

Chess Olympiad
Russia, Ukraine
split points

YEREVAN, Armenia, Sept 29: All four games between Russia and Ukraine ended in draws within an hour Saturday, keeping Russia in the overall lead after 11 rounds in the World Chess Olympiad, reports AP.

Gari Kasparov, the leader of the Russian team did not play. Ukraine shared second place with Bulgaria, Israel, the United States and Uzbekistan, each with 27.5 points.

England and Croatia were close behind with 27 points apiece.

The Uzbek team took an unexpected 2.5-1.5 win over Hungary. Judit Polgar, Hungary's strongest player, reached a draw with Sergei Zagrebely. Polgar, a woman, plays exclusively against men in international tournaments and is No. 9 in the men's rankings.

Hungary ranks third at the Olympiad, while Uzbekistan holds the 34th place.

In the women's competition, Georgia tied with England 1.5-1.5 to stay in first place with 24.5 points.

Ukraine defeated Greece 2.5-0.5 to move into second place with 22 points.

MEN'S RESULTS:

- Russia 2, Ukraine 2
- Israel 2.5, China 1.5
- Georgia 2, Armenia (first team) 2
- Uzbekistan 2.5, Hungary 1.5
- Bosnia 2, Spain 2
- England 2.5, Sweden 1.5
- Bulgaria 3.5, Estonia 0.5
- United States 3.5, Slovakia 0.5
- Iceland 2.5, Germany 1.5
- Croatia 2.5, Yugoslavia 0.5
- Netherlands 2, Latvia 2
- Czech Republic 1.5, Belarus 2.5
- Indonesia 3, France 1
- Cuba 2.5, Argentina 1.5
- Lithuania 2.5, Kazakhstan 1.5
- Romania 2, Poland 2

WOMEN'S RESULTS:

- England 1.5, Georgia 1.5
- Russia 1.5, Israel 1.5
- Ukraine 2.5, Greece 0.5
- China 2.5, Kazakhstan 0.5
- Romania 2.5, Germany 0.5
- Poland 2, Yugoslavia 1
- Slovakia 2, Moldova 1
- Hungary 3, Lithuania 0
- United States 1.5, Cuba 1.5
- Czech 2, Bosnia 1
- India 2, Vietnam 0.5
- Bulgaria 2, Croatia 1
- Belarus 2, Latvia 1

Anton, De Reuck
win Berlin
Marathon

BERLIN, Sept 29: With some 1 million spectators lining the route, Abel Anton of Spain and Colleen de Reuck of South Africa, won the 23rd Berlin marathon Sunday, reports AP.

Anton, making his debut in the 42.2 kilometre (26.2 mile) race, passed his toughest competitors Francis Naali of Tanzania and defending champion Sammy Lel of Kenya just before the finish, to win in a world-class time of 2 hours 9 minutes and 15 seconds.

Naali clocked 2:09:36 and Lel crossed the finish line at 2:09:52.

De Reuck topped the women in a time of 2:26:35, followed by Renata Kokowska of Poland at 2:27:41, just a breath ahead of Marleen Renders of Belgium with a time of 2:27:42.

Winners money for both was 30,000 marks (20,000 dollars) plus a premium of 16,000 marks (10,666 dollars) for the Anton and 12,500 marks (8,333 dollars) for de Reuck.

Organisers said the 2.8 million mark (1.9 million dollars) event drew 19,532 runners from 70 nations.

Morceli's '97
master plan

PARIS, Sept 29: Algeria's Olympic and world 1,500 metres champion Noureddine Morceli said on Saturday he planned to attack the world 1,500, 2,000 and 3,000 metre records next year, reports Reuters.

Morceli, 26, already holds the world 1,500 and 2,000 marks as well as the mile record but lost his 3,000 best to Kenyan Daniel Komen this year.

In a news conference in Algiers reported by the official Algerian news agency APS, Morceli said he did not think he was ready yet to tackle the 5,000 record.

"I have the capacity to run the 1,500 metres in three minutes 24 seconds or three minutes 25, and the 3,000 in seven minutes 18 or 19 seconds," Morceli said.

"I am still young and I am able to take other titles and achieve other records."

Hill-Maske
bout on Nov 23

BERLIN, Sept 29: An injured right elbow forced WBA light heavyweight champion Virgil Hill Saturday to reschedule his fight against Germany's Henry Maske, reports AP.

Hill now plans to fight Maske, who holds the IBF world title, on Nov 23 in Munich, Germany.

The bout had originally been set for Oct. 12 before Hill suffered the injury during a sparring match.

"I've had official confirmation from the doctors that have been treating him that Hill isn't able to box for three weeks," said Maske's promoter Wilfried Sauerland.

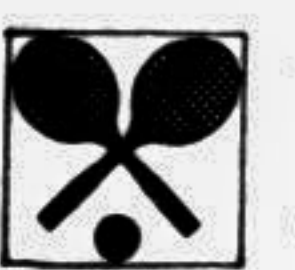
Sauerland added that if Hill's injury lingered, then the fight could be postponed until 1997.

Hill would receive his biggest payday ever of \$1.8 million for fighting Maske, who is incredibly popular in Germany and whose bouts draw huge TV ratings there.



American team members (L-R) Lindsay Davenport, Monica Seles, Linda Wild and Mary Joe Fernandez celebrate after Davenport's win against Spaniard Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario in the Fed Cup tennis finals on Sept 28.

USA speed past Spain



ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey, Sept 29: Monica Seles and Lindsay Davenport gave the United States a commanding 2-0 lead Saturday in the best-of-five Fed Cup final, threatening Spain's three-year reign as the world's top women's tennis team, report agencies.

Seles, the world's co-top-ranked player, dispatched Conchita Martinez 6-2, 6-4 and then Davenport rallied to top Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario 7-5, 6-1, winning 10 of the final 11 games after overcoming a 5-3 first set deficit.

Davenport's pivotal victory, her second straight over Sanchez-Vicario after five previous losses, puts the United States one point from capturing its first Fed Cup since 1990. It will have three opportunities Sunday.

Seles can wrap it up when she opposes Sanchez-Vicario. Davenport then faces Martinez in the second singles match before Davenport and Mary Joe Fernandez face Martinez and Sanchez-Vicario in doubles.

"They have a difficult task although not impossible," US captain Billie Jean King said of her opponents. "Still I wouldn't want to go to bed tonight down 0-2. Monica and Lindsay did everything you could ask."

Seles performed brilliantly, winning the opening set in just 27 minutes. Breaking Martinez in the second service game, Seles rolled behind an arsenal of strong backhand volleys and timely passing shots. Seles also displayed a flawless serve, not losing a point on it in the first set.

Martinez established a different tone by breaking Seles to open the second set. With Mar-

tiniz up 3-2, Seles saved herself several times after the sixth game reached deuce and finally squared the set when Martinez slammed a backhand into the net.

"I felt much easier going in there 1-0 up," Davenport said of her Olympic final rematch with Sanchez-Vicario in the day's second match. "I think that did make a huge difference."

Spain's number one appeared to respond well to the pressure by jumping out to a 5-3 lead over a slow-starting Davenport.

But the Atlanta gold medalist lifted her game to Olympiad heights to stun Sanchez.

The towering Davenport won 10 of the last 11 games from the speedy Spaniard in front of an embarrassingly small but appreciative crowd at the Atlantic City Convention Centre.

"I couldn't ask for anything more," said Billie Jean King. "The United States, which lost the last two Fed Cup finals to Spain, will now have three chances to clinch the title Sunday, beginning with Seles."

Seles used deep, powerful groundstrokes to keep Martinez off balance and was perfection from the service line.

The Yugoslav-turned-American served four love games and broke Martinez in the fourth

and eighth games to take the set.

The Spaniard woke up in the second set, breaking a suddenly nervous Seles in the opening game.

"In the second set when I lost that game I was more nervous than I should have been," Seles admitted.

"In the first set I was just zoning in everything and it's very hard to continue that. Everyone was saying perfect tennis, great tennis, but where can you go from here. I can only go down and that's what happened."

When Seles missed her third chance to break back in the key sixth game, she confirmed her status as an All-American tennis star by getting cited for an audible obscenity.

John McEnroe and Andre Agassi would have been proud. "That's never happened before," said Seles, blushing and giggling. "I have never been so rattled as I was today."

But even a rattled Seles is a force to be reckoned with, and two points later she had her service break, bringing the first roar from the sparse crowd.

Martinez put up more of a fight the rest of the way, but Seles wanted no part of a third set and she broke the Spaniard for the match in the 10th game to take the heat off Davenport.

Davenport also admitted to a bad case of nerves early, and crafty veteran Sanchez looked on her way to leveling the tie when she served for the first set at 5-4.

But the American started belting winners with careful abandon and Sanchez suddenly had no answer for Davenport's punishing strokes.

Davenport won 23 of her last 24 service points, ending the match with consecutive aces.

Indonesians invincible



ORANGE, California, Sept 29: Indonesia dominated the finals of the US Open badminton championships Sunday, winning four of the five events — the men's and women's singles and doubles, reports Reuters.

Top seeded Joko Suprianto retained atop the international men's singles rankings after beating Denmark's second-seeded Poul-Erik Hoyer-Larsen 15-13, 15-13 at the Orange County Badminton Club.

With his victory over Hoyer-Larsen, the 1996 Olympic gold medalist who was rated third in the world, Suprianto earned 13,000 dollars of the tournament's 200,000 dollars purse.

In men's doubles a patchwork team of Chandra Wijaya and Sigit, playing in their first tournament together, upset Malaysia's second-seeded Yap Kim Hock and Cheah Soon Kit 18-16, 15-10.

Wijaya and Sigit, who usually play with other partners, were unranked as a pair internationally as the US Open began. Yap and Cheah, the 1996 Olympic silver medalists, were third.

Indonesians took the women's events, too. Top-seeded Mia Audina, the 1996 Olympic silver medalist in women's singles, won her first major tournament.

Audina, rated fourth in the world, earned an 11-5, 12-9 victory over second-seeded Camilla Martin of Denmark, the world's sixth-ranked player.

In women's doubles, top-seeded Rosiana Zelin and Eliza, the world's third-ranked team, swept Britain's second-seeded Joanne Goode and Julie Bradbury 15-7, 15-5.

Two Olympic gold medalists from South Korea won the mixed doubles championship. Kim Dong Moon and Chung So Young swept Britain's Chris Hunt and Denmark's Helene Kirkegaard 15-5, 15-7.

Kim ranked third in the world in mixed doubles with Gil Young Ah, won his gold medal in Atlanta. Chung, earned here in women's doubles in 1992.

Suprianto had to repeat rallies in each game against Hoyer-Larsen. In the first game, Suprianto took leads of 5-1 and 10-6 before Hoyer-Larsen moved ahead 11-10. However, Suprianto scored all five of his

remaining points on the Dane's unforced errors.



JOKO SUPRIANTO
Suprianto built advantages of 6-0 and 11-4 in the second game, then Hoyer-Larsen narrowed his deficit to 14-13.

But after regaining service Hoyer-Larsen lost it when he hit a line drive into the net. Suprianto secured the championship when the Dane hit a drop shot into the net.

"I was making too many unforced errors," said Hoyer-Larsen, who was playing in his first tournament since the Olympics. "but I still have the speed that I need to go against the best in the world."

Wijaya and Sigit also had to frustrate rallies in their first game. The Indonesians had a 10-5 lead when Yap and Cheah forced a 13-13 tie and a tie-breaking set.

The unranked pair then moved ahead 16-14 before the Malaysians tied the score at 16. But after regaining service Sigit's drop shot and Wijaya's line drive winner gave the Indonesians the victory.

"We were a bit tired after last night," Cheah said about his team's three-game semifinal victory. "We lost our concentration after the first game."

The 47th-ranked Svensson, an invited wild card entry, rallied from 16-18 in the Group C match to stun the sixth-ranked Yang.

Yang still has a chance to win of winning the 16-woman tournament, but will need to finish among the top two in her group to qualify for the quarter-finals.

Also in Group C is Romania's Ottilia Badescu, who defeated Germany's Nicole Struse 21-18, 21-8 in her opening match. Second-seeded Wang Chen of China also got off to a good start with a 21-13, 21-8 victory over Cuba's Yolanda Rodriguez in a Group D match.

Wang, who only had one match on Saturday, faces South Korea's Park Hae-jung and Singaporean Jing Jun Hong in her remaining group matches on Sunday. Park beat Jing 21-18, 21-9 in their opening match.

Hong Kong's Chi Po-wai, the fourth-seed, won and lost Saturday to open Group B.

Chai beat Australian Shirley Zhou 21-17, 21-9 before falling 10-21, 17-21 to Luxembourg's Ni Xia Lian. Chai meets Canada's Geng Lijuan in her final group match on Sunday.

Deng starts in style



HONG KONG, Sept 29: Double Olympic champion Deng Yaping of China underlined her class and superiority with two easy group victories on the opening day of the inaugural women's World Cup table tennis on Saturday, report agencies.

The world number one is strong favourite for the 22,000 dollars first prize in an event which failed to attract Olympic silver medalist Chen Jing of Taiwan and world number two Qiao Hong of China.

She started with a straightforward 21-7, 21-12 win over African champion Bosa Kaffo of Nigeria and then gained revenge over Hong Kong's Chan Tan-Lin, who beat her in the team final at the 1994 Asian Games, with a 21-4, 21-9 victory to virtually clinch a quarterfinal spot with one Group A match to play.

The major surprise of the day came with defeat for Deng's compatriot Yang Ying, the world number six and England Open champion, who was beaten 15-21, 21-18, 22-20 by 47th ranked Marie Svensson of Sweden in Group C.

Beating Yang was a good win for me and with Struse losing, the group is very tight," said Svensson.

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Spain Diego's
destination?

BUENOS AIRES, Sept 29: Argentine veteran soccer star Diego Maradona arrived back here Saturday from a course of psychiatric treatment in Spain to say he had not yet decided whether to end his playing career, report agencies.

His agent Guillermo Coppola said it was unlikely the former Argentine captain would reveal his future plans for several days, but added the 35-year-old had received several offers from clubs in England and also from Spanish outfit Rayo Vallecano.

"It's very possible that he will go back over to Spain next week to speak about playing with this club (Rayo Vallecano), Coppola told Radio Continental.

"There have been contacts with Rayo ... we have only talked, anything could happen, we don't discard anything," said Guillermo Coppola.

He has been invited to attend Rayo's match on Sunday against Celta Vigo, and may even be asked to take the honorary kick-off which starts many Spanish matches.

Traditionally regarded as Madrid's third team behind neighbouring giants Real and Atletico, Rayo matches usually draw crowds of fewer than 10,000.

Maradona's brother Hugo turned out 29 times for the side between 1988 and 1990, scoring three goals.

Maradona, who has served two lengthy bans for drug abuse in his controversial career, recently completed a drug therapy course in Switzerland and vowed to break the habit for the sake of his two daughters. He then went on to Spain for specialised psychotherapy.

At the moment he remains officially under contract with Boca Juniors.

Maradona arrived back in Buenos Aires refusing to speak to the press of his current plans, saying only that if they have a go at my wife there will be trouble.

FIFA's order
overlooked

JOHANNESBURG, Sept 29: A new African competition for national football teams kicks off today in defiance of world governing body FIFA, reports AFP.

Zimbabwe host the Taifa Stars of Tanzania in the Castle Cup of Africa, a 225,000 dollars league competition also featuring Zambia, Namibia and Mozambique.

FIFA says it cannot sanction the event ahead of a meeting in Barcelona on December 7 to discuss African fixtures and warned the teams that they face disciplinary action.

The tournament has not been approved by FIFA and permission to stage it must come from us. The matter is not considered urgent and a decision can be made only December," FIFA official Andreas Herren said.

Despite the threat Zimbabwean and Tanzanian officials said on Saturday the match would go ahead at the 60,000 capacity national sports stadium in Harare.

The cup tie marks the coaching debut of Bruce Grobbelaar, the former Liverpool goalkeeper who faces charges of fixing English Premier league matches in January.

Grobbelaar now playing for English Second Division club Plymouth Argyle, arrived in Harare on Tuesday to prepare his squad with assistant Me-shack Martimo.

One of the toughest decisions facing the idol of Zimbabwe football is whether to play or opt for young gift Muzadzi in a team composed largely of locals.

Defender Chamo Musanu and midfielder Benjamin Konjera are key figures in a side which has promised much but never qualified for the World Cup nor African Nations Cup.

Sino gymnasts
in ascendancy

BEIJING, Sept 29: China won four of the six gold medals up for grabs on the second day of the Asian Gymnastics and rhythmic gymnastics championships, Xinhua reported today, says AFP.

Mao Yangling won the all-round men's gymnastics competition with a score of 39.20 while compatriot Chen Mi came top in the junior women's all-round competition with 37.460 points.

China's gymnastics team won the senior women's title with a score of 117.050 and Zhou Xiaojing beat his rivals in the all-round rhythmic gymnastics competition with 37.764 points.

Japan won the other two gold medals on offer Saturday with its rhythmic gymnastics senior team scoring 73.896 points in all-round competition and taking first place in the three balls and two ribbons event.

The competition, in the central Chinese city of Changsha, opened on Friday.

Moroccan in
Sicily tennis
final

PALERMO Sicily, Sept 29: Morocco's Karim Alami overcame a fatigued Marzio Martelli of Italy 6-3, 1-6, 6-2 Saturday in the semifinals of the 328,000 dollars Sicilian International Championships, reports AP.

Alami faces Adrian Panola of Romania in the final Sunday for the top prize of 43,000 dollars. Panola defeated Belgium's Johan Van Herck 6-3, 6-2 in the other semifinal.

Gunners' squeaky win



LONDON, Sept 29: Arsenal scraped to a hard-fought 2-0 win over nine-man Sunderland on Saturday to move into second place in the English Premier league, level on points with leaders Liverpool who play West

Ham today, reports Reuter. Arsenal won with a John Hartson header after 73 minutes and a second from substitute Ray Parlour two minutes from time.

But the real drama came in the first half when Sunderland manager Peter Reid was ordered from the dug-out as his side had

two men sent off in 18 minutes by referee Paul Dallas.

Defender Martin Scott and striker Paul Stewart were both shown the red card for relatively minor offences.

Scott was sent off after 21 minutes for a second foul on Arsenal defender Lee Dixon while Stewart was booked for a deliberate handball early in the match and was booked again and sent off after 39 minutes for appearing to handle the ball a second time.

Reid had a shouting match with the referee after Scott's dismissal and was then banished from the dug-out.

Wimbledon, who started the season with three straight league defeats chalked up their fifth successive league win with a 2-0 victory at Derby with Robbie Earler (49th) and Marcus Gayle (70th) scoring. That moved Wimbledon up from fourth to third level on points with Newcastle who play Aston Villa on Monday.

The highest scorers of the day were Southampton, who beat Middlesbrough 4-0 for their first league win of the season.

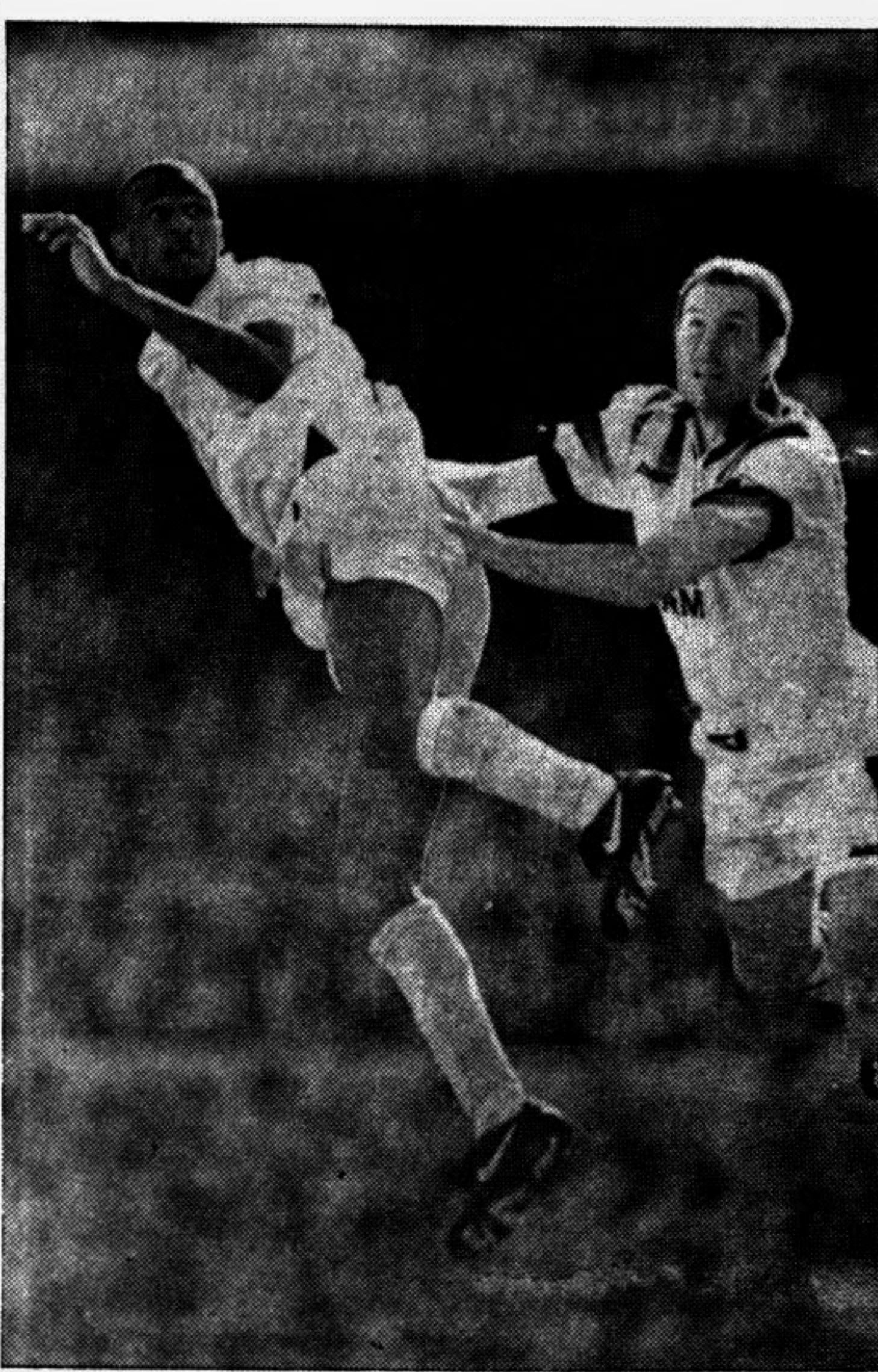
Matt le Tissier scored twice with Matthew Oakley and Gordon Watson adding the others.

Everton, who missed a sixth minute penalty when skipper David Unsworth fired against the bar, also bounced back to winning ways when they beat Sheffield Wednesday 2-0 thanks to goals from Andrei Kanchelskis (17th) and Graham Stuart (60th).

It was their first win in nine games since the first day of the season, Wednesday, who won their opening four games to top the table, have now gone six league and cup games without a victory.

Chelsea beaten 5-1 by Liverpool last week and 3-1 by Second Division Blackpool in the League Cup in midweek almost bounced back to beat Nottingham Forest who made it 1-1 through Jason Lee in the last minute. Italian striker Gianluca Vialli had put Chelsea ahead after 51 minutes.

In the other matches a 60th minute Emile Heskey goal gave Leicester a 1-0 win over Leeds and lowly Coventry and Blackburn drew 0-0.



Arsenal's French defender Patrick Vieira (L) and Sunderland's Andy Melville are locked in an aerial duel during their English Premier league encounter at Highbury, north London on Saturday.

Herzog hammers Bayern



BONN, Sept 29: Midfielder Andreas Herzog took sweet revenge on his former teammates at Bayern Munich on Saturday scoring twice in Werder Bremen's 3-0 win to knock the 13 times champions off the top of the German First Division, reports Reuters.

Challengers VfB Stuttgart seized their chance to go first with a 5-2 away win over Bayern's local rivals 1860 Munich featuring two goals from Brazilian Giovane Elber.

For Bayern, the stinging defeat came on top of a midweek defeat to Valencia in the first round of the UEFA Cup and a bout of public wrangling over the form of striker Jurgen Klinsmann.

Austrian international Herzog opened the scoring with a 23rd minute penalty and struck his second two minutes after the interval. Another Bayern reject, Bruno Labbadia, made it three 20 minutes from time.

Herzog felt he had been badly treated in Munich, where he spent just one unhappy season before returning to Bremen in a swap for Mario Basler, and warned his former teammates before the match that he had "saved a little bit of anger for Bayern."

Herzog was jubilant after handling Bayern their first defeat of the season and pushing them down to third place.

Meanwhile, Stuttgart set out to prove that they could still turn on the style now that young stand-in coach Joachim Loew has been given a full-time contract.

Last week Fortuna Duesseldorf spoiled Loew's party by handing the 1992 champions their first defeat of the season, and 1860 Munich looked like doing the same when Bernhard Winkler stabbed in a rebound from an Abedi Pele shot in the 11th minute.

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Police also had to stop spectators from throwing debris on to the field during the violence at the Hong Kong Soccer Stadium.

Cup Winners' Cup
South China
trounce
Bandung Raya

HONG KONG, Sept 29: Hong Kong's South China Club trounced Indonesia's Mastrans Bandung Raya 4-0 Sunday in a second-round Asian Cup Winners' Cup soccer match marred by a second-half brawl among players, reports AP.

Police also had to stop spectators from throwing debris on to the field during the violence at the Hong Kong Soccer Stadium.

But this time the southerners regained their composure as Elber and Matthias Hagner scored twice in two minutes.

In the 58th minute Elber notched his fifth goal of the season, using the outside of his foot to seep an unstoppable long-range shot past goalkeeper Rainer Berg.

Croatian international Zvonimir Soldo made it four in the 63rd minute and Fredi Bobic, last season's leading scorer completed the rout six minutes later.

Ghana's Pele scored his first goal for 1860 Munich one minute from time to make the score 5-2.

Early-season pacesetters Bayer Leverkusen moved into second place on 18 points one behind Stuttgart and one ahead of Bayern, with a 2-1 win at Schalke.

Last season's champions Borussia Dortmund are seventh with 13 points, but entertain lowly St Pauli on Sunday.

In the day's other matches, Freiburg recorded their first win of the season by beating Hansa Rostock 1-0.