

Column One SPORTS TALK



Kimiko Date

(Japan's leading tennis star) 'It is true that Japanese women's tennis is getting better and better. I think one of the reasons is that in Japan we can practice with Japanese men players.'

Sports WHIZZ KID COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-45

Tick the Correct Answers

(Competition closes: 8 p.m. July 12, 1996)

Table with 5 rows of multiple-choice questions about Wimbledon, Euro '96, ICC Trophy, Czech Republic coach, and SAF Games.

Name:

Class:

School Address:

Phone: (if any)

SL to tour S Africa in March

COLOMBO, July 5: Sri Lanka, the 1996 World Champions in one-day cricket, will play two Test matches against South Africa in March 1998, the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka (BCCSL) said today, reports Reuter.

Board president Upali Dharmadasa discussed the series with Ali Bacher, managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, when they met at the International Cricket Conference in London, a BCCSL statement said.

The two-Test series, to be played in South Africa, is to be followed by a triangular one-day series in Sri Lanka that will involve South Africa, Sri Lanka and Pakistan, it added.

Sri Lanka are also scheduled to host India, Zimbabwe and Australia in a four-nation limited over tournament in August this year, followed by a Test series with cricket newcomers Zimbabwe.

WHIZZ KID-44 correct answers

- 1: Boris Becker won his first Wimbledon tennis title in Ans: 1985
2: Sir Garry Sobers once played Sheffield Shield in Australia for Ans: South Australia
3: The winner of marathon gold in the 24 national athletics championship is Ans: Younus
4: The new coach of West Indies cricket team is Ans: Marshall
5: The fair play trophy of the Euro 96 was awarded to Ans: England.

WHIZZ KID-44 winner

Md Zakkiul Islam Mottihel Govt Boys' High School Dhaka.

Schools kabaddi

Sports Reporter Dolairpar High and Sharmin Textile Mills High won their respective matches in the ongoing sixth schools kabaddi championship yesterday.

In the day's first encounter, Dolairpar boys trounced Ramkrishna Mission High School by 78-15 points while Sharmin Textile Mills High School recorded a 62-26 point win over Mottihel Government High School.

Follow-on scare for England

Sports Reporter



India at Trent Bridge. Earlier, India finished their first innings on a massive total of 521.

Sourav Ganguly, playing only in his second Test, repeated his first Test feat by scoring yet another century. Ganguly was out Friday without adding to his overnight 136.

Sachin Tendulkar was in fine form scoring 177 and Rahul Dravid added 84 valuable runs. Skipper Azharuddin failed again and was out for five.

AP adds: Saurav Ganguly and Sachin Tendulkar added only one more run to their record-breaking stand of 254 when England hit back with a quick wicket.

Ganguly was still on 136 when he drove loosely at left-arm Alan Mullally only to hit him straight to Naser Hussain in the gully. That made the score 288 for three after India had added only a wide to their overnight total.

In a testing session for the Indians on the second day, Tendulkar (169 not out) and Sanjay Manjrekar (30 not out) added 80 runs as India moved to 367 for three at lunch.

Ganguly also scored a century on his debut at Lord's in the second, drawn Test.

His innings here lasted 361 minutes and included 16 fours and two sixes as he became the sixth player in history to score successive centuries in his first two Tests.

It was a thoughtful piece of Exit Flower, enter Houghton

LONDON, July 5: Worcestershire's David Houghton reluctantly agreed on Thursday to captain Zimbabwe's cricket team for the second time following the surprise resignation of Andy Flower, reports Reuter.

Houghton said he would lead the side's tour of Sri Lanka next month, a home series against England and a one-day competition in South Africa, before retiring from international cricket next March.

'I just wanted to play as a batsman for the rest of my career without the pressure of captaincy,' said Houghton, who first led the side between 1985 and 1993.

'But there really is no-one else in the team who can take the job on. They are all so young. A lot of them were barely born when I made my international debut in 1978.'

'Andy (Flower) asked if I would take over for an interim period before handing in his resignation and I have agreed to doing a year.'

Houghton, who is coach at Worcestershire, averages 49 in Test cricket and scored a century against New Zealand on his last appearance in January.

He missed this year's World Cup because of a broken foot.

bowling by Mullally whose ninth Test wicket came immediately after a rising delivery struck Ganguly on his finger and demanded on-field attention.

Mullally, Dominic Cork and Chris Lewis bowled with venom throughout the tense morning session and were unlucky not to pick up another wicket.

Manjrekar survived a confident lbw appeal by Mullally, and as he dawdled out of his crease, Cork, at silly-middle off threw down the stumps, but the second appeal was also denied.

Cork's first spell troubled



TENDULKAR...177

The Indians as they struggled in the first hour in gloomy, overcast weather. Cork beat Manjrekar outside off with two superb balls, and struck Tendulkar on the pads only to have his lbw appeal turned down by umpire K T Francis of Sri Lanka.

After 35 minutes Tendulkar had added only two runs to his overnight 123, but he still pushed India's score to 300 in the 98th over.

In the last hour before lunch the Indians found some rhythm and the runs began to flow. A crunching cut by Manjrekar off a short wide Mark Ealham delivery reminded the home side that any loose deliveries would be dealt with mercilessly.

Fifteen minutes before lunch Tendulkar passed 150 for the third time in Test cricket.

On Thursday a record unbeaten stand of 254 between Sachin Tendulkar and Saurav Ganguly placed India in a commanding position to share the spoils in the Test series against England.

The pair came together midway through the opening session of the third and final Test with the tourists in trouble at 33 for two, but five hours later India were 287 for two and well set to level the series at 1-1.

Ganguly, a stylish left-hander, hammered 17 fours and two sixes to finish the day on 136, while Tendulkar had

scored 123. The 23-year-old Ganguly became only the third player in history to score hundreds in his first two Test innings, having hit 131 on debut in the drawn second Test at Lord's a fortnight ago.

West Indians Alvin Kallicharran and Lawrence Rowe both did that double in the 1972 series against New Zealand.

Tendulkar made the most of a lucky start when he was put down by Mike Atherton before scoring to register his second hundred of the series following his 122 in India's eight-wicket loss in the first Test.

The right-hander lashed at his sixth ball, sending the Chris Lewis delivery to Atherton at gully but the England skipper seemed to see the ball late and could not get his hands to the thigh-high chance.

Tendulkar struggled before lunch posting just 14 runs in comparison to Ganguly's 43, but he cut loose in the second session blazing past 50 with a savage attack on Dominic Cork which produced 29 runs off 16 balls.

Tendulkar was the first of the pair to reach triple figures, his 10th Test century coming from 141 balls, including 15 fours.

The right-hander became more circumspect towards the close allowing Ganguly to regain the initiative, and to the end Ganguly was on the attack, hammering spinner Min Patel for a straight six in the penultimate over of the day.

Their partnership was the highest every by an India touring side in England and easily bettered the series' previous highest partnership of 137.

Ganguly came to the crease after opener Vikram Rathore went for four. A rising leg-side ball from Cork hit glove and went to Jack Russell behind the stumps. Within minutes of the re-start after rain Nayan Mongia was out for nine.

The Indian wicketkeeper, recently promoted in an attempt to end the tourists' dismal record of opening partnerships, edged Chris Lewis to Graeme Hick at second slip. Hick fumbled but Russell took the catch.

Middlesbrough rope in Ravanelli

MILAN, July 5: Juventus striker Fabrizio Ravanelli signed for English Premier league club Middlesbrough on Thursday in a deal worth seven million pounds (11 million dollars), reports Reuter.

The prematurely grey forward, 27, became the latest big name from Italy to move to England, following teammate Gianluca Vialli and Lazio midfielder Roberto Di Matteo, both on their way to Ruud Gullit's London club Chelsea.

The transfer deal was signed by the parties at a hotel near Milan's Malpensa Airport.

Cricketers' first defeat in USA

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh national cricket team suffered their first defeat in the USA when a local New York side, Calypso City, handed them a 24-run defeat at the Flushing Meadow Park on Thursday.

According to a fax message received by BCCB last night, in a 40-over-a-side low-scoring affair, the tourists, who have won their previous three outings in New York this week, won the toss and decided to field first.

Skipper Akram Khan's decision paid off as the Calypso City outfit were bundled out for 139 in 39.3 overs. Slow medium pacer Athar Ali played the pivotal role in the destruction as he captured four wickets for only 20 runs. Medium pacer Saiful and Sujon bagged one wicket each for the touring side.

One down R Bishop scored highest 28 for Calypso followed by Sirjue (25) and Lorick (22).

In reply, the middle order caved in as Bangladesh were booked for 115 in 39.2 overs. Only opener Shariat Hossain Bidyut and Akram Khan showed some courage with the willow. Bidyut scored highest 40 while Akram, the stocky middle order, added 30 to the tourists' account. None of the other batsmen could make a decent score.

With the defeat, Bangladesh completed their New York engagements. The team reached Washington last evening and were scheduled to take on the USA national side in their first of three one-day matches last night.

Rain, Mushie reign

FAJTON, England July 5: Pakistan leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed signed a fresh contract with Somerset on Thursday then took five of their wickets for 36 to leave the county 141 behind on first innings, reports Reuter.

Pakistan extended that advantage to 248 for the loss of Saeed Anwar for 60 by the close of a rain-interrupted second day.

Somerset received a scare when Australian Shane Lee - a big success as Mushtaq's deputy this season - retired hurt after being struck on the hand by a delivery from Waqar Younis. An X-ray showed nothing worse than bad bruising to a knuckle.

Waqar took three for 59, but it was Mushtaq who bewitched a succession of batsmen with the control and variety of his bowling as Somerset fell for 159.

Essex become effete

LONDON, July 5: Leicestershire stamped themselves as strong English championship contenders on Thursday by taking control of their match against Essex at Leicester, reports Reuter.

Fast bowler David Mills and veteran medium pacer Gordon Parsons took four wickets each as Essex managed only 163 in their first innings. Vince Wells and Darren Maddy shared an unbroken opening stand of 113 in reply.

It was a particularly miserable day for Test reject Ronnie Irani, who had dashed from Nottingham after being released from England's squad for the third Test against India. The Essex player was out for a duck and was then hit for 20 off his five overs.

Fourth-placed Leicestershire have two games in hand on leaders Yorkshire.

Second-placed Kent, who can take over at the top if they beat bottom side Durham, had useful contributions from Carl Hopper (66), Nigel Long (64), David Fulton (64) and Trevor Ward (50) in a total of 363 at Maidstone.

Simon Brown claimed his third five-wicket haul of the season, taking five for 76.

Rain washed out the morning session at Bristol but Glamorgan openers Steve James and Hugh Morris made up for lost time by plundering unbeaten centuries against Gloucestershire. The pair steered their side to 233 in 72 overs.

Matthew Keech struck a career-best 104 to revive Hampshire on the second day of their match against Sussex at Arundel.

Hampshire made 270 and Sussex reached 82 for three in reply.

Gunnell relieved

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, July 5: Britain's Sally Gunnell vowed on Thursday to defend her Olympic 400 metres hurdles title in Atlanta, reports Reuter.

Gunnell feared the worst when she limped out of Wednesday's Lausanne Grand Prix but a scan on her left foot revealed only an inflamed heel and no bone damage.

Swiss specialist Roland Biedert said Gunnell should rest for a weekend then resume training.

Gunnell, who missed last season after surgery on a damaged heel in her other foot, said: 'It's great news to hear there is nothing major to worry about.'

Outsiders oust top guns



LONDON, July 5: Title holder Pete Sampras and his greatest Wimbledon rival of recent years, Goran Ivanisevic, were both knocked out in the quarterfinals on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Sampras' three-year reign as champion ended when he was overpowered by unseeded Dutchman Richard Krajicek and went down 7-5, 7-6, 6-4 in a match that had been suspended by rain at 1-1 in the third set on Wednesday.

'Richard gave me my toughest test ever out here and I wasn't good enough. He returned and passed me better than I thought he could and he thoroughly deserved to win,' the American said.

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Unseeded Dutchman Richard Krajicek, promoted to the position vacated by seventh seed Thomas Muster but not seeded himself, inflicted the first Wimbledon defeat on Sampras since he lost to Ivanisevic in the 1992 semifinals.

It ended Sampras' ambition of matching the modern record of five successive titles set by Bjorn Borg of Sweden in 1980.

'I saw his body language. He seemed looser than I was. I think he has a good chance to win the title now.'

Sampras looked back at the five break-points he had in the first two games of the match, in which he had seven altogether in the first two sets and none thereafter.

'I had my chances and didn't take them. Richard had chances and converted them,' Sampras said.

Krajicek, who has suffered a series of injuries during his career, said he felt that only in the first four games was Sampras the better player.

'Otherwise, I think I was better over the two days.'

'Grass is a tough surface but sometimes if you pressure Pete he gets a bit tense,' said the Dutchman, whose win was his third over Sampras in five meetings.

The defeat left Sampras, who lost in the semifinals of the French Open a month ago, without a Grand Slam victory this year.

'Now I have to get ready for the US Open,' said the American, who will play in the Olympic Games first.

Ivanisevic, bidding to reach his fifth semifinals, looked to have a chance of keeping his hopes alive as he battled Stoltenberg, 26, on serve through the fourth set.

But the Australian raced away to a 6-0 lead in that tie-break and he won it 7-3 to end the tall Croatian's title bid for another year.

'Nothing happened. I lost a match today. He played really well and passed me better. I didn't make one passing shot the whole match,' Ivanisevic said.

Ivanisevic had a chance to break serve in the second game of the fourth set but could not take advantage.

Against Radulescu, who was bidding to reach a Grand Slam semifinal at his first attempt, Washington had to overcome two match points in the fourth set when he trailed 15-40 on serve in the 12th game.

'He won that tie-break 7-3 to force a deciding set.'

Washington, ranked 71 places above Radulescu at number 20, had levelled the match by winning the second set tie-break 7-1, but promptly handed back the initiative by dropping the third set 7-5 in unusual circumstances.

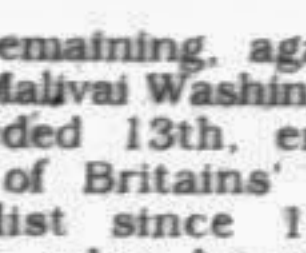
The players had argued with Radulescu leading 6-5, but could squeeze in just two minutes play when rain reappeared at set point to the German.

Both players opted to stay out on court during the subsequent five-minute delay, only for Washington to put a back-hand volley into the net after Radulescu's service return had seemed to be drifting out. It was the match's first break of serve in 38 games.

Martin had been cast as public enemy number one to Henman's local hero, but had too much experience and efficiency on the key points as he won the tie-breaks 7-5 and 7-2.

Neither man dropped his serve until the fifth game of the third set.

Cubans cool in crisis



HAVANA, July 5: Handed the pair this week. The earlier was in Los Angeles Wednesday after being released on parole by US authorities from an immigration processing centre near San Diego.

In the first official mention of the case in Cuba, the ruling Communist Party newspaper Granma made light of the blow.

'Cuba's potential (in boxing) is intact,' Miguel Hernandez, a leading sports commentator, wrote Thursday.

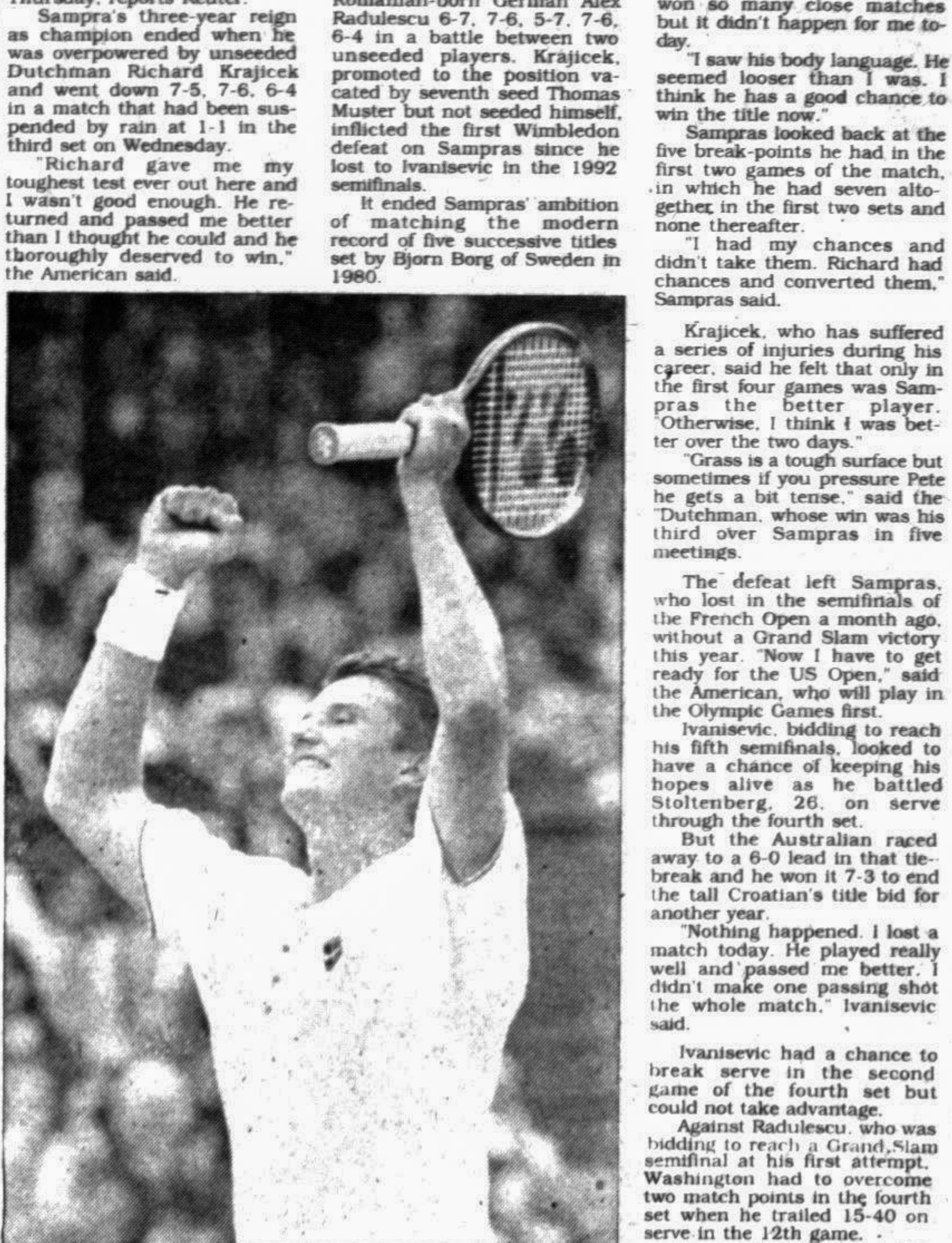
'It's (Cuba's) power is so great that it could present two teams with similar strength in the boxing events and both would walk away with a string of medals.'

While the defections have left gaps, they are relatively easily filled by a nation that considers boxing one of its leading sports.

Hernandez said the defection of Garbay presented a golden opportunity for Freddy Rojas, now called up at the last minute to join the Olympic squad in the super middleweight category.

Rojas lost to Garbay in the final of Cuba's Cordova Cardin international championship last month. Fighting at heavy-weight level, Rojas champion was beaten.

Hernandez said the defection of Casamayor meant Arnaldo Mesa, due to fight in the featherweight division, might move down a category to take Casamayor's place at bantamweight.



WOW! WHAT A WIN: Dutch Richard Krajicek enjoys his stunning victory over defending champion Pete Sampras at the Wimbledon at Centre Court on July 4. The unseeded Dutchman won the match 7-5, 7-6, 6-4.

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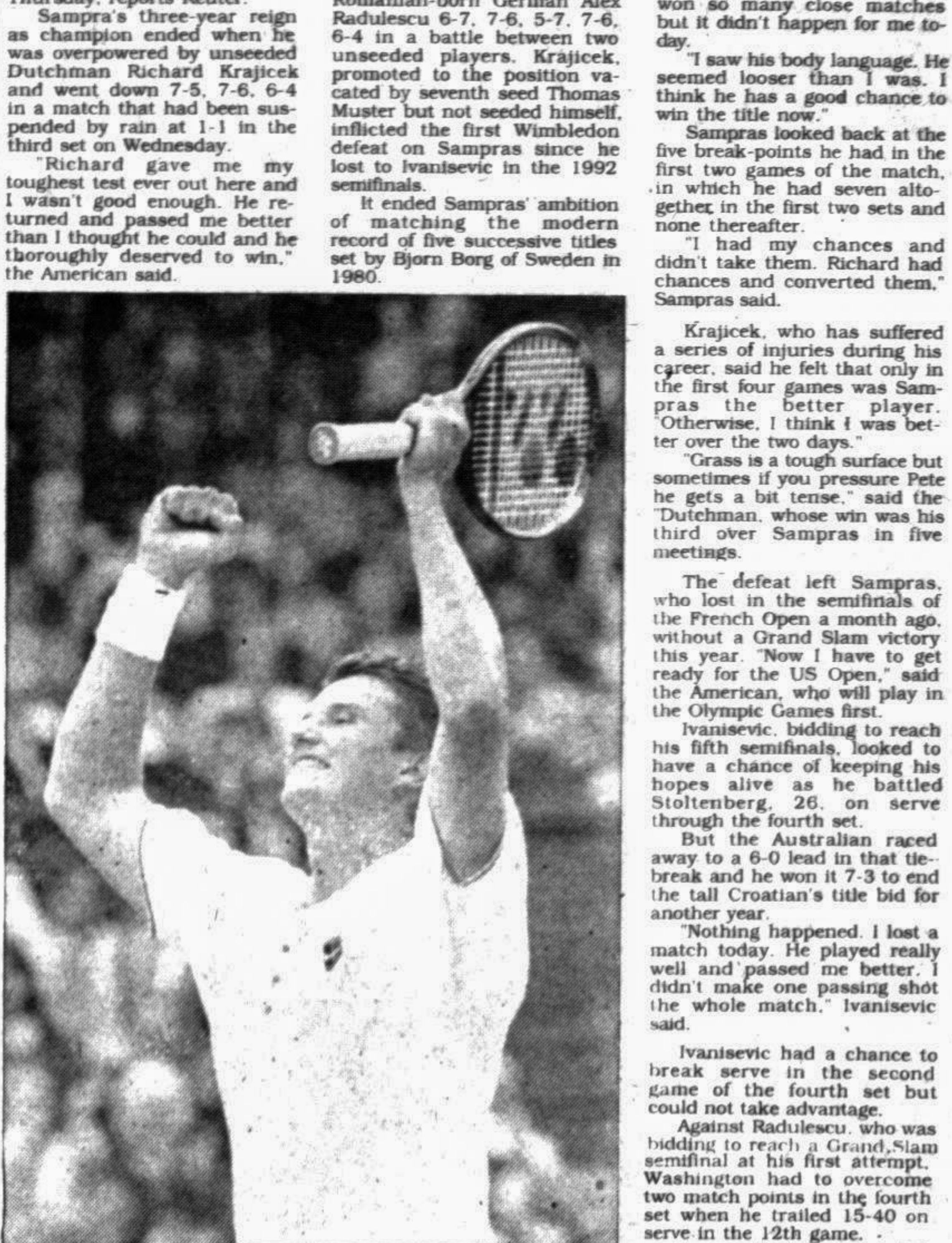
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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer. Includes word lists for Across and Down, and a Cryptogram puzzle.