

Column One

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-87

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes at 8 pm on Feb 6, 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	196
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?	Sabbir	Al-Shariar	Sajal

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)



SPORTS TALK



Geoffrey Boycott
(Former England cricketer)
"She's obviously continuing to tell lies and is a bitter and vindictive woman who is clearly out to destroy me."
Remarking on his ex-girlfriend Margaret Moore's allegations that he had assaulted her.

Fabulous Fiona

MOSCOW, Feb 1: Fiona May of Italy was the world's best long jumper of the season Saturday at a world-class invitational athletics tournament that was otherwise dominated by Russians and Eastern Europeans, reports AP.

May, the 1995 world champion, jumped 6.55 metres (21.49 feet), springing past her nearest competitor, world indoor champion Irina Savchenchova of Ukraine, by 19 centimetres (7.48 inches).

Ludmila Galkina of Russia, the 1997 world champion, disappointed her fans with a jump of only 6.55 metres (21.49 feet).

In another season-best, Russia's Tatiana Chebikina ran the 400 metres in 52:11 seconds, the best this season in Europe.

Russian Denis Kapustin won the men's triple jump at 17.24 metres (56.56 feet).

Geir Moen, the 1995 European champion from Norway, was the favourite in the men's 200-metres run, but finished a disappointing fourth at 21:42, well behind leader Sergei Osovich of Ukraine at 20:89.

The men's 1500 metres was won by Vjacheslav Shabunin of Russia at 3:41.21. The 60 metres went to Russian "Zvezda" Fedorov at 6:70 seconds. He was only 0.3 seconds ahead of Nigerian Seun Ojunkoya, the African champion the last two years.

Elena Flesina of Russia won the women's high jump at 1.91 metre, and Svetlana Abramova of Russia captured the women's pole vault at an even 4 metres.

In the women's 60-metres run, Bulgarian Petia Pendareva defeated Manuela Levorato of Italy with a finish of 7:20 seconds.

Brodie retains titles

LONDON, Feb 1: Michael Brodie successfully defended his British and Commonwealth super-bantamweight titles here Saturday when Scottish challenger Brian Carr was pulled out in the 10th round because of bad cuts over both his eyes, reports AFP.

Brodie had expected a far easier night in his bid to retain the belt outright, but he was seriously hurt in the seventh round.

Carr, unbeaten before the fight, was first cut in the fourth round. But as the rounds wore on Brodie tired and Carr looked as though he might cause an upset when he caught the champion with several excellent combinations in the seventh.

But by the tenth and with Carr's eyebrows pouring blood, referee John Coyle waved the contest off.



WONDER WOMAN: Martina Hingis plants a kiss on the Aussie Open singles trophy after her victory over Conchita Martinez in the final at Melbourne on Jan 31. — AP/UNB photo

One down & three to go

MELBOURNE, Feb 1: Martina Hingis beat Conchita Martinez in straight sets in the Australian

Open women's final today to become the youngest player to successfully defend a Grand Slam title, reports AFP.

The 17-year-old world number one from Switzerland beat the 11th ranked Spaniard 6-3, 6-3 in 86 minutes to capture the fourth major of her short but spectacular career.

Hingis dominated Martinez from the first game, when she broke the 25-year-old Spaniard's service, to the last when Martinez put a backhand shot wide to again lose her serve.

Hingis insisted, though, this was the most difficult and most satisfying of her four majors.

"It was very different. A lot harder than last year because there were so many different expectations of me and pressure, especially from myself because I really wanted to defend the title," she said.

The draw was a lot harder and it was not very easy for me to get through," added the champion, who still only dropped two sets in seven matches.

Hingis picked up the \$85,000 US dollars winner's cheque at the age of 17 years four months and one day, 65 days younger than when American Monica Seles retained her French Open

title in 1991.

She was already the youngest winner of Wimbledon last year and legendary status beckons if she can win all four titles this year.

"I have the first one," Hingis told a press conference. "It would be great if I could do it."

Only Steffi Graf (1988), Margaret Court (1970) and Maureen Connolly (1938) have achieved the four title sweep.

Last year she won the Australian Open, Wimbledon and US Open and was a beaten finalist at the French Open.

Martinez, the 1994 Wimbledon champion who had a bad 1997 without a title for the first time in a decade, broke back straight away and then tried to slow down the pace to counter Hingis's deadly accuracy.

"She would just keep the ball very low from the backhand, just slicing it back all the time, and she just had so much spin on every ball that I had to do all the work myself."

"What I had to do today was be patient, wait for everything," said Hingis.

Martinez risked everything on heavy spin, hoping to tempt Hingis into a mistake that she could punish with a backup blast from the baseline.

But the Spaniard made more errors which were seized upon by Hingis, who broke five Martinez service games while keeping up a brilliant 75 per cent success rate with her own

serve.

Hingis had two set points in the eighth game but Martinez held after four deuces, leaving the Swiss teenager to serve out to go one-up.

Hingis broke the Martinez serve for a third time in the opening game of the second set but again lost her own in the second.

The Spaniard applied her most intense pressure in the fourth game with Hingis serving. The longest rally of the match, when both had to race from one side of the court to the other, ended with Hingis leaning on her racket to rest and Martinez calling for a towel.

Martinez did not recover. She clawed back one match point before going down, again on her own serve.

Martinez is another who believes Hingis is on course to become one of the game's big names.

"I think she is a great player and if she keeps going on winning like this, why not?"

Hingis, who also won the women's doubles title on Friday, will play in the Tokyo tournament next week — when Graf will again be absent. But Hingis said she will take more time off in between tournaments as she attempts to become the youngest Grand Slam winner.

"I definitely played too much last year at the end of the year," she said.

Of an unsinkable Swiss

MELBOURNE, Feb 1 (AFP): Martina Hingis celebrated her Australian Open triumph by watching the movie "Titanic" and it will take a disaster of similar proportions to knock her off course this year.

A special private showing of the blockbuster was organised for Hingis and some friends at a Melbourne Casino on Saturday night after her straight sets victory over Conchita Martinez of Spain.

The 17-year-old had been wanting to watch the three-and-a-half hour movie for the past two weeks but it would have kept her up too late.

She needed the rest, Hingis said getting the Australian Open for a second straight time had been the toughest of her four Grand Slam titles.

There was no doubting who

was the queen of the Melbourne Park, but she must now go on to the Pan Pacific WTA tournament in Tokyo knowing the pressures will only increase.

Former world number ones Steffi Graf and Monica Seles were not in Melbourne, but they loom as icebergs in her path.

Hingis insisted though that the Australian Open was a major breakthrough for the teen players.

On top of the women's singles crown, Hingis won the women's doubles with 15-year-old Croat Mirjana Lucic. Seventeen-year-old Venus Williams got her first Grand Slam title in the mixed doubles with fellow-American Justin Gimelstob.

"At this tournament you could really see what the young players can achieve, how good they are," said Hingis, adding her third round tie against the 16-year-old Russian, Anna Kournikova, had been toughest of the two weeks.

"I was playing Grand Slam doubles with Mirjana for the first time and we won it right away. So it was a big effort. Kournikova gave me a hard time in the singles and everybody knows that the Williams sisters can play."

"I think in the future you are really going to see how tennis has changed," said Hingis.

It has become almost a second nature for the Swiss teenager to win and break records. She was the youngest player to retain a Grand Slam title and is going to make a determined effort to win all four majors this year.

"I'm kind of proud of myself, what I did Saturday and in

these two weeks," she said.

But Hingis is sensitive about the threat from Seles and Graf, sidelined with personal and injury problems.

Hingis said she did not care that Graf would not be in Tokyo this week after pulling out of another planned comeback because of her injured left knee.

"It doesn't really matter to me and it's probably a little disappointing for her, not for me because I know how hard it is to come back."

She has been away out of tennis for a long time so it is more disappointing for her that she cannot play."

Hingis also defended her record against the two tennis legends.

"Against Monica, when she was playing her best tennis, I beat her. I beat her all the time. I never lost to her, so I was able to play better than she did at that time."

"Most of the time I played in the finals, or the semi-final at the French Open, so I don't think that was a bad effort."

"As for Steffi, I just couldn't play her for over a year, so that is probably a bit disappointing. I would love to play her again. But when she comes back it's probably not going to be the same any more as she was on a high. But it's definitely going to be interesting for me to see her on the other side again."

The extent of the challenge posed by fellow teens she can assess from having played them so often. Graf and Seles are unknown quantities now and means that Hingis cannot afford to feel that she is unsinkable.



Australian Open mixed doubles champions Venus Williams (R) and Justin Gimelstob display their prized possession after a 6-2, 6-1 triumph over Slovaks Helena Sukova and Cyril Suk in the final at Melbourne yesterday. — AP/UNB photo

Pak batsmen in fine touch

KIMBERLEY, Feb 1: Pakistan's batsmen issued South Africa an early warning for the upcoming three Test series when they raced to 399 for five in 90 overs on the first day of their four-day match against Griqualand West on Saturday, reports Reuters.

Pakistan's batsmen showed rich form after their captain Rashid Latif won the toss in favourable batting conditions in the opening first-class match of the tour.

Saeed Anwar (117), Latif (86 not out), Azhar Mahmood (59) and Inzamam ul Haq (retired hurt 57) all played well against an attack which held little menace.

Anwar pierced the field at will in a chanceless knock which yielded 11 boundaries. The diminutive opener faced only 139 balls in an innings of remarkable control.

He shared in a sprightly 105-run third wicket stand with Inzamam before the latter retired hurt with a knee injury after hitting eight boundaries and a six in a 54-ball stay.

Anwar fell meekly when he gently lofted an Adri Swanepoel delivery to mid-on before Mahmood, Latif, and Saqlain Mushtaq (34 not out) joined the run feast.

AUSSIE OPEN OTHER RESULTS

WOODIES STOPPED MELBOURNE, Feb 1 (AP/AF): Jonas Bjorkman and Jacco Eltingh stopped Australian world number ones Mark Woodforde and Todd Woodbridge capturing their 10th Grand Slam men's doubles title.

The fifth seed Bjorkman of Sweden and Dutchman Eltingh, who came together for the first time in this tournament, won 6-2, 5-7, 2-6, 6-4, 6-3, in two hours 48 minutes.

Eltingh said he took three painkilling tablets at a changeover after the third set when his knee began to hurt and it helped him through the final sets. He said he may retire at the end of the year.

The Woodies were bidding for their 10th Grand Slam doubles title and third Australia title.

Bjorkman and Eltingh, cheered in by a noisy group of Swedes and Dutchmen, got the winning break in the eighth game of the final set when Woodbridge, down an advantage on his serve, sent a smash long over the baseline for the break.

Bjorkman worked his way to three-match points on his service and wrapped up the final.

The Woodies, brought together on the suggestion of John McEnroe, in 1991, have won more Grand Slam doubles titles than any team in the post-1967 Open era.

Their 47 titles place them third on the Open era list behind McEnroe and his American playing partner Peter Fleming, who won 57 titles.

SOME SOLACE FOR VENUS

Teenager Venus Williams, the US Open women's singles runner-up, won her first Grand Slam tennis titles Sunday, teaming with Justin Gimelstob for a lopsided mixed doubles triumph.

Williams and Gimelstob, who never had played together before this tournament, won the Australian Open title 6-2, 6-1 over Cyril Suk and Helena Sukova, a Czech brother-sister pair who have won three Grand Slam mixed doubles championships.

Williams, 17, served out the match at love, and said later that she and her 16-year-old sister, Serena, almost had decided not to come to the Australian Open.

"We didn't want to get on the plane ride for the long flight to Australia," she said. "And we joked that by the time we got off the ride we would be out of our minds and we wouldn't be able to play anyway."

She hadn't expected her first Slam title would come in mixed doubles, she said, "but I always thought it would be fun to play mixed."

Gimelstob described the partnership as a "democracy."

"She has never played mixed doubles before and I have a pretty good experience at it, so we just discussed and combined our opinions and came up with things we needed to do to win," he said.

JULIEN, JELENA JR CHAMPS

Julien Jeanpierre of France and Croatia's Jelena Kostanic won the junior titles.

Second-seed Jeanpierre, 17, fought back from a set down to beat unseeded Swedish left-hander Andreas Vinciguerra 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 in one hour, 47 minutes.

Kostanic seeded five defeated unseeded Indonesian Wynne Prakusya 6-0, 7-5 in 69 minutes in the girls' final.

Sixteen-year-old Kostanic who practised with Mirjana Lucic as a 10-year-old blasted Prakusya in the first set in just 17 minutes and tallied 2-5 in the second set before winning five games straight to take the title.

Lucic won last year's Australian junior title and on Friday teamed up with singles champion and world number one Martina Hingis to win the Australian Open women's doubles final.

Marathon result

OTTA, Japan, Feb 1: Unheralded Akira Shimizu clocked a personal best of 75:51 to capture his first victory at the Bepu-Ota men's marathon today with a time of two hours nine minutes 11 seconds, reports AFP.

Rios no match for Korda

MELBOURNE, Feb 1 (Reu-ter/AF): Czech veteran Petr Korda won his first Grand Slam tournament when a disappointing Marcelo Rios crumbled in straight sets in the Australian Open men's singles final today.

Sixth seed Korda won 6-2, 6-2, 6-2 over the disgraced Rios in a match lasting just 85 minutes on Melbourne Parks Centre Court. The Czech slumped to the court after hitting a forehand winner on the final point and then threw his racket in the air.

Korda then climbed into the stands to hug his wife, Regina, and their four-year-old daughter, Jessica.

"I've been waiting for this for a long time," Korda said in a courtside television interview.

"I just didn't believe it could happen but my dream has come true," said Korda, who almost retired from tennis in 1995 after struggling with a string of chronic injuries.

Korda, 30, became the oldest Grand Slam champion since Andres Gomez won the French Open in 1990, when three months older than Korda.

The win earned Korda a winners cheque of 615,000 Australian dollars (412,000 US dollars) and will catapult him to number two in the world rankings from his current ranking of seven.

The Czech gained at least two service breaks in each of the three sets, losing his own serve just once in the first set as the

two left-handers got off to a nervous start. Ninth seed Rios was tense and never recovered from his poor start as his forehand, usually one of his main attacking weapons, deserted him.

"I felt a little bit tired," Rios told reporters. "I missed too many balls. I lost my coordination, maybe because I wasn't moving that good."

The players traded service court at will, playing confidently as a sluggish Rios committed error after error.

Rios committed 31 unforced errors to Korda's 26. Unlike Korda, the Chilean failed to take advantage of the six break points offered to him.

Korda last reached the final of a Grand Slam tournament at the French Open in 1992, when he was beaten by Jim Courier in straight sets.

Korda may still retire at the end of the year despite his triumph.

"I will sit down with my family and with my coach and we will see what happens."

"I am very happy but I don't want to rush any decision."

Korda said at the start of the tournament that after 14 years on the Tour — many of them dogged by injury — he wanted to give it one more season and then decide whether to carry on.

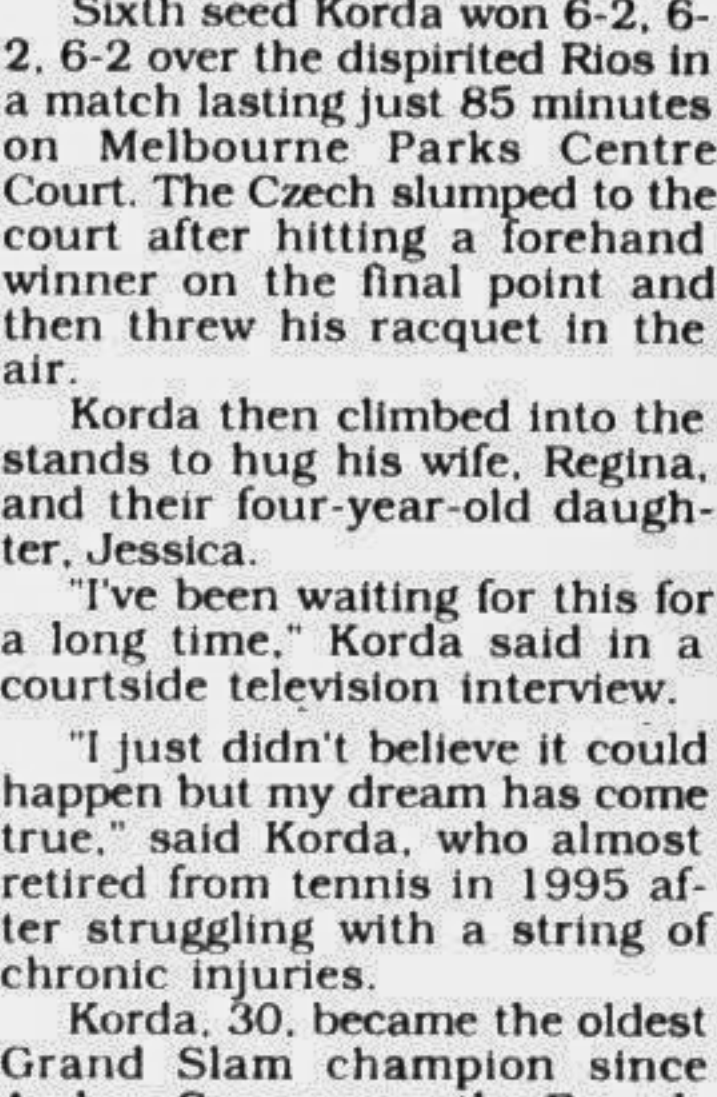
Rios had never progressed past the quarterfinals of a Grand Slam before but won the US Open junior title in 1993, the same year he was ranked the number one junior in the world.

The Chilean beat Korda in straight sets in the first round of the Australian last year.

Rios earned Australian dollars 307,500 (205,000 US dollars) for being runner-up and will move up from his current ranking of eight to number five in the world when new ATP Tour rankings are released tomorrow.

The last time two left-handers played in an Open final was when Roscoe Tanner beat Guillermo Vilas in 1977.

Korda pushed the 22-year-old from Santiago around the



PETR KORDA

breaks in the fourth and fifth games of the opening set, Korda gaining the upperhand with two more breaks of serve in the sixth and eighth games.

The second and third sets followed a similar pattern, with Korda breaking the pony-tailed Rios' serve twice, including in the last game of the last two sets.

Korda pushed the 22-year-old from Santiago around the

colours of Chile, a band of chanting followers of Rios chanted "Marcelo, Marcelo, Marcelo" as Korda's supporters stood nearby doing versions of Czech left-hander Korda's trademark scissor-kicks.

The most vocal supporters during the year's first Grand Slam championship have, as usual, been the Swedes.

Jonas Bjorkman, who won the men's doubles title with Jacco Eltingh on Saturday, praised their support after their win.

"It feels like we are home," Bjorkman said. "We've been given all we can to give them tickets. It's been probably between 15 and 40 every day. All the players go together and we try everything we can do."

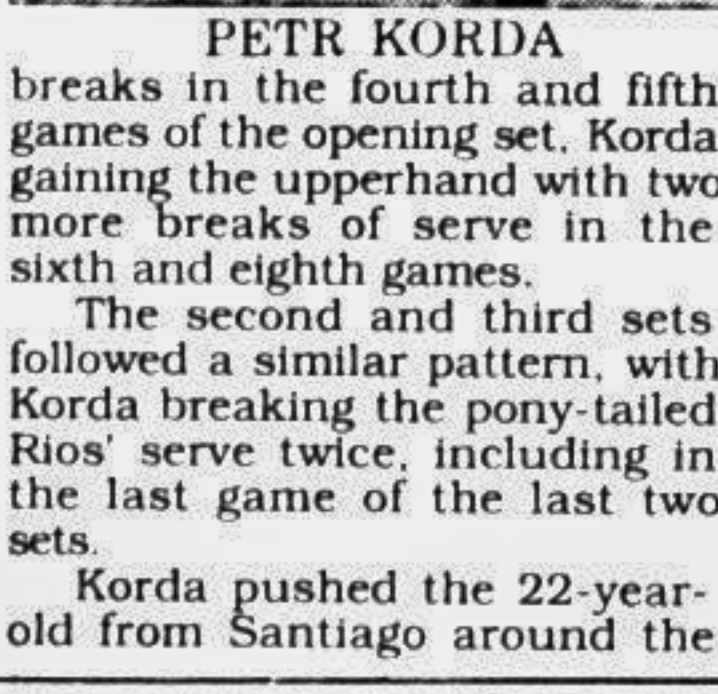
"So I probably have a few beers with them tonight and have a nice celebration."

"But I wanted always to be myself. When I retire I might be a legend, I don't know, but I've always brought something different on the court."

FAN FEVER: Never mind the Centre Court battle between Korda and Rios in the final, the one taking place off-court beforehand also had the fans enthralled.

Followers of both players hammed it up in front of television cameras out the front of Melbourne's National Tennis Centre on Sunday.

Decked out in the national



(L-R) Natasha Zvereva, Lindsay Davenport, Martina Hingis and Mirjana Lucic show off their trophies at the end of the women's doubles final of the Australian Open at Melbourne on Jan 30. The pair of Hingis and Lucic lifted the title by serving off the challenge of Davenport and Zvereva 6-4, 2-6, 6-3.

AGE BARRIER: Martina Hingis is becoming used to win-

ning Grand Slam titles, and she's also used to setting age records as she cuts a swathe through women's tennis.

Hingis won her second straight Australian Open on Saturday — the youngest player, male or female to defend a Grand Slam title this century.

But the tally of "youngest ever" records is not something she gets too excited about these days.

"I have learned to just always have that, and I have been the youngest ever in whatever I did," Hingis, 17, said after her 6-3, 6-3 win over Conchita Martinez.

"It was just normal for me to go out there and if I'm winning I would be the youngest. It's great if you win it anyway. It doesn't matter how old you are."

AUSSIE OPEN NOTEBOOK

PHOTO OP: Australian Open photographers gave their own tribute to Petr Korda after his first Grand Slam victory.

After a photo op had been lined up with the new champion, the snappers put down their cameras and encircled the Czech player.

In unison 15 photographers did their own scissor-kicks while Korda stood in the middle with a camera in his hands and a bemused look on his face.

So Australian Open officials arranged a screening in a private room at Melbourne's Crown Casino.

MOVIE TIME: Martina Hingis had no sooner whipped Conchita Martinez in the Australian Open women's final, than she was off to celebrate — by watching the blockbuster movie Titanic in a private screening.

Hingis revealed during the week that she had been trying to go and see the 3-1/2-hour long movie since arriving in Melbourne. But its length and her duties on the tennis court left her little time to catch a scheduled screening.

AGE BARRIER: Martina Hingis is becoming used to win-

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	36 is able	55 Tallow fat	16 Iron or Bronze
1 Band in Boston	37 Made like the fishes	56 Dual tool	20 Boston airport
5 Reaction to York	38 Singer	1 "— Fiction"	23 Fairy-tale word
9 Experienced	40 All-purpose doc	2 Exam format	34 Lumber-yard item
12 Eurasian range	41 Actress Loy	3 Summon on the PA	25 Kyoto sash
13 So bad it's good	43 Vast range of sand	4 Cozy stuff	26 Vegas airport
14 "Foucault's Pendulum" author	47 Corn spike	5 "God's Little"	27 Filled tortilla
15 NYC	48 Denver airport	6 Young fellow	29 Playwright
17 Star of a Latin trio	51 In the style of	7 Chartres chum	30 Levin
18 Potential fratman	52 One of the Three Bears	8 Numerous progeny	35 Neb. neighbor
19 Irrigate number?	53 Colonial sewer?	9 London airport	37 Ork. Grates
21 Appliance abbr.	54 Pin number?	10 Summit access	40 Four qts. Butcher's wares
22 The better part of a workday?	55 One of the Three Bears	11 Room access	42 New Haven campus
24 "— Enchanted Evening"	56 One of the		