

County cricket roundup

LONDON, July 24: Graham Gooch ended as a frustrated spectator on the opening day of his farewell championship match for Essex as a Reuben Spring century eased Worcestershire into a strong position on 228-6 on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

Gooch, celebrating his 44th birthday, led out Essex at Chelmsford but could only watch on as the visitors refused to be overawed by the occasion.

Spring scored one of seven centuries around the county as batsmen got the upperhand everywhere, except at Cheltenham where Durham were rolled over for just 86 by Gloucestershire. And at Lord's, where 19 wickets fell in the match between Middlesex and Kent.

Peter Such picked up three wickets for Essex but Spring scored an unbeaten 119 and with support from Vikram Solanki (60) in a sixth-wicket stand of 151 helped boost the total by the close of play.

Martin McCague claimed six for 49 as Kent hit back in style against Middlesex, who ended the day on 103 for nine, having earlier dismissed the visitors for 208.

Simon Brown claimed four wickets but half-centuries from opener Matt Windous (75), Shaun Young (52) and skipper Mark Alleyne (77 not out) earned Gloucestershire a lead of 167 going into the second day against dismal Durham.

Third-placed Gloucestershire recovered from 28 for three to reach 253 for five after John Morris (32) and Nick Speak (22) had been the only visiting batsmen to reach double figures.

The last eight Durham wickets fell for 25 runs as they collapsed to their lowest first-innings score since they came into the championship. Alleyne claiming five for 14 and Tasmanian all-rounder Young bagging three for nine.

At Southampton, Andrew Flintoff scored a maiden century (117) and Mike Watkinson (102 not out) also reached three figures during a fifth-wicket stand of 214 as Lancashire piled up 423 for five against Hampshire.

Left-hander Matthew Dawson made an unbeaten century for Hampshire as the county's first century since 1954. Dawson's 125 as Nottinghamshire ended the day on 296 for nine against defending champions Leicestershire at Grace Road.

Capello's warning

MILAN, July 24: AC Milan coach Fabio Capello warned the rest of the Serie A today that his former champions are on their way back to the top, reports AFP.

Milan won their fourth league title under Capello in 1996, just before he made a successful move to Real Madrid and his former club suffered a major collapse under Oscar Tabarez and Arrigo Sacchi.

Now rebuilding the squad in their base at Milan, he said: "In the recent training sessions, I've been seeing what I expected to, and that's comforting."

"What stands out is everybody's desire to return to where Milan were before," he said. "The newcomers have settled in and the old guards are also doing their duty. We're really getting back to the true spirit of AC Milan."

"To succeed, you have to be convinced of what you are doing, and that's what's happening in this squad, which has a lot of qualities."

Capello, without several first-team players such as George Weah and newcomer Patrick Kluivert, is planning to experiment in their first friendly today night against Monza.

"We're going to try something new, knowing it will take time for people to get used to it," he said. "The plan is to have three defenders, five midfielders and two forwards."

"However, the 4-4-2 is part of our tactical heritage and we can always revert to that if we run into difficulty."

Capello, known for his authoritative approach, also had a warning for his towering defence, which in Paolo Maldini, Winston Bogarde, Dario Simeone and goalkeeper Massimo Taubi, includes four players around the 1.90m mark.

"If anyone scores against us with a header," he warned, "I'll kill them."

Botham thinks it's okay



LEEDS, England, July 24: Ashes hero Ian Botham waded into the Headingley pitch debate Wednesday to defend England's decision to switch to an alternative wicket for the fourth Ashes Test against Australia, reports AFP.

The former England all-rounder said he cannot understand the fuss surrounding the rejection of the first-choice

Aussies make complaint

LEEDS, England, July 24: Australia lodged a formal complaint to the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) about the decision to switch the pitch for the fourth Test which started at Headingley, reports AFP.

Tour manager Alan Crompton expressed his views to chairman of England selectors David Graveney and indicated he will be writing a letter to Tim Lamb, the chief executive of the ECB.

England claims they decided on the switch — from the strip which was used for the one-day international to one which runs alongside — following an inspection last week from ECB pitches inspector Harry Brind because the alternative was better suited to Test cricket.

Brind informed John Carr, the ECB's operations manager, of his decision and Graveney cut short his holiday from Spain to examine the new surface and enable him to select the right side for the Test.

Crompton has not been satisfied with England's explanation, and believes Graveney had a greater say in the decision.

strip of groundsmen Andy Fogarty.

Australian captain Mark Taylor has already registered his "disappointment" over the issue, prompting England chairman of selectors David Graveney to insist there were no sinister motives behind the move.

But Botham, whose heroics at Headingley turned the 1981



IAN BOTHAM

Ashes series England's way, said: "I've not seen the Headingley pitch yet. But the selectors will do the best for the team and that's how it should be."

"You never played on slow turning wickets when you played in the West Indies in the 1980s, just as you didn't a decade earlier when you faced Dennis Lillee and Jeff Thompson in Australia."

"Everybody remembers England's batsmen ducking and

diving for cover and replacements being flown out to replace players with broken limbs.

"But that's what Test cricket is all about and may be we're only beginning to wake up to that fact in this country. When you're at home you have the advantage — or you should have."

Botham has arrived in Leeds to promote a record by the "Barmy Army" — an assortment of English sports nuts who follow the team at home and abroad.

The song, entitled "We are England", has been written by award-winning composer Richard Harvey following a request by Barmy Army leader Paul Burnham.

And Botham hopes it will have the same effect as "football's coming home" did during the 1995 European Championships.

"All other sports in this country have songs associated with them and I think that this is one of the better ones," said Botham.

"I don't think any of the England players would complain if they heard the song being belted out when they ran up to bowl or walked out to bat. That's the way the game's going and I'm all for it. Let's live it up."

'Astonishing snub'

LONDON, July 24: Australian cricketers were accused in parliament today of "an astonishing snub" after just one player turned up to the House of Commons for the traditional lunch prepared in their honour by Peers and MPs, reports AFP.

Former prime minister John Major was among senior politicians who went to greet the tourists, but found that wicketkeeper Ian Healy, the team scorer and another official were the only Australians to make the effort.

Now the MPs have tabled a Commons motion expressing "regret" that only one player was present at the annual lunch hosted by the Anti-Party Cricket Committee for the visitors.

The motion says: "While wishing the Australian team well, we believe there is no doubt that MPs will now be strengthened in their desire to see England regain the Ashes, and we wish Mike Atherton and his team every success."

Roger Stott, Labour MP for Wigan, a leading member of the committee, who sponsored the motion, said that every year the cricket tourists are invited to a special lunch at the Commons.

"The staff went to a lot of trouble to get in a lot of Australian white wine," he said. "Considering all this, and the trouble that was involved in trying to make this event a success, we felt it was an astonishing snub on the part of the Australians," he said.

Another MP involved, Lindsay Hoyle, Labour MP for Chorley, said it was embarrassing to find only one player present, adding: "It was tragic really."

England 9/0 at lunch

LEEDS, England, July 24: England scored nine without loss in the 25 minutes play possible on the first morning of the fourth Ashes Test at Headingley Thursday, reports AP.

Rain delayed the start of play for 70 minutes before forcing the players off again for an early lunch after Australian skipper Mark Taylor had won the toss and sent the home side in.

On a soft, seaming wicket, England opens Mark Butcher and skipper Michael Atherton did well to negotiate the four overs possible before light rain sent the players scurrying for cover.

Both Glenn McGrath and Paul Reffel got the ball to dart around menacingly with at least a dozen deliveries beating the bat, perilously close to taking an edge.

Left-hander Butcher flicked McGrath's third ball for the first runs of the morning and remained unbeaten on eight at the break.

Atherton who has faced just one ball from Reffel is yet to trouble the scorers.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard Thursday, at lunch on the first day of the fourth cricket Test between Australia and England at Headingley.

ENGLAND: First innings	8	0	0	0
Butcher not out	8	0	0	0
Atherton not out	1	0	0	0
Extra:	1	0	0	0
Total: (for no wicket)	9	0	0	0
To bat: Alec Stewart, Nasser Hussain, Graham Thorpe, John Crawley, Mark Ealham, Robert Croft, Darren Gough, Mike Smith and Dean Headley.				
Bowling:	O	M	R	W
McGrath	2	0	4	0
Reffel	2	0	5	0

Northants run after Warne

NORTHAMPTON, England, July 24: Northamptonshire chief executive Steve Coverdale confirmed Wednesday that he had spoken to Australian spin ace Shane Warne about joining the county, reports AFP.

Warne is one of four overseas players Northants are currently in negotiation with for 1998, although Coverdale believes nothing will happen until the end of the season.

Northants desperately need a spearhead by their bowling attack as this season's import, Pakistani Mohammad Akram, has struggled to fit into his new environment and role.

Indian spinner Anil Kumble enjoyed a successful summer with Northants two years ago and is believed to be on the current short-list.

Coverdale confirmed talks with one of the other three players had reached a more advanced stage and offered just a hint that man might be Kumble.

"We spoke to Shane to ask him about his availability when the Australians were here in May and John Emburey (Northants coach) spoke to him at Lord's last Saturday," said Coverdale.

"But no offer has been made. The only thing I can categorically say is that Shane didn't rule out a move to Northants."

Baggio's tips for Ronaldo

MILAN, July 24: Roberto Baggio has warned Ronaldo that he can expect a tough time when the Brazilian starts his new life in Italy with Inter Milan, reports AFP.

Baggio, who also fired a broadside at critics who claim the former World Cup star is past it, is scheduled to face the 20-year-old Brazil star in a friendly in Bologna on August 5.

The 30-year-old Baggio said: "He is a great player and I don't feel that I should be giving him advice. He has everything it takes to made the breakthrough."

But he added: "Italy is the toughest country to play football in. Life is going to be difficult for him."

As for Baggio's critics, he said: "One day, I hope to clear up a few things with certain people. Saying that I'm on the way out and that my knees are in pieces is sheer spite."

"I know that one day my playing career will come to an end, but I can assure you that time is a long way off," he said. "It's a bit soon to make me out to be a pensioner."

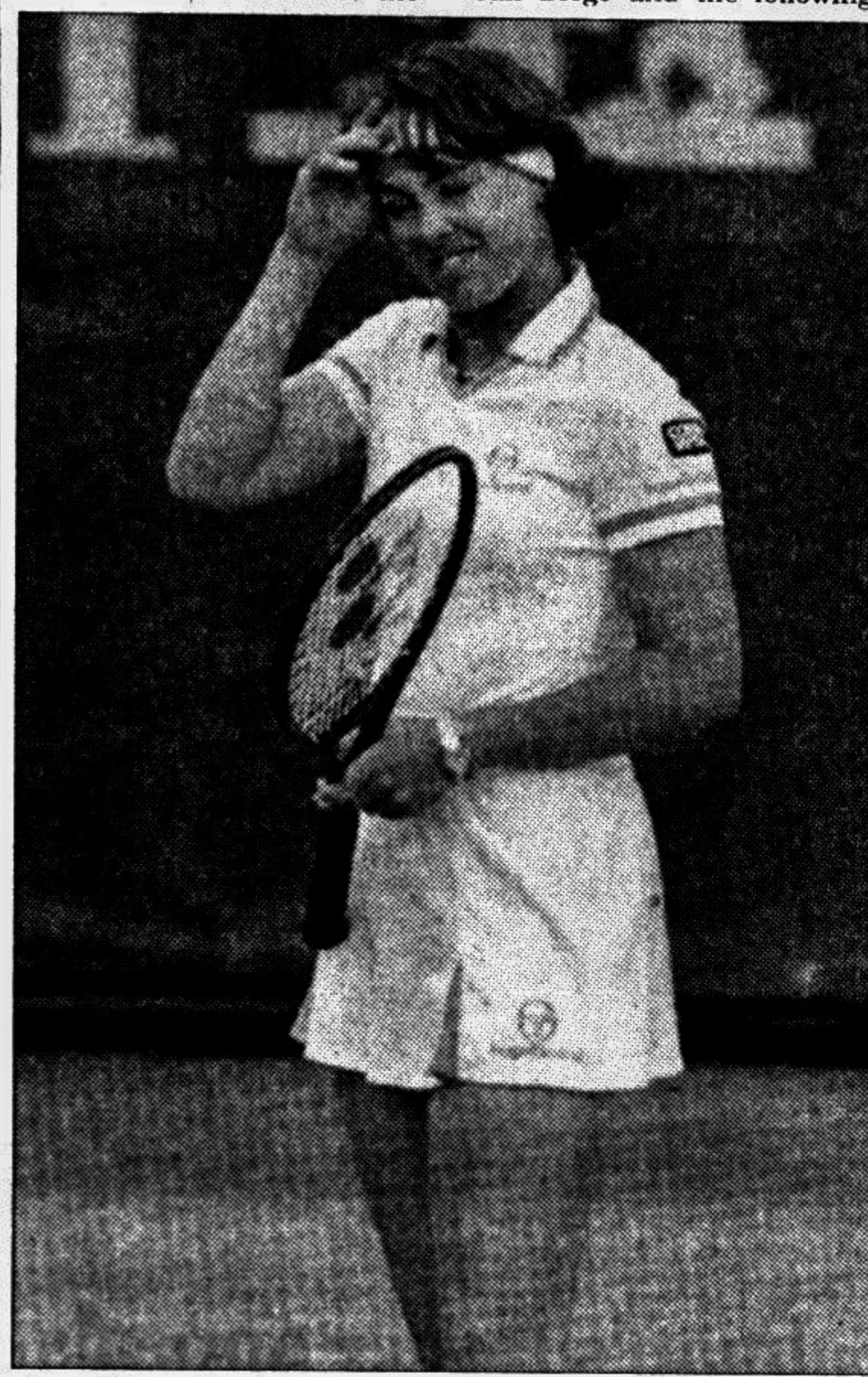
Pierce sent packing



PALO ALTO, California, July 24: Kicking off her three-week blitz of California in typical dominating fashion, Swiss world number one Martina Hingis crushed Bulgarian Magdalena Maleeva 6-1, 6-2 in 50 minutes in the second round of the 450,000 dollars Bank of the

Hingis, who has lost only one match this year when she dropped the French Open final to Iva Majoli, played so fluidly that between points she was able to watch party of Coetzer's 6-2, 6-0 victory over American Meilen Tu on the adjoining court.

"Why not?" asked Hingis, who will also play next week in San Diego and the following



A smiling Martina Hingis of Switzerland adjusts her headband during her match against Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria at the Bank of the West Tennis Classic in California on July 23. Hingis won 6-2, 6-1.

West Classic Wednesday, reports Reuters.

Joining the 1997 Australian Open and Wimbledon champion in the winners circle were third seed Amanda Coetzer of South Africa and fourth-seeded American Lindsay Davenport.

Fifth seed Mary Pierce of France was shocked by wild card entry Anne Kremer of Luxembourg 3-6, 6-1, 6-4.

week in Manhattan Beach. "I was pretty well in control and they were having some good rallies."

The 22-year-old Maleeva was overwhelmed by the 16-year-old Hingis' improved serve and bullet returns of serve.

"Before the match I was looking forward to seeing how good she was and giving her a challenge," Maleeva said, "I

guess I didn't do that, but yeah, she's good."

Maleeva tried to hit Hingis off the court and found herself on the receiving end of a lesson in how to counterpunch.

"You have to be aggressive against her because as soon as you're not, she dictates the points," Maleeva said. "I wish I was aggressive all the time and missed that way, well, I guess I did do that."

Hingis said her nearly error-free display was a direct result of the confidence she gained from winning her first Wimbledon singles title earlier this month, after winning Wimbledon. "I don't have to be afraid of anything," Hingis said.

While Hingis and Coetzer cruised in their second-round matches, Pierce was stunned in the first round by Stanford University sophomore Kremer, playing on her college court.

Nursing a sore shoulder and wrist, the former Australian Open champion said poor movement and lack of practice led to her error-laden performance.

"Everything happens for a reason and I'm trying to figure out what the reason was for why I played that way," Pierce said. "I know I need a few more weeks of practice of the hard courts."

The 21-year-old Kremer, whose career highlight up to this point was helping Stanford to the national collegiate team championships last May, made the most of her wild card by showing off her superior foot speed and patience.

With some of her teammates and coaches cheering her on, Kremer was able to close out her taller and stronger opponent on her home court. "It was really nice," Kremer said. "I was a little surprised. I didn't expect to win."

Pierce said of the crowd: "I probably made everybody's day

Kremer lost only one inter-collegiate match this year and qualified for Wimbledon, seriously testing Hingis in a 6-4, 6-4 first-round loss. "That match gave me a lot of confidence," Kremer said. "Then I knew I could play with the top-10 players, but I still didn't expect to beat Mary."

Deventon had a cakewalk in a 6-2, 6-2 victory over countrywoman Sandra Cacic.

Havelange hails Argentine bid

BUENOS AIRES, July 24: Brazilian Joao Havelange, president of the soccer's world governing body FIFA, hailed Argentina's bid to host the 2004 Olympic Games in public on Wednesday, reports Xinhua.

"...Agencies are like psychological hot houses. You will never be bored."

- David Ogilvy

Kuerten bows out



KITZBUEHEL, Austria, July 24: French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten crashed out of the \$35,000 dollars Generali Open on Wednesday while Thomas Muster and Yevgeny Kafelnikov breezed into the third round, reports Reuters.

Top seed and world number five Muster delighted the home crowd with a 6-3, 6-1 win over Spain's Carlos Costa in a match interrupted once due to rain.

Second-seeded Russian Kafelnikov eliminated Brazil's Fernando Meligeni 6-1, 6-3 but Kuerten bowed out to unfancied Argentine Hernan Gumy, also 6-1, 6-3.

The clay court tournament's third seed, Spaniard Alex Corretja, struggled but got past Argentina's Luca Arnold 6-2, 6-7, 6-4.

Defending champion Alberto Berasategui of Spain, the fifth seed, suffered a surprise upset when he was beaten 6-2, 6-3 by young Austrian Stefan Koubek, ranked 171st in the world.

Muster and Kafelnikov, French Open champions in 1995 and 1996 respectively, were pleased with their perfor-

mances.

"I am happy to have won my first match here in Kitzbuehel," said Muster, who was known as the king of clay court tennis after a series of victories in 1995 but has struggled this year.

Kafelnikov, who was forced to take a four-month break due to a broken finger earlier in the year, said: "I felt good and had a lot of power today, especially at the beginning."

The fourth-seeded Kuerten said his poor showing was not a result of a stomach muscle injury sustained in the third round in Stuttgart last week.

"The injury is not the reason why I lost. I had a chance of reversing things at 3-2 in the second set but just didn't manage it," said the Brazilian who has lost his opening matches at six tournaments this year.

When asked if his surprise French Open title and put too much pressure on him, Kuerten said: "No. Things are still the same, I win some matches and lose others. The only difference now is that more people want to see me play."

"Everyone wants to get into the top 20, the competition is tough. Once you're at the top it's difficult to stay there."



Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov makes a double fisted backhand return against Fernando Meligeni of Brazil during their second round match at an ATP tournament in Kitzbuehl, Austria on July 23. Kafelnikov won 6-1, 6-3.

The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

Friday 25th July

BBC
06:00 BBC World News
06:30 World Living: Building
07:00 BBC World News
08:00 World Business & Asia
09:00 BBC World News
10:00 World Focus: Panorama
11:00 BBC Newsdesk 12:30
Hard Talk 01:00 BBC World
News 01:30 World Focus:
World News 02:00 World
Focus: 25 Years On
02:25 World Focus: 50 Years On
02:50 World Focus: 20 Years On
03:00 World Focus: 20 Years On
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Correspondent- 02:00 BBC
World News 02:25 World Focus:
50 Years of Independence 02:30
World Living: Airport- Heathrow,
UK 03:00 BBC Newsdesk inc.
World Business Report/24 Hours
04:00 BBC Newsdesk inc. World
Business Report/24
Hours/Courtesy:
PTV
06:00 TILAWAT AUR TAR-
JUMA/ HAMD/NAAT 06:20
BOLTAIY HAATH 06:35 Sada-
E-Kashmir 06:45 DASTAR
KHWAAN 06:55 Kar (serial)
11:00 KHABRAIN 11:15 English
Film: 11:45 Sports Prog. 02:02
BISMILLAH 02:15 FEHM-UL-
QURAN 02:45 NATAK RANG
(SINDHI) 04:00 Sehat Aur
Sukoon (Drama) 04:05 Sehat Aur
Sukoon (Drama) 05:25 Biology
for 10th 05:55 Uffaq (Serial)
06:25 AIOU COURSE 07:20 Full
House (Comedy Eng. Film) 07:45
ENGLISH NEWS 08:10 Fun Time
08:15 Paal (Serial) 08:30 Break for
Headlines News 10:00 Khabar-
nama & Commercial News
10:35 Lollywood Top Tan
Count-down Film Music 11:35

Spectrum 12:00 FRIDAY
NIGHT CLASSIC CINEMA &
KHAS KHAB-RAIN
EL TV
07:00 Yeaddon Ki Barat 07:30
Stand By (Trailer Show) 07:40
Gujra Hua Zamana 08:20
Hassean Pal 08:30 Fit Or Fat
09:00 Awaz Naye Andaz Wahi
09:30 News Line (Serial) 10:00
Hindi Feature Film: 01:30 Liberty
Public Demand 02:00 Gujarti
Prog- sapna Na Vavetar 03:00
Aaha 03:30 Mast Mast Show
04:00 Tanav 04:30 HFF: 07:20
Zed 07:50 Huseen Pal (Trailer)
Show) 08:00 Hindi Film: 10:30
Stand By (Trailer Show) 10:45
Hindi Feature Film: 02:00
Satriani 02:30 Chori Chori 03:00
Its My Choices 03:30 Amar Prem
04:00 Hindi Feature Film:

DD 7
10:25 Janmadin (Birthday Greet-
ings) 10:30 Daily Soap: Oga
Priyatama 11:00 Daily Soap:
Rajeshwari: 11:30 Rabinadra
Sangeet 11:45 Light Instrumen-
tal-Folk So-nge 12:00 Play 12:30
Serial: Chuti Chuti 01:30

ATN
07:00 BhaktiSagar 08:30 TBA
09:00 Tere Sur Mere Geet 09:30
Once More-Hindi film Trailer-
show 10:00-Spinding The Wheel
10:30 Gunjan 11:00 I Lu Lu /
Bangladesh Film Songs 11:30
Telebrands / Film Songs 12:00
Stardust Hot 20 Songs 01:00
Sangeet 01:30 Over Drive 01:45
Hindi film Trailer show 02:00
Hindi Feature Film: 05:00 TSN
05:30 Old Hindi Pop - Geet Gata

SONY ET
08:30 Public Kya Bola (Hit
Songs) 09:00 Double O
Slip (Game Show) 09:30 Dennis
The Menace (Hindi Dub Film)
10:00 I Dream Of Jeannie (Lary
Hugman) 10:30 Bewitched 11:00
Taak Jhaak 11:30 Gaane Jaana
Maane
12:00 Faste 12:30 Premier 01:00
Thodra Hai Thodra Jururat
(Serial) 01:30 The Young and
Restless 02:30 Cine Line-
Hindi Feature Film: 05:30 Double
O Slip (Game Show) 06:00
Dennis The Menace (Hindi Dub
English Film) 06:30 Public Kya
Bola 07:00 I Dream Of Jeannie
(Hindi Dub English Film) 07:30
Bewitched 08:00 Surf-Wheel Of
Fortune (Game Show) 08:30
Cine Prime-Hindi Feature Film:
Chupke Chupke (*Amitabh,
Dharmendra, Sharmila, Jaya
Shardul) 11:30 Premier 12:00

ZEE TV
06:00 Jagran 06:30 A to Z of
COMPUTER: The Management
Course (ZEE education) 07:30
Insight 08:00 Zee News & Busi-
ness 08:30 Help Line 09:00 Dis-
ney Hour (Cartoon) 10:00 Gane
Anjaane 10:30 Aap Ki Adalat
(Serial) 11:00 Darar 11:30 Has-
rate (Serial) 12:00 Roshni
(Serial) 12:30 Chut Ki Baza Ke
(Serial) 01:00 Manasi 01:30 Sil-
sila 02:00 Hum Panch (Rpt.)
(Serial) * Amita, Rakhi (Vijan)
02:30 Kumbhethra (Rpt.) (Serial)
*Mind, Ashish Vidhani) 03:00
Dard (Serial)*Nena Gupta) 03:30
Khana Kazana (Cooking prog)
04:00 Ek Aur Mahabharat 04:30
Law Cal Show (Serial) 05:00
Hai Zindagi Bhi Zindagi 05:30 Dhad
Ghar Apna Ghar (Viewers
Forum) 06:00 Bournvita Quiz
Contest 06:30 Gane Anzane &
Ek Nazar (Film Trailer show)
07:30 Disney Hour (Cartoon)
08:00 Playing Guest 08:30 Close

CHANNEL V
06:00 Rewind Vj Sophiya 07:00

STAR PLUS
06:30 Ninaad 07:30 Good Morn-
ing India (News, Business & En-
tertainment) 09:15 Business
Agenda 09:30 Nine To Five 10:00
The Urban Peasant (cooking
Prg.) 10:30 Media TV 11:00 The

Wonder Years (Serial) 11:30
The Oprah