

Sport

Column One

Sports

WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

WIN
TK. 2000/-
PRIZE BOND
EVERY FORTNIGHTSports WHIZZ KID
competition-54

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes : 8 pm
October 11, 19961 How many Tests has
Wasim Akram played to
capture 300 wickets?

80 70 60

2 The man-of-the-series in the
Sahara Cup was

Kumble Mushtaq Srinath

3 The final round of the Meril
U-16 national football
championship will be held in

Natore Bogra Pabna

4 The new Indian cricket
coach is

Madan Lal Arun Lal Gavaskar

5 The captain of Bangladesh
hockey team is

Harun Sadeq Alamgir

Name: _____

Class: _____ Roll No. _____

School Address: _____

Phone: (If any): _____

SPORTS TALK



Harold 'Dickie' Bird

(Long-serving Test umpire)

"It will be good to get out at
Lord's. It will be something special.
It's been my second home and is probably the best cricket
ground in the world. You can have the Olympics, or the Wimbledo
or anything but I don't think there is anything to compete with Lord's on Test match day. I think the Lord's Test is something very, very special in the sporting calendar."

About choosing Lord's to re-tire from Test cricket.

Leeds want
Brolin backLEEDS, England, Oct 5: Leeds
manager George Graham is re-
fusing to take 'no' for an answer
as he attempts to lure Tomas
Brolin back to Elland Road, re-
ports AFP.The Swedish international's
agent Lars Pettersen has said
that 26-year-old Brolin would
prefer to stay in Switzerland
where his month-long loan
spell at FC Zurich officially
ended last weekend.But Graham said refuses to
give up the chase."I still want Tomas to return,
meet me over here and resume
his career with us. We are short
of players and I need him here," he
said on Friday.The invitation is still open.
If it fails I will have to leave
things with the lawyers because
this is a very rare situation," he
added.If the 4.25 million pounds
striker continues to stay away
then Leeds may deny him the
chance of playing for another
club by refusing to release his
international clearance papers.Brolin has already been
docked around a reported
75,000 pounds in wages after
failing to return for pre-season
training during the reign of
Graham's predecessor Howard
Wilkinson.Yeltsin seeks
Kohl's helpMOSCOW, Oct 5: President
Boris Yeltsin asked German
Chancellor Helmut Kohl on
Friday to back Russia's bid to
host the 2004 Olympic Games,
the presidential press office
said, reports Reuter.The press service said
Yeltsin made his request in a
telephone conversation with the
German Chancellor, whom
he views as a personal friend.The two men also discussed
bilateral issues and Yeltsin's
state of health. The Russian
President has been in hospital
since September 13 and is due to
undergo a heart operation in
the next months.

SC Freiburg defender Thomas Rath (R) goes for a hard tackle against VFB Stuttgart forward Fredi Bobic during their Bundesliga match in Stuttgart on Oct 4. Stuttgart won 4-2. —AFP/UNB photo

L'Equipe's guarded optimism



PARIS, Oct 5: The French sports daily L'Equipe which created the European Cup in 1955, gave a cautious welcome to the expansion of the Champions League announced on Thursday, reports Reuter.

"Here we are then ... contemplating a Champions League that belies its name, because a non-champion can win it," L'Equipe said in an editorial on Friday.

UEFA have increased the Champions League from 16 to 24 teams from next season, to be played in six groups of four teams, with the six group winners and the two best runners-up progressing to a knock-out stage.

At present teams play in four groups of four with two sides from each group qualifying for the quarter-finals.

UEFA, who dumped champions from smaller nations out of the European Cup two years ago, said the decision to change the format meant all domestic champions would have a chance to qualify for the Champions League.

L'Equipe said despite its ex-

pansion the new league, by using the same number of dates in the season, did not disrupt domestic competitions and was fair by including all the continent's champion clubs, even if not all at the same time.

"Since we have to live in our times, welcome to this big baby which already turns our heady eye to second place in our championship with a completely new and excited perspective."

The European Cup was launched with eight clubs in 1955 and, though it quickly grew bigger, it only took on a dramatically different aspect with the introduction of the Champions League in an eight-team format in 1992.

In introducing a second participant from each country, the European Cup is in fact years behind its South American equivalent, the Copa Libertadores.

First played in 1960, the Copa swelled in 1966 to include runners-up on the instigation of the Uruguayan club Penarol.

The Uruguayans were looking to ensure they took part every year: Easy in a small First Division in which the two big fish, Penarol and Nacional, like Rangers and Celtic in Scotland — almost always finished first and second.

Nowadays, countries have various ways of entering teams into the Copa Libertadores, as league runners-up, winners of a play off round or winners of two separate domestic championships.

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A tale of two nations



PARIS, Oct 5 (Reuter): Team spirit rather than individual flair has propelled Sweden and France to the Davis Cup final in Malmo next month.

Each country has two players in the top 20, Cedric Pioline and Arnaud Boetsch for France and Thomas Enqvist and Stefan Edberg for Sweden.

On paper, both teams are weaker individually on clay than the Americans, Germans and Spaniards and would not have been tipped to qualify for the final.

In some countries, the Davis Cup is a tradition which amounts for players to playing a "Grand Slam final," said French national coach Patrice Hagelauer.

Team events rely heavily on values such as comradeship and solidarity. These values have a boosting effect on some players.

In France, Boetsch was at his best this season in the Davis Cup while in Sweden Magnus Larsson has made his name as a result of the event.

A state funded system was launched in the 1970s, helping clubs spot talented young play-

ers and setting up tennis high schools all over France in which youngsters train as well as study.

The most gifted end up in the tennis national centre, based at the Roland Garros Stadium, site of the French Open.

Team spirit is fostered by a host of team competitions between the 9,000 clubs who possess 500,000 licensed players.

As a result, France this year won the European under-14 championship and the under-16 World Cup.

"Cedric Pioline is a very good example of the situation," said Hagelauer.

For four years he refused to play the Davis Cup. It is no wonder he is the only player in the French team not to have come out of the federation system and not to have played these youth team competitions.

But Hagelauer said the detection would be even better had sports a bigger say at school.

"In Sweden, sport takes a much bigger place at school than in France. It certainly helps, too," he said.

The results speak for themselves. Apart from the seemingly endless list of Swedish victories in major tournaments, the country's Davis Cup team will be hoping to clinch their sixth victory in their 10th Cup final next month.

Sweden's harsh winters rule out outdoor training for six months of the year, so most of the country's 765 tennis clubs have built indoor facilities.

Consequently, Swedes have tended to fare better on hard surfaces than on grass, with Stefan Edberg the notable exception.

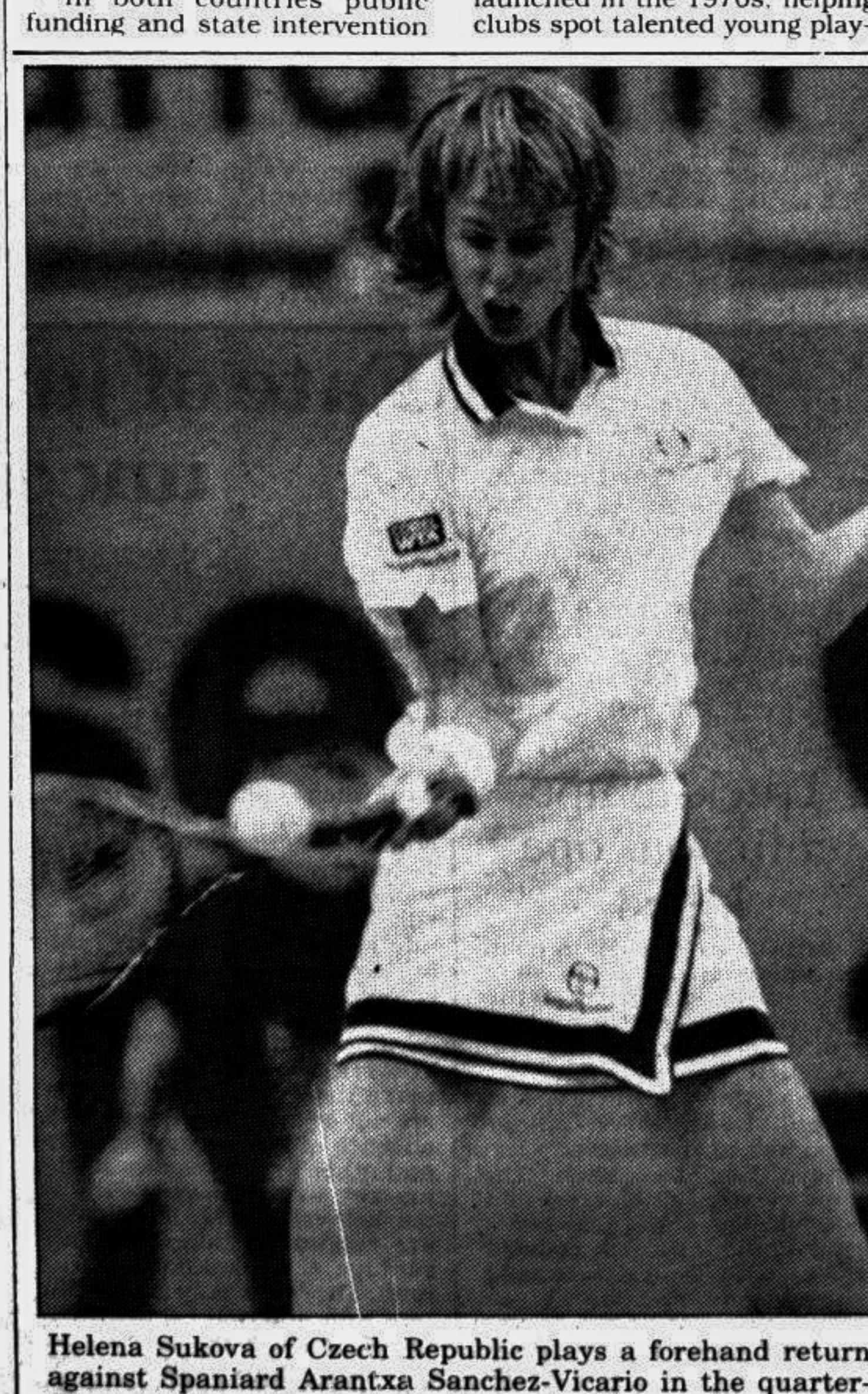
The Czech now faces a semi-final match with Iva Majoli of Croatia, who scrapped through 6-7, 7-6, 7-6 against America's Lindsay Davenport in Friday's other quarterfinal.

But the main draw for the home crowd will be the other semifinal, an all-German duel between Anke Huber and world number one Steffi Graf.

"Of course Steffi is the favorite," said Huber, the fourth seed. "But that doesn't mean the outcome of the game is a foregone conclusion. I think I have a good chance of winning."

Sanchez seemed to have difficulty concentrating on her game while Sukova produced excellent serves and volleys to secure her straight-set wins.

Davenport and Majoli battled for two hours in a titanic tussle for the remaining semi-final berth, with the Croat holding her nerve to clinch the match with a 7-3 victory in the final set tiebreak.



Helena Sukova of Czech Republic plays a forehand return against Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario in the quarter-final match of the Leipzig Open in Germany on Oct 4. Sukova won 6-3, 7-6. —AFP/UNB photo

Star TV, ESPN
join forces
in Asia

HONG KONG, Oct 5: News Corp's Star TV said Friday it formed a joint venture with ESPN, the sports network, to offer sports programming in Asia, reports AP.

Each company will hold a 50-per cent stake in the joint venture.

Under the agreement, ESPN Asia and Star Sports will retain their separate identities, but team up to offer sports broadcasts to all territories in Asia, with the exception of Japan, Australia and New Zealand where the two parties already have pre-existing ventures.

The value of the partnership was not disclosed.

ESPN is majority owned by Capital Cities/ABC Inc, which is a unit of Walt Disney Co.

VFB Stuttgart
retain top
spot

BONN, Oct 5: Two goals from Brazilian striker Giovane Elber enabled VFB Stuttgart to stay top of the Bundesliga despite being reduced to 10 men for much of their 4-2 win over Freiburg on Friday, reports Reuter.

Second placed Bayer Leverkusen kept up the pressure with a 4-1 demolition of Hansa Rostock but champions Borussia Dortmund went down 1-0 away to promoted Bochum.

The league leaders' win gave them 22 points from nine games, a point ahead of Leverkusen, and assured them of retaining top spot over the weekend regardless of the result of third-placed Bayern Munich's match with Hamburg to-day.

Stuttgart were reduced to 10 men in the 29th minute when Dutch libero Frank Verlaat was sent off or a challenge on compatriot Harry Decheiver with the score at 1-1.

The early season pacemakers, inspired by the return of playmaker Krassimir Balakov after injury, refused to be discouraged. Thomas Schneider put them ahead in the 39th minute but Decheiver equalised for Freiburg in the 52nd.

Balakov set up Elber's first in the 64th minute and the striker added a second four minutes later to secure the points for Joachim Loew's side.

Leverkusen went behind to an early goal from Rostock but a double from Paulino Sergio put them on the road to victory.

A spectacular goal from defender Thomas Waldschmidt gave Bochum their first victory over their wealthy local rivals since 1989.

The defeat leaves Dortmund in fifth place six points behind the leaders.

Piola passes
away

VERCELLI, Italy, Oct 5: Silvio Piola, the oldest World Cup winning player and one of the greatest forwards in Italian soccer history, has died after a long illness, his family said on Friday.

Lipton should have stopped the fight when I told him after the first knockout in the second round," said Jones, 32-0, who had also put Brannon down in the opening round of the scheduled 12-round fight.

Brannon, now 16-1, went

down early in the second round from a combination ending with a left hook.

The first knockout came after a flurry of blows ended with a right hand.

"I tried to speed it up a little but I didn't want to hurt him, I just wanted to hit him enough to get him down," said Jones.

Earlier, undefeated Ike Quartey of Ghana retained his World Boxing Association welterweight title with a 12-round majority decision victory over American challenger Oba Carr.

Judge Luis Rivera of Puerto Rico scored it 116-109, judge

Sergio Laurino of Uruguay 117-107, and judge Gonzalo Riveras of Venezuela had it 112-112.

It was a bruising bout between two hard punchers with Quartey (33-0) landing most punches. Carr (39-2) was cut under his right eye and his left eye was nearly shut.

Brannon, the IBF's top ranked challenger, proved to be just another in a lineup of out-classed foes who have failed to stop Jones' real challenge.

Jones has not gone past the sixth round. Before his last bout, the supremely confident Jones played in a minor league professional basketball game in the afternoon before stopping Canadian Eric Lucas in the 11th round.

This time, just an hour before the opening bell, Jones sat in the middle of the ring and took part in a question and an



Di ego's relative arrested

BUENOS AIRES, Oct 5: Former Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona and his manager Guillermo Coppola may be questioned by an Argentine judge after relatives of both were arrested on drug possession charges in dawn raids on Friday, reports Reuter.

"If necessary I will summon Maradona and Coppola," judge Hermano Bernasconi told reporters, after a Buenos Aires police drugs squad arrested Maradona's brother-in-law Gabriel Sposito, Coppola's cousin Claudio Coppola and two others.

The judge said he had serious evidence that three of those held are implicated in drug peddling, which carries prison terms of up to 15 years.

"I don't want to talk about anyone's relatives and I want to make it clear that nobody is being charged with any crime just because of the fact they have a more or less famous surname," said Bernasconi.

The arrests come just a week after Argentine magazine Noticias reported in a cover story that Maradona, 35, who admits he is addicted to drugs, has burnt out his brain's frontal lobes by cocaine sniffing and is dropping dead.

Claiming to have had access to a brain scan and medical

tests, Noticias diagnosed "cell death in the frontal lobe with loss of blood circulation" and said Maradona "cannot control his aggression, or detect people standing behind him."

The magazine said new Arsenal coach Arsene Wenger had made an initial enquiry about the 24-year-old player who has also been linked with a string of top European clubs including Juventus and Barcelona.

Ziege, who has 25 international caps, under contract until mid-1998 and a term of that contract is that Bayern will receive a fixed fee of 10 million marks (6.53 million dollars) for his services before that time.

Kicker was quoted as saying Arsenal's move was "very interesting."

The magazine said new Arsenal coach Arsene Wenger had made an initial enquiry about the 24-year-old player who has also been linked with a string of top European clubs including Juventus and Barcelona.

Ziege did sign for Arsenal he would be renewing links between London and Munich following his teammate Juergen Klinsmann's one-season spell with Tottenham in 1994-95.

In 1994 he was temporarily banned from international matches after failing a dope test at the World Cup finals in the United States. In a stressful moment a few months earlier, he opened fire with an air rifle on Argentine reporters.

Maradona is at the centre of allegations by local weightlifter Sergio Paredes, who says Maradona's urine sample was switched with another player's in a post-match