

C'wealth Games Cricket final may get ODI status

The final of the cricket competition at the Commonwealth Games may receive one-day international status, according to a report on the Internet.

Commonwealth Games Federation president Mike Fennell said the ICC had indicated it would reconsider the issue of giving the final ODI status if two Test nations competed in the match.

However, this statement has not been confirmed to date by any cricket officials.

Only three Test playing countries — Australia, New Zealand and Zimbabwe — have sent teams approaching full national strength.

Matches at the Games, though endorsed by the ICC and played under ICC one-day international regulations, do not have one-day international status because of the presence of teams which are not ICC full members.

Mark has nothing to do with it

SYDNEY, Sept 12 (AP/AFP): Australian captain Mark Taylor said he will not judge Pakistani cricketers implicated in a match-fixing scandal but wants the matter dealt with as quickly as possible.

An interim report by the Pakistan Cricket Board leaked to the press on Wednesday found star players Wasim Akram, Salim Malik and Ijaz Ahmed responsible for match-fixing.

It recommended they be banned from Tests until further investigations were concluded.

Taylor said Friday he felt they were isolated incidents but ones the International Cricket Council (ICC) should ultimately deal with.

The report also said betting on matches was widespread and called for an intensive new inquiry, which may be run by a different judge.

Australia tour Pakistan later this month, four years since spinners Tim May and Shane Warne first alleged Malik tried to bribe them to bowl poorly in the first Test at Karachi.

Taylor might find himself lining up against the trio in the first Test at Rawalpindi on October 1.

"I don't really know, it's not up to me to pass judgment on

the cricketers or anyone involved," he said.

"We have to make sure we're not too quick to judge people too early. Don't forget Pakistan has had some of the greatest cricketers in modern times."

"I just hope that if something is going to be done it gets done very quickly so that when we get over there we can get on with playing the game."

An earlier Pakistan inquiry in 1995 cleared Malik, saying Taylor was misled.

"There's a belief that if you adapt to play one-day cricket you'll become better at international level. I don't agree with that theory," the Test captain said.

"The poms would be the side the use as an example. They play more one-day cricket than any other country but they haven't been the best one-day side in the world for about 15 years."

"Good cricket, teaches you how to play cricket, then you adapt to play one-day cricket," added Taylor, who has been out of the Australian one-day side for a year now.

Taylor was reacting to suggestions the Sheffield Shield competition be cut back in order to play more one-day cricket.

The Australian Cricket Board recently conducted a survey of people closely associated with the game and that was one of the options.

It is one that former Test skipper Greg Chappell is campaigning for.



MARK TAYLOR

the Australians had concocted the allegation for reasons best known only to them.

"I didn't even know there was another hearing going on. I was surprised to see it back in the headlines, and disappointed," Taylor said.

Ambrose sans aggression

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 12 (AP): Steve Waugh's greatest moment in cricket came in the Caribbean when he defied curly Ambrose to score a double century that gave his team the 1994-95 series victory.

Waugh stood firm under a barrage of bouncers and snarls, meeting the gaze of the giant paceman as Australia beat the West Indies away for the first time in more than two decades.

They met again Saturday, perhaps for the last time, as Australia beat Antigua by seven wickets in the Commonwealth Games limited overs competition.

Ambrose managed to rattle the Australian batsmen early on, but again Waugh had the better of the great West Indian speedster.

He also noticed a change in Ambrose's nature.

"I don't think he was as full tilt today but he was still a handful," Waugh said. "He was friendlier than normal. He actually mentioned my name today. He said, 'Steve, I'm going around the wicket.' He might be mellowing in his old age like we all do."

Ambrose is renowned for his lack of communication on and off the field. On it he speaks with glare, and off it he refuses interviews.

Ambrose made an exception at the end of the 1996 tour to Australia, giving a news conference to mark the end of his last trip there.

Mixed bag on the Clemente exit

MADRID, Sept 12 (Reuters/Internet): Spanish soccer has reacted with a mixture of relief and delight to Javier Clemente's resignation as national coach.

Spain's media reaction was mixed. "It's a logical decision. The time comes for everyone, but maybe he should have gone after the World Cup."

Valencia coach Claudio Ranieri also recognized that Clemente's position had become untenable "with the whole country calling for his head."

He added: "A coach is never totally to blame but he is the boss, the one person most responsible, and he made the right decision."

But Clemente retained the support of his players, with Real Madrid defender Fernando Hierro leading the criticism of the Spanish press for their hostile campaign against his former boss.

Hierro said Clemente's departure was a huge blow for Spanish football. "Clemente was a great trainer with very clear ideas."

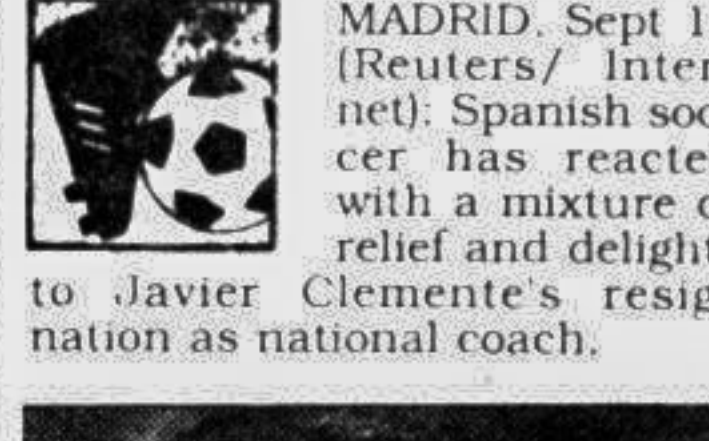
Athletic Bilbao midfielder Joseba Etxeberria said: "It's a pain that Javi has had to leave as it brings to a close a six-year period of superb results. But maybe this decision is for the best for the coach in personal terms."

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Atletic Madrid president Jesus Gil said: "He should have left after the World Cup — that would have been the ideal moment, given the circumstances."

Lorenzo Sanz, Gil's counterpart at Real Madrid, concurred.



JAVIER CLEMENTE

Van Miert clears his position

BRUSSELS, Sept 12: European soccer governing body UEFA urged European anti-trust chief Karel van Miert on Friday to scrutinise a rival project to start a breakaway Super League of Europe's top clubs.

But Van Miert told UEFA secretary general Gerard Aigner it was not in the commission's power to block the project, only to look for restrictive clauses or other breaches of European Union competition law.

The meeting, requested by UEFA itself, followed the visit by Media Partners, the Milan-based company behind the Super League project, to the commission last Monday.

"We hope the commission will evaluate the concept in an official way," Aigner told reporters after meeting Van Miert.

He declined to comment in detail on other issues raised at the meeting, which included Rupert Murdoch's television company BSKyB's bid for English club Manchester United.

But Van Miert's spokesman

Stefan Rating said afterwards that Aigner had described the Super League as "not good for football" and was worried Van Miert had already decided to approve it.

Rating said the commission had not yet taken any position.

"The Super League does not need the commission's authorisation to be created. All we need is to look for any restrictive clauses," Rating said, adding: "(Van Miert) won't make up his mind until he has had a good chance to analyse what Media Partners has in mind."

Media Partners chairman Rodolfo Hecht-Lucarelli told Van Miert on Monday he would submit a "standard form agreement" the company is planning to sign with interested clubs. The commission was still waiting for this to happen, Rating said.

The commission looks at such contracts to look for anti-competitive clauses.

SIX NO TRUMPS

WEST FAILED TO FIND A KILLING LEAD

(Hand # 91)

North	South	West	East
♠ S K J	♠ S O 9	♠ S 10 5 4 3 2	♠ S O 9
♥ H 3	♥ H J 10 9 5 4	♥ H None	♥ H J 10 9 5 4
♦ D A Q 8 5	♦ D J 10 9 7	♦ D K 6 3	♦ D J 10 9 7
♣ C K J 10 6 4 2	♣ C Q 8	♣ C A 9 7 5 3	♣ C Q 8

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SUSAN ROLPH... women's 100-metre freestyle gold at the C'wealth Games. —Internet photo

Moinuddin's hatrick Railway on track

Sports Reporter

Moinuddin Jhunu scored a hat trick as Bangladesh Railway handed protesters Cantonian Sporting Club a 0-5 defeat in one of the two Green Delta First Division hockey league matches played at the Moulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

In a 'no contest' affair, Jhunu struck thrice in a row while Asghar and Goutam Kumar added one each. The winners led the first half 3-0.

It was Railway's second win in three matches against a draw which raised their tally to seven points, two points adrift of co-leaders Bangladesh Sporting Club and Wari Club.

On the other hand, for Cantonian, it was their third defeat in as many matches.

Earlier, the day's first match between Sonali Bank and Bachelors' Club ended in a 2-2 draw.

Khawaja Waiz scored both the goals for Bachelors while Shamim and Kuddus struck one apiece for the bankers.

With the draw, Sonali Bank raised their tally to seven points while Bachelors, who lost their previous two matches, earned their first point after three matches.

* No matches will be played today.

TOMORROW'S MATCHES

(Moulana Bhasani Stadium)
Wari Club v Dhaka Ansars (2:30 pm)
Bangladesh SC v Victoria SC (4:15 pm)

Fans snapping up WC tickets

LONDON, Sept 12 (Reuters/Internet): Over 60 per cent of tickets for the 1999 cricket World Cup have been sold or allocated overseas and 18 of the 42 matches have already accumulated waiting lists.

About 200,000 of the original 500,000 tickets are still available but at least six have only limited seats left.

Tickets allocated overseas which are not sold will be released to ease the waiting lists for the more popular matches.

English and Welsh Cricket Board event manager Michael Browning said on Friday:

"We always thought it would be a popular event. This initial enthusiasm is very encouraging but I always anticipated it would be a sell-out across the board."

The tournament starts at Lord's in London on May 14 when England take on Sri Lanka. The final is on June 20.

Bagan lift Fed Cup title

Mohun Bagan Club clinched the Kalyani Black Label Federation Cup football title beating arch-rivals East Bengal Club by 2-1 goals in the final at the Calcutta Yuba Bharati (Salt Lake) Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

The winners led the first half 2-0.

Amit Das and IM Vijayan scored for the Mohun Bagan while C Chapman netted the lone goal for the East Bengal according to a live telecast by Doordarshan monitored here.

Apart from the trophies, champions Mohun Bagan received a cash award of 20 lakh Indian rupees while runners-up East Bengal were richer by 15 lakh.

West Bengal Sports Minister Subash Chakravarty and representative of the tournament sponsors Dr Bijooy Maliya distributed the prizes.

Unhappy Braun

BONN, Sept 12 (Reuters/Internet): German Soccer Federation (DFB) president Egidius Braun said he had been hurt by critics and was considering retirement.

Braun, who came under fire from the local media for his reaction after Bert Vogts quit as Germany's head coach on Monday, said in a interview released on Saturday that he was not sure whether he would apply for another term.

"I don't know, I really don't," he told Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung (WAZ) when asked if he would seek re-election at the next DFB congress in October.

The 73-year-old Braun succeeded Hermann Neuburger as DFB president in 1992. He is also a vice-president of UEFA, European soccer's ruling body.

"Enough, Mr Braun!" was Friday's main headline on the front page of the mass-circulation newspaper Bild, which criticised the DFB chief for offering the top job to former German international Paul Breitner before changing his mind.

"After they failed to get rid on me together with Vogts, they're trying to make me go again and that really makes me sick," Braun told WAZ.

According to a phone-in survey by radio station WDR 2 released on Friday, 87 per cent of the 5,289 fans who took part felt Braun should stand down.

After the preferred candidates were unavailable or turned down the offer to follow Vogts, the DFB went for the 61-year-old Erich Ribbeck. Ribbeck has plenty of experience but lacks the pedigree of his predecessors.

In an interview with Bild released on Friday, Breitner attacked the DFB bosses.

Jones' remarkable run

JOHANNESBURG, Sept 12: Marion Jones celebrated her first track appearance in Africa on Friday with the third fastest 200 metres time ever on the first day of the World Cup, reports Reuters.

Jones moved ahead of Merlene Ottey on the all-time list by clocking 21.62 seconds in the thin Johannesburg air, 1,700 metres above sea level.

21.56 at the Seoul Olympics 10 years ago, has run faster and Jones now has what were once regarded as unapproachable marks well within her sights.

The American 100 metres world champion was breathing heavily after the race and confessed: "I felt like hell."

She was candid about her poor start and slight wobble on the curve and added: "I know I can run faster than 21.62."

Now she aims for further personal bests in the 100 metres.

After the first day of competition before a disappointingly small crowd at the Johannesburg stadium, Africa led the men's competition with 39 points ahead of the Americans with 36 and the United States on 31.

Europe headed the women's standings with 43 points with Russia second on 38 and the United States again third on 36.

Hurdlers Nezha Bidouane and Samuel Matete gave Africa the perfect start in both the men's and women's competitions with wins in the opening two track events of the cup.

World champion Bidouane emulated her performance in Athens last year where she came from fourth to first to edge American world record holder Kim Batten and Jamaican Olympic gold medalist Deon Hemmings.

Bidouane, the first Moroccan to win a world title, emerged this time from third at the final barrier to overtake the same duo and win in 52.96 seconds.

Matete, the 1991 world champion, also earned a maximum eight points for Africa by winning the men's one-lap hurdles in 48.08.

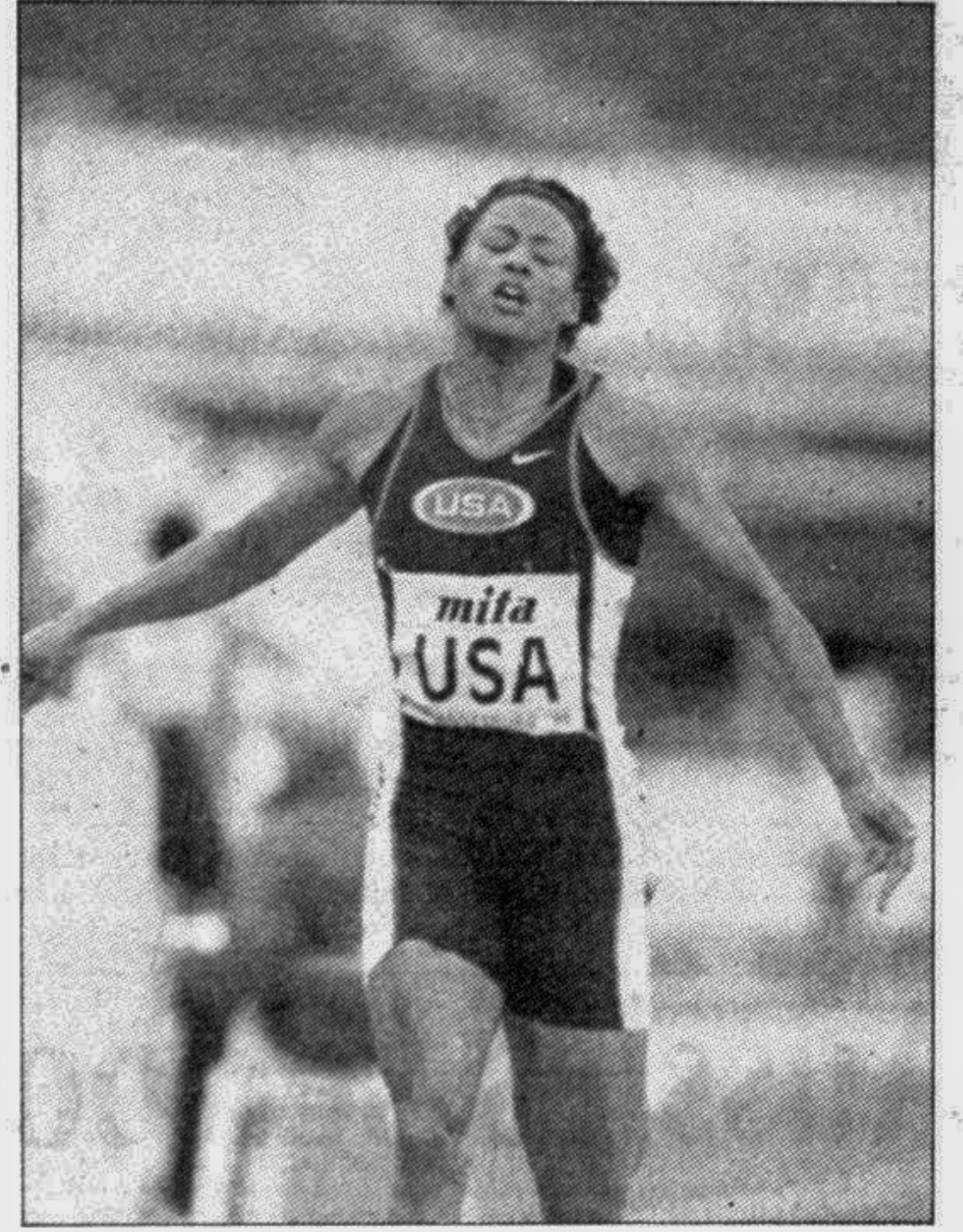
"I was running for Nelson Mandela because I'm from Africa," the Zambian said. "It was like home and I wanted to inspire the young kids."

Twice world shutout champion John Godina of the United States, world leader in both the shot and discus this year, defeated European champion Alexander Bagach of Ukraine by three centimetres.

Godina was awarded the world title in Athens last year after the Ukrainian tested positive for a stimulant and was stripped of the gold medal.

The most commanding victory on a cool evening went to Kenya's world champion Daniel Komen, no stranger to altitude in the 5,000 metres.

Komen shot away from Germany's 1992 Olympic champion Dieter Baumann 4-1/2 laps from the finish, raising his hand in salute 10 metres from the line to an ecstatic group of school children.



ANOTHER SUPERFAST FINISH: US ace Marion Jones crossing the finish line during the 200 metres final at the IAAF World Cup at Johannesburg on September 11. Jones clocked the third fastest time ever. — AP/UNB photo

Competing for the United States in the four-yearly continental team competition, Jones was last out of the blocks and unconvincing on the curve, she was also running into a slight headwind.

But the sheer power and talent of the graceful American propelled her over the line comfortably ahead of a field including Ukrainian world champion Shanna Pintusevich and Russia's European gold medalist Irina Privalova.

Only Florence Griffith Joyner, who clocked 21.34 and long jump on the final two days of competition to complete a startling season during which she has been unbeaten in any event.

The altitude assisted Barbadian Obadele Thompson to the second fastest time of the year in the men's 100 metres, a personal best of 9.87 seconds.

Thompson, who has been injured for the past two seasons, enjoys the somewhat dubious distinction of running the fastest time ever recorded.

His 1996 mark of 9.69 seconds was recorded at altitude in

U.S. OPEN NOTEBOOK

NEW YORK, Sept 12 (AP/Internet): Good genes and help from basic mistakes by their opponents played key roles for US Open doubles champs Sandon Stolle and Cyril Suk Friday.

Stolle and Suk defeated Mark Knowles of the Bahamas and Daniel Nestor of Canada, 4-6, 7-6 (10-8), 6-4.

Stolle, the son of former Australian star Fred Stolle, and Suk, brother of one-time Czech standout Helena Sukova, held off match points in the second-set tiebreaker. On one of the match points, a Knowles volley was just wide.

"I crossed and he missed a reflex volley by maybe an inch and a half," Stolle said.

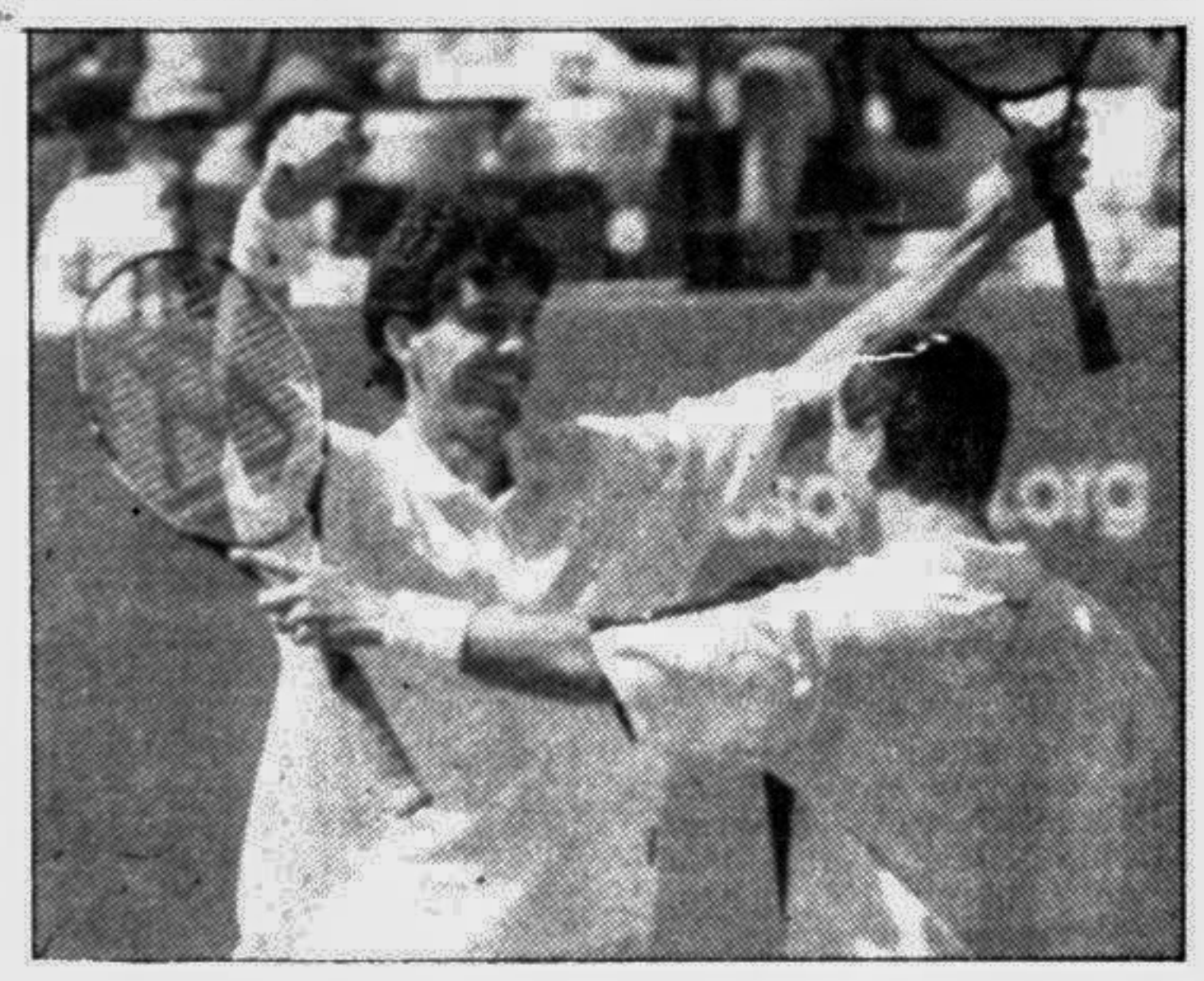
Then Nestor touched the net

while hitting a shot that would have set up another match point for his team.

"I think that was the biggest point," Stolle said. "He never hit the net before ever, so we got a lucky break."

"I knew I hit the net," Nestor said. "I was shocked that I hit it. I didn't know I was that close to the net."

Fred Stolle won doubles titles at all four Grand Slam tournaments, including three of four in 1965. Helena Sukova won 10 Grand Slam doubles tournaments, five in mixed and five in women's. Suk has teamed with his sister to win a French and two Wimbledon mixed doubles titles.



Australia's Sandon Stolle (L) and doubles partner Cyril Suk congratulating each other after winning the doubles title at the US Open in New York on September 11. — AP/UNB photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Expression of contempt
 - 6 Witted
 - 9 Scale abbr.
 - 12 One of Cugat's exes
 - 13 "— was saying..."
 - 14 Dander
 - 15 Less wacky
 - 16 Perform a surfing stunt
 - 18 Tank top?
 - 20 Raw materials
 - 21 Ot-tattooed word
 - 23 Listening device
 - 24 Garbo, e.g.
 - 25 Leading man
 - 27 Spokes
 - 29 Signify
 - 31 Dudley Moore movie
 - 35 November VIP
 - 37 Codlike fish
 - 38 Woodland
- DOWN**
- 17 Accompany
 - 18 Laptops, maybe
 - 19 Insertion mark
 - 20 Na Na
 - 21 Humor magazine
 - 22 Praiseful piece
 - 24 Round table address
 - 26 On the go
 - 28 Showed chutzpah
 - 30 Fancy fiddle
 - 32 Fixations
 - 33 Guitar's kin
 - 34 CSA fighter
 - 36 Buffer
 - 38 "Over There" composer
 - 39 Fancy fiddle
 - 40 Hackneyed
 - 42 Algerian money
 - 45 Audition goal
 - 46 "Unih"—
 - 48 — Moines
 - 50 Took a meeting
 - 51 Golfer Ernie
- CRYPTOQUIP**
- I J S G A M S Y I X C A M S Y S A
Z U U Z P K T L E S A L S C X S A
I W Z P K A W E S J Z U T W I
- Yesterday's Cryptquip: FOR HIS FRAUDS, THE CARBATTERY THIEF WAS SUITABLY THROWN INTO A DRY CELL.
- Today's Cryptquip clue: X equals G
- The Cryptquip 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.