

## Atletico run after Marcel

MADRID, May 27: AC Milan midfielder Marcel Desailly, chased by English Premiership side Arsenal, has been offered three million dollars a year, after tax, by Spanish side Atletico Madrid, who are keen to link him with English side Middlesbrough's Brazilian midfielder Juninho, reports AFP.

Atletico said they had bid 12 million dollars for the AC Milan player who left Olympique Marseille four years ago for seven million dollars.

Desailly's weekly wages at Atletico, who have offered him a three-year contract, would be 57,000 dollars after tax.

Atletico say they have bid 13 million dollars for Juninho, who was offered 65,000 dollars a week, after tax, in a four-year deal.

However, English champions Manchester United were reportedly ready to pay Middlesbrough 26 million dollars for the 24-year-old Brazilian to replace French star Eric Cantona, who has announced his retirement.

Juninho was a 5.75-million-dollar buy from Sao Paulo 18 months ago.

## Goran shatters Betis' dream

MADRID, May 27: Valencia's Croatian striker Goran Vlastovic's 68th minute equaliser in the 1-1 draw with Real Betis on Monday ended Betis' hopes of a Champions' League place and handed it to Barcelona, reports AFP.

Betis, who took the lead through midfielder Jose Luis Canas in the 9th minute, can only get 83 points if they win their last three matches while Barcelona coached by former England national supremo Bobby Robson already have 84.

Valencia, coached by former Real Madrid boss Jorge Valdano, equalised when Argentinean playmaker Ariel Ortega crossed and Vlastovic, who has made a miraculous recovery from a brain haemorrhage two years ago, slotted it home for his ninth of the season.

Betis' consolation is a place in the Cup Winners' Cup competition next season as they face Barcelona in the Spanish Cup final at the end of June.

## Argentine squad for Copa America

BUENOS AIRES, May 27: Argentina national football squad selected here on Monday for Copa America tournament to be played in Bolivia from June 11-29, reports AFP.

**Goalkeepers:** Leonardo Ojeda, Ignacio Gonzalez, Carlos Rojas.

**Defenders:** Raul Cardozo, Eduardo Berizzo, Jorge Martinez, Mauricio Pellegrino, Mauricio Pineda, Pablo Rotchen, Nelson Vivas.

**Midfielders:** Sergio Berti, Rodolfo Cardoso, Marcelo Gallardo, Claudio Husain, Roberto Monserrat, Gustavo Lopez, Gustavo Zapata, Christian Bascadas.

**Forwards:** Jose Luis Calderon, Julio Cruz, Marcelo Delgado, Martin Posse.

## Ronaldo stays at Barca?

MADRID, May 27: Agents for Brazilian striker Ronaldo started negotiating a new contract on Monday with his Spanish club Barcelona, reports Reuters.

Ronaldo, who has been linked to a number of Italian and English clubs, said last week that he would disclose his future plans on Monday.

## TODAY'S MATCHES

**Green Delta First Division hockey league:**  
(Venue: Hockey Stadium)  
Wari Club vs Victoria SC (2:30 pm)

**Mohammedan SC vs Bangladesh Railway (4 pm)**

**Danish Third Division cricket league:**  
Eastern SC vs Progoti SS (DCS)  
Young Pegasus A vs Young Cricketers (Uttara)  
Maghbaraz JS vs New Eagles (MOS)

**Third Division football league:**  
(Venue: Rajuk ground)  
Maghbaraz KC vs Fire Service (2:45 pm)

**Lalbagh SC vs Purbachal Parishad (4:30 pm)**

**Cute Premier handball league:**  
Narinda Progoti Boys vs West Jatrabari KC (3 pm)  
Manjris KC vs Old Ideals (4 pm)

# Steffi begins in style



PARIS, May 27: Defending champion Steffi Graf, who has been struggling to park in as much match play as possible after her long knee injury lay-off, opened her 1997 French Open campaign with a straight-sets win on the Roland Garros Centre-Court today, reports AFP.

Graf, bidding for her sixth title here, produced a 6-1, 6-4 victory over Argentina's Paola Suarez — although she had to survive some late match nerves after leading 6-1, 5-1.

The 27-year-old German champion, who lost her world number-one ranking to Swiss teenager Martina Hingis in March while she was out of action nursing recurring knee and back injuries, set off like an express train.

She pocketed the first set in just 22 minutes and looked poised to complete the match in double-quick time when she raced 5-1 clear in the second.

A score of unforced errors, half-a-dozen double faults and a lapse of concentration put the South American briefly back in the picture — but Graf steadied and served out to love to complete her victory in 54 minutes.

Graf, who won her first title since her return at Strasbourg at the weekend when she defeated 15-year-old Croatian Mirjana Lucic in the final, is second-seed for her 15th appearance at the championships.

She now plays either France's 1996 world junior champion Amelie Mauresmor or Jolene Watanabe of the United States for a place in the third-round.

One player in even more of a

## ATP Tour's top money makers

MONACO, May 27: (Reuters): Leading prize-money winners (in dollars) issued by the ATP Tour today:

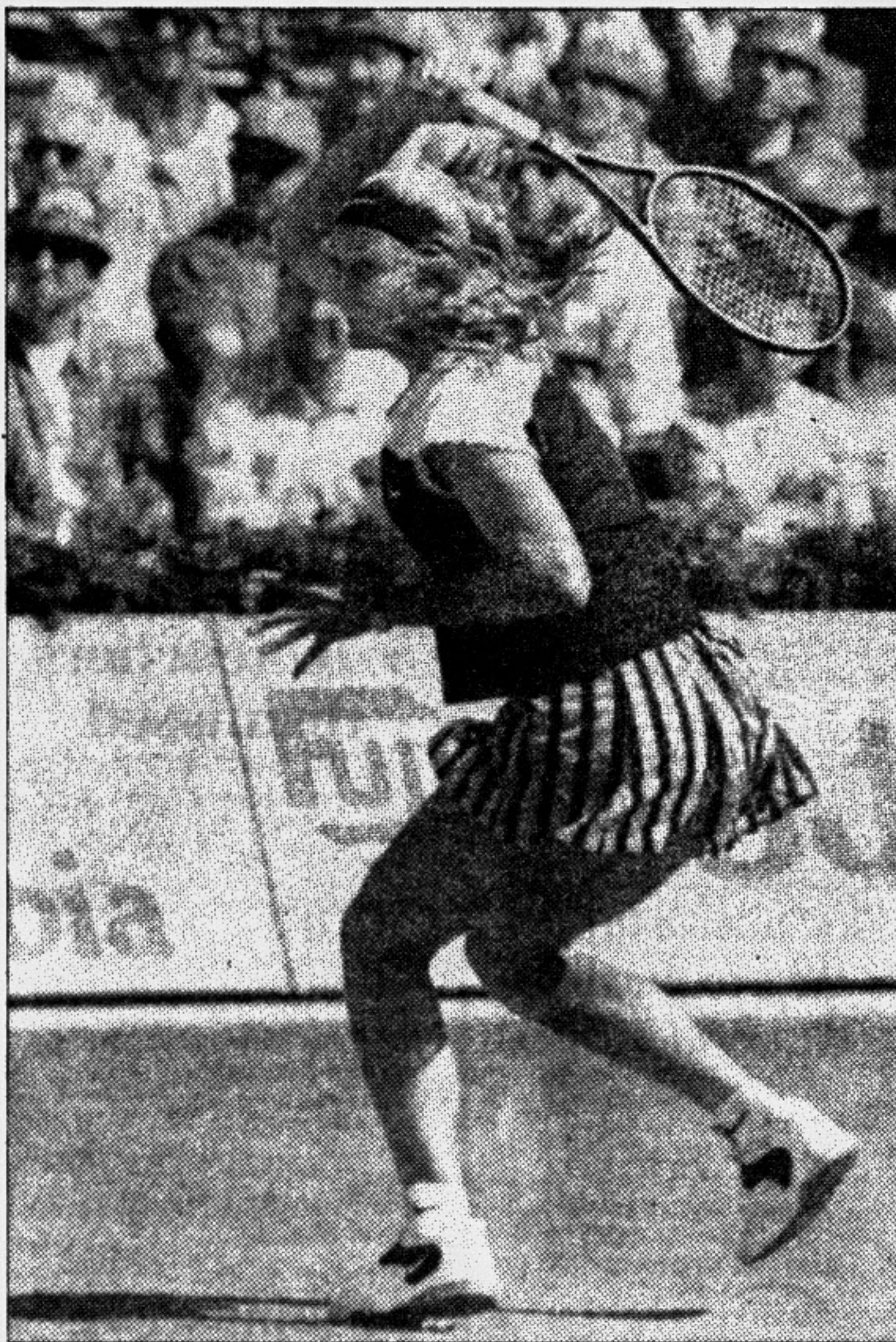
1. Thomas Muster	801,584
2. Michael Chang	780,099
3. Alex Corretja	766,513
4. Pete Sampras	762,711
5. Marcelo Rios	756,848
6. Goran Ivanisevic	656,985
7. Albert Costa	589,903
8. Felix Mantilla	568,683
9. Andrei Medvedev	565,350
10. Todd Woodbridge	530,139
11. Carlos Moya	512,704
12. Sergi Bruguera	456,715
13. Mark Woodforde	426,319
14. Richard Krajicek	405,355
15. Mark Philippoussis	401,846
16. Jonas Bjorkman	389,461
17. Jim Courier	362,110
18. Alberto Berasategui	344,480
19. Marc Rosset	343,753
20. Javier Sanchez	329,805

hurry was Spain's Virginia Ruano-Pascual who handed out a 6-0, 6-0 defeat in 42 minutes to compatriot Angeles Montolio.

On Monday, three-time winner Monica Seles raced through to the second round when she overwhelmed Miho Saeki of



STEFFI GRAF



French Mary Pierce follows through after playing a forehand against Tatiana Panova of Russia during their first round engagement at the French Open in Paris on May 26. The local won 6-2, 4-6, 6-4. —AFP/UNB photo

## Lippi ladies' choice

PARIS, May 27: Juventus coach Marcello Lippi, somewhat flatteringly compared to Paul Newman in the past for his silver hair and blue eyes, has just been voted Italy's most charming man in a survey among women by a business magazine, reports AFP.

Explaining his success in the poll, designed to find "the man any women would go crazy for," Lippi said: "I don't think it's anything to do with physical attraction."

"A lot of young people today feel insecure and it could be that I provide them with that missing sense of security."

Lippi has achieved remarkable success with impressively tough decisions as top players were unloaded to make way for young blood.

Star players such as Roberto Baggio, Gianluca Vialli and Fabrizio Ravanelli were all let go while in peak form yet he introduced new players successfully into the side.

"We have to change things all the time in our lives to move with the time. It's the same with football. You have to think ahead. If you don't prepare, you won't be ready."

Lippi might only have been an average player for Sampdoria and was twice sacked at Siena and Cesena, but he has managed what Heleno Herrera did for Inter Milan in the 60s and what Arrigo Sacchi did for AC Milan in the late 80s.

He has built a dream footballing squad in his own style. And his pragmatic style, to adapt tactics and team selections to each match, was a different way of succeeding to Herrera's severely disciplined approach to life and football.

In his autobiography published this week, Lippi describes himself as a master motivator despite not being easy to get on with off the pitch, and as proof, players in the twilight of their years keep performing well.

Though Juventus are the best team in the world on results, Lippi is uncomfortable with the tag.

"It is not the way we think of ourselves. Some of our results have gone very well in the last year, we have beaten Ajax three times for example, but it is not necessarily a verdict on the way we play," Lippi said.

Juventus also beat AC Milan 6-1 in the San Siro stadium last month to clearly gauge their quality.

Lippi praises his French players Didier Deschamps and Zinedine Zidane for their contribution to the squad.

## Lankans seek Sobers' tonic

CALCUTTA, May 27: Sri Lankan cricket chiefs are negotiating with West Indies legend Garfield Sobers to plan their team's defence of the World Cup in England in 1999, reports AFP.

Sri Lanka want Sobers, hailed by many as the world's greatest cricketer, to act as chief adviser and work with Australian coach Bruce Yardley till the World Cup.

A lot of spadework has been done in this regard, we are hopeful Sir Gary will be available to us," said Dhanunika Ranatunga, chief executive of the Sri Lankan cricket board and younger brother of national captain Arjuna.

"I have been speaking to the players to know their opinion and most of them have jumped at the idea," he said.

Ranatunga and Sobers are in Calcutta for the Independence Cup finals between Sri Lanka and Pakistan, but a final decision is not expected till next week when the islanders begin their first tour of the West Indies.

Sobers coached Sri Lanka before they gained Test status in 1981 and was largely responsible for guiding the experienced duo of Arjuna Ranatunga and Aravinda de Silva in their formative years.

Yardley, who took over as Sri Lankan coach last year from Australian compatriot Dave Wharmore, welcome the contacts with Sobers.

"It will be great for both Sri Lankan cricket and me. It will be great working together with a living legend," the former Test off-spinner said.

"I took over from Wharmore primarily to produce some off-spinners for Sri Lanka and look after the juniors. Sir Gary joined the national team it would be easier for me to focus on the youngsters."

# Pete gets into his stride



PARIS, May 27: World number one Pete Sampras enjoyed a perfect start to his latest French Open quest on Monday with a first round performance which dispelled any complacency among his specialist clay-court rivals, reports Reuters.

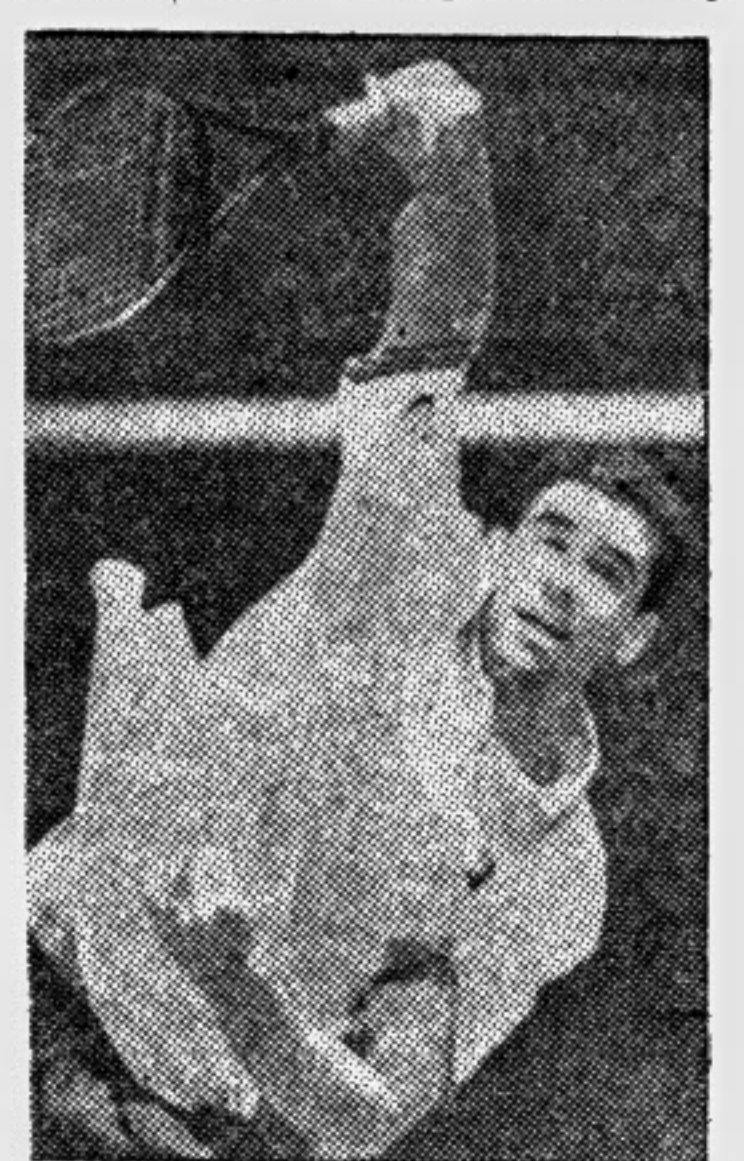
Sampras, the top seed, brushed aside the potentially awkward local challenge of Fabrice Santoro 6-3, 7-5, 6-1 and showed sufficient authority to suggest he could yet collect the only Grand Slam title he has never won.

Santoro has beaten recent French champions Thomas Muster and Sergi Bruguera this year, but was never allowed into his stride by the American who scarcely looked like a man without a prior win on his least favourite surface this year.

Back on court after withdrawing from last week's World Team Cup with a thigh injury, the reigning US and Australian Open champion might have wished for an easier start than a Centre Court match against the 57th-ranked Santoro, a

semifinalist in Monte Carlo and Prague inside the last month.

The size of the crowd indicated what French spectators thought might happen, but once Sampras had taken the first set in 32 minutes, he grew steadily



PETE SAMPRAS

in confidence and gave his opponent little room for manoeuvre.

The only real wobble came in the eighth game when a nifty backhand gave Santoro a break point for 5-3 but his failure to take advantage cost him dear. He served very well and when he does that it is very difficult," said Santoro, reflecting on the one hour 56 minute contest. "He sunk me game after game."

"It was a good start for me on clay," acknowledged Sampras, beaten twice on the surface by Santoro. "It's a tough draw when you play a Frenchman on Centre Court but you just have to go out there and play."

"This is the only tournament I haven't won so I'll do whatever I can do win here. It's the only thing left for me to achieve."

The French open, however, continues to pose Sampras, who has nine Grand Slam singles titles, difficulties he doesn't face in any other major championship.

"The French is tougher on the mind and the body. It doesn't come quite so easy for me on clay. It's not really tennis, it's more of a fight."

# Of the French forgetfulness



PARIS, May 27 (AP): She's a three-time champion and former No. 1 player, but nobody's talking about her.

Monica Seles may be the forgotten woman at this year's French Open.

She was once the blazing prodigy who made headlines with her grunts, giggles and ponytail. But now, at age 23, Seles is seeing two 16-year-olds get the attention in Paris: top-ranked Swiss sensation Martina Hingis, and the newest American hope, Venus Williams.

"Well, I think it's great, obviously the way Martina has played this year, she deserves everything," Seles said after her 6-0, 6-3 first-round victory

Monday over Japan's Miho Saeki. "I think she's by far the one who deserves the most attention."

Seles, who's won nine Grand Slam titles, says she wouldn't change anything about her career — except for the events of April 30, 1993.

That was the day a 38-year-old German stabbed her in the back during a quarterfinal in Hamburg, Germany. Though she came back after a two-year break to win the 1996 Australian Open, she's never regained the form she had before the stabbing.

Plagued by injuries, Seles has yet to win a tournament this year, losing in finals to Hingis and Jana Novotna.

Although a shoulder injury that dogged her throughout

1996 seems to have healed, Seles pulled an Achilles tendon last week in a final against Novotna in Madrid.

"It's pretty painful," she said.

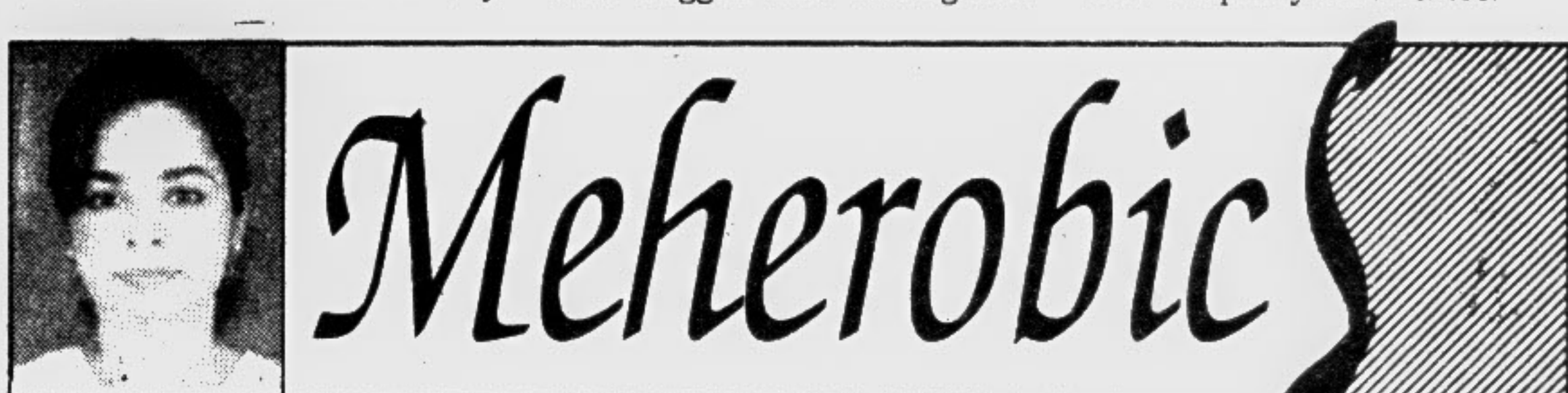
If she gets to the third round, she could face Williams. If all goes to form, she would face Hingis in the semifinals.

The Seles that spoke to reporters Monday was not the chattering and chatty Monica of the early years, but a more subdued and contemplative one.

Tellingly, when asked if she still wants to be No. 1, she hesitated for a second.

"I believe I do want it," she said. "Maybe a while back, I wasn't so sure about that. But I do think I want it."

"I'm taking it one day at a time. It's pretty much there."



Cycling is an excellent aerobic conditioner, if you do it long enough, often enough, and with enough intensity. It also builds strength (primarily in your back and legs), boosts endurance, reduces stress, and burns 350-450 calories an hour or more, depending on the speed, terrain, type of bike, etc.

Cycling is an especially good way to ride down the road to fitness if you're too overweight to run, or saddled with orthopedic problems that are aggravated by weight-bearing exercises. It can be a pretty low-risk sport, too, if your bike fits and you avoid accidents. Outdoor biking loses a lot of its appeal when the weather turns cold, or icy, or rainy, or windy. The good news is, many kinds of indoor stationary bikes can keep you just as fit.

Cycling has many healthful benefits. But, as with any exercise activity, it is not a complete exercise in itself. When you cycle, the muscles you move over and over to pedal the bike become stronger, tighter, and shorter. Often described as a "mild range" activity, cycling involves a limited repeated motion. During each stride, the leg is never fully straightened (locked) or bent to its fullest, so muscles are never fully contracted or extended. This causes tightness, which contributes to any number of overuse syndromes: pain in the lower back, hamstrings muscles and knees.

How does stretching help?

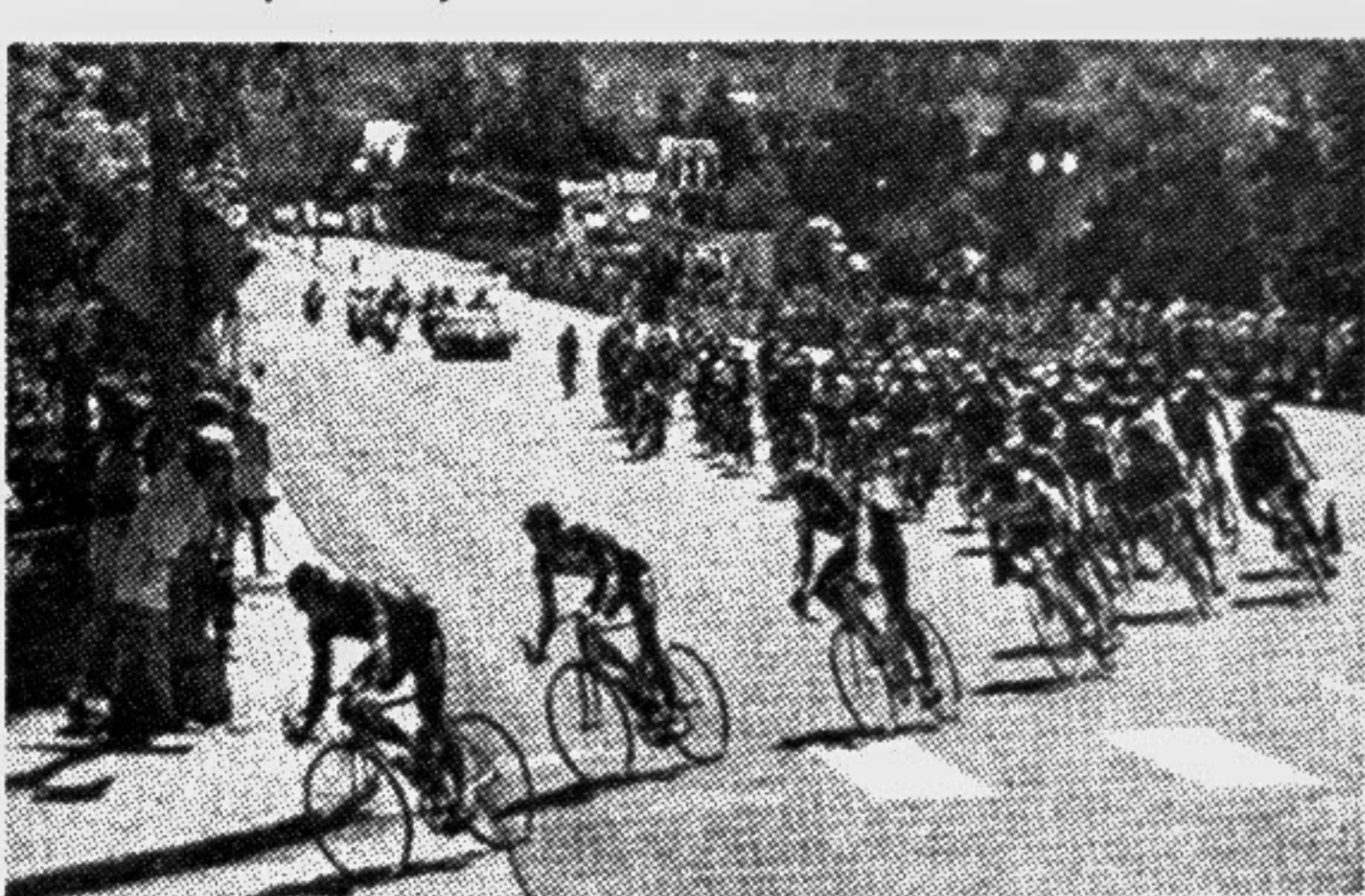
Stretching helps you adapt to the rigors of cycling. Cyclists who put in long hours on the bike are especially prone to what we call "muscular rigormortis". Unfortunately, one of the courses of hard riding is gradual loss of muscle elasticity and an overall decrease in joint flexibility. Stretching which requires no special skill, enables cyclists to make their muscles and joint more adaptable to the rigors of cycling.

Since stretching improves flexibility and increases range

of motion, well exercised muscles and joints will undergo less severe stress in competitive conditions. The longer muscles and joints can perform without failure under stress, the longer you can cycle at your optimum speed. Muscle will last longer during activity before tightening up if prestretched correctly. Stretching reduces muscle soreness and stiffness during periods of intense workouts.

I suggest that you experiment with stretching for 5-10 minutes before and after you ride. The areas of your body that tend

to tire first are the ones that you should pay particular attention to in preparation for the ride. Hold only the proper tension in the muscles that feels good to you. The key to stretching is to be relaxed while you concentrate on the areas being stretched. Your breathing should be slow, deep and rhythmic. Stretching will start the blood circulating through the muscles and warm them up to the tasks ahead. Once on the bike, though, don't forget to put in a good warm-up before any hard efforts.



Some useful stretches for Cycling



# The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

Wednesday 28th May

(All programmes are in local time. There may be changes in the programmes)

## BTV

3:00 Opening Announcement  
Al-Quran Programme Summary  
3:15 Recitation from the Geeta  
3:15 Re-telecast of Drama Serial 4:00 News in Bangla 4:15 Cartoon film: Top Cat 4:45 Geebitan Programme on Tagore Song 5:25 Suptashikha 7:00 News in English 7:05 Open University 7:25 Programme on Classical Dance 8:00 News in Bangla 8:45 Package Drama 10:00 News in English 10:30 Programme on Health 10:35 Aparahna: A Programme for elderly citizen 11:30 News in Bangla 11:35 Thursday's programme summary 11:45 Close down

## BBC

6:00am BBC World News 6:30

Time Out: Film '97 7:00 BBC World News inc. Asia Today & World Business Report 8:00 BBC World News 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 World Focus: Britain in View 11:00 BBC Newsweek 12:00 BBC Newsweek 12:30 Hard Talk 1:00 BBC World News 1:30 World Focus: Britain in View 2:00 BBC World News 2:30 Time Out: Tomorrow's World 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 Hard Talk 4:00 BBC World News 4:30 Time Out: Film '97 5:00 BBC Newsweek 6:00pm BBC Newsweek 6:30 World Focus: Britain in View 7:00 BBC World News 7:15 World Business Report 7:30 BBC Newsweek 8:00 Pacific 8:30 Time Out: The London International Boat Show 1997 9:00 BBC World News 9:30 Hard Talk 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 Time Out: Holiday in The World Today 12:30 Hard Talk 1:00 BBC World News 1:30 World Focus: The Money Programme 2:00 BBC World News 2:30 Time Out: Top Gear 3:00 BBC Newsweek inc. World Business Report 24 Hours 4:00 BBC Newsweek inc. Asia Today & World Business Report 5:00 BBC World News 5:10 Newsnight

## CHANNEL V

6:00am Hebat VJ Alessandra 7:00 Rewind VJ Sophia 8:00 Frame by Frame 11:00 The Vibe VJ Luke 12:00noon Rewind VJ Sophia 1:00 By Demand VJ Tre 2:00 Frame by Frame 3:00 Liberty First 3:30 Son of Time Pass 4:00 Planet Ruby 4:30 Big Bang VJ Alessandra 6:00pm Rewind VJ Sophia 7:00 By Demand VJ Tre 8:00 VJ's 9:00 The Vibe 9:30 Videcon Mangia Hai 10:00 Liberty First Day First 10:30 Mojo Working 11:00 House of Noise VJ Luke 12:00noon Rewind VJ Sophia 1:00 Haysat 2:00 By Demand VJ Tre 3:00 Big Bang VJ Alessandra 4:30 Asian Top 20

## STAR PLUS

6:30 Ninaad 7:30 Good Morn-

ing India 9:30 Nine To Five 10:00 Madeleine Cooks 10:30 Holiday Special Children Hour 11:00 Eek! The Cat 11:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show 12:30 Chicago Hope 1:30 Santa Barbara 2:30 The Bold & The Beautiful 3:00 Meri Awaz Suno 3:30 Buniyaad 4:00 Kya Baat Hai 4:30 Lost In Space 5:30 New Adventures of Black Beauty 6:00 Charles In Charge 6:30pm Madeleine Cooks 7:00 The Great Escape 7:30 Star News (Hindi) 8:00 Small Wonder 8:30 Banjara Guest House 9:00 Kohra 9:30 Star News 10:00 Allo Allo 10:30 The X Files 11:00 The Bold & The Beautiful 12:00noon Santa Barbara 1:00 Star News 1:30 L A Law 2:30 Picket Fences 3:30 Vega 4:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show 5:30 Barnaby Jones

## STAR SPORTS

6:00am World Cup Hall of Fame 6:30 English Cricket 97 Tourist Match Durham v Australia 1:30 Film World Motorcycle Championships Italian Grand Prix Highlights 3:00 Asia Sport

Show 3:30 The Asian Football Show 4:30 Hong Kong International Triathlon 5:30 International Motorsports News 6:30pm Marlboro Tour Of Philippines 8:00 Super League Rugby 9:30 Trans World Sport 10:30 Spanish Fball League 11:00 World Cup Hall Of Fame 11:30 EPGA Volvo PGA Championship Hits 12:00 World Wide Rugby 2:30 Greatest Grand Slam Matches 4:30 Marlboro Tour Of Philippines 5:30 EPGA Volvo PGA Championship Hits

## STAR MOVIES

7:30am Comedy: Fast Talking 11:30 Family: Heart Of A Child 12 (Arabic Subtitles) 1:30 Family: Asterix And The Big Fight PG (Hindi Subtitles) 1:30 Western: Dead Man? 3:30 Comedy: Love At Large (Hindi Subtitles) 5:30 Classic: Dracula 12 (Hindi Subtitles) 7:00 Decade Dream 7:30 Adventure: Clan Of The Cave Bear 15 9:30 The Movie Show 10:00 Double Bill: Jackie Chan Fearless Hyena II 15 (English Subtitles) 12:00 Double Bill: Jackie

Chan Mr Canton And Lady Rose PG (English Subtitles) 2:00 Comedy: Nobody's Perfect? (Hindi Subtitles) 4:00 Comedy: Talkin' Dirty After Dark 18 5:30 Classic: The Malta Story 12 (Hindi Subtitles)

## ZEE TV

6:00 Jagran 6:30 A to Z of Computer 7:30 Ghoorna Aaina 8:00 Zee News & Business 8:30 Insight 9:00 Disney Hour 10:00 Gaane Anjane 10:30 Ashiana 11:00 Hum Zameen 11:30 Sapath 12:00 Bournvita Quiz Contest 12:30 Jaspal Ki Yeh Zindagi 1:00 Ek Duj Eke Liye 1:30 Silsila 2:00 Hum Panch 2:30 Kurukshetra 3:00 Raahat 3:30 Celeste 4:00 Aur Shama Jalti Rahe 4:30 Zalka Ka Safar 5:00 Siyaram's Cine Magic 5:30 Throw The Gear 6:00 Kodak Click 6:30 Gaane Anjane 6:45 Ek Nazar 7:00 Disney Hour 8:00 Paying Guest 8:30 Mast Mast Zindagi 9:00 Khiladi 9:30 Banegi Apni Bani 10:00 Andaz 10:30 The News 11:00 Parampara 11:30

Karz 12:00 Sailaab 12:30 Darar 1:00 Ek Aur Mahabharati:30 Hasthe Khethe 2:00 Paying Guest 2:30 Zee Arabia: Information-TMM

## EL TV

7:00 Yeaddon Ki Barar 7:30 Stand By 7:40 Kishor Kumar Specials 8:20 Hasen Pal 8:30 V3 Plus (Serial)/Scandal 9:30 Awaz Naye Andaz Wohi 9:30 V3 Plus 10:00 HFF: Aap Ki Khatir 1:00 Superhit Hangama 2:00 Gajrali: Surjamukhi 3:00 Lamsa Tea — Chalo Cinema 3:30 Sorry Meri Lory 4:00 Tanav 4:30 Zed 5:00 HFF 7:50 Hasen Pal 8:00 Aaha 8:30 Mast Mast Show 9:00 Shatrang 9:30 Amar Prem 10:00 Archies: Top of the Tops 10:30 Stand-By 10:45 HFF: Geel 12:30 Nukkar 2:00 Akhree Daa 2:30 Kal Bhi Aai Bhi 3:30 Zeynams Kamal Combination 3:30 Cine Smylie 4:00 Hindi Feature Film

## PTV

8:00am Tilawat Aur Tarjuma/

Hamd/Naat 8:20 Cartoon 8:30 Khabrain 8:45 Mansoobajait Barai Khud Kafalat 9:00 Sur Savaria & Sehra Ka Safar & Sada-E-Kasim 9:40 Shana Ba Shana 9:50 Aaj Ki Kitaab-Aik Nazm 10:00 Baki Kay Ladoo 10:30 English Film: Chip And Dale 10:55 Milli Naghma 11:00 Khabrain 11:10 Ali Baba (Drama Serial) 11:35 Nagma-mazaar (Drama Serial) 12:00noon Urdu Khail 12:55 Quran-e-Hakeem 1:02 Bismillah 1:15 Gichan (Drama Serial) 2:00 Inteha (Drama Serial) 2:50 The Earth Revealed 3:20 Araishi Puda 3:40 Natural World 4:35 How Things Work 5:00 Yeh Mumukh In Hae 5:25 Hamara Sehat 5:55 Kitab Quiz 6:25 Aioi Cousins 7:00 Tararum 7:05 Felix The Cat 7:30 Such Gup 7:45 English News 8:00 Morven Gold Race-day 8:25 Jawan Rank 8:55 PTV Gold 9:20 Aap Ki Anwar Macqool 10:00 Khabrain & Commercial News 11:00 Tas Aasmaan 12:00 NYPD Blue 12:45 Khas Khabrain

**DD 7**  
10:30 Jarmadin 10:35 Classical Music 11:00 Folk Song 11:15 Adhunik Gaan 11:30 Parliament Hour 12:30 Gaurab 1:00 Janmabhumi (Serial) 1:30 Trishna (Serial) 2:00 Kuasha Zakhan 2:30 Mone Rekho More