

SA shush England

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 13: South Africa beat England by three wickets to win the third one-day international at the Wanderers here today, reports AP.

South Africa are now leading the seven-match series 2-1.

SCORES: England 198-8; South Africa 199-7.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the third one-day international between South Africa and England at the Wanderers today:

ENGLAND				
DeFreitas c Donald b Pollock	13			
Atherton c McMillan b Pollock	9			
Smith lb b Pollock	0			
Hick b Donald	14			
Rampersack c Richardson b Cronje	27			
Fairbrother not out	34			
White c Cronje b McMillan	37			
Reeve c Richardson b Donald	8			
Russell c Cronje b Snell	10			
Extras (b-7, w-7, nb-2)	16			
Total (for eight wickets-50 overs)	198			
Fall of wickets: 1-1; 2-23; 3-25; 4-53; 5-88; 6-139; 7-168; 8-198.				
SOUTH AFRICA				
	O	M	R	W
Pollock	10	2	31	3
Matthews	8	0	34	0
Donald	10	0	53	2
McMillan	10	0	27	1
Snell	6	1	29	1
Cronje	6	0	17	1

Bosman brings bosses into discussion

ZURICH, Jan 13: The Jean-Marc Bosman legal case, which threatens to dismantle the player transfer system in Europe, left FIFA at a loss for words, reports Reuters.

FIFA issued a statement on Friday to announce it would be holding talks on the case with UEFA officials on Monday — but nobody would be told what was decided.

"No details of these deliberations will be announced after the meeting," the statement said. "There will be no press conference and none of the participants will be available for interviews."

The statement was headed "media information" and signed by FIFA's communications division.

Arantxa fit as a fiddle

MELBOURNE, Jan 13: A series of practice matches against her brothers Emilio and Javier has left Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario in a confident mood heading into next week's Australian Open tennis championships, reports AP.

"It is good preparation because they hit the ball harder and with a lot of spin. It helps you to play with the men," said the 24-year-old Spaniard.

Sanchez-Vicario has been the beaten finalist at the last two Australian Opens, losing to Steffi Graf in 1994 and to Mary Pierce last year.

The two-time French Open champions, who also won the US Open in 1994, believes she is better prepared for the Australian championship than ever before.

She said she will adopt a match-by-match approach and has not looked past her first-round match against Austrian Beate Reinstadler.

"I've only seen who I am playing in the first round. I don't even know who is in my part of the draw or who is the top or bottom (half of the draw), Sanchez-Vicario said.

"I've always been looking one at a time since I've been professional, and it's something that has worked well for me."

Sanchez Vicario first played Reinstadler, who finished 1995 with a world ranking of 66, in 1993 on clay and also in the third round of the French Open last year. She won in straight sets both times.

"I've played her a couple of times and she hits the ball pretty hard, but I feel confident and I am particularly ready for the conditions," she said.

Sanchez Vicario, currently ranked third, said her main ambition in 1996 is to regain the coveted No 1 ranking that she briefly held three times last year.

"It's something that is on my mind and I'm going to see if I can get it again. It's definitely something I am going to work on," she said.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Premier Division cricket league:

Bangladesh Biman vs Agra Bank SC (DCS)

Victoria SC vs Gulshan Youth Club (DS)

Yamaha First Division cricket league:

Surjo Tarun Club vs Gopibagh FA (CCG)

Acme Second Division cricket league:

Evergreen SC vs Young Pegasus B (MOS)

Uditi Club vs Rupali Bank (DCS)

Mirpur NKC vs Lankashire CC (DCG)

Sonali Bank Second Division football league:

(Venue: Mirpur Stadium)

Jurain Janata vs Little Friends Club (2pm)

Lalbagh SC vs BRTC (3.30 pm)

BG Press vs Ganderia Famous (5 pm)

Progoti Insurance Third Division football league:

(Venue: Rajuk ground)

BG Press vs Chalandika KC (2 pm)

Fire Service vs Matuail US (3.30 pm)

Africa's war kicked off



JOHANNESBURG, Jan 13: President Nelson Mandela welcomed the soccer world to South Africa on Saturday, opening the 20th African Cup of Nations in a lavish ceremony of colour and song, reports AP.

A singing, chanting crowd of 80,000 packed the FNB Stadium near the Soweto black township as South Africa and Cameroon prepared to kick off the tournament, the first held in southern Africa.

Joined by FIFA president Joao Havelange and other world soccer dignitaries, Mandela said the tournament embraced "our brothers and sisters across the continent."

It began with only 15 of the 16 qualifying sides as defending champion Nigeria boycotted due to a political dispute with South Africa, which has called for international sanctions against military leader Gen. Sani Abacha's regime for human rights abuses.

Nigeria faces a likely suspension by the Confederation of African Football and FIFA, the sport's governing body worldwide, including being banned from the 1998 World Cup. The 'Super Eagles' reached the second round of the 1994 World Cup and are

one of Africa's strongest sides.

More than three hours before the kick off, jubilant fans danced and sang in celebration of South Africa's first appearance in a major international soccer tournament since it was welcomed back into the CAF and FIFA in 1992 after being banned for three decades because of apartheid.

Few seemed concerned about the Nigerian boycott, saying the tournament would still determine the African champion.

"It doesn't matter," said Marcus Palle, 30, wearing an umbrella hat in the colours of the South African flag. "We Africans believe in one thing. Humanity comes first. To deprive a person of their rights is not good."

"Whoever wins is the champion. That nation represents the continent of Africa."

A sprinkling of white faces dotted the predominantly black crowd, showing some of the broad support called for by Mandela and South African soccer officials for a sport that has long been the passion of the nation's black majority.

Organisers hoped for strong support from whites, similar to the way blacks supported the Rugby World Cup in South Africa last year even though rugby was traditionally a white-dominated sport associated with the Afrikaner minority that imposed apartheid. In the crowd Saturday were members of the world champion rugby squad to back their soccer compatriots.

The opening ceremony began an hour before the match, with schoolchildren dancing in formation while drum majorettes twirled batons and carried flags.

Jet planes streaming smoke in the colours of the South African flag overflew the stadium, followed by army helicopters flying flags of the 15 participating countries.

Havelange led a group of international and South African soccer officials on a walk around the field, drawing waves and loud cheers from each section as they passed.

Mandela arrived wearing the No 9 jersey of South African captain Neil Tovey and formally opened the tournament, drawing the loudest cheer when he told the crowd how young Afrikaners he met with earlier Saturday morning wished good luck to the South African side.

As he spoke, a South African Airways jetliner thundered just over the top of the stadium.

Brazilians blitz Canada



LOS ANGELES, Jan 13: Brazil, led by young star strikers Caio and Savio, gave Canada a lesson in goal scoring on Friday in a comfortable 4-1 victory in the first round of the CONCACAF Gold Cup tournament, reports Reuters.

The heirs apparent to the Brazilian team that won the World Cup in the United States in 1994 dominated their opening match throughout.

Brazil, coached by former World Cup great Mario Zagallo, fielded essentially an under-23 team, while Canada was missing four regulars, including both central defenders.

The game was effectively over after just 15 minutes as the Brazilians had their way on the Coliseum pitch, jumping out to a quick 3-0 lead with the help of goals by Flamengo's Savio and Inter Milan's Caio.

Defender Leandro scored a last-minute fourth goal after the Canadians, who had beaten Honduras 3-1 in their first Gold Cup match Wednesday, fought gamely to pull a goal back in the second half.

Polish-born Tomasz Radzinski grabbed his first for Canada with a fine low right-foot shot from the edge of the area in the 66th minute.

The Brazilians started the game on the attack and were on the scoreboard after just three minutes when midfielder Andre Luis junked his way through three defenders in the box and slid a low left-foot shot into the far corner with Canadian goalkeeper Craig Forrest rooted to his line.

Three minutes later, a long ball from Flavio Conceicao found Caio on the edge of the box and he held off a challenge to beat Forrest from a sharp angle for a 2-0 lead. Then in the 14th

minute, Forrest had no chance on a powerful Savio header off a cross from Amaral.

Forrest, who plays in the English First Division for Ipswich, was the busiest player on the field, diving at the feet of Savio on the half hour and diving full-length to stop a header from Amaral just before the half.

Canada came close with a long shot from Geoff Auger that forced Brazil goalkeeper Dida to push the ball round the post. But they seemed to be a second slower to every ball and vulnerable in defence against the highly skilled Brazilians.

English clubs feel UEFA's wrath

GENEVA, Jan 13: Tottenham and Wimbledon of the English Premier league have been banned from European competition for one year by UEFA's disciplinary committee, a UEFA spokesman confirmed on Friday, reports Reuters.

UEFA press spokesman Massimo Gonnella said: "The ban will be active for five years and if either club qualifies for any European competition within that period, they will not be allowed to compete."

"The ban was imposed because Tottenham and Wimbledon fielded below-strength teams in last summer's Intertoto Cup."

English clubs have already been punished as a result of the Intertoto Cup with one place being withdrawn from next season's UEFA Cup.

Both Tottenham and Wimbledon were reluctant entrants in the new competition and opted to field young, inexperienced and weakened sides. The English FA sanctioned the clubs taking part with weakened sides. The third English club to compete, Sheffield Wednesday, played a stronger side.

None of the three qualified for the later stages of the competition.

Both Spurs and Wimbledon played their matches at Second Division Brighton's Goldstone Ground and loaned players from other clubs.

Both Clubs clearly angered UEFA president Lennart Johansson who made that point clear when announcing in Birmingham last month that England would lose a place in next year's UEFA Cup.

He believes that all countries and clubs should be totally committed to all UEFA's competitions.

Reacting to the UEFA decision in London, Tottenham chairman Alan Sugar suggested there had been "a very big misunderstanding."



Brazilian midfielder Caio Hurdles over Canadian goalkeeper Craig Forrest who collects the ball during their CONCACAF Gold Cup match in Los Angeles on January 12. Laio scored a goal for his team who won 4-1. — AFP/UNB photo

Aussie air suits Seles



MELBOURNE, Jan 13: In a more innocent time, Monica Seles curled up on a couch in a crowded airport lounge, awaiting an early morning flight home after winning a third straight Australian Open, reports AP.

Children and adults intruded on her attempts to sleep, yet she patiently signed autographs, smiling as best she could, her eyes half-closed at times.

Finally, she covered her face with her floppy hat, let her long legs dangle over the edge of the couch, and tried to doze again. But a big, burly man wandered over, leaned down and tapped her shoulder, holding in his other hand a magazine with her photo. Seles lifted the soft brim of her hat, squinted, smiled and signed again. Before the plane took off, nearly everyone in the lounge had her autograph.

It was 1993, three months before the stabbing that would send her fearfully into

retreat for 2.5 years. She had just played the finest tennis of her life, a 19-year-old coming into the fullness of her talent, getting better and better even after winning her eighth Grand Slam title.

"I felt that I found a balance between everything," she says now of that time when her life seemed aglow and her promise limitless. "That was one of the best runs of my life right there."

A love affair had grown between Seles and Australians. There were qualities about her — vivaciousness, quirkiness, a gritty spirit — that endeared her to fans at the "Oz Open" perhaps more than at any other major championship. And she, in turn, felt at home here.

Few foreigners have won over Australian fans the same way Steffi Graf, Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert, for all their victories here, never quite struck a chord as resonant with the Aussies as Seles did.

Andre Agassi captured that spirit in his title run last year, as did Pete Sampras for

the way he fought through his tie in an unforgettable match against Jim Courier, after learning that coach Tim Gullikson had been diagnosed with brain cancer.

Aussies went wild in the past over John McEnroe, who sometimes went wild himself, and they respected Stefan Edberg, who makes his last appearance here when the Australian Open starts Monday.

But the relationship between Seles and the Aussie fans is different. For one, they've never seen her lose a match in the mint green confines of the National Tennis Centre. She came close only a few times. Down match point to Mary Joe Fernandez in the 1991 semis. Down a set to Jana Novotna in the final that year. Down a set again to Steffi Graf in the magnificent 1993 final.

Each time, Seles found ways to win. And each time, she spoke of how much she had to learn to volley more, lob better, serve harder.

Brothers win in style

Sports Reporter

ESKATAN 88: 218/9 (Parvez 92, Jasimuddin 35, Saad Ali 32)
BROTHERS UNION: 219/5 in 38.4 overs Bidyut 77, Halim Shah 57)

Title-aspirants Brothers Union recorded their fifth win in the Premier Division cricket league this season when they routed Eskatan Sabuj Sarany by five wickets in the eastern side of the Dhanmendi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Chasing a reasonable Eskatan total of 218 for nine from the allotted 50 overs, the Gopibagh outfit made a complete mockery of their task, scoring 219 for five with more than eleven overs to spare.

Profile young opener Shahriar Hossain Bidyut continued his brilliant form in the season hitting a sparkling 77. Bidyut, a member of the national under-19 team and a strong contender for the full national eleven, hit seven boundaries and one overboundary in his 76 ball stay. The knock again disproved some critics who claim the promising right-hander's batting to be too slow.

Middle-order Halim Shah, who came to the wicket at Bidyut's dismissal, carried on from where his younger colleague left making an entertaining 58-ball 57, inclusive of seven hits to the fence.

Earlier, Eskatan made a seemingly defendable 218 for 9 in 50 overs with opener Parvez Ahmed making a solid 92. Parvez clubbed eleven boundaries in his 122-ball stay.

Iqbal Hossain, Aamir Hanif and Sanwar Hossain took two wickets each.

The victory put Brothers into joint second position along with Mohammedan Sporting Club and Kalabagan KC. Each team has collected ten points from six games. Abahani Krira Chakra leads the table.

Yamaha Div I cricket

Sports Reporter

BANGLADESH RAILWAY: 159 for nine in 45.2 overs (Santosh 56, Masum 39, Ratan 3/35)
SADHARAN BIMA KS: 160 for four in 40.2 overs (Sheezan 48, Neaz 47)

Sadharan Bima Krira Sangstha recorded their third Yamaha First Division cricket league victory on Saturday when they handed a six-wicket defeat to Bangladesh Railway at the City Club ground, Mirpur.

Aided by a 106-run second-wicket partnership between opener Sheezan (48) and one down Neaz Hossain (47), the insurance outfit, chasing 160 to win in 45 overs, reached their winning mark in 40.2 overs with six wickets in hand.

Earlier, put in to bat, Railway cricketers scored 159 for nine in their stipulated 45 overs.

Opener Santosh Sutradhar scored the highest 56 off 110 balls while Masum added a quickfire 39 off 33 deliveries to Railway account.

Biman's Ratan grabbed three wickets conceding 35 runs in nine overs.

Acme Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

Azad Sporting Club, Uttara Sporting Club and Lalbagh Union Sporting Club won their respective Acme Second Division cricket league matches held in three different venues of the capital yesterday.

Azad Sporting Club defeated Spread Eagles Club by five wickets at the Dhanmendi cricket stadium while Uttara recorded a 69-run win over Lalbagh Anwar Sporting Club at the Outer Stadium of Mirpur.

In the day's remaining engagement at the Dhanmendi cricket ground, Lalbagh Union beat Rainbow Sporting Club by 28 runs.

SPREAD EAGLES: 179 for eight in 40 overs (Nayan 71, Tutul 26, Tipu 2/19)

AZAD SC: 182 for five in 38.3 overs (Shipon 34 not out, Rabul 33, Ranak 30)

Result: Azad SC won by five wickets.

UTTARA SC: 136 in 32.1 overs (Shafiq 22, Raju 22), Anwar 3/31)

LALBAGH ANWAR SC: 67 in 24.1 overs (Pijush 5/12, Partha 2/7)

Result: Uttara SC won by 69 runs.

LALBAGH UNION SC: 232 for six in 40 overs (Sramik 71, Sumon 27, Sohag 25, Rana 25)

RAINBOW SC: 204 in 38.2 overs (Shafiq 62 not out, Parvez 41, Zahid 33, Ripon 4/37, Youusuf 3/32)

Result: Lalbagh USC won by 28 runs.

Navy v'ball

CHITTAGONG, Jan 13:

The annual volleyball championship of the Bangladesh Navy began at BNS Issa Khan here today, reports BBS.

BNS Shaheed Moazzam beat Khulna Squadron, BN Dockyard Team beat BN Hajl Mohsin, BNS Titumir beat Patrolcraft Squadron and BNS Issa Khan beat Frigate Squadron.

Seles, Davenport in women's final

Sweet revenge for Martin



SYDNEY, Jan 13: Todd Martin upset top seed Goran Ivanisevic 5-7, 6-3, 6-4 to win the Peters International tennis tournament Saturday and avenge his loss to the Croatian in last month's Grand Slam Cup, reports AP.

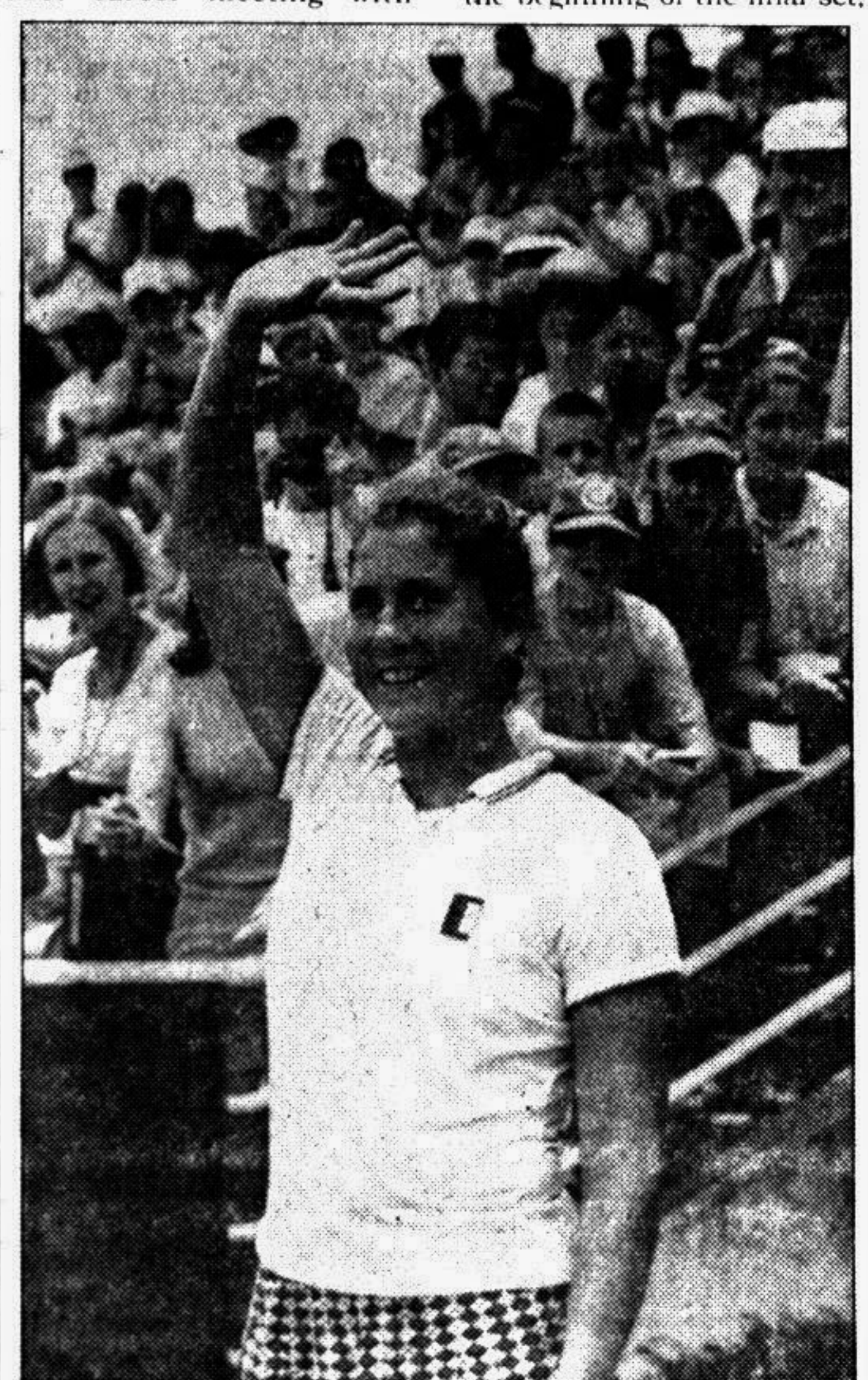
Earlier, Monica Seles walked a tightrope to victory over Brenda Schultz-McCarthy in one women's semifinal, winning 7-6 (8-6), 6-4.

The decision earned her a first career meeting with

fourth-seeded Lindsay Davenport. The American came from behind to defeat second seed Kimiko Date of Japan 6-2, 4-6, 7-5.

Ivanisevic, who rushed many of his shots despite his assertion that he had learned to be more patient, had an opportunity to break back when down 2-4 in the first set, but Martin struck an ace on the first break point and Ivanisevic netted a double-handed backhand on the second.

Martin went on to break at the beginning of the final set.



A portly Monica Seles wares to the crowd at the Peters International, Sydney on January 13. The 20-year-old world's co-number one defeated Brenda Schultz-McCarthy in their semifinal match 7-6, 6-4. — AFP/UNB photo

Safe sail awaits Andre



MELBOURNE, Jan 13: Andre Agassi ought to be able to sleepwalk through his first few matches in defence of his Australian Open title, reports AP.

For Pete Sampras, the wake-up call begins in the first round.

Sampras got hit Friday by the toughest draw among the top seeds in next week's Australian Open as he bids for a third straight Grand Slam title.

Sampras, whose No 1 ranking is up for grabs by No 2 Agassi and No 3 Thomas Muster, plays Australian Richard Fromberg in the first round and could play a much tougher Australian, Mark Philippoussis, in the third round.

Sampras won three of his four matches against Fromberg, but all have been close. Philippoussis, a Melbourne native of Greek heritage, nearly toppled Sampras in a close four-setter at the US Open last September.

If Sampras, who is still congested and tired from the flu he caught two weeks ago, gets past those early threats, he's seeded to meet No 7 Thomas Enqvist or No 10 Goran Ivanisevic in the quarters and No 3 Boris Becker in the semis.

"Pete sometimes can be vulnerable the first week," Brad Gilbert, Agassi's coach, said. "He's been a little sick and hasn't played that much. I look for him to have some tougher matches than Andre, but once he gets through the first week he's a different player."

Agassi, who beat Sampras match. Once he gets to the second week, there's a lot of good things that could happen."

No 5 Michael Chang also has a relatively easy start, though in the fourth round he could face former champion Stefan Edberg, who is playing his last year on the tour. If Chang gets by that, he's seeded to face Muster in

the quarters and Agassi in the semis.

The National Sports Book in Australia, where sports betting is legal, listed Sampras as a 5-4 favourite before the draw. Agassi was 3-1, Becker and Goran Ivanisevic 10-1 each. Philippoussis was listed at 100-1.

Monica Seles was the odds-on 1-2 favourite among the women in the absence of injured Steffi Graf, and her draw did nothing to hurt her chances of a fourth Australian Open title. Seles, who last played this event in 1993, starts against a qualifier and should breeze through to the semifinals, where she's seeded to meet No 3 Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario.

Defending champion and No 4 seed Mary Pierce is in the same quarter with No 5 Kimiko Date, and is seeded to meet No 2 Conchita Martinez in the semis.

Rosset pulls out of Aussie Open

MELBOURNE, Jan 13: Marc Rosset of Switzerland, suffering from a hand injury, withdrew Saturday from the Australian Open tennis tournament, reports AP.

Rosset pulled out with the injury he suffered when he punched an advertising sign during the Hopman Cup final last weekend in Perth.

Austrian Gilbert Schaller, who was the next highest ranked player in the draw not to be seeded, will take over Rosset's place while a lucky rounds will be named on Monday to fill the vacancy.

Aussie Open live on Star TV

Star TV launches another sensational season of world-class tennis with extensive live coverage of the Australian Open, Wimbledon, and the US Open. The