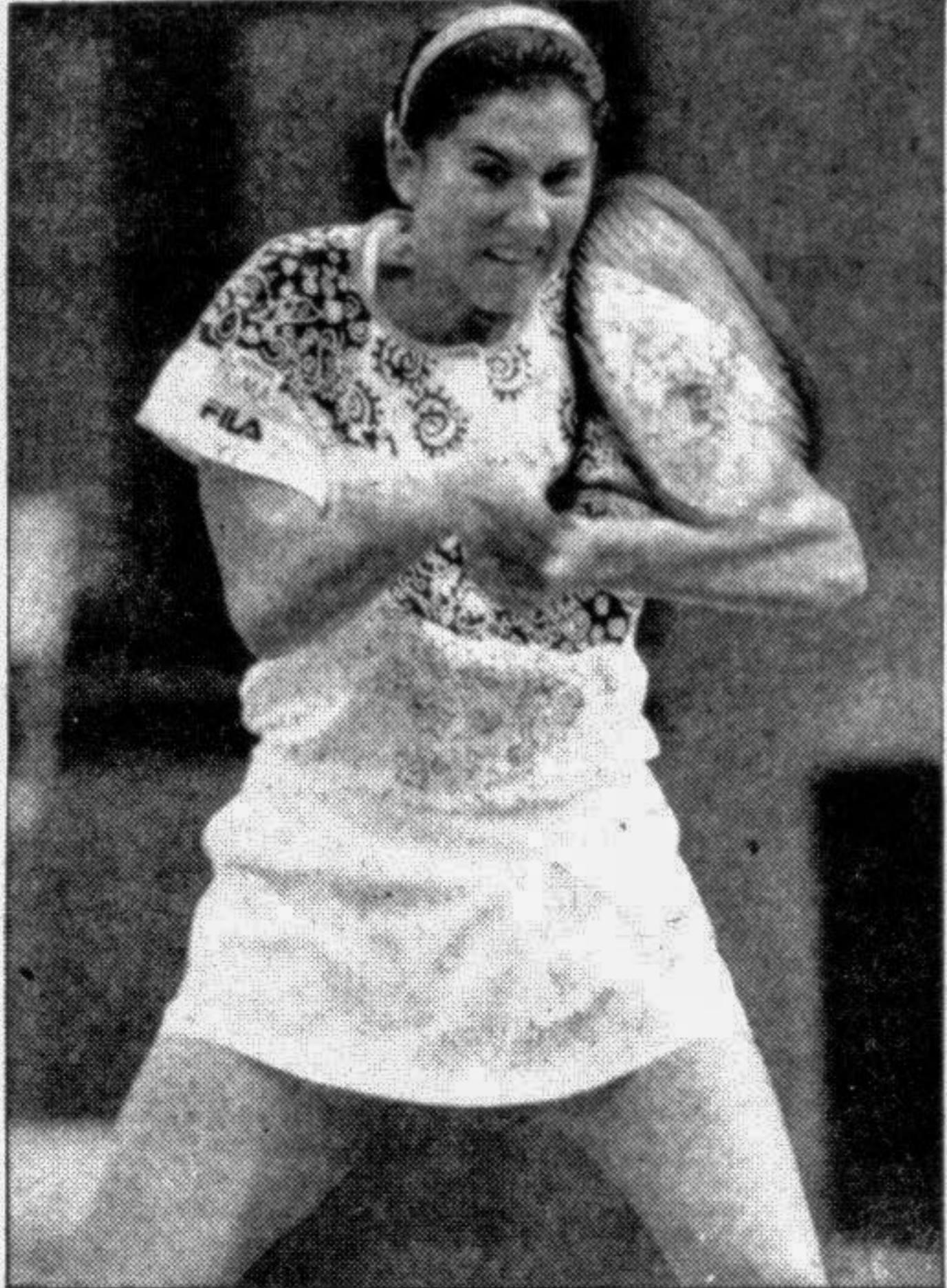
Another one-sided third-round result was the 42-minute, 6-0, 6-0 victory of fifth seed Mary Pierce of France over 14th-seeded, 14-year-old Martina Hingis of Switzerland.

But German Anke Huber, the seventh seed, had a much more difficult time, needing an hour and 45 minutes to overcome 16th-seeded Irina Spirleva of Romania 1-6, 6-3, 7-5.

Huber now plays Seles in the quarter-finals of the 806, 250 dollar event.

Although Sanchez-Vicario saved three match points trailing 5-7, 1-5 against Sukova to make the scoreline appear a little more competitive, she never really looked like a winner against the 30-year-old Czech.

Seles next meets sixth-seeded Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina, a 6-0, 6-1 winner over unseeded Yone Kamio of Japan.



SELES... confident comeback

Sampras, Ivanisevic sail



INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana, Aug 18: Top seed Pete Sampras had some problems with his serve, his return of serve and the brand of balls being used, but still managed a straight-set victory at the 1.04 million dollars RCA Championships on Thursday, reports Reuter.

The second-ranked Sampras defeated 68th-ranked Jan Apell of Sweden 6-3, 6-4 in a one hour, six-minute match to move into the quarterfinals.

In another third-round match, second-seeded, seventh-ranked Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia needed one hour 54 minutes to outlast 15th-seeded Brett Steven of new Zealand 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.

Friday's quarterfinals Sampras against eighth seed Andrei Medvedev of Ukraine, Ivanisevic against seventh seed Alberto Berasategui of Spain, fourth seed Thomas Enqvist of Sweden against 131st-ranked Jerome Goldmark of France and 12th seed Bernd Karchbacher of Germany against 47th-ranked American Richey Reneberg.

Sampras broke Apell's serve in the fourth game of the first set and the seventh

game of the second set and saved both break points he offered the Swede, in his first two service games of the match.

"He had breakpoints in the first two service games," Sampras said. "I was just a little bit off my serve and he was returning quite well. When I started mixing up my serve a little bit more, kind of hitting all the corners."

Sampras also had difficulty with his return of serves. He won only 29 per cent of his return points on Apell's first serve and 43 per cent of his return points on Apell's second serve.

Sampras, like many of the players here, is having problems with the Wilson balls, which are the balls that will be in use at the US Open starting later this month.

"The truth of the matter is it's a shame that they are pretty bad," Sampras said. "These balls are way too hard for professional tennis. These balls are just going through the air too fast. These balls are like rocks, like playing with little golf balls."

Ivanisevic used 19 aces to work his way through the three-set match with the 37th-ranked Steven and reach his 10th quarterfinal of

the year.

"I played very good tennis when I needed to and it was a very good match," Ivanisevic said. "I think everything is working fine."

ACOG plans to prevent troublemakers

ATLANTA, Aug 18: Olympic officials plan more controls on foreign athletes during next Summer's Games to prevent such after-hours activities as the shoplifting that occurred during pre-Olympic events here this month, reports AP.

Athletes will be far outnumbered by staff and security officials next year, said Bill Rathburn, security director for the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games.

"There will be a lot more control exercised on the individual teams."

But if any foreign athletes do get into trouble during the Games, it is ACOG's responsibility to become a local advocate, Rathburn said.

Rathburn helped secure the release of two Armenian wrestlers, who later failed to appear in court on their felony charges of shoplifting at Rich's department store at Lenox Square. The two have returned to Armenia.

ACOG also interceded for an Iranian national accused of shoplifting at the downtown Macy's department store. The store declined to prosecute after meeting with ACOG and Iranian team officials.

"One of our people asked Macy's if they really wanted to prosecute, being these are visitors in our country," Rathburn said. He added that ACOG did not interfere with the normal process and agrees that athletes shouldn't be given special treatment.

But some police and retail officials said the mere presence of representatives of the Olympic committee could sway decisions.

"We think it's wrong," said Bill McBrayer, president of the Georgia Retail Association. "They attempted to steal and should be punished. They shouldn't get favorable treatment because they are from another country."

Municipal Judge Roy Roberts, of Alpharetta, said some accommodations should be made for visiting foreigners. Roberts ordered two other Armenian athletes caught shoplifting at North Point Mall to write letters of apology in lieu of stricter punishment.

"Hopefully, we'll be able to sanction them in a way that lets them know the conduct is truly unacceptable but doesn't punish them as to be unreasonable," Roberts said.

Mary Pierce of France is in action against Swiss Martina Hingis during their third round clash in the Canadian Open in Toronto on August 17. Pierce tore Hingis apart 6-0, 6-0. — AFP/UNB photo

Sport

Tragic!

TORONTO, Aug 18: Marsha Ottey, cousin of heralded sprinter Merlene Ottey, was shot to death along with her sister, Toronto police said Thursday, reports AP.

The bodies of Marsha Ottey, 19, and her sister Tammy, 16, were found Wednesday in the basement of their mother's home. The 5-foot-4 (1.6 metres), 107-pound (48-kilogram) Ottey competed four years at Agincourt Collegiate Institute in Toronto, where she was an mainstay of the school's 400- and 1,600-meter relay teams. She had planned to attend Arkansas State on a track scholarship.

"The mother lived for the children," said Denise London, a family friend. She described Marsha Ottey as "very shy, quiet, but she was very lovely when you talked to her."

Rev. Hubert Schwartz, pastor at the Armadale Free Methodist Church, was called to the scene to comfort the mother.

"We've been very proud of the daughters, the mother, their accomplishments," Schwartz said.

Arkansas State track coach Jay Flanagan said from Jonesboro, Arkansas that Ottey's death was a "tremendous shock to our programme. She is someone we could help us fill a void and she was one of our top recruits. It is a sad commentary on the times we live in. Something like this really touches you."

"When she was here for her visit, she seemed so well-adjusted, likable and a very nice young lady. It is so tragic to lose someone like that."

US nat'l gymnastics

Roethlisberger wins all-round titles

NEW ORLEANS, Aug 18: John Roethlisberger won the US National Gymnastics Championships all-round title Thursday night becoming the first gymnast in 28 years to win four titles, reports AP.

"I feel really lucky," Roethlisberger said. "In a sport like gymnastics, you work your butt off, and I've worked real hard, but it always takes a little bit of luck, and I've had some over the years."

Roethlisberger, 25, of Minneapolis, was in first place at the end of the compulsories with a score of 68.28, and maintained his lead throughout the options. He finished with 113.42 points.

Consistency was the key to his success, Roethlisberger said. "Hitting sets is the most important thing out there. If you don't hit your sets you're not going to win."

Mihai Bagiu, 24, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, performing injury-free for the first time in over a year, was second with 110.56.

Athletes will be far outnumbered by staff and security officials next year, said Bill Rathburn, security director for the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games.

"There will be a lot more control exercised on the individual teams."

But if any foreign athletes do get into trouble during the Games, it is ACOG's responsibility to become a local advocate, Rathburn said.

The top 14 senior men quality for the world team trials Sept 8-9 in Austin, Texas. Their scores in the nationals count as 40 per cent of their world team trials all-round score.



Vassili Koulkov (R) of Russia is being intercepted by Finland's Ari Hjelm during their European Championships qualifying encounter at Helsinki on August 16. Russia thrashed Finland 6-0. — AFP/UNB photo

Brazilian championship kicks-off today

Tulio Botafogo's big-head

Botafogo start off away to 1993 finalists Vitoria on Saturday and will be below strength as some first choice players are still negotiating new contracts. Several clubs face the same problem, common in Brazil due to the huge turnover of players.

Botafogo will at least be grateful to have held onto their top player. Their opponents are one of several sides to have lost theirs, full-back Rodrigo having moved to German club Bayer Leverkusen.

Corinthians, who won the Sao Paulo championship 10 days ago and figure among the favourites, have sold striker viola — famous both for scoring goals and then inventing choreographed celebrations to follow them — to Spanish club Valencia.

Other favourites to win the 20-team tournament include Flamengo from Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo and Gremio.

Becker, Agassi march on



NEW HAVEN, Connecticut, Aug 18: Defending champion Boris Becker, down one set

and behind 4-2, in the second, rallied to beat Patrick McEnroe 3-6, 7-6 (7-2), 6-4 on Thursday in the round of 16 of the Volvo International tennis tournament, reports Reuter.

Top-seeded Andre Agassi, looking very comfortable on the Connecticut Tennis Centre Hardcourts, had no problem pounding 15th-seeded Australian Patrick Rafter into submission, 6-2, 6-4.

Becker survived in a two-hour 16 minute struggle.

"You know a guy like him... you've got to put him away and I just couldn't do that," lamented McEnroe. "There's a reason why he's number four in the world."

"I was wondering what's going on here? I'm the better player and I'm losing," said Becker, the second seed.

"Fortunately, I was able to raise my game, but I had to fight for my life out there to day."

Becker, who had several chances to break McEnroe earlier, finally capitalised in the eighth game to even the second set at 4-4. When it went to a tiebreaker, the

Kafelnikov will be matched against surprise quarter finalist Albert Chang of Canada. Chang, who had to qualify to make the main draw, bounced 11th-seeded Arnaud Boetsch of France, 7-5, 6-2.

In the previous round, Chang battled fifth-seeded Michael Stich of Germany to one set apiece, then took the match when Stich was forced to retire with a pulled stomach muscle.

Seventh-seeded Sergi Bruguera of Spain was forced to come from behind before getting past another qualifier, Wayne Black of Zimbabwe. Bruguera, who is tougher on the slower surfaces, eventually outlasted Black 2-6, 6-3, 7-5.

In a nearly three-hour-long duel of unseeded players, former world number one and seven-time Grand Slam titlist Mats Wilander of Sweden edged Kenneth Carlsen of Denmark, 6-7, (8-6), 6-3, 7-6 (7-2).

Carlsen, who had upset third-seeded American Michael Chang in the second round, came from 5-0 behind in the first-set tiebreaker to take the set.

Also advancing was sixth-seeded Marc Rosset of Switzerland a 7-4, 6-3 victory over Nicolas Pereira of Venezuela.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

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8 Mut's pal
12 Frankenstein's workshop
13 Rajasthan
14 Squashed circle
15 Purple quartz
17 Green Hor... net's ally
18 Character
19 Tina's ex
21 Setting of many jokes
22 Transparent gem
26 'The Crucible' locale
29 Height of fashion
30 Beams or Fortas
31 Shades
33 Forehead
34 "You — There"
35 Office

36 Matadors' wounds
37 Deep red gem
39 Bill's partner
40 Weapon of terrorism
41 Off
45 Celebrity
48 Blue stone wrap
50 "How clumsy is me!"
51 Captain Hook's henchman
52 Cause of princess's insomnia
53 It's decorated at Christmas
54 Actor
55 Corn spike

56 Custardlike dessert
57 Tibetan
58 Help a hood
59 Rajasthani
60 Squashed
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89 Forehead
90 "You — There"
91 Office

Down

16 Hollow cylinders
20 Kipling lad
24 Wind instrument
25 Information
26 Carpet style
27 Emanation
28 Groucho-esque countenance
29 Whammy
32 Piano Lesson
33 "Piano Lesson" painter
34 Zsa Zsa's sis
35 Tasseled topper
36 Unquestionable text
38 Soap opera extra, often
39 Prank
42 Mellow
43 Vicinity
44 2001, e.g.
45 Drunkard's "High —"
46 Anderson's "High —"
47 Gorilla
48 "I — lineman..."

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