champions also flexed their

Grand Slam muscles on the

this year's Wimbledon run-

ner-up and the 1989 Open

champion, overwhelmed

Spaniard Alex Lopez Mornon

much of a sweat," admitted

minutes, which is very, very

short for a best-of-five hard-

here for the first time since

1984, opened the tourna-

ment on Stadium Court with

a 6-0, 6-3, 7-6 victory over

1992 champion whose rank-

ing has slipped to 19th in the

world, moved past John

McEnroe into third place on

the Open-era Grand Slam

Victory list with his 168th

career win in a major tour-

seeded player early on

Monday when 10th-seeded

South African Wayne Ferreira

was ambushed by Jerome

Golmard of France, who be-

came only the 10th qualifier

to pick off a men's seed in

dev, seeded 16th, advance

with a four-set victory and

the Open's marathon man,

Aaron Krickstein, rode one of

his patented five-set wins

stein outlasted Lionel Roux of

France 3-6, 6-3, 6-1, 3-6, 6-

4 to raise his US Open

record in five-set matches to

9-2 and his career record in

ment of the day came when

Japan's Shuzo Matsuoka de-

faulted to Petr Korda in the

fourth set after winning the

second-set and third-set

inspired Wimbledon before

losing to Pete Sampras in the

quarters, clutched his left leg

and collapsed as if he'd been

thighs after he won the first

point while serving at 5-6 in

rules to the letter, stopped

medical aides from coming to

Matsuoka's assistance.

Cramps, unlike injuries, can-

not be treated during play.

Matsukoa lay motionless on

the court for nearly five min-

utes as the umpire gave him

in succession a time warning.

a point penalty and, finally, a

unaware of the rules, booed

the umpire for what seemed

like callousness in letting

Matsuoka lie there for so long

without help. The umpire

never even left his chair to

see whether Matsuoka actu-

Sampras set for afternoon

matches on the Stadium

The fans, most of them

The umpire, following the

shot as cramps bulged his

Matsuoka, who played an

The most dramatic mo-

The 45th-ranked Krick-

into the second round.

five-setters to 28-7.

tiebreakers.

the fourth set

disqualification.

Ukrainian Andrei Medve-

US Open history.

The men lost their first

Edberg, the 1991 and

Czech Martin Damm.

"I didn't really break

"I played an hour and 20

Stefan Edberg, unseeded

Fourth seed Boris Becker.

opening day.

6-1, 6-0, 6-3.

court match."

Becker.

nament.



Goran Ivanisevic's run of bad luck at the Grand Slam circuit has continued as the tall Croat

sprained his ankle in the third set after winning the first two at the US Open tennis championships on Monday, report agencies.

The sixth-seeded hardhitting player, who was upset in the second round two years ago and the first last year, was three games from a straight-set win in the closing night match on Stadium Court when disaster struck.

At . 3-3 in the third set, Ivanisevic was chasing a ball across the baseline when he badly twisted his left ankle and fell to the ground writhing in pain.

After a few minutes of apparent agony, the trainer helped him off the court and taped the ankle.

The Croatian ace master gamely tried to play on, but after dropping the set 6-3 and falling behind 3-1 in the fourth, he retired, leaving New Zealander Brett Steven a surprise 4-6, 2-6, 6-3, 6-1 winner.

Meanwhile, the grunt and the giggle are back as a nervous Monica Seles returned to the Grand Slam stage with a 6-3, 6-1 victory over firstround victim Ruxandra Dragomir of Romania.

With the possible exception of an Andre Agassi-Pete Sampras men's final, Seles' opener was the most eagerly anticipated match of the 1995 US Open.

The Louis Armstrong Stadium was unusually crowded for an early-round night match and a huge number of photographers awaited her entrance on the Centre Court.

Then she opened her first Grand Slam match since the 1993 Australian Open final, her first game at a major since being stabbed in the back in Hamburg 28 months ago — with a double fault.

"The whole match I was very nervous. I kept saying, relax Monica, you're so tight," said the 21-year-old superstar, who giggled for way through her post-match interview after looking very serious on court. "My god. was just so stiff.

"She tried to slow me down so much and my adrenalien was going so fast, had too much energy in me." Seles said.

The last time Seles played on this court, in September of 1992, she won her second successive US Open title.

It was a long, hard road back for Seles, whose physical injuries healed long before the emotional scars of her Hamburg trauma.

"I was just so happy to be playing. For a long time I dreamed of this.

"After hitting for five, ten minutes all the memories started coming back, where my father and mom sat. where I held the trophy," she reminisced.

Seles a naturalised American, followed her dou-

Soccer fan

dead

youth injured in a riot follow-

ing a soccer game nine days

ago died of his injuries on

Monday, TV Globo reported.

was beaten in a soccer riot

that broke out following the

Palmeiras-Sao Paulo game at

Sao Paulo's Pacaembu Sta-

on Silva's head, and as the

stunned fan moved away from

rioters, he hit his head on a

metal pole in the stadium.

A wooden pole was broken

Marcio Gasparini Silva. 16.

reports Reuter.

dium on August 20.

SAO PAULO. Aug 29: A

ble fault by taking the next four points, winning her first game and receiving warm applause from the welcoming crowd.

Her play was erratic — she would follow a couple of overpowering strokes down the line by pushing a shot wide or showing some slug-

be more back to that real competitiveness, trying to get back to (where I was) before all this happened."

"It is good to see her back," declared ninth-seeded 1990 Open champion Gabriela Sabatini, who earlier crushed Italian Adriana Serra-Zanetti 6-1, 6-1 in just



Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina returns a forehand against her first round opponent Italy's Adriana Serra-Zanetti at the US Open in Flushing Meadows, New York on Aug 28. Sabatini cakewalked 6-1, 6-1. — AFP/UNB photo

gish footwork.

But Seles never lost the handle on the match or seemed frustrated by a bad

"I just went out there to play," she said, "no plan or nothing. Still, Dragomir, who had

was fairly impressed by the co-world number one. "She was playing some unbelievable shots so I didn't have any chance," said the

never played Seles before.

Romanian. "It's very good for women's tennis that she came back, but it was bad for

After ending her 56minute match, the secondseeded Seles' face lit up as she waved to the appreciative crowd, then ran across the court to embrace her father.

She then returned to sign autographs as several extralarge security guards kept watch from very close prox-

Seles later suggested that came back, everything the opposition does not have to start quaking in their collective high-priced shoes just

> Right now the main things is just do your best. Early next year it is going to

> > FUKUOKA, Aug 29: Josh

Davis came from behind in

the last leg of the final relay

Tuesday as the American

swimmers put their nation

ahead of Japan in the World

University Games gold medal

medals for the first five days

of the games, picked up one

gold each in swimming and

tennis. The Americans had

tennis putting them ahead

Manchester United's Steve Bruce desperately tries to stop Blackburn Rovers' Chris

Sutton during their English Premiership clash in Blackburn on August 28. United won

two in swimming and one in

Japan, which had led in

race, reports AP.

18 to 17 overall.

46 minutes.

Third seed and defending champion Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario needed three more minutes to win by the same lop-sided score over Romanian Catalina Cristea. Feeling a bit underworked. she then headed straight for



IVANISEVIC

one of the practice courts to hit some more balls.

They were joined in the second round by sixthseeded Australian Open champion Mary Pierce, a 6-4. 6-1 victory over South African Mariaan De Swardt. A pair of former men's

The Americans also led 51

China won four golds -

swimming — boosting its to-

events. Hungary also won

gold, and Brazil added one in

Germany won a diving

- AFP/UNB photo

gold in women's fencing.

to 48 in total medals.

America atop the table swimming as Fernando Scherer reinforced his position as the games' fastest

> three in diving and one in sprint swimmer. Davis came out of the tal to nine and moving it Games with four gold medals ahead of the eight of South one in the men's 400-me-Korea and the seven of tre freestyle and three in relays including the final 4x100-metre medley, in Track and field competiwhich the Americans broke a tion began, and Hungary and Romania won the first two

games record. Japan led after three legs, but Davis, anchored the US quartet to a winning time of 3 minutes, 42.02 seconds, erasing the old mark of 3:42.99 set by another American quartet in 1985.

Japan was second in 3:43.36. The day's four other races all were decided by less than 2 seconds.

Japan's Hisato Yasui won the day's longest race, the men's 1.500-metre freestyle, by .06 second over Brazil's Luiz Eduardo Lima, who almost, made up a 1.68-second deficit over the last 100 metres. France's Yann Defabrique, the men's 200-metre freestyle winner, placed

Scherer won one of the shortest, the men's 50 freestyle, by .18 second over American Bill Pilczuk after winning the 100 earlier in the games.

In the women's 50, China's Sun Jialin won by .02 second over American Nicole de Man

American Kristin Heydanek was just .08 ahead in winning the women's 100metre backstroke over Japan's Yoko Koikawa, the 200-metre gold medalist.

With Tuesday's victories. the Americans came out with 16 gold medals in the games 34 swimming events. Japan finished with seven.

Danes rely on Laudrups

COPENHAGEN, Aug 29: Michael Laudrup and his injured brother Brian were named on Monday in Denmark's 16-man squad for a do-or-die European Championship qualifier against Belgium in Brussels on September 6, reports Reuter.

There were few changes from the squad who beat Armenia 2-0 in Yerevan on August 16 and elevated Denmark to second place in Group Two, five points behind Spain but three ahead of third-placed Belgium. Two teams qualify from the group.

Coach Richard Moeller Nielsen replaced Mogens Krogh with Lars Hoegh as second string goalkeeper and dropped defender Torben Piechnik and midfielder John Jensen without replacing them, trimming the squad to 16 players from 18. Moeller Nielsen said he

might name a 17th player later.

Glasgow Rangers striker Brian Laudrup was in the squad for the Armenia game but was unable to play after sustaining an ankle injury during a training session. He remains doubtful to face Belgium.

Marianne Martina's successor

NEW YORK, Aug 29: American Marianne Werdel-Witmeyer was elected President of the WTA Tour Players' Association, succeeding outgoing president Martina Navratilova, the association announced on Monday, reports Reuter.

Werdel-Witmeyer, who previously served as vice president, was elected late Sunday night by the players association board of direc-

"I know I am following in some pretty big footsteps, but I am ready for the challenge." said the 24th-ranked Werdel-Witmeyer.

Leading ATP money-winners

MONACO, Aug 29: The men's top 20 money-winners as released by the ATP Tour on Monday, reports Reuter.

1,992,241 dollars . Andre Agassi (US) 2. Thomas Muster (Austria) 1,858,129 1,595,666 3. Pete Sampras (US) 4. Yevgeny Kafelnikov (Russia) 1,149,211 5. Goran Ivanisevic (Croatia) 896,140 6. Michael Chang (US) 892,908 Boris Becker (Germany) 748,302 B. Richard Krajicek (Netherlands) 726,726 9. Wayne Ferreira (South Africa) 716,357 10. Michael Stich (Germany) 11. Paul Haarhuis (Netherlands) 686,312 677,046 12. Thomas Enqvist (Sweden) 652,560

623,941

618,769

579,817

531,649

529,081

Magnus Larsson (Sweden) 14. Jacco Eltingh (Netherlands) 15 Sergi Bruguera (Spain) 16. Andrei Medvedev (Ukraine) 17. Jonas Bjorkman (Sweden) 19. Stefan Edberg (Sweden)

ally was having cramps or something far more serious. 20. Mark Woodforde (Australia) The big guns are set to start firing today with top seed and defending champion Agassi and secondseeded Wimbledon winner

Capitalising on Varsity Games!

FUKUOKA, Japan, Aug 29: For some athletes, competing at the World University Games is preparation for the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta in more ways than one, reports

Aside from the pressure of international competition, the heat and humidity conditions are similar in Fukuoka and Atlanta.

"Some athletes who train in the southeastern part of (the United States) have said it feels like home to them," said Frank Zang. press officer with the US delegation.

For Australians, coming to Fukuoka means coming to summer from the southern hemisphere winter.

"Australians are always competing outside of their natural climate zone," said Tritia Evans, the Australian delegation press officer. "Any experience, especially around this time of year, is valuable."

With some 4,000 athletes from more than 150 nations and territories competing. these are the biggest University Games ever.

> No respite for Rovers

LONDON, Aug 29: A goal by midfielder David Beckham gave Manchester United some measure of revenge over the side who surplanted them when they sent Premier League champions Blackburn plunging to their third defeat in six days on Monday, reports Reuter.

Beckham, the 20-year-old thrown in at the deep end by manager Alex Ferguson as the replacement for the departed Andrei Kanchelskis, netted his second goal of the season.

After a scoreless first-half

Lee Sharpe was on hand to poke the ball home and give United the lead just 30 seconds after the interval after efforts by Paul Scholes and Roy Keane had been blocked.

Hristo, Weah debut well



Barcelona in the close sea-

son, struck with a superb

76th minute free-kick in his

side's disappointing 1-1 draw

tian Vieri scored a last mi-

striker Weah took just six

minutes to set Milan on their

way to a 2-1 win at Padova

although last season's beaten

European Cup finalists

needed a rare goal from vet-

eran sweeper Franco Baresi

The 35-year-old regained

the initiative for Milan in the

44th minute after Nicola

Amoruso had levelled the

Midfielder Christian

Karembeu, who moved from

French Champions Nantes to

Sampdoria, was also on tar-

get in his first appearance for

his new club, athletically

heading a 22nd minute

opener in the night match

in this year's title race.

equalised within two minutes

through former Sampdoria

man Marco Branca before

As Parma and Milan

playing out a 1-1 draw.

But the visitors, outsiders

with Roma.

score against the run of play.

to claim all three points.

Ex-Paris St Germain

at Atalanta, for whom Chris-

nute equaliser.

struggled to impress, cham-Bulgaria's Hristo pions Juventus made an omi-Stoichkov and nously impressive start with a Liberian George 4-1 thrashing of Cremonese. Weah both sco-Fabrizio Ravanelli, whose

red on their Segoals helped give the Turin rie A debuts for Parma and side their first title in nine AC Milan respectively as years last season, settled a Italy's First Division chamone-sided affair with two pionships kicked off on goals in the space of five minutes midway through the Sunday, reports Reuter. Stoichkov, signed from second half.

Earlier Vladimir Jugovic. signed from Sampdoria in the summer, fired Juventus in front with a 17th minute solo effort only for Riccardo Maspero to equalise with a 47th minute free-kick -Cremonese's only shot on. target in the match.

Frenchman Didier Deschamps scored Juves' fourth to complete the rout.

At Rome's Olympic Stadium, last years' champioriship runners-up Lazio also opened the season with a 4-1 victory over promoted Pia-

England midfielder Paul Ince's debut for Internazionale against Vicenza was overshadowed by Brazilian Roberto Carlo's spectacular 53rd minute winner, a 25metre free-kick. Bari striker Igor Protti

helped himself to 1,000 bottles of quality wine as reward for scoring the season's maiden goal, a third minute effort in his side's 1-1 draw with Napoli.

Milan grabbed the close season headlines when they signed Weah and Juventus playmaker Roberto Baggio to

solve the goal-scoring problems that plagued their soc-

cer last season. Against Padova, the pair soon set about paying back Milan's faith in their talents, combining in the sixth

Baggio swung a free-kick deep into the heart of the penalty area where Weah outjumped American defender Alexi Lalas before surprising goalkeeper Adriano Bonaiuti with a powerful back-header.

The visitors kept a firm grip on the match until the 34th minute when Amoruso surprised Sebastiano Rossi with a first-time shot that

to settle the encounter.

player took his chance with all the prowess of a natural finisher, playing a one-two with Weah and chesting the ball down before side-footing past Bonaiuti. The fiery Stoichkov was

brought to Parma to instill his new side with the killer instinct so often missing last season.

But, apart from the Bulgarian's superb second half goal, when he curled a trademark free-kick over the Atalanta defensive wall into the net, the UEFA Cup holders still displayed all their old failings, including a failure two close out matches.



Massimilano Rosa can challenge him during the opening day fixture of the Serie A at Padova on Aug 27. Weah scored once as Milan prevailed 2-1. - AFP/UNB photo



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minute to put their side in

curled away from his despairing dive into the far corner. Despite an inspired Weah, it took Baresi's surprise effort

Serie A's longest serving

AC Milan's Liberian star George Weah is about to receive the ball before Padovas

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