

Sport

Simba Cup final today

JOHANNESBURG, Sept 20: South Africa will field a youthful and inexperienced team against Ghana in Pretoria on Saturday as coach Clive Barker continues to experiment with his squad, reports Reuter.

The two countries meet in the final match of the Four Nation Simba Cup tournament with South Africa needing just a draw to win the week-long tournament.

Barker, whose team won their first two matches against Kenya and Australia, said on Thursday he would start with several of the fringe players who had not had an opportunity to play in the friendly international tournament so far.

Only a heavy defeat would deny South Africa the trophy, even if Australia beat Kenya handsomely in Saturday's other match.

Weah not for sale

MILAN, Sept 20: Italian league champions AC Milan have been busy in rejecting bids by foreign clubs for their Liberian striker George Weah, reports AP.

Adriano Galliani, managing director of the Italian soccer powerhouse, said Thursday that several English clubs were among the bidders in the last few weeks.

Weah is not on sale, however. He has a contract with Milan through June 30, 1999. Until that date it's useless to try to get him," Galliani said.

Weah, the FIFA and African player-of-the-year, scored some spectacular goals in the new Italian soccer season sparking fresh attention for his talent.

Galliani also said that English clubs will be seeking more players from Italy next year "because the start of digital television in that country will make available much more money to English clubs."

The gap between Italian and English soccer is going to widen," the AC Milan official added.

For the first time this year, several leading Italian players joined the English league on richer contracts.

Transfers included strikers Gianluca Vialli and Fabrizio Ravanelli, who left European champion Juventus of Turin to join Chelsea and Middlesbrough.

Rush left in the cold

CARDIFF, Sept 20: Welsh manager Bobby Gould has again omitted record goal-scorer Ian Rush from the national squad for the World Cup qualifier against Holland on October 5, reports Reuter.

Gould has stuck with Dean Saunders and Mark Hughes as his first-choice strikers, and has also included Arsenal's John Hartson who skippered the under-21 side against San Marino.

"I'm bored of the Rush situation," said Gould. "It's been going on a year. I haven't even bothered to telephone him to tell him he's not in the squad this time because last time it just caused problems."

But I've seen Ian play twice for Leeds, he's been working very hard and I am sure he will come good again under George Graham."

There's no way you can say at this stage he hasn't got an international future."

Gould, lacking the suspended Ryan Giggs, has also been irritated by the reluctance of clubs from below Premier League level to release their players for training and matches.

They want to be successful, but so do I. I want to take this country to the World Cup in 1998. If I'm bringing my head against a brick wall."

SQUAD

Neville Southall, Andy Jenkins, Chris Coleman, Kit Symons, Andy Melville, Marcus Browning, Mark Pemberton, Andy Legg, Barry Horne, John Robinson, Dean Saunders, Mark Hughes, Gary Speed, Rob Savage, Gareth Taylor, John Hartson, Jason Bowen, Deryn Brace, Wayne Phillips.

Nantes salvage a draw

AUXERRE, Sept 20: Struggling 1995 French champions Nantes gained a morale-boosting point against the 1996 champions Auxerre, drawing 2-2 (twice coming from behind), reports AP.

A double strike from captain Japhet N Doram gave Nantes only their third point in eight matches, which leaves them three from the bottom of the table.

His second came virtually on the stroke of half-time, as he dived to head home at the far post from a Claude Makelele cross that had evaded the Auxerre defence and keeper Lionel Charbonnier.

Leeds' door open for Brolin

LEEDS, England, Sept 20: George Graham, the new manager of English Premiership Leeds United, has said he was not writing off disappointing Swedish import Tomas Brolin, reports AP.

Graham said that Brolin, who is currently on loan to First Division club FC Zurich for another fortnight, could still have a future at Elland Road — providing his attitude was right.



Sri Lanka's Asanka Gurusingha tries to avoid a powerful cover drive by Ali Shah during the third day's play of the second and deciding cricket Test against Zimbabwe in Colombo — AFP/UNB photo



COLOMBO, Sept 20: Zimbabwe, struggling to avoid another innings defeat in the two-match Test cricket series, were 47 runs behind Sri Lanka's first innings score, with only four wickets in hand at the end of the third day's play Friday, reports AP.

The tourists ended the day at 162 for six, with Ali Shah not out on 62, and Andrew Whittall on one. For Shah, playing his third Test, it was the first half-century, off a painstaking 253 balls in 279 minutes, peppered with five fours.

Guy Whittall didn't last long, nicking the ball to Asanka Gurusinghe with the score on 144, leaving Zimbabwe in dire straits.

Jayasuriya was the most successful of the Sri Lankan bowlers, taking two for 16 off seven overs. Silva took two wickets for 36 runs off 19 overs, while Vaas had one wicket for only eight runs off 15 overs.

Chasing a first-inning deficit of 209 at the Sinhalese Sports Club grounds, Zimbabwe started badly, when Mark Dekker fell leg before wicket to left-arm paceman Chaminda Vaas for four, with the score on 23.

For Zimbabwe, right-arm leg-spinner Mark Strang took four for 66 off 38 overs, while his brother, left-arm medium-pacer Bryan, captured three for 63 off 20 overs.

Zimbabwe lost the first Test by an innings and 77 runs in four days.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the third day

Bindra for new era

TORONTO, Canada, Sept 20: Indian cricket board chief Inderjit Bindra said Thursday that fans should not be allowed to disrupt cricketing relations between India and Pakistan.

The cricket boards in the two nations get along well. Despite the suspensions of mutual cricket tours, they jointly hosted the World Cup alongside Sri Lanka earlier this year. It was during the World Cup that the lone encounter between in either of the two countries took place in the southern Indian city of Bangalore.

"It's time we reciprocal tours and showed maturity by treating cricket as a sport and the players as sportsmen," Bindra said.

He said the two countries were going to complete 50 years of independence and were hosting separate tournaments to commemorate the occasion.

"I hope the governments in the two countries rise to the occasion and allow the cricket teams to travel across the border and play in these tournaments," Bindra said.

The one-day tournament in India will be next May followed by the event in Pakistan during September 1997.

Leics keep on track

LONDON, Sept 20: Leicestershire tightened their grip on the English county championship on Thursday as their rivals endured a frustrating start to the final round of championship matches, reports Reuter.

The former England batsman was finally halted when he offered a simple return catch to Gordon Parsons having hit two sixes and 10 fours off 127 deliveries.

Leicestershire, whose only previous title was claimed in 1975, now need only 214 more runs to secure sufficient bonus points to eliminate Kent from the title equation and leave Surrey as their only challengers.

Kent were undone by West Indian fast bowler Courtney Walsh who took four for 50 with only Trevor Ward able to rise to the occasion with a bat-biting 86.

Four-nation cricket Kenyan squad named

NAIROBI, Sept 20: Spin bowler Maurice Odumbe was named today as captain of the Kenyan side in the four-nation tournament starting in Nairobi on September 28, reports AFP.

It will put Kenya against world champions Sri Lanka, South Africa and Pakistan.

Odumbe was the star of the Kenyan side which scored an upset defeat against West Indies in the World Cup, bowling out three batsmen for 15 runs in 10 overs and being named man-of-the-match.

Other members of the team: Asif Karim (deputy captain), Steve Tikolo, Tito Odumbe, Rajab Ali, Martin Suli, Tony Suli, Kennedy Otiemo, Deepak Chudasama, Hitesh Modi, Sundip Gupta, Laomek Onyango, Joseph Angara.

Kenya meanwhile drew a three-day match Thursday at the Ruaraka Sports Club just outside Nairobi against a touring northern Transvaal side from South Africa.

At the start of the day, Kenya were 261 runs behind northern Transvaal's first innings total of 420 for eight declared. Kenya finished the day on 239 for seven.

Beware Windies!

SYDNEY, Sept 20: Former Australian captain Allan Border and the 1970-80's fearsome new ball attack of Dennis Lillee and Jeff Thomson will reunite to face the West Indians in their opening cricket tour match in November, reports AFP.

The Australian Cricket Board Friday announced the legendary trio will play in the ACB Chairman's XI for the traditional tour opener at Lilac Hill in Perth on November 4.

Spicing up the occasion will be the appearance in the invitation side of West Indian fast bowler great Michael "whispering death" Holding to face his countrymen in the limited-overs match, expected to draw 10,000 fans.

TEAM

Tom Moody (captain), Damien Martyn, Justin Langer, Mark Hussey, Adam Gilchrist, Darren Lehmann, Allan Border, Brendon Julian, Dennis Lillee, Jeff Thomson, Michael Holding, Jo Angel (12th man).

Davis Cup**Austria-Brazil play off**

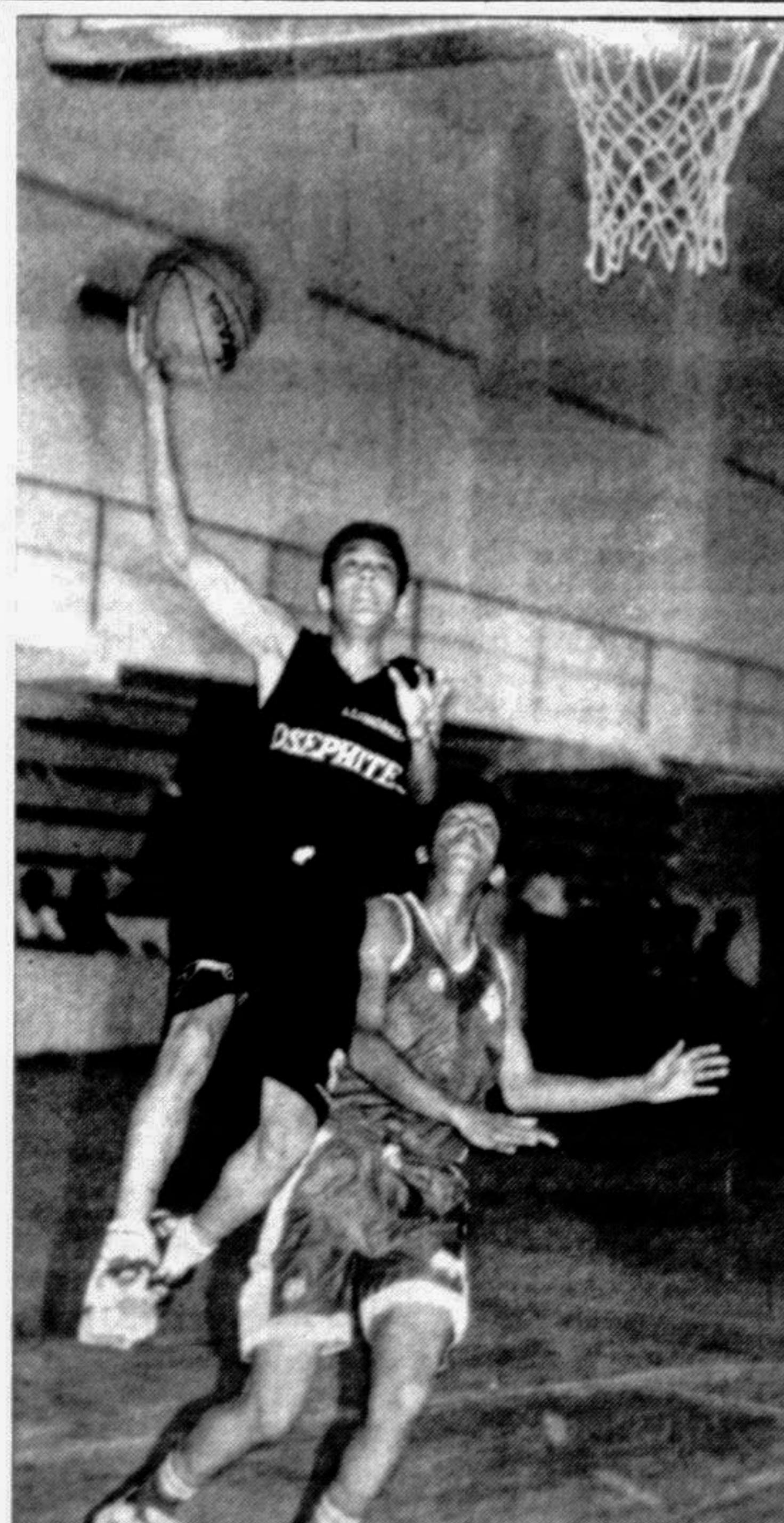
SAO PAULO, Brazil, Sept 20: São Paulo's Davis Cup team and Austria on Friday meet in a playoff tournament which will decide which country will compete in the 1997 Cup, reports AP.

The draw to decide which players will face each other was held Thursday at São Paulo's Hotel Transamerica, where the tournament will be held.

Fernanda Meligeni (119th in the ATP ranking) and Gustavo Kuerten (94th) will represent Brazil in the singles matches. The doubles team is made up of Roberto Jabali (165th) and Jaime Oncins (231th).

Austria went with World No. 3 Thomas Muster and Markus Hippel for singles and Clemens Trimmel and Udo Pamberger scheduled for doubles.

Friday's singles matches will pit Meligeni against Muster, followed by Kuerten versus Hippel.



Action from yesterday's inaugural Federation Cup basketball championship match between Josephites and Jhennish Sporting Club at the Dhanmondi gymnasium. Josephites won the match 95-46. — Star photo

Seles' Fed Cup aspirations

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey, Sept 20: Monica Seles will play for the United States. Spain will be represented by Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, Conchita Martinez, Virginia Ruano and Gala Leon Garcia.

The Fed Cup finals will be played Sept 28-29 in Convention Hall, the cavernous 67-year-old Boardwalk landmark that hosted the Miss America

court when I played against Martina," she said. "This time, the competition will be distinctly tougher. Sanchez Vicario and Conchita Martinez, the world's second- and third-ranked players, respectively, have led Spain to the Fed Cup title in four of the last five years.

Spain beat the United States in last year's final 3-2, and won 3-0 in the 1994 final.

"I think we have a chance to do well this year. It would be nice to do well, but whatever happens happens," Seles said. "I don't want to put pressure on anybody."

She enjoys playing with Davenport and Fernandez, she says. Asked if she would rather have had Gigi Fernandez, the world's second-ranked doubles player, on the team, Seles declined comment.

Billie Jean King, captain of the US team, left Gigi Fernandez off the roster after the two had a falling out during the Fed Cup semifinals in July.

But Seles still likes the team. "We make our practices fun," Seles said. "We help each other out a lot. It's a whole team effort, and I think that's what Fed Cup is all about. It's a team, not just an individual."

The left shoulder injury that has hampered her in Japan and, before that, in the US Open is no better and no worse, she said.

She has not decided whether to seek surgery to repair it, she said.

"I haven't had any time to go to the doctor and probably won't for the next few weeks," she said.



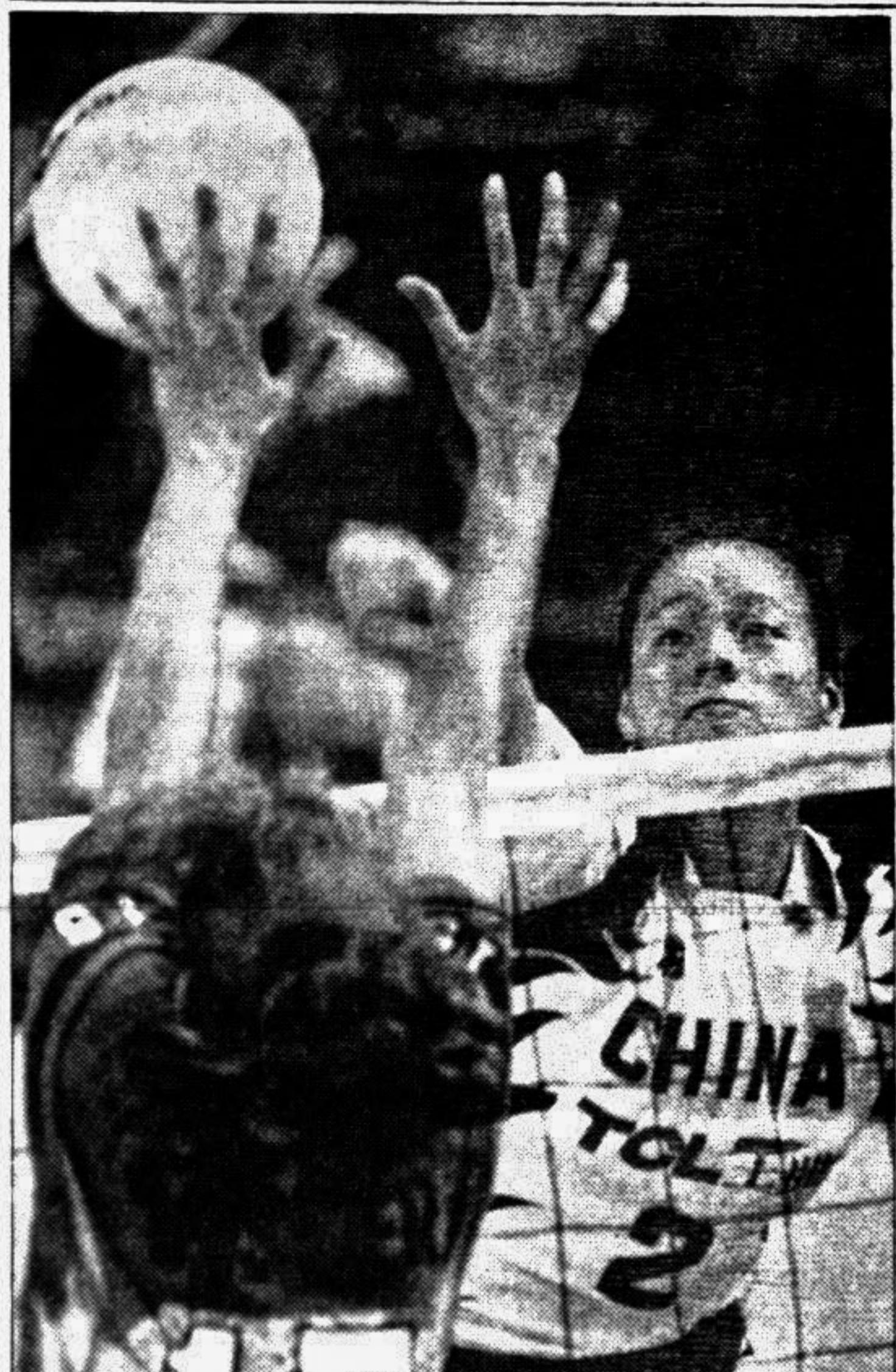
MONICA SELES

Pageant last weekend and will be the site this weekend of a college football doubleheader.

It's a sentimental favourite for the world's No 1 players.

Last year, Seles ended a 27-month hiatus following her April 30, 1993 stabbing with a 6-3, 6-2 exhibition victory over semi-retired Martina Navratilova.

"I love to play in Atlantic City. I loved the site and the



Chinese Li Yan smashes the ball during their match against the Dutch girls in the World Volleyball Grand Prix in Hong Kong on Sept 19. China won 15-7, 15-4, 15-6 to reach the finals to be staged in Shanghai, China on Sept 27-29. — AFP/UNB photo

Morrison's last crusade

TULSA, Oklahoma, Sept 20: Former heavyweight boxer Tommy Morrison, who is HIV positive, said Thursday that he will return to the ring to fight one last time to raise money for children with AIDS and awareness about the disease.

Morrison said there is no date, no date and no opponent, but he hopes the fight occurs before the spring.

Morrison said he had done extensive research and firmly believes that the virus cannot be transmitted in the ring.

"I'm not now nor have I ever been a good role model," Morrison said. "A lot of people are probably not going to like what I'm doing, but they will have to listen to what I have to say."

Morrison said he feels a real empathy for children with AIDS because he has seen them being rejected in their communities and schools.

"Being rejected is more emotional than having the virus itself," Morrison said.

He said he withdrew from the media and public appearances after he announced his retirement in February because he wanted to spend time informing himself about the disease and deciding what he could do to increase awareness.

Stuart Campbell, Morrison's attorney, said a number of fighters had expressed interest in facing Morrison. He would not identify the boxers, but did point to comments made by Ross Puritty as an example. Puritty has said he would consider fighting Morrison.

They are some that are either currently or have been ranked," Campbell said.

But Morrison may have trouble getting the necessary licensing for a fight.

Becky Andre, of the state Professional Boxing Advisory Board, said that Morrison likely would not be licensed to fight in Oklahoma because he remains on medical suspension in Nevada.

"We would have to honour that," she said Thursday.

Sean Bibbons, a match-

maker from Norman, said Puritty had been approached recently about whether he might be interested in fighting Morrison again, the Tulsa World said.

Purity and Morrison fought to a 10-round draw in July 1994.

Morrison's trainer, Tony Holden and Puritty have denied they talked about a fight, but Puritty indicated he would consider a rematch.

"I think HIV is not as easy to catch as everyone says it is," Puritty told the newspaper. "I don't plan to have sex with the guy. If the money is right, I'll fight anybody."