

Column One

SPORTS TALK



David Shepherd

(Cricket umpire)
"Some say television replays put more pressure on umpires. But nine times out of ten the cameras prove us right."

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-86

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes at 8 pm on Jan 9, 1998

1 Who is the Australia cricket coach?	Willie	Marsh	Simpson
2 Who is the Argentina soccer coach?	Passarella	Venables	Cruvill
3 Which county will Lara lead next year?	Essex	Durham	Warwickshire
4 Who hit the first century in this year's Premier Division cricket league?	Nadim	Saeed	Kazmi
5 Who lifted the women's singles title of the national TT championships?	Linnu	Tumpa	Zulekha

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

Washington back on song

AUCKLAND, Jan 12: American Malivi Washington rekindled his love affair with Auckland when he knocked out fourth seed Marcelo Filippini of Uruguay 6-7 (1-7), 6-3, 6-2 in his comeback tour match Monday, reports AP.

A two-time finalist previously at the BellSouth Open, Washington played his first match after an eight-month injury layoff.

Washington underwent knee surgery shortly after his best result when he made the quarterfinals at Chennai, South India last April.

He made a slow start in his match against Filippini and after leading 3-1 at one stage was taken to the break when the Uruguayan breezed through to close out the set at 7-1.

Last year's finalist Kenneth Carlsen of Denmark, who was beaten by Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden in 1997, also made a good start to his year by beating Spaniard Juan-Albert Viloca 6-2, 6-3.

Tournament eighth seed Javier Sanchez of Spain also won in straight sets but was pushed hard by South Africa's Grant Stafford.

Sanchez won 6-4, 7-5 to move into the second round while other first-round winners were Czech Martin Damm and qualifier Michael Sell of the United States.

Sugar Ray won't fight anymore?

SYDNEY, Jan 12: Boxing legend Sugar Ray Leonard today pulled out of a scheduled bout here, giving no reason and possibly signalling the end of his career, his American promoter Mike Aciri said, reports AFP.

Leonard, 41, the first man to win a world title in five divisions, was to fight fellow American and world number three ranked World Boxing Association junior middleweight contender Tony Menefee on February 15.

"Leonard gave no reason as to why he wouldn't come to Australia," Australian promoter Bill Morley said.

Leonard's long-time trainer Janks Norton stormed out of their Los Angeles hotel on hearing the news, Morley said.

"He was in full training and had agreed terms. All the conditions were fine, the only thing he didn't do was sign a contract."

Morley said Aciri suggested to him his fighter's decision had cast doubt on his comeback and effectively ended his career.

Youth World Cup

S Africa win opener



JOHANNESBURG, Jan 12: Morne van Wyk was the star of the show Sunday as he hit an unbeaten 86 to help South Africa see off India by four wickets in the opening match of the under-19 World Cup tournament here, reports AFP.

Van Wyk's knock powered the home side to 201 for six after they had suffered a wobbly start to be 49 for three in the world youth meet.

The hosts were 58 for four when Grant Elliot joined Van Wyk to carve out a match-winning partnership of 78 off 119 balls. Van Wyk, who doubles as a wicketkeeper, faced 118 balls and slammed eight fours.

South Africa then dismissed the visitors for 197 on a pitch which favoured seam bowling. Victor Mpsitang catching the eye in taking three wickets for 27 in 10 overs.

The tournament continues today with New Zealand facing

England at St Alban's College, Pretoria.

Scotland meanwhile play Kenya. Pakistan have an intriguing tie with Sri Lanka and Australia take on Zimbabwe.

Ireland face Denmark and West Indies are up against Papua New Guinea in the day's other action.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the opening match of the under-19 World Cup cricket between India and South Africa played on Sunday:

INDIA					
Amit Pagnis c Peterson b Creed	0				
R Sodhi c Elliot b Mpsitang	7				
M Kaul c Street b Rudolph	31				
V Saravanan run out (Peterson)	38				
V Saravanan run out (Street/Rudolph)	7				
L Shukla c Lumb b Rudolph	12				
R Shanibal c Street b Kent	43				
S Singh c Creed b Rudolph	21				
A Solanki c Rudolph b Mpsitang	9				
H Bhandri b Mpsitang	3				
H Singh not out	3				
Extras: (lb-7, nb-2, w-14)	23				
Total: (all out)	197				
Fall of wickets: 1-3; 2-8; 3-					

85; 4-99; 5-104; 6-121; 7-155; 8-176; 9-189

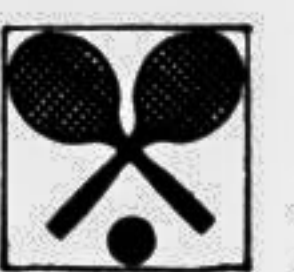
Bowling	O	M	R	W
Mpsitang	10	1	27	3
Creed	6	1	24	1
Kent	7.2	0	40	1
Lumb	6	0	34	0
Peterson	10	1	23	0
Rudolph	10	1	42	0

SOUTH AFRICA

J Myburgh b Shukla	17				
M Gait b Bhandri	13				
J Kent c Saravanan b Bhandri	4				
M Street c S Singh b Solanki	6				
M van Wyk not out	86				
G Elliot run out (Pagnis)	23				
M Lumb lbw b Bhandri	20				
M Creed not out	0				
Extras: (lb-9, nb-3, w-20)	32				
Total: (6 wks in 46.4 overs)	201				
Fall of wickets: 1-35; 2-42; 3-49; 4-58; 5-136					

Result: South Africa won by four wickets.

Venus eyeing Olympics?



SYDNEY, Jan 12 (AP): World-wise, if not world-weary, at 17, Venus Williams assigned several cities to her no-like, no-play list — Atlanta, Philadelphia and Chicago, among them — though she's quite happy so far on her first sojourn to Sydney.

Williams, ranked No. 21 and confidently aiming for No. 1 this year, may not be in Sydney long, though. She plays her second match in the Sydney International against top-ranked Martina Hingis, who dismantled her in straight sets at the US Open last September.

"It doesn't really matter who you play," Williams said, dismissing her concern about playing Hingis so early in this tuneup for the Australian Open next week. "You have to be ready for anyone."

Williams may be ready to play anyone, but not anywhere. She refuses to be "shipped off" wherever the WTA Tour hold an event, and won't play more than three tournaments in a row because, she says, "If I play too much I'd go crazy."

And though she grew up near Los Angeles and played the tour stop there three times, she insists she won't go back. That's not the only place she won't go.

"I don't like the city of Atlanta," said Williams, who now lives in Florida. "I don't like Philadelphia or Chicago. It's not the tournaments, it's the cities. I don't see why I should kill myself in weather I don't feel comfortable in. I like Sydney."

Which may mean that Williams will try for a spot on the US Olympic team at the 2000 Games in Sydney.

For the moment, Williams is intent on reversing her US Open performance against Hingis.

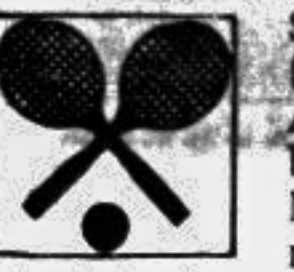
"I did a lot of mistakes, things that weren't called for. Basically (I was) out of control. And she took advantage of it," Williams said of her match against Hingis. "I'm stronger, one of the strongest girls on the tour. I definitely think I can beat her. I just have to be serious."

Williams advanced past Ruxandra Dragomir on when the Romanian defaulted because of a hamstring injury after Williams won the first set 6-4.

Hingis, the defending Sydney champion, had a bye in the first round.

VENUS WILLIAMS

Moya gets off on wrong foot



SYDNEY, Jan 12 (Reuters): AP: World number eight Carlos Moya of Spain made a miserable start to the new tennis season today when he was bounced out of the Sydney International tournament in the first round by unseeded Swede Thomas Enqvist.

Moya, a finalist in last year's Sydney tournament, was beaten 6-7, 6-4, 6-4 by Enqvist in sweltering conditions on Centre Court at White City.

"He's one of the toughest unseeded players I could play in the first round," said Moya. "No 3 seed. 'Sometimes you are lucky, sometimes unlucky.'"

Moya said he's not playing as well or as confidently as a year ago.

"I'm playing close matches, but I'm not winning," he said. "Last year, it was different. I was playing close matches and winning them. I know sooner or later that will have to change. I'm just not concentrating. I'm thinking I've already won the match when I'm one set up and a break. It's happening more often than I would like. The last four matches I've lost, I was up in three of them."

While Moya made an unexpected exit, Russian teen sensation Anna Kournikova had an easy start to her first full year on the professional circuit when her opponent, Indonesia's Yayuk Basuki, withdrew injured from their first round match.

Moya was one of an armada of Spaniards who besieged Australia last January but he was joined as a first round loser to

day by fifth seed Alex Corretja, who was upset by German qualifier Hendrik Dreckmann 6-2, 6-4.

After losing last year's Sydney final to Britain's Tim Henman, Moya then reached the final of the Australia Open in Melbourne before he was re-buffed by world number one Pete Sampras of the United States.

Fellow Spaniard Francisco Clavet achieved a measure of revenge for Moya and Corretja when he defeated Sweden's Thomas Johansson 6-3, 7-5 on an outside court.

Touted as a potential future challenger to world number one and fellow teenager Martina Hingis, Kournikova struggled early in her match against Basuki and fell behind 1-4.

However, the blonde-haired Kournikova rallied to win the next five games straight to take the first set 6-4 and was leading 3-0 in the second when Basuki succumbed to a back strain.

Kournikova, who is astonishingly mature for her 16 years, blamed a shaky start today on a lack of match play over the holidays.

"I was a little bit nervous, it was my first match in two-and-a-half months, so I really was over-ready probably," said the player.

"But I was very happy with the way I continued playing ... and I flowed really well at the beginning of the second set," she said after the encounter.

The Russian said that under the WTA rules which restrict her to 10 tournaments a year, it was hard to stay motivated.

Kournikova will now play

second seed Lindsay Davenport of the United States, who received a bye into the second round.

Top-seeded Hingis faces another teenager, pretender to her crown when she takes on Venus Williams of the United States in a second round match on Tuesday.

Unseeded US player Chanda Rubin caused another upset when she defeated eighth seed Anke Huber of Germany 6-2, 6-3.

A fractured bone in Rubin's right hand two months after the 1997 Australian Open sidelined her until June. Then she could manage only one set before the pain forced her out again. When more rest didn't help, she underwent surgery that September, and took another two months to heal.

Her comeback since then has been spotty: a fourth-round showing last year in the Australian, a second-round exit from the French, and first-round knockouts at Wimbledon and the US Open.

"That's a good win for me to start off the year," Rubin said. "I feel I can compete with anyone, and I definitely think I'm close to being up with the best. But you can be close for a long time. To get to that point, you have to be mentally tough, battle and fight consistently. I need more wins like this one."

Seventh seed Sandrine Testud of France overwhelmed Kerry-Anne Guse of Australia 6-1, 6-2, while former Wimbledon champion and sixth seed Conchita Martinez of Spain beat less experienced compatriot Gala Leon Garcia 6-2, 6-3.



Chanda Rubin of the United States stretches for the ball during her first round encounter against Germany's Anke Huber at the Sydney International on Jan 12. Rubin won 6-2, 6-3.

— AP/UNB photo

Steve looks a bit worse for wear?

SYDNEY, Jan 12: Steve Waugh today added injury to his list of problems since taking over as Australia's limited-overs captain, reports Reuters.

The first two months of Waugh's reign have been marked by a personal batting slump and a dip in form by Australia in the one-day game.

Waugh gave himself only a ten per cent chance of playing in the tri-series match against New Zealand in Sydney on Wednesday after sustaining a hip injury.

He limped off during his side's five-wicket defeat by South Africa in Brisbane on Sunday.

Waugh scored four at the Gabba, taking his tally of runs to 12 in five innings since replacing Mark Taylor as skipper.

"I got a foot stuck in a foot hole bowling and when I turned around I twisted something and felt pain in the hip area," Waugh said.

"I don't think I've much chance of playing on Wednesday. I'm only about five or ten per cent at the moment."

Waugh said he was not unduly concerned by his run of low scores.

"The amount of cricket we play these days I don't think Don Bradman would have been consistent for 24 months in a row. You're bound to have ups and downs," Waugh said.

"If things go against you once or twice then you get a run of low scores. I don't want to get too concerned with it," Waugh said.

Leg-spinner Shane Warne is expected to lead the side against New Zealand if Waugh is ruled out.

South Africa, with 10 points from six games, have qualified for the three-match finals later this month. Australia have four points from five games, two clear of New Zealand.

Qatar Open Korda's

DOHA, Jan 12: Third seed Petr Korda of the Czech Republic won the million-dollar Qatar Open final here on Sunday, comprehensively beating eighth-seeded Frenchman Fabrice Santoro 6-2, 6-3, reports AFP.

Korda tore through the encounter in just 59 minutes to lift the title for the second time, having beaten Morocco's Younes Al-Aynoui in the 1996 final.

He pocketed 137,000 dollars for his latest win.

Santoro was clearly feeling the effect of playing three matches the previous day. He beat top-seeded Briton Greg Rusedski and another big server in Croatian Goran Ivanisevic in the quarters and semis before playing a doubles match on top.

A misplaced line call midway through the opening set was enough to end Santoro's resistance and Korda barely had to break sweat to complete the win.

Early exit for Elena

HOBART, Australia, Jan 12: Chinese qualifier Li Fang beat eighth seed Russian Elena Likhovtseva 6-2, 5-7, 7-5 in the first round of the Tasmanian International women's tennis tournament, reports AP.

Top seed and defending champion Dominique Van Roost shrugged off the fatigue of spending most of Sunday travelling from New Zealand to cruise into the second round.

The Belgian's fierce groundstrokes were too much for Thailand's Tamarine Tanasugarn and she won 6-2, 6-2.

Australia's Annabel Ellwood was up a set and 5-3 in the second set before losing to Patty Schnyder of Switzerland. The 19-year-old lost to the Swiss player 4-6, 7-6, 6-1.

WTA rankings

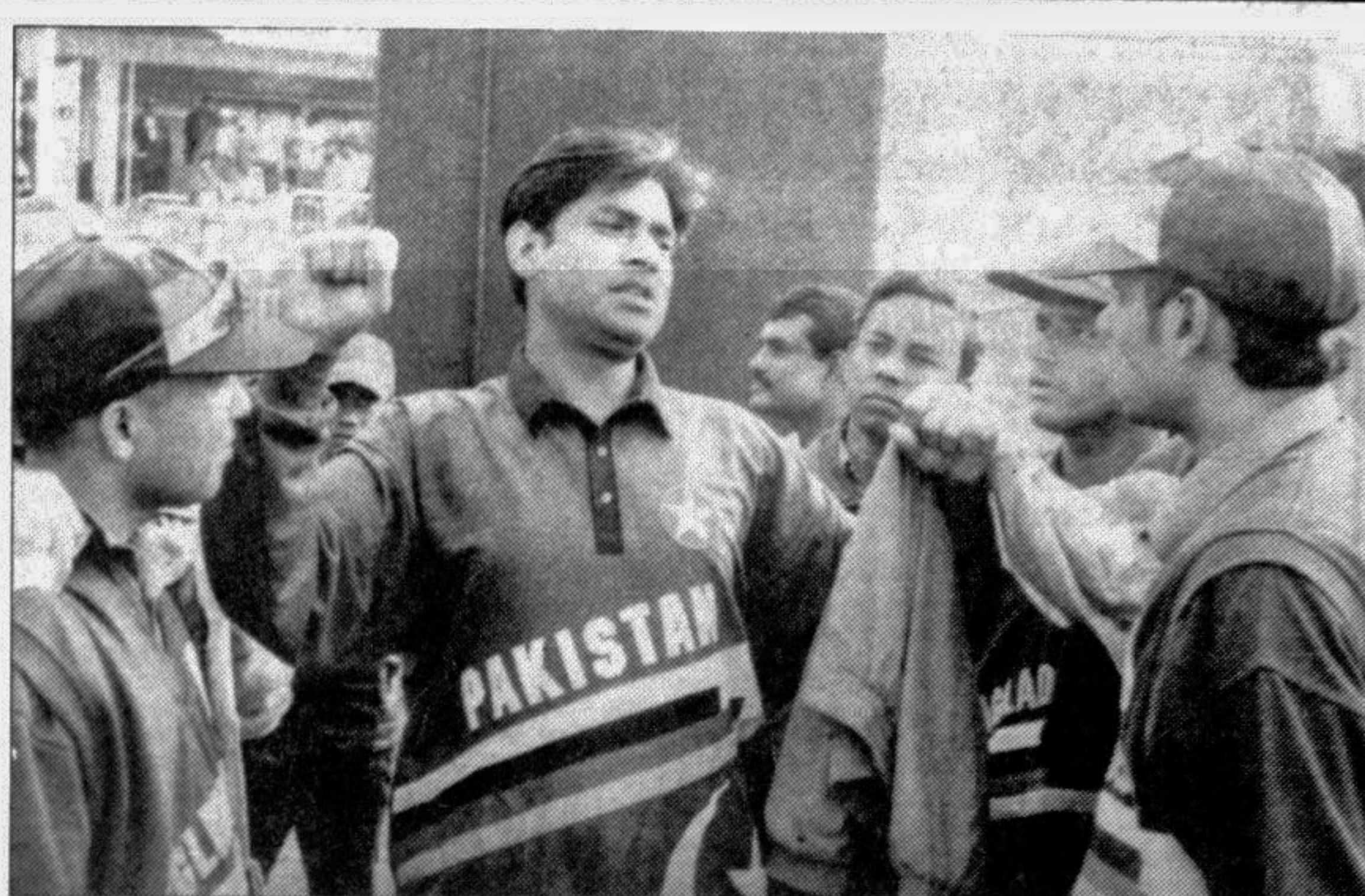
MELBOURNE, Jan 12 (Reuters): Leading tennis rankings issued by the WTA Tour today:

Player	Points
1. Hingis	5,993
2. Navotna	3,711
3. Davenport	3,578
4. Coetzer	3,131
5. Seles	2,988
6. Majoli	2,815
7. Pierce	2,792
8. Spirlea	2,494
9. Sanchez-Vicario	2,317
10. Tauziat	1,998
11. Martinez	1,987
12. Mary Joe	1,923
13. Testud	1,832
14. Huber	1,692
15. Schultz-McCarthy	1,465
16. Appelmans	1,415
17. Raymond	1,414
18. Van Roost	1,390
19. Dragomir	1,366
20. Sugiyama	1,237

ATP top 20

PARIS, Jan 12 (AFP): Leading ATP Tour rankings issued today:

Player	Points
1. Sampras	4,547
2. Rafter	3,210
3. Chang	3,189
4. Bjorkman	2,870
5. Kafelnikov	2,690
6. Rusedski	2,660
7. Korda	2,495
8. Moya	2,374
9. Muster	2,326
10. Rios	2,316
11. Kraljcek	2,299
12. Brugnera	2,280
13. Corretja	2,275
14. Kuerten	2,215
15. Ivanisevic	2,210
16. Mantilla	2,140
17. Philippoussis	1,809
18. Costa	1,714
19. Henman	1,622
20. Pioline	1,534



TIPS FROM AAQIB ... some Bangladesh bowlers getting a few basics on pace bowling from Pakistan's Aaqib Javed after yesterday's Independence Cup match at the Dhaka Stadium.

— Star photo

Easy win for Kiwis



MELBOURNE, Jan 12 (AP/Reuters): New Zealand gained valuable confidence ahead of Wednesday's tri-series game against Australia by easily beating Australia A in a limited-overs cricket match Monday.

New Zealand won by 21 runs after bowling Australia A out for 221 in the final over in reply to their 242, all out.

The highlight of the Kiwis innings was long six from Craig McMillan one of the biggest seen at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

McMillan's shot over mid-on in the 33rd over landed in the first tier of the MCG members' pavilion, clearing one of the longest boundaries in world cricket by more than 20 metres.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the limited-overs match between Australia A and New Zealand at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Monday:

NEW ZEALAND					
Spearman b Kasprovic	13				
Young c Robertson b Moody	33				
Home c Young b Robertson	26				
Fleming c Cook b Martyn	58				

McMillan c Langer by Martyn	37				
Astle run out	11				
Harris c Young b Kasprovic	32				
Parore c Young b Kasprovic	21				
Vettori b Kasprovic	1				
O'Connor run out	1				
Drum not out	0				
Extras: (lb-6, w-3)	9				
Total: (49.4 overs)	242				
Fall of wks: 1-23; 2-66; 3-83; 4-158; 5-181; 6-183; 7-226; 8-240; 9-242.					

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Cook	6	0	48	0
Kasprovic	6.4	1	21	4
Blewett	4	1	14	0
Moody	8	1	28	1
Robertson	9	0	46	1
Young	10	0	46	0
Martyn	6	0	33	2

Martyn	6	0	33	2
AUSTRALIA A				
Slater c Young b O'Connor	4			
Blewett lbw b O'Connor	1			
Divenuto lbw b Drum	8			
Langer b Harris	76			