

Davenport the road-warrior

NEW YORK, Sept 6 (AP/Internet): Looking for a shortcut from Midtown to the US Open? Ask Lindsay Davenport...

For others looking to get here quick, Davenport suggests this route: "Normally I take the Triboro Bridge..."

English hooligans at it again STOCKHOLM, Sept 6: Police arrested 11 people...

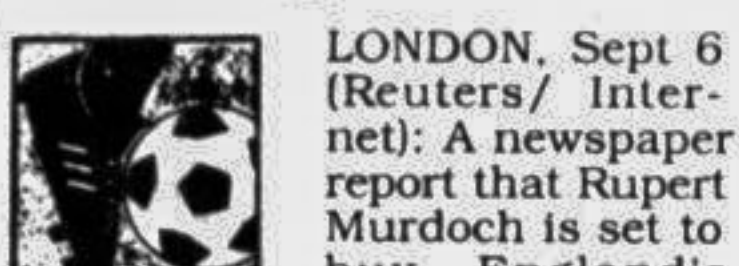
Several fights broke out around Rasunda Stadium after the match ended at 8 pm...

Down town Stockholm's nightlife neighborhoods were loud and lively after the game...

Several hundred fans watching from the street in the residential neighborhood about 5 kilometres (3 miles) from central Stockholm...

Several were led away in handcuffs. Two police helicopters with searchlights circled overhead.

Rupert alert at Red Devils



LONDON, Sept 6 (Reuters/Internet): A newspaper report that Rupert Murdoch is set to buy England's biggest and most prestigious soccer club...

The Sunday Telegraph said the media magnate would use his satellite television company BSkyB to offer up to 575 million pounds (\$958.1) for the world-famous Red Devils.

Neither BSkyB nor Manchester United would comment but Sky's own television news, while describing the report as "speculation", did not deny it outright.

Since 1992, BSkyB has held exclusive rights to the broadcasting of the premier league in which England's top teams compete.

Sports Minister Tony Banks said he was worried that a takeover of Manchester United, one of the wealthiest sports clubs in the world, would give Australian-born Murdoch too much dominance of soccer and its broadcasting.

"I have not consulted on this but my immediate feeling is that it is not something that can just be allowed to happen without any studying of the consequences," Banks told BBC television.

"It is a matter, of course, for ministers responsible for competition policy but I would imagine alarm bells are ringing somewhere."

Joe Ashton, a Labour MP who chairs parliament's all-party football group, said there would be massive concern among parliamentarians.

"If parliament were sitting tomorrow, there would be a hundred MPs literally who would be complaining very strongly to the Department of Trade and Industry," he told BBC radio.

Andy Walsh, a spokesman for the Manchester United Supporters' Association, said fans would be disgusted if club chairman Martin Edwards accepted the offer...

Murdoch has bought three major US sporting clubs - the Los Angeles Dodgers baseball side, and the Los Angeles Lakers and New York Knicks basketball teams.

Manchester United, one of English soccer's most successful clubs, was floated on the London stock market in 1991 for 47 million pounds.

Funds were boosted by massive sales of shirts and other souvenirs to youngsters ambitious to follow in the footsteps of most famous former Red Devils, such as Bobby Charlton, Eric Cantona and George Best.

His shares closed on Friday at 157-1/2p, valuing the company at 412.66 million pounds. The Sunday Telegraph said the Murdoch bid could be as high as 225 pence a share.

Manchester United, along with London club Arsenal, last week agreed to discontinue talks on formation of a European super-league which would have meant leaving the premier league, but the idea could be revived.

Murdoch already owns a sizeable chunk of Britain's national press, including the top-selling Sun tabloid, its Sunday equivalent, the News of the World and the Times.

US OPEN AT A GLANCE

NEW YORK, Sept 6 (AP): Highlights of Saturday's play in the 14 million US Open tennis championships:

Weather: Sunny and breezy with a high of 27 degrees Celsius (80 Fahrenheit) and low humidity.

Results: Men: No 3 Patrick Rafter, No 8 Andre Agassi, No 9 Karol Kucera, No 12 Jonas Bjorkman, No 14 Goran Ivanisevic and Marat Safin advanced to the fourth round.

Stat of the day: Patrick Rafter needed only 1 hour, 6 minutes to beat David Nainkin, 6-1, 6-1, 6-1. It was the shortest men's singles match of the tournament.

Quote of the day: "He's very unpredictable. Even he'll admit it. When he's on, he's on. We're good mates. He's open and he likes to have fun. We'll do our business and when we get off, we'll be good mates."

Reds going great guns TOKYO, Sept 6 (Reuters/Internet): The European-powered Urawa Reds kept their second stage record unblemished on Saturday with a 3-0 victory over Verdy Kawasaki.

Spanish midfielder Aitor Beguiristain and Italian defender Giuseppe Zappala each had a goal while Yugoslav Zeljko Petrovic and Japanese rookie sensation Shinji Ono played prominent roles in the victory.

Reds have a perfect 3-0 record after three games and have yet to concede a goal.

First stage champion Jubilo Iwata got back to its winning ways with a 4-2 victory over Nagoya Grampus Eight.

The other Yokohama team, Marinos, squeezed out a 3-2 win over one of the league's weakest teams Vissel Kobe with goals from Julio Baldvieso, Shoji Jo and Juba Salinas.

Brazilian stars Bismarck and Mazinho scored second-half goals just minutes apart as Kashima Antlers beat Cerezo Osaka 2-0.

Brazilian defender Claudio grabbed two goals to lead Bellmare Hiratsuka to a 2-1 comeback victory over Kyoto Purple Sanga while Sanfrecce Hiroshima won on penalties against Shimizu S-Pulse.

The event moved from the clay of Forest Hills to the hardcourts of Flushing Meadows in 1978.

Andre Agassi, among others, hopes the stadium is not razed.

"I played there once and loved it dearly," Agassi said. "Had a lot of age, certainly some history to it, it would be sad to see it go."

Andre, Pete qtr on the cards

NEW YORK, Sept 6 (AFP): World number one Pete Sampras and former number one Andre Agassi moved nearer to a US Open quarterfinal showdown while a foe that reigning champion Pat Rafter fears is already upon him.

Sampras beat 71st-rated Sweden Mikael Tillstrom 6-2, 6-3, 6-1, and 1994 US Open winner Agassi ousted 50th-ranked Italian Davide Sanguinetti 6-2, 6-3, 6-0.

"I picked Goran four weeks ago as a danger man for this tournament," Rafter said of the 14th-seeded Wimbledon runner-up from Croatia.

"It's important when you play Goran to hang tough all the time. You never know with Goran. He can make mistakes. You have to hang in there. He's going to have to beat me. I'm not going to lose it."

Rafter won in 66 minutes third consecutive five-set match. He played nine hours and 20 minutes in 15 sets over five days before faltering on the seventh match point against him in the tournament.

Siemerink next faces 12th-seeded Swede Jonas Bjorkman, who lost to Rusedski in the 1997 semifinal here.

"I'm going to be tough to beat," Rusedski said. "I'm hitting the ball better, getting more confidence. I feel as good as I did in '97."

The women's round of 16 was set with two ousted seeds, Belgian 14th Dominique Van Rensburg and Japanese 16th Ai Sugiyama.

"It's weird," second seed Lindsay Davenport said. "The other Grand Slams, there have been a lot of upsets, a lot of girls have come through unseeded. May be some players that used to be floaters are now seeded."

Fourth-seeded French Open champion Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario will face Russian 15th seed Anna Kournikova, a 17-year-old who has won all three prior matches against the Spaniard, this week.

Spanish seventh seed Conchita Martinez plays 13th seed Amanda Coetzer and has a 12-1 record against the South African.

America's top players will face French challenges when Davenport meets 10th-seeded Nathalie Tauziat and fifth seed Venus Williams takes on 12th seed Mary Pierce.

Williams advanced when Latvia's Larisa Neiland retired with back pain trailing 5-0 with only six points after 13 minutes. "It's too bad. I was hoping I would have a tough match," Williams said.

World number one Martina Hingis can set up a quarterfinal showdown with former Number one Monica Seles and five-time US Open winner Steffi Graf can book a date with Wimbledon champion Jana Novotna today.

Swiss teen Hingis plays 64th-rated Nathalie Dechy of France while sixth seed Seles must get past US compatriot Kimberly Po. Eighth seed Graf faces Swiss 10th-seeded Patty Schnyder.

Seles is 3-0 against Po and Novotna 2-0 against Spira. The others will meet for the first time on the court.

and has not lost a set since dropping his first two of the tournament to Morocco's Hicham Arazi, matching the number of sets he lost in seven matches here last year.

Ivanisevic served 21 aces, the last 117 mph on match point, and has dropped only one set in three matches.

"I'm hitting the ball great. I'm playing good tennis, anything is possible," Ivanisevic said. "I'm looking forward to playing Patrick. It's going to be a great match. If I play great tennis he has to beat me."

Ivanisevic would enjoy seeing a Sampras-Agassi quarterfinal showdown.

"Pete is always looking good. Even when he doesn't look good, he looks good," he said. Andre is another great player. He's hitting the ball well. If they meet in the quarters it's going to be a hell of a match."

Britain's Greg Rusedski, last year's US Open runner-up, was ousted 4-6, 6-4, 5-7, 6-2, 6-4, by 21st-ranked Dutchman Jan Siemerink, who won on his fourth match point after three hours and 22 minutes with a 123-mph ace, his fastest of 10 in the match.

Australian third seed Rafter beat 188th-rated South African qualifier David Nainkin 6-1, 6-1, 6-1, and next faces Goran Ivanisevic, who snapped a five-match losing streak to Dutchman Paul Haarhuis 7-6, 6-3, 6-2.

GOOD PRACTICE PARTNER

Former Wimbledon champion Pat Cash is helping out at the US Open as a practice partner for some of the top players.

Cash retired last March after a career highlighted by his straight-set victory over Ivan Lendl in the Wimbledon final in 1987.

His trademark then remains his trademark now. As he practised on an outside court, Cash wore the black-and-white checked headband that honours Hawthorne, his favourite Australian Rules Football team.

The crowd at the US Open was watching Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario's match against Sarah Pitkowski but missing track of another sport - baseball.

The public address announcements at the US Major League Baseball game between the New York Mets and the Atlanta Braves at Shea Stadium a couple hundred metres away were easily heard.

"I heard that," Sanchez-Vicario said. "I thought maybe something big happened."

Sanchez-Vicario threw out the ceremonial first pitch at the Mets game Friday night but wondered what it would be like to pitch against McGwire.

"Let me try," she said. "It would be very exciting."

AGASSI WANTS SELES BANNED: Andre Agassi, speaking as a Manhattan restaurateur instead of a tennis player, wants Monica Seles banished from Wall Street.

Seles rang the opening bell on Monday, what turned out to be one of the worst days in the history of the New York Stock Exchange, with losses of more than 500 points that touched off economic fears nationwide.

"I can't blame her," Agassi said. "If you have any superstitions at all, in your approach to the day, I wouldn't even have her look at downtown over there. Wall Street - put a roadblock up."

Members of the West Side Tennis Club that was once the home of the US Open are voting on whether or not to tear down the main stadium where champions were once crowned.

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US OPEN NOTEBOOK

NEW YORK, Sept 6 (AP/AF): Goran Ivanisevic received two unusual items Saturday: A pair of handcuffs and a victory over an old nemesis.

Ivanisevic, the Wimbledon runner-up and 14th seed at the US Open, reached the fourth round with a 7-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory over Paul Haarhuis, who had beaten the Croatian left-hander five straight times.

Earlier, the Croatian said he opened his mail to find something even more bizarre - handcuffs and a tube of what he assumed from an accompanying note to be chocolate body paint.

"I know (who the gift was from), but I can't tell you," Ivanisevic said with a smile. Ivanisevic said handcuffs and body paint are available in Croatia. "But those things you hide. You don't go out and say, 'Oh, I bought the handcuffs for my wife. We're going to have a great time tonight.'"

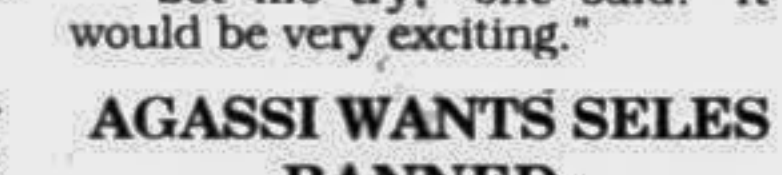
Ivanisevic had a great time in the afternoon sun on the Open's main court, serving 21 aces and converting all but one of five break points.

"Always the same question. Always the same stupid answer from me. You know the answer. What can I tell you? I know that I'm maybe the best player who never won a Grand Slam, but I'm trying."

Up next is defending champion Patrick Rafter.

"I am going to have to really concentrate on his serve," Ivanisevic said. "Even if you hit a good return against Patrick, he comes up with great volleys."

PIERCING HER OPPONENTS: Mary Pierce of France stretches for a forehand during her US Open fourth round match against Italian Laura Golarsa at New York on September 5. Pierce won 6-1, 6-0.



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Fire scare at Anfield

LIVERPOOL, England, Sept 6: A fire alarm in the main stand forced Anfield to be evacuated immediately after Wales European Championship defeat against Italy Saturday, reports AFP.

Players from both sides, the managers and all the officials, media and VIPs were herded out into the car park while fire engines entered the ground.

But after 15 minutes, the all-clear was given, and both teams were able to reach their coaches.

Liverpool's chief executive Peter Robinson said later: "I think it was a smouldering cigarette somewhere that set the alarm off, but there was no fire and nothing serious occurred."

The Daily Star TV Guide. Monday 7th September. (All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.) BTV, BBC, CHANNEL V, STAR PLUS, STAR MOVIES, DD METRO, DD CHANEL-1, DD INDIA, DD TV.

STAR WORLD, SONY ET, MUSIC ASIA, DD 7, ZEE INDIA TV, ZEE TV, ATN BANGLA. Star World: 8:00 Aerobics Oz, 9:00 The Simpsons, 10:00 The Simpsons, 11:00 The Simpsons, 12:00 The Simpsons, 1:00 The Simpsons, 2:00 The Simpsons, 3:00 The Simpsons, 4:00 The Simpsons, 5:00 The Simpsons, 6:00 The Simpsons, 7:00 The Simpsons, 8:00 The Simpsons, 9:00 The Simpsons, 10:00 The Simpsons, 11:00 The Simpsons, 12:00 The Simpsons. Sony Et: 7:30 Jeevan Muiya, 8:00 Aasma, 8:30 Rangela, 9:00 The Boss, 9:30 Cine Cine, 10:00 Cine Cine, 10:30 Cine Cine, 11:00 Cine Cine, 11:30 Cine Cine, 12:00 Cine Cine. Music Asia: 7:30 Aalaap, 8:00 B & W Gems, 8:30 Aalaap, 9:00 B & W Gems, 9:30 Aalaap, 10:00 B & W Gems, 10:30 Aalaap, 11:00 B & W Gems, 11:30 Aalaap, 12:00 B & W Gems. Dd 7: 10:30 Gane Gane, 11:00 Daily Soap, 11:30 Daily Soap, 12:00 Daily Soap, 12:30 Daily Soap, 1:00 Daily Soap, 1:30 Daily Soap, 2:00 Daily Soap, 2:30 Daily Soap, 3:00 Daily Soap, 3:30 Daily Soap, 4:00 Daily Soap, 4:30 Daily Soap, 5:00 Daily Soap, 5:30 Daily Soap, 6:00 Daily Soap, 6:30 Daily Soap, 7:00 Daily Soap, 7:30 Daily Soap, 8:00 Daily Soap, 8:30 Daily Soap, 9:00 Daily Soap, 9:30 Daily Soap, 10:00 Daily Soap, 10:30 Daily Soap, 11:00 Daily Soap, 11:30 Daily Soap, 12:00 Daily Soap. Zee India TV: 7:00 Jagran, 7:30 Zee News, 8:00 Zee News, 8:30 Zee News, 9:00 Zee News, 9:30 Zee News, 10:00 Zee News, 10:30 Zee News, 11:00 Zee News, 11:30 Zee News, 12:00 Zee News. Zee TV: 6:00 Yashwantrao Chavan, 6:30 Yashwantrao Chavan, 7:00 Yashwantrao Chavan, 7:30 Yashwantrao Chavan, 8:00 Yashwantrao Chavan, 8:30 Yashwantrao Chavan, 9:00 Yashwantrao Chavan, 9:30 Yashwantrao Chavan, 10:00 Yashwantrao Chavan, 10:30 Yashwantrao Chavan, 11:00 Yashwantrao Chavan, 11:30 Yashwantrao Chavan, 12:00 Yashwantrao Chavan.