

# Seles knows what to do

**TOKYO, Sept 28 (AFP):** Monica Seles admits she must travel a "difficult road" if she is ever to sit at the top of the world rankings again and add to her nine Grand Slam singles titles.

Seles, speaking after powering past Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario to win the \$50,000 dollar Princess Cup tennis tournament for the third year running here Sunday said a return to the form she showed before she was stabbed in 1993 will involve huge sacrifices.

"For me, definitely I've got to work harder after my father passed away, because I lost a big part of my career with him, so that's one thing I'm trying this year to do something differently," said Seles, 24.

"But I do know also what I'm feeling... to get back to the position depends on how badly do I want it, do I make all the sacrifice?"

"It's a tough life to be at that level, especially nowadays, because everybody wants that position even more," she added.

Her father and coach, Karolj, died in May.

Seles wrestled the number one ranking from Steffi Graf of Germany for the first time in March 1991 at 17 years, three months, nine days, the youngest in history until Swiss teenager Martina Hingis

rewrote history last year. She had won the Australian Open and the French Open three times each and the US Open twice when she was stabbed in the back during a change-over in Hamburg in May 1993, which forced her out of action for 28 months.

But Seles still feels it is "a very difficult road ahead of me" as she has been having "some wonderful plays" and "some horrible plays."

Furthermore, new US Open champion Lindsay Davenport is threatening Hingis while Graf and another former world number one, Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain, are fighting hard to regain top spot.

Russian teenage sensation Anna Kournikova and American Williams sisters, Venus and Serena, are also expected to threaten them in the near future.

"I just have to practice and hit a lot of balls, because I do feel after not playing, up a racket for two-and-a-half years at all, I've lost a lot of my consistency," said Seles.

"But I do feel if I improve upon a few things, I can get there, but if I don't, then I don't get there," Seles said.

"To do well in the Grand Slam, I have to improve a lot of things in the next few months, but it's always difficult, because even if you think you are playing your best tennis, all the other players have also worked hard to try to win it."

After fighting through crippling cramps and horrendous conditions to help the US beat Russia for the cup in 1995, Pete Sampras complained he came home to little more than some kind words from friends and relatives.

In Europe, Davis Cup winners are feted as conquerors of the world.

"In Davis Cup we are not playing for money but for our country and of course we want to be a part of tennis history," said Moya.

Davis Cup officials say they are aware the competition may have to adapt, and quickly, to retain its place in the affections of the game's driving forces.

In a small step to adapt to television's demands, qualifying events in next year's Davis Cup will introduce a "no advantage" scoring system for the first time.

When the game reaches deuce, the winner of the next point takes the game. And more radical changes are in the wind.

Some critics, including Sampras, think the cup should follow the route of golf's Ryder Cup and be played every two years.

Until then, Europe's Davis Cup dreams will remain US players' worst nightmare.

to each player to decide," Hageskog added.

That decision came easily to three of the four finalists in this year's competition, not coincidentally, they were all European.

Sweden fielded three of their top four players in Jonas Bjorkman, Thomas Johansson and Magnus Larsson with only one Thomas Enqvist — who has been plagued by a string of injuries — failing to make the team.

And even Enqvist was on hand for the weekend tie to cheer his compatriots on against Spain, whose team featured the country's two top players, world number five Carlos Moya and seventh-ranked Alex Corretja.

"I always enjoy the Davis Cup atmosphere, it's something that I try never to miss, Enqvist said.

The US was forced to field a team that did not include world number one Pete Sampras, Andre Agassi or Michael Chang, their top three players.

Their problem seems clear: Apathy.

Even though the US has won the cup 31 times, the American public sees little value in the event and many American players re of the same opinion.

PCB chief executive Majid Khan said from his office in Lahore.

The PCB earlier today said it had received no confirmation from the PCB to a request for Australian players to appear before the Pakistani commission.

Four Pakistani players — Salim Malik, Rameez Raja, Ijaz Ahmed and Aaqib Javed — appeared before the inquiry in Lahore on Sunday and vehemently denied any knowledge of match-fixing or bribery within Pakistan cricket teams past and present.

In 1994 Australian spinners Shane Warne and Tim May alleged they were offered \$50,000 US dollars each by then Pakistani captain Salim Malik to bowl badly in a Karachi Test.

Mark Waugh later alleged he was offered a bribe to bowl poorly in a one-day match during the same tour of Pakistan by Australia.

PCB officials say they are aware the competition may have to adapt, and quickly, to retain its place in the affections of the game's driving forces.

Underlining the club's global appeal, United said it had set up a subsidiary to develop merchandising operations overseas.

The planned tie-up between the leading force in British pay TV and United, the nation's most profitable soccer club, sparked a flurry of bid activity in the sector and caused resentment among some United supporters.

United ended the 1997-98 season without a major trophy, prompting manager Alex Ferguson to spend more than 15 million pounds on defender Jaap Stam and midfielder Jesper Blomqvist. The 12.6 million pound signing of Dwight Yorke from Aston Villa came after the year-end.

The new Manchester United International unit plans to develop outlets for merchandising in Asia, Middle East and Scandinavia, via franchise partners.

Turnover from merchandising and related activities fell by 16 percent to 24.1 million pounds in the year. The club said sales of its new home kit, launched in May, had been slow after a satisfactory start.

Italy, which won its lone Davis Cup title in 1976, will host Sweden on an indoor red clay court in December, marking the first time they will have a home advantage in seven appearances in the cup final.

Italy had grabbed an unbeatable 3-0 lead by winning Saturday's doubles, turning Sunday's

reverse singles into meaningless exhibitions, except maybe for the Americans grasping for something positive to take away from a disheartening home loss.

Jan-Michael Gambill salvaged some pride for the United States by beating David Sanguinetti 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 to avoid a shutout after Gianluca Pozzi won his Davis Cup debut with a 7-6 (7-4) 7-5 victory over American Justin Gimelstob in Sunday's first dead rubber.

The Americans had not been shut out in a Davis Cup tie since the 1973 finals against Australia.

Both Gambill and Gimelstob got their first taste of Davis Cup this weekend, primarily because the top American players — world number one Pete Sampras, Andre Agassi and Michael Chang — all refused to play this time around.

"I competed hard and I gave it my best shot," said Gimelstob, trying to put a brave face on defeat.

"Inexperience definitely showed, and it was definitely a tough pill to swallow, but I felt that the weekend was very successful," he said.

Gimelstob refused to criticize his famous compatriots who declined to participate, but found it hard to comprehend.

"I don't think anything will sour me on Davis Cup," he said. My desire to represent my country and the pride that I feel in doing so will always be strong.

"But I don't know what it feels like to be 27 and have one hundred miles on your body," he added, without mentioning Sampras by name.

Gambill was less reluctant to take a shot at the missing stars.

"I would just like to say that it has always been my dream to play for my country in Davis Cup and I am always going to support my country," Gambill said.

"It is unfortunate that some of the other guys don't think that way, whatever their reasons are, but I am always going to support them."

Gambill addressed one of Sampras's gripes, which is the lack of interest in Davis Cup by American sports fans.

"It is going to be up to the players from the US to support Davis Cup and to generate more interest for it, we can do that and it can happen," he said.

Croatia's Prosinecki out for six weeks

ZAGREB, Sept 28 (Reuters/Internet): Croatia Zagreb midfielder Robert Prosinecki will be out of action for at least six weeks after having a back operation on Saturday, doctors said on Monday.

The 29-year-old Croatian international suffered a dislocated vertebra, an injury which had bothered him since February, doctor Kresimir Zupanic, told Zagreb daily Vecernji List.

"We expect him to stay in the hospital for a week. The process of rehabilitation and rest will take around five weeks," Zupanic said.

Croatia Zagreb are playing Olympiakos Piraeus on Wednesday in the European Champions' League after drawing 0-0 against Ajax Amsterdam two weeks ago.

Prosinecki made history at the World Cup in France when he became the first player to score goals for different countries in the finals — Yugoslavia in 1990 and Croatia.

China whitewash Indonesia

BEIJING, Sept 28: Zhang Yu and Zheng Yu won reverse singles on Sunday to sow up China's 5-0 victory over Indonesia in the Davis Cup Asia-Oceania Zone group one playoffs. Xinhua news agency said, reports Reuters.

Playing in the best-of-three format after China took an unsurmountable lead in doubles play on Saturday, Zhang beat Indonesia's Andrian Raturandang 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 while Zheng dominated Fei Widiyanto 6-2, 6-1.

# Leading ATP Tour rankings

MONACO, Sept 28 (Reuters/Internet): Leading rankings issued by the ATP Tour on Monday.

Name	Points
1. Pete Sampras	4,015
2. Patrick Rafter	3,575
3. Marcelo Rios	3,467
4. Petr Korda	2,908
5. Carlos Moya	2,858
6. Karol Kucera	2,732
7. Alex Corretja	2,626
8. Andre Agassi	2,545
9. R Krajcek	2,534
10. Y Kafelnikov	2,508
11. Tim Henman	2,366
12. G Ivanisevic	2,203
13. J Bjorkman	2,115
14. Rusedski	2,091
15. Philippoussis	1,987
16. A Costa	1,923
17. A Berasategui	1,793
18. Cedric Pioline	1,766
19. T Enqvist	1,681
20. J Stenierink	1,652

# United ploughs profits back into squad

LONDON, Sept 28 (Reuters/Internet): Manchester United's profit of \$3 million pound (\$1.06 billion) by pay TV giant BSkyB, said on Monday its profit before tax and transfer fees rose 8.4 per cent to 29.6 million pounds in the year to July.

However, a 15.5 million pound investment in its squad cut profit after tax to 10 million from 19.0 million a year ago.

Underlining the club's global appeal, United said it had set up a subsidiary to develop merchandising operations overseas.

The planned tie-up between the leading force in British pay TV and United, the nation's most profitable soccer club, sparked a flurry of bid activity in the sector and caused resentment among some United supporters.

United ended the 1997-98 season without a major trophy, prompting manager Alex Ferguson to spend more than 15 million pounds on defender Jaap Stam and midfielder Jesper Blomqvist. The 12.6 million pound signing of Dwight Yorke from Aston Villa came after the year-end.

The new Manchester United International unit plans to develop outlets for merchandising in Asia, Middle East and Scandinavia, via franchise partners.

Turnover from merchandising and related activities fell by 16 percent to 24.1 million pounds in the year. The club said sales of its new home kit, launched in May, had been slow after a satisfactory start.

Italy, which won its lone Davis Cup title in 1976, will host Sweden on an indoor red clay court in December, marking the first time they will have a home advantage in seven appearances in the cup final.

Italy had grabbed an unbeatable 3-0 lead by winning Saturday's doubles, turning Sunday's

reverse singles into meaningless exhibitions, except maybe for the Americans grasping for something positive to take away from a disheartening home loss.

Jan-Michael Gambill salvaged some pride for the United States by beating David Sanguinetti 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 to avoid a shutout after Gianluca Pozzi won his Davis Cup debut with a 7-6 (7-4) 7-5 victory over American Justin Gimelstob in Sunday's first dead rubber.

The Americans had not been shut out in a Davis Cup tie since the 1973 finals against Australia.

Both Gambill and Gimelstob got their first taste of Davis Cup this weekend, primarily because the top American players — world number one Pete Sampras, Andre Agassi and Michael Chang — all refused to play this time around.

"I competed hard and I gave it my best shot," said Gimelstob, trying to put a brave face on defeat.

"Inexperience definitely showed, and it was definitely a tough pill to swallow, but I felt that the weekend was very successful," he said.

Gimelstob refused to criticize his famous compatriots who declined to participate, but found it hard to comprehend.

"I don't think anything will sour me on Davis Cup," he said. My desire to represent my country and the pride that I feel in doing so will always be strong.

"But I don't know what it feels like to be 27 and have one hundred miles on your body," he added, without mentioning Sampras by name.

Gambill was less reluctant to take a shot at the missing stars.

"I would just like to say that it has always been my dream to play for my country in Davis Cup and I am always going to support my country," Gambill said.

"It is unfortunate that some of the other guys don't think that way, whatever their reasons are, but I am always going to support them."

Gambill addressed one of Sampras's gripes, which is the lack of interest in Davis Cup by American sports fans.

"It is going to be up to the players from the US to support Davis Cup and to generate more interest for it, we can do that and it can happen," he said.

Croatia's Prosinecki out for six weeks

ZAGREB, Sept 28 (Reuters/Internet): Croatia Zagreb midfielder Robert Prosinecki will be out of action for at least six weeks after having a back operation on Saturday, doctors said on Monday.

The 29-year-old Croatian international suffered a dislocated vertebra, an injury which had bothered him since February, doctor Kresimir Zupanic, told Zagreb daily Vecernji List.

"We expect him to stay in the hospital for a week. The process of rehabilitation and rest will take around five weeks," Zupanic said.

Croatia Zagreb are playing Olympiakos Piraeus on Wednesday in the European Champions' League after drawing 0-0 against Ajax Amsterdam two weeks ago.

Prosinecki made history at the World Cup in France when he became the first player to score goals for different countries in the finals — Yugoslavia in 1990 and Croatia.

China whitewash Indonesia

BEIJING, Sept 28: Zhang Yu and Zheng Yu won reverse singles on Sunday to sow up China's 5-0 victory over Indonesia in the Davis Cup Asia-Oceania Zone group one playoffs. Xinhua news agency said, reports Reuters.

Playing in the best-of-three format after China took an unsurmountable lead in doubles play on Saturday, Zhang beat Indonesia's Andrian Raturandang 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 while Zheng dominated Fei Widiyanto 6-2, 6-1.



An attendant wipes the chairs at the open air squash court overlooking the Giza Pyramids at Giza, Egypt on September 27 ahead of the Al-Ahoram international championships. — AFP photo

# Italy can't wait for the finals

MILWAUKEE, Sept 28: An inspired Italian Davis Cup team was looking ahead to the finals against defending champions Sweden after completing a surprising 4-1 semifinal victory over traditional cup powers the United States Sunday, reports Reuters.

"I'm very happy we beat the Americans. The Americans have won the cup 31 times, we won only once, so to be in the final is very important in Italy," enthused captain Paolo Bertolucci.

"When I was younger, everything American was unbelievable to me: boxing, basketball, baseball, was all very large," said Bertolucci, who played for Italy in 1980, the last time they went to the finals.

Italy, which won its lone Davis Cup title in 1976, will host Sweden on an indoor red clay court in December, marking the first time they will have a home advantage in seven appearances in the cup final.

Italy had grabbed an unbeatable 3-0 lead by winning Saturday's doubles, turning Sunday's

reverse singles into meaningless exhibitions, except maybe for the Americans grasping for something positive to take away from a disheartening home loss.

Jan-Michael Gambill salvaged some pride for the United States by beating David Sanguinetti 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 to avoid a shutout after Gianluca Pozzi won his Davis Cup debut with a 7-6 (7-4) 7-5 victory over American Justin Gimelstob in Sunday's first dead rubber.

The Americans had not been shut out in a Davis Cup tie since the 1973 finals against Australia.

Both Gambill and Gimelstob got their first taste of Davis Cup this weekend, primarily because the top American players — world number one Pete Sampras, Andre Agassi and Michael Chang — all refused to play this time around.

"I competed hard and I gave it my best shot," said Gimelstob, trying to put a brave face on defeat.

"Inexperience definitely showed, and it was definitely a tough pill to swallow, but I felt that the weekend was very successful," he said.

Gimelstob refused to criticize his famous compatriots who declined to participate, but found it hard to comprehend.

"I don't think anything will sour me on Davis Cup," he said. My desire to represent my country and the pride that I feel in doing so will always be strong.

"But I don't know what it feels like to be 27 and have one hundred miles on your body," he added, without mentioning Sampras by name.

Gambill was less reluctant to take a shot at the missing stars.

"I would just like to say that it has always been my dream to play for my country in Davis Cup and I am always going to support my country," Gambill said.

"It is unfortunate that some of the other guys don't think that way, whatever their reasons are, but I am always going to support them."

Gambill addressed one of Sampras's gripes, which is the lack of interest in Davis Cup by American sports fans.

"It is going to be up to the players from the US to support Davis Cup and to generate more interest for it, we can do that and it can happen," he said.

Croatia's Prosinecki out for six weeks

ZAGREB, Sept 28 (Reuters/Internet): Croatia Zagreb midfielder Robert Prosinecki will be out of action for at least six weeks after having a back operation on Saturday, doctors said on Monday.

The 29-year-old Croatian international suffered a dislocated vertebra, an injury which had bothered him since February, doctor Kresimir Zupanic, told Zagreb daily Vecernji List.

"We expect him to stay in the hospital for a week. The process of rehabilitation and rest will take around five weeks," Zupanic said.

Croatia Zagreb are playing Olympiakos Piraeus on Wednesday in the European Champions' League after drawing 0-0 against Ajax Amsterdam two weeks ago.

Prosinecki made history at the World Cup in France when he became the first player to score goals for different countries in the finals — Yugoslavia in 1990 and Croatia.

China whitewash Indonesia

BEIJING, Sept 28: Zhang Yu and Zheng Yu won reverse singles on Sunday to sow up China's 5-0 victory over Indonesia in the Davis Cup Asia-Oceania Zone group one playoffs. Xinhua news agency said, reports Reuters.

Playing in the best-of-three format after China took an unsurmountable lead in doubles play on Saturday, Zhang beat Indonesia's Andrian Raturandang 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 while Zheng dominated Fei Widiyanto 6-2, 6-1.

round, Gustafsson clinched the victory after the defending champions fell behind 0-2 on opening day.

The quarterfinals in Germany was played on hardcourt and the semis against Spain on a faster Taralex court.

Bjorkman, who played both singles and doubles in the last two ties, also won the 1994 final against Russia in Moscow.

"Even though I've won the final twice, it's always nice to get a third one," he said. "I may be a little bit more relaxed than the first time in Russia. But when you go in to the court to play you're still getting a little bit nervous and feel the atmosphere of a final. So it's definitely something you want to win again."

Proving that rankings seldom mean anything in Davis Cup ties, the 13th-ranked Bjorkman beat fifth-ranked Carlos Moya 6-3, 7-5 Sunday to complete his perfect Davis Cup weekend.

DD METRO

7:00am Keep Fit 7:15 Bhakti Sagar 7:45 Business Aaj Tak 8:00 Good Morning Today 8:30 The First Edition 9:00 Serial 9:30 Current Affairs Prog 10:00 Serial: Nirnay 10:30 Serial: Saat Raang Sharat Ki Sang 11:30 STV 12:30 UTS Shopping 1:00 Live: Challenge the Master 1:30 Kanoom Baateen 2:30 Tele Shopping 2:55 Urdu Samachar/News 3:10 Sports Time 3:30 Dhalti Sham Ke Suraj 4:00 Ank Aapko 4:30 Sports World 5:30 Aabid 6:00 Rumba's Island 6:30 Flinstones-CNN 7:00 Bill Nye 7:30 Tele Soccer 7:50 Entertainment Now/Cinema Cinema 8:00 Green Teen Quiz/Music 8:30 Main Anari Tu Anar (Comedy Serial) 9:00 Serial 9:30 Raja Aur Rancho 10:00 Mehli/Padosan 10:30 Aaj Taak (News) 11:00 In Conversation 11:30 Serial: Silent Reech 12:00 TeleBards 12:30 UGC Prog (Underrun Closed)

DD CHANNEL-1

5:55am Vande Mataram & Thought of The Day 6:30 Serial: Aradhana 6:30 For The Universities 7:30 Samachar 7:45 UGC Prog 8:45 The News 8:50 This Morning's News 9:00 Apex Judgement 9:30 Serial: Falsha 10:00 Serial: Shanti 11:00 ETV Programmes For Primary Students/1:30 UGC Programmes/1:50 Parliament Hour 12:30 Serial: Aurat 1:00 Serial: Aparajita 1:30 Serial: Ithas 2:30 Serial: Waqt Ki Rafter 2:30 News in Hindi 2:40 News in English 2:50 Farz 3:30 Young & Beautiful 3:30 Serial: 4:00 Swabhimani 4:30 Serial: Anjuman 4:30 Serial: Bhajan 5:30 Serial: Ek Tan Bhai 6:00 Asha Ki Kiran 6:15 Bal Jaagat 6:30 Savdhan 7:00 Krishi Darshan 7:30 Samachar 8:00 Serial: Suhana Safar 8:00 Serial: Goom Anugooni 9:00 Samachar 9:30 News 10:00 Serial: Jai Hanuman 11:00 Serial: Hina 11:30 Serial: Eshas 12:02 Ganga Bhai Ki Chaal (Serial) 12:32 Sangeet Samarah (Underrun Closed)

ZEE TV

6:00am Yeadon Ki Pal (B/W) 6:30 Serial: Zee News & Business (Rpt) 7:00 Bhakti Songs 7:30 Jagran 8:00 BQC 8:30 Gumbh 8:30 Disney Hour 9:00 Cartoons 10:00 Ek Nazar 10:30 TVS Saregama 11:15 Guladastar Trailer Show 11:30 Baat Ban Jaye 5:4 (Nikki, Rakhi, Ranj) 12:00 Choti Baateen 12:30 Khana Khazana 1:00 Naye Nazrane 1:30 Daily Serial: Shanti (Re-run) 2:00 Daily Show: Hum Paanch 2:30 Daily Show: Paribartan (Serial) (Re-run) 3:00 Daily Show: Aaha (Serial) (Re-run) 3:30 Daily Show: Amar Prem 4:00 Parampara 5:00 Banegi Aapne Bait 5:30 Bhatpat Khana 6:00 Aur Ek Minute 6:30 Ek Nazar (Trailer On Film) 7:00 Disney Hour Cartoons 8:00 Liberty: One to 10 Countdown VJ Sandhya Mridul 8:30 Nirma Hum Paanch #Ep184 9:00 Yeh Hai Zindagi #Ep-39 9:30 Sapath #Ep-88 10:00 Hasratina #Ep-184 10:30 India Most Wanted 11:00 Adhikar (Arundhati, Fabian, Sheela) 11:30 Zee News 11:50 Zee Business/Jhalak-Trailor 12:00 Ashirwad #10 12:30 TVS Sa-Re-Ga-Ma (Contest Show) 1:30 Gudgudee #8 2:00 ZEE Arabia: Anthonee-Zee Horror Show 2:30 Aur Ek Minute 3:00 Feature Film (B/W)

SONY TV

7:30am Jeevan Mulya 8:00 Aastma 8:30 Rangela Re 9:00 Cartoons: Real Ghost Busters (Hindi Dub) 9:30 Cine Clips (Trailer Show) 8:30 Family Number 1 (Kunwaleet) 9:00 Challenge 9:30 Alpavart Serial: 5:30 Telefilm 6:00 Aaha Ki Kiran 6:15 Bal Jaagat 6:30 Savdhan 7:00 Krishi Darshan 7:30 Samachar 8:00 Serial: Suhana Safar 8:00 Serial: Goom Anugooni 9:00 Samachar 9:30 News 10:00 Serial: Jai Hanuman 11:00 Serial: Hina 11:30 Serial: Eshas 12:02 Ganga Bhai Ki Chaal (Serial) 12:32 Sangeet Samarah (Underrun Closed)

DD 7

10:30am Janmadin (Birth Day Greetings) 10:35 Daily Soap: Ogo Priyatama 11:00 Daily Soap: Rajeshwari 11:30 Tele Film/Parliament Hour 11:30 Ek Tan Bhai 11:30 Daily Soap: Aasha 1:30 Daily Soap: Simarekha 2:00 Daily Soap: Kanakajali 2:30 Daily Soap: Ogo Priyat