

Sport

Results of yesterday's warm-ups

Cardiff
Glamorgan
Kenya
Match abandoned due to rain

Southampton
Hampshire 91 all out
England 92-1
England beat Hampshire by 9 wkt

Leicester
Sri Lanka 143-5
Leicestershire 81-3
Leicestershire need 63 more runs to win (A rate of 13.50 runs/over).

Southgate
Middlesex 216-6
South Africa 219-4
South Africa beat Middlesex by 6 wkt

Trent Bridge
India 243-5
Nottinghamshire 159-6
India beat Nottinghamshire by 88 runs

Edgbaston
Warwickshire 171 all out
Zimbabwe 106 all out
Warwickshire beat Zimbabwe by 65 runs
(Source: Internet)

Graf back in action

BONN, May 11 (Reuters/AP): Steffi Graf returns to action on home soil after two weeks out with a foot injury in the first round of the German Open on Tuesday.

Graf, 29, will take on Yvonne Meusburger, Sanja Naucic, 11, years her junior.

She was seeded to meet Irene Spirkle in the last 16 but the 13th-ranked Romanian walked off court during the second set of her first round match with Cara Black of Zimbabwe without explanation.

On Monday, defending champion Conchita Martinez ousted France's Anne-Gaelle Sidot in straight sets to kick off the event, where 16 of the world's top 20 are entered.

Martinez, a former Wimbledon winner who has fallen to 17th in the world rankings, advanced into the second round with a 7-6 (7-3), 6-2 victory at the £1 million dollar event.

The top seeds, led by No 1 Martina Hingis, are first scheduled to see action Tuesday and Wednesday.

Romania's Irina Spirkle, No 13, became the first seed ousted when she withdrew with stomach pains while training Zimbabwe's Cara Black, 4-6, 0-1, while No 16 Barbara Schett of Austria advanced with a 6-4, 5-7, 6-2 victory against South Africa's Madian de Swardt.

While many of the new wave of teenagers are entered like Hingis, Serena Williams and Anna Kournikova, they have yet to break the domination of the veterans at the event.

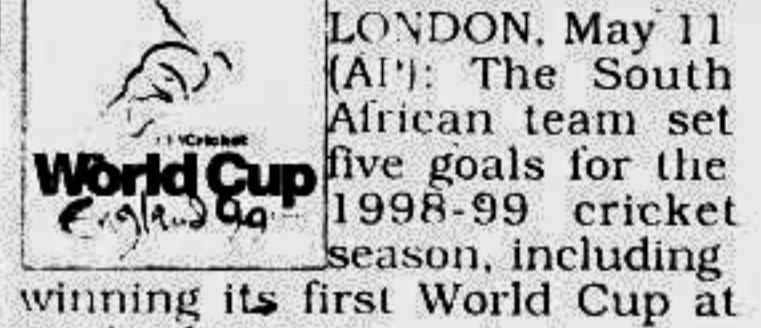
France's Mary Pierce captured the title two years ago while Hingis — despite her dominance elsewhere — has failed to last beyond the quarterfinals in the past three years.

Yvonne Williams, who often doesn't enter the same events as her sister Serena, the injured Lindsay Davenport and Monica Seles are the only top players not entered.

In other matches Monday, Lisa Raymond beat Chanda Rubin 6-3, 7-6 (7-2) in an all-American duel, Italy's Silvia Farina ousted Tara Snyder of the United States, 6-4, 6-1 and Brazil's Anna Smashnova ousted Germany's Marlene Weintraub, 6-0, 6-0.

The major surprise of Monday's first round was the victory of the unknown German Julia Gogol, 168th in the world, over last year's Tatjana Pashova, ranked 100 places above her, 6-4, 7-6 (7-3).

Proteas' fifth element



LONDON, May 11 (AP): The South African team set five goals for the 1998-99 cricket season, including winning its first World Cup at its third attempt.

"Those (World Cup) memories are still fresh," Cronje said. "Some of the players have played in both tournaments and think they owe the South African people a world title."

It all began last September when a second-string South African team beat a full-strength Australia to win the Commonwealth Games gold medal in Kuala Lumpur.

Since, it has won a mini-World Cup in Bangladesh, thrashed West Indies and New Zealand in both Tests and limited-over series, and now as strong favourites.

Hansie Cronje has captained South Africa in 100 limited-over internationals and has a 76 per cent success rate.

The players have started realizing that they can compete with the best in the world," he said. "To me that is a major step towards the right direction."

"I think we are flying in formation now."

Despite unsuccessful, and controversial, World Cup campaigns in 1992 and 1996, South

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In Sydney in 1992, South Africa, were deprived of a place in the final by default after a farcical rain-rule reduced its target from 22 runs off 13 balls to scandalous 21 off one ball.

In Karachi in 1996, after re-

maining unbeaten in a group that included hosts Pakistan, New Zealand and England, it was knocked out in the quar-

terfinal by West Indies.

Boje was an ideal example. He was a spinner for his state and since coming under the wings of Woolmer at national level, has been regarded as all rounder.

"Yes I guess our all-round depth and our seam bowlers are our strength," says Cronje, himself a one-day allrounder.

"We've got to make sure our planning is spot."

South Africa open the tourna-

ment on Saturday against India at Hove on May 15.

Punter to net half a million if MU win

LONDON, May 11: A punter stands to claim more than 500,000 pounds (750,000 dollars) from a British bookmaker if Manchester United win the English Premiership, reports AFP.

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So far he has correctly backed the division one champions Sunderland (starting odds 10-3), division two champions Fulham (11-2) and division three champions Brentford (5-1) in England.

He also backed Premier League champions Rangers (4-6), division one champions Hibernal (10-11), division two champions Livingston (5-4) and division three champions Ross County (6-5) in Scotland.

Now only United — who began the season at 7-4 — need to finish top for the bet to pay out.

With two games to play United havn't the same number of points as Arsenal in the Premiership but are top because they have scored more goals.

Meet the real stars!

LONDON, May 11 (AP): Football is less the most goals wins. Tennis makes sense.

The game, of course, has been struggling for years to find a way of re-adjusting scores in rain-shortened matches.

The original system favoured teams batting second. Teams going first would be on the point of accelerating their scoring after a cautious start when their innings would be ended prematurely by a downpour, giving their rivals an easy total to overhaul. In 1992, in the search for justice, the World Cup tried a new system. If side A scored 250 of 50 overs but there was only time for side B to bat for 30 overs, the winning target was found by compiling side A's 30 best scoring overs.

It proved a disaster. South Africa, for instance, playing against England in the semi-final at Sydney, needed 22 runs off 16 balls when it began raining. As the teams prepared to take the field again, the target had been revised to 22 off seven.

Several minutes more were lost before the batsmen reached the crease and a new victory target was announced over the tannoy: 22 off a single delivery.

Enter budding rocket sci-

ents D/L. Their system seems to take everything into account via a devilish mathematical formula. The outcome? Normally a few runs added to the first innings total, which must be achieved in a few less overs.

Bob Woolmer, South Africa's coach, said: "It's better than earlier systems and obviously it's much better than the 1992 method! I think there is still some room for improvement though."

"In the Commonwealth Games, for instance, we had Ireland at 87 for seven before the rain and were asked to chase 137."

Crucially, however, the system is regarded, in Woolmer's words, as "close to the right thing." Disappointingly, it's as transitory as mud. But justice has a price.

As Martin Johnson wrote in Tuesday's Daily Telegraph: "The D/L requires a computer programme comparable with the one which beat Kasparov at chess."

"All in all I'm quite happy with our season," he said, despite losing in the semi-finals of the Cup Winners' Cup and failing to win any domestic trophies.

"We have improved from last season," Manchester United and Arsenal have something extra than Chelsea but I think we can get there quite soon."

Asked what he had to do to close the gap on the top two, Vialli said: "I've got a few ideas. It's difficult to find better players and those at Chelsea — they have done a great job — it's difficult and very expensive. But we'll sit down and then try to improve."

Looking back at Chelsea's weaknesses, Vialli pointed to the number of leads his team had let slip.

"Sometimes we should have been more clinical. Attacking football is fine but sometimes, as a team, we've got to be able to hold a result," he said.

"He also said he had much to learn as a manager. 'I've made a lot of mistakes but you keep learning — if you want to.'

"I am in the thick of the action again after 13 minutes

Vialli fairly satisfied

LONDON, May 11: Chelsea player-manager Gianluca Vialli admitted on Monday that his club were not quite in the same class as Manchester United and Arsenal but said he was confident they could close the gap very soon, reports Reuters.

But the Londoners will have to do it without the Italian's help on the pitch as he said, barring emergencies, his playing days are over.

Chelsea drew 2-2 at Tottenham Hotspur to end their already slim title hopes but Vialli looked back on an ultimately fruitless season in a positive frame of mind.

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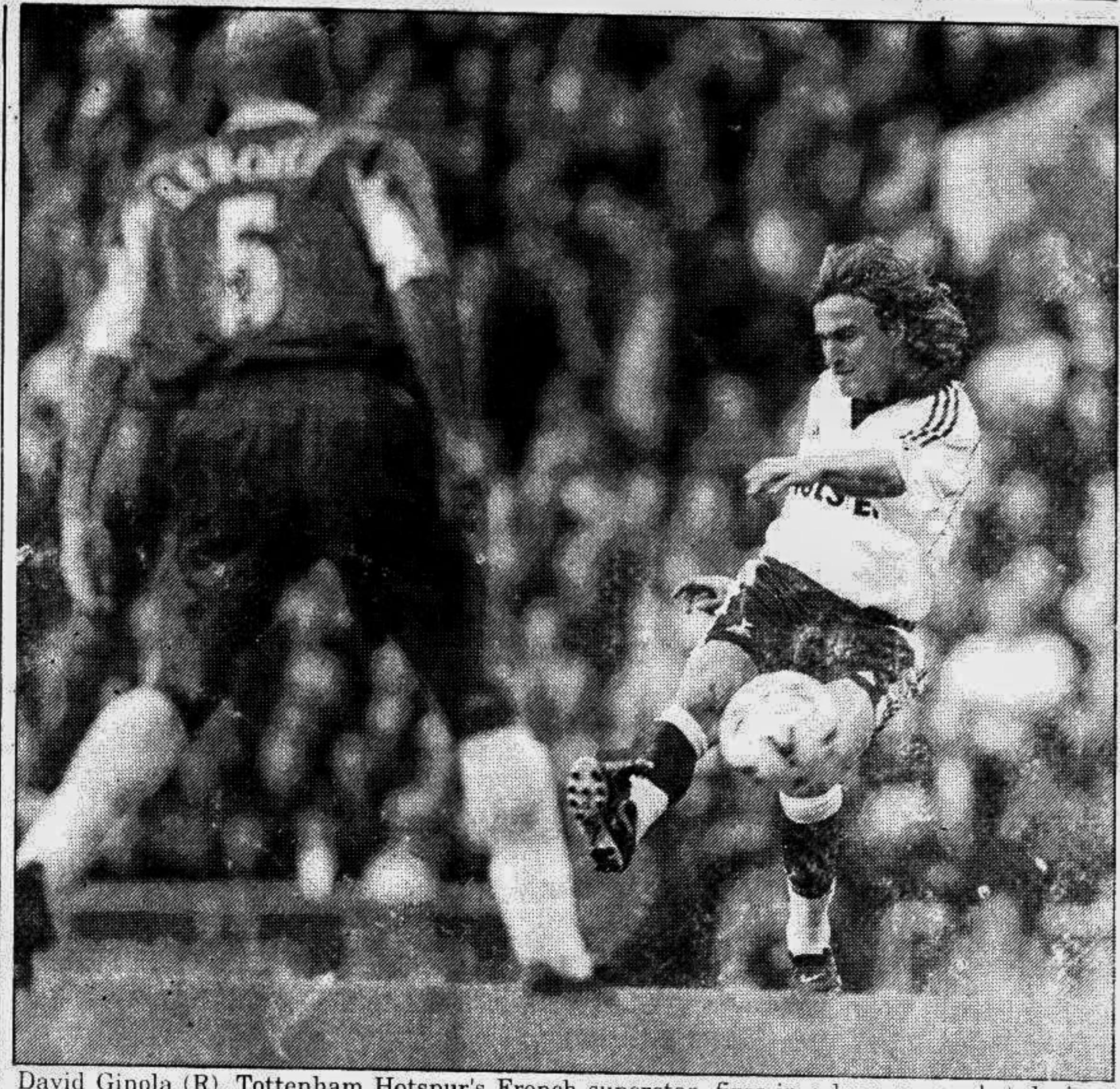
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David Ginola (R), Tottenham Hotspur's French superstar, fires in a long range shot during the English Premiership clash against Chelsea at White Hart Lane on May 10. The match ended 2-2. — AFP photo

Chelsea out of contention

LONDON, May 11: A stunning second-half equaliser from Dane Bjarni Goldbaek salvaged a 2-2 draw and a share of London pride for Chelsea but the result realistically ended their already slender hopes of the English Premiership title, reports AFP.

But the Londoners will have to do it without the Italian's help on the pitch as he said, barring emergencies, his playing days are over.

Chelsea's strike cancelled out another virtuoso goal from player-of-the-year David Ginola and ensured neither side lost face in the capital derby match.

Tottenham's French genius Ginola, yet to agree a new contract with Spurs, made a lively start, twice bamboozling the Chelsea defence with his trademark mazy runs.

But after only four minutes Chelsea took the lead.

Tottenham keeper Ian Walker must take the blame for the goal as he came rushing out for a Gianfranco Zola freekick that was beyond his reach leaving Uruguayan midfielder Gustavo Poyet the easy task of heading into an unguarded net.

Five minutes later Norwegian striker Tore Andre Flo embarrassed Spurs defender Mauricio Taricco but his cross was dealt with by John Scales and Walker.

Flo was in the thick of the action again after 13 minutes

but his glancing header from a Graeme Le Saux freekick went wide.

Finally Spurs began to string some passes together and a four-man move ended with a Steffen Iversen shot well held by Chelsea keeper Kevin Hitchcock.

After 27 minutes Steffen Freund fired a shot through a forest of legs that was again well gathered by Hitchcock.

Iversen then fired wide after a neat turn as the home team exerted an extended spell of pressure on the west Londoners.

Flo relieved the pressure, forcing another save from Walker with a well-directed header.

But Tottenham's pressure finally paid off when Iversen grabbed an improvised equaliser seven minutes before the interval.

Spurs caught Chelsea napping with a quickly taken corner by Darren Anderton and Ginola with the Frenchman's cross adroitly turned in by the Norwegian with the outside of his right boot for his 13th goal of the campaign.

While the goal was well taken, Hitchcock's view may have been impaired by Chris Armstrong, who appeared to be in an offside position.

Almost immediately his compatriot Flo had a chance to

keep me and I'm sure they recognise what I am worth. They want what is good for the club — and at the moment I think that's me."

Graham himself admits Ginola deserves a raise.

"I believe David does deserve to earn more money," said the Scot. "Why shouldn't he try to renegotiate his contract?

"He has fantastic individual talent although in some games he can be quite ineffective. That's maybe why he is no longer picked by France. I don't know."

Stars gesture for NATO victims

BERLIN, May 11: Several leading Yugoslav footballers will attend a concert in Berlin on May 23 to raise funds for civilian victims of NATO airstrikes, the organisers said.

Real Madrid striker Frede, Mijatovic and Lazio midfields Sinisa Mihajlovic as well as top basketball stars Milenko Petic (Alba Berlin) and Slobodan Obrovic (Rome) will be present.

Yesterdays' Cryptoquip: ONCE KNEW A SCAMP WHO STOLE POSTAGE STAMPS: HE GOT A LICKING.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: V equals W

The Cryptoquip 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 will give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

CRYPTOQUIP

VEYF BPFUPL LHKPZ-
HPWFMYU GNK EGNLY, W

HGLWMMWBYSZ LPV KYU.

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