

Chen, Paes to play in Aussie Open

MELBOURNE, Jan 3: China's Chen Li and Leander Paes of India have been granted wild-card entry into this month's Australian Open here, Tennis Australia said today, reports AFP.

In a move designed to forge stronger links and develop tennis within the Asia-Pacific region, Tennis Australia introduced a measure giving Chen and Paes automatic entry in the 128-strong main draws of the men's and women's singles events.

Chen and Paes' world rankings of 134 and 128, respectively, were insufficient to place them in the main draw, so both would normally have had to gain entry through pre-tournament qualifying.

It will be Chen's first main draw appearance in a Grand Slam. Paes, an Indian Davis Cup team member, won the bronze medal behind Andre Agassi at last year's Atlanta Olympics.

"By adding these two countries to the main draw, (it) automatically adds 1.7 billion people who have a potential interest in the tournament," Tennis Australia president Geoff Pollard said in a statement today.

"This move was designed to forge stronger links and develop tennis in the strategic Asia-Pacific region.

"We see it as a significant gesture in our campaign to help develop the already exciting rapid expansion of the sport in the region and strengthen our player and spectator base."

The Asian singles draw was designed for a player from a nation not already represented in the draw and has a computer ranking inside the world's top 200.

Asian players have performed well at recent Australian Opens. Japan's Kimiko Date reached the semifinals of the 1994 Open only to lose to eventual winner Steffi Graf, while compatriot Naoko Sawamatsu made the quarterfinals of the 1995 singles before losing to Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario.

The Australian Open gets underway at the re-named Melbourne Park from January 13-26.

Tillstrom rolls on

ADELAIDE, Jan 3: Unseeded Mikael Tillstrom of Sweden moved impressively into the semifinals of the US \$328,000 dollars Australian Hardcourt tennis championships with a 6-2, 6-4 win over Russian Andrei Cherkasov on Friday, reports AFP.

Tillstrom upset top-seeded Yevgeny Kafelnikov in straight sets in the first round and was equally ruthless against Kafelnikov's compatriot and practice partner.

Tillstrom, 24, said he had called on his determination in on a day when temperatures soared to 35 degrees Centigrade (95 degrees Fahrenheit).

"I think we both handled the heat pretty well, but when it gets into a rally you really have to fight for the next point," he said. "You know your opponent is not feeling any better than you, so you just have to hang in there."

Tillstrom now plays fourth-seeded Australian Todd Woodbridge in the semis after Woodbridge defeated fifth-seeded American Alex O'Brien 6-4, 6-4.

Woodbridge came from 1-4 down in the second set to win the next five games and the match.

"I knew Alex really suffers in the heat and suffers from cramps," Woodbridge said.

"The heat really knocks him about so I thought if I could stay calm and steady and make him play points, I would be able to pull him back."

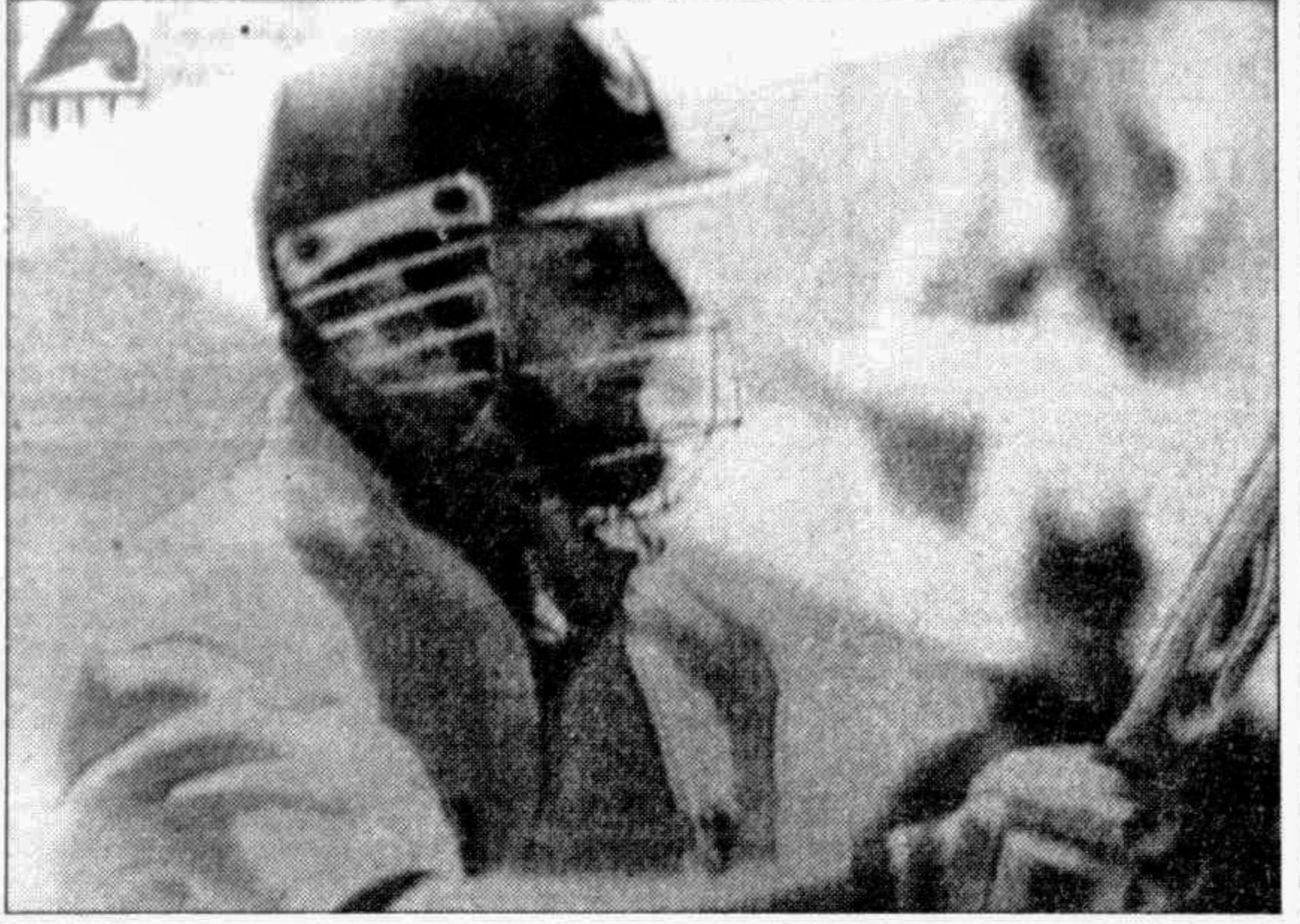
"I just relaxed when I got down two breaks and didn't try for wins."

Woodbridge is the only seed left in contention.

Two further quarterfinals will be played Friday night with Australian Scott Draper facing Karol Kucera of Slovakia and Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden facing American qualifier Jeff Tarango.

The 32-draw ATP Tour event, which is being played on the same Rebound Ace courts used for the Australian Open, continues through Sunday.

The Australian Open starts Jan. 13 at the National Tennis Centre in Melbourne.



South African Brian McMillan acknowledges cheers of the crowd on his maiden Test ton against India at Newlands, Cape Town yesterday.

Sport

Brandes baffles England

HARARE, Jan 3: A 33-year-old chicken farmer plucked the heart of England's batting here today as Zimbabwe rushed to their third straight one-day victory winning by 131 runs, reports AFP.

Eddie Brandes, who destroyed England in a one-day international four years ago, had a sensational hat-trick as he took the first five England wickets, giving up only 28 runs.

In the end Mike Atherton's struggling team were all out for 118 in reply to Zimbabwe's 249 for seven.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the third one-day international between Zimbabwe and England on Friday:

ZIMBABWE

Waller run out	19
G Flower c Mullally b White	62
Campbell not out	80
A Flower c Stewart b Irani	35
Evans c Stewart b Gough	1
Whitall b Croft	1
Houghton c Stewart b Mullally	19

ENGLAND

Akram run out	1
Moin c Samuels b Bishop	43
Saqala c Murray b Bishop	4
Nazir c Ambrose b Bishop	8
Zahid not out	0
Extras: (lb-9, w-6, nb-7)	22
Total: (all out, 49.5 overs)	197
Fall of wkt: 1-12; 2-12; 3-45; 4-47; 5-120; 6-124; 7-157, 8-184; 9-192.	

BOWLING

O	M	R	W
Walsh	10	1	40
Bishop	9.5	1	38
Ambrose	10	0	26
McLean	4	0	21
Hooper	10	0	38
Adams	6	0	25

WEST INDIES

Campbell b Saqlain	35
Murray b Akram	15
Griffith run out	2
Lara c Moin b Zahid	48
Hooper not out	54
Adams not out	33
Extras: (lb-7, w-2, nb-2)	11

BRANDES . . . hattrick

P Strang run out	13
Extras:	19
Total: (for 7 wkt in 50 overs)	249
Fall: 1-57; 2-131; 3-181; 4-183; 5-190; 6-220; 7-249	

BOWLING

O	M	R	W
Mullally	10	2	39
Gough	10	1	42
Silverwood	5	0	27
White	7	0	39
Irani	10	0	39
Croft	8	0	54

ENGLAND

Knight c Flower b Brandes	3
Stewart c Flower b Brandes	29
Crawley lbw b Brandes	0
Hussain c Flower b Brandes	0
Atherton c Flower b Brandes	18
Irani c Whittall b Streak	0
White c Flower b Streak	0
Croft not out	30
Gough c Streak b P Strang	7
Mullally b Whittall	20
Silverwood c Streak b Whittall	0
Extras:	11
Total: (fall out in 30 overs)	118
Fall of wkt: 1-9, 2-13, 3-13, 4-45, 5-54, 6-55, 7-63, 8-77, 9-118.	

BOWLING

O	M	R	W
Streak	10	0	28
Rennie	3	0	11
Strang	5	0	18
Whitall	2	0	11

RESULT: West Indies won by six wickets.

STANDINGS

BRISBANE, Jan 3 (Reuters):

Standings in the World Series cricket tournament after Friday's match (tabulate under played, won, lost, point).

West Indies	4	2	4
Australia	4	2	4
Pakistan	4	2	4

Result: West Indies won by six wickets.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the World Series one-day international between the West Indies and Pakistan at the Gabba Ground here today:

PAKISTAN

Sohail c Murray b Walsh	9
Afzidi c Griffith b Walsh	2
Elahi c McLean b Bishop	14
Ijaz c Murray b Walsh	59
Inzamam c McLean b Ambrose	1
M Wasim run out	34

ENGLAND

Knight c Flower b Brandes	3
Stewart c Flower b Brandes	29
Crawley lbw b Brandes	0
Hussain c Flower b Brandes	0
Atherton c Flower b Brandes	18
Irani c Whittall b Streak	0
White c Flower b Streak	0
Croft not out	30
Gough c Streak b P Strang	7
Mullally b Whittall	20
Silverwood c Streak b Whittall	0
Extras:	11
Total: (fall out in 30 overs)	118
Fall of wkt: 1-9, 2-13, 3-13, 4-45, 5-54, 6-55, 7-63, 8-77, 9-118.	

BOWLING

O	M	R	W
Streak	10	0	28
Rennie	3	0	11
Strang	5	0	18
Whitall	2	0	11

RESULT: West Indies won by six wickets.

STANDINGS

BRISBANE, Jan 3 (Reuters):

Standings in the World Series cricket tournament after Friday's match (tabulate under played, won, lost, point).

West Indies	4	2	4
Australia	4	2	4
Pakistan	4	2	4

Result: West Indies won by six wickets.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the World Series one-day international between the West Indies and Pakistan at the Gabba Ground here today:

PAKISTAN

Sohail c Murray b Walsh	9
Afzidi c Griffith b Walsh	2
Elahi c McLean b Bishop	14
Ijaz c Murray b Walsh	59
Inzamam c McLean b Ambrose	1
M Wasim run out	34

ENGLAND

Knight c Flower b Brandes	3
Stewart c Flower b Brandes	29
Crawley lbw b Brandes	0
Hussain c Flower b Brandes	0
Atherton c Flower b Brandes	18
Irani c Whittall b Streak	0
White c Flower b Streak	0
Croft not out	30
Gough c Streak b P Strang	7
Mullally b Whittall	20
Silverwood c Streak b Whittall	0
Extras:	11
Total: (fall out in 30 overs)	118
Fall of wkt: 1-9, 2-13, 3-13, 4-45, 5-54, 6-55, 7-63, 8-77, 9-118.	

BOWLING

O	M	R	W
Streak	10	0	28
Rennie	3	0	11
Strang	5	0	18
Whitall	2	0	11

RESULT: West Indies won by six wickets.

STANDINGS

BRISBANE, Jan 3 (Reuters):

Standings in the World Series cricket tournament after Friday's match (tabulate under played, won, lost, point).

West Indies	4	2	4
Australia	4	2	4
Pakistan	4	2	4

Result: West Indies won by six wickets.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the World Series one-day international between the West Indies and Pakistan at the Gabba Ground here today:

PAKISTAN

Sohail c Murray b Walsh	9
Afzidi c Griffith b Walsh	2
Elahi c McLean b Bishop	14
Ijaz c Murray b Walsh	59
Inzamam c McLean b Ambrose	1
M Wasim run out	34

</div