

## Lindsay's timely tonic

STONE MOUNTAIN, Georgia, Aug 24: Lindsay Davenport finished off one of the best weeks of her career Saturday, using only 58 minutes to beat Frenchwoman Sandrine Testud 6-4, 6-1, and win the 450,000 dollars US Women's hardcourt championships, reports AP.

Davenport, who has never gotten past the quarterfinals in a major, heads to New York on perhaps the best roll of her career.

The fourth-seeded American didn't lose a set in four matches during the week-long event at Stone Mountain Park, where she captured a gold medal last summer in the Atlanta Olympics.

"I think this whole hardcourt season I've played extremely well," said Davenport, who left Saturday evening for New York, where she is seeded sixth in the US Open. "Especially this week, I was really focused. ... I was able to play well in every match."

Testud tried to play the same baseline power game as Davenport.

Testud likes Davenport's chances in the Open — if she continues to play like she did in the final tuneup event.

"But this is a very risky game," Testud added.

Davenport has now won 10 straight matches at Stone Mountain, where the Olympic victory still ranks as the highlight of her career. Maybe that will change over the next two weeks in New York.

Davenport received 79,000 dollars for her victory. Testud collected 36,000 dollars as runner-up.

## Aussies want to take Ashes urn home



SYDNEY, Aug 24:

The Australian Cricket Board (ACB) is to ask England to hand over the historic Ashes trophy, Australian media reported today.

The Sun-Herald said an ACB meeting in Melbourne on Friday resolved to write to English officials requesting that the tiny urn be handed over.

Although Australia have held the Ashes for the past eight years, the trophy has always remained in London.

The Sunday Telegraph said ACB chairman Denis Rogers decided to present the issue to his board after wicketkeeper Ian Healy said Australia should be allowed to take the trophy home after winning the Ashes series for a record fifth successive time.

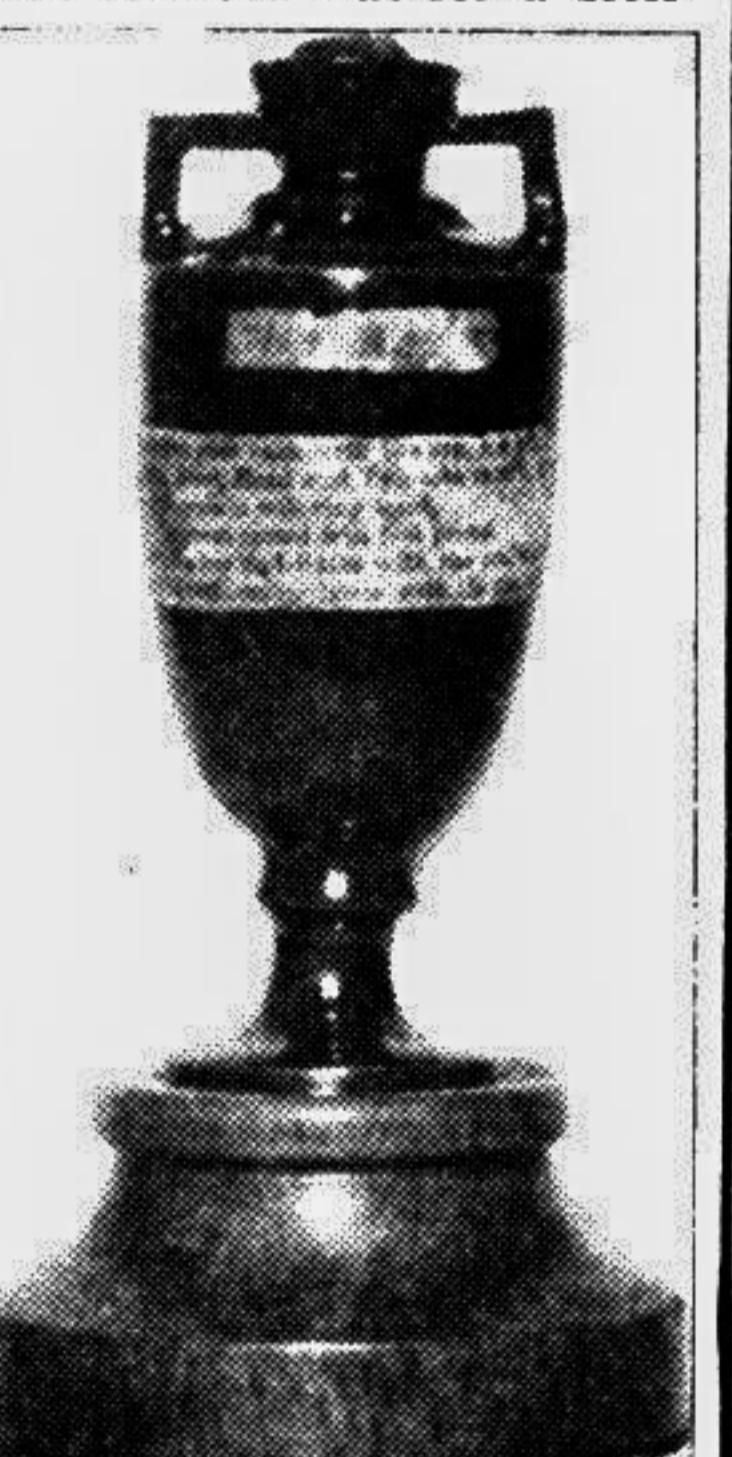
"We respect that ownership is ownership and we would never argue that it belonged to us," Rogers said.

"But it's the 1990s and we're writing to the MCC to ask whether they would consider allowing the Ashes to come to Australia.

"It might add a new dimension to the Ashes series by having the urn move back and forth when it changes hands."

The legend of the Ashes began in 1882 when the sporting times ran a mock obituary to English cricket after the national team had been beaten by a team from Australia.

Later that year Ivo Bligh took a team to Australia, promising to bring back the "Ashes of English cricket."



## Wilson betters own mark

COLOGNE, Germany, Aug 24: Denmark's Wilson Kipketer broke his own 800m world record when he clocked 1min 41.11 secs here today, reports AFP.

The Kenyan born Kipketer set his previous record earlier this month in Zurich when he ran 1:42.24.

## Johnson skips 'festival of sprint'

SICILY, Aug 24: Double Olympic champion Michael Johnson will not run in a "festival of sprint" at the World Student Games because of his continuing injury problems, world athletics chief Primo Nebiolo said on Saturday, reports Reuters.

Johnson had said he was keen to race in the festival, scheduled for the last weekend of the Games on August 30-31, but Nebiolo said the American's lingering thigh injury would prevent him from running.

"It's truly sad but there's no use pressuring that he'll run," said Nebiolo, adding he had nevertheless asked Johnson to come to Sicily as a guest.

"We've asked him to come anyway to show his affection from the Sicilian people. If he did one lap of the track it could have more significance than a race."

Johnson pulled out of Friday's Grand Prix in Brussels and was expected to cut short his season because of disappointing recent form and return to the United States.

Organisers are hoping world class sprinters Frankie Fredericks, Ato Boldon, Bruny Surin, Gail Devers and Merlene Ottey will compete in the festival which will bring the two-week games to a close.

None of the athletes, however, have confirmed participation.

## Malaysian Open TT

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 24: Chinese top seed Kong Linghui easily beat Salve Jean-Michel of Belgium 21-11, 21-15, 21-15 in 28 minutes to win the Malaysian Open table tennis championship today, reports AFP.

Hingis wants nothing more than to win the Open but knows that victory would bring a moment of regret.

"If I would do well here at this tournament, I would be even more angry at myself that I didn't win the French Open," she said, referring to the missing piece to a Grand Slam.

"But, you know, you never know what's going to happen in the future, so I'm just trying to go round by round. We'll see what's going to happen at this tournament later on."

In the men's doubles final, Chinese pair Ma Lin and Yan Sen pushed aside compatriots Kong Ling Hui and Liu Gasu Zheng 21-17, 21-17.

But in the women's doubles final, South Korean pair Park Hae-Jung and Kim Moo-Kyo beat Chinese pair Deng Yaping and Yang Yang 19-21, 21-13, 21-14.



Mary Pierce of France (L) and Anke Huber of Germany smile before their benefit doubles match against Mary Jo Fernandez of America and Mirjana Lucic of Croatia at the Arthur Ashe Stadium in Flushing Meadows, New York.

— AFP/UNB photo

## STAR PLUS

First Day First Show 10:30  
Tune on T [V] 11:00 Over The Edge 11:30 Tune on T [V]  
1:00 Hayash VJ Dania 2:00  
BPL Oye! 3:00 Moji Working 3:30 Mainstage 5:30 V Spot

## STAR MOVIES

7:30 Travel Asia 6:30 Ni- naad 7:30 Good Morning India 9:00 Business Agenda 9:30 Bakeman's Ooh La La 10:30 The Wonder Years 11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 12:00 Video Fashion 12:30 A Taste of Louisiana 1:00 Nine to Five 1:30 Dynasty 2:30 Holiday Special: Hindi Film: Pather Ke Phool 5:30 News Track 6:00 Ashok Masale Meri Pasand 6:30 Priya Tendulkar Show 7:00 The Trial Show 7:30 Star News [Hindi] 8:00 Small Star 9:00 Tu Tu Main 9:00 Imthian 9:30 Star News 10:00 Yes Prime Minister 10:30 Chicago Hope 11:30 The Bold & The Beautiful 12:00 Santa Barbara 1:00 Star News 1:30 The X-Files 2:30 Star Trek 3:30 Vega 4:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show 5:30 21 Jump Street

## STAR SPORTS

6:00 Omega Tour 1997 Asian Invasion Of The British Open 7:00 The World Of Super League 9:00 Formula Nippon

The 28-year-old, clinched fourth European 100 metres backstroke title to the noisy delight of the home fans who chanted his name and sang "viva Espana" to celebrate Spain's first gold medal on the penultimate day of the 12-day championships.

Trailing seventh at the turn, he accelerated on the second length to win in a modest 55.71 from Ethan Urbach, who clinched Israel's first-ever European championship medal with a silver in 55.88, and Russia's 200 backstroke gold medalist Vladimir Selkov (55.97).

"I'm very happy. It's my fourth European (100) title, it's very important to have won across eight years," world champion Lopez Zubero said.

Franck Esposito recaptured the 200 metres butterfly crown he won in 1991, surging through on the last half-length to overtake Ukraine's Denis Silantiev for the gold.

The 26-year-old Frenchman, bronze medalist to Silantiev's silver in Wednesday's 100 butterfly, won by the handsome margin of 1.24 seconds in 1:57.24 to consign the Ukrainian to his second silver.

"I know he (Silantiev) goes out very fast. It appeared to me that I had to stay with him and come back," Esposito, 1992 Olympic bronze medalist, said.

Brilliant sunshine, 30°C Celsius temperatures and a serene Volga River greeted the Formula 1 powerboat circus on Saturday, and the top boats made the most of the ideal conditions.

It was the Gold Leaf 1 Racing team's first pole of the 1997 UIM Formula 1 powerboat season. Better still, teammate Jonathan Jones also made it to Saturday's top-six shootout qualifier and will start fifth, after turning in a best lap of 43.39 seconds.

Pertti Leppala of Finland was third (42.63), 1996 defending champion Guido Cappellini of Italy qualified fourth (42.68) and Germany's Mikael Werner rounded out the super-six with a time of 43.68.

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However, Humaid Bakheit of the United Arab Emirates team barrel-rolled in qualifying, crashing and partially sinking before being rescued by the special Osprey emergency team. Bakheit was taken to local hospital where he was being kept under observation for the night. UIM officials reported that his condition was described as

good" by doctors.

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## EL TV

07:00 Yeadon Ki Barat 07:30 Stand By (Trailer Show) 07:40 Ched Chad 08:20 Hasseen Pal 08:30 Far Or Fit 09:00 Awaz Naye Andaz Wohi 09:30 Pe- nate Club 10:00 Hindi Feature Film 01:00 Hay Ha Ho 01:30 Archis 02:00 Gujrati: Sapna Na Vaerter 03:00 Shairan 03:30 Sitcom: Dilagh 04:00 Yes Hu Na Baat 04:30 HFF 07:30 Se- nate: Campus 07:50 Hussein Pal (Trailer Show) 08:00 Lamsa Tea- Chalo Cinema 08:30 Sorry Meri Lorry 09:00 Tehkiaat 09:30 Parcol-Superhit Hange- maan 10:30 Zee News 10:55 Stand By (Trailer Show) 11:00 Hindi Feature Film 01:30 Namaskar 02:00 Aashan 03:00 Gharghi 04:35 Biology for 10th/Geography/ Chemistry 05:55 INTER COLLEGE QUIZ 06:25 AIOU COURSES 07:00 Taranum (Drama Serial) 07:45 ENGLISH NEWS 08:00 POTLUCK 08:20 All Bai (Drama Serial) 08:45 Serial 09:00 Break for Headlines News 10:00 Khabarama & Commercial News & Pak Business Update 11:15 Classics Drama Serial 01:00 KHJAS 12:20 Special: TBA 01:30 JKHAS 12:20 Special: TBA 02:00 Khabra 02:30 Special: DOWN

## PTV

08:00am TILAWAT AUR TAR- JAHAM/NAAT 08:30 KHAIBRAIN 08:45 Abb Paata Challa 09:05 KHAT FARAISH 09:20 Sargam Sargam 09:45 ILAAJ- BIL-GHIZA PAKISTAN 10:05 Shab Daig 10:35 ENGLISH FILM: Goat Troop 10:55 MILLI NAGMA 11:00 KHAIBRAIN 11:10 The Saint (Eng. Film: Roger Moor) 12:00 Drama Serial 12:35 QURAAN-E-HAKEEM 01:00 BISMILLAH 01:15 Drama Serial 02:00 Drama Serial 02:50 THE FACE OF CULTURAL 03:15 Roushi 03:30 Paimanay 04:00 Gharghi 04:35 Biology for 10th/Geography/ Chemistry 05:55 INTER COLLEGE QUIZ 06:25 AIOU COURSES 07:00 Taranum (Drama Serial) 07:45 ENGLISH NEWS 08:00 POTLUCK 08:20 All Bai (Drama Serial) 08:45 Serial 09:00 Break for Headlines News 10:00 Khabarama & Commercial News & Pak Business Update 11:15 Classics Drama Serial 01:00 KHJAS 12:20 Special: TBA 01:30 JKHAS 12:20 Special: TBA 02:00 Khabra 02:30 Special: DOWN

## SONY ET

08:30 Yaadon Ki Baat 09:00 Daily Sop: Rajeshwari 09:30 News 05:30 Desh Bidesher Khela 06:00 Jamnabumi (Serial) 06:30 Tarunder Janney 06:55 Pali Katha 07:30 Bangla Sambad 07:55 Dinindan 08:00 Serial: 52 Parba 08:30 Feluda- 30 (Thriller Serial) 09:00 Janmabumi (Serial) 09:30 Drama 10:00 Bengali Movie Club Film Show 01:00 Closed

## DD 7

10:30 Game Game / Jamnidan (Birthday Greetings) 10:35 Daily Sop: Oga Priyatama 11:00 Daily Sop: Rajeshwari 11:15 Chuti Chuti 01:30 Simarate (Serial) 02:00 Kusha Zakan 02:30 Feluda-30 (Serial) 03:00 Daily Sop: Oga Priyatama



Frank Esposito (C) may be short in stature. But the Frenchman stood taller than the others at the European Swimming Championships by winning the men's 200m freestyle gold in Seville on Aug 23. A beaming Esposito on the winners' podium along with Denis Silantiev of Ukraine (L) and Stephen Parry of Britain, who clinched the silver and bronze respectively.

— AFP/UNB photo

## Alexander 'the great' Popov

SEVILLE, Spain, Aug 24: Alexander Popov, invincible for the past six years, scooped his third gold medal of the European Swimming Championships with a typically smooth victory in the men's 50 metres freestyle on Saturday, reports Reuters.

"I had to do a hell of a last 50... in the last 15 metres I breathed only once, technically I didn't feel so good but I had a lot of energy."

Olympic and world champion Denis Fankratov, who had won the European crown in 1993 and 1995, failed to make the final, finishing 11th overall in the heats, nearly two seconds behind Popov.

One year on from the night he was stabbed by a watermelon seller on a Moscow street, Popov serenely maintained his record of winning all his major championship freestyle races since his debut in 1991.

The fourth vintage winner was 27-year-old Kerstin Kielgass, who gained compensation for the loss of her 200 freestyle crown to Ireland's Michelle de Bruin by winning the women's 800 freestyle.

Kielgass overtook Dutch pace-setter Carla Geurts in the second half of the race to win in 8:34.41 from Geurts (8:36.14) and fellow former East German Jana Henke (8:39.93).

Oxana Verveka, at 20 the youngest of the day's individual champions, won the women's 200 individual medley in the absence of Olympic champion De Bruin, who decided not to defend her European crown because she was tired out after winning two golds and a silver in three days.

Verveka, born in Ukraine but now competing for Russia, took the lead from Martina Moravcova on the second length — the backstroke leg — and built a big enough lead to resist a storming freestyle finish from the Slovak swimmer, who had to settle for her third silver medal of the champion-

ALEXANDER POPOV

Just 15 and silver medalist behind De Bruin in Tuesday's 400 individual medley, Kochkova finished a mere 0.01 seconds behind Moravcova and added a bronze to her collection.

Vitrichenko, a bronze medalist in the all-around at the Atlanta Olympics, won the rope and ribbon outright, shared the hoop gold with France's Eva Serrano, and took bronze in the clubs.

Unlike the traditional form, artistic gymnastics, where athletes do aerial moves and hand-springs, rhythmic gymnastics is based more on dance. The competitors perform a series of floor exercises with a ribbon, a hoop, a rope, and clubs.

Later Sunday, Olympic rings champion Yuri Chechi was to make what's likely his final appearance in competition. The Italian had to contend with the Chinese who've dominated the men's artistic gymnastics here, taking the team title and sweeping all-around medals.

The women, including 16-time Olympic and world medalist Shannon Miller of the United States, were also in action for the apparatus medals.

## Boldon gets hero's welcome

POR-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad, Aug 24: Two weeks after winning a gold medal at the World Championships, sprinter Ato Boldon returned to a hero's welcome in Trinidad and the promise of financial support in his