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## Davenport comes of age



Jean King, who told Davenport last month she could win a gold medal in Atlanta, expected Sanchez-Vicario to stumble yet again at the final hurdle.

She has lost all five of the Grand Slam finals she has reached in the past 18 months, including this year's French Open and Wimbledon, and never asserted herself against an opponent who had won only one set against her in five previous meetings.

The 20-year-old American, ranked 10th in the world, powered her way past the startled third seed to secure a deserved 7-6, 6-2 victory and succeed her former teammate Capriati as Women's singles gold medalist.

Less than three months younger than Capriati, whose career has nose-dived since her Barcelona triumph at the age of 16, Davenport's satisfaction was increased by the presence of her father, a former US Olympic volleyball team member.

"This means everything to me," she said. "No matter what happens to me I will always be a gold medalist. This is definitely the most proud I have ever been in my life."

Few except US coach Billie

Czech Republic, and Fernandez will meet again Saturday with a gold at stake. Fernandez and Gigi Fernandez face Novotna and Helena Sukova in the doubles final.

Andre Agassi will face Spaniard Sergi Bruguera in the men's single final Saturday.

WHIRLWIND  
'WOODIES'

Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde added an Olympic gold to their long list of doubles triumphs.

The peerless Australians swept aside unseeded Neil Broad and Tim Henman of Britain 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 in the final.

"To do something for your country is fantastic," said Woodbridge. "It is an unbelievable feeling."

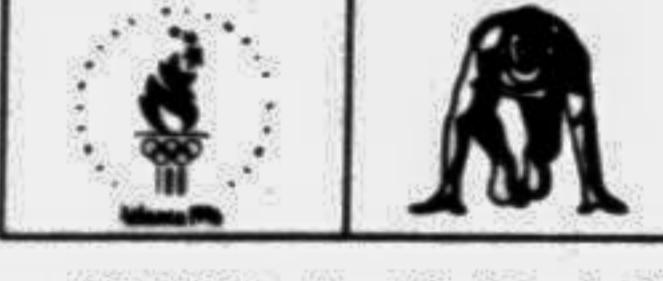
Woodforde, competing in his first Olympics, had been less than enthusiastic about the experience before coming to Atlanta.

But he soon warmed to the Olympic atmosphere. "Winning the gold certainly helps," he said.

Last month, the 'Woodies' as they are universally nicknamed, won a record-breaking fourth consecutive Wimbledon title.

Novotna, playing for the

## Ode to fantastic four



ford's 1984 record. There was a question mark over the official wind gauge reading of zero as one analysis suggested there may have been a wind of 5.5 metres per second, almost three times the limit for record-setting. In eight years since then no other runner has even beaten Ashford's time.

**Women's 200 metres - Florence Griffith-Joyner (US) 21.34 seconds, Sept 29, 1988, Seoul.**

In one day at the Seoul Olympics, Flo-Jo took 0.37 of a second off East German Marita Koch's nine-year-old record of 21.71, running 21.56 in the Olympic semifinals before blazing her way to the gold medal in the final in another record time less than two hours later. Jamaican Merlene

Ottey is the only sprinter to get under Koch's time since with 21.64 five years ago, which still leaves her 0.30 of a second off record pace.

Koch's 400 metres world record of 47.60, set in 1985, was also thought to be unbeatable but France's Marie-Jo Perez won Olympic gold in Atlanta in 48.25 and has said she now believed it could be done.

Random drug-testing out of competition has plainly had a salutary effect in the throwing events where there have been no world records for six years, apart from the men's javelin for which a new implement has been introduced.

Almost all the records set in the 1980s should last for many years.

**Men's 200 metres - Michael Johnson (US) 19.32 seconds, Aug. 1, 1996, Atlanta.**

Johnson knocked a staggering 0.34 of a second off his own world mark set 39 days earlier on the same track. Previously Italian Pietro Mennea's time of 19.72, set at altitude in Mexico, had lasted for 17 years. Before that American Tommie Smith's winning time of 19.83 at the Olympic final in Mexico had lasted 11 years. The only runner remotely capable of attacking the new record is Johnson himself — should be ever get the same perfect combination of fast track, full form and fitness, favourable weather conditions and strong competition.

**Men's pole vault - Sergei Bubka (Ukraine) 6.15 metres, Feb 21, 1993, Donetsk.**

Bubka has broken 35 world records, indoors and outdoors, in a sequence lasting since 1984. His Donetsk record was set indoors and his best outdoors is 6.14 in Seestriere in 1994. The Ukrainian is considered capable of taking the mark up as high as 6.30 metres but the competition is way behind. Only three other men have cleared six metres, the best being South African Okkert Brits whose 6.03 last year barely compares.

**Women's 100 metres - Florence Griffith-Joyner (US) 10.49 seconds, July 16, 1988, Indianapolis.**

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