

# Pete survives slugfest

**NEW YORK, Sept 6:** Pete Sampras, sick to his stomach, summoned all his Grand Slam courage Thursday to beat inspired Spaniard Alex Corretja in a fifth-set tiebreaker that ended a four-hour nine-minute, epic struggle at the US Open, reports Reuter.

Sampras vomited on court at one juncture and was doubled over in pain after every point of the tiebreaker but saw the tournament's longest match end on a Corretja double fault for a 7-6 (7-5), 5-7, 5-7, 6-4 and 7-6 (9-7) triumph that put him into the semifinals.

"This is probably the best match of my career," said the brilliant Corretja, who crumbled to his knees after double faulting on the final point. "Probably the best match and the worst one."

Defending champion Sampras, helped from the court to rapturous cheers, advanced to a final four showdown against fourth-seeded Croatian Goran Ivanisevic.

Exhaustion led to dehydration and nausea for Sampras, who staggered to an uplifting victory. Afterwards he needed two litres of intravenous fluid to revive him.

"A lot of people saw things out there that they will never see in a lifetime," said Paul Anacone, Sampras's coach. "I'm not sure there are any words to describe what went on out there."

Sampras looked in physical trouble for much of the second half of the match. He barely moved after some balls and rarely hit out on any ground strokes. Only his big serve and volley attack kept him in the match.

By the tiebreaker, Sampras was unsteady on his feet after losing the second point to make it 1-1. Sampras stopped over beyond the baseline and vomited, drawing a time warning from the umpire. But he battled on.

Corretja, ranked 31st, served an incredible 25 aces in the match and had only been guilty of two double faults until his decisive mistake at the last.

The unseeded Spaniard held match point leading 7-6 in the tiebreaker but Sampras, struggling to suck in air, saved himself with a lunging stab volley.

On the next point, Sampras spun a stunning second-serve ace to reach his second match point at 8-7.

Then he watched Corretja send his second serve long.

In a trainer's room beneath the stadium, Sampras dedicated his thrilling victory to his late coach, Tim Gullikson, who died this year after a long battle with brain cancer.

"This means for Tim, this win is for Tim," Sampras's girlfriend, Delaina Mulcahy, said.

he told her. Sampras matched Corretja with 25 aces and needed every one as Corretja outplayed him in every other phase of the game.

Playing the match of his life, the Spaniard lashed forehand winners every way and often left Sampras looking like a statue at the net as his angled passing shots whizzed by.

Corretja lashed 90 winners to 74 for Sampras, who began to find the mark only as the end approached, and committed just 30 errors compared to a shocking 68 for Sampras.

The Spaniard nearly won the first set after breaking Sampras in the opening game but the American saved two set points serving at 3-5 and then broke in the 10th and forced a tiebreaker, which he dominated with his serve.

Sampras served six times in the tiebreak with Corretja putting only one back in play.

The next two sets went to Corretja with service breaks in the last game. In the second set, Corretja cracked three ferocious forehand winners to break. In the third set, Sampras sent two easy overhands beyond

the baseline to be broken.

Sampras levelled in the fourth set with a service break in the third game on a cross court volley after calling for the trainer during the changeover.

The last set stayed on serve throughout, as Sampras struggled to stay on his feet. Like weary prize fighters at the end of a brawl, the two offered little resistance on serve until the classic tiebreaker.

Afterwards, tournament doctor Brian Hainline gave Sampras a clean bill of health.

"Pete's fine," said Hainline, who said Sampras had suffered from a combination of stomach queasiness and dehydration.

"There is nothing otherwise medically wrong," Tom Gullikson, Tim's twin brother and Sampras's Davis Cup coach, saluted Sampras.

"He had reached the boundary and somehow he found a way to extend it and somehow he found a way to will himself to win that match," said Gullikson. "That's all it was, it was just determination and will to win the match."

"At the end it really wasn't even about tennis, even though they happened to be playing tennis."



A poorly looking Pete Sampras of the US vomits during his US Open quarterfinal clash against Alex Corretja of Spain at Flushing Meadows on September 5. Despite the problems, Sampras won the match 7-6 (7-5), 5-7, 5-7, 6-4 and 7-6 (9-7). —AFP/UNB photo

## Mixed doubles crown for Raymond & Galbraith

**NEW YORK, Sept 6:** Third-seeded Americans Lisa Raymond and Patrick Galbraith won the US open mixed doubles title on Thursday with a 7-6, 7-6 victory over Marion Bollegraf of the Netherlands and American Rick Leach, reports Reuter.

Raymond and Galbraith, playing together for the first year, won the first set tiebreaker 8-6 and the second 7-4, rallying to win the last three points in each tiebreaker.

Bollegraf, who won the title with compatriot Tom Nijssen five years ago, and Leach, who won the Wimbledon mixed doubles with Zina Garrison in 1990, were fourth seeds.

"Lisa was very solid," Galbraith said. "In mixed, the guys try to work the women. She played well."

It was Galbraith's second US Open mixed title. A former number one-ranked doubles player, he won with Elna Reinach of South Africa two years ago.

Raymond, who teamed up with Mark Knowles (Bahamas) to reach the semifinals of the Australian Open this year, said: "I knew if I held my own we'd be okay."

Raymond and Galbraith paired for the first time in the French Open, losing in the first round. The men's doubles will be decided today between the top-seeded team of Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde of Australia and eighth seeds Jacco Eltingh and Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands.

## Mandela unveils Cape Town's 2004 Games clock

**CAPE TOWN, Sept 6:** President Nelson Mandela Thursday set in motion a giant clock in central Cape Town to count down the 365 days until the 2004 Olympic host city is announced, reports AFP.

Mandela switched on the eight-storey high timepiece at the Cape Town civic centre following a parade through the city by South Africa's 1996 Atlanta Olympic and Paralympic athletes, who have thrown their support behind the Cape Town Olympic bid.

Cape Town is one of 11 cities bidding for the games and the National Olympic Committee of South Africa (NOC SA) is confident it will be among the first five when the shortlist is announced in March next year.

Other favourites for the 2004 Games include Athens, Rome, Stockholm and St Petersburg, but NOCSA believes the Cape Town application is the "first realistic bid from Africa".

Mandela's government has endorsed the Cape Town bid although many observers say the city's chances have taken a knock from South Africa's runaway crime rate.

Mandela told a crowd of about 1,000 onlookers here Thursday that Cape Town's bid is part of "the African renaissance".

"Africa deserves a chance to host the Olympic Games in a unique African way," he said. "The Games have been staged in the four other continents... now is the time for Africa to complete the five Olympic rings."

He said the construction of sports facilities, the Olympic Village and improvements to the country's transport system in the event of Cape Town being awarded the Games, would form part of the government's social upliftment programme.

## SOCOG chief steps down

**SYDNEY, Sept 6:** The Sydney 2000 Olympics president John Liffie resigned on Friday after only six months in the job, making his the second Sydney Olympics boss to quit, reports Reuter.

Liffie said he had vacated the job for a local politician in a bid to avoid the chaos that plagued the Atlanta Games.

Liffie, president of the Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG), said Atlanta had proved the importance of government's role in staging the Olympic Games.

His job will be taken by New South Wales State Minister Michael Knight, who has held the portfolio of Olympics Minister since last March.

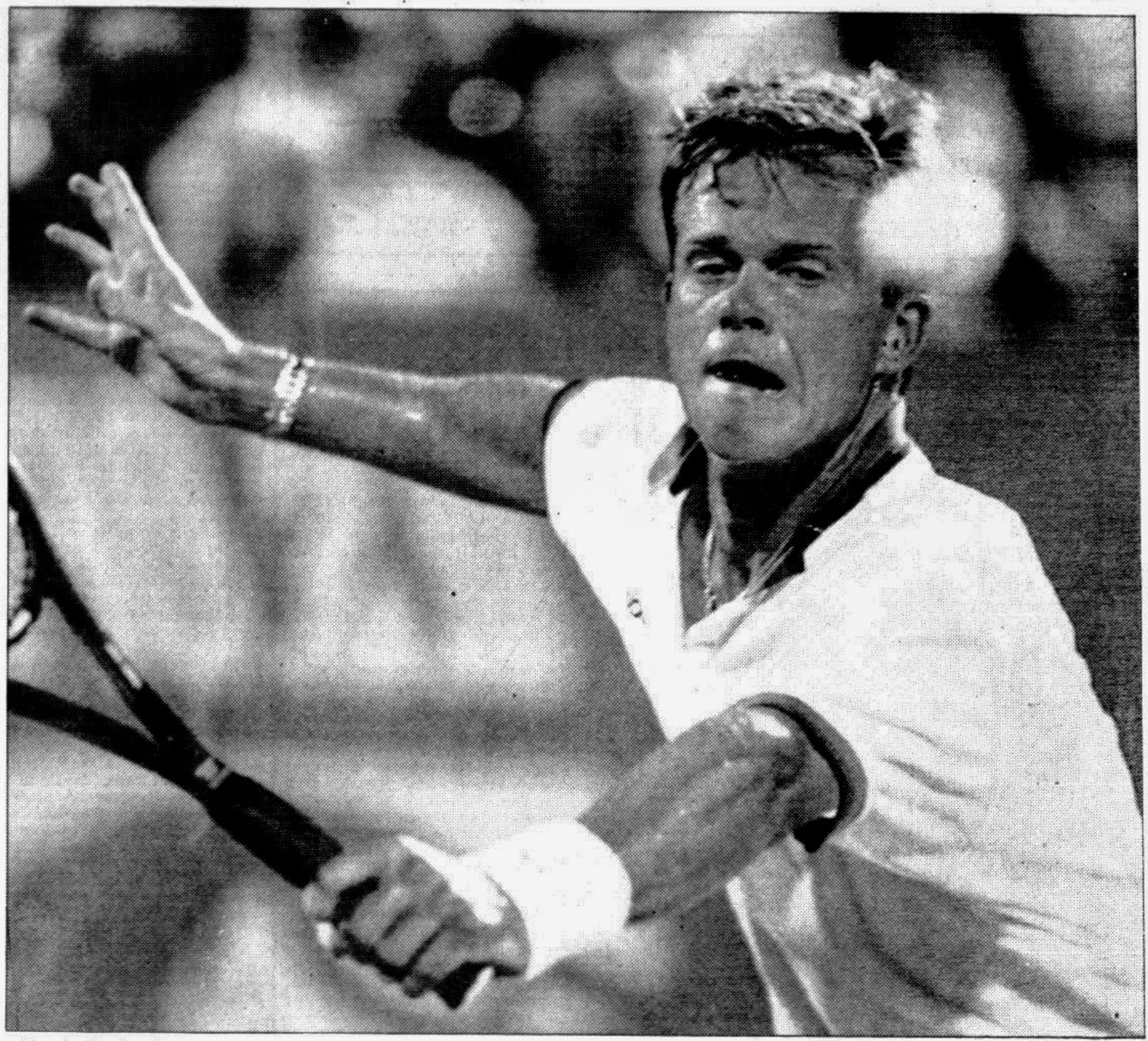
Knight said International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Juan Antonio Samaranch favoured a stronger government involvement in the 2000 Games.

"He was wholeheartedly in support of the changes," Knight, 43, told reporters. "We are moving away from the Atlanta model and moving more closely to the Barcelona model."

The Atlanta Games, which were privately funded, were marred by a bomb attack in the Olympic Village that killed two people and a host of transport, technology and traffic problems.

The New South Wales state government has agreed to underwrite the cost of staging the Sydney Games and has budgeted to spend a 1.9 billion US dollar.

In his closing ceremony speech in Atlanta last month, Samaranch declined to endorse the troubled Games as the best ever Olympics as he usually does, opting instead to describe them as "most exceptional".



Swede Stefan Edberg plays a backhand against Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia during their US Open quarterfinal at Flushing Meadows on September 5. Ivanisevic won the match in straight sets. —AFP/UNB photo

## Edberg rides into sunset

**NEW YORK, Sept 6:** (agencies) Stefan Edberg did not go quickly or quietly.

An underdog right from the start in the final Grand Slam tournament of his brilliant career, Edberg had inched into the quarterfinals at the US Open — the first time he had been that far in a Slam since the Australian Open in 1994.

Then he ran into Goran Ivanisevic on Thursday night. For two sets, it was easy to see why, at age 30, Edberg had decided to retire. He was playing ordinary tennis, without the weapons that had eliminated his first four opponents.

And then, with Ivanisevic in position to finish him off, serving for the match, Edberg reached back for some tennis from his past. He broke Ivanisevic, forced the set to a tiebreaker and avoided four match points — once leaving Ivanisevic sprawled on the court — before finally falling 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (11-9) as Ivanisevic and his 26 aces prevailed.

"I've had some great years. I'll remember those," Edberg was given a crystal plaque with his name inscribed and the image of the 1964 World Fair held here at Flushing Meadows Park.

Fans will remember the image of an elegant, stylish server and volley master who won the 1991 Open with devastating ease and then followed with a gritty 1992 defence when he won three successive five-set matches before reclaiming his crown.

Goran played some great tennis," Edberg said. "He served me off the court with some big serves."

Until the final set, Edberg

played uninspired tennis for the first time in the tournament. Then, suddenly, he threatened to sneak back into the match. Ivanisevic, however, simply would not let it happen.

"I played not great tennis," Ivanisevic said. "I did a couple of mistakes which he punished. He pulled unbelievable things in the tiebreaker."

That had been Edberg's style throughout the Open. He had surprised Richard Krajicek, Bernd Karbacher, Paul Haarhuis and Tim Henman to prolong his stay at his final Slam.

Ivanisevic, playing with new-found resolve on the hard courts that once confounded him, refused to yield. "I was very cool," he said. "It was an unbelievable tiebreaker. When I had match point, I hit faster serves and he came up with some unbelievable returns."

The crowd was for him but I didn't expect like this. I mean every time when I missed the first serve, they were so happy. You have to deal with that."

Edberg had lifted his game impressively in the first four rounds, and said he was satisfied that he had played well in his last Slam. "I was happy I played some good tennis, some solid tennis. I played some good tennis, and that's the anticipation in your last tournament. It's much nicer that way."

Edberg's game began deserting him after the 1994 Australian Open and he was so discouraged that he would retire at the end of 1996.

With six Grand Slam titles in his portfolio including the 1991 and 1992 US Opens, Edberg was one of the most respected players on the Tour and one of the most enduring. This year's Open was his 54th

straight Grand Slam, a feat believe unmatched by any player in the history of the game.

He made his Grand Slam debut at Wimbledon in 1983 and ended his career with a record of 178-47 in Slams. He is one of just three active players — Andre Agassi and Jim Courier are the others — to reach the singles finals of all four Grand Slams.

Edberg's quiet demeanor had never captured the fancy of the crowds at the National Tennis Centre, even when he was winning this tournament. But the crowds embraced him this year, saluting the end of a brilliant tennis career. And when Ivanisevic, serving for the match, was broken, the crowd cheered loudly for the underdog.

Even with his early round success, Edberg was adamant about his retirement. What if he won the tournament, he was asked after reaching the quarterfinals for the first time since 1992, the last time he won here. Would he return next year to defend the title?

He settled that again Thursday night. "I'll be in London, probably watching on TV, taking it easy," he said. "I think I'll be OK. Maybe after six or seven months, I'll start missing it. I'm not sure right now."

"I made my decision and that's what counts. I feel I'm doing the right thing."

## Jewell seeks justice

**ATLANTA (Georgia), Sept 6:** Five weeks after the deadly pipe-bomb explosion in Olympic Centennial Park, hero-turned suspect Richard Jewell is seeking a federal court's help in trying to clear his name, reports AFP.

While there have been scant developments announced in the discreet federal investigation of the July 27 Centennial Olympic Park bombing, Jewell's defence lawyers and mother continue to profess his innocence and protest the probe that has put him in the media spotlight.

Jewell was on duty as a security guard at the crowded park when he alerted authorities about a suspicious package minutes before it exploded, killing two people and injuring 111.

At first he was hailed a hero for the warning that prompted an evacuation that probably prevented more fatalities, but since he has been the subject of intense scrutiny by investigators.

The US government has not formally charged Jewell, or anyone else, for the terrorist act.

This week Jewell's legal team challenged the validity of Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) search warrants used to search their client's apartment and truck.

Tuesday criminal defence lawyer Jack Martin filed a motion in federal court asking the US magistrate to unseal the affidavits that served as the bases for the search warrants. The defence team wants to know what evidence the authorities claim against their client.

Martin believes the FBI searches were clear violations of Jewell's rights as protected by the fourth amendment of the US constitution.

"If there was an illegal search, we'll seek every remedy including the return of property and potentially civil action," vowed Martin.

Patrick Crosby, spokesman for the US attorney's office, expects the magistrate's ruling on the matter, due next Monday or Tuesday, will provide interesting reading material but not much more.

## Chavez-Gamache bout Oct 12

**LAS VEGAS, Sept 6:** Julio Cesar Chavez will put up most of his purse for his fight with Joey Gamache next month in an effort to settle Mexican tax-fraud charges against him, reports AP.

Promoter Bob Arum said he signed a letter of credit Thursday that gives much of the 1.5 million dollars Chavez is to make for the Oct. 12 fight with Gamache to the Mexican government.

Arum said the guarantee was part of a deal that lawyers for Chavez were making with Mexican authorities to settle the charges. Chavez is in Los Angeles training for the Gamache fight.

"Everything is being taken care of," Arum said. I think everything will be OK tonight or tomorrow morning."

Arum said Chavez doesn't have much cash, despite his 9 million dollars payday for his June fight with Oscar de la Hoya. Chavez was stopped on cuts in the fourth round of that fight.

"But he has a lot of assets," Arum said.

A judge in Chavez's home city of Culiacan, on Mexico's Pacific Coast, issued an order Monday for Chavez's arrest, which had been sought by the Treasury Department.

Two associates were also named in the tax-fraud case, according to a one-page statement issued by the Treasury.

The Treasury said an audit of tax returns for 1993 determined that the government was defrauded of more than 10.5 million pesos — about 1.4 million dollars.

Chavez, 33, was named as president of the administrative council and leading partner in a company known as Gonzalez Carrasco, S.C. Also named were Daniel Viesca Monsivais and Jaime Vicente Garate Urena.

## Tillman in dire straits

**LOS ANGELES, Sept 6:** Henry Tillman, who won the heavy-weight boxing gold medal in the 1984 Olympic Games, faces a murder charge in connection with the death of a man last January, reports AP.

Los Angeles Police Department spokesman Don Cox said Tillman would be charged with murder Friday.

Cox said Tillman, 36, was identified as a suspect in the shooting of Kevin Anderson outside a nightclub in suburban Westchester.

"On Jan 10, 1996, at 2 am, victims Kevin Anderson and Leon Milton were shot outside a nightclub," Cox said. "Anderson died in a hospital several days later. The apparent motive was robbery."

According to the South Bay Daily Breeze, the charges are expected to carry a special circumstances allegation that could send Tillman to death row if he is found guilty.

Tillman is currently serving a 32-month sentence in San Luis Obispo for credit card fraud. He allegedly used a phony Discover card in September 1994 to get 800 dollars at the Hollywood Park Casino.

Tillman pleaded guilty to the charges on July 17, 1995. In exchange for the guilty plea, prosecutors dropped charges he falsified a driver's license and used a cloned cellular phone.

The Daily Breeze quoted prosecutors as saying Tillman was free on 100,000 dollars bail awaiting trial on the fraud charge when the killing occurred.

Witnesses have identified Tillman as the man who shot Anderson and Milton, both 28-year-old residents of Los Angeles, the newspaper said.

## Tyson-Seldon bout today

**LAS VEGAS, Sept 6:** In a slip of the tongue, Mike Tyson probably defined Bruce Seldon's perceived role in Saturday night's heavy-weight championship as well as anyone, reports AP.

"I'm looking forward to fighting Bruce Seldon," said Tyson, mispronouncing the name of the WBA champion considered by many people to be just another domino to be pushed over in Tyson's post-prison career.

Tyson, the WBC champion, is a 22-1 favourite at the MGM Grand sports book to win the scheduled 12-round bout in the Grand Garden.

"You can only meet what they bring you," the 30-year-old Tyson said.

"I'm the most athletic opponent Mike Tyson has faced since he's been released from prison," the 29-year-old Seldon said. "I have a great style of boxing and fighting. Tyson don't box."

Seldon's main weapon is a left jab that cuts and hurts opponents.

"I've fought guys with better jabs than him," said Tyson, perhaps thinking of James "Buster" Douglas, the only man to beat him, or Tony Tucker. "I've never looked at the jab as big an asset as most guys do."

Seldon has, however, a suspect chin.

He was stopped in the ninth round by Oliver McCall and knocked out in the first round by Riddick Bowe. Those losses were six years ago, but in his two title fights last year, he was hurt by men who don't possess

Tyson's power. Seldon won the WBA title when the fight was stopped after seven rounds because Tony Tucker's left eye was closed. Before that, Tucker landed right hands that wobbled Seldon in the second and third rounds and twice in the sixth round.

In his first title defense, Seldon dominated Joe Hipp before stopping him in the ninth round, but Hipp hurt Seldon with a left hook in the fourth round and sent him reeling backward with a right-left in the sixth.

## Harare warns against racism in sports

**HARARE, Sept 6:** The Zimbabwe government has warned racist white sports clubs and associations they face closure to stamp out the discriminatory practice, reports AFP.

"Sport is still run on a racial basis in this country, especially in some clubs and associations," Sports Minister Witness Mangwede said in a report published Friday.

"We are planning to close some of these clubs. We have to do it now," he said.

The Minister said the government of independent Zimbabwe was getting frustrated by the never-ending racism in sports. Singling out rugby, he said a few cosmetic changes had been made in some sporting disciplines, but still a lot had to be done.



Promoter Don King introduces Mike Tyson (L) and Bruce Seldon at a press conference at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas on September 5 prior to their WBA championship fight at the same venue on September 7. —AFP/UNB photo