

Sport

Roost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-100

Tick the Correct Answers Post to The Daily Star Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm, Aug 14, 98, and draw shortly afterwards

Table with 5 questions and multiple choice options. Questions include: Who won the 'Golden Boot' in France '98?, Who won France '98?, Who was the captain of Argentina at France '98?, What was Holland's position in France '98?, Michael Owen plays for...

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)



SPORTS TALK

Andre doubles Pete's trouble



TORONTO, Aug 8: Andre Agassi kept his impressive run going while keeping Pete Sampras from staying No. 1.

The eighth-seeded Agassi beat the top-seeded Sampras 6-7 (7-5), 6-1, 6-2 Friday night in the quarterfinals of the 2.45 million dollars Canadian open tennis tournament, reports AP.

Agassi, a three-time champion in this event, has won four tournaments this season, including both he has entered the last two weeks, improving his ranking more than 100 spots to No. 11.

His latest win will prevent Sampras from staying on top of the ATP world rankings. Sampras needed to win this event for the first time to maintain his No. 1 ranking. That spot will now be taken by Chile's Marcelo Rios, who briefly held the No. 1 spot earlier this year when Sampras was struggling to find his game.

Sampras won the first set in just over an hour, but the Wimbledon champion was nowhere to be found after that as Agassi won the second set in 28 minutes and the third in 30 minutes.

Once his legs start going he becomes a different player," Agassi said of Sampras.

After the first set it was clear Agassi was the fresher of the two. Both had to play two matches Friday because of a rain delay Thursday, but Agassi was the one with eagerness in

his game. Sampras seemed more pre-occupied will line judges and close shaves.

"As the match went on I felt myself getting slower and slower," Sampras said. "He didn't have to do much in the second and the third sets."

In Saturday's semifinals, Agassi will face No. 6 Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands, while third-seeded Patrick Rafter of Australia will meet No. 7 Tim Henman of England.

In the other quarterfinals, Rafter defeated No. 5 Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden 6-3, 6-2;

Leconte thru

WELLESLEY, Aug 8: Henri Leconte won his Nueven Tour debut Friday, beating John Lloyd 6-3, 5-7, 12-10 in the quarterfinals of the Sprint PCS Champions tennis tournament at Babson College, reports AP.

The Nueven Tour is the domestic leg of the new 21-event worldwide senior circuit. Leconte, who began playing senior events in Europe last year, is ranked fourth behind Jimmy Connors, Bjorn Borg and John McEnroe in the circuit's point standings after winning a tournament in Finland.

In the Champions Tebreaker, a 10-point tiebreaker that decides all senior circuit matches, Lloyd had a match point with Leconte serving at 8-9, but couldn't convert. Leconte lost a match point of his own at 10-9 before gaining the victory with a service winner.

Henman beat unseeded Daniel Vacek of the Czech Republic 6-3, 4-7, 6-2; and Krajicek beat No. 4 Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia 6-4, 6-4.

Agassi advanced to the quarterfinals with a 2-6, 7-5, 6-3 victory over No. 10 Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia, who lost the match when he double-faulted on match point.

Sampras, after a three-hour rain delay, appeared sluggish, tired and frustrated in a 7-6 (7-5), 6-2 victory over Tommy Haas of Germany.

Against Agassi, Sampras serve won him the first set — when he had 11 of his 22 aces. With declining speed and much less accuracy, Sampras uncharacteristically double-faulted 12 times in the match, nine times more than Agassi. Sampras capped it by making 50 unforced errors.

"He tapered off quite a bit," Agassi said. "He definitely got tired. It's been a long day of tennis, but I just kept telling myself to work and execute."

Sampras hadn't played in any tournaments since winning Wimbledon 35 days ago.

"I need more matches," Sampras said. "I didn't have any spring in my legs."

That wasn't a problem for Agassi.

"It's very motivating," he said. "It's been a lot of hard work and it's nice to see, but I'm not overlooking one step of it."

"Playing this way favours me a little bit more... it gives me a chance to throw some body blows."



Brazil's Rogerio Klafke (R) is challenged by two Australian players during their World Basketball Championship ninth-place playoff in Athens on August 8. — AFP photo

Cop kills fan

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti, Aug 8 (Reuters/Internet): Rioters in the Haitian town of Cabaret ransacked the local police station on Thursday night and killed a policeman shot and killed a man in an argument over soccer, police said on Friday.

All the prisoners in the jail escaped in the chaos, a police spokesman said. The rioters also burned tires in the street outside and torched two police cars.

A police officer shot a man and then took refuge in the neighbouring police station. Witnesses told us they had argued over a soccer game," the spokesman said.

Police arrested 13 rioters, Radio Haiti Inter said.

USA, Costa Rica almost there

PORT OF SPAIN, Aug 8: With impressive victories Friday, the United States and Costa Rica pushed to within one point of places in next year's FIFA Junior World Championships, reports AP.

The Americans dominated neighbour Canada 5-1 to shoot to the top of the standings on four points, the same as Costa Rica, who like the Americans manhandled host nation Trinidad and Tobago in qualifying matches in Port of Spain, the Trinidadian capital.

Both winners are now just a point away from securing their places in the finals in Nigeria next year.

The United States got double strikes from Christopher John Albright who scored in the 20th and 55th minutes, and Rustin Pierce's goals in the 40th and 49th. Thomas Beasley provided the goal that consolidated the win.

It was the Americans first victory following a surprise 1-1 tie against Costa Rica on the opening night of the preliminary tournament Thursday.

For Canada, Keven Serpa scored the consolation goal in the 46th minute.

But Canadian joy was short-lived as Alfredo Valente was sent off soon after.

Later, Trinidad and Tobago, who were in a must win situation after losing 3-1 to Canada on Thursday, soon lost their way against Costa Rica and lost 4-0.

First half strikes by Mario Visquez and Jose Ugarté in the 27th and 35th minutes gave the winners a 2-0 half-time cushion which they never relinquished.

In the second half, they consolidated and notched another two goals through substitute Eric Lopez in the 60th minute. Estaban Santana followed 11 minutes later.

Trinidadian defender Derek King picked up his second yellow card in the match and was sent off, leaving the dejected home side to fend with 10 men for the last 12 minutes.

Rotor climb

MOSCOW, Aug 8: Rotor Volgograd beat visiting Lokomotiv Moscow 3-2 on Friday to move up to second in the Russian Premier Division, reports Reuters.

The league's top scorer Oleg Veretennikov was on target again with a 27th minute long-distance freekick that gave Rotor their second goal of the game.

Rotor now have 35 points with 20 games played and are three points ahead of Lokomotiv, with the same number of games.

But champions Spartak Moscow are top with 41 points and just 19 games played.

Championship outsiders Dynamo Moscow took an early lead in their clash with lowly city rivals Torpedo with two goals in the first nine minutes.

But Torpedo fought back and scored through Igor Semshov in the 31st. Viktor Bulatov then found the equaliser in the 55th and the game ended in a draw. The rest of the Premier Division games will be played today.

American, Russian cagers in last four

ATHENS, Aug 8: The United States and Russia, finalists in 1994, clash again in the World Basketball Championship semifinals today, reports Reuters.

The repeat meeting was set up on Friday after the Russians beat Lithuania 82-67 and the Americans edged past Italy 80-77 in quarterfinal action.

The other semifinal will be between Yugoslavia, who survived a scare to overcome Argentina 70-62, and Greece, who beat Spain 69-62.

Four years ago the Americans won the final but then it was all about the Dream Team. This time around a makeshift but ever improving squad will be doing duty.

The US team, with no NBA stars because of a labour dispute, left it late on Friday against Italy who had led for much of the game after recovering from a slow start.

Ironically, Carlton Myers, born in the US but now a naturalised Italian, might have won it with a difficult late three-

pointer but it was not to be. Myers top scored in the match with 32 points — 16 more than US leading contributor Michael Hawkins.

US coach Rudy Tomjanovich said: "Italy played very well and for the majority of the game they had us in a big hole."

"But it's a true sign of character that a team can be in a hole and not fall apart. We have done this a couple of times here."

Italy coach Bogdan Tanjevic said: "It went down to the final seconds and Myers' shot was decisive."

Dejected Gregor Fucak, along with Myers one of the Italian stars in the run to the last eight, said: "I think we lost the game with one shot."

Russia have to thank Vasiliy Karashev for their victory over Lithuania. The playmaker scored 31 points to leave coach Sergei Belov enthusing: "A true leader was born for the Russian team today."

Lithuania managed to hold the Russians to 61-63 with four minutes left but just lost their

grip in the final stages.

Yugoslavia, champions in 1990 and fancied by many to regain the title, wobbled against outsiders Argentina. They trailed 42-49 before "sasa" Djordjevic steadied the ship with some welcome points at critical moments.

Argentine coach Julio Cesar Lamas said: "We had a chance to win but Yugoslavia have no flaws. The game was lost when Djordjevic began to score unstopably."

Greece, who had lost their final two group matches, thrilled the capacity 18,000 home crowd with a well-deserved victory over Spain. Two three-pointers in the last two minutes from guards George Baloyiannis and Frangiskos Alvertis put the game beyond their opponents' reach.

One of the Greek defeats was to Yugoslavia, their opponents today.

Greek playmaker Angelos Koronios said: "It will be a different match tomorrow, much different from the one we lost."

Greene, Boldon to pull out of Zurich meet

IRVINE, California, Aug 8 (Reuters/Internet): World champion Maurice Greene and Ato Boldon will not participate in Wednesday's Zurich grand prix meeting, saying organisers changed their contract terms, the athletes manager said.

"Based on the continuation of inconstant financial agreements and a pervasive lack of athlete appreciation during these negotiations, both Greene and Boldon plan to return to the United States following Saturday's meet in Monte Carlo," Emanuel Hudson, their manager, said in a statement released on Friday night.

The statement quoted Greene, the world 100 metre champion, as saying: "This isn't about money or we would all be running exclusively for the [Golden League's \$1 million] jackpot. This is about respect and acknowledgement. We didn't feel either based on the terms they offered us."

Greene recently defeated a world-class 100-metres field at the Goodwill Games and training partner Boldon, the world 200-metres champion, won the 200 metres there.

Trinidadian Boldon also has fastest 100-metre time in the world this year, twice running 9.86 seconds.

"This is a hard race to give up," Greene said. "It's going to be a great one. However, out of our love for the sport and our principles, we just can't."

Athletic's woe

BILBAO, Spain, Aug 8 (Reuters/Internet): Athletic Bilbao's European Cup ambitions were dented in their final warm-up friendly match when two key players picked up injuries.

The club lost 1-0 to Spanish first division rivals Salamanca on Friday night. Spain's defender Roberto Rios suffered a serious leg strain and former international striker Inigo Larrañzar aggravated an old knee problem, Athletic said on Saturday.

The Spaniards play Dinamo Tbilisi on Wednesday in a European Cup second qualifying round first leg match.



MAURICE GREENE



Maurice Odumbe

(Kenya's cricket captain) "When you score runs against the big boys, only then you know where you stand; whether you are good or not good. I think I have the talent to score runs against the big teams."

Summer Open badminton

The Rupali Insurance Summer Open badminton tournament, organised by Bangladesh Badminton Federation, begins at Wooden Floor Gymnasium today, reports BSS.

Federation president Kutubuddin Ahmed will inaugurate the tournament at 5 pm. A good number of players, both boys and girls, are expected to take part in the meet.

Venus curses her luck



CARLSBAD, California, Aug 8 (AP/Reuters): Venus Williams was close to victory before the injury bug bit again.

Williams was one game away from advancing to today's semifinals of the 450,000 dollars Toshiba Classic when a knee injury Friday eventually forced her to retire in the third set against Mary Pierce.

The third-seeded Williams had to pull out of her quarterfinal match with what she said was patella tendinitis in her left knee.

Williams also suffered two leg injuries Sunday when she lost to Lindsay Davenport in the final of the Bank of the West Classic at Stanford, California.

Pierce led 4-0 in the third set when Williams decided to quit. Williams, ranked fifth in the world, said the knee flared up at 4-4 in the second set.

Williams, 19, won the first set 6-2. Pierce won the second 7-6 (7-3).

Williams held serve to go ahead 6-5 in the second set. She then limped noticeably to her court-side chair and requested an injury timeout. After receiving treatment from a WTA trainer, Williams returned with a bandage on her left knee.

The injury clearly hampered Williams for the remainder of the match before she retired.

"I thought maybe I could still win the match," she said. "I found that I was living in a false reality. When I realized that, I quit."

Williams was one of three quarterfinalists to experience injury problems.

Fourth-seeded Monica Seles continued to feel the effects of a back injury that has bothered her since last month. Seles, a 6-4, 6-3 winner over Japan's Ai Sugiyama, said her back continues to "spasm after every match."

Seles wasn't sure if she could finish the tournament, and said she might pull out of next week's Acura Classic at Los Angeles.

"I don't know what to expect," she said.

Ironically, Pierce nearly retired against Williams with a right wrist injury late in the first set.

"I came close to quitting myself because I was having trouble gripping (the racket)," Pierce said.

Pierce earned a spot in the semifinals against world number one Martina Hingis of Switzerland. Pierce holds a 4-3 career edge over the top seed and

defending champion. Hingis defeated South African Joannette Kruger 6-1, 6-3 on Thursday.

"I'm looking forward to it," the unseeded, 16th-ranked Pierce said. "Every match against her is a challenge. We bring the best out of each other and that's what it's all about."

Seles next was to face second-seeded American Lindsay Davenport, who came from behind to beat Wimbledon runner-up Nathalie Tauziat of France 6-4, 6-3.

Davenport avenged a quarterfinal loss to the French player at Wimbledon last month.

"Lindsay's playing some great tennis," said Seles, who owns a 2-0 career mark against her Fed Cup teammate. "She's serving well, obviously she's in great shape right now, hitting the ball long and deep. She's right there vying for the number one spot."

Davenport, the world's second-ranked player, dropped the first three games of each set before improving to 8-2 lifetime over Tauziat.

Seles' back spasms began after she sat for eight hours cheering her US teammates at the Fed Cup July 26 and 27 in Spain and had a difficult 18-hour return flight.

Lancs owe leggie one



LONDON, Aug 8: Lancashire leg-spinner Chris Schofield stamped his mark on the English county championship on Friday after completing an eight-wicket match haul in his side's victory over Gloucestershire at Old Trafford, reports Reuters.

Schofield, 19, picked up four second innings victims as his side won by an innings and 35 runs, prompting former Australian Test spinner Peter Sleep to predict he would be an England player within two years.

"He has a lot of talent and the potential to go right to the top," said Sleep, a coach with the county side. "He is improving in every match but of course at the moment we need to nurse him."

Schofield playing, in only his second county game, took four for 60 in Gloucestershire's second innings of 193.

West Indies off-spinner Carl

Squeaky win for Lankans

NORTHAMPTON, England, Aug 8: Sri Lanka beat Northamptonshire by one wicket in their one-day tour match on Friday, reports Reuters.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the one-day match between Northamptonshire and Sri Lanka on Friday:

NORTHANTS
Loye st Kaluwatharana b Muralitharan 29
Baleya Jayasuriya b Pushpakumara 0
Curran b Muralitharan 14
Sales not out 91
Penberthy b Dharmasena 5
Walton lbw b Dharmasena 0
Snappe not out 78
Extras: b-1, lb-2, w-7 10
Total: (for five wickets in 50 overs) 227

Did not bat: David Ripley, Devon Malcolm, David Follett, Paul Taylor

Fall of wkts: 1-1; 2-41; 3-49; 4-60; 5-60

Bowler O M R W
Jayasuriya 6 0 46 0
De Silva 3.5 1 26 0
Chandana 6 0 28 0
Dharmasena 10 1 27 2
Wickramasinghe 9 0 51 0
Pushpakumara 5.1 1 9 1
Muralitharan 10 1 37 2

SRI LANKA
Jayasuriya lbw b Malcolm 31
Kaluwatharana c Sales b Penberthy 28
Alapattu st Ripley b Snappe 28
De Silva c Taylor b Curran 26
Ranatunga c Follett b Penberthy 69
Thekerrane b Follett 17
Chandana b Follett 0
Dharmasena lbw b Taylor 11
Wickramasinghe run out 4
Muralitharan not out 0
Pushpakumara not out 0
Extras: lb-9, w-7 16
Total: (for nine in 47.5 overs) 231

Fall of wkts: 1-27; 2-74; 3-117; 4-129; 5-196; 6-196; 7-223; 8-227; 9-227

Bowler O M R W
Malcolm 10 2 47 1
Taylor 10 0 45 1
Follett 10 0 51 2
Penberthy 4 0 26 2
Snappe 10 0 38 1
Curran 3 1 11 1
Bailey 0.5 0 4 0

Result: Sri Lanka won by one wicket.

Hooper and former England paceman Martin McCague sent Hampshire crashing to a 292-run defeat at Canterbury against Kent.

Hooper finished with the remarkable figures of 21-14-29-4 as Hampshire were bundled out for 153 in their second innings. McCague took four for 40.

Ian Blackwell, the Derbyshire slow left-arm bowler, profited from the conditions at The Oval where built up a big lead on the second day.

His four for 58 in Surrey's second innings of 148 for seven gave him nine wickets in the match for 173.

The championship leaders, who did not enforce the follow-on after bowling out Derbyshire for 139, lead by 342 runs with two days to play.

Middlesex, dismissed for 297 in reply to Warwickshire's 466 at Lord's followed on but an opening stand of 130 by Justin Langer (55) and David Goodchild (73) carried them 157 for two in their second innings, with one day remaining.

Essex, set 400 to beat Glamorgan, reached 41 for two.

Steve James hit 147 his fourth century of the season in Glamorgan's second innings total of 371 for five declared.

Nottinghamshire captain Paul Johnson made 139, his second century since he was sacked as captain, against Worcestershire who closed on 29 for two chasing 276 for victory.

Barcelona get oriental touch

BARCELONA, Spain, Aug 8 (Reuters/Internet): South Korean World Cup midfielder Yoo Sang-Chul is to have trials at Barcelona, the Spanish side's assistant coach Ronald Koeman said on Saturday.

The league and cup double winners have played a series of pre-season matches in the Netherlands and England and now move onto Germany where Sang-Chul will join them on Monday.

He is expected to pull on the famous claret and blue jersey against Hertha Berlin on Tuesday.

Sang-Chul played in all three of South Korea's games in France '98 and scored in their 1-1 draw with Belgium.

If signed, he will be the first Korean to play in the Spanish first division.

SIX NO TRUMPS

A K Sayeedul Huq

SOUTH STEALS A PART-GAME (Hand # 61)

Table with 4 columns: North, West, East, South (D). Symbols represent cards in each hand.

BIDDING (East-West vulnerable)

Table with 4 columns: South, West, North, East. Shows bidding passes.

THE PLAY

West led the 9 of Club - top of nothing, as he did not like to lead from AJ holding of Spades. The declarer allowed the trick to hold (a fine play). When West continued with another Club, he played again low from dummy, and captured East's J with the Ace. Next he played a small Heart, but when West played low, he went up with the King. Next he played a small Diamond from dummy, East played 10 and the declarer won with the Ace. The declarer played another Heart, West and dummy played low, East won the trick with the Queen. He returned a small Spade; the declarer played small from hand, West won with the Ace; and returned the J of Spades. The declarer covered the J with the Queen which was won by East with the King. He returned another Spade, but the declarer made the trick with the 10. Next he cashed the King of Club, dropping the Queen from East. After making the Club 10, he returned to hand to cash the King of Diamond. Thus, he made, 1 Spade, 1 Heart, 2 Diamond, and 3 Club tricks to make INT.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down.

CRYPTOQUIP

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with a key: EW KWO LMYVX YRSZTVE BFWHTHZK YGV L TZZ LMTL YL'G RFRXSE O B L W H S ? Saturday's Cryptoquip: IT'S FUNNY HOW CONTENTED DACHSHUNDS STILL ALWAYS FEEL LOW. Today's Cryptoquip clue: R equals C. The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.