

Bayern keep stunning stride on

BONN, Sept 24: A Juergen Klinsmann penalty in the dying minutes gave Bayern Munich a 1-0 victory over Bayer Leverkusen on Saturday and preserved their 100 per cent winning start to the season, reports Reuter.

The triumph also set a new Bundesliga record for the most successive wins at the start of a season.

Klinsmann stepped up to take the kick after Leverkusen striker Ulf Kirsten fouled Mehmet Scholl in the box in the 89th minute. The former Tottenham striker made no mistake, slotting home his third Bundesliga goal this season.

Bayern's record-breaking victory gave them 21 points after seven games, seven ahead of champions Borussia Dortmund, who beat Eintracht Frankfurt 4-3 in a thrilling Friday night match.

While Bayern strode on, their main rivals faltered.

Last year's runners-up, Werder Bremen, led for most of their game with Kaiserslautern thanks to an early Mario Basler goal but Bernd Hollerbach hit an equaliser six minutes from time and the match ended 1-1.

Cup holders Borussia Moenchengladbach's night-mare week ended with a 5-0 thrashing from VfB Stuttgart. Germany striker Fredi Bobic was outstanding for Stuttgart, scoring two as his side put their indifferent start to the season firmly behind them.

Borussia, dumped out of this season's Cup in midweek by Leverkusen, must now try to concentrate on their Cup-Winners' Cup tie with Sileks Kratovo of Macedonia. The Germans lead 3-0 from the first leg.

Bayern, Kaiserslautern, Dortmund and Bremen are also in midweek European action.

Verdy Kawasaki alone atop

TOKYO, Sept 24: Brazilian forward Alcindo Sartori opened Verdy Kawasaki's scoring spree with a header as the J-League leaders demolished Kashiwa Reysol 7-1, reports Reuter.

Alcindo's score in the 37th minute on Saturday started the romp, which kept Verdy at the top of the table with 28 points, four more than Nagoya Grampus Eight and Shimizu S-Pulse.

Hans Gillhaus of the Netherlands scored an extra-time winner from outside the penalty area to seal Gamba Osaka's upset 1-0 victory over second-placed Shimizu S-Pulse.

Gillhaus's winning score came six minutes into the first half of extra-time as Gamba stopped S-Pulse's five-game winning streak.

Nagoya Grampus Eight scored two first half goals to beat Urawa Red Diamonds 2-1 with Tetsuya Okayama and French midfielder Franck Durix finding the net. Urawa converted a penalty in the final minutes.

Nagoya were reduced to 10 players after star midfielder Drajan Stojkovic was sent off in the 51st minute.

Two superb saves by goalkeeper Kenichi Shimokawa helped JEF United Ichihara edge Bellmare Hiratsuka 5-4 on penalties in a game tied 2-2 in regular time.

Italian striker Salvatore Schillaci scored his 28th goal of the season to stay on top of the league's leading scorer list, but his Jubilo Iwata fell to the Yokohama Marinos 2-1 at Tokyo's National Stadium.

Brazilian star Leonardo took advantage of two poor clearances by Sanfrece Hiroshima to give the Kashima Antlers a 2-1 victory.

The Kashima forward scored late in the first half after picking up a ball that was slowed by the wet grass at typhoon-soaked Hiroshima Stadium. He scored the winner three minutes after Hiroshima levelled the scores early in the second half.

Cerezo Osaka came back from a 1-0 halftime deficit to rout Yokohama Flugels 5-1. Satoshi Kajino led the onslaught with two goals.

Leicester sign Kamark

LONDON, Sept 24: Leicester City announced on Saturday they had completed the signing of Swedish international defender Pontus Kamark from IFK Gothenberg for 840,000 pounds (1.32 million dollars), reports Reuter.

Kamark, 26, has 27 international caps and played in last summer's World Cup finals but he will not be able to join his new side until the Swedish season finishes at the end of October.

He signed for Leicester just before the start of Saturday's home match against Southampton.



Veteran striker Sheikh Mohammed Aslam is set to place the ball past an on-rushing Mohammedans custodian Ponir (not in picture) to open the scoring for Abahani during their high-voltage clash at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

Hathurusinghe turns up heat SL in the catbird seat



SIALKOT, Sept 24: Opener Chandika Hathurusinghe hit his third consecutive half-century of the series to lift Sri Lanka's victory hopes in the third and deciding Test against Pakistan today, reports Reuter.

Hathurusinghe's patient 73 steered Sri Lanka to 177 for four in their second innings — an overall lead of 195 — when bad light ended play three overs early on the third day.

Sri Lanka had gained a first innings lead of 18 by swiftly taking Pakistan's last two wickets to dismiss the home side for 214 in the morning.

Pakistan's innings, 199 for eight overnight, ended when off-spinner Murtiah Muralidharan bowled Mohammad Akram with the first delivery of his opening over of the day to finish as the most successful bowler with four for 72.

Sri Lanka reached 37 without loss in their second innings before they were checked by the fall of three wickets for 60 in the second session.

Opener Roshan Mahanama went first, given out leg before by umpire Shakil Khan off paceman Aaqub Javed for 20.

Asanka Gurusinha made 18 before lotting an Ataur Rehman delivery to mid-wicket where Rameez Raja held a well-judged running catch with the total 71.

Pakistan captured the key-wicket of Aravinda de Silva for eight when he fell leg before to paceman Aamir Nazir, making the score 97 for three.

This brought together Hathurusinghe and Arjuna Ranatunga, who put on 78 for the fourth wicket in 149 minutes.

Hathurusinghe, who survived a return catch to Nazir on 36, faced 224 balls and batted 353 minutes, hitting seven fours, before he edged a drive of Aaqub to wicket-keeper Moin Khan in the closing phase of the day.

Ranatunga was unbeaten on 35 and nightwatchman Chamara Dunusinghe one not out at the close.

The series is level 1-1.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the third day of the third and final Test between Pakistan and Sri Lanka today:

SRI LANKA: 1st innings 232 (K Dharmasena 62 not out)

PAKISTAN: 1st Innings (overnight 199 for eight) Sohail b Dharmasena 48

Sohail lbw b Muralidharan 8

Rameez lbw b Muralidharan 26

Inzamam b Wickremasinghe	21
Basil lbw b Muralidharan	4
Zahid Fazal st Dunusinghe	4
b De Silva	23
Moin c Dunusinghe	26
b Wickremasinghe	19
Aaqub c Dunusinghe	19
b Dharmasena	9
Ataur c Mahanama b De Silva	5
M Akram b Muralidharan	5
Aamir Nazir not out	5
Extras (b-3, lb-4, nb-13)	20
Total:	214

Fall of wickets: 1-39; 2-72; 3-111; 4-119; 5-122; 6-173; 7-173; 8-196; 9-204.

Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Wickremasinghe	13	2	29	2
Vaas	14	0	38	0
Gurusinha	1	0	6	0
Muralidharan	27.1	6	72	4
De Silva	10	1	29	2
Dharmasena	16	5	33	2

SRI LANKA: Second Innings

Mahanama lbw b Aaqub	20
Hathurusinghe c Moin b Aaqub	73
Gurusinha c Rameez b Ataur	18
De Silva lbw b Nazir	8
Ranatunga not out	35
Dunusinghe not out	1
Extras (b-12, lb-3, nb-7)	22
Total (four wickets):	177

Fall of wickets: 1-37; 2-71; 3-97; 4-175

Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Aaqub	18	2	44	2
Ataur	13	3	21	1
M Akram	7	3	12	0
Aamir Nazir	13	2	36	1
Sohail	20	6	36	0
Shoail	8	2	13	0

India hold Olympic champs



BERLIN, Sept 24: Olympic champions Germany, playing in front of a disappointingly small crowd, failed to win their first match as India, fifth in the World Cup, held them to a goalless draw on Saturday, reports Reuter.

The Germans had a 5-1 penalty corner advantages but Carsten Fischer, their once

LATEST

BERLIN, Sept 24 (Reuter): Results on the second day of the men's Champions' Trophy hockey tournament today.

Australia beat India 6-2 (halftime 2-0).

Scorers: Australia — Stephan Davies (6th, 50th, 53rd), Mark Hager (14th), Jay Stacy (40th), Darren Duff (59th).

India — Rabul Singh (47th), Dhanraj Pillay (49th).

outstanding corner striker who was returning to international hockey after three years, failed to convert any of his chances.

German coach Paul Lissek, referring later to the play of Fischer and the other recalled players, said: "All players need time to adapt to international hockey."

The Germans had the two best chances of the match in the last five minutes but the ball slipped tantalisingly wide each time.

For India Cedric 'Dsouza, who admitted his team played a counter-attacking game, said: "Germany were unlucky today. They missed a couple of good chances but we are very happy with the result. It is some time since we held the big baddies."

Lissek said the Indians played a clever tactical game and he was worried to the end that his team might concede a goal on the counter-attack.

NETHERLANDS WIN

Netherlands were the only team to win on the first day of the tournament but it needed a brilliant shot by their captain Marc Delissen eight minutes from time to bring them a 2-1 victory over a much changed England side.

Delissen seized on a bob-

bling ball at the top of the circle and cracked a reverse stuck shot just inside the post to give Netherlands their fifth successive win over England.

The scoreline was a repeat of their recent European Cup semifinal but the Dutch fielded a stronger team here and England, hit by injuries and work commitments, a weaker one.

The Dutch took the lead

Pierce amerces Arantxa

TOKYO, Sept 24: Second-seeded Mary Pierce of France Sunday beat top-seeded Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain, to score her first victory in Japan, winning the Nichirei International ladies tennis championships, reports agencies.

Pierce, ranked fifth in the world, relentlessly fired well-placed passing shots and actively approached the net. She scored a 6-3, 6-3 victory over Arantxa-Sanchez, world's second-ranked player, on the hard court of Ariake Coliseum.

"I'm very happy I think I'm very competitive and Arantxa was a very tough player to beat her, I had to be in (the) top of my game. I'm very happy with the way I performed today," said the 20-year-old Pierce.

It was Pierce's third win against four defeats with Sanchez-Vicario.

"She is a tough player and it was a tough match, but I was a little bit better at the important points," Pierce said after winning 79,000 dollars and her second title of the season. "Everything was perfect today."

Pierce, second seed here broke her Spanish opponent in the fourth game to take a 4-1 lead in the first set.

The Spaniard narrowed the lead to 4-3 by breaking Pierce with well-placed shots but the Frenchwoman broke back immediately and served out for the set.

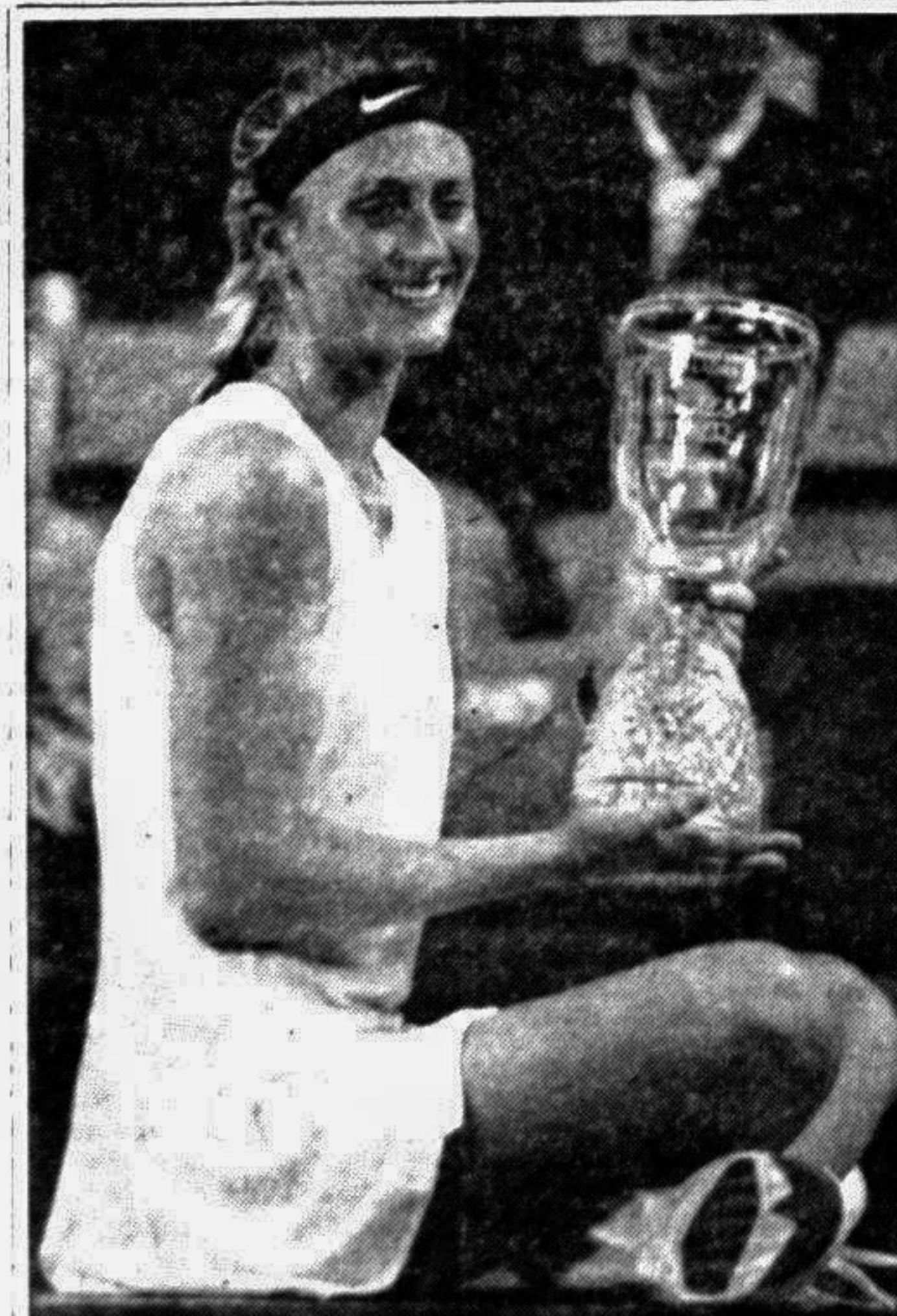
Pierce, capitalising on unforced errors by her opponent, kept the pressure up in the second set and broke in the ninth game after two deuces to wrap up the match in 73 minutes.

on the half hour when Delissen found Stephan Veen unmarked on the right and the winger fired the ball into the far corner of England's goal with an inch perfect shot.

England equalised from their third penalty corner when Calum Giles, their corner specialist, switched the ball to Russell Garcia who scored with a powerful flick.

Bert Bunnik, the Dutch assistant coach, said after the game: "We are happy to win if only by one goal. We could have scored more."

David Whitaker, England's coach, commented: "It was a very tight game. I was happy with everything but the result. We didn't deserve to lose."



A beaming Mary Pierce of France holds the trophy after outgunning top seeded Spaniard Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario in the final of the Nichirei ladies tennis tournament in Tokyo yesterday. Pierce won the match 6-3, 6-3. — AFP/UNB photo

Cantona to come back

SOON

LONDON, Sept 24: Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson gave a clear indication on Saturday that Frenchman Eric Cantona will play against Liverpool on Sunday next, the day after his six-month playing ban ends, reports Reuter.

Cantona's ban, imposed after he kicked a fan in January, ends next Saturday, September 30, and it now appears he will start next week's Premier League match against Liverpool at Old Trafford.

Ferguson was asked after Saturday's 0-0 draw at Sheffield Wednesday whether Cantona would come straight into the side.

"I think so" said the Old Trafford Manager.

Cantona has not played for United since January 25 when he was sent off in a 1-0 draw at Crystal Palace.

On the way to the dressing room after being shown the red card, he leapt across the barrier surrounding the pitch and kicked a Crystal Palace fan in the chest. He later claimed he heard the Palace fan shouting racial insults at him.

Besides the playing ban, which was eventually imposed in March, Cantona was also given a jail sentence for the assault, later reduced to community service which he has now served.

Farce of a famous!

SEOUL, Sept 24: About 1,000 South Korean children and their parents waited in vain for Argentine star Diego Maradona to turn up and give a soccer class today, reports Reuter.

"Why did the (football) association invite such a rude player?" asked one angry father after Maradona failed to arrive. "I and my kid have been waiting for many hours to see him."

Two hours after the class was due to start the organisers, the Korea Football Association, told the waiting children that Maradona would not be coming.

Instead, the Argentine, who comes to the end of his 15-month drugs ban on Friday, was training in a Seoul soccer stadium in preparation for a match between his Boca Juniors and the South Korean national team next Saturday.

On Saturday, Maradona had turned up two hours late to see thousands of South Korean fans who had been waiting in the rain to get a glimpse of him.

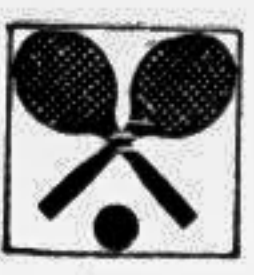
Asian women's soccer

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 24: Huang Yun-Chuan scored two second-half goals to lead Taiwan to a 3-0 victory over Thailand on Saturday in their opening game in the 10th women's soccer championship, reports AP.

After Lin-Chi-T gave her team the lead in the second minute, Huang, the team captain, added a penalty in the 57th and then another goal with six minutes remaining.

In the other game Saturday, Homare Sawa scored in the 61st to give Japan a 1-0 victory over South Korea.

Swedes stage fight back



LAS VEGAS, Sept 24: Stefan Edberg and Jonas Bjorkman breathed new life into Sweden's flagging Davis Cup hopes with a doubles sweep of Americans Todd Martin and Jonathan Stark in their World Group semifinal on Saturday, reports Reuter.

The United States had taken a 2-0 lead into Saturday's doubles after singles victories by Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi on Friday.

But the United States, which had hoped to reach the championship round of the 95-year-old competition for the 58th time, will have to wait until today after Edberg and Bjorkman's em-

earlier this week.

"We're happy we won this match. We needed it."

Bjorkman raised his Davis Cup doubles record to a perfect 7-0 after winning his first six matches with regular partner Jan Apell, who is sidelined with a shoulder injury.

It was Bjorkman and Apell who started last year's comeback from a 2-0 deficit and Sweden went on to upset the United States.

But last year Agassi opted to pass up Davis Cup and Sampras retired from his second match with a hamstring injury.

"It's maybe a little tougher this year than last year," said Bjorkman.

Edberg said he thinks Thomas Enqvist could beat

lot of things can happen."

Edberg said he was feeling better but the only way he can play singles today if Wilander turns up ill or injured.

Both doubles pairings were makeshift teams as Stark usually plays with Byron Black of Zimbabwe and Bjorkman with Apell.

Stark, ranked seven in doubles, had played one tournament earlier in the year with Martin and Edberg and Bjorkman went out in the first round of the US Open in their previous experience together.

But Edberg was once the top doubles player in the world and it showed under the baking desert sun Saturday, while Martin often appeared lead-footed, especially at the net, on the outdoor Caesars Palace hard court.

Sweden broke Stark in the first United States service game for a 2-0 lead and never relinquished that advantage.

The Americans saved three set points in the eighth game, but Edberg served out the set with consecutive aces in the next game.

Stark was broken again in the fifth game of the second set and the Swedes saved the only break point they faced three games later as they jumped out to a quick two-set lead.

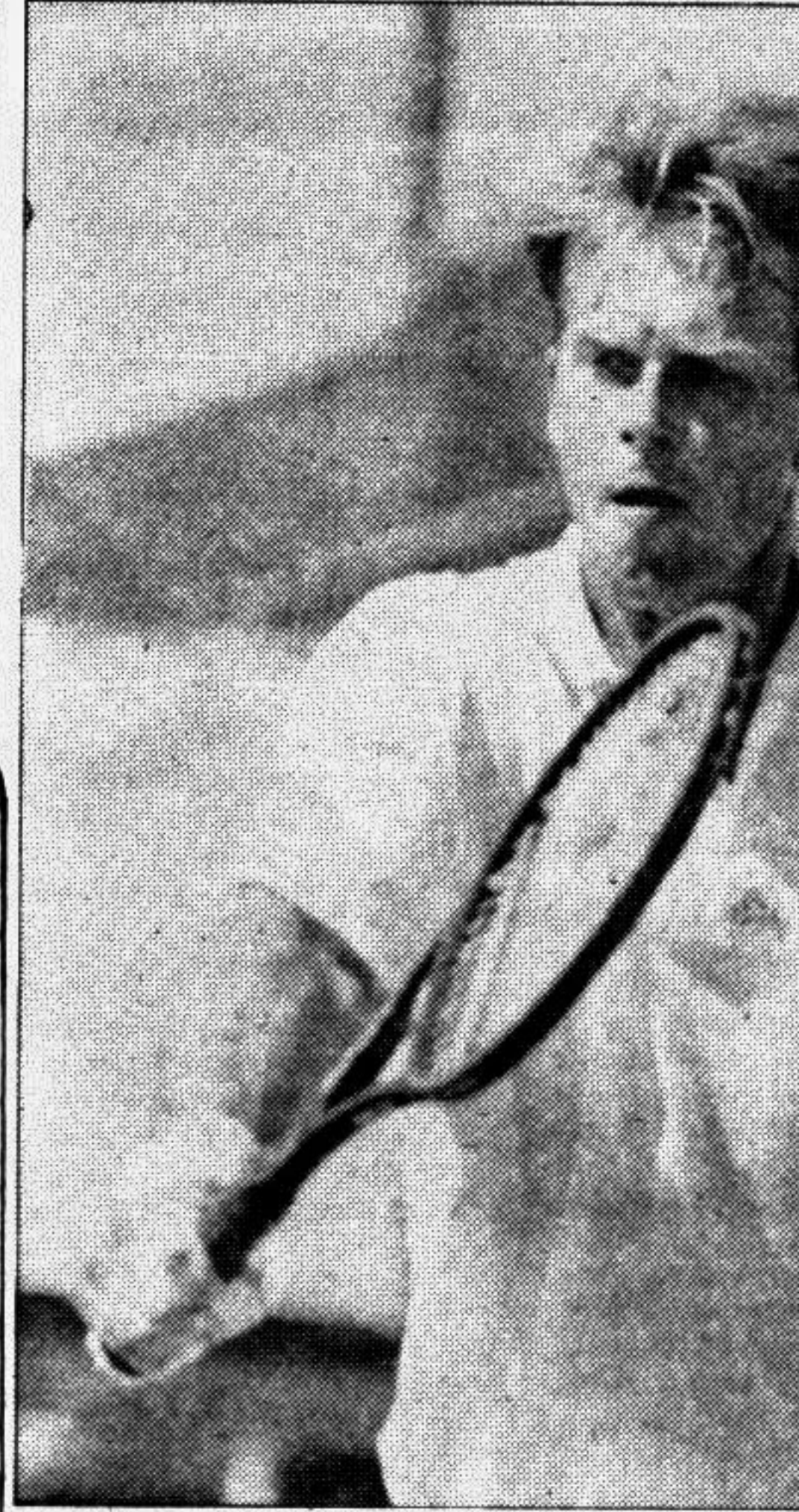
Martin lost his serve for the first time in the third set as the Swedes took a 3-2 lead.

But the Americans finally broke back in the eighth game for 4-4 on Edberg's serve when Bjorkman took a short lob from Stark and dumped his overhead into the net, bringing the Las Vegas fans back to life as they chanted and cheered the US duo.

But Edberg played beautifully in the next game, putting Sweden ahead 15-40 on Martin's serve. And this time, Bjorkman took a floater from Stark and put it away to leave the Swedes serving for the match.

While the Swedes had used the top spin lob with great success in the match, a pair of lobs by Stark sailed just long to end the one hour and 50 minute affair.

Martin said he and Stark just never got into synch: "I think Jonathan played well for a stretch and I played well for a stretch. We just didn't execute as well as we could have come crunch time," said Martin.



Stefan Edberg of Sweden plays a backhand return during the doubles match of the Davis Cup semifinal against USA at Las Vegas on September 23. Sweden won 6-3, 6-4, 6-4. — AFP/UNB photo

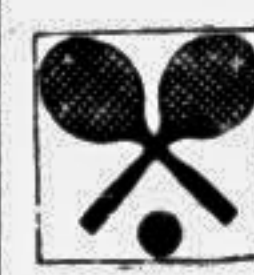
phatic 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 victory for the defending cup champions.

"We both played a very good match today. We were very steady," said Edberg, who is not playing singles because he was suffering from a strength-sapping head cold

Agassi in today's first reverse singles. He was not so sure about Mats Wilander's chances against Sampras's lethal power.

"That's going to be very tough," he said. "But Mats has a lot of experience and once you're in a fifth match, a

Ivanisevic in ignominy



NEW DELHI, Sept 24: Tired and angry over a judge's call, Croatia's Goran Ivanisevic blew a two-set lead over India's Leander Paes Sunday, ensuring India a berth in the Davis Cup World Group, reports agencies.

Paes won 6-7 (7-4), 4-6, 7-6 (7-3), 6-4, 6-1.

Croatia salvaged some pride when Sasa Hirszon defeated India's Mahesh Bhupathi 7-6 (7-4), 3-6, 6-4 in the second reverse singles which was reduced to best of three games.

India won the qualifying round match 3-2.

Ivanisevic was a service break ahead early in the third set and seemed to be cruising to an easy victory when a line judge called him on a double foot fault in the fifth game.

"I already won the match, and then I gave away the match," Ivanisevic told reporters.

The Croatian coach, Zeljko Franulovic, disputed the Indian line judges' call of a double foot fault. "It was on purpose. Goran doesn't foot fault. This was not a bad call, this was cheating."

Both players held serve

through the rest of the set. In the tie-break, Ivanisevic seemed to deflate after double faulting to give Paes a 6-3 edge.

Repeatedly pouring cold water over his head, Ivanisevic appeared exhausted and dispirited by the fourth set and barely swung at the ball.

The victory took the 1993 semi-finalist back into the elite 16-nation World Group after a two-year absence, and once again raised questions about the big-serving Ivanisevic's temperament.

The left-handed Croat, who slammed 40 aces in the match, appeared to be coasting home easily when he won the first two sets and broke Paes in the second games of the third set.

Ivanisevic wilted under a hot sun and the pressure of playing before a vociferous 1,500 home crowd, and almost conceded the match at 0-3 in the fifth set after receiving a verbal lashing from his father Srdzjan during a change-over.

Ivanisevic threw his racket into a bag and walked up to the umpire to concede the match, but was dragged back into his seat by Croatian manager Zeljko Franulovic.

Ivanisevic double faulted for the 27th time in the match at break point in the sixth game to give Paes a 5-1

lead, and the Indian served out the next game to win the match with his 15th ace.

Paes, who won both the singles and the doubles with Mahesh Bhupathi, went down on his knees after the unexpected victory as jubilant team-mates and officials rushed in to congratulate him.

In the doubles on Saturday, Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi beat Ivanisevic and Sasa Hirszon. Paes won the opener Friday against Hirszon and Ivanisevic defeated Bhupathi.

The final match between Bhupathi and Sasa Hirszon will be played later today.

Meanwhile, China emerged victorious 3-2 from three days of Davis Cup battle with Uzbekistan after winning Sunday's singles in an intense two-hour tie-breaker in Tashkent.

China went into Sunday's reverse singles matches leading 2-1, just one point short of overall victory in the promotional tournament.

In Mexico City, Unheralded Leonardo Lavalle and Jorge Lozano outlasted Emilio Sanchez and Sergio Casal 6-2, 3-6, 7-6 (6-4), 1-6, 6-4 on Saturday, giving Mexico a 2-1 lead over Spain in their Davis Cup World Group qualifier.

Russians restore rhythm