

An all-Spanish affair

UMAG, Croatia, Aug 18: Carlos Moya dominated Christian Ruud of Norway in 53 minutes Saturday, winning 6-1, 6-2 to set up an all-Spanish final at the 400,000 dollars Croatia Open, reports AP.

The fourth-seeded Moya finished off with an ace to advance to play third-seeded countryman Felix Mantilla, who led Slava Dosedel 4-2 when the Czech retired in the first set with back pain.

Ruud seemed unable to control Moya's very heavy forehand.

"As long as that forehand works... it will be easy for me to win," Moya said.

Dosedel started out strongly against Mantilla, winning 10 of the first 12 points and leading 2-0. However, he quickly developed intense back pain, which he said was caused by a minor ankle injury sustained Friday forcing him to lean on his left leg more.

Sunday's final will be Moya's third and Mantilla's sixth on the ATP tour. It also will be the sixth all-Spanish final on the men's circuit this year.

Also Saturday, Carlos Costa of Spain, who was fined 10,000 dollars because his racket hit the line judge in a head last Thursday, issued an apology.

"I regret my action and would like to apologise," Costa said in a statement, distributed to reporters.

Costa said he "involuntarily" hit the line judge after losing control of a racket, as he hit the ball out of the court. He added that he suffered from stomach pains and dizziness and acted that way "due to my frustration at not being able to win... due to pain."

"I am morally destroyed after the incident and I feel more hurt than anybody else," Costa wrote.

Post-Olympic job hunt on

ATLANTA, Aug 18: Olympic workers, their tenure brought to a close by the completion of the Atlanta Summer Games, showed up Saturday for a job fair arranged with the help of their former employer, reports AP.

About 100 of the workers showed their desire to find new jobs by lining up a half-hour before the job fair opened at the former Olympic Welcome Centre.

Hundreds more, all former or soon-to-be former employees of the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games and some still wearing a heavy necklace of Olympic identification cards, came after the 9 am opening.

"Unemployment is such an ugly word," said Karin Kane of Powder Springs, a moment after leaving her resume with a representative of the US Olympic Committee.

Carrying resumes tucked in folders under their arms, Kane and her former co-workers wandered among the 167 booths representing businesses ranging from IBM to a local car dealership.

Most of the workers are management-technical or white-collar. Manual labour or blue-collar jobs were filled during the Games by a temporary staffing service.

In addition to the fair, an employment office at ACOG headquarters will remain open until October, said Linda Kammire-Tiffan, a spokeswoman for Drake Beam Morin, which is providing the service.

Leverkusen dump Dortmund

BONN, Aug 18: Two early goals by Bayer Leverkusen set them up for a 4-2 victory over champions Borussia Dortmund in their opening Bundesliga match on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Leverkusen were 2-0 up after the first seven minutes through goals by Paulo Sergio and Ulf Kirsten.

Dortmund, hit by injuries to German internationals Matthias Sammer, Steffen Freund and Karl-Heinz Riedle, as well as newcomers Paulo Sousa and Rene Schneider, hit back before the interval to level the scores.

Scottish newcomer Paul Lambert scored from a magnificent cross from Stephane Chapuisat and five minutes later Ghanaian Ibrahim Tanko, making his first appearance since October, added the second.

But Holger Fach restored Leverkusen's lead shortly after the interval and nine minutes from the end Rene Rydlewicz took advantage of Dortmund's shaky defence to add the fourth.

Championship favourites Bayern Munich made a goos start to their season on Friday when they beat St Pauli 2-1 at home.

Stuttgart, playing without a head trainer after Rolf Fringer left to guide the Swiss national team, provided a surprise by whipping UEFA Cup hopefuls Schalke 4-0.

Giovane Elber, Mathias Hagner, Krassimir Balakov and German international Fredi Bobic provided the goals.

Despite a strong comeback, Werder Bremen fell 3-2 in Freiburg. Harry Decheiver put the hosts ahead 2-0 before Andreas Herzog answered with two goals of his own.

But a penalty by Alain Sutter four minutes from time sealed victory.

Munich 1860 had a comfortable 2-1 win over Hamburg with Bernhard Winkler scoring twice, one of them on the penalty spot. Hamburg's only success came through an own goal by Marco Walker four minutes from the end.

Singer tones up World Series

Sports Reporter

Singer has announced prize money for the Singer World Series 1996 — cricket tournament to be held in Sri Lanka from August 26 to September 7. This will be Singer's fourth

SINGER WORLD SERIES 1996

innings, having already organised the four-nation World Series Cup 1994 in Sri Lanka, the triangular Champions Trophy 1995 in Sharjah and the triangular Singer Cup 1996 in Singapore earlier this year. The 1996 World Series in Sri Lanka will be participated by

world champions Sri Lanka, World No 2 Australia, India and Zimbabwe. The prize money are as follows:

Preliminary Games

Winning team: US \$2,000

Losing team: US \$1,000

Man-of-the-match: US \$500

Finals
Winning team: US \$50,000
Runners-up: US \$25,000
Man-of-the-finals: US \$3,000
Player-of-the-series award: Option of choosing between a luxury car or a four-wheel drive jeep.

Match

Australia vs Zimbabwe (Day/Night)

India vs Sri Lanka (Day/Night)

Australia vs Sri Lanka (Day/Night)

India vs Zimbabwe

Sri Lanka vs Zimbabwe

India vs Australia

Final R Premadasa Stadium

INDIANAPOLIS, Aug 18: Top-seeded Pete Sampras and second seed Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia both

displayed airtight games in Saturday's semifinals to set up a sizzling showdown in the final of the one million dollars RCA championships, reports Reuter.

Sampras holds a narrow 7-6

card edge over Ivanisevic, who months and I feel like my form has gotten better each time I've played," Sampras said.

"I am in a good groove, serving pretty well and things are looking very good. I needed some matches going into the US Open in a week's time, so it will be nice to win here and go in there with a lot of confidence."

Ivanisevic won four titles at the beginning of the year and was in three other finals, but the season started to change for the Croatian when he was forced to retire from the Lipton Championships final in March with a stiff neck.

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Genuine gold please!

LONDON, Aug 18: The billion business has called on organisers of the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games to give it a helping hand by striking genuine solid gold medals, reports Reuter.

Referring on Thursday to Australia's position as a major gold producer, Helen Junz, director of the World Gold Council's economics service, said: "I think they can afford it."

Olympic "golds" have in fact been made of silver with a thin coating of the yellow metal since the 1960s.

Melted down, Junz said, bronze medals were likely to be worth more than golds because of high ruling prices for the copper and tin of which bronze is an alloy.

Demand for gold is already strong but the price languishes below 400 dollars an ounce compared with a 1980 all-time high of 850 dollars because of general supply.

Commemorative gold coins struck for the Atlanta Olympics appear to have boosted recent demand for the metal in the United States.

Both Sampras and Ivanisevic started the year strong, but slowed down considerably as the season advanced.

Sampras won all four tournaments he has contested this year, but the last one was five months ago. Since May, he has been grappling with the death of his coach, Tim Gullikson, from brain cancer.

"I haven't played a lot of tennis over the past couple of

won their last encounter in the semifinals at Lipton.

"There's not a whole lot of strategy when you play Goran," Sampras said. "You just try and get his serve back. It's the best serve I've ever played against."

Ivanisevic, the only player to enter the semifinals without dropping a set, is known as a clay court specialist and was making his first semifinal ap-

peared in a hardcourt event and his first semifinal showing in the United States.

Sampras had lost to Ulihrach in their only previous match played at this year's ATP Tour World Team Cup in May — Sampras's first clay court match of the season.

But the Czech failed to deliver in the end, yielding a pair of service breaks in each set and falling victim to Sampras's powerful serve at the other end.

Ivanisevic, who has served 63 aces this week and 998 this year, had 11 aces against Martin. He won 23 of 24 points on the first serves he successfully got in.

"As soon as I started to serve good in the beginning of the match, I knew it was going to be a good match for me," Ivanisevic said. "I was very confident."

GORAN IVANISEVIC

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