

Agassi enters Wimbledon

WIMBLEDON, June 11 (AP) Andre Agassi entered for Wimbledon — for now anyway. The 1992 Wimbledon champion has hardly played at all this season. He withdrew last month from the French Open with an injured right wrist — and used the same reason two weeks before to pull out of the German Open.

But doubts continue to persist whether Agassi will actually turn up for the tournament, which starts June 23. The 27-year-old Agassi, married in April to actress Brooke Shields, has shown little interest recently in playing tennis. And his play has reflected it.

SA runner banned for four years

JOHANNESBURG, June 11: South African marathon runner Desmond Witbooi has been banned for four years after testing positive for an anabolic steroid, Athletics South Africa announced on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

Witbooi, 24, failed a drugs test after finishing fifth in February's Cape Town marathon. He represented South Africa at the 1996 African Marathon Championships.

Six months sans Steffi?

BONN, June 11: Steffi Graf will miss Wimbledon and possibly the US Open championships after undergoing a knee operation in Vienna on Tuesday, Austrian television said, reports Reuters.

Graf, who was knocked out of the French Open in the quarterfinals last week, had the operation in a private hospital. Graf, seven times Wimbledon champion, was reportedly recovering in a clinic following the operation on a damaged tendon.

The German was sidelined for three months earlier this year with another knee injury and was a fourth round casualty at the Australian Open complaining afterwards of an infected toe.

Graf, the defending Wimbledon champion, slipped to number three in the world rankings following their shock loss to South Africa's Amanda Coetzer in Paris.

The former world number one and 21 times Grand Slam champion had a two-hour operation on her left-knee at an undisclosed hospital in the Austrian capital. Doctors expect she will not be able to compete for another four to six months.

"I am deeply disappointed that I will be unable to defend my Wimbledon title this year," Graf said in a statement issued from the headquarters of the Women's Tennis Association (WTA).

"When exactly I will be able to compete again is not clear. The doctors told me that with extensive physiotherapy, returning in four to six months is realistic.

"It seems unlikely that I will be able to defend my US Open title as well."

She said the injury was identified during Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) last Friday which showed a cartilage

fracture and partial rupture of a tendon.

"I have been assured that the surgery went very well and I feel fine right now," said Graf.

The German said she first suffered the injury at Wimbledon last year.

root and I am confident that I will be able to return to the game I love so much — this time healthy," she said.

Graf said she experienced pain during last week's French Open.

She was also hampered by



THE NIGGLING KNEE: The ruptured left knee, which robbed the gifted German tennis star Steffi Graf of her prime time recently, has once again ruled her out of action for at least six months. The AFP file photo shows the beleaguered German receiving treatment on her knee during a match at the US Open in 1996.

Graf, 27, said she had arthroscopic surgery after defaulting from a tournament in Tokyo in February in a bid to be ready for the French Open and Wimbledon.

"The actions I have taken today tackled the problem at the

infected toe at the Australian Open in January when she fell in the fourth round, again to Coetzer.

Wimbledon starts on June 23 and the US Open begins on August 25.

Seeds tumble at Queen's Club

LONDON, June 11: Swiss fifth seed Marc Rosset and four other seeds were knocked out of the London grass court championships at Queen's Club on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

The giant Rosset capitulated 7-6, 6-3, against lowly-ranked Frenchman Jerome Golmard. "I played so badly... I just have nothing to say," he mumbled before dejectedly leaving the club.

Rosset was joined on the sidelines by 10th seed Jan Siemerink, 12th seed Cedric Pioline number 13 Alex O'Brien and number 15 March-Kevin Goellner as surprise early exits.

Britain's fourth seed Tim Henman scraped into the third round, the world number 22, fighting back from a set down to eventually edge tall compatriot Andrew Richardson, at six feet seven inches the same height as Rosset, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Dutchman Siemerink was dismissed by Stephane Simian of France 6-4, 6-0 which in an all-France affair Pioline was eliminated by qualifier Jean-Philippe Fleurina 7-5, 6-3.

British wild card Martin Lee, ranked 500th in the world, provided a big shock by seeing off world number 34 O'Brien of the United States 3-6, 7-6, 6-4.

Goellner, a semifinalist in 1995, fell to New Zealand's Brett Steven 4-6, 6-1, 6-4.

Sixth seed Australian Mark Philippoussis made hard work of American Jonathan Stark before eventually advancing 7-6, 3-6, 6-3.

Last week's French Open semifinalists Filip Dewulf and Pat Rafter had very different destinies on the west London grass.

Rafter, the ninth-seeded Australian, ran through Israel's Eyal Ran with the minimum of fuss 7-5, 6-2 while Belgian Dewulf was brought crashing back down to earth with a 6-7, 6-4, 6-2 defeat by 106th-ranked Canadian Daniel Nestor.

Today the world number one and two, Pete Sampras and Michael Chang, open their bids after first round byes.

Brazil end England's run

PARIS, June 11: Exactly a year before they start the defence of the World Cup, Brazil erased any doubts about their quality with an assured 1-0 win over England in the Tournoi de France on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

Despite the narrow scoreline in the match at Parc Des Princes, Brazil largely outplayed England in midfield and attack.

England defended resolutely and battled for every ball but the demands of a long, hard season appeared to have finally caught up with them.

Once Romario scored after 61 minutes, it was hard to see England equalising. For them it was just one match too many, though they ended a hot sultry night in the French capital on a high, if bitter-sweet, note.

Wins over Italy and France guaranteed them first place in the Tournoi and Shearer became the first England captain since Bobby Moore collected the World Cup in 1966 to lift an international trophy aloft in victory.

Brazil, who drew with France and Italy in their first two matches, finished second, leaving Italy and France, who meet in the final match on Wednesday, to try and avoid being last.

Brazil coach Mario Zagallo said: "We have improved tactically through the tournament and have remained unbeaten against three great teams. It has been a great preparation for the Copa America."

England coach Glenn Hoddle commented: "It was a good lesson for us. We were a bit tired. We defended well but we need more balance in the side."

Brazil's superiority on the night was best illustrated by their 15 corners to England's two — seven of them in the first six minutes.

It was only England's all-round recent improvement under Hoddle that allowed them to stay level as long as they did.

The breakthrough finally came when Leonardo, having a superb match on the ground

where he plays with Paris St Germain, provided a perfectly weighted through ball for Romario wide on the left of the England penalty area.

He eluded a despairing lunge from Gareth Southgate to strike with the outside of his right foot, the ball bouncing into the



ROMARIO netted David Seaman's far post. It was the first goal England had conceded after home in eight matches dating back to November 1993, and proved enough to end a run of six successive wins.

It also sent them to only their second defeat in 10 matches since Euro '96 became coach after Hoddle. The only other side to beat England since then were Italy, the beaten finalists in the 1994 World Cup final.

Despite the huge buildup, both Shearer, currently the world's most expensive player at 15 million pounds (24 million dollars), and Ronaldo, tipped to shortly succeed him when his transfer from Barcelona to Inter Milan is finally completed, had quiet games, without a goal attempt worthy of the name between them.

The most notable moment for both was a strange incident just before halftime when Shearer clattered into Ronaldo who retaliated by stabbing his foot at him. Both were booked.

Ronaldo's impact was nullified by an outstanding display from 22-year-old England defender Sol Campbell who made three absolutely vital blocking tackles to stop Ronaldo in his tracks.

At the other end Shearer was closely watched by Aldair who hardly allowed him a kick to make amends for his poor display against Italy in Lyon on Sunday when he conceded an own goal and played poorly.

Romario, Dunga, and Djalminha, who came on as a 22nd minute substitute for the injured Denilson, ran the game from the middle of the field for the world champions, playing their last match before the start of the Copa America on Wednesday.

They played with verve to the constant rhythm of the samba drums and, while never touching the heights, showed their magic in bursts.

While Brazil's yellow shirts ebbed and flowed over the field, Paul Ince and Paul Gascoigne never extended beyond England's forward.

Ince went closest to scoring for his side with a rasping shot from the edge of the box which Taffarel did well to save in the first half while Gascoigne also went close with a free-kick in the second.

Brazil had three other good chances to score. The first came after 27 minutes when Djalminha and Ronaldo combined to put Leonardo through. But with only Seaman to beat, he fired over the bar.

Roberto Carlos forced Seaman into pushing the ball over the bar with a powerfully struck angled free-kick and Djalminha forced Seaman into making another good save shortly before Brazil scored.

While Brazil know they will definitely be back for the World Cup next year, England still have to negotiate their way through their final qualifying matches.

They may have been beaten by the world champions but, in a sense, they were also winners and could well give Brazil an even tougher test if they play them next summer.

Corrigendum to BCIC Tender Notice. Documents value of Tender Enquiry No. NGFF/P-119/MACHINE/96-97/1885 dated 18.5.97 for supply of Micro Computer system with High Speed Printer and its accessories may please be read as Tk 25/- (Taka twenty-five) only instead of Tk 750/- (Taka seven hundred fifty) only.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Office of the Executive Engineer, Khulna PWD Division-II, Khulna. Notice Inviting Tender. 1. Tender No.: 88 (E/M) 1996/97. 2. Name of work: Electrical, repair, renovation and ceiling fan supply work in the Hostel bldg. of Govt. Laboratory High School at Khulna.

Roggiero finishes 3rd

ST PETERSBURG, Russia, June 11: Italian Massimo Roggiero survived five yellow flags Sunday, running an incident-free race that delivered a third-place finish for the Gold Leaf FI Racing team in the second race of the 1997 Formula One Powerboat World Championship, says a press release.

Teammate Jonathan Jones of Wales wasn't as lucky, forced out of the Grand Prix of Europe by defending world champion Guido Cappellini of Italy on the 12th lap.

American Scott Gillman, the pole-sitter after Sunday's qualifying, maintained his position throughout and negotiated the 44 laps in 84 minutes, 6.44 seconds. Finland's Pertti Leppala was a distant second in 84:14.46. Roggiero's time was 84:22.97 and delivered 12 points in the ULM Formula 1 drivers standings.

Gillman was awarded 20 points for the victory and Leppala garnered 15 as runner-up. Coupled with his third-place finish in the season opener in Hungary, the Finn now leads the drivers' standings with 27 points, ahead of Gillman and Gold Leaf FI Racing Team's Jones, who captured the 1997 inaugural. Roggiero is currently in fifth-place in the standings.

Twenty-five boats started the race on the Neva River, but only 15 finished, with eight retirements and two disqualified-

cations thinning out the field. Only eight boats completed the 44 laps.

The Jones-Cappellini incident saw the Italian ran Jones into the top buoy on lap 12.

Torino set to sign Souness

LONDON, June 11: Former manager of Southampton Graeme Souness could sign with Serie B Italian team Torino next Sunday after a week of talking with the club, a Torino spokesman told Reuters by telephone on Tuesday.

"We are ready. We have to finalise the details of the contract and we hope to sign next Sunday," the spokesman said.

Souness, who resigned as manager of Southampton last month less than a year after joining them from Turkish club Galatasaray, met Torino club doctor Massimo Vidulich last week in Italy.

"They talked about everything. The president trusts him and he is sure next season Torino will go straight to Serie A," the spokesman added.

Torino, who has just missed out on promotion to Serie A, will play their last match of the season at home to Ravenna on Sunday.

Souness, a former Scottish international captain, played in Italy with Sampdoria from 1984 to 1986.

This should be the way

PARIS, June 11: There was one major omission when organisers of the 1998 World Cup finals shone the names of the 12 sponsors on a big screen at a glitzy news conference Tuesday, reports AP.

There were only 11 names and Anheuser-Busch, brewers of Budweiser, was deliberately missing.

That's because French law forbids the promotion of alcohol on any kind of TV screen.

The 1993 Evin law, ignoring strong objections from French winegrowers and sports promoters, greatly restricts advertising for both tobacco and alcohol.

"Legislation is legislation," Jacques Lambert, director general of the organising committee, said at a news conference staged exactly a year before then World Cup starts.

"That's the law and there's nothing in the legislation that gives grounds for a waiver. We cannot make an exception, not even for the World Cup."

"It's up to the government to do it. There can be no back-handed arrangement to change it."

79 countries so far for Nagano

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, June 11: A total of 79 countries and territories have signed up to compete at the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan, the IOC said Tuesday, reports AP.

Invitations were sent to all national Olympic committees on Feb 7, and the deadline for acceptance was June 7.

The International Olympic Committee has said the deadline is flexible and other entries could still be accepted.

If all 79 do compete in Nagano, it would surpass the record of 67 nations, which participated in the 1994 Winter Games in Lillehammer, Norway.

The athletes from the various countries must still meet the qualification standards set by the IOC and the international federations.

The list of entries for Nagano includes North Korea and Iraq, and countries with little winter sports tradition like Cambodia, Guam, India and Laos.

The Games begin Feb 7 and run through Feb 22.

Sepp yet to give up hope

PARIS, June 11: FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter said for the first time on Tuesday he was optimistic that a solution could be found to the problem over perimeter fences at the World Cup finals in France next year, reports Reuters.

While not going as far as saying that the fences would be removed from the stadiums, as FIFA would like, he did say: "I am very optimistic that the tall, 2.2 metre high fences could be lowered, and I am even hopeful that at some of the stadiums, they could be removed altogether."

"I am more hopeful now that a practical and human solution can be found to the problem. I know, for a example, that the mayor of Montpellier is confident the problem can be solved there."

Blatter was speaking exactly a year to the day before France '98 kicks off with matches in the new Stade de France at Saint Denis, just north of Paris, and Montpellier.

FIFA have been at odds with the previous French government over the question of fencing fans in at the finals, citing last year's European Championships in England as an event that went off without major trouble inside the stadiums, none of which were fenced.

"This has nothing to do with the change of government in France but the government, of course, has an influence," Blatter said. "But in France the will of the mayor ultimately decides the issue."

Fences give the wrong global image for football, people are not animals and they don't need to be caged. Look at what happened last year in Guatemala when there was a catastrophe and 80 people died. Fences are not just a problem for France but a global problem."

That disaster, at the Stadio Mateo Flores in Guatemala City on October 25 last year was caused by over-crowding and fans being fenced in and there were harrowing similarities to the Hillsborough disaster in England in April 1989 which claimed 96 lives.

Still, Blatter admitted that FIFA would be powerless to act if fences are not removed.

Ten venues are being used next summer — and there seemed to be some confusion over exactly how many were

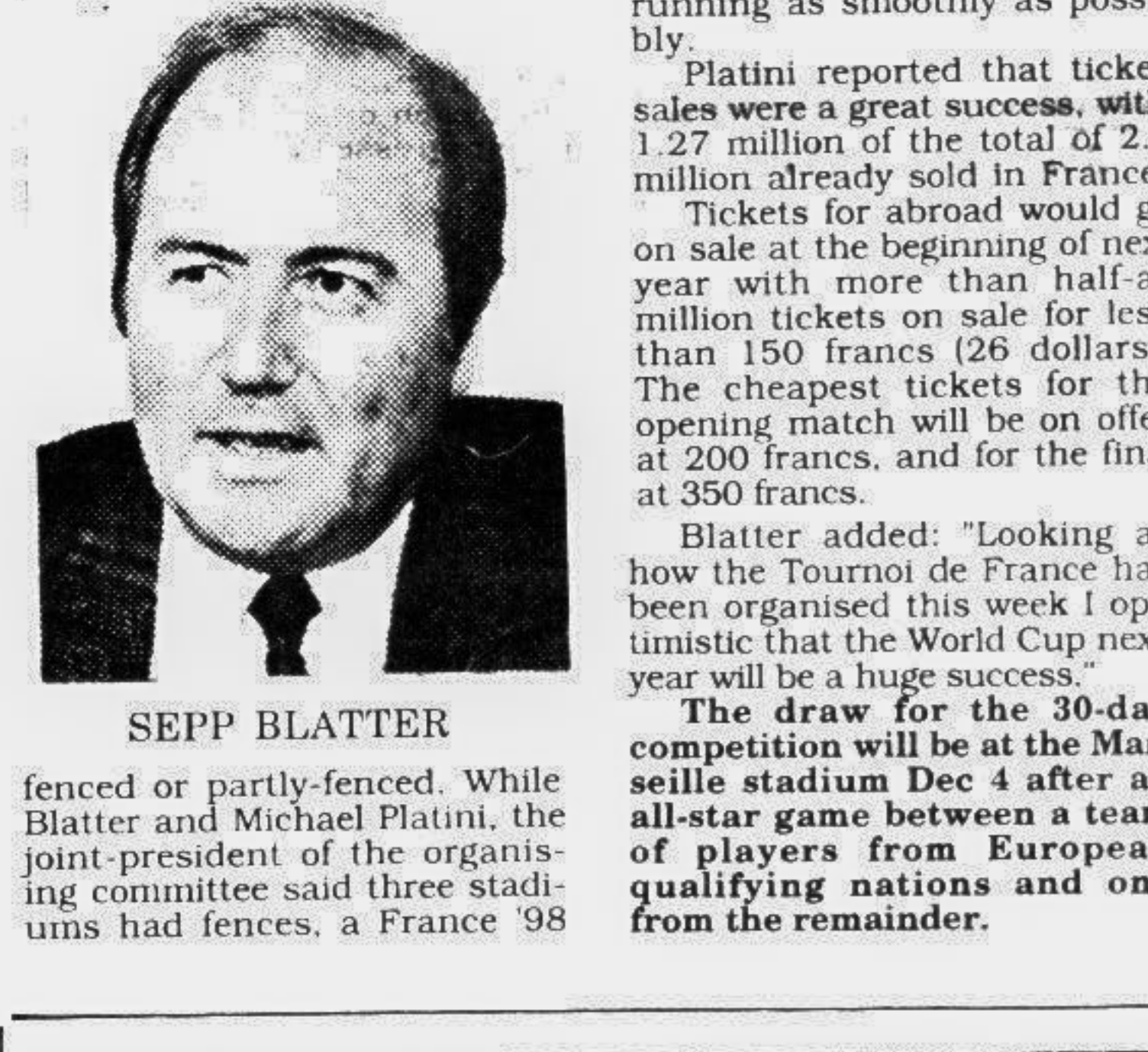
spokesman said he believed they all did. The organising committee headed by Platini and his joint-president Fernand Sastre, reported that everything else was running as smoothly as possible.

Platini reported that ticket sales were a great success, with 1.27 million of the total of 2.5 million already sold in France.

Tickets for abroad would go on sale at the beginning of next year with more than half-a-million tickets on sale for less than 150 francs (26 dollars). The cheapest match tickets for the opening match will be on offer at 200 francs, and for the final at 350 francs.

Blatter added: "Looking at how the Tournoi de France has been organised this week I am optimistic that the World Cup next year will be a huge success."

The draw for the 30-day competition will be at the Marseille stadium Dec 4 after an all-star game between a team of players from European qualifying nations and one from the remainder.



SEPP BLATTER fenced or partly-fenced. While Blatter and Michael Platini, the joint-president of the organising committee said three stadiums had fences, a France '98

The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

Thursday 12th June. (All programmes are in local time. There may be changes in the programmes). BBC: 6:00am BBC World News. 6:30 Time Out: Holiday 7:00 BBC World News. 7:30 BBC World News. 8:00am BBC World News. 8:30am BBC World News. 9:00am BBC World News. 9:30am BBC World News. 10:00am BBC World News. 10:30am BBC World News. 11:00am BBC World News. 11:30am BBC World News. 12:00pm BBC World News. 12:30pm BBC World News. 1:00pm BBC World News. 1:30pm BBC World News. 2:00pm BBC World News. 2:30pm BBC World News. 3:00pm BBC World News. 3:30pm BBC World News. 4:00pm BBC World News. 4:30pm BBC World News. 5:00pm BBC World News. 5:30pm BBC World News. 6:00pm BBC World News. 6:30pm BBC World News. 7:00pm BBC World News. 7:30pm BBC World News. 8:00pm BBC World News. 8:30pm BBC World News. 9:00pm BBC World News. 9:30pm BBC World News. 10:00pm BBC World News. 10:30pm BBC World News. 11:00pm BBC World News. 11:30pm BBC World News. 12:00am BBC World News.