

Column One
SPORTS TALK



Rahul Dravid
(Indian Test cricketer)
"Yes... it was a satisfying knock for me. For any youngster who is trying to take a stride in international cricket, it's a dream and ambition first to play for his country, and then to score a century. It's a natural sort of progression. So I am glad that I have been able to do it."

About the 148-run innings, his maiden Test century, against South Africa in the second Test in Cape Town.

Sports
WHIZZ KID
COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

WIN
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Sports WHIZZ KID
competition-64

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes 8 pm, Feb 28, '97

1	Who finished runners-up in the Premier Division cricket league?	Raman	Kalabagan	Brothers
2	In the ICC Trophy, Bangladesh will be led by	Bulbul	Nannu	Akram
3	The eighth SAF Games will be held in	Nepal	Bhutan	Sri Lanka
4	Where was Martina Hingis born?	Switzerland	Hungary	Czech Republic
5	Name the skipper of the Zimbabwe cricket team.	A Flower	Campbell	Houghton

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

Another Camacho on the scene

KANSAS CITY, Missouri Feb 15: Hector Camacho Jr. wants to learn from his famous boxing father, but not imitate him, reports AP.

"My father and I spar a lot, but I want to be known as my own man," Camacho, 18, said Friday. "I want to learn a lot from my father. He's a legend. But I want to be myself. I want people to know who I am because of what I do, not because of what my father has done."

The elder Camacho, 34, a colorful and controversial fighter almost from the day he turned pro in 1980, has a 63-3-1 record and is a former WBC super featherweight and lightweight champion. On March 1, he will box 40-year-old Sugar Ray Leonard in a 12-round middleweight match at Atlantic City, New Jersey.

"People say I look like my father in the ring, and that makes me feel proud... But I want to be my own style and be my own man," said Hector Jr., who meets Hector Leguillo in a four-round junior welterweight bout Sunday.

"I love fighting. It's just something I enjoy doing," he said.

He will box on the undercard of a nine-bout show sponsored by Harrah's Casino.

The main event will be Hector Lopez, former WBA welterweight champion, vs. current champ Israel Cordona.

Hector Jr. is 2-0 as a pro after winning three amateur Golden Gloves titles.

Also on the undercard will be heavyweight Alonzo Highsmith, a former professional football player who is 17-0 in his professional career. Highsmith went into boxing when a knee injury ended his football career.

"I want to take my boxing career as far as I can take it," Highsmith said. "But I also want to enjoy it as much as possible and be happy with whatever happens. Someone once said that when you get to the top of the mountain, you can see the entire valley laid out there beneath you. But if you only get halfway up that mountain, the view is the same, isn't it?"

Wrist again Boris' bane



DUBAI, Feb 15: Boris Becker pulled out of the million dollars Dubai Open here on Friday with a recurrence of an old wrist injury, hours before he was to face Croatian top seed Goran Ivanisevic in the quarterfinals, reports agencies.

The 29-year-old German once again succumbed to the right wrist ligament injury which put him out of the game for more than three months last year.

Becker, who first picked up the injury to his hitting arm during the third round at Wimbledon last year, was unable to take the court for the clash with title-holder Ivanisevic.

A packed Centre Court listened in disbelief as the announcement was made moments before Becker and Ivanisevic were to clash in what could have been the highlight of the seven-day tournament.

"I can hardly open a bottle of water, so there is no sense in playing," an apologetic Becker said. "I can hardly shake hands as well. It's that bad."

Becker, who was to have played next week at the EC Championship in Antwerp, Belgium, will now fly back to Munich for consultations with the team of specialists who treated him late last year.

"It has been getting worse all week," said Becker, 13th in the world after losing in the first round of the Australian Open last month.

Becker fought back all last summer to regain fitness after the wrist injury flared up at Wimbledon, where he has won the title three times.

He returned to action in the autumn, winning titles in Vienna, Stuttgart and the Grand Slam Cup in Munich without trouble from the injury. He also reached the final at the ATP Tour final in Hanover, losing to Pete Sampras.

Becker had been planning a full schedule this month to get back up the rankings following his first round Australian open exit, and was set for indoor events in Antwerp starting Monday and in Milan before the Lipton in Florida in March.

Becker's shock forfeit gave world No 2 Ivanisevic a walkover into the Saturday semifinal, where he will face Czech Jiri Novak, who earlier put out third seed Wimbledon champion Richard Krajicek 6-2, 6-2.

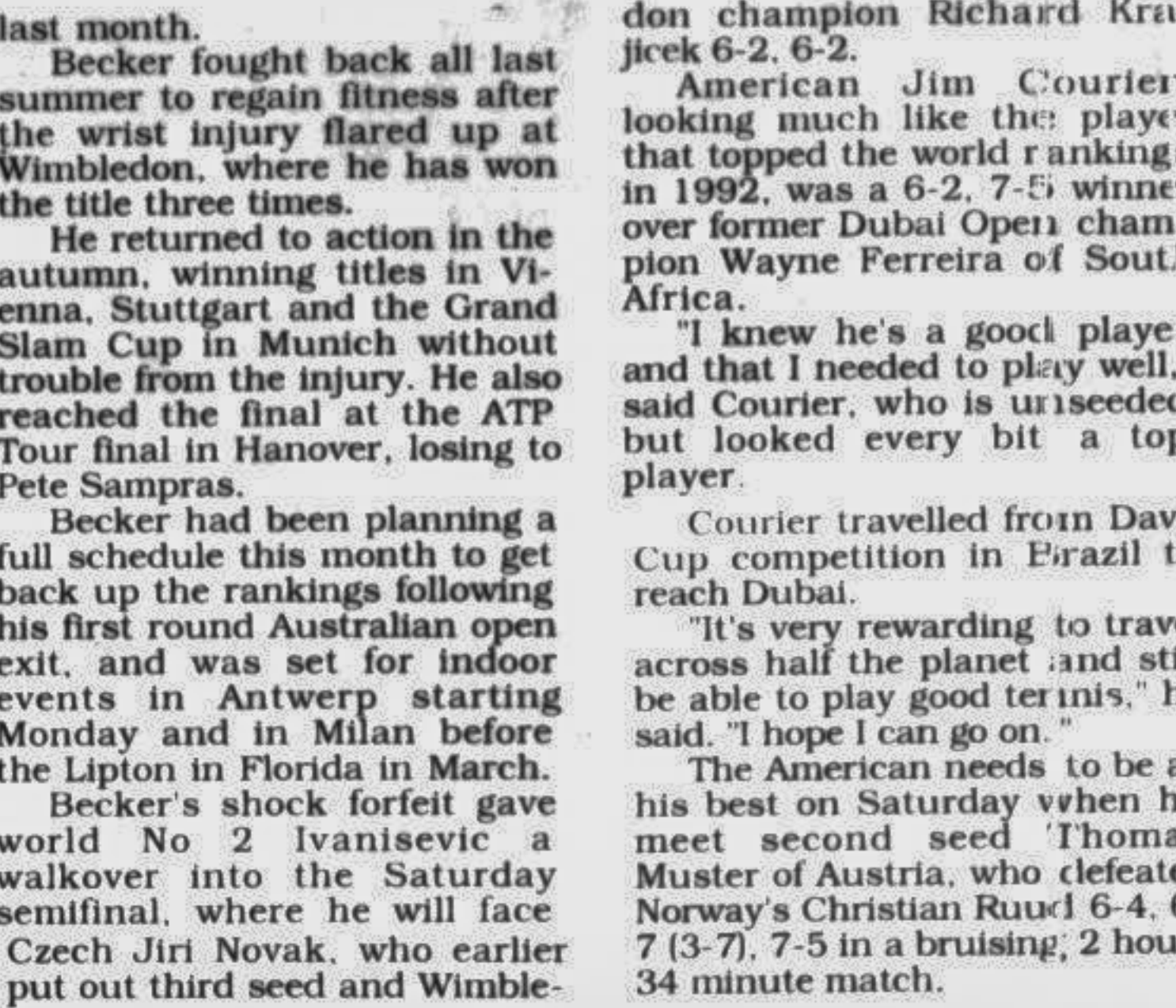
American Jim Courier, looking much like the player that topped the world rankings in 1992, was a 6-2, 7-5 winner over former Dubai Open champion Wayne Ferreira of South Africa.

"I knew he's a good player and that I needed to play well," said Courier, who is unseeded but looked every bit a top player.

Courier travelled from Davis Cup competition in Brazil to reach Dubai.

"It's very rewarding to travel across half the planet and still be able to play good tennis," he said. "I hope I can go on."

The American needs to be at his best on Saturday when he meet second seed Thomas Muster of Austria, who defeated Norway's Christian Ruud 6-4, 6-7 (3-7), 7-5 in a bruising, 2 hour, 34 minute match.



BORIS BECKER ... and the troublesome wrist



BORIS BECKER ... and the troublesome wrist

Marseille Open
Larsson, Rosset bow out

MARSEILLE, France, Feb 15: Marcelo Rios and Thomas Enqvist, the top two seeded players of the 540,000 dollars Marseille Open tennis tournament, continued to march towards a final confrontation with hard-fought victories Friday, reports AP.

Rios, top-seeded, needed to rally to get pasted Magnus Larsson of Sweden, 3-6, 7-5, 6-4.

Enqvist also needed to go to a third set to beat Hendrik Dreekman of Germany, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4.

Both had breezed through the first two rounds of the tournament.

Fabrice Santoro of France upset fourth-seeded Marc Rosset of Switzerland, 3-6, 6-3, 7-5 in a match that lasted more than 2 and a half hours.

Sergi Bruguera of Spain, a former two-time French Open champion, had the easiest time of the day getting past Andrei Chesnokov of Russia, 6-3, 6-2.

Saturday's semifinals are Bruguera versus Rios and Enqvist against Santoro.

Top four in last four



PARIS, Feb 15: The hierarchy was respected and the top four seeds booked their places in the semifinals at the WTA 480,000 dollars Paris Open here on Friday, reports AP.

Switzerland's 16-year-old Martina Hingis stretched her unbeaten record so far this year to 17 matches when she defeated experienced 29-year-old French player Nathalie Tauziat 6-3, 6-2 in just 58 minutes.

"I never thought I would lose the match," said the confident top-seed after completing her win with an ace which rocketed past Tauziat at 165kms per hour.

The new Australian Open champion, who is currently No 2 in the world behind Steffi Graf and who has claimed that her new found power on court is due to the new, longer racket she has been using since Christmas, now plays one of her best friends on the Tour — Iva Majoli — for a place in Sunday's final.

The fourth-seeded Croatian, who was a finalist here twelve months ago, earlier defeated Yayuk Basuki of Indonesia in three sets.

In the other half of the draw, Mary Pierce was outplayed 6-1, 6-2 by second-seeded Czech Jana Novotna while Anke Huber, the third seed, proved too powerful for Irina Spirlea of Romania and scored a 6-4, 6-2 win.

Pierce, 22, who had been hoping to reach another title showdown with Hingis after her loss to the Swiss player in last month's Australian Open final was never able to make an impression against Novotna's fluent strokeplay.

And the French player's new coach, Craig Kardon, sitting

Davis Cup
Thailand goes two up

HONG KONG, Feb 15: Thailand took a 2-0 lead over Hong Kong after the opening singles in their Davis Cup Asia-Oceania Zone Group I first round tie here Friday, reports AP.

Vorapol Thongkhamchoo (THA) bt Mark Ferreira (HKG) 6-3, 6-2, 6-0. Vittaya Samra (THA) bt Melvin Tong (HKG) 6-3, 5-7, 6-2, 2-6, 6-4.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Premier Division cricket league:
(Relegation play-off)
GMCC vs Surjo Taun Club
(Jagannath Hall ground)

grim-faced in the players' box with other members of the Pierce entourage, is now fully aware of the awesome task ahead if he is to lift his new pupil back to the world number three spot she held during 1995.

Pierce, currently ranked 16th hired Kardon the week before the tournament opened after splitting with Sven Groeneweld. Kardon formerly coached world number one Martina Navratilova.

"I think I lost because I was trying too hard," said Pierce after her defeat.

Pierce, who was jeered off the same Coubertin Centre Court twelve months ago after losing badly to Petra Begerow in her opening tournament match, was applauded this time when she left the court.

Novotna, never afraid to charge the net, left the big-hitting Pierce lunging at shadows as she peppered the court with winning volleys and superbly-placed passing shots.

A semifinalist at Linz last weekend and the winner of four titles in 1996, Novotna has now beaten Pierce in all four of their career meetings.

Huber and Iva Majoli's victories contrasted starkly.

Majoli, 19, had to recover from a dreadful start and looked as though she was going to be blown off court when Basuki surged 4-0 clear in the first set.

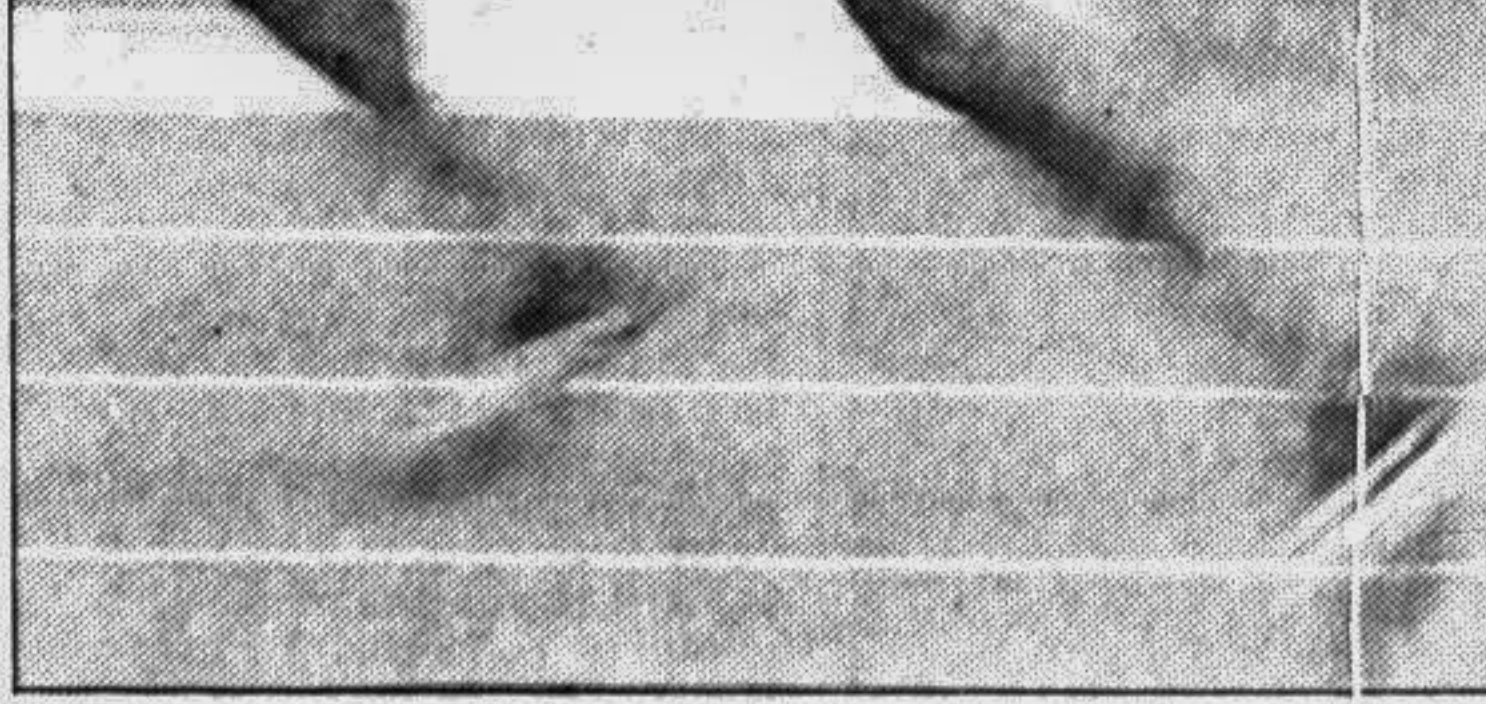
But, to her credit, the 19-year-old Croatian hung on grimly and turned the match around by winning five games in a row.

Basuki, playing the event for a first time, contributed to her own downfall with a series of inexplicable, unforced errors, especially on the backhand. And to cap it all the 26-year-old Indonesian then played 11 of the works tie-breaks of her career.

Basuki, no stranger to causing upsets as she showed last month when she beat Pierce in Sydney, rallied in the second set but faded again in the third to go down 7-6 (7/1), 3-6 and 6-3.

Huber who twelve months ago went out of the event after reaching the last eight when she lost a dramatic third-set tie-break against eventual champion Julie Halard-Decugis of France, made no mistakes this year.

She let Spirlea win only six games.



Ethiopian Haile Gebreselassie in action during the 3000m at meeting in Karlsruhe, Germany on Feb 14. He won the event coming within 0.55 of second of his own world indoor record.

A star chorus for Ashe

ATLANTA, Georgia, Feb 15: World number one Pete Sampras and other top names in US tennis have forced the US Tennis Association to reconsider naming their new US Open stadium after the late Arthur Ashe, reports AP.

The group meets here Sunday and Monday to reconsider the issue after last month deciding to name the new 23,000-seat structure Usta Stadium rather than for the former star.

"I am definitely for it because of what Arthur did on the court and off the court," Sampras said.

Ashe worked to increase minority involvement with his sport. He served as a US Davis Cup captain and won three Grand Slam Crowns — the 1968 US Open, 1970 Australian Open and 1975 Wimbledon titles.

"It would be great for the Usta to honour a man who has meant more to the game and to the black community than perhaps any other," said Todd Martin, the US veteran ranked 12th in the world.

"Ashe had the most awesome career, the most awesome life, of any tennis player ever," said Martin.

The bid to force a change of heart by the Usta is also supported by noted US tennis writers and Ashe's widow Jeanne Moutoussamy-Ashe.

Atlanta media reps sentenced

ATLANTA, Feb 15: Three foreigners who posed as media representatives at the 1996 Olympics and ran up tabs for rented limousines, cellular phones and hotel rooms were sentenced for credit card fraud conspiracy, US Attorney Kent Alexander said, reports AP.

US District Judge Orinda D. Evans on Friday ordered Manuel Devera, 51, of North Hollywood, California, to serve three years in prison; Ramon Quaozal Salgado, 34, of Granada Hills, California, to 10 months imprisonment; and Yoriadyl Lyka Stone-Lao, 30, of Los Angeles, to 41 months.

Each defendant was also ordered to pay \$15,685 in restitution and will be deported after their prison terms. The nationalities and the legal status of the defendants' entry into the United States were not known, said Patrick Crosby, spokesman for the US Attorney's Office.

The three stole more than 2,500 credit card account numbers worth more than \$1.8 million in credit, according to Alexander. From July 7 to July 23, they posed as representatives of NBC, Time Warner and Warner Brothers, obtaining cash advances and purchasing merchandise for what they claimed to be Olympic photo shoots or gifts, he said.

Allen aiming higher

NEW YORK, Feb 15: Reigning Olympic 110m hurdles champion Allen Johnson has vowed that he will break the world record of Britain's Colin Jackson by the end of the year, reports AP.

Jackson has held the record of 12.91 secs since the World Championships in Stuttgart in 1993.

But Johnson matched the American record of 12.92 at the United States Olympic trials and then set a best-ever Olympic time of 12.95 in Atlanta.

"I should be able to run 12.78 this year," Johnson said. "Before I thought the limit was 12.90. Now that I did 12.92, I say the limit is 12.75, may be 12.70."

Aussie athletics on road to Melbourne

MELBOURNE, Feb 15: The Australian Athletics Championships will move from Sydney to Melbourne in the three years prior to the Sydney 200 Olympic Games, it was announced today, reports AP.

Victorian State Premier Jeff Kennett said the national championships would be linked with the Nike Track Classic, part of a nationwide Grand Prix Series, to produce a two-week-long feast of track and field events.

"We will work with Athletics Australia to lift the Nike Classic from Grand Prix Two to Grand Prix One status over the next three years to ensure the event attracts even more world class athletes," Kennett said, adding he wanted the combined events to rival the major European meetings.

The Australian Athletics Championships had been staged at homebush, site of Sydney's new 665 million dollar (\$31 million US) Olympic Stadium, since 1992 but poor attendances and a run of bad weather prompted organisers to look elsewhere, Kennett said.

The move to Melbourne would enhance the city's reputation in its bid for the 2006 Commonwealth Games, he added.

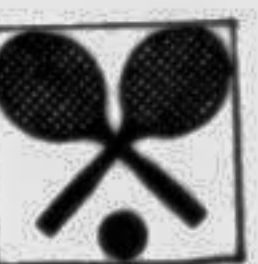
"Athletics is the key to winning the Commonwealth Games bid," he said.

Among athletes confirmed for the 1997 Nike Track Classic are American 110m hurdler Roger Kingdom and Olympic medalist Jack Pierce.

Nike Australia said today it had struck a new five-year sponsorship deal with Athletics Australia, worth 250,000 dollars (197,500 US).

The new two-week long event, tagged athsfest 1997, will be held at Melbourne's redeveloped Olympic Park.

Rusedski upends Chang



SAN JOSE, California, Feb 15: Greg Rusedski's run of near-misses against Michael Chang has finally ended.

The hard-serving left-hander from London upset Chang 7-6 (7-4), 6-4 in the quarterfinals of the Sybase Open on Friday, ending a four-year losing streak against the tournament's second seed, report agencies.

"I don't mind being known as a server, because when I work on the other parts of my game it surprises them a little bit," Rusedski said.

Though he volleyed well and played a solid return game, Rusedski closed the match with his trademark serve, clocked last year in San Jose at a record 139.6 mph.

Rusedski served 15 aces, giving him a total of 43 with only two double faults in three tournament matches.

"Serving is the backbone of Greg's game," Chang said. "But I'm usually able to beat Greg on his second serves. Today I wasn't able to get many points on his second serves."

Rusedski won 17 of his 29 second serve points. And when faced with a break point, he saved them all without having to approach the net, furnishing two aces and an unreturnable serve.

"I'm not letting the little things bother me anymore," Rusedski said. "I had an ace fall in that wasn't called, and he hit a return out that was called in both in the same game. But then I went out won the next four points and got the break."

Chang was 6-1 lifetime against Rusedski, the only loss in Tokyo in 1993. But Rusedski had played him tough each time, including a 1995 loss in San Jose where Chang was forced to win two tiebreakers.

Rusedski, No 39 and seeded seventh, makes his first trip to the San Jose semifinals. The hardcourt surface serves him well.

"I think it's possible to get the fastest recorded serve in San Jose," he said. "But I'll take a win to get to the semifinals all the same."

As usual, a Chang-Rusedski match featured a tie-breaker, something that has happened eight times in the eight matches they have played. Rusedski had lost five of the seven previous tie-breakers before taking Friday's.

Chang, ranked fourth in the world, lost for just the fifth time in 30 career matches at this tournament.

Rusedski, who reached the finals of the Croatian Indoors two weeks ago, will face the winner of Friday night's match between third-seeded American Andre Agassi and Australian qualifier Grant Doyle.

Agassi, who took a two-month sabbatical from tennis, rallied for a three-set win over 20-year-old Magnus Norman of Sweden on Thursday. Doyle downed American Jeff Tarango in straight sets to reach the quarters.

Sampras, the top seed and defending champion, will take

on compatriot Chris Woodruff, the eighth seed.

Sampras, who won the Australian Open three weeks ago for his ninth career Grand Slam title, defeated fellow American Justin Gimelstob in straight sets on Wednesday.

Woodruff, ranked 42nd in the world, needed three sets to get by Brett Steven of New Zealand on Thursday.

In Friday's first quarterfinal, fourth seed Todd Martin of the United States stormed past sixth-seeded countryman Richey Reneberg, 6-1, 6-4, in just 70 minutes. This also is Martin's first tournament of 1997.

He was sidelined with tibial tendinitis in his right knee and missed last week's Davis Cup and the Australian Open. He now faces winner of Friday night's match between Sampras and Woodruff.



GREG RUSEDISKI

Agassi, who lost to Pete Sampras in last year's final, missed the United States Davis Cup victory over Brazil last week with a twisted ankle and also missed the Australian Open.

Sampras, the top seed and defending champion, will take

DFB selects 21 sites for 2006 WC

BONN, Feb 15: The German Football Federation (DFB) has listed 21 cities as potential host sites for the 2006 World Cup, for which Germany is officially bidding, DFB official Engelbert Nille said yesterday, reports AP.

Reports documenting the cities' respective facilities are expected to be handed to the DFB by May 1st.

Berlin is one of the cities hoping to be awarded matches if Germany wins its fight to stage the tournament for the first time since 1974. But local authorities will first have to renovate the capital's Olympic Stadium, a project Nille believes will cost some 360 million dollars.

World soccer body FIFA has to choose a host nation for the 2006 tournament by 2000. Both Germany and England are vying to be selected as hosts.

fitness royale
with rani padamsee

THE key to fitness is understanding the link between your mind and body. Your state of mind is just as important as your physical health. Now, holistic medicine has come to the forefront, with the age old yoga and meditation enjoying renewed popularity as more people realize the benefits of relaxation and quiet time. As stress affects all of us in our hurried and hectic daily schedules, it has become even more crucial to achieve a calm and peaceful state of well-being. More health practitioners

are examining the link between diseases and physical complaints and the emotional factors behind them. It seems suppressed emotions (anger, unhappiness, low self esteem and tension) overtime lead to physical illness. While exercise is essential for fitness and does help you relax, achieving a total state of relaxation and calm is something you have to work on, ironic though that may seem.

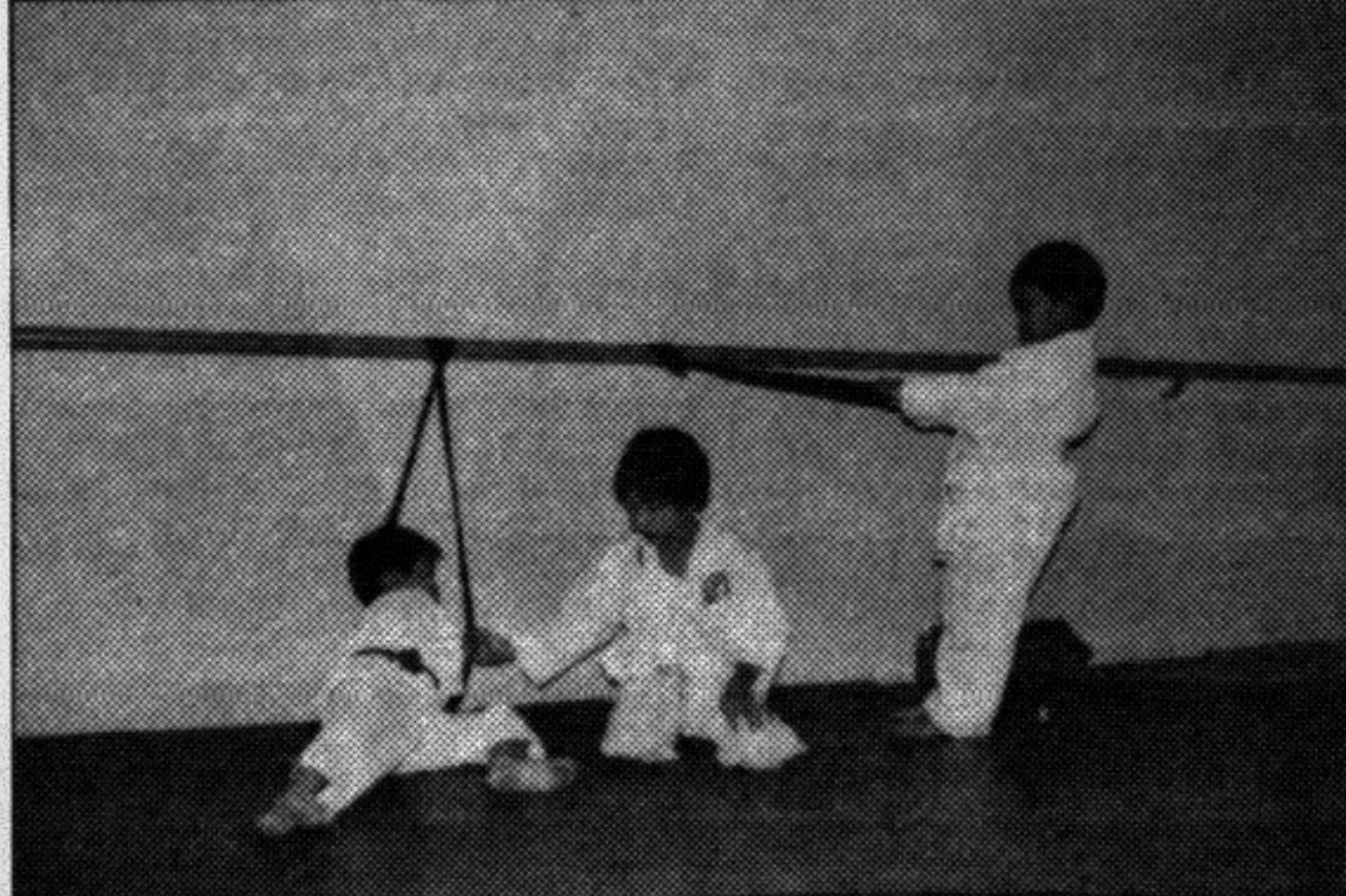
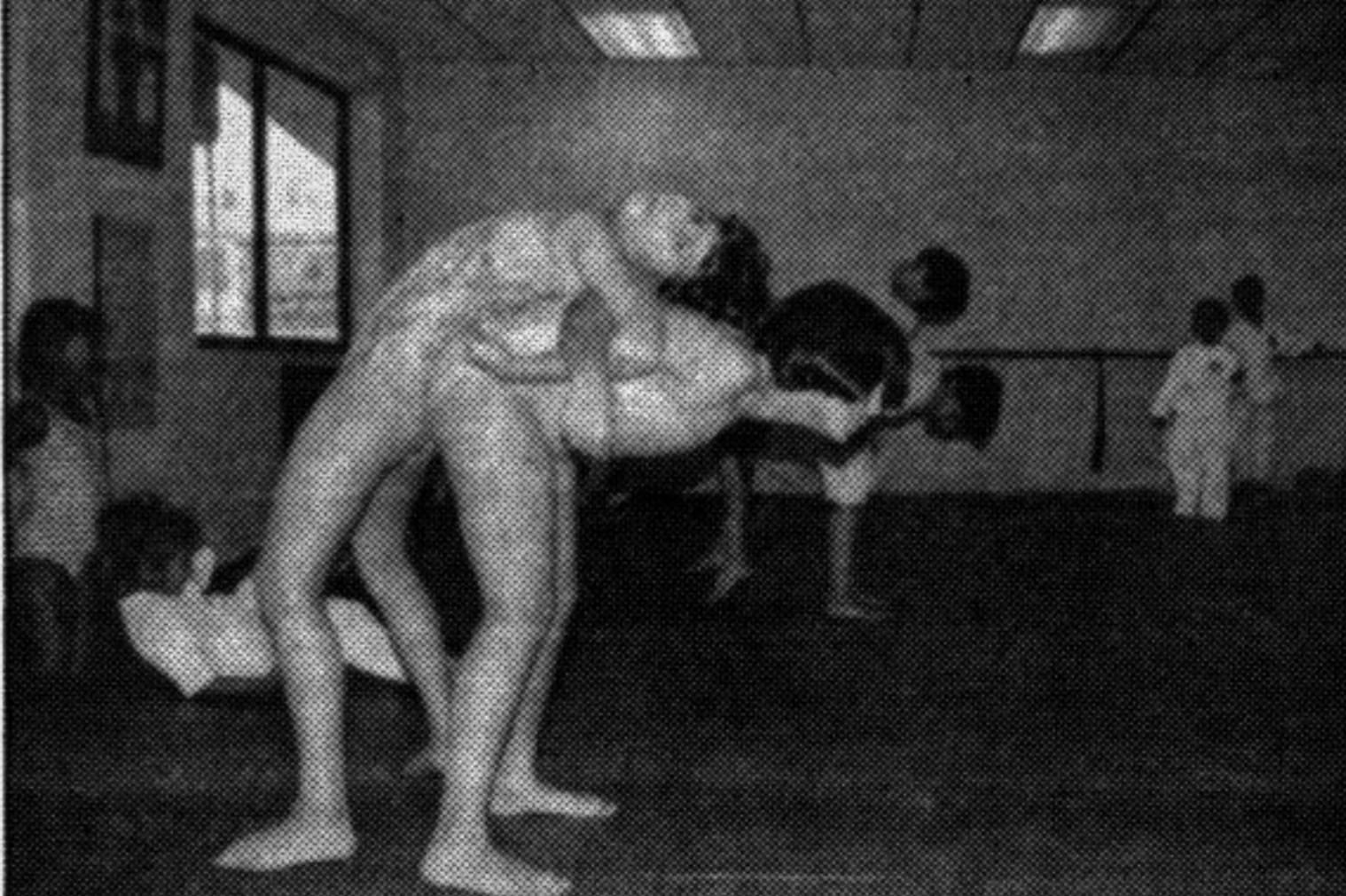
We all know about the need to exercise for good health. But we often overlook the need to relax. You must relax between sets and also do total relaxation exercises at the end of your workouts.

Being fit is not just about achieving a slim body, you have to accept your body despite its limitations, understand its shape and know how to deal with its problem areas. Acceptances is important otherwise you will always be caught up in a vicious cycle of self hate, dissatisfaction and impractical expectations, imposing unnecessary stress on yourself, which can only lead to illness later.

In all my exercise and karate classes we begin and end with meditation. I use many yoga exercises for total relaxation. Even children show tremendous concentration once they learn to relax properly. Starting your day helps a lot. By the time you are an adults exercising will be automatically a part of your life and will be able to achieve your mind and body work more efficiently to optimum level.

This exercise is excellent for relaxing. It helps to bend your spine the other way. We normally always bend forward so if you do this once a day you will never develop back problem.

Children stretch and bend even during a break. If you practise regularly even your body will become flexible and supple.



Models: Bettina, Simone, Rezwan Enam, Jung, Norikuni, Ian, Bora and Mehbish. — Star photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Give a Bronx cheer	41 Towel marking	counter-part	23 Prized possession
5 Navigation woe	42 Bud's buddy	4 Later from 24	standstill
8 Throw	45 On	5 Mold and mildew	25 Diamond score
12 Sheltered	46 School people	6 Sgt. Snorkel's dog	26 "Mayday"
13 Marathon runner	48 Portico of old	7 Anesthetic	27 Peculiar
14 Golden Rule word	49 Coffee vessel	8 School person	28 Become one
15 School people	50 Advantage	9 Con	29 Oppositi-
17 Celebrity	51 Shuck	10 Ollie's partner	30 Oppositi-
18 Neg. opp.	52 Greet the villain	11 Legal wrong	31 Use a spider
19 Past	53 "The Say Hey Kid"	16 Child's play	34 Cenozoic, e.g.
20 Cut corners	DOWN	20 Junior person	35 Data storage item
21 Omega precursor	1 Grate	21 School person	37 Schroe-
22 Exceeding	2 Second-highest range	22 Semiformal wear	der's instrument
23 Cartoonist	3 Jupiter's		38 Accessory for Miss America
24 Trudeau			39 Caesar's near-last words
26 Threat deadline, in oaters			40 Combine
30 Needle case			41 Long lunch
31 Type of car			42 Mother of Castor and Pollux
32 Thought			43 Licentious revelry
33 Army Vandenberg's topic			44 Versatility list
35 Pop			46 Vessel for three men
36 Wall			47 Height of fashion
37 Kegler's target			
38 Old photo			

Solution time: 27 mins.

Yesterday's answer

CRYPTOQUIP

UYQ IPRDQWPQ CBIQCOBR
JZUQR WQZQWC UJ
YPOCQIZ BC B RQDIPDQRU
MILDLY IN A LONG TUNNEL JUST A MINER INJURY?

Today's Cryptquip clue: I equals L

The Cryptquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

