

Sport



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6-month bans on 3 French booters

PARIS, Jan 9: Vincent Guerin, Antoine Sibierski and Dominique Arribage were suspended for six months for testing positive for drugs, the French soccer federation announced Thursday, reports AP.

Last fall Guerin of Paris — Saint Germain, Sibierski of Auxerre and Arribage of Toulouse were reported to have tested positive for the banned anabolic steroid nandrolone.

They each had a second test which confirmed the findings of the original sample.

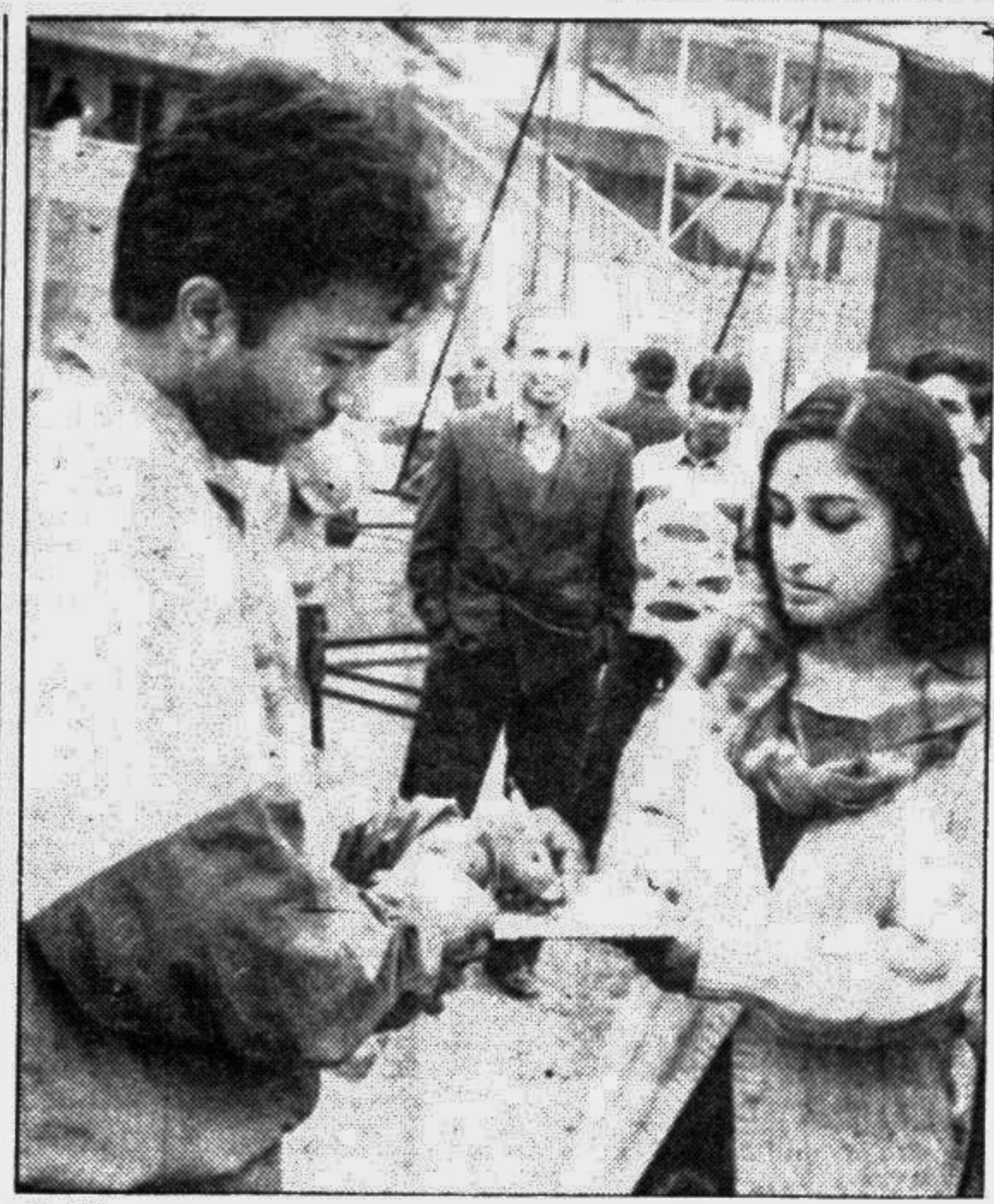
The players and their lawyers were heard by the federation's doping commission.

They now have 10 days to appeal the suspensions, which also included a 12-month suspended sentence.

Another player, Cyril Pouget of Le Havre, had his case put on hold pending further analysis of his urine sample. The player and his lawyer claim there were irregularities in the handling of the urine sample and asked for a further genetic analysis.

David Garcia of Lille tested positive for nandrolone in December 1996 and was suspended for six months.

In 1996 there were 28 French athletes who tested positive for nandrolone.



Pakistan master batsman Saeed Anwar gives his autograph to an admirer at Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

— Star photo

Big Bowl's past five ODIs

Sports Reporter

Match 2: Sri Lanka vs India

October 29, 1988

SRI LANKA: 271 for six in 44 overs (Kuruppu 66, Samarasinha 69; Ranatunga 49; Kapila 2/39)

INDIA: 254 all out in 44 overs (Srikkanth 42, Sidhu 50, Amarnath 31, Vengsarkar 34, Azharuddin 34; Kapila 4/49, Ranatunga 2/27)

Result: Sri Lanka won by 17 runs

M-O-M: Arvinda De Silva

Match 3: India vs Pakistan

October 31, 1988

PAKISTAN: 142 all out in 42.2 overs (Rameez Raja 33, Moiul Atiq 38; Arshad Ayub 5/23, Kapil 2/16, Maninder Singh 2/27)

INDIA: 143 for six in 39.4 overs (Amarnath 74 not out, Srikkanth 23; Qadir 3/27, Akram 2/29)

Result: India won by four wickets

M-O-M: Roshan Mahanama.

Match 1: Sri Lanka vs Pakistan

October 27, 1988

PAKISTAN: 194 for seven in 44 overs (Ijaz 54, Saleem Yousuf 31, Salim Malik 30, Javed Miandad 25; Laboy 3/36, Ratnayake 2/27, Kapila 2/29)

SRI LANKA: 195 for five in 44 overs (Mahanama 55, A De Silva 48, Kuruppu 35; Akram 2/33, Abdul Qadir 1/48)

Result: Sri Lanka won by five wickets

M-O-M: Roshan Mahanama.

Anand forces tie-break

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, Jan 9: Challenger Viswanathan Anand beat defending champion Anatoly Karpov in the thrilling sixth game of the FIDE World Championship on Thursday to force a tiebreaker, reports AP/Reuters.

Trailing 2-1, the 28-year-old Grand Master from India won the four-hour contest after 42 moves.

With speed games to decide the title today, Anand who is a leading exponent of blitz chess, is now the clear favourite to capture the championship from the 46-year-old Russian.

Playing white, he staked his hopes on the Trompovsky attack, an opening popularised by the English players Julian Hodgson and Michael Adams, against which Karpov has a relatively poor record.

Departing from known lines with his seventh move, Anand achieved the desired imbalance when he and Karpov castled on opposite sides.

By move 12, Karpov was half-an-hour behind on the

M-O-M: Arshad Ayub.

Match 4: Bangladesh vs Sri Lanka

November 2, 1988

BANGLADESH: 118 for eight in 45 overs (Athar Ali 30, Aminul 27, Faruque 23, Ratnayake 4/23)

SRI LANKA: 120 for one in 35 overs (Kuruppu 58, Samarasinha 38, Azhar Hossain 1/20)

Result: Sri Lanka won by nine wickets

M-O-M: Ravi Ratnayake.

Match 5: India vs Sri Lanka

November 4, 1988

SRI LANKA: 176 all out in 42.2 overs (Dulip Mendis 36, Samarasinha 26, Mahanama 23; Srikkanth 3/11)

INDIA: 180 for four in 41 overs (Sidhu 76, Vengsarkar 50, Srikkanth 23; Kapila 2/33)

Result: India won by six wickets

M-O-M: Navjot Singh Sidhu.

Chovanec takes Uhrin's places

PRAGUE, Jan 9: Sparta Prague's Jozef Chovanec was named as the Czech Republic's new national team coach on Thursday, reports Reuters.

Chovanec, a stalwart defender for the former Czechoslovakia, is to sign a two-year contract. Football Union chairman Frantisek Chvalovsky told a news conference.

His first match in charge will be against Ireland on March 25 in the eastern city of Olomouc.

Chovanec, 37, took over at Sparta last year and quickly led the team to the championship. This season they hold a 10-point lead at the winter break.

The Slovak-born Chovanec takes over for Dusan Uhrin who announced his decision to stand down after the Czechs finished third in the Confederations Cup in mid-December.

Without stars such as Darren Anderton, Chris Armstrong and probably Lee Ferdinand and David Ginola, Gross knows his team is ill-equipped to face arguably Europe's strongest team, which scored five goals at Chelsea on Sunday to knock Ruud Gullit's team out of the FA Cup.

Berti, who scored 41 goals in 312 games in his 10-year spell with Inter, should settle in as a goalscoring midfielder operating behind Kinsmann.

Now Gross faces up to trying to beat Alex Ferguson's United at their Old Trafford fortress.

United have won nine of their 10 league games at home, tying the other. Yet Gross will have noted that Ferguson's team lost their last league game 3-2 at Coventry after leading 2-1 with four minutes to go.

Lying next to last with 20 points from 21 games, Spurs could wind up last if Barnesley win at erratic eighth-place West Ham, who have won 10 and lost 10 of their 21 league games this

season.

With second place Blackburn not in action until Sunday, when Roy Hodgson's team visits seventh-place Derby, Ferguson's team, which is aiming for its fifth Premier League title in six seasons, can increase its lead to eight points by Saturday night.

Chelsea, lying third and seven points behind, host a Coventry team which is in spectacular form, beating United in the league and then knocking Liverpool out of the FA Cup on a 3-1 win at Anfield.

The 30-year-old Italian midfielder, who spent most of this season on the Inter bench with the team atop the Serie A standings, is guaranteed to see action with injury-hit Spurs.

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