

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 AFP.

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 \$37,000 dollars to Medvedev, while Mantilla had to settle for 17,000 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 summer 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 Saz to make me stay."

Nazarov retains WBA crown

MIAMI, Florida, May 11: Unbeaten World Boxing Association lightweight champion Orzubek Nazarov of Russia stopped American Levar 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 draw.

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

Cermenio, making the fifth title defense of his two-year reign, was judged the winner by 116-112, 115-111 and 118-111.

Cermenio rose to 27-1 while Chacon, a Puerto Rican in his first title fight, fell to 23-1.

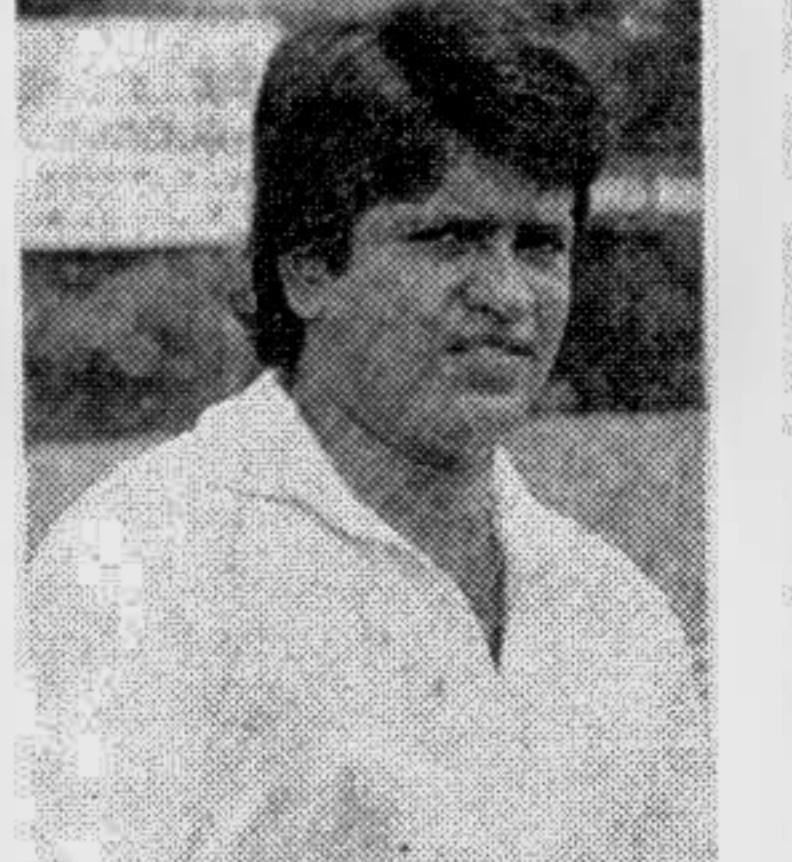
Ranatunga riding higher

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



A RANATUNGA

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.

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

ramping master Aravinda de Silva would have a demoralising effect on most rivals, especially the Pakistanis who conceded three successive centuries to him in the recent Test series.

Pakistan's stand-in captain Rameez Raja admitted Sunday it was "touch and go" for his team.

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 out-field 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.

Umpires: Srinivas Venkataraghavan (India) and Steve Dunne (New Zealand)

fully 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 Jayavagal Srinath and New Zealand will have to do without Doull.

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

China's Jiang Yinsu

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.

South Korea won its only gold for the day in swimming when Cho Kwang-yei 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 semi-finals.

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.

MEDAL STANDINGS

Medal standings Sunday in the 2nd East Asian Games:

	G	S	B	T
China	5	1	2	8
Japan	2	2	2	6
South Korea	1	2	4	7
Taiwan	0	3	0	3

ENGLAND CHRONICLES

Nizamuddin Ahmed

Cable and satellite television viewers who paid up to about £15 extra to only watch LIVE Prince Naseem Hamed defend his WBO and IBF world featherweight crowns against Billy Hardy at Manchester last week were disappointed that the fight, if you can call it that, lasted only 93 blood-curdling seconds. This was a pay per view programme of Sky Satellite and most spectators will have felt cheated. But, then, one can't argue because, after all, 32-year Hardy is the reigning European champion with 45 professional fights behind him. Hamed lived up to his words that he would K-Hardy O in the first. No one took the Prince seriously, least of all Hardy, who had said before the fight that, unlike Muhammad Ali, Hamed is no legend. But, one thing Naz, as the Prince is popular here as, has in common with Ali is a mouth to match his punch.

In the fourth game the chair umpire overruled a decision against Prince, to the bemusement of Paulus and the crowd who had been misled by the scoreboard that suggested there was another point to be played for in the game.

Certainly, the second set saw a changed player with the Frenchwoman pulling off some fine passing shots and setting the timing of her long strokes to perfection.

Pierce was 8-0 up before Paulus managed to hold serve and break back to 3-2. It proved

a false recovery as the 1995 Australian Open champion broke back and held to 5-2. Paulus saved two set points on her serve before conceding 6-3.

The Austrian held her serve in the opening game of the third set before Pierce decided it was time to finish.

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Prince broke back to 5-3, held serve but then lost the set with a return forehand hit way too long.

"It took me a little while to get going," said Pierce. "As the match went on, I got better and better."

"It's very difficult to play against because you can't find your rhythm easily," she said.

Pierce, who in February teamed up with Martina Navratilova's old coach Craig Kardon, is now entering her third final of the year, against Spain's Conchita Martinez who beat Switzerland's unseeded Patty Schnyder 6-2, 6-2.

For the first time since Monday, the stands were almost full as weekend spectators turned out to watch a player already acclaimed in the local media as the successor to retired Argentine Gabriela Sabatini as crowd favourite.

Their expectations of a resounding Pierce victory were dampened by an opening set more punctuated by gasps of disbelief as the Frenchwoman mistimed shots, double-faulted and, on one occasion, smashed into her own half of the court.

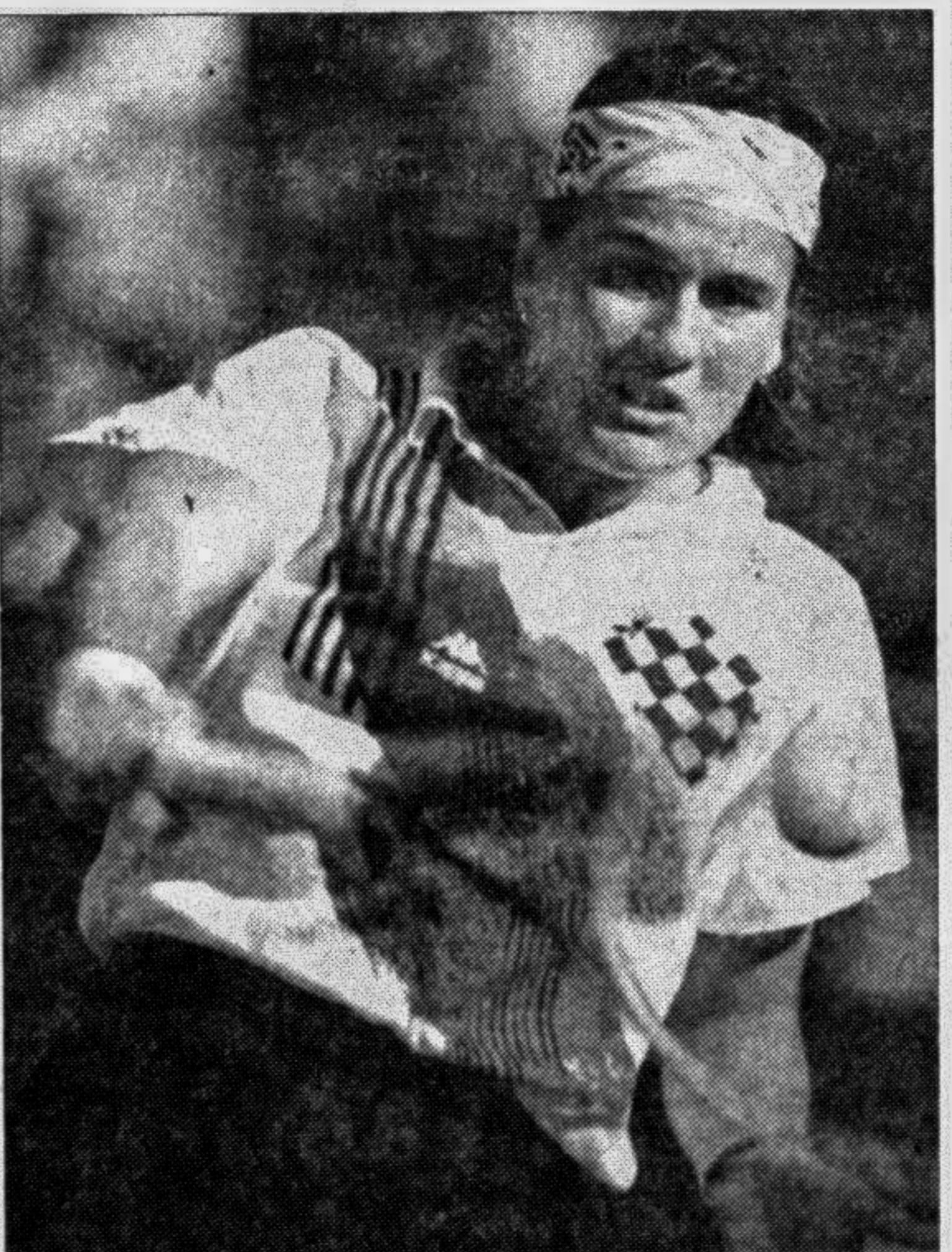
Pierce double-faulted at break point in the third game to give Paulus a 2-1 lead. She was broken again to 5-2 in the seventh game after saving two earler break points.

Spaniard Conchita Martinez plays a backhand return

against Patty Schnyder of Switzerland in the Italian Open

semifinal match in Rome on May 10. Martinez won 6-2, 6-

— AFP/UNB photo



Spaniard Conchita Martinez plays a backhand return against Patty Schnyder of Switzerland in the Italian Open semifinal match in Rome on May 10. Martinez won 6-2, 6-

— AFP/UNB photo

Play-Offs Cut to 2 hours 7:00

CYC: Marlboro Tour Of Philippines 7:30 VAR: Sports India 8:00 CT: Live English Cricket 97; Benson & Hedges Cup 12:00mn

BSK: NBA Game Of The Week

Play-Offs Cut to 2 hours 2:00

CYC: Marlboro Tour Of Philippines 2:30 BSK: ABC Women's Championships 1997 1st Semi

Finals 7:30 Star News 11:30 Frame by Frame 7:30 Big Bang

VJ: Sophie 1:00 Rewind VJ: Trey 2:00 Frame by Frame 2:30

Liberty First Day First Show 3:00 Videocam Manila Hal 4:00

Frame by Frame 4:30 Big Bang

VJ: Alessandra 6:00 Rewind VJ: Sophie 7:00 By Demand VJ: Trey 6:00 The Vibe 9:00 BPL

5:00 BBC Newsdesk 6:00 BBC

Newsdesk 6:30 World Focus:

Assignment 7:00 BBC World

News 7:15 World Business Report

7:30 BBC News 8:00 BBC

News 8:30 BBC World News

9:00 BBC World News

10:00 BBC World News

11:00 BBC World News

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