

Bailey going to Athens

TORONTO, July 22: Donovan Bailey, feeling sluggish and recovering from a hamstring injury, still intends to run the 100 metres next month in the World Championships at Greece, reports AP.

"He's going and of course he's running," his agent, Ray Flynn, said from Knoxville, Tennessee. A story in the French sports daily L'Equipe on Tuesday quoted Bailey as saying that if he's not feeling right when he gets to Athens he'll skip the 100 and give his place to fellow Canadian Glenroy Gilbert.

Flynn said the L'Equipe story was a result of "all the negative press from the Canadian championships in Abbotford, British Columbia." "It's purely speculation," Flynn said. "Of course, it's not true. The (L'Equipe) don't have a source."

Bailey captured the 100 meters at the Canadian championships over the weekend but later complained about his health.

"I shouldn't feel like this two weeks before the worlds," he said. "I just don't feel like me."

Bailey's coach, Dan Pfaff, alluded to a suspected virus that may be weakening the sprinter. Bailey hurt his right hamstring tendon about three weeks ago.

"There are a lot of things that are happening right now which are bothering me," Bailey was quoted in L'Equipe.

Bailey is the defending world and Olympic champion and holds the world record of 9.84 seconds in the 100 meters. At the Canadian meet, he ran 10.03 into the wind.

"That seems pretty good to me," Flynn said.

Perec makes her mind up

PARIS, July 23: Atlanta Olympic double champion Marie-Jose Perec has decided in the last minute to compete at next month's World Athletics Championships in Athens, French Athletics Federation technical director Richard Descoux said on Tuesday, reports Xinhua.

Perec won both 200m and 400m gold medals at Atlanta Olympics after winning the 400m in Barcelona in 1992. The Guadeloupe-born runner, who said three weeks ago that she was not in her peak form to run in Athens, will contest only in the 200m at the championships, Descoux said.

Kasparov-Karpov tie some hope?

MOSCOW, July 23: Unofficial world chess champion Garry Kasparov said Tuesday that his planned match with Anatoly Karpov, the World Chess Federation (FIDE) champion, may never take place because Karpov is playing so badly, reports AP.

"Sponsors refused to finance our match due to Karpov's weak playing," he said in an interview with Sport-Express daily. "People who initially wanted to give money for the match concluded that our duel would have no sports intrigue," Kasparov said.

"They think that the final result is slightly predictable," Kasparov became world champion in 1985 aged just 22, beating his compatriot Karpov who had been the undisputed king of chess for the previous 10 years.

But Karpov regained the title when FIDE sanctioned Kasparov for setting up the break-away Professional Chess Association in 1993.

The Karpov-Kasparov match was designed to end their bitter rivalry on the eve of the newly-designed World Championship, due to start in December with prize money totalling five million dollars.

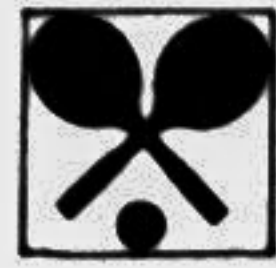
Last year, FIDE president Kirsan Ilyumzhinov said he wanted to organise an annual World Championship lasting no longer than a month and consisting of a knock-out tournament.

Syrtsov lifts world mark

MOSCOW, July 23: Russian Sergei Syrtsov, silver medalist at the Atlanta Olympic Games, Tuesday set a world record of 236.5 kg for the clean-and-jerk in the 108 kg class at a weightlifting tournament at Kemerovo in Siberia, reports Xinhua.

The former record of 236 kg was held by Timor Teimourazov of Ukraine.

Now church tax after Steffi



MANNHEIM, Germany, July 23: Tennis star Steffi Graf, whose father evaded taxes on millions of dollars

of her earnings, has left the Roman Catholic Church to avoid church taxes, a radio report said Tuesday, reports AP.

German residents registered with a recognised church must pay a church tax equal to nine per cent of their income tax.

While Graf should have paid the church 300,000-500,000 marks (167,000-280,000 dollars) annually since 1990, she only paid a third of that, according to the Sueddeutscher Rundfunk report.

After Peter Graf's January conviction of evading 12 million marks (7.3 million dollars) in taxes from 1989-93, it emerged that Steffi Graf owed the church more than 1 million marks (560,000 dollars), the report said.

Graf apparently tried to have her debt reduced under a church clause that allows for personal emergencies or business circumstances. When the church declined, she quit in anger, the report said.

The archdiocese in Freiburg declined to comment, citing privacy laws. Graf's home parish, in Bruhl, answers to Freiburg church authorities.

The report came a day after German President Roman Herzog, who left Tuesday for two-day visit to the United States, announced Graf would be his guest at lunch Thursday with President Bill Clinton.

Graf, who has residences in

New York and Florida, was already in the United States, the president's office confirmed Wednesday.



An AFP file photo shows former World No 1 tennis star Steffi Graf in Paris during this year's French Open.

Pete's former coach in stew

DOWNEY, California, July 23: A doctor and former coach of tennis star Pete Sampras was ordered to stand trial on charges that he molested young male patients, reports AP.

After a preliminary hearing that included testimony from the alleged victims, a Downey Municipal Court judge ruled prosecutors have enough evidence to proceed with the case against Dr Peter Fischer.

Fischer, who is free on \$460,000 bail, was ordered to appear Thursday in Norwalk Superior Court for arraignment.

In a separate case filed in February, Fischer, a pediatric endocrinologist from Rolling Hills, is charged with three counts of committing a lewd act on a child and three counts of penetration by a foreign object.

Fischer, 55, has pleaded innocent to those charges, all filed in connection with one alleged victim, aged 14. The acts allegedly occurred throughout 1996 at the doctor's office in Bellflower.

In the case discussed Tuesday, Fischer is charged with 10 felonies in connection with three other alleged victims between the ages of 13 and 15, according to the prosecutor.

One of the alleged victims testified Tuesday that Fischer molested him from the time he was 12 to 17 years old, every two months when he came in for scheduled treatment.

Fischer has been a physician at Kaiser Permanente in Bellflower for 20 years. He was suspended from medical duties pending the outcome of the cases.

Andre in endless abyss



LOS ANGELES, July 23: Justin Gimelstob became the latest player to oust Andre Agassi in a first-round match this year taking out the seventh seed 7-5, 6-2 in the 303,000 dollars

Infiniti Open, reports AP. Tuesday night's loss by Agassi, ranked 32nd, was his sixth first-round ouster in eight tournaments this year, with just six victories in 14 singles matches.

"I still find I'm getting a lead and not remembering how to win," said Agassi, whose best showing was a semifinal loss at San Jose in February.

"I had the lead a few times, but felt like I rushed it or made some errors when I could have broken him down," he said.

Top-seeded Goran Ivanisevic defeated Neville Godwin of South Africa 7-6 (7-4), 6-3 in a late match. Ivanisevic overcame the intestinal bug that forced him to default in the third set of a doubles match Monday.

Agassi handed Gimelstob the victory by double-faulting on the match's final two points. That gave the 20-year-old his sixth break of Agassi's serve.

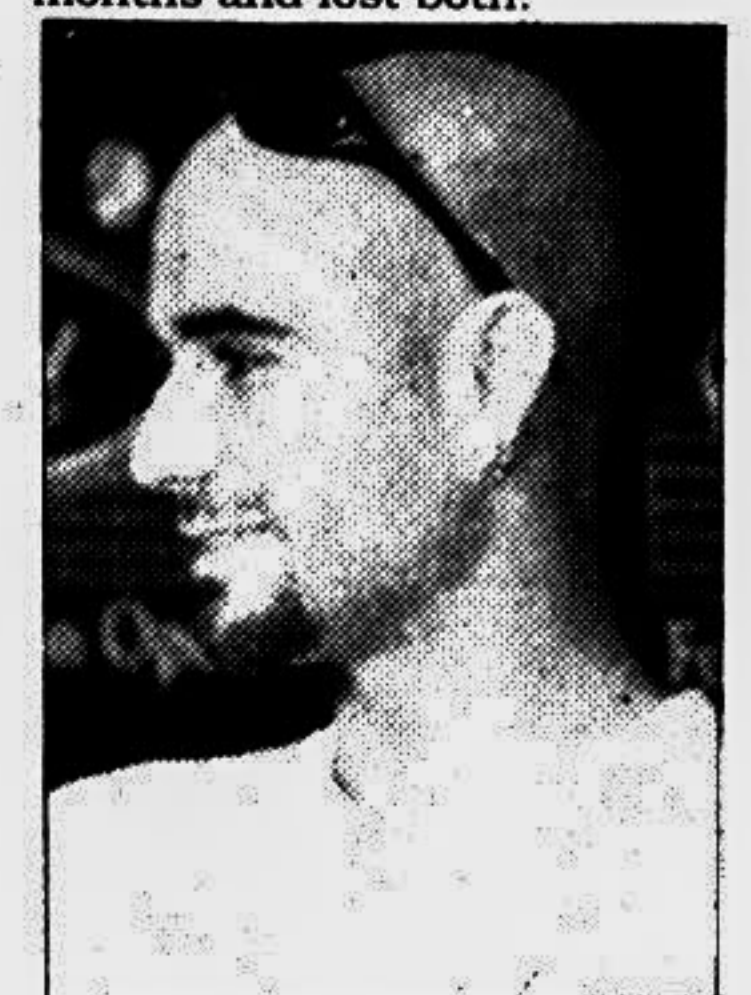
Gimelstob enjoyed his share of fan support on the UCLA campus, where he played two years for the Bruins before turning pro last June. He won the NCAA doubles title last year.

"I could feel toward the end of the match they really didn't want Andre to get out of here, but luckily for me, it didn't work out that way," he said.

Agassi blew a 4-2 lead in the

first set and was warned for an audible obscenity. Clearly frustrated, he ordered the ball kids around when they weren't in a position to his liking.

Agassi has played just two matches in the last three months and lost both.



ANDRE AGASSI

Third-seeded Mark Philippoussis says he usually starts slow and he did exactly that Tuesday in his opening-round victory over unseeded Roberto Jabali of Brazil.

Philippoussis, a 20-year-old Australian who is ranked 13th in the world, had to rally behind his big serve for a 1-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7-0) victory over Jabali, who is ranked No. 271.

"Sometimes I start really slow," Philippoussis said. "I've been off for two weeks since Wimbledon. Roberto played really well for a set and a half. The first match of any tournament is extremely important. It

can be dangerous." Philippoussis, who lost to Greg Rusedski in straight sets in the first round at Wimbledon, won only one game on his serve in the first set. Jabali took the first two games of the second set before the 6-foot-4 Australian started blasting serves, one of which was clocked at 138 mph.

Philippoussis threatened to break Jabali's serve in the next-to-last game of the final set, but Jabali saved three break points to make it 6-5. Philippoussis sent the match to a tiebreaker by holding his serve at love and tie the game score 6-6.

That started a string of 11 consecutive points for Philippoussis as he took the tiebreaker 7-0. He served four straight aces clocked at 127 mph (203 kph), 129 (206), 126 (200) and the final point at 135 mph (218 kph). He finished with 20 aces.

"I was able to play the big points today and got my rhythm going in the second. I was not really concerned," Philippoussis said.

In other first-round matches, two-time champion and No. 4 seed Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands eliminated Marcos Ondruska of South Africa 6-4, 6-4. The big-serving Krajicek, who won here in 1992 and 1993, had 14 aces, one clocked at 138 mph (220 kph); No. 6 Jim Courier over Grant Stafford of South Africa 7-5, 7-5; Sargis Sargsian of Armenia over No. 8 Alex O'Brien 6-4, 6-3; Glenn Weiner over Bob Bryan 6-4, 6-3; Byron Black of Zimbabwe over Doug Flack 6-2, 6-0; and Mahesh Bhupathi of India over Daniel Nestor of Canada 7-6 (7-1), 7-6 (7-5).

Conchita sails into Round 2



STANFORD, California, July 23: Sixth-seeded Conchita Martinez defeated Siobhan Drake Brockman

6-3, 6-2 in the opening round of the Bank of the West Classic, reports AP.

Martinez, the 25-year-old Spaniard who was ranked second in the world in August 1996, ran off 10 straight points in the second set of Tuesday night's match.

The 1994 Wimbledon champion, who has fallen to No. 11 in the world, was playing her first match under new coach Gabriel Urpi, a former Spanish Davis Cup player. The victory improved her record this season to 23-10.

"Sometimes you just get into

the field

WASHINGTON, July 23: Top-ranked Pete Sampras heads the list of men's entries for next month's US Open that includes 97 of the top 100 ranked tennis players, officials said on Tuesday, reports Xinhua.

Sampras, the US Open winner in 1990, 1993, 1995 and 1996, will be seeking his fifth US singles title to match Jimmy Connors' mark for most in the Open era.

Other former US Open champions among the 104 direct entries are 1994 winner Andre Agassi and 1989 champion Boris Becker.

This year's tournament, which will mark the opening of the new USTA National Tennis Centre and Arthur Ashe Stadium, will also feature the US Open debut of French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil.

Those absent from the top 100 are Michael Stich, who said that he was retiring, former champion Stefan Edberg, and number 100 Andrei Chesnokov, who was recuperating from a broken leg.

Lewis-Golota bout Oct 4

TOTOWA, New Jersey, July 23: Lennox Lewis is set to defend the WBC heavyweight championship against Andrew Golota on October 4, reports AP.

"The fighters have verbally agreed to the fight, and we're drawing up the contracts now and working on the site deal," Dino Duva, president of Main Events, said Tuesday. "It looks like Atlantic City."

Duva said the fight would be carried on pay-per-view TVKO, and that the card will include an IBF junior lightweight defence by Arturo Gatti against Gabriel Ruelas.

bad habits," Martinez said. "He already has helped me with my forehand. I was being very defensive with it and hitting it off my back foot."

Brockman, a 19-year-old Australian ranked No. 132 in the world, double faulted four times in the first set and continually hit into the net as Martinez used an array of spin and drop shots to keep her on the baseline.

"She's got a lot of variety in her game," Brockman said. "She's got great hands and a great touch. Usually girls like that are a lot more erratic, but she's very consistent."

Martinez will face Amy Barker in Thursday's second round. Barker beat Naoko Kimjima of Japan 4-6, 6-0, 6-0.

Seventh-seeded Kimberly Po, the only other seeded player in action Tuesday, eliminated Miriam Schnitzer of Germany 6-4, 6-2.

Po, the 15th-ranked player in the world, takes on Japan's Ai Sugiyama Thursday in the second round.

Top-seeded and No. 1-ranked Martina Hingis begins singles play Wednesday against Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria, who won the tournament in 1995.

Maleeva, who has fallen from fourth in the world in January 1996 to 40th entering the tournament, defeated Canada's Jana Nedelji 6-0, 6-3 Tuesday.

Hingis, the 16-year-old who won Wimbledon last month, is 46-1 this season. She beat Monica Seles 6-2, 6-0 in the 1996 Bank of the West final.

Hingis tuned up Tuesday by teaming with Lindsay Davenport to beat Debbie Graham and Rita Grande 6-2, 6-4 in a first-round doubles match. Hingis and Davenport are seeded first in the doubles.

Grande, of Italy, won her first-round singles match 6-4, 7-6 (6-3) over Olga Barabanschikova of Belarus to earn a shot at the second-seeded Seles on Thursday.

In other first-round matches Tuesday, Sandra Cacic beat Ann Grossman 6-2, 6-2 and Meilen Tu ousted Erika deLone 7-6, 5-7, 6-0. Tu takes on third-seeded Amanda Coetzer in the second round Wednesday, while Cacic will play the fourth-seeded Davenport.

The 450,000 dollars tournament, in its 27th year, is at Stanford for the first time after previously being held in San Francisco and Oakland.

Spaniard Conchita Martinez plays forehand against Siobhan Drake Brockman in their first round match of the West Bank Classic tennis tournament in Stanford on July 22. Martinez won 6-3, 6-2.

—AP/UNB photo

AN EVENING IN DARKNESS!!!!

MAN OF THE HOUSE: Happy to be home early—candlelight dinner
UNIVERSITY STUDENT: Pray for the future generation
SHOPKEEPER: No evening sales—DARK and HUMID
NEWLY WEDS: Who bother about power failure

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