

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Glenn McGrath

(Australia's No 1 pace bowler)
"I'm at the stage, where I know my body as well as anyone else, and know whether I can get through a Test match."

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-87

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes at 8 pm on Jan 30, 1998

1 Which Kiwi batsman scored the only ODI century against Pakistan?

Cairns Astle Crowe

2 Which is the highest ODI individual score?

194 189 198

3 How many ODI centuries has Azharuddin hit?

3 4 5

4 Who scored the only half-century for Bangladesh in the Independence Cup?

Aminul Akram Mahmud

5 Who is leading Bangladesh in the World Youth Cup cricket in South Africa?

Sabir Al-Shariar Sajal

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

POWERED WITH

EN-VITS

ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

Colonial Classic Philippoussis'

MELBOURNE, Jan 17: Mark Philippoussis received a welcome boost to his confidence on the eve of the Australian Open when he outfought Andre Agassi 6-3 7-6 (7-3) to claim the Colonial Classic title at Kooyong on Saturday, reports AP.

The 21-year-old Australian missed the end of last season with a shoulder injury and earlier in the week claimed he was still reluctant to unleash the full power of his formidable serve.

But his 21 aces marked the difference between the two finalists. Agassi, acknowledged as one of the best returners in the game, rarely made any impression against the awesome firepower of his opponent.

Peter, Luo reach final

TOKYO, Jan 17: Top seed Peter Gade Christensen of Denmark rallied past fifth-seeded Indonesian Heryanto Arbi 4-15, 15-2, 15-6 in the men's singles semifinals Saturday at the 200,000 dollars Yonex Japan Open badminton championships, reports AP.

In Sunday's final match, the world's No 2 shuttler takes on ninth-seed Luo Liyang of China, who beat unseeded Rashid Sidek of Malaysia 15-17, 15-7, 15-4. Luo is ranked third in the world.

In the all-Chinese semifinals on the women's side, top seed Ye Zhaoying ousted fifth-seed Dai Yun 11-1, 11-9.

Ye, ranked second in the world, will play Sunday against second-seeded Gong Zhichao, who advanced by defeating fifth seed Wang Chen 11-3, 11-5. Gong is ranked third in the world.

Schnyder stops Van Roost

HOBART, Jan 17: Switzerland's Patty Schnyder beat top seed and defending champion Dominique Van Roost 6-3, 6-2 to win the Tasmanian International women's tennis tournament Saturday, reports AP.

Schnyder, 19 and the second seed, needed just 58 minutes to complete the victory, which gave the lefthander her first WTA Tour singles title.

She held a 5-0 lead in the first set but squandered two set points in the ninth game before closing it out.

In the second set Van Roost, from Belgium, was unable to cope with Schnyder's top-spin and surrendered her serve three times.

Schnyder said she would go into next week's Australian Open, the year's first Grand Slam tournament, with renewed confidence.

Of men and cricket

Tawfiq Aziz Khan

A pleasing silence enveloped the grounds. The cold January morning provided a near-perfect atmosphere for an absorbing and at the same time interesting battle between bat and ball. The holiday traffic on the nearby Gulistan area and around the stadium was thin and smooth — no congestion, no contamination, no pollution. Motorised vehicles were few and far between. The rickshaw pullers, wrapped in cotton shawls or sleepers in an attempt to keep themselves warm against the biting wind, languishingly pedalled away the three-wheelers. The sun shone, but not in its full glory as a light curtain of morning mist hung over the town. Children, gathered in plenty rolled out mats at nearly club premises, chirped like birds and occasionally cried out 'Howzzat' in pleasing tones. They had their own ways of enjoying holiday and the game of cricket.

All humdrum and activities known as sporting were generated centring the only stadium we had — our 'dearest Dhaka Stadium'. The stands were roofed with coloured Shamina, folding chairs were placed in particular enclosures to make one feel comfortable and important. The press was perched exactly below the present location — the number of publication being very few compared to the present crowd, life at the enclosure during a match was easier if not cozy. The decorators were in great demand during these occasions providing portable chairs and tables and invariably the 'once white' tablecloth covering the uneven surface of a wooden plank known as table top.

Ted Dexter's strong England team was to play Pakistan on a turf wicket at Dhaka Stadium. This was possibly, as far as I can remember, the first such important game to be played on a newly laid turf, the behaviour pattern of which was unpredictable. It was a great sight to watch the Englishmen batted on the ground behind Dexter — all in cream-coloured flannels. Cricketers who were until

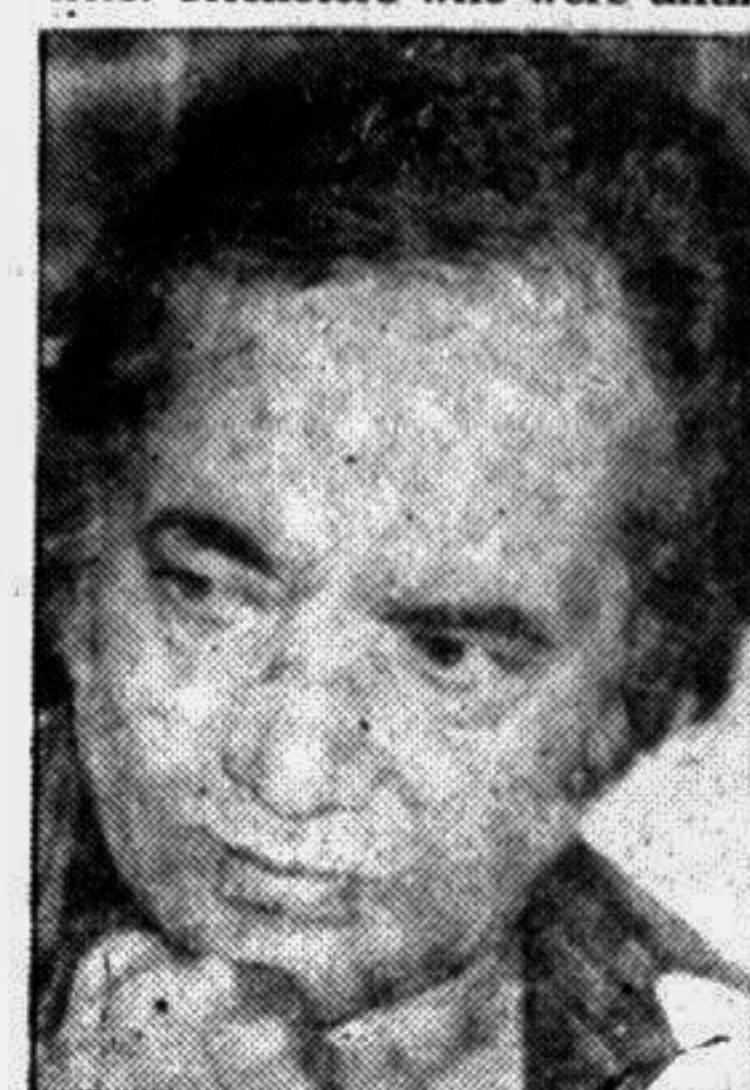
hitting 86 by Barber and a gutsy 84 by Barrington who received a tremendous blow on his chest from Khan Mohammad, the speed merchant of Pakistan. The match petered out in a draw but not before the 'Little Master' had scored a century in the second innings also, a crafty 104 to be the 21st player in cricket history and first Pakistani to have scored a century in each innings of a Test match.

Time has rolled by. I sat comfortably in the same area as a spectator after 35 years last Friday. So many scenes crossed my mind, some stayed too long to be wiped away. I remembered late lamented Ali Ashraf, a senior reporter of the now-defunct Daily Azad. He was a good soul, senior to us, and we used to pull his legs. I met Dexter at Lord's in 1979 during the World Cup final. And, in the mean time, Barrington passed away; Tony Lock, like Harold Larwood retired and settled in Australia where he died. Hanif is still alive and well.

The scenery has changed radically. The stadium has grown in size and stature, the game has gone through radical transformation in duration and playing conditions, the flannel has given way to colourful uniforms with identification of players, may be soon they will sport numbers as in American football, some of the laws have also been amended for this type of game and above all great incentives are up for grabs.

Despite all these teasers the contest was one-sided. It was like a repeat performance of the first final — only this time the Green XI prevailed over the Grey XI.

I did not have to wait for five days for a draw. I returned home in time for the afternoon tea and that too with a result.



HANIF MOHAMMAD

then names and figures to us suddenly took the human form as we looked at them in awe. Dexter apart, the team had a galaxy of brilliant batsmen — Ken Barrington, Geoff Puller, Bob Barber and bowlers like Tony Lock and Allen.

Pakistan put up a very good total. Thanks to Oxford Blue civi servant Javed Burki who scored a scintillating 140 and another patient but delectable innings of 111 by the 'Little Master' Hanif Mohammad.

England's reply was equally brilliant and Puller played a masterly innings of 165, the highest individual score on this ground so far aided by a hard

Arantxa, Karol lift titles

SYDNEY, Jan 17 (AP): Venus Williams ran into the same indefatigable force in the Sydney International final that her sister Serena did in the semifinals, an inspired Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario delivering this message: 'I still here.'

Sanchez-Vicario, a former No 1 who slipped to No 9 after a 20-month drought in 36 tournaments, outscored, outslugged and outran the 17-year-old Venus Williams in a 6-1, 6-3 semifinal victory.

A finalist in the US Open last September, Williams will move from No 21 to No 15 in the next WTA Tour rankings. But because the Australian Open went according to last week's rankings when officials named the seeds Thursday, she will not

come back from two match points down in the second set against Michael Tebbutt to win in three sets.

In crafting a 7-5, 6-4 victory over the 23-year-old Henman of Britain after trailing 0-4, Kucera showed her patience and accuracy from the baseline and just enough power on serve to keep Henman on the defensive.

Kucera, who led Slovakia to a surprise victory at the Hopman Cup in Perth a week earlier, also showed he may be an unseeded threat at the Australian Open, starting Monday, where he'll be playing on the same kind of rubberised hardcourts.

Ranked No 25 coming into Sydney, Kucera has been making strides since he started to work last May with 1988 Olympic champion Milosav Mecir. Kucera was ranked No 63 going into 1997, but he still has never gone past the third round of a Grand Slam tournament.

At the Australian Open, Kucera has a tough draw, starting with a first-round against No 10 Sergi Bruguera. Kucera is also in No 1 Pete Sampras' quarter of the draw.

Henman, ranked No 19 coming into Sydney, looked flat a day after knocking off top-seeded Patrick Rafter, the US Open champion, in straight sets.

They met once before, in Williams' debut tournament in Oakland in 1994. On that occasion, Williams romped through the first set and half of the second, stunning the Spaniard who had just won the US Open a month earlier. But Sanchez-Vicario, at the peak of her game then, hung on to wear down the tiring, skinny youngster.

A year ago, Venus Williams was home in Florida, trying to stay up late enough to catch a few of the matches at the Australian Open.

They met once before, in Williams' debut tournament in Oakland in 1994. On that occasion, Williams romped through the first set and half of the second, stunning the Spaniard who had just won the US Open a month earlier. But Sanchez-Vicario, at the peak of her game then, hung on to wear down the tiring, skinny youngster.

Kucera, a 23-year-old from Slovakia, showed the same resilience in the final of this Australian Open tune up as he did in the semifinals, when he

7-5.

SANCHEZ-VICARIO

be seeded and could meet her No 56-ranked sister in the second round.

Karol Kucera spotted defending champion Tim Henman in the first four games in the men's final Saturday, then whittled away from the baseline to capture his first title in three years and only the third of his career.

Kucera, a 23-year-old from Slovakia, showed the same resilience in the final of this Australian Open tune up as he did in the semifinals, when he

7-5.

They met once before, in Williams' debut tournament in Oakland in 1994. On that occasion, Williams romped through the first set and half of the second, stunning the Spaniard who had just won the US Open a month earlier. But Sanchez-Vicario, at the peak of her game then, hung on to wear down the tiring, skinny youngster.

A year ago, Venus Williams was home in Florida, trying to stay up late enough to catch a few of the matches at the Australian Open.

They met once before, in Williams' debut tournament in Oakland in 1994. On that occasion, Williams romped through the first set and half of the second, stunning the Spaniard who had just won the US Open a month earlier. But Sanchez-Vicario, at the peak of her game then, hung on to wear down the tiring, skinny youngster.

Kucera, a 23-year-old from Slovakia, showed the same resilience in the final of this Australian Open tune up as he did in the semifinals, when he

7-5.

SANCHEZ-VICARIO

be seeded and could meet her No 56-ranked sister in the second round.

Karol Kucera spotted defending champion Tim Henman in the first four games in the men's final Saturday, then whittled away from the baseline to capture his first title in three years and only the third of his career.

Kucera, a 23-year-old from Slovakia, showed the same resilience in the final of this Australian Open tune up as he did in the semifinals, when he

7-5.

SANCHEZ-VICARIO

be seeded and could meet her No 56-ranked sister in the second round.

Karol Kucera spotted defending champion Tim Henman in the first four games in the men's final Saturday, then whittled away from the baseline to capture his first title in three years and only the third of his career.

Kucera, a 23-year-old from Slovakia, showed the same resilience in the final of this Australian Open tune up as he did in the semifinals, when he

7-5.

SANCHEZ-VICARIO

be seeded and could meet her No 56-ranked sister in the second round.

Karol Kucera spotted defending champion Tim Henman in the first four games in the men's final Saturday, then whittled away from the baseline to capture his first title in three years and only the third of his career.

Kucera, a 23-year-old from Slovakia, showed the same resilience in the final of this Australian Open tune up as he did in the semifinals, when he

7-5.

SANCHEZ-VICARIO

be seeded and could meet her No 56-ranked sister in the second round.

Karol Kucera spotted defending champion Tim Henman in the first four games in the men's final Saturday, then whittled away from the baseline to capture his first title in three years and only the third of his career.

Kucera, a 23-year-old from Slovakia, showed the same resilience in the final of this Australian Open tune up as he did in the semifinals, when he

7-5.

SANCHEZ-VICARIO

be seeded and could meet her No 56-ranked sister in the second round.

Karol Kucera spotted defending champion Tim Henman in the first four games in the men's final Saturday, then whittled away from the baseline to capture his first title in three years and only the third of his career.

Kucera, a 23-year-old from Slovakia, showed the same resilience in the final of this Australian Open tune up as he did in the semifinals, when he

7-5.

SANCHEZ-VICARIO

be seeded and could meet her No 56-ranked sister in the second round.

Karol Kucera spotted defending champion Tim Henman in the first four games in the men's final Saturday, then whittled away from the baseline to capture his first title in three years and only the third of his career.

Kucera, a 23-year-old from Slovakia, showed the same resilience in the final of this Australian Open tune up as he did in the semifinals, when he

7-5.

SANCHEZ-VICARIO

be seeded and could meet her No 56-ranked sister in the second round.

Karol Kucera spotted defending champion Tim Henman in the first four games in the men's final Saturday, then whittled away from the baseline to capture his first title in three years and only the third of his career.

Kucera, a 23-year-old from Slovakia, showed the same resilience in the final of this Australian Open tune up as he did in the semifinals, when he

7-5.

SANCHEZ-VICARIO

be seeded and could meet her No 56-ranked sister in the second round.

Karol Kucera spotted defending champion Tim Henman in the first four games in the men's final Saturday, then whittled away from the baseline to capture his first title in three years and only the third of his career.

Kucera, a 23-year-old from Slovakia, showed the same resilience in the final of this Australian Open tune up as he did in the semifinals, when he

7-5.

</div