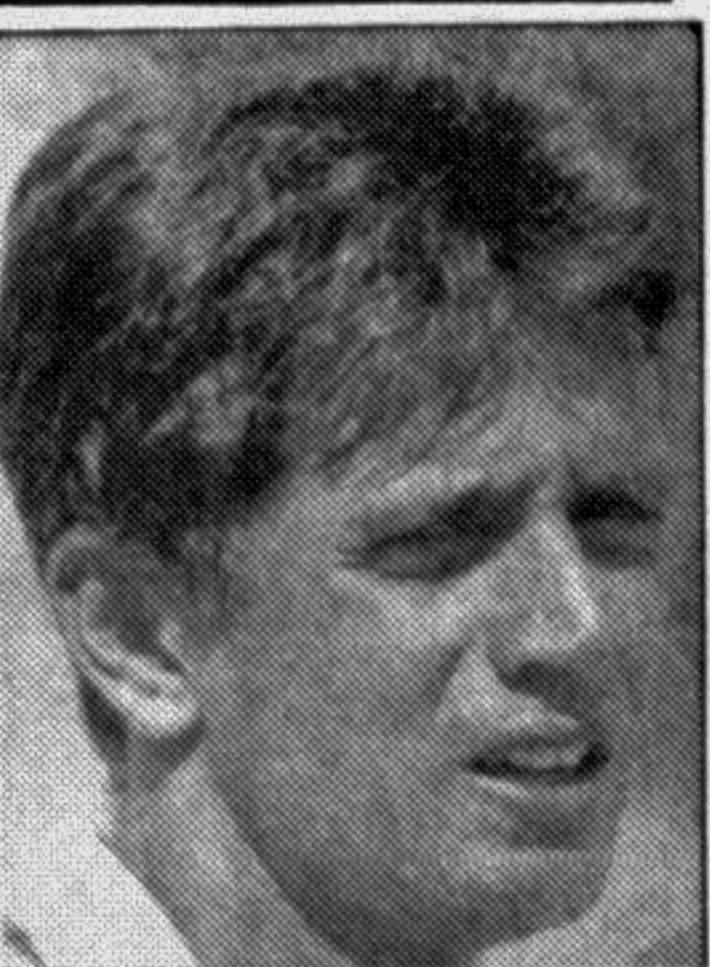


Column One

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

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Competition closes 8 pm,

Feb 28, '97

1	Who finished runners-up in the Premier Division cricket league?
2	In the ICC Trophy, Bangladesh will be led by
3	The eighth SAF Games will be held in
4	Where was Martina Hingis born?
5	Name the skipper of the Zimbabwe cricket team.

Biman Kalabagan Brothers

Bulbul Nannu Akram

Nepal Bhutan Sri Lanka

Switzerland Hungary Czech Republic

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."

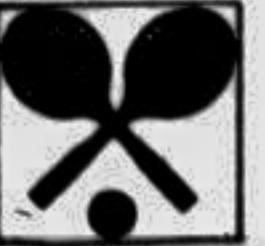
The elder Camacho, 34, a colorful and controversial fighter almost from the day he turned pro in 1980, has a 63-3-1 record and is a former WBC super featherweight and lightweight champion. On March 1, he will box 40-year-old Sugar Ray Leonard in a 12-round middleweight match at Atlantic City, New Jersey.

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

Pierce, 22, who had been hoping to reach another title showdown with Hingis after he lost 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

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, report 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 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 and Wimble-

don 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 meets 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

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 past Magnus Larsson of Sweden, 3-6, 7-5, 6-4.

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

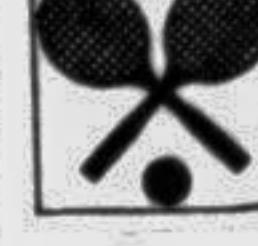
Both had breezed through the first two rounds of the tournament.

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.

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 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," Ashe said.

Ashe worked to increase priority 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, 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.

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Rusedski upends Chang



SAN JOSE, California, Feb 15: 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 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 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.

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

"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 want out the next four points and get 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

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.

Johnson 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."

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 one 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 Spirle win only six games.

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