



Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina concentrates deeply to hit a sliced backhand during her fourth round US Open match against 14-year-old Swiss prodigy Martina Hingis at the Flushing Meadows, New York, on Sept 3. The ninth-seeded Sabatini won the match 6-1, 6-4. — AFP/UNB photo

Gliding against all odds

NEW YORK, Sept 4: Making the quarter finals at the US Open is usually no big deal for three-time champion Steffi Graf, reports Reuter.

But this time, the top-seeded German placed special significance on reaching the final eight after beating Chanda Rubin in straight sets.

"I am a lot closer than maybe at times I thought I would be, so I guess I am excited about that," Graf said of her prospects of winning her 18th Grand Slam title.

Graf had started this tournament beset with problems on and off the court.

Physically, Graf was concerned about a flare-up of her chronic back problems that limited her summer tournament schedule and practice regime.

Emotionally, the 26-year-old Graf had to cope with the imprisonment of her father Peter in Germany on tax evasion charges. Graf had not talked with her father since his arrest.

"Yes, a lot of doubts," Graf said of her self-confidence coming into the year's last Grand Slam.

Asked if her doubts sprang more from emotional worries than from something physical, Graf said: "A mixture of both."

But a string of wins, starting with a hard-fought comeback win in the first round

against South African Amanda Coetzer and finishing with a 6-2, 6-2 drubbing of rising American star Rubin, has done wonders for her.

Three-time Open champion, on Sunday accepted a gift of seven double-faults by Rubin in the first set, two on break points. Graf, who dropped only one set in the first round, served with authority and closed the first set with a 105 mph serve.

The German next plays Amy Frazier, who followed her upset of No 6 Mary Pierce by beating No 12 Natasha Zvereva 6-4, 4-6, 6-3.

"It is one week later since I felt that it would be difficult for me to play," said Graf.

"I think I just needed to play a few matches and that is what really happened. I just needed to get more comfortable on the court and get more focused."

"I think these days helped me a lot. The matches helped me a lot and time helped me, so I am more relaxed from that time on and it is just I'm more at peace with myself."

"I am really happy with the way I played," the undemonstrative Frazier said of the one hour, 42 minute win. "I don't know if I didn't show it, but I am happy."

In the third round Frazier had bounced out the reigning Australian Open champion, sixth seed Mary Pierce of France.

"I never would have thought when I was getting ready to go to school that a few years later this is where I would be," Frazier had said after upsetting the Frenchwoman.

Next for Frazier is top seed Steffi Graf. She has never taken a set from Graf in two career matches.

"She is going to be attacking everything," Frazier said

of the German. "Hopefully I can just hit my groundstrokes well and deep and hopefully I won't be that nervous."

Frazier is pointedly vague about discussing the specifics of her aborted retirement or commenting on reports that it was linked to an eating disorder.

"I mean it was a long time ago and it was just for personal reasons," the 22-year-old from Michigan said of her six-month lay off.

She is a bit more forthcoming about why she came back. "I really love to play," said the 21st-ranked Frazier, who started playing at the age of three.

"I love to play matches and as long as it is fun and I feel like I am competing well, I want to play."

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four of his first five visits before last year's march to the final.

"It's not just a sport, it's an adventure."



Mary Joe Fernandez of the United States exults after fighting back from a set and a break down to spectacularly oust defending champion Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario in the fourth round of the US Open at the National Tennis Centre in New York on September 3. — AFP/UNB photo

Gregorians grab Mohsin Cup b'ball

Sports Reporter

Gregorians Club lifted the Mohsin Cup metropolis Second Division basketball league title when they comprehensively defeated Rising Force Club 64-44 yesterday. The champions led 34-26 after the opening half of the match played at the Dhanmondi Gymnasium.

The win enabled the Gregorians to secure full ten points from their five super league encounters. Rangers Club had to be content with the second spot with eight points to their credit.

The organisers declared Teen Wolf Club as the best team while Dominic, a player of the same team, was adjudged the best player of the meet.

Jute Minister A S M Hannan Shah witnessed the concluding match as the chief guest and distributed the trophies.

Meanwhile, the 18th national basketball championship gets underway at the same venue today.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain will inaugurate the competition to be participated by thirteen teams.

Five matches are scheduled to be played on the opening day with Khulna DSA and Brahmanbaria DSA kicking off the proceedings at 8 am.

The competing teams, divided into two groups are:

Group A: Bangladesh Navy, Bangladesh Police, and Khulna, Dhaka, Brahmanbaria, Chandpur and Jessore DSAs.

Group B: Bangladesh Rifles, Bangladesh Army, Dhaka University, Bangladesh Air Force, and Rajshahi and Habiganj DSAs.

Kaiser young at heart

BONN, Sept 4: Franz Beckenbauer believes he is too young at 50 to take over from Joao Havelange as FIFA president, reports AFP.

"Aren't I too young for such a post?" he said today when asked what he thought of Havelange's idea he took over from the Brazilian as head of the International Football Federation.

Beckenbauer, 50, on September 11, said he had to finish his work as president of Bayern Munich, the club he won three European Cups with in 1974-76. Bayern have never been able to reach those heights since he retired as a player.

He won the World Cup as a player in 1974 and as a coach in 1990.

He allowed television to organize a birthday meeting of some of the biggest names in football to raise money for his charitable foundation for children.

Sousa, Serie A's numero uno

ROME, Sept 4: Paulo Sousa, the Portuguese midfielder for league champions Juventus, on Monday was picked as one of the three best players in last season's Italian First Division Serie A, reports AP.

In the survey by the Italian sports weekly Guerin Sportivo, Sousa shared the nomination with Italian forwards Gianfranco Zola of Parma and Marco Simone of AC Milan.

The three players will be awarded a golden prize at a ceremony later this month.

Marcello Lippi, also of Juventus, was picked as the best coach for the 1994-95 campaign.

Real begin with a bang

MADRID, Sept 4: Spanish champions Real Madrid started the new season in splendid style on Sunday with a 5-1 romp away to newly promoted Rayo Vallecano, the capital's third club, reports Reuter.

Real, 1-0 up at the interval after a 29th-minute goal by Jose Anavisca, cut loose after the break with World Cup midfielder Fernando Hierro scoring twice between goals from Sandro Sierra and Quique Flores.

Brazilian Guilherme netted Rayo's consolation goal when Real were already 4-0 up.

Real made light of the absence of injured Chilean Ivan Zamorano, league top-scorer last season, and Danish playmaker Michael Laudrup, needed for Wednesday's European Championship qualifier against Belgium.

There were few surprises on the opening weekend of the season with all the championship favourites winning.



NEW YORK, Sept 4: Defending champion Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario saved one match point

with a crazy carom off her racket frame; then, her luck ran out.

A finalist in all the other Grand Slam events this year, and six of the last seven, Sanchez Vicario drove two backhands long to give Mary Joe Fernandez a 1-6, 6-4, 6-4 victory Sunday night and a berth in the quarterfinals, report agencies.

Fernandez slipped the noose of an apparent straight sets loss, escaping from a 4-2 deficit in the second set, and kept slugging winners on long rallies to beat the No 3 seed.

Some of the longest of those rallies came in the final set, and on one of the most important, Sanchez Vicario saved match point with a spinning lob that caromed off the edge of her racket for a winner.

"She shanked that," Fernandez said. "I said, 'Oh, no.' But fortunately I got another chance."

Sanchez Vicario kissed her racket, but it was more like a kiss of death.

She struck a backhand long for match point again, then sailed one more just past the baseline to go out of the Open faster than any defending champion since Hana Mandlikova departed in the same fourth round 1986. Monica Seles did not defend the title she won in 1992.

"The only chance I had was to come in and take chances," said Fernandez, who forced the action by alternating strong baseline strokes with charges to the net. "I never gave up. I persevered in the second set, even though I was down a break."

Fernandez, who played a three-setter in the first round, next plays Gabriela Sabatini.

"I'm a human being," Sanchez-Vicario said. "It's impossible to get always what you want, when you want it. I have many more tournaments to go. It was unlucky. But I have many years to go. I have much to learn from this match."

"I didn't play at all like I had to," Sanchez-Vicario said.

"I should have finished her off and won in two sets. I lost the match more than she won it. She is a dangerous player and she had nothing to lose."

Sanchez Vicario was a finalist in six of the past seven Grand Slam tournaments and runner-up in this year's three prior Slams, losing to Steffi Graf at Wimbledon and the French Open and Mary Pierce in Australia.

Steffi Graf and Sabatini made quick work of two heavily hyped teen-age girls for whom Grand Slam stardom is still a fuzzy dream.

As precocious as Chanda Rubin and Martina Hingis are, they have neither one big weapon nor the consistency yet to beat the top players in major tournaments.

Graf swept into the quarterfinals with a 6-2, 6-2 victory over 19-year-old Rubin, and Sabatini contented herself playing from the baseline to wear down 14-year-old Hingis 6-2, 6-4.

Sabatini reached the quarterfinals here for a ninth straight year by eliminating 14-year-old Swiss rookie Martina Hingis. She won the indoor WTA championships here in November and needed only 71 minutes to beat Hingis, who committed 41 unforced errors.

"I had to work very hard to win each point," Sabatini said. "I have to keep playing the same way I have, be focused and very aggressive."

A drumbeat of 42 aces and heavy groundstrokes echoed from one end of the court to the other as Pete Sampras survived an attack by a younger, bigger, stronger version of himself in the finest match of power tennis so far at the Open.

Sampras, who thumped 27 of those aces, saw his own image in 18-year-old Mark Philippoussis — nicknamed "Scud" because of the speed of his missiles — and barely avoided an upset with a 6-7 (7-5), 7-5, 7-5, 6-3 victory that took nearly three hours.

Philippoussis, a 6-foot-4 Australian who shares Sampras' Greek ancestry, brought back memories of Sampras when he won the first of his two Open titles at 19 five years ago. It could be seen not only in Philippoussis' serves but in his leaping overheads, his crushing forehands and backhands, his killer volleys and fearless play.

When Philippoussis slammed a second-serve ace into the corner to take the tie-breaker in the first set, a roar rumbled through the

Sampras survives a slugfest

Vicario left in the cold

packed stadium at the prospect of an upset by a young player the fans didn't know. They know him now and will not soon forget him.

But Sampras didn't win his US Open and Wimbledon titles by fading easily, and he

bore down to break Philippoussis for the first time in the tournament for a 3-1 lead in the second set. With that little crack into Philippoussis' game, Sampras charged ahead to lead 4-1.

Philippoussis, however,



World No 2 Pete Sampras of the United States unleashes one of his lethal serves in his match against another big-server, Australian Mark Philippoussis, in the third round of the US Open at the National Tennis Centre in New York on September 3. Sampras won the match after surviving a slugfest. — AFP/UNB photo

handed Sampras his first break of the tournament at 4-3 to put the set back on serve. Sampras shrugged off one of his 14 double-faults to hold to 6-5, then took the set when he broke Philippoussis with a backhand return that the Aussie netted.

Sampras pumped his first twice at the end of that set and thought he was on a roll when he broke Philippoussis twice again for a 4-0, 40-love lead in the third set. That's when Sampras surprised himself and everyone else, double-faulting six times in a nine-point stretch to let Philippoussis back in the match.

But the set wasn't over until Sampras broke him at 15-40 with a crisp backhand that Philippoussis netted off a half-volley as early evening shadows covered the court.

Sampras didn't so much wear down Philippoussis in the fourth set as he beat him with a greater variety of shots, spins and angles that showed his experience.

Sampras next plays Todd Martin in the fourth round.

Philippoussis, who didn't play Wimbledon because his father demanded and didn't receive a wild-card entry for him, is working now with Nick Bollettieri. The outside influence, and Philippoussis' growing maturity, may help mould him into a champion, especially if he follows Sampras' advice to control some of his power.

In other men's third-round matches, No 3 Thomas Muster beat Francisco Clavet 6-6, 6-4, 6-3, 7-5; No 5 Michael Chang stopped Todd Woodbridge 6-3, 6-2, 6-0; No 8 Michael Stich defeated Scott Draper 6-3, 6-0, 6-3; No 14 Jim Courier downed Kenneth Carlsen 6-3, 6-4, 6-2; and No 15 Todd Martin beat Mauricio Hadad 6-2, 6-1, 6-4.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer

Sylhet PWD Division, Sylhet

Notice Inviting Tender

No. 22/1995-96

1. Tenders in sealed covers in the BD Form No. 2911 are hereby invited from the approved and eligible contractor of PWD as per group reference for the undermentioned works. Tenders will be received by the undersigned as well as the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Sunamganj/Moulvi Bazar/Habiganj under PWD Circle, Sylhet on 14-9-95 up to 12-00 Noon and will be opened on the same day at 12-15 PM in presence of the tenderers who may like to remain present at the time of opening.

Gr	No	Name of work	Estimated cost in Taka	Earnest money	Time allowed	Classification of contractors
Gr I		Essential maintenance, repair & extension work of residential quarters & office Bldg at Tamabil Custom's Station, Sylhet. Sub-head: (Repair work to sanitary & water supply arrangement of Inspector's quarters 2 units) during the year 1995-96	Tk 86,075/-	Tk 1725/-	25 (twenty five) days	Approved sanitary contractors of all classes of PWD
Gr II		-do- -do- (Repair work to sanitary & water supply arrangement to Superintending's quarters) during the year 1995-96	Tk 72,034/-	Tk 1445/-	25 (twenty five) days	-do-
Gr III		-do- -do- (Repair work to external water supply arrangement of staff quarters) during the year 1995-96	Tk 1,39,285/-	Tk 2790/-	30 (thirty) days	Approved class I & II sanitary contractors of PWD
Gr IV		-do- -do- (Repair work to sanitary & water supply arrangement of Inspector's quarters 3 units) during the year 1995-96	Tk 1,19,946/-	Tk 2400/-	40 (forty) days	-do-
Gr V		Essential maintenance, repair & extension work of residential quarters & office Bldg at Tamabil Custom's Station, Sylhet. (Repair work to sanitary & water supply arrangement of Lady Inspector's quarters) during the year 1995-96	Tk 51,929/-	Tk 1,040/-	20 (twenty) days	Approved sanitary all classes contractors of PWD
Gr VI		-do- -do- (Repair work to sanitary & water supply arrangement of constable quarters 4 units) during the year 1995-96	Tk 1,29,741/-	Tk 2595/-	40 (forty) days	Approved sanitary class I & II contractor of PWD
Gr VII		-do- -do- (Repair work to sanitary & water supply arrangement of check post office) during the year 1995-96	Tk 40,056/-	Tk 802/-	15 (fifteen) days	Approved sanitary all classes contractors of PWD
Gr VIII		-do- -do- (Repair work to sanitary & water supply arrangement of rest house at Tamabil, Sylhet) during the year 1995-96	Tk 1,11,248/-	Tk 2230/-	40 (forty) days	Approved sanitary class I & II contractors of PWD

2. Contract documents, consisting of BD Form No. 2911, schedule of items, additional terms & conditions etc. can be seen and purchased from the office of the undersigned and Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Sunamganj/Moulvi Bazar/Habiganj under PWD Circle, Sylhet & Sub-Divisional Engineer, I/II/III/EM of Sylhet PWD Division on payment of usual charges of Tk 425/- (Taka four hundred twenty five) only non-refundable per set of schedule, terms and conditions and per copy of BD Form No. 2911, tender form may be purchased by the intending contractor himself or by his authorised representative on production of up-to-date renewed book of registration & other requisite papers of his eligibility with signature of the representative duly attested by the contractor on any day during the office hours up to 13-9-95.

DDP-21217-31/8
G-1297

Md Isa Haque
Executive Engineer
Sylhet PWD Division, Sylhet