

AUSSIE OPEN AT A GLANCE

MELBOURNE, Jan 21 (AP): Highlights of Tuesday's 9th day of the US \$7.6 million Australian Open tennis championships:

WEATHER — Very hot. Afternoon temperature was 102 degrees (39C).

RESULTS: — Men's Singles.

Quarterfinals: No. 2 Michael Chang beat Marcelo Rios 7-5, 6-1, 6-4; Carlos Moya beat No. 14 Felix Mantilla 7-5, 6-2, 6-7 (5-7, 6-2).

WOMEN'S SINGLES, QUARTERFINALS: No. 12 Amanda Coetzer beat Kimberly Po 6-4, 6-1; Mary Pierce beat No. 16 Sabine Appelmans 1-6, 6-4, 6-4.

STAT OF THE DAY — 17 degrees (30F) — the difference in air temperature between the 22 (72F) on centre court with the roof closed and the outside (102F).

QUOTE OF THE DAY: — "I thought it was better for the game, I thought it was better for the players and I thought it was better for the public" — tournament referee Peter Bellenger on his controversial decision to close the retractable centre court roof because of the extreme heat.

Suspended sentence against Peter sought

MANNHEIM, Germany, Jan 21: Lawyers for the father of world tennis star Steffi Graf asked for a suspended sentence Monday in his trial for massive tax evasion on her earnings, reports AFP.

Peter Graf, who managed his daughter's financial affairs, has already spent 15 months in custody pending the trial.

He faces a sentence of up to 10 years jail on the charges, but the defence said that he should receive no more than two years suspended. The prosecution has requested six years and nine months.

A verdict is expected in the case on Friday.

Graf, 58, can expect the time he has spent in custody to be taken into account.

Graf and the family's tax adviser Jachim Eckhardt are accused of evading tax of over 19 million marks (12 million dollars) by failing to declare 42 million marks through the use of front companies.

Yardley likes Lankan style

COLOMBO, Jan 21: Sri Lanka's new cricket coach Bruce Yardley said Tuesday there was an enormous pool of young talent in the island nation which won the World Cup cricket last year, reports AP.

He wouldn't like to change the swashbuckling style of batting by Sri Lankan players, Yardley told a news conference a day after his arrival from Australia.

Yardley, who had played 33 Test matches for Australia, succeeds Davenall "Day" Whatmore, another Australian, who resigned in September.

Whatmore will take up coaching England's Lancashire county.

"I'm not going to be silly enough to change things like the batting styles of Aravinda de Silva and others. They are champions already," he said.

Yardley, 49, also said openers Sanath Jayasuriya and Romesh Kaluwitharane had changed the whole concept of the game with their explosive batting. "Before that, one-day cricket was getting quite boring."

An off spinner in his time, Yardley has signed a two and a half year contract to coach Sri Lanka.

"What matters is the natural flair of the player. We must not kill the free spirit of the cricket," said Yardley.

Rhodes gets the nod

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 21: South Africa have called up National players Jonty Rhodes and Pat Symcox and all-rounder Jacques Kallis for the squad to play in the triangular series against India and Zimbabwe.

The triangular series starts Thursday when South Africa face India in Bloemfontein.

The South Africa's A side to play India in a day-night game in Petermaritzburg on January 30, has been revamped to include 29-year-old eastern province batsman Louis Koen and Border's Mark Boucher has been brought in as keeper.

TEAM

Andrew Hudson, Gary Kirsten, Jacques Kallis, Adam Baumber, Darryl Cullinan, Hansie Cronje (captain), Jonty Rhodes, Brian McMillan, Shaun Pollock, Dave Richardson, Pat Symcox, Lance Klusener, Paul Adams, Allan Donald.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Premier Division cricket league: Abahani vs Biman (DS).

First Division cricket league: Dhanmondi Club vs City Club (DCS).

Gopibagh FA vs Sadharan Bima KS (CCG).

Ameen Second Division cricket league: Kheilaghar SKS vs Mill Barrack CC (DCS, West).

Kathalbagam GCC vs Udit Club (DCG).

DOHS vs Amorjyoti Club (T&T ground).

East End Club vs Young Peagus Club (MOS).

Nabin Sangha vs Spread Eagles (Uttara).

Coetzer cruises into semis

From Tawfiq Aziz Khan



MELBOURNE, Jan 21: Amanda Coetzer, the tiny tyrant from South Africa stormed into the ladies' singles semifinals 6-4, 6-1 in 66 minutes on Centre Court this afternoon. Her opponent, the unassuming and unseeded American Kimberly Po, only 2 days older than Amanda, playing in her first quarterfinal of a Grand Slam since turning pro in 1991, found the going rough and tough against an opponent who scored the biggest upset in the ladies' singles only 48 hours before. For Amanda it was a repeat performance for her in 1996 she lost to Anke Huber in the semifinals here. But the way this 25-year-old number 12 seed is playing none should be surprised if she reaches the finals — and who knows may lift the title also. It is time that this talented player, who has been around for ten years in professional circuit, should have a break.

AP adds: Coetzer and Carlos Moya escaped the searing heat by scoring their victories indoors. And when the heat relented, Michael Chang provided his own.

Chang wore down Marcelo Rios 7-5, 6-1, 6-4 to reach the Australian Open semifinals Tuesday, after Coetzer and Moya became the first and only match winners so far in a Grand Slam tournament with the stadium roof closed because of extreme heat.

By the time Chang played at night, outside temperatures had cooled from 39 degrees (102F) in the shade — and up to 60 degrees (140F) on court — to the low 20s (low 70s F), and the Centre Court roof was open.

But No. 2 seed Chang, a finalist here last year, acted as his own pressure-cooker, pounding back shot after shot against the ninth-seeded Chilean.

Mary Pierce, the 1995 champion, also got to play in the evening cool, but had to come back from 0-3 in the final set to beat No. 16 Sabine Appelmans 1-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Pierce, who has slipped to 22nd in the rankings from No. 3 early in 1995, had plenty of help from Appelmans. The Belgian double faulted three times in the final set's fourth game and once in the sixth as Pierce battled back to 3-3. Six of Appelmans' 11 double faults came in the final set. Another one ended the second set.

"I think it was mostly nerves," Appelmans said.

Said she missed her best chance when she failed to convert two break points at 15-40 in the second set's seventh game, missing an easy putaway of a drop shot at 30-40.

But now, "I'm so glad it's over," was a little nervous all day about being in her first Grand Slam quarterfinal, she said.

Pierce kept Appelmans on the run with heavy groundstrokes, but her quest for winners led to numerous errors, too. Appelmans saved two match points at 4-5 before netting a drop shot while trying to end the third.

At the start, Pierce said, she didn't have much energy, but later managed to get her feet moving and become more aggressive.

Days like these are the ones that count the most, when you feel like nothing is going well, when you don't feel very good and you're not playing good, to fight for every point until the end," added.

She next meets the 12th-seeded Coetzer, who ousted No. 1 Steffi Graf on Sunday.

Moya, who played his first four Grand Slam tournaments last year, never getting past the second round, reached the men's semifinals with a 7-5, 6-2, 6-7 (5-7), 6-2 victory over Spanish compatriot Felix Mantilla, seeded 14th.

Both matches were played in air conditioned temperatures in the mid-20s (mid-70s F) on Centre Court, while doubles matches and all boys' and girls' matches went on outside in shade-like conditions.

The roof can be closed any time for rain, but the decision to shut out the heat applied only to today's day session. The cooler weather that arrived at night was expected to last several days.

"I would have preferred to play outside," said Coetzer, who trained in the Florida heat for Melbourne's conditions. "I love playing out in the sunshine. But it was probably a bit of a break for both of us not to be in the heat and the wind."

And, she added, her preparations already had paid off in her victory over Graf, who ran out of energy from the effects of the heat and an infected toe.

"All my training and hard work were not quite in vain," she said.

Even without the heat, Coetzer

Cloud over Cork's fitness

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Jan 21: Key bowler Dominic Cork remains in doubt for England's first cricket Test with New Zealand beginning Friday, coach David Lloyd said Tuesday.

"All the big players (autographs) I have at home," Hrbatý, whose last name means "hunchback" in Slovakian, told reporters.

Cork, who damaged his lower back bowling against Northern Districts in Hamilton on Sunday, had a day off Tuesday along with his teammates as England made its way north to Auckland. Net sessions are planned for Wednesday and Thursday in advance of the Eden Park match.

Lloyd said England would take no chances with their best fast-medium bowler.

"We're waiting to see how he is over the next couple of days, but he'll have to prove his fitness," Lloyd said Tuesday.

The Barcelona-based right-

winger down Po by running down every shot and waiting for her to miss.

"She moves you around with spin and slice and keeps it a little out of your range," said Po, who never had advanced past the third round in 18 previous Grand Slam tournaments.

"I'm a little angry because I made so many errors, but she makes you do that. That's her game."

Coetzer did not quarrel with the rule that referee Peter Bellenger could decide to close the roof in temperatures of 35 degrees (95F) or more once the tournament had reached the quarterfinals, all played on the 15,000-seat Centre Court. Before that, fairness is an issue since some matches are played to the net 42 times, twice as often on outside courts that don't have retractable roofs.

But Michael Chang's coach, his brother Carl, said the roof

were down Po by running down every shot and waiting for her to miss.

"I took more risks with my forehand because I played as I played late. I was not going to beat him," said Moya, who ventured to the net 42 times, twice as often on outside courts that don't have retractable roofs.

Referee Bellenger, explaining his decision to close the

roof, said: "I want to play my best tennis here and for the first time had to take more risks," said Moya, the first Spaniard to make the semifinals in the Australian since Andres Gimeno lost to Rod Laver in the 1969 final.

"At the end of my first season with Munich we lifted a European trophy (UEFA Cup) and that was followed by Germany winning Euro '96," said Klinsmann. "It wouldn't be a bad way to complete the year with a double for Bayern and it is still possible."

"But it is not right to comment on next season, there has been a lot of speculation."

"I had a few problems in the first part of the season but I guess that is normal too. I have a few possibilities at the end of the season."

"I can stay at Bayern if I want to, I can leave if I want to. My aim is to play a real good second half to the season for Bayern, with the Bundesliga resuming on February 15."

"We are still leading the title race and can win the cup as well. Those are two big aims for me and afterwards I will decide."

"Bayern play Ralith Rovers today and Glasgow Celtic on Wednesday."

Klinsmann keeps mum

GLASGOW, Jan 21: Juergen Klinsmann arrived in Scotland on Monday for two friendlies but the Bayern Munich striker refused to say where he would like to play his soccer next season, reports Reuter.

First, Klinsmann, now 32, wants to leading Bayern to the German league and cup double.

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