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.

World number eight Agassi. who received a wild card for the lucrative tournament for the best performers in the year's four grand slams, won his first round match with embarrass ing ease. Frenchman Pioline, who qualified for Munich by reaching the semifinals at the French Open, became the first player to bow out of the \$6.7 million event without winning

The shortest match of the eight-year-old event had been the 6-1, 6-2 demolition of Dutchman Richard Krajicek by American MaliVai Washington in the first round in 1996. That match lasted 46 minutes.

Who's the boss?

LONDON, Sept 30 (Reuters) Internet): World soccer's ruling body FIFA said on Wednesday if had asked the Bulgarian Football Union (BFU) to state who is charge of the national game before two European championship qualifying matches next

The FIFA request was made after reports the government had revoked the BFU's licence. Bulgaria are due to play Eng-

land at Wembley on October 10 and Sweden at home in Bourgas four days later. The Bulgarian state commit-

tee of youth, physical education and sports, the equivalent of a sports ministry, said earlier this month it had revoked the BFU's licence and handed control of soccer to the Professional Football League.

However, the BFU is the only body recognised by FIFA to run the sport in Bulgaria.

"We do not think the match against England is not going to take place," said a FIFA spokesman on Wednesday. "But we are waiting for a reaction from them to know what the situation is.

"It may be that any suspension could be coming into effect only after the match. The BFU was accused by the

fifth game of the second. government of failing to take on the ATP computer rankings. action in a doping case prior to reached the quarterfinals of the World Cup finals. two Grand Slam events this year, in Australia and at the US

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.

Ireland travel to Belgrade to play Yugoslavia on October 10 and then play Malta at home four days later.

Quinn has 63 caps to his name and made his last appearance for Ireland in a oneoff international against Argentina in Dublin in April. He scored for his English club side against Norwich on Tuesday in his comeback game following a period of injury.

Ireland got off to a flying start in their qualifying campaign earlier this month with a well-deserved 2-0 victory over World Cup semi-finalists Croa-

West

4 8 : Q

1 Club*

5 Spades

2 No Trumps

4 No Trumps

opponents' cards.

THE PLAY

♥ H: J87X

4 C: J76XX

Bidding: Neither side was vulnerable

Artificial, 18 or more HCP

** Artificial, showing 0-6 HCP.

West

Pass

♦ D: 987

Happy birthday Hingis! Williams and Monica Seles. MUNICH, Sept 30: (AP): Finally, Davenport is now only 26 she'll get to take points behind in the rankings

that Porsche ac-

Hingis could pick up another brand new Porsche next week in

Filderstadt, Germany, where

the car company is the main

her No 1 ranking, which she

has held since March 31, 1997.

four Grand Slam tournaments

last year (Australian Open,

Wimbledon and US Open) and

reaching the final of the French

Open, Hingis captured only one this year — the first one in Aus-

three more titles, at Indian

Wells, Hamburg and Rome, and

she is being challenged by Lind-

say Davenport, who beat her in

the US Open final earlier this

record is 45-10, and she has

been beaten three times by Dav-

enport, and twice each by Venus

7-5, 6-4, in the first men's

match of the 6.7 million dollars

Bjorkman saved three-set

Grand Slam Cup Tuesday,

points and broke Henman's

serve when the Briton commit-

ted a double-fault in the seventh

his country into the Davis Cup

final, then rolled through the

next five games to clinch the

set. He broke serve again in the

Bjorkman, currently No 13

Henman's best Grand Slam

Earlier, top ranked Martina

showing this year was at home.

when he reached the semifinals

at Wimbledon. He is ranked

Hingis opened the women's era

in lucrative event by beating

brate her 18th birthday

Wednesday, needed one hour

and 20 minutes to overcome the

26-year-old Spaniard and reach

The Swiss, who will cele-

Conchita Martinez 6-2, 7-5.

The Swede, fresh off leading

Her tournament singles

MUNICH, Sept 30:

Jonas Bjorkman

rallied from a 5-1

deficit in the

opening set to de-

feat Tim Henman

Since then, she has won only

But Hingis could also lose

After winning three of the

nesday.

sponsor.

month.

reports AP.

companies her at But right now, Hingis is too tournaments. Martina Hingis turned 18 Wed-"Before, my mother had to sign when I was asked to sign something. Now I can sign on

in Filderstadt.



and could capture the No 1 spot

MARTINA HINGIS

Henman bows to Bjorkman

the semifinals of the women's

old for the last time," Hingis

older, but that won't change

and waiting for this moment

much. I've been getting ready *

"I felt very well as a 17-year-

"Tomorrow, I am one day

busy celebrating to worry about the ranking. One of her German sponsors (Opel) is preparing "something

big, something special," which could result in another car.

media hype." "I want to see the soccer match tomorrow night against Manchester United," Hingis said.

The Champions' League match between Bayern Munich and Manchester United is being played next door to the tennis hall at the Olympic stadium.
"I will definitely be there."

Hingis said.

Maybe on Thursday I will have the opportunity to have a quick look at the Oktoberfest." And just in case she runs out of pocket money while trying out the beer and the Bavarian wurst, Hingis could end her week in Munich earning 800,000 dollars - the firstplace prize for women at the lucrative Grand Slam Cup - after three matches.

Just by clearing the first hurdled, a 6-2, 7-5 victory over Conchita Martinez on Tuesday, earned Hingis at least 200,000 dollars.

"It's really a great tournament I would say. There are no points to win so you can really have fun playing." Hingis said. "Of course, there's always the money, which isn't bad for three matches."

for two years," Hingis said.

Eight women are participat-

Hingis also beat Martinez in

ing for the first time since the

introduction of the tournament

in 1990 and Hingis got the hon-

the final of the Australian Open

to win her only Grand Slam ti-

this month in leading Switzer-

brings together players with the

best records in the four Grand

Slam events of the year — the

Australian, French and US

champions of the year have de-

cided to skip the tournament

despite its huge prize money

Wimbledon champion and top-

ranked Pete Sampras. US Open

champion Patrick Rafter and

Carlos Moya, the French Open

champion Petr Korda is among

sented, with Monica Seles the

only absentee from the top

ranks. Seles refuses to play in

Germany since her stabbing in

a tournament in Hamburg in

Felix Mantilla outplayed Nico-

In the final match of the day.

las Escude 6-3, 6-3 to reach the

Only Australian Open

The women are fully repre-

But three men's Grand Slam

land to the Fed Cup title.

Open and Wimbledon.

champion.

last eight.

the 12 men here.

tle of the year, and again earlier

The tournament nominally

our of playing the first match.

Ronaldo given

APPIANO GENTILE, Italy, Sept 30: Inter Milan cannot field their injury-hit star Ronaldo until mid-October, coach Gigi Simoni said Tues-

the following weekend as Italy are playing a European Championship qualifier against Switzerland at Udine on October 10.

"I'm sorry about it, but not over-worried," said Simoni. "Ronnie had this inflammation after the World Cup finals, but he had been improving and his performances had also been getting better.

we've decided that it was pointless to force things - given that there is a two-week break coming up - and he has said that he doesn't feel up to playing these matches.

ing serious and I think he will be fully fit when the championship re-starts."

San Siro.

Healy's mind

The 33-year-old Healy needs

Marsh caught 343 victims

much about the world record until I got near the 300 mark Now I am definitely looking forward to it but I make sure it doesn't play on my mind, Healy said

The Australian wicketkeeper thinks enjoyment the key to

"One should enjoy things to the hilt and that's how success can be achieved," he said.

Four years ago Healy left Pakistan injured and regretting a missed stumping of Inzamamul Haq that cost Australia the Karachi Test by a single wicket. "I have made this stumping

20,000 times since but I missed the one that counted," Healy

Four years on Healy is virtually certain to leave Pakistan with a world record.

It was in Pakistan that Healy started his Test career in the 1988-89 season. Injury to Peter Anderson gave Healy, with just six first class matches to his name, a chance to board the plane to Pakistan. Since then Healy has become the

Agile and accurate. Healy has finished with 24 or more victims in a series on three occasions. Only Marsh and Englishman Jack Russell, with 28 and 27 victims respectively. have claimed more victims in a

In 1993 Healy recorded 63 victims in 15 Tests in a calendar year - still a record, beating the previous feat of the West Indian keeper Jeff Dujon's 55 vic-

and physical education, Healy has missed just one out of the

combination has emulated Dennis Lille-Marsh pairing and it is Healy's all-round ability to keep wickets on all types of bowling that places him cut above the rest.

German clubs stage comebacks LONDON, Sept 29 a second in the 70th minute through Kristijan Djordjevic. (Reuters/ Internet): VfB Stuttgart

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 Werder, beaten 2-0 in Nor-

Tuesday 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.

Girondins 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

completed

But there was no respite to the gloom for French rivals Metz. Despite beating Crvena Zvezda Belgrade 2-1 for their first win of the season, the teams finished 3-3 on aggregate after extra time and Crvena Zvezda won 4-3 on penalties.

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.

They opened the scoring alter 35 minutes through Krassimir Balakov but, after adding seemed to be heading out on the away goal rule. But with injury time being

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.

played Bobit, who had hit the post a minute earlier, scrambled the ball home to give Stuttgart a memorable victory.

way, pulled level on aggregate through Raphael Wicky (33) and Andre Wiedener (70). The superior fitness of the German side told in extra time with Yuri Maximov (101) and Norwegian striker Havard Flo (110) delivering the knockout blows.

In Metz both teams had a man sent off -- David Regis of Metz went after 51 minutes and Goran Drulic of Crvena Zvezda was shown the red card a minute from time. There was no slip-up for En-

glish league leaders Aston Villa who beat Norwegian parttimers Stromsgodset 3-0 for a 6-2 aggregate victory, thanks to a Stan Collymore hat-trick. Liverpool also cruised

through to the second round. crushing 1FC Kosice 5-0 for an 8-0 aggregate success. Robbie Fowler (2) and Jamie Redknapp (2) spearheaded Liverpool's whitewash with Paul Ince adding the other. But Blackburn's involve-

ment ended after their 2-2 draw in France with Olympique Lyon who went through 3-2 on aggre-

Fiorentina, who have won their opening three matches in Serie A and are the top team in Italy, were held to a 0-0 draw by Hajduk Split in Croatia but went through 2-1 on aggregate. However, Schalke 04, who

-AFP photo

won this competition in 1996-97, were the first surprise casualties of the night, losing on penalties to Slavia Prague. Slavia defeated Schalke 1-0

in the second leg with a 17th minute Richard Dostalek goal that levelled the aggregate score at 1-1. There were no goals in extra

time and Slavia went through 5-4 on penalties. Schalke won the UEFA Cup on penalties against Inter Milan in 1997 and reached the quarter-finals last season. 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.

The Italians were shaken when Leandro pulled one back for Sporting after 65 minutes, but Bologna bounced back to win with late goals from Carlo Nervo (68) and Giuseppe Signori, who scored with a 90th minute penalty,

Italians Parma also went through, overturning a 1-0 first leg deficit against Turkish side Fenerbahce to wm 3-1 on the night and 3-2 on aggregate.

Lazio face a test of character LONDON, Sept 30 name players when Lazio battle Spanish midfielder Ivan De La (Reuters/ Internet): Food pro-



SIX NO TRUMPS

A K Sayeedul Huq

SOUTH WAS UNREASONABLY AMBITIOUS

BUT THE DEFENCE FAILED TO TAKE THE

ADVANTAGE!

(Hand # 108)

48 96XXXX

North

₩ H: 6 X

. D. KXX

♣ C: K9

South (D)

48 AJ87

WH: Q9X

4 C: AQ8X

North

3 Spades

5 Clubs

Pass

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. On this strong bidding North showed his Spade suit. It

was a good bid as on partner's 2 No Trump, a six-carder suit, even with

no honour was quite reasonable. Instead of booking game at 4 Spades,

South ambitiously bid 4 No Trumps to check the missing Ace. This was

unreasonably ambitious because partner could have, at best, the KQ of

Spades and a Jack to spare, or Kings of Spades and Hearts or Clubs. In

either case it was not possible to make six Spades. However, he luckily

stopped at 5 Spades, a contract which hinged on the placement of

East opened the King of Hearts, and on seeing the Queen in the dummy,

he switched to the 10 of Clubs. The declarer won the trick in the closed

hand with the King and played a small Spade. When the 10 appeared

from East he went up with the Ace dropping the Queen from the West

hand. This was a good decision because if he had played the Jack, West might have won, and led a Heart for down one. Alternatively, South

could park the Heart loser on the third Club to make the contract. Next he

played the Ace of Clubs and when East followed he slapped the losing

Heart from the closed hand on the Queen of Clubs. East could ruff the

Club Queen but that was the end of the story for him. The declarer made

East was under the impression that the declarer had the Queen of Spades.

for his bid of the suit. As he showed 0-6 HCP, the declarer had at best

another King and a Jack in addition. If partner had the Diamond King,

the declarer could not avoid losing the trick. However, little he thought

that if partner did not have the King of Clubs, he would be setting up the

suit for eventual disposal of the Heart loser from the closed hand.

the hand as the Diamond Queen was in the finessable position.

1 Diamond**

D AJ

cessing tycoon Sergio Cragnotti will be looking for

some return on his \$111 million investment on big-

East

4 8 : K 10

♣ C : 10 X

₩ H: AK10X

D Q 106XX

2 Diamonds

Pass

Pass

Pass

to stay in the European Cup Winners' Cup on Thursday.

Having splashed out in asclose season. Cragnotti must usurp cup holders Chelsea.

But after labouring to a 1-1 draw at home to Lausanne Switzerland in danger of mak-

Lazio go into the match

Spanish refs' solidarity

Carlos Sanz, who last season was a Spanish first division linesman, recently contracted hepatitis C and requires an urgent liver transplant. Sanz will benefit to the tune of 9,110,400 pesetas (\$60,055) from the generosity of his fellow officials.

sembling a classy squad in the have hoped that Lazio would be among the front runners to

JONAS BJORKMAN

Sports in the first leg two weeks ago the Italian club travel to ing an embarrassing first round

without suspended Yugoslav midfielder Dejan Stankovic, cup tied striker Christian Vieri and Croat striker Alen Boksic defender Alessandro Nesta and

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.

Pena, all injured.

But Czech midfielder Pavel Nedved thinks the team will give Cragnotti some return on his huge investment in Lausanne.

"It won't be easy for us as a 0-0 draw will see them through, Nedved said. "But I expect a show of real character from us." Roberto Mancini, 33, steps

in alongside Chilean Marcelo Sala in attack for Lazio, while Argentine Matias Almeyda and Portugal's Sergio Conceicao come in for De La Pena and Stankovic respectively.

Injured Swiss international midfielder Christophe Ohrel will be the only regular missing from the Lausanne side. 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. The fitness of combative midfielder Dennis Wise could be

a significant factor in the holders progressing further. He is winning his fight to shake off a knee injury Helsingborg will be looking to Norwegian Arild Stavrum to

rass Chelsea

provide the firepower to embar-

Doping report rocks Italy doping probe in Italian soccer ROME, Sept 30 (Reuters/ Inter-



net): The Italian sports world was jolted by a report Wednesday

that a positive doping test involving a first division soccer match was covered up and falsified.

The report splashed on the front-page of Milan's Corriere della Sera said a random doping test was carried out on the urine of a Udinese player after a match with Roma on January 4. Udinese won 2-1. The player, who was not named, tested positive for a banned substance, identified only as a stimulant.

The technician at the CONI sporting laboratory in Rome who had carried out the test told a superior. But the superior told the technician to keep his discovery quiet, the paper said.

The same technician later discovered that a second test tube which contained more of the same player's urine for a cross check had been tampered with. Its seal was broken in viola-

tion of standard procedures and the results of the test disappeared, Corriere said.

The revelations appeared bound to intensify the storm over flawed doping tests in Italy's premiere division. They appeared two days after the sudden resignation of Mario Pescante, embattled president of the Italian Olympic Committee (CONI), following the biggest

ACROSS

4 Cushion

secretly

quencher

7 Watch

12 Fight

13 Estival

4 Trailing

15 Catcher's

place?

6 Diner

19 Tire

20 Turn on

22 Blunder

27 Terhune

29 Winless

thousand

31 Pink shade

34 Substitute

35 Singer

37 Roulette

38 Crooked

39 Keglers'

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

1 Pointer

creator

holmer.

5 Put on a

pedestal

6 Postpone 26 Whatever

9 Kennel cry 31 Urban fleet

bud," e.g. 28 Ms.

3 Stock-

4 Treaty

7 "Rose-

8 Chart

variety

10 Lennon's

41 Quid pro

47 Dismiss

48 U.N.

summarily

Secretary-

protrusion

co-founder

Yesterday's answer

58 Early hrs. 17 The Mac-

General

52 Pouter's

53 Bump a

54 Past

18 Venerable 56 Microsoft

55 Powell

boarder

Italian radio, reporting the Corriere article as the lead item 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.

Corriere, Italy's largest-sell-

Hasselbaink softens his threat

LONDON, Sept 30 (Reuters/ Internet): Dutch international striker Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink on Wednesday retracted his threat to quit Leeds United should manager George Graham move to Tottenham Hotspur as expected

"If the next man comes in and wants to build a team to win things I will sign a six-year contract tomorrow," Hasselbaink said on the team's telephone club call. "It all depends on what is go-

ing to happen. It is the same for everybody.

The 25-year-old Dutchman, who joined Leeds from Portuguese side Boavista for 2.0 million pounds (\$3.4 million) 15 months ago, said only two days earlier Graham's rumoured departure would make

it very difficult for him.

Donald

21 "Little Shop

of Horrors*

place

horror

23 Hitchcock

24 Commotion

25 Cartoonist

amount

MacGraw

30 Gorilla

32 Bullring

33 Skedaddled

Washing-

36 Made cot-

37 Destroy

51 "Rocks"

ing paper and one of the country's most authoritative, said the lab technician to Turin magistrate Rafaelle Guarinello recounted the episode. Guarinello has been con-

ducting a criminal inquiry into doping allegations in Italian soccer. Asked by reporters for a comment as he was entering his

office in Turin. Guarinello indicated he would have no immediate comment on the report Udinese said it was waiting for executives to arrive before making a comment and a spokesman for the Italian soc-

cer federation said a statement may be issued later. Corriere said top soccer authorities knew CONI's procedures for doping tests were suspect but did nothing about it.

"Guarinello discovered that

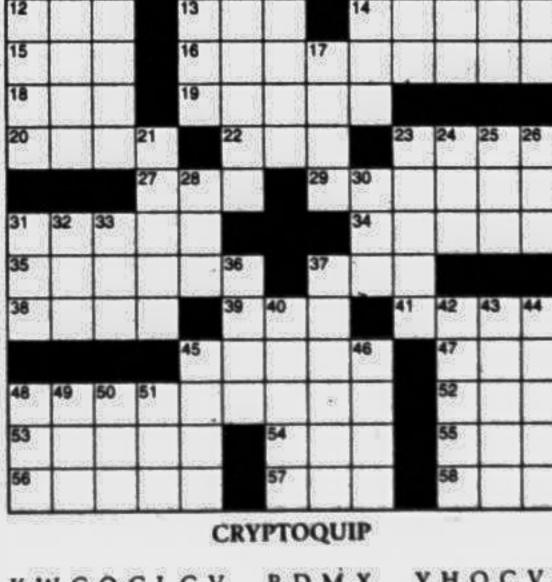
the top authorities in Italian soccer knew but kept quiet." the newspaper said. Pescante's head was the first to roll over the doping contro-

versy, which dominated the sports press this summer. "I want to restore calm to an organisation caught up in an affair which seems to me to have

been blown out of proportion." Pescante told reporters when he resigned. The inquiry, in which Guar-

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

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 -AP/UNB photo



RDMX YHQCVG KWCQCLCV TDP FWCT'XX GMT, DP AHQ? Yesterday's Cryptoquip: HOW COBBLERS LIKE

TO COMPLAIN THAT PEOPLE TRAMPLE ON THEIR BEST WORK! BACKTALK 48 Frat-party Today's Cryptoquip clue: A equals B The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one 49 Eventua

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.

time to recover

"I don't know, it may be a big day, reports AFP. The Brazilian ace is suffering from tendon trouble in both knees and has not only been ruled out of tonight's European Champions League tie against Sturm Graz but also Sunday's Serie A game against Perugia. League soccer grinds to a halt

"Now it's worsened again and

"For the moment, it's noth-

Inter's first match after the break is against potential title rivals Lazio on October 18 at

Record not on RAWALPINDI, Pakistan

Sept 30 (AFP): 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.

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. If we beat Pakistan am going to get my score of dismissals," Healy said.

and stumped 12. In his 10 years behind Test stumps, Healy has caught out 328 batsmen and stumped 25 in 103 Tests. "I never really even thought

productivity.

lamented later.

"It will be fantastic to overtake Rod Marsh who has been my all time favourite behind the stumps," Healy remarked.

world number one.

tims set in 1984. A student of sports science

> 104 Tests played by Australia since his debut. The Shane Warne-Healy