

Sport

Agassi surges past Pioline

MUNICH, Sept 30 (Reuters/Internet): Andre Agassi needed just 37 minutes on Wednesday to whitewash Cedric Pioline in the shortest match in Grand Slam Cup history.

Who's the boss?

LONDON, Sept 30 (Reuters/Internet): World soccer's ruling body FIFA said on Wednesday it had asked the Bulgarian Football Union (BFU) to state who its chairman is.

Quinn recalled

DUBLIN, Sept 30 (Reuters/Internet): Irish soccer coach Mick McCarthy recalled Sunderland striker Niall Quinn on Wednesday to his 20-man squad for next month's Euro 2000 qualifying matches.

Happy birthday Hingis!



MUNICH, Sept 30 (AP): Finally, she'll get to take that Porsche accompanies her at tournaments. Martina Hingis turned 18 Wednesday.

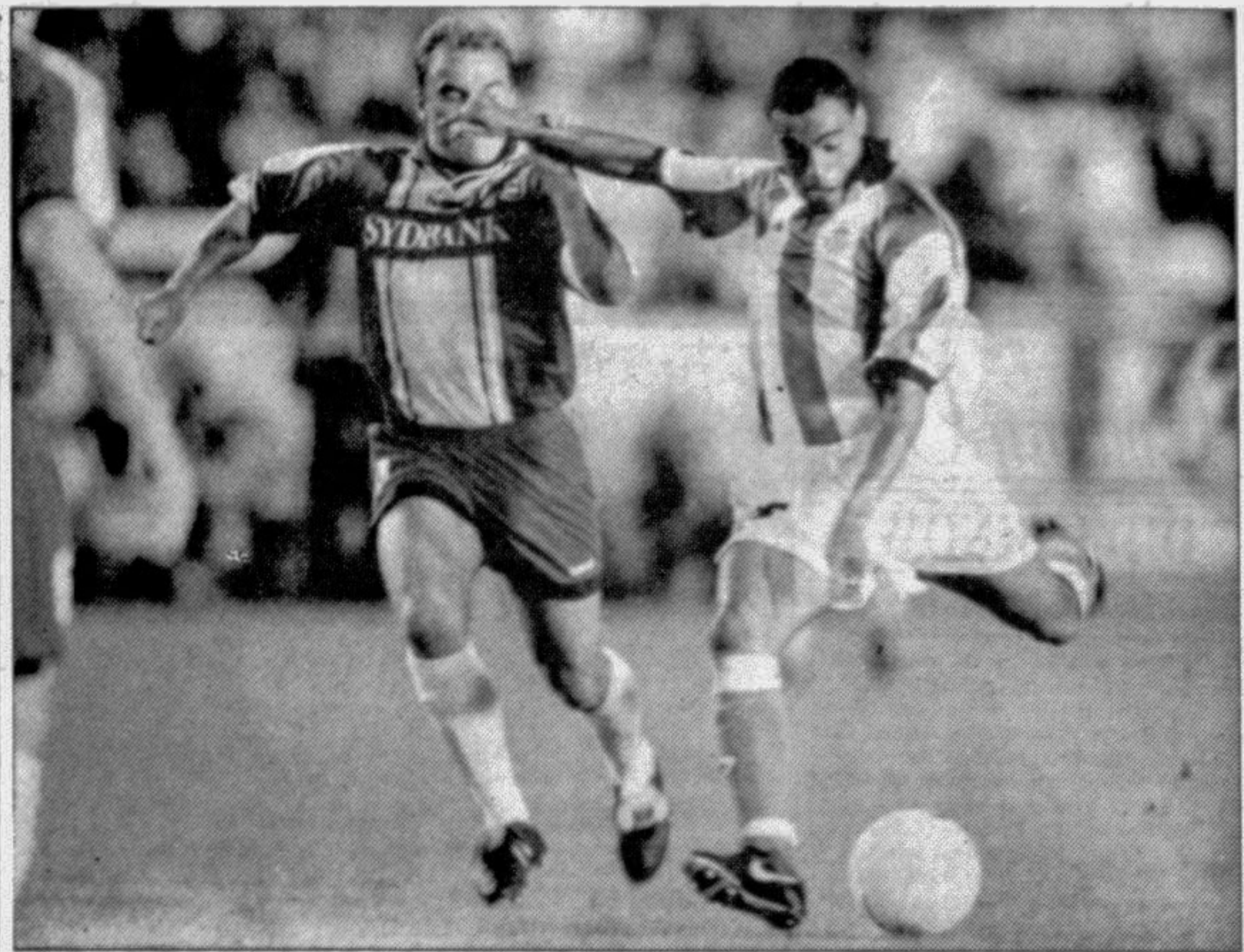
Williams and Monica Seles. Davenport is now only 26 points behind in the rankings and could capture the No 1 spot in Filderstadt.



MARTINA HINGIS busy celebrating to worry about the ranking.

Ronaldo given time to recover

APPIANO GENTILE, Italy, Sept 30 (AP): Inter Milan cannot field their injury-hit star Ronaldo until mid-October, coach Gigi Simoni said Tuesday, reports AFP.



Denilson, Real Betis' Brazilian superstar, about to take a shot during the UEFA Cup first round second leg fixture against Danish side Vejle BK at Sevilla on September 29.

Henman bows to Bjorkman



MUNICH, Sept 30: Jonas Bjorkman rallied from a 5-1 deficit in the opening set to defeat Tim Henman 7-5, 6-4, in the first men's match of the 6.7 million dollars Grand Slam Cup Tuesday.

the semifinals of the women's draw. "I felt very well as a 17-year-old for the last time," Hingis said.



JONAS BJORKMAN

Record not on Healy's mind

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan, Sept 30 (AP): The prospect of becoming cricket's most successful wicketkeeper is an added incentive for Australia's Ian Healy ahead of the first Test against Pakistan starting here Thursday.

The 33-year-old Healy needs just three more victims to overhaul fellow-Australian Rodney Marsh's world record of 355 dismissals in 96 Tests.

It is just another little bit of pressure, another little challenge but my main thought is about contributing to my team's success.

Healy has been playing in the Australian Open to win her only Grand Slam title of the year, and earlier this month in leading Switzerland to the Fed Cup title.

That's the way I like to play. I'm not worried about the record. I'm just trying to play my best and contribute to my team.

Lazio face a test of character



LONDON, Sept 30 (Reuters/Internet): Food processing tycoon Sergio Cragnotti will be looking for some return on his \$111 million investment on big-

name players when Lazio battle to stay in the European Cup Winners' Cup on Thursday. Having splashed out in assembling a classy squad in the close season, Cragnotti must have hoped that Lazio would be among the front runners to usurp cup holders Chelsea.

Spanish midfielder Ivan De La Pena, all injured. But Czech midfielder Pavel Nedved thinks the team will give Cragnotti some return on his huge investment in Lausanne.

Spanish refs' solidarity

MADRID, Sept 30 (Reuters/Internet): Spanish first and second division referees and referees' assistants decided on Wednesday to donate their entire wages from one weekend's work to help one of their stricken colleagues.

English premier league Chelsea also face the prospect of an uncomfortable evening in Helsingborg after struggling to a 1-0 win in their home leg.

Chelsea, like Lazio packed with high-profile players, must have fancied their chances of becoming the first side to retain the trophy considering this season's threadbare field.

SIX NO TRUMPS A K Sayeedul Huq SOUTH WAS UNREASONABLY AMBITIOUS BUT THE DEFENCE FAILED TO TAKE THE ADVANTAGE! (Hand # 108)

On artificial 1 Club by South, partner's response showed 0-6 HCP. East intervened with 2 Diamonds, and South bid 2 No Trumps. Under the system followed he could not bid 4-card suit although he held 4 cards in Spades and Clubs.



Fiorentina's German international Joerg Heinrich (R) tries to keep possession while a Hajduk Split player prepares to challenge during their UEFA Cup first round second leg encounter at Split on September 29. The game ended 0-0 giving Fiorentina a 2-1 aggregate win.

German clubs stage comebacks



LONDON, Sept 29 (Reuters/Internet): VfB Stuttgart completed a thrilling recovery with an injury time goal by striker Fredi Bobic to win 3-0 at Feyenoord and secure a 4-3 aggregate victory in the UEFA Cup first round on Tuesday.

second in the 70th minute through Kristijan Djordjevic, seemed to be heading out on the away goal rule.

Werder Bremen, who have made the worst start to a Bundesliga season in their history, also fought back from a first leg defeat to beat Brann Bergen 4-0 after extra time and go through 4-2 on aggregate.

Gironins Bordeaux, the French league leaders, were another team to leave it late, winning 2-1 at Rapid Vienna for a 3-2 aggregate success with Lassina Diabate scoring the deciding goal three minutes from time.

There was no slip-up for English league leaders Aston Villa who beat Norwegian part-timers Stromsgodset 3-0 for a 6-2 aggregate victory, thanks to a Stan Collymore hat-trick.

Stuttgart, runners-up in last season's European Cup Winners' Cup Final, needed all their European experience to rescue the tie after losing the first leg 3-1 at home two weeks ago.

Liverpool also cruised through to the second round, crushing 1FC Kosice 5-0 for an 8-0 aggregate success.

They opened the scoring after 35 minutes through Krajsimir Balakov but, after adding

among other casualties on a night of 31 matches were Portuguese giants Sporting Lisbon, who were unable to overturn their home 2-0 first leg defeat by Bologna, losing 2-1 to the Italians and going out 4-1 on aggregate.

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Doping report rocks Italy



ROME, Sept 30 (Reuters/Internet): The Italian sports world was jolted by a report on Wednesday that heads of other sporting authorities may face the sack and that the government may appoint a special commissioner to run CONI, which oversees all sport in Italy.

doping probe in Italian soccer history.

Italian radio, reporting the Carriere article as the league on Wednesday's morning's news bulletins, predicted that heads of other sporting authorities may face the sack and that the government may appoint a special commissioner to run CONI, which oversees all sport in Italy.

Carriere, Italy's largest-selling paper and one of the country's most authoritative, said the lab technician in Turin magistrate Raffaele Guariniello recounted the episode.

Carriere said CONI's procedures for doping tests were suspect but did nothing about it.

Guariniello discovered that the top authorities in Italian soccer knew but kept quiet, the newspaper said.

Pescante's head was the first to roll over the doping controversy, which dominated the sports press this summer.

I want to restore calm to an organisation caught up in a fair which seems to me to have been blown out of proportion," Pescante told reporters when he resigned.

The inquiry, in which Guariniello questioned top players in the Italian team, followed allegations by Roma coach Zdenek Zeman that drug-taking was rife in Serie A soccer.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer. 1 TV revenue 45 Tropical fruit 4 Cushion 47 Dismiss summarily 7 Watch secretly 48 U.N. 12 Fight 13 Estival quencher 14 Trailing vine 15 Catcher's place? 16 Diner vessel 18 Venerable 19 Tire pattern 20 Turn on the waterworks 22 Blunder 23 thousand 27 Terhune pooch 29 Winless racehorse 31 Pink shade 34 Substitute 35 Singer 37 Roulette bet 38 Crooked 39 Keglers' org.