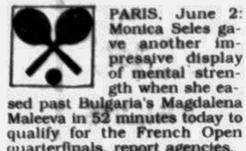


Monica, Edberg move into qtrs



PARIS, June 2: Monica Seles gave another impressive display of mental strength when she eased past Bulgaria's Magdalena Maleeva in 52 minutes today to qualify for the French Open quarterfinals, report agencies.

The joint world number one was far too strong, fast and consistent for the 13th winning 6-1, 6-1 to set up a promising clash with Czech Jana Novotna in the next round.

Novotna, seeded 10th beat Romania's Irina Spirlea 6-1, 7-5.

The last time Seles met Maleeva was in Hamburg on April 30, 1993. That day she was stabbed by a Steffi Graf fan and consequently gave up tennis for 27 months.

The stabbing happened during the changeover after the seventh game of the second set. This time, the same game allowed Seles to finish off Maleeva and to reach the last eight here for the fifth time in five appearances.

"To play her for the first time since that day did not bother me. Apparently it did not bother her either," said Maleeva.

But it did. "At the changeover, it was really tough and I knew that before coming in, I told myself to keep going and to try to think about it. That's what I did," said Seles, who had not played on clay for nearly four years before the Spanish Open last month.

Despite her impressive performance against Maleeva, the 22-year-old American refused to compare her game now with the game she played in the past.

"I don't know if I've reached my peak because I don't remember so much from my past, it was almost four years without playing on clay," she said.

Seles who won here in 1990, 1991 and 1992, has not been beaten in Paris since June 1989, when she lost in the semifinals of her first Grand Slam to now joint world number one Graf.

Earlier on Saturday, Stefan Edberg, playing in his last French Open, rolled back the years and notched up a revenge victory over fourth-seeded Michael Chang to reach the fourth-round of the men's singles.

The 30-year-old Swede, who has announced his retirement for the end of the season, was given a standing ovation by an enthusiastic Centre-Court crowd after scoring a 4-6, 7-5, 6-0, 7-6 (7/1) victory in 2 hours 40 minutes.

He had waited seven years to avenge one of the most costly defeats of his career. For in 1989, poised to complete his collection of Grand Slam titles, he was beaten by Chang in the final.

Edberg, winner of six Grand Slam titles with victories at the Australian Open (1985, 1987), Wimbledon (1988, 1990) and the United States Open (1991, 1992), waved to his wife Annette who was standing applauding in the players' box after his win.

"It is so great to be out here when everything is going well," he said.

"It's a lot of excitement and the crowd here are wonderful." The world's number-one player in 1990 and 1991 but currently 45th in the rankings, Edberg was asked what he thought about his chances of finally winning the elusive French crown.

"There is still a long, long

way to go," he smiled. "But I have played three wonderful matches here — and if I can keep playing as well as this, then at least I have a chance."

Edberg now plays Switzerland's big-serving Olympic champion Marc Rosset who beat Davis Cup teammate Jakob Hlasek in straightsets.

Rosset, who finally broke his Roland Garros jinx this year after failing to get past the second-round in six previous visits, scored a 6-4, 6-4, 6-1 win.

While Edberg was delighting the packed Centre-Court crowd, defending champions Thomas Muster and Steffi Graf also reached the last sixteen but neither finished their third-round matches.

Muster had to help 21-year-old Adrian Panatta after the Romanian twisted his ankle during their match.

Vince, who first hit the headlines when he reached the quarter-finals twelve months ago and who has since risen to 45 in the standings, was bitterly disappointed.

He had the ankle tightly strapped at 6-2, 4-2 — but retired after losing the next game.

Muster now plays Germany's 15th seeded Michael Stich who recovered after dropping the first set to beat Mikael Tillstrom of Sweden 4-6, 6-0, 6-4, 7-6 (7/3).

rising stars of world tennis, failed to get further than the second-round in two previous visits to the French capital. But he recently gatecrashed the world's Top-ten after a sensational start of the clay court season in which he was a finalist in Barcelona, and a semi-finalist at Indian Wells, Monte Carlo and Hamburg, before winning the ATP event at St Polten last weekend.

Rios now plays the last-surviving Frenchman Cedric Pioline who defeated Spain's former finalist Alberto Berasategui in four sets.

Goran Ivanisevic stormed past Czech opponent Bohdan Ulihrach 6-4, 6-2, 6-2 in just 69 minutes — slamming down another twelve aces and at least a score of unstoppable first serves.

The 24-year-old fifth-seeded Croatian, looking increasingly comfortable on the red clay surface, now plays Bernd Karbacher of Germany who defeated Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands 4-6, 6-4, 6-2, 6-3.

In the women's singles, Iva Majoli flirted with disaster before reaching the last sixteen.

The fifth-seeded Croatian, playing 39th-ranked Sandrine Testud of France, dropped the first set and had to fight her way back from 3-5 in the second before clinching a 4-6, 7-5, 6-4 victory in a gruelling match which lasted 2hrs

string them before each match and just hope they don't break. If I do break them both — perhaps somebody will lend me one."

Leon-Garcia, whose parent runs a snack bar in Madrid, has been sending shock waves through women's tennis and especially through the Japanese contingent at the championships. She put out Nana Miyagi and Kyoko Nagatsuka in the first two rounds.

Paulus was the fourth women's seed to fail to survive the first week.

Switzerland's 15th seed Martina Hingis, 12th seeded Mary Pierce of France, and Holland's eighth-seeded Brenda Schultz-McCarthy have all been beaten.

Seventh seed Kimiko Date, who rewrote the history books twelve months ago by becoming the first Japanese player to reach the semifinals, also moved into the fourth round when she beat American Linda Wild 6-3, 7-5.

She now plays slimmed-down ninth-seed Lindsay Davenport of the United States.

Davenport, who has been suffering from a bad cold all week and who won in Strasbourg last weekend proved too strong for Yayuk Basuki of Indonesia and scored a 6-3, 6-2 win.

Third-seeded Spaniard Conchita Martinez, also went through comfortably. She beat Ann Grossman of the United States 6-2, 6-1.

Davenport rallies behind Fernandez

PARIS, June 2: Another member of the US Olympic women's tennis team urged officials Saturday to add Mary Joe Fernandez to the lineup, reports AP.

"We're trying everything we can to get her on the team," said Lindsay Davenport, one of the four women players selected by the US Tennis Association this week to play in the Atlanta Games.

Fernandez won a gold medal in doubles with Gigi Fernandez at the 1992 Barcelona Games, as well as a bronze in singles.

But she was left off the team for Atlanta because she was not ranked high enough in the computer rankings of April 29.

The four selected were Monica Seles, Chanda Rubin, Davenport and Gigi Fernandez.

On Friday, Seles called the decision unfair and said she was lobbying for Fernandez to be included on the team.

"I've told the other teammates I'd be willing to let her play the doubles," Davenport said. "We're trying to get that arranged. Supposedly, the Olympic committee said five people can't be on a team, but we're trying."

Davenport and Fernandez are close friends.

"It hurt because obviously I wanted to be there with her, and I know she wanted it more than anything," Davenport said. Earlier Saturday, Fernandez spoke of her disappointment.

"There are a lot of rules and regulations, a lot of politics involved in the Olympics," she said. "It was unfortunate for me that the rules played out the way they did."

"I'm disappointed and sad, of course. Playing in the '92 Olympics was the highlight of my career. Winning the gold and the bronze was icing on top of the cake. I love representing my country."

She said she appreciated Seles' support.

"Monica and I have known each other for a long time," she said. "I'm happy that she's rooting for me."

Fuqua Atlanta's Samaritan

ATLANTA, June 2 (Reuters): Organisers of this summer's Olympics say they are relieved.

A local businessman has decided to donate 1.5 million dollars of his own money to make sure there are enough portable toilets, water stations and shade structures near Olympic venues during the Games. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported on Saturday.

JB Fuqua, who controls Atlanta-based Fuqua Enterprises Inc, learned from press reports last month that public comfort facilities could be few and far between during the Games, because of tight financing. Olympic visitors are likely to need some relief from sweltering summer temperatures that can hover above 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius) during daylight hours in the southeastern United States.

The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games estimates it will need 2 million dollars to provide an adequate number of toilets, water stations and shaded areas.

"There are some things that I consider essential that they haven't been able to finance," said Fuqua, who visited Barcelona after the 1992 Olympics to survey the aftermath of the games there.

"We are going to have all kinds of people here, and we want to leave them with a good impression. If we had no facilities, it would not only be a great inconvenience but it would have made a bad impression," he added.

Fuqua now is urging other wealthy Atlanta residents to come up with the remaining \$600,000 dollars needed to ensure an adequate number of facilities.



Croatian Iva Majoli (R) receives a kiss from local player Sandrine Testud after her third round match at Roland Garros on June 1. Majoli won 4-6, 7-5, 6-4. — AFP/UNB photo

Christie proves a point

MADRID, June 2: Linford Christie answered one question emphatically on Saturday but left the crucial one hanging open on the first day of the European Cup team competition, reports AP.

The British team captain looked close to his commanding best while winning the 100 metres in 10.04 seconds, confirming that even at the age of 36 he can still beat the best in Europe.

But once again he refused to say whether or not he would defend his Olympic title in Atlanta next month or stick to his earlier decision to miss the Centenary Games.

If Saturday's race was any indication, Christie will be ready to cross the Atlantic and take on the Americans at home.

"I was very nervous before the race," Christie confessed. "This was going to be the first time this year I was going to let myself go."

"I'm very happy with it. I thought I ran very well."

Three false starts would not have helped Christie's nerves, although he was as impassive as always.

When the race finally got underway, Christie was all power and concentration and the race was effectively over at the halfway stage.

The shape of the European challenge in Atlanta began to emerge on Saturday with wins for 1992 champions Sally

Gunnell and Fermin Cacho and another impressive performance by Grit Brueer, who has returned to competition after a drugs ban.

Briton Gunnell, the Olympic women's 400 metres hurdles champion, had problems with the wind and trailed at the final barrier before surging over the last few metres to win in 56.84 seconds.

Gunnell punched the air with relief as much as delight at the line and said afterwards she had felt as nervous as she had before the Barcelona Olympic final.

"I was just very happy to win," Gunnell said. "The wind was unbelievable. But it was good to get out there and win."

Gunnell missed last year through injury and was a spectator as American Kim Batten took her world title and world record.

"I was very nervous before," Gunnell said. "It was like the Olympic Games."

Cacho, Spain's Olympic champion, held off German Ruediger Stenzel to win the 1,500 metres in three minutes 40.27 seconds. Stenzel was initially disqualified after clashing twice with Italian Gennaro Di Napoli on the final bend but was reinstated after an appeal.

Brueer, the former European 400 champion, looked smooth and controlled in gaining maximum points for her team on an excellent day for the Germans.

They head both the men's and women's points standings and could well take both titles today.



LINFORD CHRISTIE

Hegg returns with a bang

CONCORD, N Carolina, June 2: Twelve years after winning a gold and a silver medal at the Los Angeles Olympics, Steve Hegg once again finds himself near the pinnacle of US cycling, reports AP.

Hegg, 32, captured the national individual time trials on Thursday, his third consecutive victory in the five-race series to determine this year's US team for the Atlanta Olympics.

The surge has vaulted Hegg into the lead with just one event left, a 137-mile (220 kilometre) road race on Sunday in Charlotte.

"I won't be confident until Sunday's behind us," Hegg said. "There's still guys out there that have a chance."

The victory on a rolling, 18.4-mile (30 kilometre) course just north of Charlotte was the 13th national championship for Hegg, America's only Olympic cycling gold medalist who is still competing.

Earlier Thursday on the same course, Mari Holden won the women's time trials to move from eighth place to fourth in the standings heading into their last event, a 61-mile (100 kilometre) road race Saturday in Bolling Springs.

Five men and three women will make up the US Olympic team. Lance Armstrong, the world's top-rated cyclist, already has secured a berth on the men's squad and is exempt from the team trials. The men's and women's trials winners will automatically earn spots on the team, and the coaches will select two other men and one woman after the trials end.

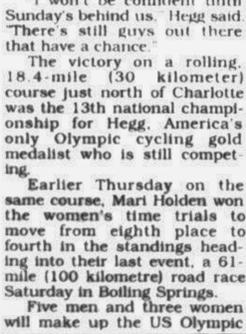
Hegg won a time trial May 22 in Martinsburg, West Virginia, and a road race on Sunday in Pittsburgh.

He wasn't sure what to expect on Thursday, when strong winds buffeted the competitors throughout their early-afternoon runs.

"I was never really comfortable on the course because of the wind and the conditions," Hegg said. "You never really got a good rhythm going."

His winning time Thursday of 35 minutes, 34.31 seconds was nearly 38 seconds faster than that posted by amateur Greg Randolph, the second-fastest cyclist, Frankie Andreu, the overall leader heading into Thursday, was third, another six seconds back.

The outcome gave Hegg a nine-point lead over Andreu heading into Sunday, when the top-20 finishers can earn up to 50 points apiece.



Steve Hegg

Great news for Hansie & Co

JOHANNESBURG, June 2: South Africa's top cricketers will earn more than ever before, thanks to a new pay structure announced by the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) on Saturday, reports Reuters.

"A top player will be able to earn close to 600,000 rand (140,000 dollars) over the next 12 months," UCBSA managing director Ali Bacher told a news conference.

The UCBSA has contracted 14 players for 10,000-13,200 rand (2,330-3,000 dollars) a month each.

The are: Hansie Cronje, Craig Matthews, Dave Richardson, Jonty Rhodes, Fanie de Villiers, Allan Donald, Brian McMillan, Shayun Cullinan, Gary Kirsten, Shaun Pollock, Andrew Hudson, Pat Symcox, Paul Adams and Jacques Kallis.

Bacher said the board had set incentive bonuses of up to 300,000 rand (70,000 dollars) per victory for the forthcoming six-Test series against India and three-Test series against Australia, and would not restrict earnings outside the game.

Highly marketable stars like Cronje, Rhodes and de Villiers could almost double their income through personal deals.

Bacher said South Africa was also hoping to play a Test against World Cup champions Sri Lanka in the 1997/98 season followed by a three-Test series in 2000.

"We have an obligation to play all the Test countries and we think it is a shame that Sri Lanka are being frozen out of Test cricket," he said.

Rousseau new WICBC boss

KINGSTON, Jamaica, June 2: Jamaican businessman Pat Rousseau has been elected president of the West Indies Cricket Board of Control (WICBC) in succession to Peter Short, reports Reuters.

WICBC chief executive officer Stephen Cambacho said on Saturday Rousseau was elected during the governing body's annual general meeting in Jamaica and will hold the post until 1998.

Short said earlier this year he would not be seeking re-election.

Rousseau previously served the board as chairman of its marketing committee.

Cambacho said the appointment of a West Indies manager, coach and captain for the forthcoming tour of Australia was deferred. But an announcement would be made within 30 days.

Former West Indies captain Clive Lloyd and Malcolm Marshall, the most successful West Indies bowler in Test cricket, have been strongly tipped to be named manager and coach respectively, with Courtney Walsh as captain.

Antigua last bowler Kenny Benjamin ignored by the selectors since being fined for a breach of contract during the 1995 tour of England, was again eligible for the West Indies team, a WICBC statement said.

The statement said following a review of the matter the board has determined that he is now eligible for selection on the West Indies team.

Benjamin was overlooked for the Sharjah Champions' Trophy, the world series in Austria, the World Cup and the home series against New Zealand.

Casiraghi inspires Italy

BUDAPEST, June 2: A seventh minute goal by Lazio striker Pierluigi Casiraghi set Italy on their way to a 2-0 win over Hungary on Saturday in their final game before this month's European Championship in England, reports Reuters.

Casiraghi latched onto a delightful pass from Roberto de Matteo and chipped the ball past goalkeeper Hajdu.

The visitors sealed their victory just after the break when Casiraghi's low cross from the right flank was turned into his own goal by Hungarian captain Janos Banfi.

Although the Italians controlled the midfield their new look flat back four appeared uncomfortable at times.

Hungary, looking more dangerous than in their recent 3-0 defeat by England, created a couple of clear chances in the first half, opening up the Italian defence with long balls.

Gabor Torma missed the easiest chance on the stroke of halftime, blasting over from three metres in front of an open goal.

A warning for FINA

ATLANTA, Georgia, June 2: If world swimming governing body FINA will not police the sport and answer to competitors, it will be replaced, a group of swimmers and coaches from four nations warned, reports AFP.

The World Swimming Coaches' Association has pushed for changes in FINA in a fight that will come to a head at the Atlanta Olympics, when the FINA congress will be conducted.

Former Olympic and world champions joined coaches from Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States in a letter to Sweden's Gunnar Werner, FINA's secretary general.

Japanese soccer chief wants to quit

TOKYO, June 2: Ken Nagamura, chairman of the Japanese Football Association who had campaigned for Japan to host the 2002 World Cup finals, is mulling resignation after the FIFA decision on co-hosting with South Korea, reports AFP.

Naganuma, 65, told The Tokyo Shimbun in Zurich Saturday: "I have to discuss with other people back in Japan who should be at the head in the coming six years (to 2002)."

"Leaders should think about their retiring timing. Personally, I want to watch the 2002 World Cup in a relaxed manner," he said.

British boxing on the ropes

Dr Sanjiva Wijesinha writes from Oxford

The death of a young boxer has sparked renewed calls for boxing to be banned in Britain. Gemini News Service reports on the controversy and examines the medical dangers involved in the sport.

BRITISH boxing has suffered a further heavy blow with the death from brain injuries of a young professional fighter.

"The medical evidence against boxing is overwhelming," said a statement from the doctors' organisation, the British Medical Association, which is among critics calling for the sport to be outlawed.

It remains for society to decide whether it will tolerate this continuing tragic waste of young lives in the name of sport.

Hundreds of boxers have died from injuries suffered in the ring since the late 19th century when the Marquis of Queensberry introduced a set of rules — including banning blows to the belt, and reducing the length of a round to three minutes — with the intention of making boxing safe.

The victim was 25-year-old James Murray, who died in hospital in Glasgow, Scotland, after being knocked unconscious during a challenge for the British bantamweight title last year.

As doctors battled to save Murray's life, those in charge of British boxing prepared to battle to save the sport from being banned.

Fans point out that other dangerous sports, such as motor racing and mountaineering, produce their share of fatal accidents.

Boxing, however, is the only sport in which two individuals set out with the express purpose of hurting or disabling each other even to the extent of leaving an opponent comatose on the canvas.

consistency similar to that of hardened jelly.

It normally fits inside the skull, which is designed to protect it from injury. But because of its jelly-like nature, it is liable to injury if subjected to a forceful blow.

In boxing, the brain has constantly to withstand powerful blows. After a heavy impact, the brain can suffer damage not only at the point where the blow struck but also where it bounced into the opposite side of the inner skull.

Navy doctors recently examined a group of 34 amateur boxers in Britain's armed services, where the sport is encouraged as a means of building fitness and self-discipline.

Nearly half these young men, aged between 18 and 30, were found to have abnormal brain scans. Compared with a similar group of non-boxers, they were also found to perform worse on tests of intelligence, reaction times and dexterity.

Royal Navy Surgeon Commander Dr Murdoch Macleod says: "There is a tendency for people to claim that amateur boxing is safe compared with professional boxing because the bouts are limited to three rounds of three minutes each. But this is not so. Our study proves that people who get repeated blows to the head end up with damaged brains."

An added factor which makes a boxer's brain vulnerable to damage from the blows it receives is that many fighters from normal food and drink during the period before the pre-match weigh-in as they struggle to stay within their weight limit. Even though the weigh-in is held a

day before the fight, 24 hours is not enough for the body to replenish itself with adequate food and fluid to recover.

Such severe dieting causes the brain to become dehydrated and to shrink — and so fit less snugly within the skull. This reduced size makes the brain more likely to get tossed around.

Under current rules, a boxer wins a fight with a knock-out if he delivers a blow that causes his opponent to fall down unconscious. The felled opponent suffers some form of brain injury. Not all such injuries cause death, but they do kill brain cells.

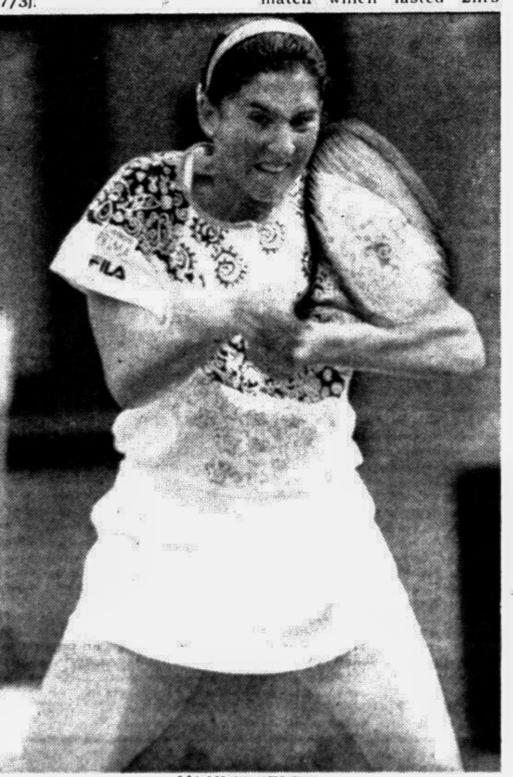
Since brain cells cannot regenerate, the repeated battering a boxer's brain suffers can lead to some form of permanent brain damage. Besides those who have died from their injuries, innumerable others have become "punch drunk."

To fend off calls for the sport to be banned, the British Board of Boxing Control has now unveiled a package of extra safety measures. They are based mainly on an independent report compiled by four leading neurosurgeons, a neurologist, and a neuro-radiologist.

The measures include better scanning techniques and monitoring to detect boxers at increased risk of brain damage, and greater powers of intervention by doctors while fights are in progress.

Gemini

About the Author: Dr Sanjiva Wijesinha is a Sri Lankan medical specialist, currently on a fellowship at Oxford University medical school.



MONICA SELES