

Sport

Rusedski slams down a rocket!

BEIJING, Oct 11: A 225 kph serve that sent Greg Rusedski into the quarters of the Beijing Open is likely to remain an unofficial world record because of technical limitations at the event, officials said today, reports Reuter.

Rusedski won match point against France's Jean-Philippe Fleurian on Thursday with an ace that timekeepers said was faster than the world record jointly held by the British player himself and Australian Mark Philippoussis.

But event officials said the time could not be confirmed because Information Display Systems, the company that calibrated timekeeping equipment for the ATP Tour, was not at the Beijing tournament.

"Right now it's an unofficial record," said Steve Casey, ATP Tour director of communications. "We are acknowledging that ... it must have been close to 225 (kph)."

"It's an unofficial record because [Information Display Systems] wasn't here to calibrate the machines and make sure that everything was standardised as it has been for other events," Casey said. "It's just unfortunate."

He said it was unlikely that the serve would be made an official record in the future.

"I felt it was 225, no question about it," Rusedski said after the match. "I knew when I hit it, it would be close or better than my previous fastest."

C'wealth concedes

DUBLIN, Oct 11: The governing body of track and field got the Commonwealth Games to back down Thursday on the dates for track and field in the 1998 Games in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, reports AP.

Commonwealth Games Federation president Michael Fenell agreed to move the start of track and field back to Sept. 16 from Sept. 14, allowing a short break between the last meet of the IAAF World Cup Sept. 13.

IAAF president Primo Nebiolo announced the deal at the body's calendar conference. Nebiolo warned the Commonwealth Games last month it needed to chance the dates.

"I appreciate your understanding of the importance of the World Cup and your willingness to schedule the Games in harmony with the best interest of world athletics," Nebiolo said.

Munoz Panama's new soccer coach

PANAMA CITY, Oct. 11: Panamanian soccer authorities have selected Orlando Munoz, trainer for the national team, as the new coach after sacking Cesar Maturana for a dismal record, local Telemetro Channel 13 reported Thursday, says Reuter.

Munoz, a Panamanian, was placed under contract until December 15, when World Cup elimination games are completed, Channel 13 reported. Salary information was not given.

Maturana, a Colombian, was sacked this week after the Panama team lost to Canada 1-3 August 30, lost to Cuba 1-3 September 22 and drew with El Salvador 1-1 October 6.

Munoz is also the coach of the Panamanian semi-professional team Eurokickers.

Duisburg chief dies

BONN, Oct. 11: The president of Bundesliga side Duisburg Dieter Fischick died on Thursday after suffering a heart attack at a news conference, reports Reuter.

The businessman collapsed at the media event to preview his club's match with champions Dortmund this weekend. He was 58.

Fischick served as club president for eight years taking the helm when they were playing regional league soccer and bringing them up to Bundesliga standard.

But he recently announced his intention to quit the post after he was harshly criticised by some fans and members over his plans to reform Duisburg's organisation.

"I'm completely shocked," Funkel said. "We've lost someone who deserved the greatest respect."

Duisburg, who were promoted to the Bundesliga last season, lie fourth from bottom of the table, just above the relegation zone.

Magic's belated wisdom

HONOLULU, Oct. 11: Magic Johnson realises his return to the Los Angeles Lakers last season wound up having a negative effect on the team, reports AP.

He says that won't happen again because he has no intention of making another comeback.

Watching his former teammates work out in training camp Wednesday, Johnson also disclosed he has bought back the minority interest in the Lakers that he sold to majority owner Jerry Buss in order to return as a player.

The interest is believed to be a five per cent share of the club, and the purchase price was not disclosed.

Johnson, who turned 37 in August, returned to the Lakers late last January, and averaged 14.6 points, 6.9 assists and 5.7 rebounds in 32 games.

Edberg eliminates Muster



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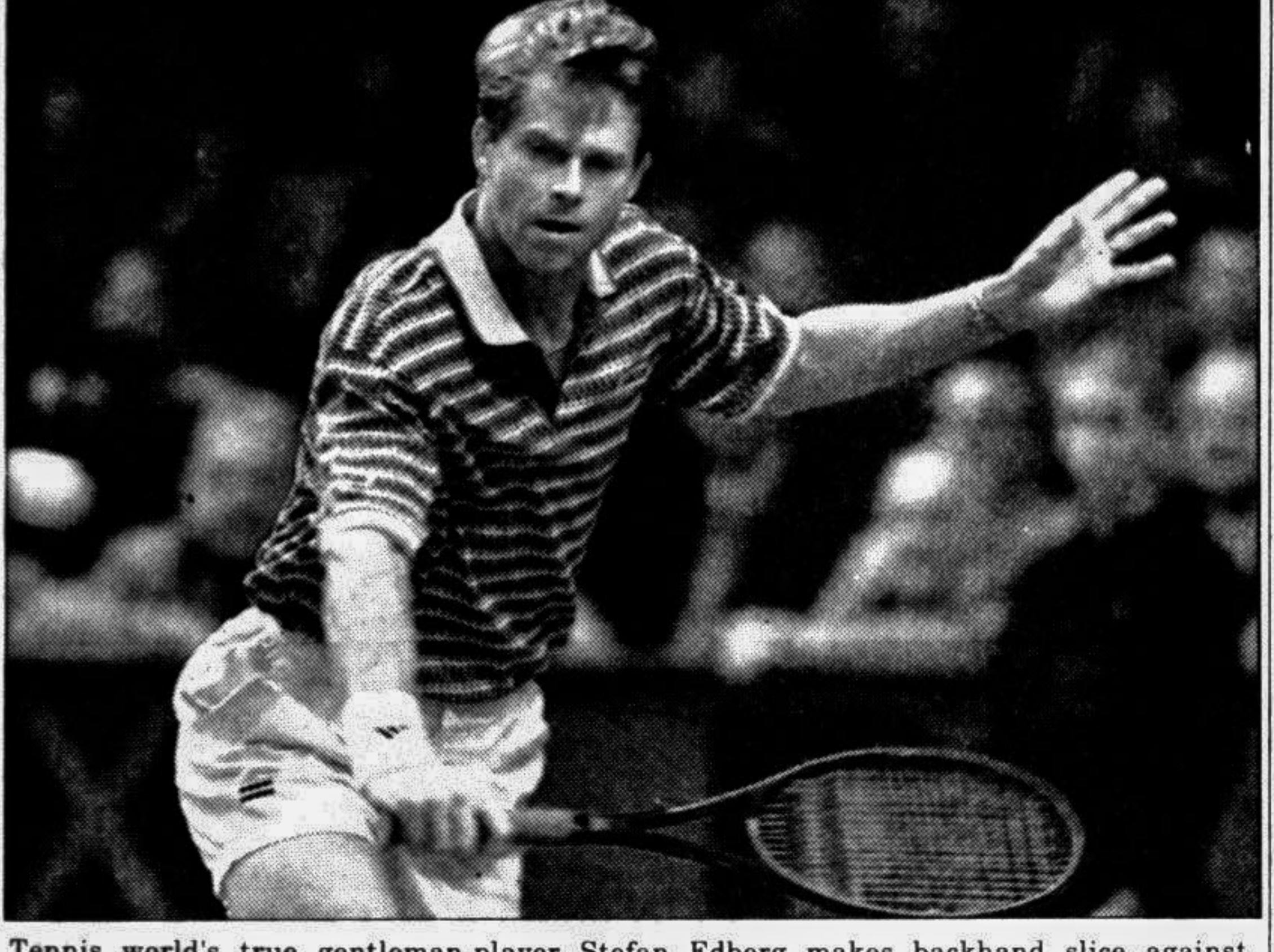
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Tennis world's true gentleman-player Stefan Edberg makes backhand slice against Australian clay-court specialist Thomas Muster (not in the picture) during his Vienna ATP tennis tournament on October 10. The illustrious Swede defeated the world number three — AFP/UNB photo

edged out the Austrian world number three 6-4, 6-7, 7-5.

Edberg, still recovering from a bout of flu which forced him to pull out of last week's tournament in Lyon, stretched his run of victories over clay court specialist Muster to nine.

Muster dropped his serve in the opening game to lose the first set but levelled the match

by winning the second set tie break 7-2.

In the final set of a superb match, Edberg profited from Muster's first double fault of the match to seal victory in little over two hours.

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Fifth seeded Boris Becker required three sets to knock out fellow German Michael Stich 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 to increase his lead in the head-to-head between the pair 8-4.

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