

Sport

Column One

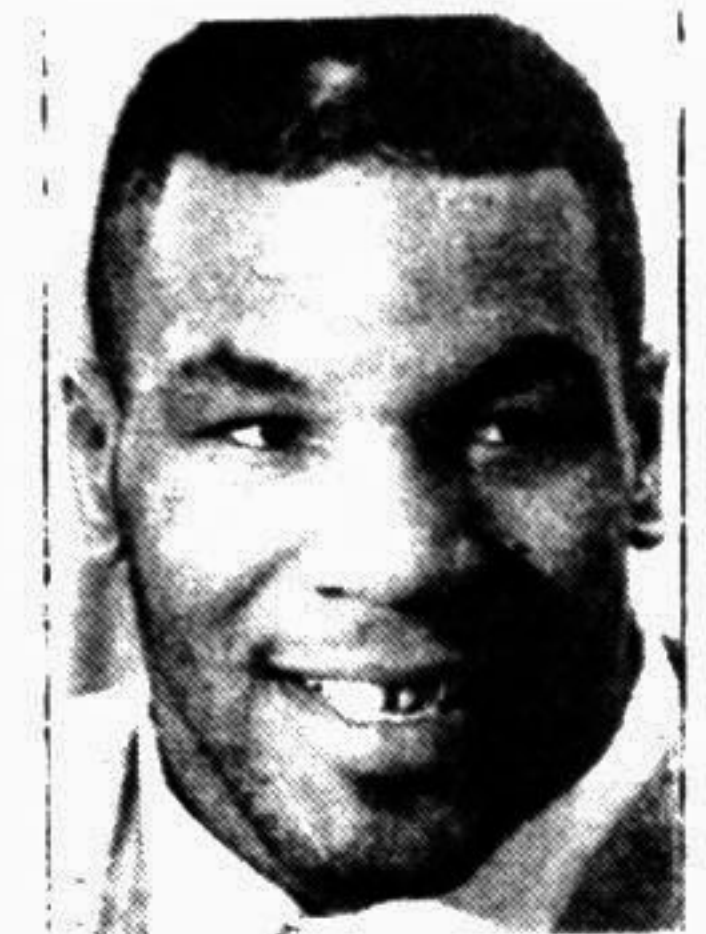
DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT the Basques of south-western France and north central Spain play a ball called Jai alai which is Basque for "holy day" or "merry festival". Played by opposing individuals or teams who alternately bounce a small, hard ball against one, two, or three walls and catch it upon its return. Jai alai is, therefore, a type of handball. It is one of the fastest of all games and requires great agility and coordination. The objective of the game is to amass a given number of points by forcing the opponent to miss the ball or to throw it out of bounds. The ball, or pelota, is caught and propelled with a glovelike, scoop-shaped wicker basket, the cesta, which is strapped to the player's wrist. Jai alai matches are usually played in a large auditorium known as a fronton; the rectangular court on which the game is played is called a cancha which has walls about 40 feet high.

It can't be. The Basque for khacha, meaning cage, can't be of Basque origin.

SPORTS TALK



Mike Tyson

(Former heavyweight boxing champion)
"I don't remember anything after the third round... I can't remember losing."
(Said of his title loss to Evander Holyfield).

Sports

WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

WIN
TK, 2000/-
PRIZE BOND
EVERY FORTNIGHT

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-57

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes : 8 pm November 22, 1996		
1 Who won the Titan Trophy?	India	S. Africa
2 How many one-day matches has Wasim Akram played to capture 300 wickets?	206	207
3 The 13th QM Hossain IM chess championship was won by	Zia	Rezaul
4 Who clinched the top position in the 16th national age-group swimming championship?	BKSP	American Int'l School
5 Which country will host the 1998 Commonwealth Games?	Malaysia	England

Name
Class Roll No.
School Address
Phone: (if any)

Italian boxer dead

PISA, Italy, Nov 18: Italian boxer Fabrizio Di Chiara was declared dead early Monday, two days after sustaining head injuries in a title fight, reports AP.

Doctors at Santa Chiara hospital said the 25-year-old middleweight had been brain dead since Sunday, and that his family approved organ donation.

Di Chiara, the seventh Italian professional boxer to die from injuries sustained on the ring, lapsed into a deep coma Saturday night shortly after a technical knockout during the final round of an Italian title bout against champion Vincenzo Imparato at Avenza.

"I'm upset, we were friends," said Imparato, who floored Di Chiara with a sharp blow to the head and another to the stomach. "He looked very tired at the start of the last round. Perhaps he should have been stopped before."

Di Chiara, 13-2 as a professional, collapsed after walking back to his corner following referee Lorenzo Giamatti's decision to stop the fight. The fighter's condition worsened Sunday after surgeons twice operated to remove blood that was putting pressure on his brain.

Jamaica baffle Mexico



KINGSTON, Jamaica, Nov 18: Jamaica reached the final round of World Cup qualifying for the first time since 1966, stunning Mexico 1-0 Sunday to move within one level of the 1998 finals in France, reports AP.

Hobbled midfielder Ian Goodison's 83rd minute goal from the top of the penalty area finished Jamaica with a 4-1-1 record and 13 points, one ahead of Mexico (4-0-2) and atop semifinal Group 3.

Jamaica needed only a draw Sunday to advance, but pressed throughout and finally scored to the roaring delight of 35,000 at National Stadium.

Honduras put the pressure on Jamaica, beating St Vincent in a match played at the same time in San Pedro Sula 11-3, a margin good enough to advance had Mexico won by one goal.

Goodison was hobbled in the first half when a stud from the shoe of Jamaican defender Linval Dixon caught him on the knee. He said he asked to be replaced because he was in a lot of pain.

"But it was like Father God said, 'Don't come off son,' and I decided I would stay with my team to the very last drop," he said.

Mexico, who already had clinched their spot in the CONCACAF finals, started off fast, hoarding the ball in Jamaica's half, putting up a solid wall at midfield but sending only one shot at Jamaican goalkeeper Warren Barrett.

The country of Jamaica, with a population of 2.5 million compared to Mexico's 94 million, saw Sunday's match as a chance to avenge last month's 2-1 loss at Azteca Stadium in Mexico City.

A week-long Jamaican media campaign, calling the match "the revenge by the reggae boys against EL Toro," turned the stadium into a rowdy sea of black, gold and green — the Jamaican national colours — and reggae music ricocheted off the bleachers for hours before play began.

Jamaicans were rewarded with their first rainless day in a week.

"Believe me, I am feeling

good," said Portia Simpson, Jamaican Minister of Sports. "The footballers demonstrated that as Jamaicans when we want to be good and great we are just the best."

Only once before have Jamaica reached this stage, over 30 years ago when they lost finished 0-1-3 against Mexico and

Costa Rica and finished last in the three team group. Mexico were the lone CONCACAF qualifiers for the 1966 World Cup. Canada also have qualified for the six-team CONCACAF finals. The teams will play a league schedule next spring and fall to send three teams to France.



Players of Chilean football club Colo Colo celebrate after clinching the national title following a 1-1 draw against Auxad Italiano in their final match in Santiago on Nov 17.

European soccer scene

ROME, Nov 18 (Agencies): Internazionale stayed top in Italy on Sunday when Vicenza wasted an historic chance to lead Serie A and European champions Juventus and AC Milan played out a scoreless draw.

Vicenza, who have never held the sole lead in Serie A, could have leapfrogged over Inter at the top with a win over lowly Verona after the Milan club were held to a 2-2 home draw by Fiorentina on Saturday.

But Francesco Guidolin's side were lucky to come away, with a draw after an own goal by captain Giovanni Lopez and a goal by Filippo Maniero gave their northeast Veneto rivals an early 2-0 lead in a hard fought derby.

Striker Roberto Murgita cut the gap in the 36th minute and Verona defender Marco Baroni returned Lopez's favour with an own goal 11 minutes from time.

Under rain in Turin, Juventus could have joined Inter at the top but they could have lost as well against a tough Milan side. Liberian striker George Weah came close midway through the first half and Marco Simone also threatened a goal for the visitors late in the game.

Michele Padovano had two chances for Juventus after the interval but hit the bar and then ran into veteran sweeper Franco Baresi, in fine form after several week's absence through injury.

Milan are now seventh, four points behind Inter and level on points with Roma, 3-1 home winners over former coach Carlo Mazzoni's Cagliari, and Sampdoria, who drew 1-1 at home with Parma.

Roma's Argentine International Abel Balbo struck twice to become Serie A's top scorer with eight goals.

Juventus are two points back

along with Bologna, whose Swedish and Russian internationals Kennet Andersson and Igor Kolyanov both scored in a 3-1 comeback victory against bottom club Reggiana.

At Genoa, international striker Enrico Chiesa equalised with seven minutes left to given Parma the draw in his first match against his former club, who sold him last May.

Verona, Napoli and Udinese took to the pitch wearing black armbands in memory of their former goalkeeper Giuliano Giuliani, 38, who died of an AIDS related illness this week.

Some 50,000 fans in Naples observed a minute's silence for him before their team's match against Perugia. Helped by two goals from Alfredo Aglietti, Napoli won 4-2 to move into fifth place in the table, a point behind Juventus and Bologna.

Giuseppe Signori, whose missed penalty condemned Lazio to a 1-0 defeat at Napoli in a midweek Italian Cup tie, pulled off a hatrick including a penalty to given the Rome side a 3-1 win at Piacenza.

SPAIN

Real Madrid slipped back into the No. 1 spot ahead of Barcelona when they downed Sevilla 3-1 with two goals by Yugoslav striker Predrag Mijatovic and one by Croat Davor Suker.

Barcelona, now one point behind, play their 13th round game Monday at home against No. 4 Valladolid.

GERMANY

Just three days after withdrawing from the national team because he believes coach Bert Vogts lacks faith in his ability, Ulf Kirsten scored twice Saturday to move a rejuvenated Bayer Leverkusen into a tie with VfB Stuttgart for the Bundesliga lead.

Kirsten's eight and ninth season goals helped Leverkusen

who barely escaped relegation last season stretch their unbeaten run to 10 matches with a 2-0 win over Hamburger SV.

The win moved them level on points with VfB Stuttgart, who have the better goal differential. Stuttgart rolled past VfL Bochum 3-1.

FRANCE

Jean Pierre Papin scored twice as Bordeaux scored a 5-3 victory over leaders Paris Saint-Germain and allowed Monaco who won 1-0 at Caen, cut PSG's lead to three points.

The 33-year-old former Olympique Marseille, AC Milan and Bayern Munich striker fired the first goal after four minutes and then shot Bordeaux ahead again from the penalty spot with the two teams locked in a two-all draw.

Other Bordeaux goals came from Johan Miodou, Claudio Biaggio and Kaba Diawara while PSG replied through French international Patrice Loko, Brazilian midfielder Rai and Panamanian Julio Cesar Dely Valdes.

Thierry Henry's winner for Monaco at second from last Caen came two minutes from the end.

NETHERLANDS

The Australian-American linkup of Tony Vidmar and Ernie Stewart sent Ajax sinking to an upset 2-0 loss to NAC Breda Sunday.

Vidmar struck in the 13th minute and Stewart in the 36th against the start studded champions but it was not the only upset of the day.

League leaders PSV Eindhoven lost 1-0 at Willem II Tilburg, midfielder Bert Kontermann scoring in the 74th minute to hand PSV only their second defeat of the season.

Second placed Feyenoord Rotterdam's 1-0 defeat Friday at SC Heerenveen means that PSV remained league leaders despite losing.

WTA tourney fixtures

NEW YORK, Nov 18 (AP): The schedule for the first three days of the 2 million dollars Chase Championships of the Corel WTA Tour:

Matches begin at 2230 GMT each day.

Monday: Anke Huber (6), Germany, vs Iva Majoli, Croatia.

Barbara Paulus, Austria, vs Lindsay Davenport (8), United States.

Martina Hingis (7), Switzerland, vs Irina Spirlea, Romania.

Meredith McGrath, United States, and Larisa Neiland, Ukraine (4), vs Yayuk Basuki, Indonesia, and Caroline Vis, Netherlands.

Tuesday: Jana Novotna, Czech Republic, and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, Spain (1), vs Martina Hingis, Switzerland, and Helena Sukova, Czech Republic.

Kimiko Date, Japan, vs Monica Seles (2), United States.

Steffi Graf (1), Germany, vs Karina Habsudova, Slovakia.

Lindsay Davenport, United States, and Mary Joe Fernandez, United States (3), vs Lisa Raymond, United States, and Rennae Stubbs, Australia.

Wednesday: Conchita Martinez (4), Spain, vs Judith Wiesner, Austria.

Arantxa Sanchez Vicario (3), Spain, vs Brenda Schultz-McCarthy, Netherlands.

Amanda Coetzer, South Africa, vs Jana Novotna (5), Czech Republic.

Elizabeth Smylie, Australia, and Linda Wild, United States, vs Gigi Fernandez, United States, and Natasha Zvereva, Belarus (2).

Boca bite the dust

BUENOS AIRES, Nov 18: An offer of one million dollars in prize money failed to inspire the players of troubled Boca Juniors on Sunday as they crashed to yet another defeat, reports Reuter.

Club president Mauricio Macri this week promised the squad one million dollars to divide between them if they won their remaining seven games in the Argentine championship.

But the players responded with one of their worst results yet, a 3-1 defeat against Banfield who began the weekend second from bottom of the table.

Boca, Argentina's best-supported club, spent an estimated 15 million dollars in assembling their side for the competition but have slumped to 10th in the table with a mediocre record of five wins, five defeats and three draws.

They trail modest provincial outfits such as Newell's Old Boys and Rosario Central.

Coach Carlos Bilardo, who has chopped and changed his team throughout the season, left the game with the expression of a condemned man and refused to give interviews.

Boca's arch-rivals River Plate, in superb form, beat San Lorenzo 4-0 to stay top, two points ahead of Lanus, an unfashionable club from the suburbs of Buenos Aires who are also playing excellent soccer.

Sound start for Jansher

KARACHI, Nov 18: Jansher Khan, seeking a record eighth World Open squash title, began his quest with an easy 15-8, 15-10, 15-6 victory over Craig Wapnick of South Africa on Sunday, reports Reuter.

But he now meets the hottest player in the game right now, 22-year-old Canadian Jonathan Power, who followed up two astonishing World Tour wins on the way to Karachi by removing England's experienced Danny Meddings 15-8, 15-5, 17-16 in his first round match.

The most exciting match of the day involved England's number one Del Harris who survived a 91-minute marathon by a single point after losing his way against Australian qualifier Dan Jensen when two games up and 14-7 in the third game.

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Lu was never far from the pool during her suspension, but had only returned to systematic training at the beginning of the year, the paper said.

Although she has been "very affected psychologically," by the doping scandal, Lu "quickly regained her physical condition but has lost her enthusiasm," the paper added.

Lu competed last month in the national championships in Guangzhou. The Women's Daily reported Monday.

In 1994, Lu stunned the swimming world by winning a gold medal in the 200-metre individual medley at the Rome World Championships as well as silver medals in the 100m and 200m freestyle, then set a world record in the 200m individual medley at the Asian Games in Hiroshima.

But the glory was short-lived when Lu and 10 teammates, including six swimmers, tested positive in Hiroshima for banned drugs. Lu was suspended for two years by the International Swimming Federation and her world record was struck from the books.

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Bad back beats Steffi



PHILADELPHIA, Nov 18: Steffi Graf broke down with a back injury at the end of the first set to hand Jana Novotna a victory in the final of the 450,000 dollars Advanta Championships on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Moments after the third seed Novotna won the set 6-4, Graf notified chair umpire Donna Butler she would be unable to continue. The German's default gave Novotna her third consecutive tournament triumph.

The victory was only Novotna's fourth in 29 matches against Graf, and her first since defeating her at the 1992 French Open. Graf had won the last 14 meeting between the two players.

"You have to play her so many times before you can beat her, before you finally have a chance," said Novotna, whose other recent tournament wins came in Zurich and Chicago.

"She is the No. 1 player in the world, and she has the most difficult game. Basically, nobody else plays like her," added the Czech.

Graf, the No. 1 seed and defending champion, was unable to finish her second consecutive tournament. She retired from a match in Leipzig against Anke Huber last month with a sore left knee, and originally had

withdrawn from the Advanta tournament before reconsidering last Sunday.

Graf complained of soreness in her lower back on Saturday night after a semifinal victory over Marianne Werdel-Wittemeyer.

"I tried a lot of treatment last night — chiropractor, massage — but it wasn't enough," Graf



STEFFI GRAF

said Sunday. "It didn't make sense to continue because I wasn't able to move or turn."

Graf said she would still try to play in next week's year-ending chase WTA championships in New York. The German is top seed and defending champion.

Obviously I'm going to wait as long as possible and try everything," she said.

Sunday's match started out even, as neither player faced a break point in the first six games. Novotna broke through in the seventh game, though when she ended a long rally with a forehead volley winner on her third break point.

Novotna closed her next service game with an ace, and won the set on her first opportunity when she volleyed Graf's weak backhand return for a winner at 5-4, 40-15.

When Steffi came out and hit an ace in the first game and then served and volleyed I said, "Oh, it looks like I'm going to see something different from her today," Novotna said. But I was able to keep up with her."

Novotna, who earned 79,000 dollars for the victory, will move up one spot on No. 3 in the WTA Tour world rankings this week, making her the third Czech born player to reach that level. The others were Hana Mandlikova, who now serves as Novotna's coach, and Martina Navratilova.

Woodies' 'golden' slam



HARTFORD, Connecticut, Nov 18: With Woodbridge serving in the 12th game, his team fought off two set points before he

volleyed out on the third to make it 1-1 in sets.

"We decided after that set that when we hit with power they were winning a lot of the points," said Woodbridge. "So we tried to chip and make them play the soft stuff. It seemed to help us."

Most of the remaining match belonged to the Australians. At 1-2 in the third set, they ripped off five straight games to take a 2-1 lead.

They were on top 5-3 in the fourth and final set before Woodbridge was broken and the match went to the tiebreaker.

The Woodies went up 5-1 in the breaker and yielded only two more points before running out the match when O'Brien hit Woodbridge's serve wide.

"They play so smart and they cover each other so well," said O'Brien about his conquerors. "They play sweet tennis and they pick you apart. They're one of the greatest doubles teams ever."

On the positive side for us, this is our first year as a team and we didn't play our best tennis this week but we still finished in the finals and ranked No. 4 in the world."

The losers split an 80,000 dollars purse.

England's successes came in the men's singles, where Clin Houghton fought back from 2-8 in the second game to beat Ji Xing-Peng 15-5, 18-16, and in the mixed doubles where John Quinn and Joanne Goode defeated Chen Wei and Liu Lufang 15-10, 15-8.

China won both the women's singles and doubles.

Lu on comeback trail?



BEIJING, Nov 18: Former world record holder LU Bin, at the centre of a doping scandal that shook Chinese swimming in 1994, has returned to training after serving a two-year suspension and could compete in the 2000 Olympics, reports AFP.

Lu competed last month in the national championships in Guangzhou. The Women's Daily reported Monday.

In 1994, Lu stunned the swimming world by winning a gold medal in the 200-metre individual medley at the Rome World Championships as well as silver medals in the 100m and 200m freestyle, then set a world record in the 200m individual medley at the Asian Games in Hiroshima.

But the glory was short-lived when Lu and 10 teammates, including six swimmers, tested positive in Hiroshima for banned drugs. Lu was suspended for two years by the International Swimming Federation and her world record was struck from the books.

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