

Tyson-Bruno bout Mar 16

LONDON, Nov 14: Frank Bruno's WBC heavyweight title date against Mike Tyson will take place on March 16 in Las Vegas, it was confirmed on Monday, reports AFP.

After fending off a legal challenge from Lennox Lewis and his handlers, Bruno is now free for his mega-money return against Tyson, which was sanctioned last week by the World Boxing Council at their annual convention in Thailand.

Bruno's promoter Frank Warren said, "One thing for sure is that Frank Bruno is probably the hardest puncher of all of them, no doubt about it."

"I honestly believe he will beat Tyson, he's got a tremendous chance and I've got the utmost respect for Tyson as a fighter."

In February, 1989 Tyson, as undisputed title holder, stopped Bruno in five rounds in Las Vegas but the roles will be reversed in March with Bruno as the champion and Tyson as the challenger.

Tyson is recovering from a cracked thumb which ruled out his fight with Buster Mathis junior on November 4, although he should be ready to face Mathis in early January for his second fight since being released from prison.

Tyson's comeback contest against Peter McNeeley in August lasted a farcical 89 seconds.

Bruno who will begin his training Tuesday, said, "This is very encouraging because I think I am at my peak, I'm a stone and a half heavier than I was for my first fight against Tyson, I'm very strong, very confident."

Pakistan open pretty well

CAIRO, Nov 14: World champion Jansher Khan helped second seeded Pakistan overcome hosts Egypt 2-1 on the opening day of the World Team Squash championship on Monday, reports Reuter.

Jansher, playing just two days after his record seventh individual title victory in Cyprus, beat off an energetic challenge from the Egyptian captain Amir Wagh to win 9-1, 7-9, 9-6, 9-0.

Wagh scurried around the court and played some sweet drop shots in the second and third games giving Jansher little time to find his rhythm.

He led 6-5 in the third game but then allowed Jansher to reel off 13 points without reply with a commanding mixture of power and guile.

Jansher's victory levelled the match after Egypt's Omar Elborlosy had upset Pakistan's Mir Zaman Gul coming from a game down to notch a comfortable 1-9, 9-7, 9-4 victory.

But in the decide Zarak Jahan Khan made light work of Egyptian prospect Ahmed Barada, despatching the 18-year-old 9-4, 9-0, 9-3 in just 45 minutes.

Pakistan, who have complained about their second seedings below Australia, were originally due to play England in the first match but the schedule was revised at the last minute.

England themselves expended little effort disposing of seventh seeds Sweden 3-0 without dropping a game.

Australia had a tougher time against New Zealand, relying on victories by Brett Martin and Anthony Hill after world number two Rodney Eyles fell 10-8, 9-2, 9-0 to Paul Steel.

Effenberg in hot water

BONN, Nov 14: Stefan Effenberg, banned from playing for Germany after making obscene gestures during last year's World Cup, was involved in two fights over the weekend, reports AFP.

The big midfielder first broke up a fight between Borussia Moenchengladbach teammates and stewards at half-time in a Bundesliga match at Dusseldorf.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

- First Division Chess League (Round Eleven, venue: Chess Federation)
- Parijat CC vs Konica SS
- Sheikh Russel KC vs Mashguli Mahfil
- Anushilan KC vs Biman Brothers Union vs BTMC
- Pradeep Sangha vs Genius CC
- Fire Service vs Leonine CC
- Mohammedan SC vs Ansars
- Narayanganj CC vs Dhaka University
- TIF Thai-Bangladesh Satellite Tennis (Round One - venue: Rajshahi Tennis Complex)



State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan hands over the man-of-the-match award to Bangladesh Youth's Javed Omar Golla after the first day/night one-dayer against the visiting West Indies under-19 team at the Dhaka Stadium last night. — Star photo

India-NZ first one-dayer begins today

Turner for a bounce back



JAMSHEDPUR, India, Nov 14: Cricket-starved India and New Zealand begin a six-match one-day series here on Wednesday, desperate to make up for lost time after the rain-ravaged Test series, reports AFP.

The three-Test series, which formed the first part of New Zealand's current Indian tour, was a damp squib with the last two matches being virtually washed out by rains after India won the first Test.

Clear weather is forecast as the two teams jet across the country over the next fortnight for what promises to be an exciting contest ahead of the World Cup in the Indian sub-continent next February.

"We are desperate to get on with the game," Indian manager Ajit Wadekar said today, as his wards shook off their rustiness during the team's training session at the Keenan Stadium.

"Hopefully, there will not be any interruption from the weather, for this is our last

chance to prepare for the World Cup," he said. New Zealand, rebuilding under new captain Lee Germon, have their work cut out against Mohammad Azharuddin's home team, rated by computers as the world's best one-day side.

The Kiwis have never beaten India in a one-day match on Indian soil, losing all their eight previous encounters. It's a record the tourists' manager Glenn Turner wants to erase.

"Every new series is a new start, and I believe we have the men to tackle the Indians," Turner said. "Don't write us off, we could spring a few surprises."

New Zealand has been reinforced by one-day specialist Gavin Larsen and hard-hitting batsman Nathan Astle, who were flown in for the one-day series to replace spinner Matthew Hart and fast bowler Aaron Gale.

Both Larsen and Astle were short-listed in a 12-man squad for the opening one-day match, but Turner said he will finalise the playing eleven shortly before the toss on Wednesday.

India, expecting a high-scoring game on the hard, barren wicket, have decided not to gamble with rookie medium-pace Paras Mhambrey for the opening match.

Mhambrey, the only newcomer in the 14-man squad, was left out of the eleven announced today, which includes three seamers — Javagal Srinath, Manoj Prabhakar and Venkatesh Prasad.

The other five one-day internationals will be played in Amritsar (Nov 18), Goa (Nov 21), Pune (Nov 24), Nagpur (Nov 26) and Bombay (Nov 29).

TEAMS

INDIA: Mohammad Azharuddin (captain), Sachin Tendulkar, Ajay Jadeja, Navjot Sidhu, Vinod Kambli, Manoj Prabhakar, Nayan Mongia, Javagal Srinath, Anil Kumble, Venkatesh Prasad, Utpal Chatterjee.

NEW ZEALAND: Lee Germon (captain), Mark Greatbatch, Roger Twose, Adam Parore, Stephen Fleming, Shane Thomson, Chris Cairns, Dion Nash, Simon Doull, Gavin Larsen, Nathan Astle, Danny Morrison.

Malik may miss 2nd Test



BRISBANE, Australia, Nov 14: Former Pakistan captain and middle-order batsman Salim Malik is likely to miss this week's second Test against Australia because of a cut hand, tour manager Intikhab Alam said today, reports Reuter.

Intikhab, regrouping the tourists after their crushing innings defeat in the first Test on Monday, said replacement batsman Ijaz Ahmed (senior) was ready to come into the side.

"Malik can tell me if he's 100 per cent or not because he is the one who has to hold the bat. But we have another batsman here Ijaz Ahmed, and most likely he will play," Intikhab said.

Malik is available for selection but we need a doctor's opinion, Intikhab told reporters.

Malik, at the centre of the

bribery affair which had threatened to sour the series, did not bat in Pakistan's first innings in Brisbane after requiring six stitches to the wound at the base of his left thumb.

He faced only four balls in the second innings before being

dismissed for a duck as the tourists capitulated meekly before lunch on the fourth day at the Gabba in Brisbane.

Pakistan have yet to finalise their side to face an unchanged Australia in the second Test starting at Hobart's Bellerive Oval on Friday.

The tourists underwent a lengthy fielding practice today after dropping eight costly catches during the first Test.

"We have won series before after losing the first Test, it's not that everything is finished now," Intikhab said.

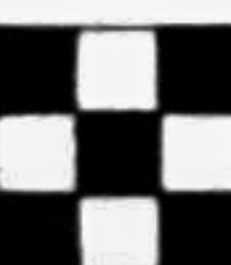
Australia captain Mark Taylor has warned his side against complacency in the wake of their easy first Test victory by an innings and 126 runs.

"They are a very hot and cold side and things can change in one day's play," Taylor said in his post match press conference on Monday.



SALIM MALIK

No change in pattern



Title contenders Mohammed-an Sporting Club and Leonine Chess Club maintained their unbeaten records in the Metropolis First Division Chess league at the end of tenth round yesterday.

Mohammedans, the most powerful side in the 17-team league with three grand masters, lost their second half a point yesterday although they beat Dhaka University 3.5-5. Leonine outplayed Mahakali Pradeep Sangha by the same margin.

Russian GM Mikhail Krasenkov was the first to win for MSC. Playing with black pieces, Krasenkov took only 31 moves to overcome Sheikh Nasir Ahmed of DU. GM Ashot Anasthian, with white pieces, was next to rise from the table against A N M Ruhul Kuddus after 35 moves. GM Niaz Morshed, the first GM of the sub-continent, played a marathon game of 55 moves to beat Krishnapada Biswas. The fourth match between MSC's Abdul-Al Rakib and DU's Monirul Karim Sujon ended in a draw after 40 moves. With yesterday's win, MSC

collected 35 points from nine matches and remained atop the standings with a two-point lead over Leonine Club who have 33 points from ten matches.

In yesterday's round, Leonine's Indian IM Lanka Ravi tamed Altaf Hossain of Pradeep Sangha, Rafiqul Islam blanked Saidul Islam Masum and Manjur Alam beat Shahidul Kabir. The other Indian IM Purna Sharma Mitranth of Leonine drew with Ahmed Jahangir Babul. Bangladesh Biman remained in the third position with 30.5 points. They also recorded a 3.5-5 win over Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra yesterday. National champion IM Rifat bin Sattar, former national champion IM Zaur Rahman and Khandkar Kayes Hasan of Biman won their respective matches against Kajal Mahmood, M R Hafiz and

Paulus prevails
PATTAYA, Thailand, Nov 14: Top seed Barbara Paulus of Austria beat Germany's Claudia Parwik 6-2, 4-6, 7-5 in the women's singles first round match of the 1995 Volvo Open tennis championships here Monday, reports AFP.

Enayet Hossain. The other match between Rezaul Haque (Biman) and Arman Monir (S. Russel) ended in a draw.

In the day's other matches, Bangladesh Ansars defeated Fire Service 3-1. BTMC blanked Anushilan KC 4-0. Genius Chess Club beat defending champions Brothers Union 3-1.

The remaining two matches of the day between Farashganj SC and Konica SS, Parijat Chess Club and Mashguli Mahfil were tied 2-2.

The eleventh round of the league will begin today at 3 pm at the chess-room of Bangladesh Chess Federation.

STANDINGS

- 35 points — MSC, 33 points — Leonine CC, 30.5 points — Biman, 27 points — Ansars, 26.5 points — BTMC, 25 points — Dhaka University, 17.5 points — Sheikh Russel KC, 17 points — Narayanganj CC, Farashganj SC, 15 points — Anushilan KC, 14.5 points — Pradeep Sangha, 13 points — Fire Service, Genius CC, 11.5 points — Parijat CC, 10.5 points — Konica SS, Mashguli Mahfil and 5.5 points — Brothers Union.

Money makes no difference for Tendulkar!

NEW DELHI, Nov 14: Indian batting genius Sachin Tendulkar, who signed a multi-million-dollar marketing deal recently, is undaunted at the prospect of becoming the world's richest cricketer, reports AFP.

"The contract is good, but I am not going to be overawed by it," the 22-year-old said today. "I want to be remembered by the runs I make, not the millions I earn."

Tendulkar, whose attractive batting has made him India's most popular active sportsman, was roped in by the US-based WorldTel Inc. for a five-year contract reported to be worth 7.5 million dollars.

"I am happy at the deal, because I can now concentrate on my cricket and not worry about my financial future," Tendulkar said. "The idea is to let the head stay firmly on the shoulders."

He insisted the contract had not changed him, or his lifestyle.

"My personal life has not changed, nor will it in days to come. Marriage has not affected my cricket and this deal won't alter anything at home."

Tendulkar already endorses a wide variety of products from shoes and blades to health drinks and credit cards.

He began his international career in Pakistan in 1989 at the age of 16, and has played 38 Tests so far, scoring 2,500 runs including eight centuries and 13 fifties.

WTA rankings

ST PETERSBURG, Florida, Nov 14: Leading women's rankings as issued by the Corel WTA Tour on Monday, reports Reuter.

1. Steffi Graf (Germany)
2. Monica Seles (US)
3. Conchita Martinez (Spain)
4. Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario (Spain)
5. Kimiko Date (Japan)
6. Gabriela Sabatini (Argentina)
7. Mary Pierce (France)
8. Magdalena Maleeva (Bulgaria)
9. Mary Joe-Fernandez (US)
10. Iva Majoli (Croatia)
11. Lindsay Davenport (US)
12. Jana Novotna (Czech Republic)
13. Anke Huber (Germany)
14. Chanda Rubin (US)
15. Brenda Schultz McCarthy (Netherlands)
16. Natasha Zvereva (Belarus)
17. Martina Hingis (Switzerland)
18. Naoko Sawamatsu (Japan)
19. Amy Frazier (US)
20. Amanda Coetzer (South Africa)
21. Lisa Raymond (US)

ATP top 20

MONACO, Nov 14: Leading rankings published by the ATP Tour on Monday, reports Reuter.

1. Pete Sampras (US) 4,811 points
2. Andre Agassi (US) 4,765
3. Thomas Muster (Austria) 4,474
4. Michael Chang (US) 2,980
5. Boris Becker (Germany) 2,746
6. Yevgeny Kafelnikov (Russia) 2,560
7. Jim Courier (US) 2,461
8. Thomas Enqvist (Sweden) 2,348
9. Wayne Ferreira (South Africa) 2,049
10. Goran Ivanisevic (Croatia) 1,861
11. Richard Krajicek (Netherlands) 1,756
12. Michael Stich (Germany) 1,727
13. Sergi Bruguera (Spain) 1,666
14. Arnaud Boetsch (France) 1,530
15. March Rosset (Switzerland) 1,391
16. Andrei Medvedev (Ukraine) 1,386
17. Magnus Larsson (Sweden) 1,334
18. Todd Martin (US) 1,268
19. Paul Haarhuis (Netherlands) 1,266
20. Gilbert Schaller (Austria) 1,256

Gazza in a mess

GLASGOW, Nov 14: Legal officials asked police on Monday for a report into incidents involving England international Paul Gascoigne in a Scottish Premier League match at the weekend, reports Reuter.

A television sports programme showed pictures of Rangers midfielder Gascoigne involved in clashes with Aberdeen's Aaul Bernard and three other players during a 63 minute appearance in a 1-1 draw on Saturday.

Bernard needed five stitches in a chin wound at halftime after one of the incidents.

Scotland's procurator Fiscal, responsible for public prosecution, has asked Strathclyde police for a report.

Gascoigne in his first season with Rangers, said on Monday that in his time in Scotland he has been spat and kicked and punched during matches.

"On Saturday I was punched and had to see the doctor this morning about my ribs," he said.

Mary in depths of despair



NEW YORK, Nov 14: Fourth seed Mary Pierce of France who began her year with a brilliant Grand Slam breakthrough

ended it miserably on Monday, gunned down by hard-hitting German Anke Huber in the first round of the WTA Tour Championships, reports Reuter.

The easily rattled Pierce, a semifinalist in the season finale at Madison Square Garden the past two years, was frustrated early and often by the 12th ranked Huber in a 60-minute 6-2, 6-3 drubbing.

Earlier on Monday sixth seed Kimiko Date of Japan, who also reached the semifinals here last year, took

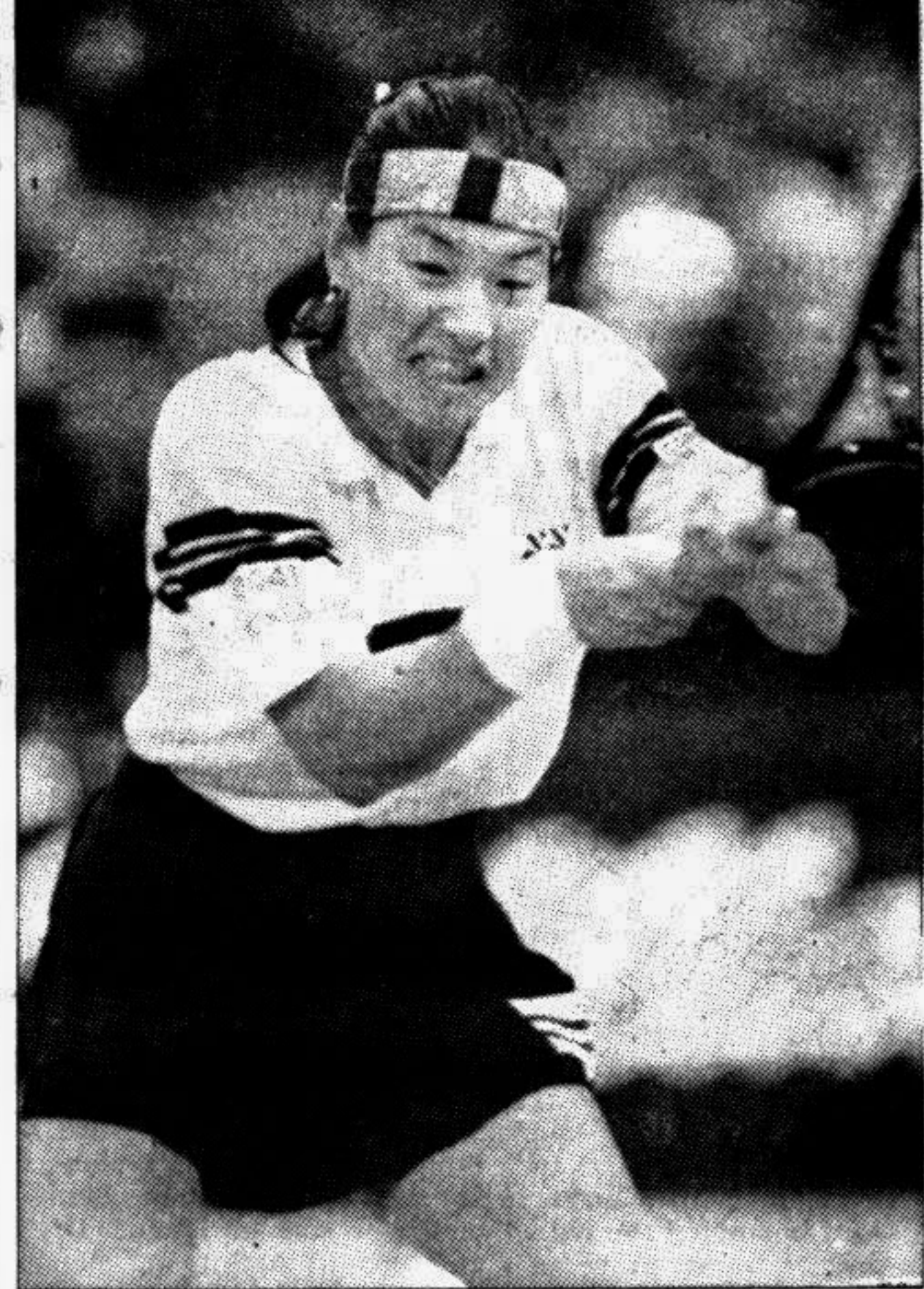
but the great promise that seemed to portend never materialised.

Instead, Pierce met with little success at the next three major tournaments and after claiming one more minor title, the 20-year-old Frenchwoman ended the year with crushing defeats in her opening match two weeks in a row.

"My legs weren't moving well at all. I just felt like nothing was really there tonight," said Pierce, whose ranking dropped from fourth to sixth after her early exit in Philadelphia last week.

"I was hoping to be able to play well and finish the year good," she said.

Huber, now 4-1 against Pierce, set the tone early by



Sixth-seeded Kimiko Date of Japan strains every nerve to make a backhand return against Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic during the WTA Tour Championship at Madison Square Garden on Nov 13. — AFP/UNB photo

twice as long to prevail over Czech serve and volleyer Jana Novotna 5-7, 6-3, 6-4.

Huber and Date will meet in the quarterfinals in the half of the draw left up for grabs by Monica Seles's withdrawal due to injury.

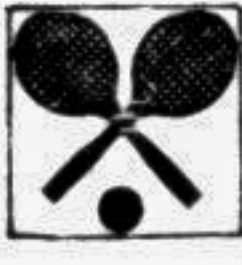
The Canadian born, US-raised Pierce started 1995 by winning the Australian Open — her first Grand Slam title.

winning the first six points to open the match with the first of her five service breaks.

The 12th-ranked German committed just nine, unforced errors to 28 sprayed around the court by Pierce, who also lost her serve in the seventh game of the first set.

Huber came up with another break to open the second set, but Pierce actually

Sampras, Muster at odds



FRANKFURT, Nov 14: Thomas Muster's campaign to finish the most successful year of

his life at the top of world tennis opens against Michael Chang at the ATP Tour World Championship on Tuesday, in a repeat of their French Open final, reports Reuter.

LATEST
FRANKFURT, Nov 14: Pete Sampras opened his campaign to finish the year at the top of men's tennis with a business-like victory over Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov at the ATP Tour World Championship today, reports Reuter.

The Wimbledon champion, bidding to end the season at the top of rankings for the third consecutive year, cruised through his opening match in the round-robin stage with a 6-3, 6-3 victory over the big-hitting Russian.

The 28-year-old Austrian who has a chance to dislodge

Pete Sampras from the number one spot and complete one of the most remarkable stories in the game, was drawn on Monday to face Chang in the opening round-robin group matches at the year-ending championship.

Sampras will play Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov and triple Wimbledon champion Boris Becker will face South African Wayne Ferreira in the other matches on the opening day.

Muster, who proved his mastery of the clay court by beating former champion Chang in the Roland Garros final, has never finished a year in the top five.

To steal the top spot this year he must get through the tournament undefeated and hope that Wimbledon champion Sampras fails to reach the final.

It looks a tall order. But Muster, who has a reputation for being one of the toughest players on the tour, has reached the top echelons of game by winning 12 titles this year, including his first French Open triumph.

Last month he proved he can also beat the best indoors

seemed to turn the tide in her favour in the third game.

The fourth seed saved double break-point to hold her serve for 1-2, then broke Huber and held again to seize a 3-2 lead.

Huber, however, regained her composure and began belting winners into the corners as she ran off the last four games of the match, ending it in front of the few remaining spectators by blasting a clean forehand crosscourt winner.

"I feel confident when I'm playing against her and I know I can win," said Huber, also 20.

"She just doesn't like players... who can play her speed. I think that's obvious from the last two matches she played," added Huber, a semifinalist last week in Philadelphia.

Pierce paid tribute to her conqueror, nearly echoing Huber's assessment.

"She's a tough player," said the Australian Open champion. "She handles my pace very well and not many girls can."

"That's why I get surprised or am not ready for some of the shots she hits back."

Date a counter puncher with little of the power of Huber or Pierce, squandered a set point in the first set before losing it to the 11th-ranked Novotna.

But Date, ranked a career high fourth in the world used superbly, executed passing shots with great success to upend the net charging Novotna.

From 3-3 in the second set, Date own six of the next seven games to take the set and a 3-1 lead in the third.

The Czech fought her way out of trouble by saving a break point in the fifth game and a match point in the ninth. But Novotna was never able to recover from the early final set break and Date raised her 1995 indoor record to a perfect 8-0 by holding serve at love in the final game.

"It was definitely my game plan to come in as much as I can," said Novotna, who qualified for the elite 16-player championships for the seventh consecutive year, "when I did, either she made a good passing shot or I missed a first volley."

Top seeded three-time champion Steffi Graf, now the heavy favourite with Seles not competing, plays her first match today against South African Amanda Coetzer, one of the only two players to beat her this year.

Greats galore of WTA



NEW YORK, Nov 14: The WTA Tour rolled out two of its greatest former champions at Madison Square Garden on Monday to honour the best in women's tennis in 1995, reports Reuter.

Retired greats Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova presided over the WTA Tour annual awards ceremony between matches at the season-ending championships, an event won a combined 12 times by the pair.

There were no surprises in the major awards categories with world number one Steffi Graf taking Player-of-the-Year honours.

Despite injuries and personal problems, the German star won eight of the 10 tournaments she entered this year, including the French Open, Wimbledon and the US Open. She compiled a 44-2

match record, heading into the season finale.

There could be only one choice for Comeback Player-of-the-Year and Monica Seles, who was forced to pull out of the tournament with tendinitis of the left knee and a sprained ankle, flew to New York to accept the award.

After more than two and a half years away from the game following her horrific on court stabbing in Hamburg in 1993, Seles returned in August and won her first tournament back — the Canadian Open. She then cruised all the way to the US Open final before falling to Graf in three sets.

"I wish I was playing this week," Seles told the crowd. "I'm looking forward to seeing you in 1996 and playing some great tennis."

Least there be any doubt about how much tournament organisers miss Seles here, her picture with a banner headline that reads,

"Welcome back Monica" adorns both the official programme and draw sheet for the showcase event.

Tuesday had even been designated "Welcome back Monica night" before her withdrawal late last week.

Double Team-of-the-Year went to American Gigi Fernandez and Natasha Zvereva of Belarus, winners of the French and US Opens and runners-up at Wimbledon and the Australian Open.

Nineteen-year-old American Chanda Rubin was named Most Improved Player.

Rubin cracked the top 20 this year and is now 13th in the rankings. She qualified for this week's elite 16-player field for the first time.

Most Improved Newcomer went to Swiss prodigy Martina Hingis, who turned professional last year and is already ranked 16th in the world.