

German Open Medvedev's

HAMBURG, May 11: Andrei Medvedev, coming off back and shoulder injuries that hampered his career for two years, captured his third German Open title Sunday by beating Felix Mantilla 6-0, 6-4, 6-2, reports AP.

Medvedev outclassed the 10th-seeded Spaniard, especially at the start of the final of the 2.3 million dollars clay court tournament.

"He gave me a lesson," Mantilla said.

Medvedev raced through the first 10 games in 41 minutes to lead 400 in the second set, cleverly changing pace with drop shots and hitting winners from all over the court.

"The way I played at the start is probably as good as I can play. It's great that it happened in the final," Medvedev said after gaining his first title of the year.

Medvedev gained another break for a 5-2 lead. Serving for the match, Medvedev saved two break points and then hit a forehand winner to clinch the title in one hour, 29 minutes.

The victory was worth 337,000 dollars to Medvedev, while Mantilla had to settle for 177,000 dollars.

Although Medvedev came into the week ranked No. 38 in the world and Mantilla was No. 15, the Ukrainian's victory was not a big upset. He won this tournament in 1994 and 1995, and was ranked as high as No. 4 after his first victory here.

His career was hampered by nagging back and shoulder injuries that forced him into long layoffs.

Now 22, Medvedev is coming back. He won last August in Long Island and the German Open was the 11th title of his career. Both Medvedev and Mantilla were playing their first final of the year.

Medvedev joined Eddie Dibbs as the only three-time German Open champion in the open era. Dibbs won in 1973, 1974 and 1976.

The Ukrainian plays the Italian Open next week in Rome, where meets Scott Draper in the first round.

Capello moving back to Milan

MILAN, May 11: Fabio Capello looks certain to return to AC Milan next season, after announcing that he is quitting as coach of Real Madrid to go back to a job he knows well, reports AFP.

Capello guided Milan to four Italian league titles and one European Cup in his five seasons as coach, before leaving last season to take Real to the top of the Spanish table.

In his absence Milan have had a disastrous season, floundering in the wrong half of the Serie A after a string of defeats, and failing to even get past the group phase of the Champions' League.

Capello said: "I've had a lot of offers from Spain, Italy, England and Germany, but I've chosen — without actually having signed anything — to return to a job that I know well."

"I don't want to talk about it now, I'm very sad to have to leave Madrid and Real. I know that several of the players are trying to get president Lorenzo Sanz to make me stay."

Nazarov retains WBA crown

MIAMI, Florida, May 11: Unbeaten World Boxing Association lightweight champion Orzubeck Nazarov of Russia stopped American Levander Johnson in the seventh round here Saturday to keep his crown, reports AFP.

Nazarov rose to 24-0 with his 18th knockout to win his sixth title defense. It was only the second fight in the United States for Nazarov, who has fought most of his bouts in Japan.

Johnson, rated the WBA's top challenger, fell to 26-2 with one drawn.

Meanwhile, Venezuela's Antonio Cermeno defended his World Boxing Association junior featherweight title here Saturday with a unanimous 12-round decision over previously unbeaten Angel Chacon.

Cermeno, making the fifth title defense of his two-year reign, was judged the winner by 116-112, 115-111 and 118-111. Cermeno rose to 27-1 while Chacon, a Puerto Rican in his first title fight, fell to 23-1.

Ranatunga riding higher

Tough tie awaits Pakistan

GWALIOR, India, May 11: Pakistan need to call on their legendary fighting skills when they face world champions Sri Lanka in a crucial Independence Cup clash here on Monday, reports AFP.

Having lost their opening match to New Zealand on Friday, another defeat could ruin Pakistan's hopes of qualifying for the finals of the four-nation limited overs tournament.

It's a do-or-die situation quite familiar to the gritty Pakistanis, who won the 1992 World Cup in Australia after coming precariously close to elimination in the preliminary league.

This time, though, the task is tougher in the absence of five top bowlers, including regular skipper Wasim Akram, his dreaded new-ball partner Waqar Younis and star leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed.

Besides, they are up against the powerful in-form Sri Lankans, who give away little these days in the abridged version of the game.

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Two defeats is likely to eliminate us, unless one of the other teams wins all its three matches," Raja said. "There's no doubt we must beat the Sri Lankans tomorrow."

Raja was criticised for asking New Zealand to bat first on Friday, which meant his team had to chase a big score under lights and on an outfield slowed down by dew.

New Zealand, fired by Nathan Astle's century and his record 155 run opening stand with Bryan Young, ran up an imposing 285 for seven before restricting Pakistan to 263 for nine.

Raja, however, defended his decision. "Batting is our strength in the absence of the regular bowlers and I felt we were more comfortable chasing a target."

"If only we had taken our catches New Zealand would not have been able to score so many. I think we were well into the match when we reached 189 for three by the 36th over, but the boys could not keep the momentum going."

While Raja was searching for excuses his Sri Lankan counterpart Arjuna Ranatunga was confident that his champion team would go to win the tournament.

"Even though one-day is unpredictable if we play to our potential, it won't be difficult to do so," said Ranatunga, who masterminded Sri Lanka's memorable World Cup triumph in the Indian sub-continent last year.

"I am looking to win all our three league games and hope-

ful the finals as well. But we'll take it one match at a time."

Sri Lanka is at full strength, unlike the other three teams who are struggling with injuries. While Pakistan don't have their star bowlers, India were missing the service of paceman Javagal Srinath and New Zealand will have to do it without Doull.

South Korea won its only gold for the day in swimming when Cho Kwang-ja beat Japan's Yoshiaki Okita and China's Shang Yunyu in the 100-metre breaststroke, winning in 1:03.44 — 0.16 ahead of Okita.

Taiwan began the day in high spirits after a surprise 79-47 victory over Japan in the men's basketball preliminaries. It went on to beat Macau in badminton to advance to the semifinals.

But in weightlifting, where Taiwan had been favoured to win in the men's 54-kilogram class, Wang Shin-yuan was beaten by China's Bi Zhongxiang.

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Smith captured six for 45 to add to his first innings tally of four for 61 as Gloucestershire beat Hampshire by six wickets on the fourth and final day at Bristol.

Gloucestershire, the only county in the 18-team championship with a win after a rain-plagued start to the campaign, are the early leaders on 32 points from second-placed Glamorgan (21).

Smith had taken two of his second innings wickets overnight when Hampshire, 87 behind, struggled to 46 for three. He continued to pose problems when they resumed, straightening the ball of a length as they subsided to 145 all out.

Needing only 59 to win, Gloucestershire were shaken when medium-fast bowler Simon Renshaw picked up four for 30 before captain Mark Alleyne and new Tasmanian signing Shaun Young guided them home.

Durham's hopes of a first championship win since 1995 were ruined by rain that brought Nottinghamshire a reprieve at Hartlepool.

Notts were 200 for six in their second innings — just 39 ahead — when a downpour brought the match to a premature end.

A last-day washout saved champions Leicestershire from possible defeat against Worcestershire.

Result: Australia won by four wickets

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East Asian Games Sino lifter sets

new world mark

PUSAN, South Korea, May 11: China made an impressive start in the East Asian Games Sunday, breaking a world record in women's weightlifting and winning five of the eight gold medals on the first day of competition, reports AP.

Japan, however, kept the Chinese from dominating the swimming, winning two races. South Korea won another.

China's Jiang Yansu snatched 81.5 kilograms (179 1/2 pounds) in the women's 46-kilogram weightlifting class, beating the old world mark of 81.0 kilograms (178 1/2).

She won the gold medal with a total of 172.5 (380), including 92.5 (204) in the clean and jerk and a rounded-down 80 (176) for the snatch.

China also won gold in the men's 54- and 59-kilogram weightlifting divisions, and beat South Korea and Japan for the gold in men's team gymnastics.

Japan ended the day with two golds, two silvers and two bronze medals, to China's five gold, one silver and two bronze medals. South Korea was third in the medal standings with one gold, two silvers and four bronzes.

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