

### Sympathy for Stewart

LONDON, July 3 (Internet report) — England manager David Graveney offered his sympathy to former captain Alec Stewart on Saturday after his double failure in the dramatic opening Test against New Zealand.

Stewart scored just one run, but was dismissed twice on a day when 21 wickets fell for 236 runs to leave England resuming on three for one, needing a further 205 runs for victory in conditions which have so far been perfect for accurate swing and seam bowling.

It was only the third time in Test cricket history that both sides have been dismissed on the same day and sets the match up for a tense and thrilling finale.

But Stewart, who has also dropped two crucial catches in his first Test since returning to the ranks, will play no further part other than offer encouragement from the sidelines, to leave his future in jeopardy now he is no longer captain.

But Graveney, one of Stewart's most loyal and long-standing supporters, stressed: "When Stewart got out we all felt sorry for him. It became dark as we went out, but it wasn't unplayable as there were only two lights on at the time."

"It was a good swinging yorker from Geoff Allott and he'll be disappointed to get out at that time of the day, but it wasn't a bad shot - I put it down to good bowling."

It was an extraordinary day of Test cricket, with high quality bowling in conditions that were not dissimilar, in terms of humidity, to when we bowled Australia out for a small score at Edgbaston in 1997. Quite simply the ball has dominated the bat and made interesting viewing.

"The team talk Nasser Hussain delivered was exactly spot-on after we were bowled out."

He said the bowlers got us out of jail to a certain degree with the bat, now we've got to do it all again, and that's exactly what we did. We had to bowl them out in a very short space of time."

But Graveney conceded that the tourists had given them an object lesson in how to bowl in the conditions, adding: "They showed us the length to bowl on this wicket, that is to pitch it up."

"You've got to give credit where credit is due, it probably swung a bit more than it did on the first day. There were some good deliveries bowled by them."

### Kasparov clinches Frankfurt title

FRANKFURT, July 3: Russia's world champion Garry Kasparov won the Frankfurt Chess Classics festival late Friday, beating his fellow-countryman Anatoly Karpov on the last day of the semi-rapid tournament, reports AFP.

Kasparov, playing against his old rival for the first time in three years, beat him by one win and three draws in the four-day Siemens event. Kasparov, who notched up the same score against two other opponents - Viswanathan Anand of India and Vladimir Kramnik of Russia.

The four were engaged in a semi-rapid competition which allows each player 25 minutes to make a move.

Over the last eight years, the two Russian masters have created one of the greatest rivalries in chess history.

They have played five World Championships against each other, and a total of 171 matches since 1981.

Kasparov, 36, has got the better of his 48-year-old rival, with 29 victories, 20 defeats and 122 draws against Karpov.

### United to kick off retail chain in Middle East

DUBAI, July 3 (Reuters/Internet) — European soccer champion Manchester United plans to open a chain of retail shops in the Middle East as the world's wealthiest football team expands its international ventures.

The club's retail partner in the Middle East, retail and marketing group Gray Mackenzie, said on Saturday the team planned to open a chain of "Theatre of Dreams" stores, starting in the Gulf emirate of Dubai in March 2000.

In a statement, Gray Mackenzie said shops in Abu Dhabi, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Lebanon, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain and Qatar would follow.

Peter McElwaine, chief executive of Gray Mackenzie, said the average size of each store will be 3,000 square feet (278.7 square metres) and will sell team uniforms and ranges of sports clothes and souvenirs for teenagers and children.

"Manchester United can justifiably lay claim to being the biggest club in the world," McElwaine said.

He said Manchester United coaches and players will also run soccer schools throughout the Middle East.

Peter Kenyon, United deputy chief executive, said the club was committed to delivering its retail concept to the Middle East.

"We understand how passionate the people of the Middle East are about sport and football in particular," Kenyon said in a statement.

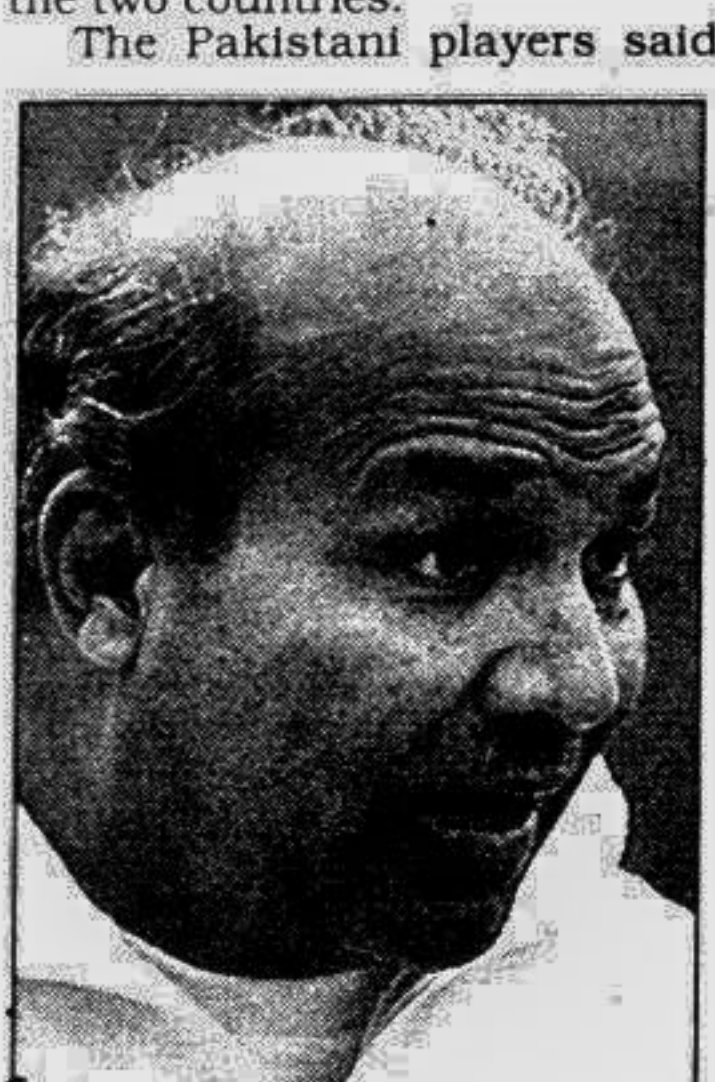
Last month, United announced it was opening stores across southeast Asia as part of a 10-year agreement with local retail group FJ Benjamin Holdings Ltd.

At the time, Kenyon said further retail partnerships would be announced in the next few months to cover China, Hong Kong, the Middle East, Scandinavia and Ireland.

## Caught by Kargil virus

KARACHI, July 3 (Reuters) — Former Pakistani Test cricketers agreed on Saturday with Indian players who have called for an end to cricketing relations between the two countries.

The Pakistani players said



INTIKHAB ALAM

relations should be suspended until India changed its views on matters such as the Kashmir conflict, which led to the scrapping on Friday of the annual Sahara Cup tournament between the two in Toronto in September.

"Pakistan should not compromise on nonsense. The door should be slammed on India until they realise that sports and politics are two different things," former captain In-

tikhab Alam said.

"In the recent past we have played (them) in Canada and Sharjah. Now if we don't play there, what difference would it make? But Pakistan should not tolerate irresponsible statements," former test paceman Aaqib Javed said.

Indian cricket star Sachin Tendulkar said in New Delhi on Friday that while the two countries were fighting "it's very hard to go out there and play on a cricket field".

His remarks, referring to the Kashmir conflict, came after former Indian captain Kapil Dev demanded that India should not play Pakistan even on neutral territory.

Indian cricket board chief Raj Singh Dungarpur was reported as saying that India might sever cricketing ties with Pakistan.

"Isn't it ridiculous, sportsmen trying to repair a cocktail of sports and politics? Sportsmen are supposed to ease tension rather than create hatred amongst the people of two countries," Intikhab said.

He said Dungarpur's statement backed up the feeling of Pakistani politicians that India did not want to restore peace over the Kashmir conflict.

Javed, whose one-day best of series for 37 was against India, said Tendulkar would lose the respect of the Pakistani people.

Tendulkar was not only a champion for India but Pakistan's budding players also looked up to him. Now he is set to lose the reputation of being a gentleman because you don't expect sensible people to talk

mindless things," he said.

Intikhab and Javed both said that India should have the courage to pull out of the tri-nation one-day series in Australia early next year.

"But they can't dare do that. The Australian cricket board will hold them by the scruff of their necks," Javed said.



AAQUIB JAVED

Pakistan and India are due to participate in the one-day series besides playing three Tests each against Australia. Pakistan will tour Australia, with the first Test starting in the first week of November.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chief executive Majid Khan said the scrapping of the Sahara Cup might not be possible because of television contracts signed by the two countries.

## Judge seeks govt help in Pak probe Eight to call it quits?

KARACHI, July 3 (Reuters/Internet) — The judge investigating charges of betting and match-fixing in Pakistani cricket said on Saturday that he had sought help from the Prime Minister's anti-corruption bureau.

"I have asked the Ehtesab (Accountability) Bureau to let me know what information they have collected during the World Cup. I am expecting a reply by Tuesday," Justice Malik Mohammad Gayyum told the news agency from Lahore.

His statement coincided with a report in a Lahore newspaper, Jang, that eight of Pakistan's players had decided to retire because of allegations that the team "threw" the World Cup final against Australia and misbehaved off the field.

Pakistan's official APP news agency reported last week that the accountability bureau had said some Pakistan players "went overboard in merry-making" during the tournament in England.

Jang quoted a bureau official as saying: "The intelligence agencies have presented evi-

dence of indiscipline, lack of coordination and planning by the management and the members of the cricket team."

Jang said skipper Wasim Akram, Moin Khan, Ijaz Ahmad, Waqar Younis, Mushtaq Ahmad, Saqlain Mushtaq, Inzamam-ul-Haq and Salim Malik had decided to retire in the wake of the allegations.

"The players have decided to retire so that the public can believe their innocence."

The decision was taken immediately after the final and is expected to be announced by the skipper shortly," the newspaper said.

None of the named players was available to confirm or deny the report.

The judge said if the documents were made available, he would be in a position to submit his report to President Rafiq Tarar by July 16.

"The report is in the final stages. All I need to include is the July 8 hearing which I believe is going to be the last. After that, I will not need more than a week to submit my report."

Former coach Javed Mian-

dad, Wasim Akram and Salim Malik have been summoned to appear on July 8, as have the kidnappers of Wasim Akram's father.

No reason for the 1996 abduction was ever made public.

But Gayyum said the report would be delayed if the government asked him to investigate charges of match-fixing in the World Cup final.

"The World Cup charges are new. I have already sought clearance from the government if they want me to include the World Cup also."

Investigating the charges in the World Cup means the repetition of the entire procedure. But if the government thinks that investigations were being delayed and the World Cup work has been done by the Accountability Bureau, I will compile just one report in light of both the investigations," he said.

Wasim Akram, Salim Malik and Ijaz Ahmad face charges of being involved in match-fixing. The trio was named as prime suspects when investigations were carried out by a Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) committee last year.

## Magical Muralitharan

LONDON, July 3: Sri Lankan spinner Muttiah Muralitharan helped Lancashire overcome Essex at Old Trafford and took his astonishing tally to 37 in his three County Championship matches so far, reports AFP.

Lancashire claimed their second championship win of the season Friday thanks to six for 61 from Muralitharan, to complete match figures of 13 for 134.

Paul Grayson top-scored for Essex on 76 before he ran into the star of the show, while Peter Such was forced to take second billing to Muralitharan after he also claimed 13 wickets for a career-best 13 for 213.

Min Patel also took six wickets - a season's best six for 43 - as Kent wrapped up their second Championship win of the season inside three days against Warwickshire at Maidstone.

Kent won by 91 runs after Warwickshire, starting the day on 104 for seven, were bowled out for 156.

Alamgir Sheriyyar became the first bowler to claim 50 first-class wickets this season as Worcestershire completed a 112-run victory over Northamptonshire.

The 25-year-old left-arm paceman picked up three for 56, including the key scalps of Matthew Hayden and Mal Loye in the space of five balls, and helped dismiss the home side for 177.

The Championship table's bottom club, Durham, face a mountainous task to beat league leaders Surrey at The Oval. They need 334 to reach a victory target of 366 after closing on 32 for two in their second innings.

Pakistani World Cup star Saqlain Mushtaq took five for 72 to reduce the northern county to 217 all out.

Yorkshire were still 111 runs short of Leicestershire's first-innings total of 297 after they closed on 134 for five in their second innings.

In answer to the visitors' pitiful 52 first time around, Darren Maddy carried his bat for an unbeaten 158 which inspired the champions to 297 in reply.

Former England wicket-keeper Jack Russell claimed his 1000th first class catch as Gloucestershire battled to maintain the upper hand at Bristol.

He reached the milestone when diving full length down the leg side to dismiss Tim Robinson off Jon Lewis.

The visitors had done well to

concede a first innings lead of only 48, bowling out Gloucestershire for 317 after they had resumed on 210 for three.

But after wiping out the deficit and reaching 140 for two, a middle order collapse saw Notts slump to 161 for six. They added 15 more runs without further loss, and were leading by 128 when rain and bad light brought an early close.

Australian batsman Michael Di Venuto led a Sussex fightback against Somerset at Taunton with his third championship 100 of the season.

After following on 338 runs behind, Sussex were indebted to a brilliant 105 from Di Venuto and to half-centuries from Wasim Khan, Robin Martin-Jenkins and Umar Rashid.

Hampshire are just four wickets from victory against Glamorgan at Swansea. The hosts still trail Hampshire's first-innings total of 345 by 81 runs with Steve James' 53 providing the only bright spot as they crumbled to 102 for six.

Derbyshire are closing in on victory against Middlesex at Lord's. After making 366 in their first innings and with the hosts at 221 for nine in their second, the visitors are 65 behind but only need to remove David Nash (71no) before commencing their victory chase.



Action from yesterday's national championship encounter between Bangladesh Army and Faridpur. —Star photo

### WIMBLEDON AT A GLANCE

WIMBLEDON, July 3 (AP): A brief look at what happened Friday on the 11th day of the Wimbledon tennis championships.

**Weather** — Warm, sunny and dry. High temperature was 25 Celsius (77 Fahrenheit).

**Attendance** — 32,453, a record for the second Friday. Last year on the 11th day it was 28,257, the previous record. The total attendance so far is 396,701, an increase of 26,106 over last year.

**Seeded quarterfinal winners** — Men: No 1 Pete Sampras against No 7 Mark Philippoussis, No 2 Pat Rafter against No 8 Todd Martin, No 4 Andre Agassi against No 11 Gustavo Kuerten, No 6 Tim Henman against unseeded Cedric Pioline.

**Quarterfinal winners** — Women: Qualifier Alexandra Stevenson against qualifier Jelena Dokic.

**Upsets** — No 8 Nathalie Tauziat by unseeded Mirjana Lucic.

**Stat of the Day** — Alexandra Stevenson became the first qualifier in Wimbledon history to reach the women's semifinals.

**Quote of the Day** — "Our kissing seems to be working pretty well." — John McEnroe after reaching the semifinals of the mixed doubles with Steffi Graf.

### Other results

WIMBLEDON, July 3 (AP): Results of matches played Saturday at the Wimbledon tennis championships (seedings in parentheses):

**Women's doubles** (quarterfinals) — Marlaan de Swardt, South Africa, and Elena Tatarkova (9), Ukraine, def. Mary Joe Fernandez and Monica Seles (12), United States, 6-7 (7-3), 6-1, 6-4.

**Boys' singles** (quarterfinals) — David Nalbandian (2), Argentina, def. Alan Mackin, Britain, 6-4, 4-6, 7-5.

Kristian Pless (1), Denmark, def. Jose De Arams (5), Venezuela, 7-6, (7-5), 6-7 (7-5), 6-1.

Jurgen Melzer, Austria, def. Andrej Kracman, Slovenia, 7-6, (7-4), 7-6, (7-0).

Guillermo Coria (3), Argentina, def. Lovro Zovko (8), Croatia, 6-3, 6-3.

**Girls' singles** (quarterfinals) — Lina Krasnoroutskai (7), Russia, def. Natalie Grandin, South Africa, 6-2, 6-2.

Daniela Bedanova (8), Czech Republic, def. Aniko Kapros (3), Hungary, 6-4, 6-4.

Adia Tulyaganova (4), Uzbekistan, def. Elent Danilidou (5), Greece, 6-0, 6-3.

Tetina Perebrynin (14), Ukraine, def. Monique Adamczak, Australia, 7-5, 6-1.

### Gentleman Todd!

WIMBLEDON, July 3: Todd Martin is ready to step aside and let Pete Sampras play singles when the United States plays Australia in the Davis Cup quarterfinals later this month, reports AP.

Sampras, inspired by America's dramatic win over Britain in April, has declared he wants to return to the team. But in order not to upset the team by stealing a singles spot, he offered only to play doubles.

"I think Pete should be playing singles," Martin after losing to Pat Rafter in the Wimbledon quarterfinals Friday. "I don't know if Pete thinks that. I don't know if Gully (team captain Tom Gullikson) thinks that, and I don't know if Jim (Courier) thinks that, but I want our best team out on court."

Courier and Martin played both singles and doubles when the United States beat Britain 3-2. Sampras declined to play on the team, saying his priority is on winning Grand Slam titles not the Davis Cup.

Rafter said if he was in Martin's position, he wouldn't stand aside for someone who earlier refused to play.

If Pete plays that's good for America, obviously, and that's Todd's decision," Rafter said. "But if I was Todd I wouldn't stand down, and if I was Jim (Courier) I wouldn't stand down either. But Todd has a different outlook on that and it's his decision."

### Two English clubs after Juninho

MADRID, July 3 (Reuters/Internet): Atletico Madrid said on Friday they had received offers from two English clubs for their Brazilian midfielder Juninho.

Atletico managing director Miguel Angel Gil, said he was confident a deal could be worked out for Juninho, who said this week he was ready to leave the club.

"The two offers have been passed on to the player," Gil said. "I'm sure a deal can be done between Atletico, Juninho and one of the clubs before the end of July."

The two interested clubs are believed to be Middlesbrough, who sold the player to Atletico two years ago for 12.5 million pounds (\$19.71 million), and Aston Villa.

Juninho came close to a move back to England in January this year but was persuaded to stay by then coach Arrigo Sacchi.

Atletico, who say they are prepared to spend as much as \$100 million on signing over the close season, would want around 2,500 millions pesetas (\$15.38 million) for Juninho, who has been disappointing in his two-year stay in Spain.

## Life will never be the same again

WIMBLEDON, July 3 (AP): What ever happens this weekend, Wimbledon has already changed the life of one woman — on and off the court.

On the same day the 18-year-old Californian made history by becoming the first qualifier to reach the women's semifinals, the world learned that her father is former basketball great Julius "Dr J" Erving.

Stevenson, who graduated from high school last month, was considered little more than a promising latent two weeks ago.

Ranked 86th in the world, she won three qualifying matches to get into the main draw. Then she swept through five matches to make the semifinals on tennis' biggest stage.

"I've been waiting for this my whole life," Stevenson said.

**Only one man, John McEnroe in 1978, ever reached the Wimbledon semifinals as a qualifier.**

"I think it's great that it's been two Americans," Stevenson said. "That's even better."

Two hours after Stevenson's victory against Dokic, Erving said from his office in Orlando, Florida, that a report that he

was her father was true. Erving said his wife of 27 years, Turquoise, knew of his relationship with Samantha Stevenson, a freelance writer then covering the Philadelphia 76ers, from the beginning in 1980, and that his four children were aware of the situation.

"All matters concerning Alexandra since her birth have been handled privately through counsel," Erving said in the statement. "I am pleased to see Alexandra, at 18, doing so well and I applaud her mother's efforts and courage."

Erving said he met Alexandra Stevenson only once, when she was 3 years old, and that it was "her call" about whether they would renew their relationship.

Stevenson and her mother again refused to speak about Erving, even after learning of his statement. Samantha Stevenson repeated "no comment" to several questions about Erving's statement.

The possibility of Erving being Stevenson's father became public this week when The Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel published a copy of her birth certificate. The Basketball Hall of Famer initially denied being her father.

The mother has stirred

Wimbledon since the start of the tournament, with accusations of racism and lesbianism on the women's tour and a dispute over prize money.

"I just focus on my tennis and let everyone else deal with all that," Alexandra Stevenson said before Erving made his statement. "I'm quite oblivious to most of it. I haven't been reading any newspapers, just playing tennis."

Stevenson was 9 years old in 1990 when Martina Navratilova won Wimbledon for the last time, and she heard someone ask Navratilova if there will ever be a great serve-and-volleyer like her again.

"She said there is some 9 or 10 years old that is going to be coming up," Stevenson said. "I was watching it and my mom was in the bedroom, and I said, 'Hey, mom, that's me. I really thought it was going to be me. It's great that it's kind of coming true.'"

Stevenson scored a 6-3, 1-6, 6-3 quarterfinal victory over Jelena Dokic, the 16-year-old Serb-born Australian who outplayed top-seeded Martina Hingis 6-2, 6-0 on Day Two of the championship. Dokic also knocked out No. 1 Mary Pierce to make the last eight.

The American was also initially classified as an amateur, although Wimbledon officials later gave her professional status. She is guaranteed of winning 96,690 pounds (\$14,704 dollars) for reaching the semifinals.

The high school actress, clinched victory on her second match point and celebrated by giving the crowd an impromptu curtsy.

"This is what I've waited for all my life," said Stevenson, who was 6-3, 1-5 overnight.

Dokic criticised officials who tried to move the match to Court One from Court Two late on rain-hit Thursday.

### Philippoussis sidelined

WIMBLEDON, July 3: Mark Philippoussis will miss four to six weeks with torn cartilage in his left knee and will miss Australia's July 16-18 Davis Cup quarterfinal against the United States in Boston, reports AP.

Philippoussis suffered the injury while he was a set up against defending champion Pete Sampras in Friday's Wimbledon quarterfinal. He retired from the match saying something had "clicked" in his knee.

Philippoussis' coach Gavin Hopper said an MRI scan had revealed the cartilage damage.

"The rest of the knee is sound," Hopper said. "Mark will return to the United States tomorrow (Saturday) and undergo an arthroscopy and seek further medical treatment."

## Behave 'Mum Stevenson'

LONDON, July 3 (Reuters/Internet) — Wimbledon finalist Lindsay Davenport told the mother of 18-year-old Alexandra Stevenson on Saturday to keep her opinions to herself and allow her daughter to grow up.

Davenport, 23, beat qualifier Stevenson 6-1, 6-1 in a Centre Court semifinal to reach her first Wimbledon final on Sunday before warning Samantha Stevenson she risked ruining her daughter, a "great girl" in her fellow American's eyes.

Samantha Stevenson was quoted last weekend as saying the WTA Tour was a "jungle" and had a problem with lesbianism and racism.

Davenport, the first top player at Wimbledon to speak out about Samantha's remarks, said her fellow players were unhappy.

"I'm not sure if she's doing it for attention or just saying these things, because they sound crazy, some of them," Davenport said.

"I just don't think we appreciate her commenting on our way of life, and especially she's calling all of us in some way almost a name."

"I was talking to my sister

and she was like - what are you? A dictator, a racist, after her daughter? All this stuff she's calling all of us, I don't think the players really appreciate it."

Davenport said she liked Alexandra, the first women's qualifier to reach the semifinals at Wimbledon.

"She's the nicest girl, I mean she's only 18. She's obviously enjoying the whole Wimbledon experience, played great and unfortunately all this stuff has kind of come on to her because of her Mom."

"You can't help but feel sorry for her because when you talk to her she's so nice. So of course I feel sorry for her."

Davenport then gave Samantha a piece of advice.

"Her daughter is 18, she's obviously an adult now - you know she'll be fine, she's a great girl, she's smart and she can play tennis."

"Just leave her alone, don't bring her into all these controversies."

Samantha raised her daughter on her own and Wimbledon fortnight has been punctuated with rumours about who the 18-year-old's father could be.

On Friday night, former basketball great Julius Erving said he had a relationship with

Samantha, a sports writer, in 1980 but he did not say directly he was Alexandra's father.

Stevenson had no comment on Erving's statement. Asked when she might feel ready to address the issue she said: "I don't know. When I feel ready, maybe."

Stevenson, who said she had not read any newspapers since Wimbledon started, continued her forthright support of her mother's right to say what she felt about the WTA Tour.

"Whatever comments my Mum made, she is my mother and I think she is right and it hasn't clouded anything. I'm having a great trip over here and it was a great experience."

But the 18-year-old did acknowledge her life had changed irrevocably since she started the qualifying tournament for Wimbledon nearly three weeks ago.

"It's kind of funny because I was talking to my Mom the other night and I said 'I'm going home and everything is going to be normal' and she goes 'I don't think so'."

"It will be very interesting when I get home. I'm hoping that I get upgraded on the plane to business class. I'm going to try to get that out of the flight attendants."

## CHAMPIONSHIPS CHIPS

WIMBLEDON, July 3 (AP): John McEnroe and Steffi Graf brought the Centre Court fans to their feet Friday by reaching the Wimbledon mixed doubles semifinal with a 6-4, 6-3 victory over Justin Gimelstob and Venus Williams.

Returning to action at Wimbledon for the first time in seven years, three-time singles champion McEnroe helped Graf beat Williams for the second time in two days. Graf, gunning for her eighth singles title, beat Williams in Thursday's singles quarterfinals.

McEnroe and Graf were due to play second-seeded Todd Woodbridge and Lindsay Davenport but Davenport pulled out to concentrate on her singles semifinal against Alexandra Stevenson.

That gave ninth-seeded McEnroe and Graf a bye into the quarterfinals and they treated the crowd to some slick shot-making to become the first pair into the final four.

McEnroe celebrated by punching the air and blowing kisses to the fans on