

Dahlin on road to Borussia?

ROME. Oct 24: Swedish international striker Martin Dahlin may move back to Borussia Moenchengladbach after asking to part ways with Roma, the Italian news agency Ansa said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

It said contracts between Dahlin's manager and a Roma official with the German club had been opened after the player told the Serie A side's chairman Franco Sensi that he was not interested in a switch to Glasgow Rangers of Scotland.

The agency quoted a senior Roma official as saying "the deal could be sewn up in the next few hours."

Dahlin moved to Roma from Borussia in the summer on a three-year contract but has hardly played a full match since. He asked to be put on the transfer list last week.

"I'm sorry. I wanted to play for Roma but the coach thinks differently," Dahlin told Ansa.

Roma were not available for comment on the reported move.



Andre Agassi of the United States plays a backhand return against Spaniard Alberto Berasategui during their Eurocard Open engagement in Stuttgart, Germany Oct 23. Agassi won straight sets. —AFP/UNB photo

Diego pulls punches

Buenos Aires, Oct 24: Diego Maradona says personal manager Guillermo Coppola arrested two weeks ago on drug trafficking charges, is the victim of a political witchhunt, reports AP.

"There are shady political and economic interests behind all this which I will reveal when the time is right," the former Argentine captain said in a signed letter published Wednesday by several national newspapers.

"I hope there is justice. If not, I will head a campaign to assure that, one-by-one, those responsible for this injustice pay the price," he added.

Coppola, 49, faces up to 10 years in jail if convicted of drug trafficking, which investigating judge Hernan Bernasconi believes took place on Argentina's Atlantic coast.

Bernasconi told reporters Tuesday he would probably question Maradona in the case.

At the time, Maradona, who has acknowledged his own addiction to cocaine, was heading a government-sponsored anti-drug campaign at popular seaside summer resorts.

The day before Coppola's arrest, police found 500 grams (one pound) of cocaine in a flower pot in his Buenos Aires luxury apartment. Not home when the raid occurred, he turned himself in almost 24 hours later.

Coppola, who has admitted being a cocaine user, has testified that the cocaine was planted in his apartment by three women who were in his home, with Maradona, at a small party shortly before the raid.

Austria's Thomas Muster, the No. 3 seed, was forced out of the tournament after an old hip injury flared up against Australia's Mark Woodfords. He retired 6-3, 3-6, 0-3.

"I ran awkwardly and the problems recurred," Muster said, blaming the flareup, which also affects his knees, on the strain of a long season on hard courts played indoors.

"It simply is not normal to need more ice cubes than tennis partners," he added.

Sampras ranged up his 18th straight win against Sargsian, firing an ace to close out the match. He fell behind 0-2, then gained a break and coasted to victory.

"At this point of the year, you're usually a little tired, but I feel fresh and ready to go," Sampras said. "One thing is sure, there's nothing going to be many easy matches here."

Becker, still nursing a wrist injury he suffered at Wimbledon, outslugged Rusedski, who has fired the fastest serve ever recorded at 25 kph (155 mph).

"Thank God, he also has some bad service games where you can attack his second serve," Becker said.

The German, seeded sixth, slammed a forehand down the line on one of Rusedski's second serve to gain a break at 5-4 in the second set.

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Afterwards he said the ligaments in his wrist didn't cause him any trouble. He has been undergoing intensive rehabilitation since Wimbledon.

"Basically I'm healed. But the more I play, the more I hurt. I hope I can survive the week," said Becker.

The three-times Wimbledon champion joined the tournament's other big draws Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi in the third round.

Becker, and ninth-seeded Andre Agassi, are still fighting to gain enough points to qualify for the year end Grand Slam Cup. That tournament features the world's Top 8. Agassi beat Spaniard Alberto Berasategui 6-1, 6-3, 7-6.

Only three members of the team that beat Germany for the Olympic bronze medal were in the team named today for the Champions Trophy in Madras from December 7 to December 15. There are six new faces.

In the first team under new national Terry Walsh, selectors stuck with triple Olympian Jay Stacy, centre half Paul Gaudoin and halfback Baeden Choppo from Atlanta. Stacy will captain the team.

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Among those not considered were vice captain Stephen Davies, Stuart Carruthers, Damon Diletti, Lachlan, Lachlan Elmer, Paul Lewis, 214-game defender Ken Wark and Michael York.

Mark Hager the 230-game veteran forward and team captain retired from international hockey after Atlanta.

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The Australian team will leave for India on November 28 for three pre-tournament warmup games against India.

Australia will be up against Olympic champions the Netherlands, silver medalists Spain, Germany, Pakistan and hosts India.

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