

## SA stick by same squad

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 8: South Africa stick to the same side for the third and final Test against India next week, reports AFP.

The players who took a 2-0 winning lead in the series with a 282-run victory in Cape Town on Monday, have been named for the Johannesburg Test, starting on Jan 16.

Northern Transvaal's off-spinning skipper Mark Davis has been called up as 12th man as his side are without a match during the Test.

South Africa will not name their side until the morning of the match.

India captain Sachin Tendulkar has asked for time for his young squad to develop in the wake of their crushing defeats.

"We have to leave all this behind us and concentrate on the third Test and see how we can come up with a better performance," Tendulkar said. "All 11 of us have to contribute much more."

India's batting problems start at the top where their opening partnerships to date have been two, two, seven and seven and they have yet to score more than 50 with fewer than four wickets down.

"It has been happening to South Africa as well," said Tendulkar. "But what is important is that the other opener hangs in there and sees to it that he gets a big score."

"I have seen a lot in the batting of Ganguly, Dravid and Laxman to face the future with confidence."

## Hoddle starts scouting sites

NANTES, France, Jan 8: England coach Glenn Hoddle paid a visit here on Tuesday to the stadium that will host their match with Italy on June 4 in the four-nation tournament that is a dress rehearsal for next year's World Cup finals, reports AFP.

"I thought it was important to come and see the facilities and to get an idea of the accommodation and training ground," the England boss said.

Hoddle, who played in the French league for Monaco during a successful career, added he was delighted with what he had seen — despite the pitch being covered in snow.

The 38-year-old former Chelsea manager, who has taken England to the top of their World Cup Group Two table which also includes Italy, will visit Montpellier today and finish his scouting mission in Lens, another of the sites earmarked for the tournament and the 1998 World Cup finals.

The four-nation tournament kicks off on June 3, running to the 11 and England's reigning World Cup champions Brazil are the other two sides taking part.

## Sino natauts shut critics up

HONG KONG, Jan 8: China's exciting new generation of women swimmers made their mark in the opening leg of the World Cup short course series on Saturday with four gold medals, reports Reuter.

The teenaged squad silenced critics who labelled them second-stringers by dominating the women's competition, although Olympic medalist Claudia Poll of Costa Rica held the Chinese tide at bay to claim two golds.

Fifteen-year-old Wang Wei took the 100 metres breaststroke title, Lu Donghua, 14, lifted the 50 metres backstroke crown, Chen Yan, 17, triumphed in the 200 metres backstroke and the 50 metres freestyle was captured by 15-year-old Nian Yun, who was in the Chinese 4x100 metres relay squad who won silver at the Atlanta Olympics.

The Chinese who had a lean Olympics following drug controversies which saw seven swimmers banned after the 1994 Asian Games are rebuilding for the 1998 World Championships and the 2000 Olympics in Sydney.

Their Olympic medalist in Atlanta Le Jingyi, did not enter the Hong Kong leg but her young compatriots underlined the strength in depth of the team Le and butterfly specialist Liu Limin are expected to compete in the second leg in Beijing next week.

Australia's men swimmers had a triumphant first day with four gold medals.

Michael Klim took the 100 freestyle and 50 metres butterfly titles, world short course champion Matthew Dunn was streets ahead of his rivals in the 400 metres individual medley and Adrian Radley touched first in the 100 metres backstroke.

Some of the sheen was taken off Australia's successes when Denis Silantiev of Ukraine edged world short course champion Scott Goodman in the 200 metres butterfly.

World record holders Mark Warnecke of Germany and Costa Rica's Poll both won their favourite events but missed out on beating their best marks.

Warnecke, the world short course champion, won the 50 metres breaststroke in 28.16 seconds, well short of his world best of 27 seconds.

Poll, a world short course champion and Atlanta Olympic gold medalist in the 200 metres freestyle, just pipped China's Wang Luna by .02 seconds to win the 200 metres women's freestyle in the relatively slow time of one minute 58.44 seconds. Her world record is 1:55.42.



Mohammedan Sporting Club's midfielder marshal tries some of his skills during their semifinal clash of the Bangabandhu Cup against Ujung Pandang Club of Indonesia at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

— Star photo

## Pete gets off on right foot



MELBOURNE, Jan 8: Mentally and physically refreshed after a five-week break world No. 1 Pete Sampras scored a

6-4, 7-5 win over Michael Stich at the Colonial Classic exhibition tennis tournament on Wednesday, reports AP.

Sampras said he is in the right frame of mind to mount a serious assault on his second Australian Open title.

Sampras, who won the Australian Open in 1994, last year was suffering from flu and lost to Mark Philippoussis in the third round at the National Tennis Centre. He believes he is a much better prepared this time around.

The eight-man Colonial Classic, which uses a promotion-relegation format, is the final warm-up tournament before the Australian Open starts on Monday.

It is played at Kooyong on identical Rebound Ace courts to those used for the opening Grand Slam tournament of the year.

"It's been quite a while since I played," Sampras said after downing former Wimbledon champion Stich in just 68 minutes.

"It was a little bit breezy today, but I thought I hit the ball pretty well, served well. Matches are something that I need and this week certainly provides that."

"It is a good start and hopefully I'll be playing my best tennis come Monday or Tuesday."

The 25-year-old American said he is going into the new season more relaxed mentally than he has been in past years.

"I've had a good break," he said. "Not taking anything away from Philippoussis — he outplayed me last year — but this year I'm fresh and I feel ready to go. That's just as important as being physically ready."

Sampras said three matches at Kooyong is better preparation for the Open than contesting a tournament out of town.

"The court seems like it's a good speed, very similar (to the Open). It's ideal preparation," he said.

Sampras next faces French Open champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia, who wore distinctive bright yellow shoes in his 7-6 (10-8), 6-4 win over American Jim Courier.

Such, still recovering from a shoulder injury, also was troubled by a strain in his left thigh during the match, but the German said he was satisfied.

"It takes time to get into a match, to find the rhythm, and my shoulder is still not 100 per cent, though it's getting better every day," he said.

"The thigh injury is a little disturbing, but I'm sure it is not a serious injury."

Stich is this year being coached by former Australian Davis Cup player Wally Masur.

"Wally only stopped playing 12 months ago and he's very knowledgeable and still close to the game," Stich said. "We get on well and I'm feeling motivated. I want to achieve something this year."

Boris Becker, who ended 1996 with five titles, a place in the final of the ATP Tour Championship and a victory in the Grand Slam Cup, made a slow start before winning his first-round match 7-6 (7-3), 6-1 against Andrei Medvedev of Ukraine.

Becker, winner of 49 career titles, trailed 2-5 in the opening set before winning in 90 minutes.

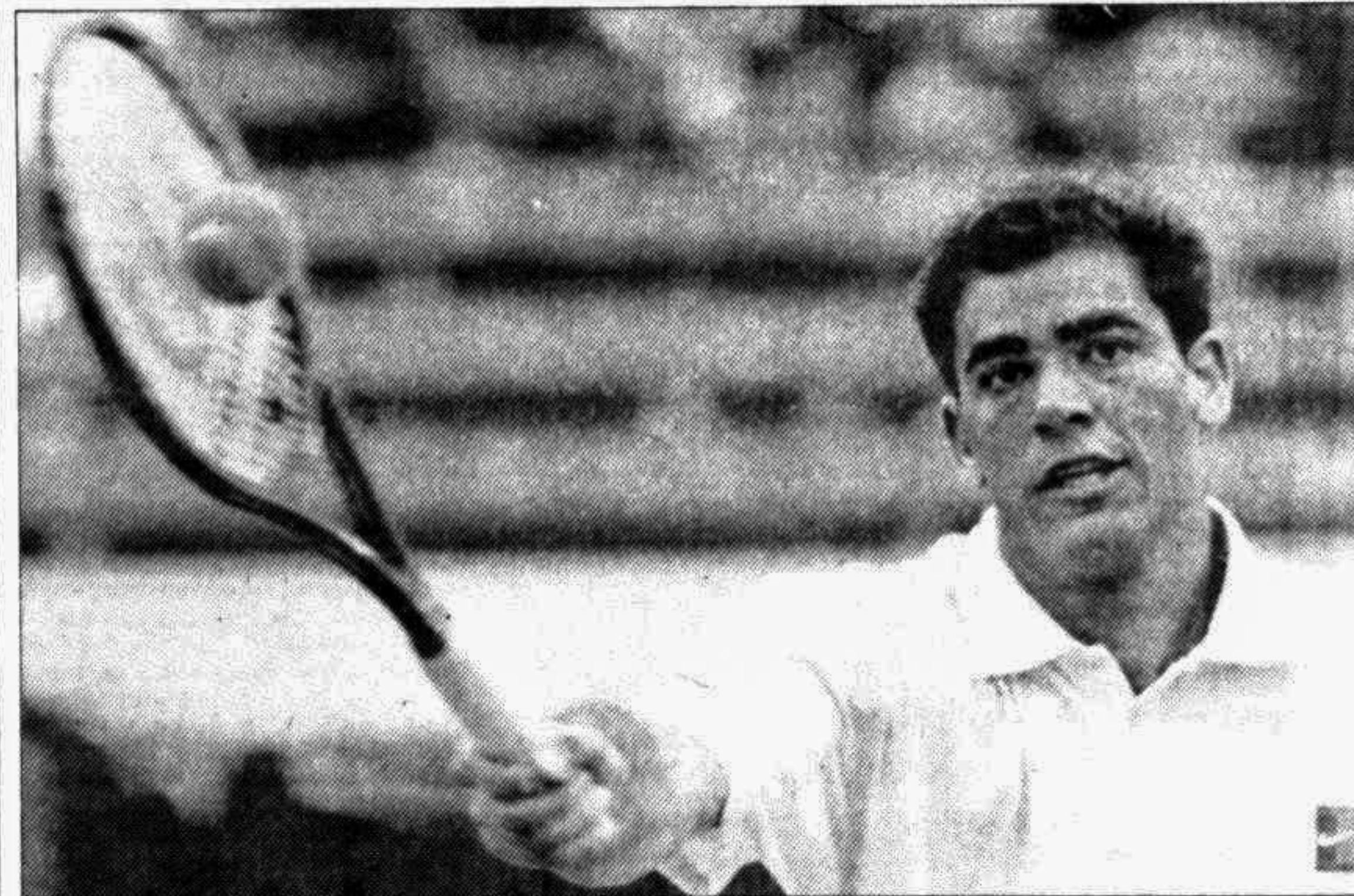
"I played pretty well, especially my groundstrokes from the back," Becker said. "I could have served a little better, particularly in the first set, but overall I'm satisfied."

"I put the pressure on him all the time and I didn't give him too many chances to break my serve."

Becker will next face two-time champion Michael Chang of the United States, who defeated Swede Thomas Enqvist 7-5, 6-4 after also trailing 2-5 early.

"As the match went on, I settled in and played better tennis," Chang said. "If you are able to do well against these guys then it is a great boost going into the Open."

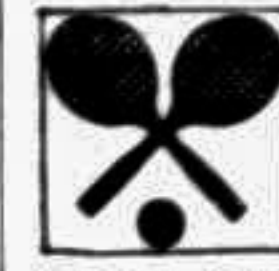
"If you can beat a guy here the next time you play him he is going to be thinking about it."



World number one Pete Sampras of the United States returns the ball against German Michael Stich during their first round match of the Colonial Classic tournament in Melbourne yesterday. Sampras won 6-4, 7-5.

— AFP/UNB photo

## Novak stops Mamiit's run



AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Jan 8: Defending champion Jiri Novak's hopes of retaining his New Zealand

Open tennis title improved Wednesday after he ended American Cecil Mamiit's run, reports agencies.

Novak, ranked 50th in the world, won 6-4, 6-2 and looked to have benefited from a tough three-setter against Australian Scott Draper on Tuesday.

Both Novak and Mamiit, who pulled off an upset win over New Zealand's Brett Steven on Tuesday, were happy to sit on the baseline and exchange lengthy rallies, with Novak's experience eventually showing through.

Novak gained a break in the fifth game of the first set and then held serve to take it 6-4.

Mamiit entered the tournament as a lucky loser after missing out on qualifying and after tournament No. 2 seed Magnus Gustafsson withdrew.

Gustafsson, ranked 16th in the world, withdrew with a recurring shoulder injury. He was the second-seeded player to withdraw with injury from the tournament after American Malivi Washington, seeded fourth, withdrew last week with a back problem.

Novak said Mamiit's speed around the court was impressive.

"He was very difficult because we were having to rally a lot and he is good player," No-

vak said. "My game is getting better but there is a little bit of pressure on me here because I am the defending champion."

Novak will play Friday's quarterfinal against Romanian-born German Alex Radulescu, who had to work hard for his straight-sets 7-6 (7-5), 6-4

4 victory over Swede Thomas Johansson on Wednesday.

Also in the bottom half of the draw, fifth seed Hernan Gummy of Argentina progressed into the quarterfinals with a straight-sets win over Sweden's Nicklas Kulti 6-3, 6-1. In the other second-round match played Wednesday, Kenneth Carlsen of Denmark upset third seed Alberto Berasategui of Spain 6-3, 6-3.

Another who relished the court conditions on Tuesday was the temperamental but talented World No. 11, Marcelo Rios who is seeded No. 1 for the tournament.

Chile's Rios made short work of despatching Karim Alami, ranked 61 in the world, 6-2, 6-3. The Moroccan has beaten Pete Sampras once so far in his career.

Tournament fourth seed Alex Corretja of Spain was another who suffered defeat, but with immeasurable honour.

He was beaten by Norway's Christian Ruud who won a titanic struggle 6-7 (7-5), 7-6 (7-5), 6-4.

Eighth seed Martin Damm of the Czech Republic also fell by the wayside, capitulating in straight sets 6-1, 6-1 to Slovakia's Karol Kucera.

The other seeded players to take the court, No. 3 Alberto Berasategui beat Spanish compatriot Roerto Carretero 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 and sixth seed Chris Woodruff of the USA beat Germany's Bernd Karbacher 7-5, 6-4.

## Lloyd puts on a brave face

AUCKLAND, Jan 8: Two minor injuries put a slight damper on a good-natured English cricket team during their first full practice in New Zealand on Wednesday, reports AP.

Off-spinner Robert Croft had an unfortunate start to the tour with the first ball bowled to him — by the medium-fast Alan Mullaly — hitting him plumb on the big toe of his right foot.

Croft spent most of the remainder of the practice applying ice to the damaged digit and later Graham Thorpe slowed down with a calf strain. England coach David Lloyd later said both injuries were proving painful but he did not expect them to become serious.

Lloyd's optimism was further magnified by practice facilities which he described as "a million times better than anything we had in Zimbabwe." In Zimbabwe, the English drew two Tests and lost all three limited-over matches, garnering heavy criticism in the process.

"We are looking for a bit improvement on our form in Zimbabwe," said Lloyd, "and the players are reacting very well to their new environment — you can sense the lift in their spirits."

"The players are content and happy, determined to turn the past criticism into favourable comment."

Lloyd said the team to open the tour in a one-day match against a New Zealand Academy XI at Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, on Friday had not been picked.

However, he expected that players not used heavily in Zimbabwe, such as wicket-keeper Jack Russell, pace bowler Andrewodd and all-rounder Dominic Cork, who joined the tour in Auckland, would most likely play at New Plymouth.

## Sacchi sorts things out

MILAN, Jan 8: AC Milan coach Arrigo Sacchi has warned some of his players to shape up or ship out, following the Italian champions' humiliating 3-0 defeat at the hands of Lazio, reports AFP.

Sacchi made it clear on Tuesday he believes that some members of the squad are behaving like amateurs — and therefore have no place in Europe's top club during the past decade.

"Football is for professionals," he said, "and we have to stop trying to hide from that. If we are in this situation, it's the fault of everyone. And everyone has to assume their share of responsibility."

In a passing reference to his hapless Uruguayan predecessor, Oscar Tabarez, Sacchi said: "He's an excellent coach who tried to do his best, and he is among the least guilty."

"It's time to change direction, but not by 80 or 90 degrees as I previously thought."

"It's time for a 360 degree turn," he said enigmatically, leaving people to puzzle over whether he actually meant 360, which would bring him back to where he is now, or 180.

Sacchi, speaking just before Milan's first training session since Sunday's debacle in the Olympic Stadium, said some members of the team lacked the mental strength and the desire to win that was needed.

"There are players and there are players," he said. "Some have a great deal of willingness in them and some of them have very little. And on the pitch, it's this willpower that makes the difference."

The man who took Italy to the 1994 World Cup final against Brazil sent out a clear warning that anyone who does not pull their weight or do what he says, can look for another club.

"If people come to the wrong door, they will very quickly be shown the way out," he said.

## Juventus not PSG's concern

PARIS, Jan 8: Paris Saint-Germain's winter break obsession is not Juventus in the European Super Cup next week but Monaco at the end of January, reports Reuter.

"Juve" is two matches. Monaco is the season and the future," said PSG's Brazilian manager Ricardo during the Parisians' tour of the Indian Ocean.

Ricardo's side, playing friendlies on the sun-bathed islands of Reunion and Mauritius this week, face European and World Cup champions Juventus in the first leg of the Super Cup in Paris on January 15.

They clash with Monaco at the Louis II Stadium in the principality on January 26 when the recess ends, four points adrift of the First Division leaders.

"A defeat would not be the end but things would become very hard. Oh, all those points lost at the Parc (des Princes)," Ricardo lamented.

PSG allowed Monaco to overtake them at the top when they took only two points from their last three home games before the break began on December 20. In a poor run-in to the recess they won only once in six outings.

"We must take control at once in order to win at the Louis II Stadium," striker Patric Loko said. "If Monaco lose their lead, they'll react negatively."

France goalkeeper Bernard Lama said: "The Super Cup will be useful (to prepare) for Monaco. The result will be useful one way or the other. A win would give us up, a defeat would put us under pressure."

## Jennifer, Goran in qtrs



SYDNEY, Jan 8: Goran Ivanisevic shook himself out of mid-match slumber to advance to the quarterfinals of the Sydney International tennis tournament Wednesday, reports agencies.

Ivanisevic, the top seed and world No. 3, mastered gusting winds on the White City Centre Court to post a second-round 6-4, 0-6, 6-4 win over Spaniard Javier Sanchez.

The big-serving Croat admitted afterwards he was fortunate against the plucky right-hander, world-ranked 38, who ran down every ball as Ivanisevic battled himself and the wind.

"I was sleeping all the match. It was very windy, very difficult," said Ivanisevic, who collected a code violation in the final set for racket abuse after missing any easy volley at the net.

Ivanisevic, 25, and Spain's Alberto Costa, the third seed, are the only men's seeds to make the quarterfinals. Costa beat Czech Bohdan Ulihrach 6-2, 6-2 in a second-round match. Eighth seed Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands fell to Australia's Patrick Rafter 6-7 (5-7), 7-5, 7-6 (7-2).

In the women's event, Jennifer Capriati advanced to the quarterfinals with a 6-3, 6-2 win over Canada's Rene Simpson.

Ivanisevic, preparing for the Australian Open, had trouble with his normally lethal serve in the swirling conditions before stretching his record to 5-0 against Sanchez.

He hit 11 aces for the match but won just four points in the second set as Sanchez raced through seven straight games to take it 6-0 and lead 1-0 in the third against his frustrated rival.

"The first couple of games (of the second set) I played badly," said Ivanisevic. "After that I was walking left to right. I didn't put the greatest effort in those last couple of games. It was so windy."

Ivanisevic, runnerup here last year, rallied in the final set and broke to lead 4-3.

But the wind still troubled him.

In the last game, leading 5-4 and 15-0, he completely missed the ball when attempting an overhead smash. He lost the next two points before grinding out the win.

Ivanisevic next faces Aus-

tralian Sandon Stolle, a 6-2, 6-1 second-round winner over Adrian Panatta. Costa plays Zimbabwe's Byron Black, who advanced when Australian Todd Woodbridge forfeited their match with a left thigh muscle strain.

Britain's Tim Henman, runnerup in the Qatar Open last week, also won Wednesday by beating two-time French Open winner Sergi Bruguera 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 after having been on court until almost midnight Tuesday.

Capriati, 20, and ranked 37th in the world, is continuing her second comeback to the women's tour after her promising career was derailed in recent years by a series of much-publicised off-court problems.

She is confident of building on the form she showed in 1996, including a straight-sets win over Monica Seles on the way to the final in Chicago in November.

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## Komen on comeback trail

Although the latest of Kenya's seemingly endless supply of world-class running stars failed to make it to the Atlanta Olympics, he is breaking world records. And, as Gemini News Service reports, he has his eye firmly on the 2000 Games.

By Robert Otani from Eldoret, Kenya

DOUBLE world record-holder Daniel Komen is on the comeback trail following the disappointment of his omission from the Kenyan team for '96 Olympic Games.

But he insists: "I'm not in a hurry right now."

The 20-year-old Kenyan runner is not referring to his speed on track, but to his overall ambitions. He is pacing himself carefully. "My priority is to maintain my form and run even faster next year," he says in an interview in his home town of Eldoret, about 400 kilometres west of Nairobi.

He is cautious because he failed to win a place in his country's squad for the 1996 Olympics in the United States city of Atlanta.

"I was so disappointed that I nearly cried," he recalls.

He had recovered from a shin injury that had forced him to miss the World Cross Country Championships, and looked a good bet for the team.

But he finished fourth in a

national trials race in which only the first two were guaranteed an Olympic place.

"I thought the selectors would consider me on a wild card, but they didn't," he says sadly.

It was the second time he had faced major disappointment. Early in his career, while still a student, he won the national secondary schools cross-country championship. Despite his victory, he was left out of the Kenyan squad competing in international junior athletics championships in Seoul — an omission that still rankles.

"I got so distraught that I nearly gave up running altogether," he admits. "But I controlled my anger and told myself: 'One of these days I'm going to prove the selectors wrong.'"

He did, charging to victory in the 5,000 metres in a Kenya versus Australia secondary schools contest in Sydney in 1993. That secured him a place the following year in the world cross-country championships in Hungary, where he finished second to fellow Kenyan Philip

Mosima in the junior category.

He continued his winning streak in 1994 by winning the 5,000m gold in the Africa junior championships in Algeria, followed by two golds at the world junior athletics championships in Lisbon. 1, 1995, he was beaten by Moses Kiptanui over 5,000m, but finished in under 13 minutes, the benchmark for a world-class run. It was clear that a new star was on the way.

Similarly, after his Olympic qualification disappointment this year, he set about proving his worth to the selectors.

He beat Ethiopian Haile Gebrselassie's world record over two miles and, more significantly, in September he set a new best time for the 3,000m — the fourth Kenyan to hold the record, after Kipchoke Keino, Henry Rono and Moses Kiptanui.

Meanwhile, victory in the Monaco Grand Prix brought \$250,000 in prize money, the biggest-ever prize in world track athletics.

Although many boys of his age are still asking their fathers for college fees, the money has not gone to his head and he is cautiously considering how to invest it.

His compatriots have a mixed record. World 3,000m steeplechase record-holder Moses Kiptanui — his close friend and training adviser — and world cross-country champion Paul Tergat have invested in transport and other businesses and are seeing sound returns on their money. Others, such as former five-time world record-holder Henry Rono, have been less lucky.

"The transport business is all right," says Komen. "But it requires that one be around all the time. Right now I cannot afford to be around much, owing to my tight schedule. I'm yet to make up my mind on what line of business to take up."

Other matters are more pressing: "My main preoccupation right now is not how to invest the money. Rather, it is how to break the world 5,000m record, become the first man to run the race in under twelve-and-a-half minutes, win a gold medal in next year's world championships and, finally, win a gold in the 2000 Olympics."

When he set out on a running career while still at primary school, Komen's hero was John Ngugi, five-time world cross-country champion, who is now struggling to make a comeback after a two-year suspension for failing to take a drugs test.

"I really wanted to be like Ngugi," says Komen