

Sport

Bierhoff joins the bashers

HAMBURG, Aug 30: AC Milan forward Oliver Bierhoff became the latest player to be sharply criticised by Bert Vogts over Germany's poor World Cup performance...



Sri Lankan ace sprinter Susantika Jayasinghe talking at a press conference at Mirigama yesterday. Jayasinghe, who was recently cleared of doping charges, sought a reconciliation with the national sports ministry.

Simon's fabulous fourth

LAUSANNE, Switzerland. Aug 30: Britain's Simon Lessing recaptured his Triathlon World Championship Saturday...

Third out of the water, and gaining time in the transition, Lessing trailed leader Craig Walton of Australia by 13.1 seconds going into the cycling stage...

nically demanding cycling stage left his arm numb. Though he remounted in an effort to complete the race, Walton eventually quit and was taken to hospital by ambulance.

Canada eat Puerto Rico

TORONTO, Aug 30: Canada are expected to qualify for the Women's World Cup. They were not expected to defeat Puerto Rico 2-0 in the opening game of the CONCACAF qualifying tournament...

Chang against stranger

BROOKLINE, Massachusetts. Aug 30 (Reuters/AP): Fourth-seeded Michael Chang escaped several sticky situations Saturday to defeat talented French qualifier Sebastian Grosjean 7-5, 4-6, 6-3 in the semifinals of the MFS Pro Tennis Championships...

He played some tough tennis - he's definitely a talented, up-and-coming player," said Chang about his opponent. "He hit some unbelievable forehands. I'm glad to be in the final."

It was not an easy match. He's quick, and has a dangerous forehand and a deceptive serve. Haarhuis, making his first ATP Tour final since 1996 and looking for his second career singles title, mastered Plioline with a superior service and a more effective all-round attack.

Euro 2000 chief to visit Belgium

MONACO, Aug 30 (Reuters/Internet): UEFA's Euro 2000 chief Guido Tonogoni said on Saturday he would visit Belgium this Thursday to review preparations for the European championship finals.

"We have not threatened the organisers that we would take the tournament from them if they are way behind with the building work on the stadiums," he said.

In the first set, Haarhuis trailed 4-2 and 5-3 before breaking back in the 10th game to even the set. Two games later on set point, Plioline double-faulted.

Power lifts HK Open title

HONG KONG, Aug 30: Canada's Jonathon Power beat world number one Peter Nicol of Scotland in straight games to lift the 74,000 US dollar Hong Kong Open title today, reports AFP.

In an often ill tempered final, Power inflicted his sixth straight victory on tournament top seed Nicol to win 15-14, 15-11, 15-14.

The 24-year-old from Toronto said afterwards he believed he was ready to steal Nicol's world number one ranking.

Rafter warms up well

COMMACK, New York, Aug 30 (AFP/AP): Pat Rafter tuned up for his US Open title defence with a victory over his 1997 Flushing Meadows final victim Greg Rusedski Saturday to reach the final of the ATP Tour Hamlet Cup.

The second-seeded Rafter broke Rusedski once in each set in recording a 6-4, 7-5 victory which moved the Australian into his third hardcourt final of the summer.

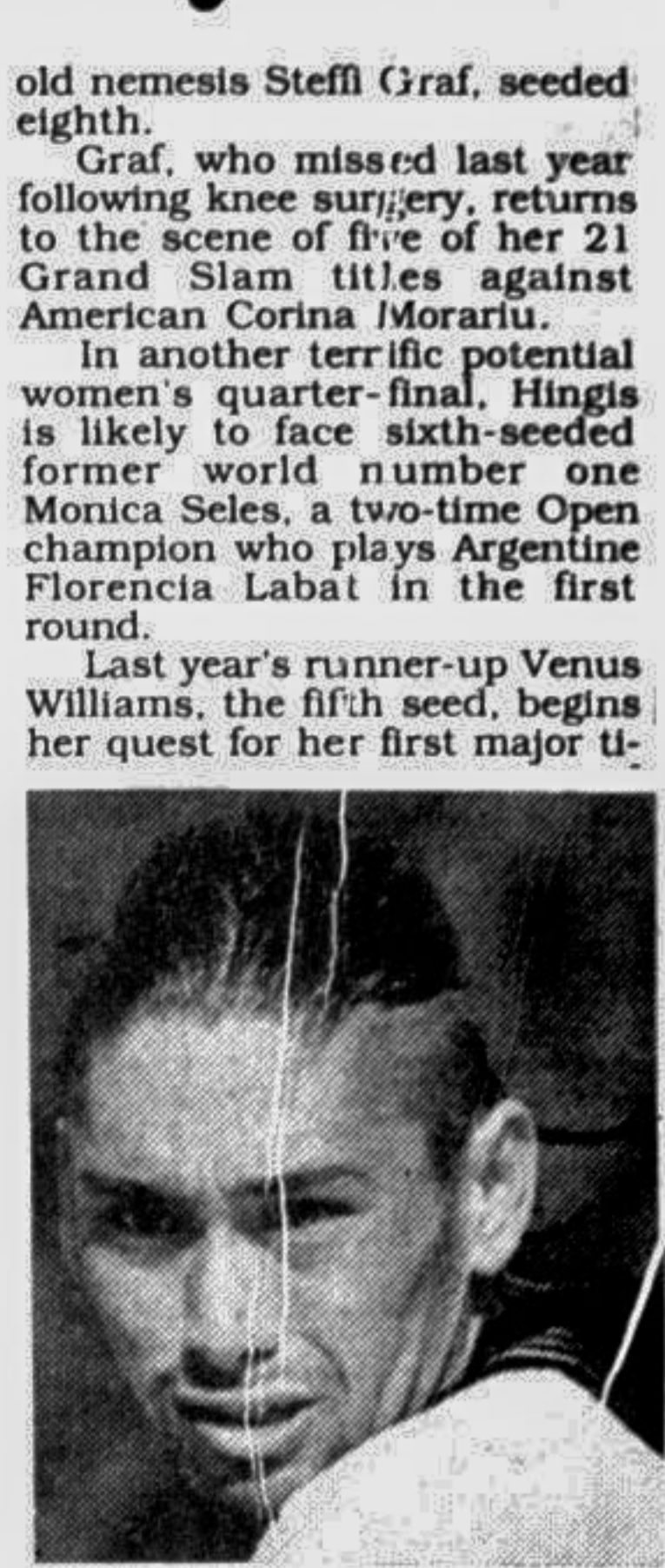
Hingis, Rios face early tests



MARTINA HINGIS

NEW YORK, Aug 30 (Reuters/Internet): Women's top seed Martina Hingis and men's second seed Marcelo Rios face early tests at the US Open tennis championships, starting tomorrow.

World number one Hingis opens defence of her US Open crown against a qualifier. But the Swiss teen, who has not won a title in three months, runs into either former French Open champion Iva Majoli of Croatia or one-time Australian Open runner-up Anke Huber of Germany.



MARCELO RIOS

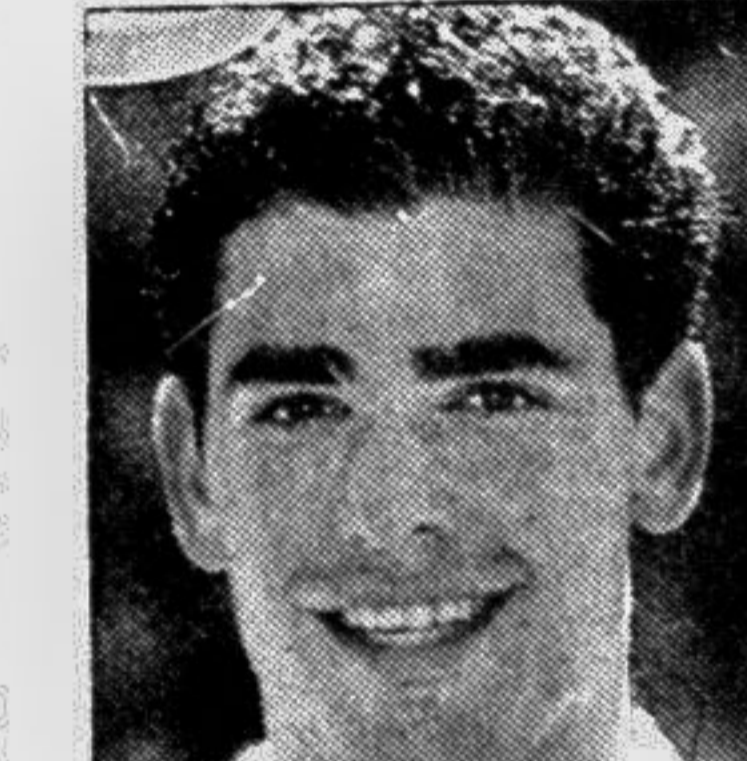
Both seeded in the top eight last year, the 20th-ranked Majoli and Huber, ranked 21, drew each other in the first round at Wednesday's US Open draw at the National Tennis Center.

History beckons Sampras

NEW YORK, Aug 30 (Reuters/Internet): Pete Sampras will have his sights set on his place in tennis history when he launches his campaign for a fifth US Open title at the year's final Grand Slam tournament tomorrow.

His precarious grip on the world's number one ranking will also be on the line at Flushing Meadows - with the likes of Chile's Marcelo Rios and defending champion Patrick Rafter nipping at his heels.

But the volatile Chilean has to worry about Vacek before he can look down the road to the Spanish armada.



PETE SAMPRAS

Sampras has proven surprisingly beatable in 1998 and twice briefly lost his top ranking to Rios. He saved what would have been an eminently forgettable year at the All-England Club in July and for the fifth time in a brilliant career comes into the US Open as reigning Wimbledon champion.

Another player who comes into this US Open a changed man is Rafter, who shocked no one more than himself by winning it all last year.

Trial on doping

BONN, Aug 30 (Reuters/Internet): Former East German state officials will not go on trial for their involvement in the former communist state's doping until the year 2000, a prosecutor said on Sunday.

The Daily Star TV Guide

A detailed TV guide table with columns for time slots (e.g., 8:00, 9:00, 10:00) and program titles (e.g., News, Sports, Movies, Cartoons). It includes sub-sections for STAR MOVIES, STAR SPORTS, PTV, MUSIC ASIA, and ZEE TV.