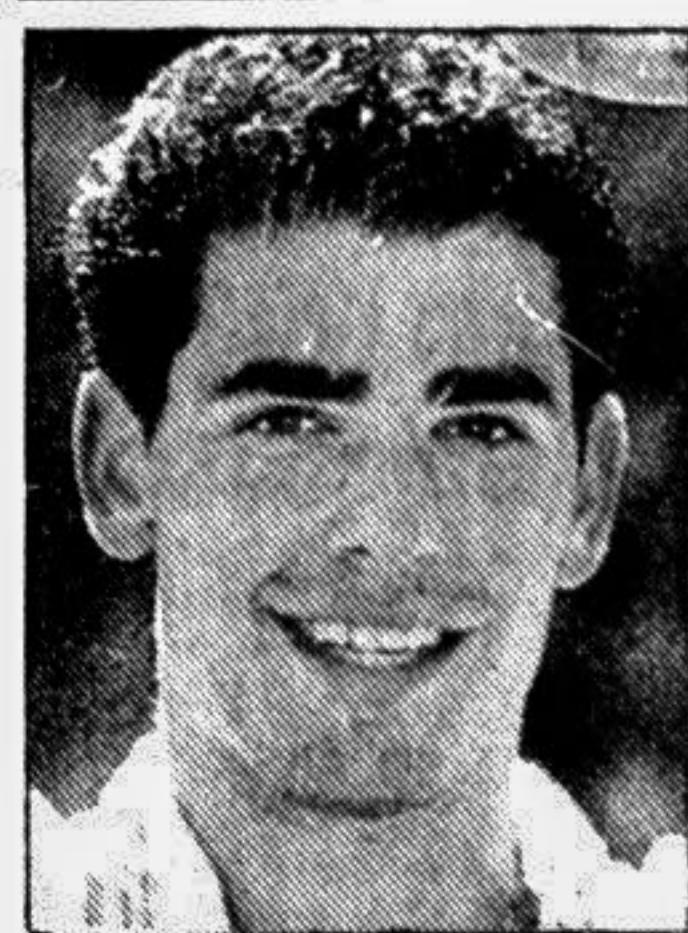


Column One

SPORTS TALK



Pete Sampras
(World No. 1 tennis player)
"I see competition as the guy on the other side of the net trying to take the food off your plate. He's trying to win and make a living. So I kind of like it."

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?	Carns	Asle	Crow
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) _____

EN-VITS
ENERGY-RELEASING VITAMINS

Coach with the magic wand

MELBOURNE, Jan 18 (AFP): If anyone beats Pete Sampras at the Australian Open this week it will be probable that Tony Pickard played a hand in the result.

The 63-year-old English coach put the turbo in Greg Rusedski's charge up the men's rankings to number six, having already rejuvenated Petr Korda, the current world number seven from the Czech Republic.

Rusedski is one of the players Sampras most fears now and Korda beat the world number one at the last US Open and took him to a five-set thriller at Wimbledon.

Pickard was in retirement after finishing with Korda when he got a call from Rusedski just days after he lost the final of the US Open to Australia's Pat Rafter in September.

Rusedski surprised everyone by dumping former coach Brian Teacher and Pickard was also stunned to be approached by the biggest server in the game.

"I was finished. I was done ... it came right out of the blue," said Pickard, a former British Davis Cup player who made his name as the architect of Stefan Edberg's success in the 1980s.

The Canadian-born Rusedski, now Britain's number one player, set the all-time fastest serve of 230.10 kilometres (142.89 miles) per hour in the US Open final. But his back-of-court play was a major weakness.

"His ground strokes have improved tremendously since then. We have done a few things and his game has improved in all directions," said Pickard.

"I've never seen anyone so ambitious as Greg. He's willing to work his head off and is so keen to improve."

The Englishman plans to spend between four and five months with the 24-year-old Rusedski this year "to get him where I think he should be."

And that includes winning one of the big four titles. "Before Christmas in England he virtually got every award which was going, which is great, but I said to him it would be nice to win one (Grand Slam)."

Rusedski says he is anxious to improve and is concentrating on "making my game more aggressive."

And he believes that Sampras can be beaten.

"Pete is one of the greatest players ever, but I think we are catching him up. I'm sure one of us in the pack will catch him one day soon. Hopefully it's me."

Pickard guided Edberg to six Grand Slam triumphs over 11 years.

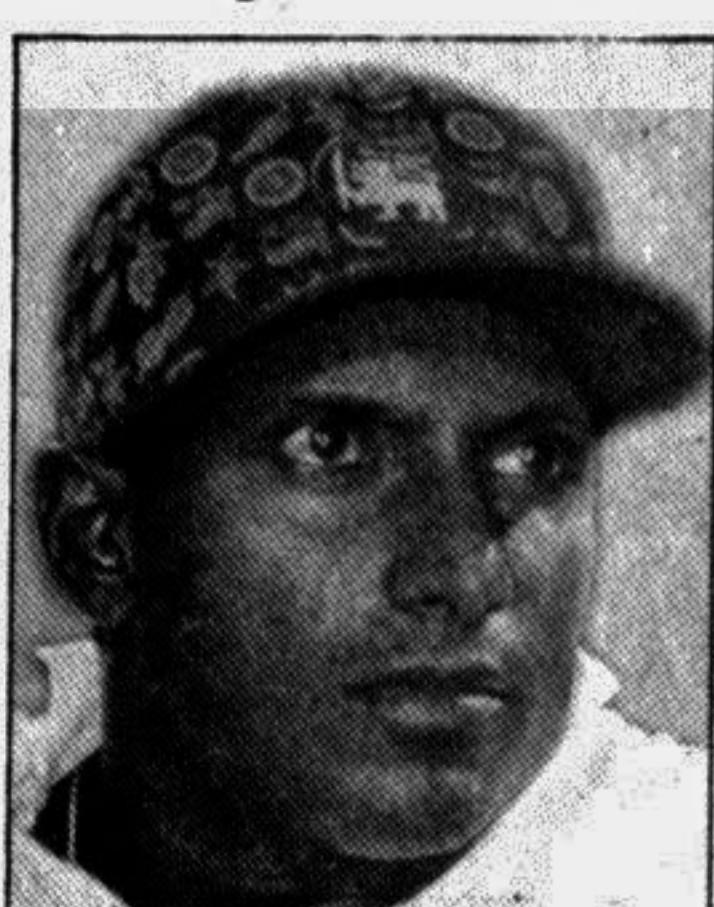
The super-coach said the Swede had lacked self-belief and slipped into bouts of depression when the going was tough.

Sri Lanka sweep the series
Aravinda, Arjuna undefeated

COLOMBO, Jan 18 (AFP, AP): Skipper Arjuna Ranatunga and his deputy Aravinda de Silva laboured here today to push Sri Lanka to a five-wicket win over Zimbabwe and clinch the two-Test series 2-0.

Ranatunga made an unbeaten 87 in more than five hours while De Silva remained not out at 143, his first century against Zimbabwe and 16th in his career.

The home side seemed to be in a precarious position when two wickets fell quickly on Saturday and the overnight score was at 209 for five while chasing a target of 326 to win. They



experience from the two Tests in the one-day series which opens here on Thursday.

Ranatunga said he was encouraged by the stroke play of Aravinda who hit the winning boundary to the mid-wicket fence nearly half an hour before the scheduled tea break.

De Silva was named the player-of-the-match while Sri Lankan spinner Muttiah Muralitharan was chosen player-of-the-series for his haul of 17 wickets.

The latest win was Sri Lanka's 11th Test success in 81 matches and the fourth over Zimbabwe in seven meetings.

Sri Lanka cruised to victory in the 50th over of the day.

Between them Ranatunga and De Silva, they established a new series record for the sixth wicket.

Their stand was worth 189 runs and bettered the previous 143 between Romesh Kaluwitharana and Ranatunga in Colombo in 1995-96.

It was a good game of cricket. I think both sides are pretty well balanced," Campbell said. "I don't think we played all that badly and Sri Lanka did not play all that well."

He said his team will use the

second and final Test between Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe on Sunday.

ZIMBABWE: First innings

251 **SRI LANKA:** First innings

225 **SRI LANKA:** Second innings

(209 for five overnight)

Jayasuriya c Flower b Streak 68

Atapattu c A Flower b Streak 0

Manahana lbw Mbhangwa 0

Aravinda not out 143

Tillekeratne lbw Streak 0

Kaluwitharana c Campbell b

Streak 4

Ranatunga not out 87

Extras: (5-11, 1b-13) 24

Total: (for five wkt) 326

Fall of wkt: 1-1; 2-10; 3-115; 4-115; 5-137.

Bowling: O M R W

Streak 24 5 84 4

A Mbhangwa 14 4 34 1

Whitall 43 10 93 0

P Strong 24 4 75 0

G Whittall 7 1 12 0

Goodwin 0.5 0 4 0

Result: Sri Lanka won by

five wickets and the two-Test

series 2-0.

Player-of-the-match: Aravinda de Silva.

Player-of-the-series: Muttiah Muralitharan.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the last day of

MURALITHARAN ... p-o-m

Streak 24 5 84 4

A Mbhangwa 14 4 34 1

Whitall 43 10 93 0

P Strong 24 4 75 0

G Whittall 7 1 12 0

Goodwin 0.5 0 4 0

Result: Sri Lanka won by

five wickets and the two-Test

series 2-0.

Player-of-the-match: Aravinda de Silva.

Player-of-the-series: Muttiah Muralitharan.

Day belongs to the hosts

Sport

Bordeaux abase Aubervilliers

PARIS, Jan 18: Bosnian defender Muhamet Kojnic saved champions Monaco from an embarrassing first round result against Fourth Division Dijon in the French Cup on Saturday, reports Reuters.

Kojnic scored seven minutes into extra time after Monaco managed only a 1-1 draw after 90 minutes.

The 2-1 win came as relief for Monaco who had lost their last three matches.

Midfielder Sylvain Legwinski opened the scoring in the 16th minute, Franck Remoisson equalised after 78 minutes.

Strasbourg, who boast wins over Glasgow Rangers, Liverpool and Inter Milan in the UEFA Cup this season, did not escape embarrassment, losing 2-1 to Third Division Epinal after having defender Jean-Luc Dogon sent off in the 16th minute.

Strasbourg took the lead on the hour through Garald Batrice.

But their joy was short-lived. Epinal equalised in the 75th minute through Condi and Wisel scored their winner in the last minute.

Auxerre, the 1996 champions, also had a fight when they found themselves 1-0 down to amateur side Segre after 20 minutes.

Segre's lead lasted only two minutes. Thierry Marchand scoring an own goal, and leading First Division marksman Stephane Guivarch netted Auxerre's winner in the 38th minute.

Bordeaux had no such problems with amateur opposition as they crushed Aubervilliers 7-1. Sylvain Wiltord scored four and Jean-Pierre Papin three.

Toulouse, beaten 1-0 by Second Division Caen 1-0 on Friday, and Le Havre, who lost 2-1 at Lens in an all-First Division clash, were the other teams from the top flight to bow in the first round.

Day belongs to the hosts

PERTH, Jan 18: Olympic champion Susie O'Neill of Australia won the women's 200-metre butterfly event at the World Championships Sunday in a meet record time, reports AP.

O'Neill, 24, caught early leader Misty Hyman about 60 metres from the finish and clocked 2 minutes 7.93 seconds. She went under the championships record of 2:08.41 set by American Mary T. Meagher in 1986.

Hyman faded to third in 2:09.98 and was passed in the stretch by Petria Thomas who took the silver in 2:09.08.

Hyman started the race with a 25-metre submarine start, a move which will be outlawed in March.

Grant Hackett continued Australia's great record in the 1500-metre freestyle event by winning the gold medal in the third fastest time ever.

With world record holder and Olympic champion Kieren Perkins failing to make Australia's team, the 17-year-old Hackett stepped up to carry his country's hopes.

He maintained a steady pace to win in 14 minutes, 51.70 and become only the eighth swimmer to break 15 minutes for the event.

The first to achieve the mark, Russia's former Olympic champion Vladimir Salnikov, was in the stands to watch the final.

Only Parks and Germany's Jorg Hoffmann have gone faster.

European champion Emilio Brembilla took over from Australian Daniel Kowalski just before the 800-metre mark and placed second in 15:00.59.

Kowalski, the silver medalist, was in the stands to watch the final in Melbourne on Friday.

Cronje, whose side have beaten Australia four times on the trot in the competition, remained unbeaten at the finish from 39 from just 25 balls alongside Daryl Cullinan on 35 not out.

The South Africans fielded a full-strength side, recalling Donald, wicketkeeper Dave Richardson and all-rounder Brian McMillan after all three were rested for their last game.

Cronje, whose side have beaten Australia four times on the trot in the competition, remained unbeaten at the finish from 39 from just 25 balls alongside Daryl Cullinan on 35 not out.

Australia would have been further embarrassed but for a further run ninth-wicket partnership between all-rounder Ian Harvey and pace bowler Andy Bichel.

In reply, opener Gary Kirsten scored a brisk 44 for the second match in succession to add to a century and half-century in his two previous innings.

FACTFILE

MELBOURNE, Jan 18 (Reuters): Close to 400,000 tennis fans are expected to flock to the 1998 Australian Open from Monday to February 1, the first Grand Slam event of the year.

This is the 86th championship and the 11th year it is being staged at Melbourne Park, near the centre of Australia's second largest city.

The Open has been held in Melbourne since 1972 it was initially played on grass at the small Kooyong Club at a new stadium was built in 1988 after warnings of losing its Grand Slam status.

Played on a rebound ace hardcourt surface, the event this year will use harder tennis balls than last year, when big servers complained the soft balls were causing wrist and elbow injuries.

Other Australian Open features:

* Defending singles champions are Pete Sampras of the United States and Swiss teenager Martina Hingis.

* Defending doubles champions are Mark Woodforde and Tod Woodbridge, Martina Hingis/Natalia Zvereva and Manon Bilek/Rick Leach.

* A 10 million dollars (US 6.4 million dollars) prize money.

* Centre Court Stadium has retractable roof and seating for 15,000.

* Four new courts, with total seating for 13,100.

* 19 outdoor match courts.

* Five indoor practice courts.

* If temperature rises