

Column One

DID U KNOW?
(The Professor does)

THAT soccer's global spread began at the end of the 19th century, when British traders, sailors, and workers carried the sport all over the world. Germans, Italians and Austrians were eager converts in Europe, while Argentines, Uruguayans, and Brazilians took quickly to the sport in South America. One nation that long resisted soccer's appeal was the United States. There, soccer was played, mostly among immigrants, but it was not until the 1970s that a national professional league gained some popularity. The North American Soccer League (NASL), founded in 1968, brought Brazilian star Pelé to the United States, and by 1980 the league had 24 teams. The NASL suffered financially, and in 1984 it went out of business. However, the league left a legacy of growing American involvement in the sport at youth level. By the 1990s, soccer was recognised as the fastest-growing college and high school sport in the United States. Today the Soccer Industry Council of America may find about 20 million boys and girls under the age of 18 who play soccer.

If there is a stock of talent twenty years is enough for a sport to flourish. Some of our football clubs claim to be nearly one hundred years old.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-88

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes at 8 pm

on Feb 20, 1998

1 How many countries took part in the World Youth Cricket Cup?

14 15 16

2 What is the position of Korda in ATP rankings at the moment?

1st 2nd 3rd

3 How many Test matches has Dave Richardson played?

42 43 44

4 Who is the current 100m world champion?

Bailey Greene Caso

5 Which team finished first in the Premier Division soccer league?

Muktiyuddha MSC Fgani

Name

Class

School Address

Phone: (Many)

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SPORTS TALK

Clive Lloyd

(West Indies cricket team manager)

"They found Pakistan a difficult place to tour, but pride will return at home."

About his team.

Hingis, Davenport roll



TOKYO, Feb 6: Battling a week-old cold, Swiss teenager Martina Hingis lacked the usual sharpness but still beat Rita Grande of Italy 6-2, 7-5 Friday in a quarterfinal match at the Toray Pan Pacific Open, reports AP.

Olympic gold medalist Lindsay Davenport of the United States, seeded second after Hingis, also advanced to the semifinals by ousting Irina Spirlea of Romania 7-6, 7-6.

On Saturday, the world's top-ranked and the tournament's defending champion Hingis meets her conqueror in the last French Open final, Iva Majoli of Croatia, who advanced with a 6-2, 6-1 victory over wild card Miho Saeki of Japan.

Davenport, ranked second in the world this week, will face third seed Amanda Coetzer of South Africa. In the round of eight, the world's No. 6 Coetzer defeated Japan's Ai Sugiyama, ranked 16th 6-3, 2-6, 6-2.

Hingis had the sniffles and coughed as she was broken after three deuces in the first game of the first set. But she quickly came back for 1-1, taking advantage of Grande's two double faults.

Hingis came to the net more often than usual and was in control after another service break for 3-1, hitting hard and deep, and finding the corners.

The No. 46 Grande was the aggressor in the second set, however, starting with a service break in love. But she made two errors in a row and was broken back for 1-1.

After tying four more times and at 15-15, Hingis scored seven straight winners, culminating with a volley to a corner and wrapping up the 67-minute match with a service break at love.

That was a tough victory compared to the effortless 43 minutes Hingis needed in her only previous game of the tournament on Wednesday for a 6-1, 6-0 victory over Elena Likhovtseva of Russia.

"The cold didn't get better.

GRACEFUL: World No 1 Martina Hingis of Switzerland plays a sliced backhand return against Italian Rita Grande during their quarterfinal in the Toray Pan Pacific Open tournament at Tokyo on Feb 6. Hingis won 6-2, 7-5.

— AP/UNB photo

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