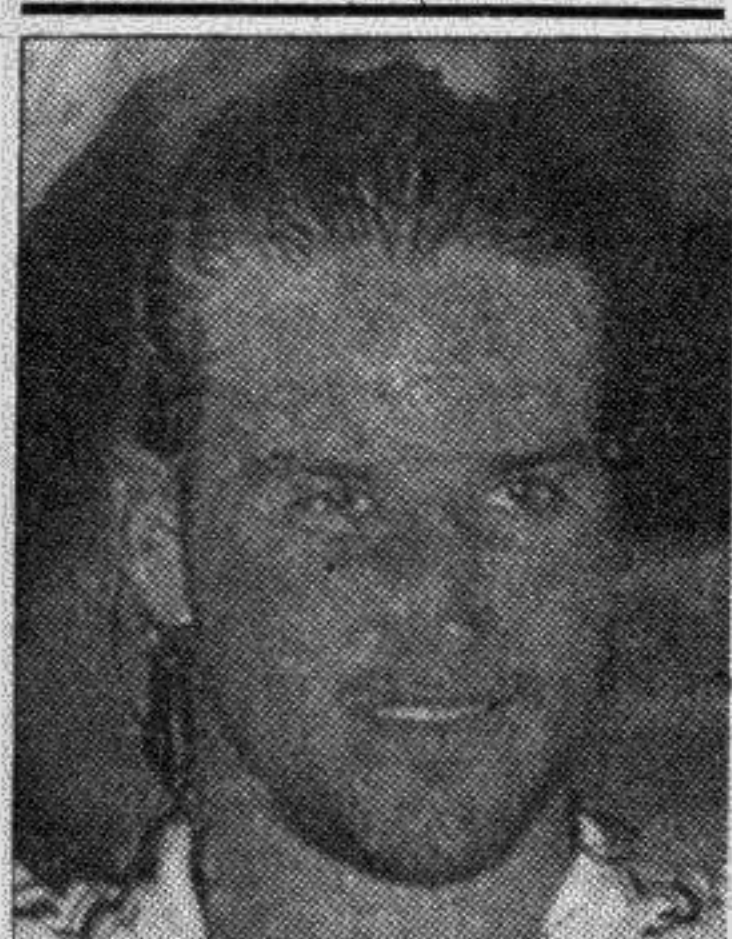


Column One

SPORTS TALK



Patrick Rafter
(Australian tennis player)
Top players who do not give out their best should not take appearance money.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-117

✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to Star Daily
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
July 16, 1999 and draw shortly afterwards

- How many matches have been scheduled for the World Cup 99?
40 41 42
- Pakistan beat New Zealand in the semifinal by
9 wickets 10 wickets 53 runs
- How many wickets did NZ bowler Geoff Allott capture in the World Cup?
18 21 20
- Saqibain Mushtaq scored his hat-trick against which country?
Kenya Zimbabwe Bangladesh
- How many runs did Minhazul Abedin score in the World Cup?
120 140 140

Name: _____
Class: _____ Roll No.: _____
School Address: _____
Phone: (if any) _____

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

Fleming fires Kent

LONDON, July 11 (AFP)—Skipper Matthew Fleming notched a fine 106 not out Saturday to leave Kent scenting victory in their County Championship game with Worcestershire at New Road.

Fleming put on an unbroken 54 for the last wicket with Julian Thompson as Kent motored to 303-9 to establish a 316-run lead.

His knock included sixteen fours and one six.

Somerset, meanwhile, had Peter Bowler to thank as they clawed their way back against his former side Derbyshire on the back of a patient 95.

Bowler teamed up with Michael Burns, who hit 72, to help Somerset to 237 for four at the close, 122 behind Derbyshire's first innings total of 359.

Fu strikes a second time

PALMA DE MALLORCA, Spain, July 11: Fu Mingxia, a world diving champion at the age of 12, continued her comeback in winning style with her second diving title of the World Student Games on the three-metre springboard on Saturday, reports Reuters.

Fu won the 10-metre platform title from Chinese teammate Wang Rui by the tiny margin of 0.390 points on Wednesday. But she was a runaway winner in a high-class final on the three-metre board on Saturday.

She scored 550.230 points from her five dives to win from world one-metre springboard champion Irina Lashko (528.300) and world three-metre springboard champion Yulia Pakhalina (521.010).

Div II hockey

Shishu Kishore Sangha and Dilkusha SC won their respective matches in the Green Delta Insurance 2nd Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Shishu beat East End Green Club 2-0 with Sumon scoring the first goal early in the second minute and Emon increasing the margin after nine minutes.

In the day's second match, Dilkusha defeated Shantinagar SC 2-1. Saja put Dilkusha ahead in the 9th minute and Faisal doubled the margin six minutes later. Imran reduced the gap in the 27th minute.

Bangladesh retain Asian title

Sports Reporter



Bangladesh defended their Asian Youth cricket championship title with a six-wicket defeat of Nepal at the Kalang Oval ground in Singapore yesterday.

With this win, Bangladesh not only finished unbeaten champions but also extended their supremacy in style over the other ICC associate member nations in this part of the world.

The victory for Bangladesh was, however, icing on the cake as they already confirmed their berth in the forthcoming World Youth Championship along with Nepal by virtue of reaching the final of the Singapore showpiece.

The World Youth Championship, involving 16 teams including the nine Test-playing nations, will be held in Sri Lanka in January next year.

Although a victory for Bangladesh, who started the championship as firm favourites, was always on the cards against Nepal, the spirited youths of Bangladesh made a mockery of a contest when they bundled out the surprise-setters in the meet for only 125 runs.

After restricting Nepal to an attainable target it was once again Hannan Sarker who lived up to his credentials of consistency, leading Bangladesh to victory—126 for four in 29.1 overs.

Hannan, a member of the Plate winning World Youth national team in South Africa two years back, scored a characteristic 44 off 60 balls after Bangladesh lost their opener Imran Ahmed at the score of 25.

But Hannan, carried away by the sudden rush of blood, not only deprived himself of what would have been a well-deserved half-century but also failed to earn an enviable feat of remaining unconquered in the meet when the dapper right-hander was caught by Saru off Das.

Hannan was the last batsman out, with Bangladesh needing only 12 runs to win. Mridul,

the portly middle-order batsman, who was adjudged man-of-the-match in the semifinal against Papua New Guinea, then guided Bangladesh to victory without further damage, clobbering the required runs with Salim. Mridul scored an unbeaten 18 that included a couple of lusty blows across the rope.

But the day's personal glory was achieved by wicketkeeper Golam Mortuza. The reserve national stumper, who had a happy hunting behind the wicket, took a spectacular catch and effected three stumpings including the vital one of Nepalese opener Saru to win the man-of-the-final award.

Saru scored a defiant 42, the highest contribution to the Nepal total, before being outfoxed by left-arm spinner Imran Rahman.

Imran, another impressive performer among the Bangladeshi cricketers in the meet, finished the match with three for 23 runs in his nine overs.

The victorious national youth team returns home today. Meanwhile, State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader has congratulated the national youth team for bringing home the glory.

The victory will be a shot in the arms for Bangladesh's progress in the world cricket, said Quader in an instant faxed message yesterday.

SCOREBOARD

NEPAL
U Saru st. Mortuza b Imran 42
S Khadka run out 5
B Dali c Sadik b Fahim 16
P Lunia b Imran 4
R Basnyat st. Mortuza b Fahim 3
Akhter c Mortuza b Hannan 15
M Alam st. Mortuza b Imran 0
Ramdan b Bikash 9
BK Das b Bikash 0
M Baisya not out 0
Extras: (lb-4, w-18) 22
Total: (all out in 39.2 overs) 125
Fall of wickets: 1/21, 2/60, 3/77, 4/88, 5/95, 6/99, 7/100, 8/125, 9/125

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Bikash Das	8	3	28	2
Tariqul Islam	6	2	12	0
Hannan Sarker	4.2	0	22	1
Mridul	4	0	13	0
Fahim Muntasir	8	0	23	2
Imran Rahman	9	1	23	3

BANGLADESH
Imran Ahmed c Baishya b Das 16
Sadik c b P Lunia 28
Hannan c Saru b Das 44
Rajin b P Lunia 9
Mridul not out 18
Salim not out 2
Extras: (b-1, lb-2, nb-1, w-5) 9
Total: (For 4 wickets in 29.1 overs) 3/95, 4/114

Bowler	O	M	R	W
BK Das	8	0	31	2
Akhter	4	0	22	0
M Alam	1	0	10	0
Paras Lunia	9	0	27	2
R Basnyat	6.1	0	27	0
A Ramdan	1	0	6	0

Result: Bangladesh won by six wickets.
Man-of-the-final: Mortuza (Bangladesh).

Rain lay-off

Sports Reporter

With the rain continuing to play foul, the ongoing Keya Premier football league experienced yet another setback as the organisers forced to suspend both the scheduled matches yesterday.

The two matches at the Bangabandhu National Stadium were called off even before the scheduled start after the ground went into knee-deep water due to incessant rain.

Although Brothers Union, who were to take part against Mirpur Chalanika in the first match, took the trouble of paying a brief visit to the Bangabandhu Stadium but Mukhtijodha did not even bother to come all the way from their club tent in Gulshan.

The defending champions were scheduled to take part in the second match against Fakirpool Youngmen's Club. Both the matches will now be held today.

Brazil pip Norway to third



PASADENA, California, July 11: Formiga stuck her ball low and inside the left post for the clinching goal and Brazil beat defending champions Norway on penalty kicks 5-4 after a 0-0 draw to take third place at the Women's World Cup on Saturday, reports AP.

Formiga streaked to the sideline with arms outstretched to celebrate as her teammates raced across the field to greet her.

The victory came after Norway clearly outplayed the Brazilians, who generated little offence during the regulation 90 minutes. Unlike regular FIFA World Cup matches, the game went immediately to penalties without a golden goal extra time.

With the game tied 4-4 on penalties, second-half substitute Ann Kristin Jorgensen opened the door for Brazil by missing on Norway's sixth attempt.

Pretinha missed on Brazil's first chance, but Cidinha, Katia da Silva, Maicon, Nene and Formiga all converted after that to give the South Americans the bronze medal.

Brazil's result was a huge improvement over their showing in the first two Women's World Cup when the traditional men's soccer power ended up ninth each time.

Norway controlled for all but the last 20 minutes, when Brazil finally showed some consistent life.

Until the 71st minute, Brazil rarely possessed the ball inside Norway's 18 and what shots it did produce were harmless and came from well outside the penalty area.

Almost all of Brazil's attacks came off the foot of Pretinha, who came into the game with three goals in the tournament. Katia gave Brazil their first clear chance in the 61st, breaking in on Bente Nordby and beating the Norwegian keeper to the ball. But her flick from just inside the area went high.

Nordby blocked Pretinha on

another breakaway in the 71st and the Brazilian forward put a volley just wide of the near post on an ensuing corner.

Until that, it was all Norway. Hege Riise's one-bounce free kick in the 66th had to be punched away at the near post by Maravilha and Aarones had a back heel touch that went wide from inside the six in the 70th.

Marianne Petersen and Ranghild Gulbrandsen both had chances in the first half that went wide within a minute of each other after only 10 minutes.

Petersen put a header over bar from inside the 6 off a cross from Solveig Gulbrandsen, and Ranghild Gulbrandsen left-footed a volley over the bar from inside the 6 with an open goal off a cross from Petersen.

Ranghild Gulbrandsen put another header wide in the 23rd but the best chance for Norway came off a Brazilian defensive mixup in the 30th. A retreating Nene miskicked a backpass, forcing goalkeeper Maravilha into a lunging kick to just knock it over the bar.



Action from the Brazil-Norway Women's World Cup third place decider at the Rose Bowl on July 10.



WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS: FIFA president Sepp Blatter(C) joins the US celebrations after handing over the Women's World Cup at Pasadena Rose Bowl on July 10.

Sunny turns fifty

From Our Correspondent

Calcutta, July 11: India's highest run-getter in Test cricket Sunil Gavaskar completed half century in the field of life Saturday.

The man with the highest number of centuries in Test however, spent the entire day in the company of his family and close friends Gautam Thakkar and Milind Rege at Khandala, which is a three hour drive



from Mumbai. Gavaskar's sister Kavita and her husband Gundappa Vishwanath were the other two family members who were present.

Thakkar incidentally is Sunil Gavaskar's partner in badminton. This is one game that Gavaskar plays regularly when he is in Mumbai.

Talking over from his residence in Mumbai on Friday, the 'little master' said that even though there were plans of a lavish celebration by his family members he had asked them to refrain from it. The death of his mentor M.L.Jaishankar only a couple of days back had depressed him. Besides, the ongoing battle at Kargil and the death news of Indian soldiers have also overshadowed his joy at reaching 50.

"The entire country is reeling under the threat of a war. So how can I celebrate my birthday at this juncture," Gavaskar said.

Even though, Sunny Gavaskar did not allow any functions to celebrate his 50th birthday, people in Calcutta, celebrated the occasion with gaiety.

Posters of Gavaskar on street corners were garlanded. Fans chanted slogans like "Long live the little master," and "We hope he gets a maiden 100 in life." A banner read, "We may not be there, but our generation will remember you on July 10, 2049."

Barisal sports

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, July 11: Barisal district level summer sports and athletics for under 12-16 age-groups concluded at the Barisal Abdur Rab Serniabat Stadium yesterday.

Barisal sadar thana team won the football title defeating Gourmadi thana 3-0.

Competitors of Barisal Sadar Girls' School became first in four events while Agailjhara thana competitors in one event in the swimming competition held at the Oxford Mission School pond.

Karpov, Adams take lead

DORTMUND, July 11: World chess champion Anatoly Karpov and Britain's Michael Adams were in the lead at the end of the first day of the 27th Dortmund chess tournament Saturday, reports AFP.

Karpov beat Bosnian Grand Master Ivan Sokolov while Adams defeated Dutchman Jan Timman after a five-hour battle.

USA rule the world



LOS ANGELES, July 11 (AFP/AP): The United States put the happy ending on the fairytale, beating China 5-4 on penalties to win the Women's World Cup Saturday after a tense final ended scoreless after extra time.

Brandi Chastain capped a perfect US performance in the shootout, slotting her shot past Chinese keeper Gao Hong and sending the crowd of 90,185 at the Rose Bowl into a frenzy. "I felt very calm," Chastain said. "I didn't hear any noise. I didn't get caught up in looking at Gao. Sometimes she likes to get in a staring match, she likes to smile at you and make you uncomfortable."

When it was done, she said, "I thought 'My God, this is the greatest moment of my life on a soccer field.'"

It was the perfect stage for Chastain to redeem herself for a penalty miss against China in the US defeat in the Algarve Cup Final earlier this year. She said US coach Tony Diccico's faith in her made it easy.

"I have to thank Tony very much for allowing me to take that penalty," she said. "Being the fifth penalty kicker was a lot of pressure but with his trust and my teammates' trust, I just went up there and did it the way I've been practising all week—and it went in."

The Chinese had fallen behind in the third round of the shootout, when US keeper Briana Scurry stopped Liu Ying's shot.

"I really don't remember what side it was on, I think it was on my left side," said Scurry, who came up from the diving save, pumping her fist and waving to the ecstatic crowd. "I read it pretty well. She hit it pretty hard, but I don't think she placed it that well."

"I knew I just had to stop one, and my teammates would take care of the rest," Scurry said. "I knew if I could get one we'd be OK."

Scurry couldn't explain why exactly, but she said she had a feeling about that shot before it was even struck.

"I was really focused on that

one," she said. "I had a feeling when she was walking up that I could get that one. I just had a feeling come over me it was going to be the one."

Carla Overbeck, Joy Fawcett, Kristine Lilly and Mia Hamm also beat Gao.

Xie Huilin, Qiu Haiyan, Zhao Lihong and Sun Wen all scored from the spot for China.

Lilly was voted woman-of-the-match, thanks to her spectacular save on the goal line of Fan Yunjie's header in the 100th minute—a shot that could have given China the crown.

Her teammates, however, said they would have expected nothing less.

"Kristine Lilly did her job, nothing more, nothing less," Chastain said. "We all have jobs, and that's hers. She was where she was supposed to be when she was supposed to be there and that's the bottom line."

As the American women piled on top of each other to celebrate, glittered confetti covered the field as the crowd chanted "U-S-A, U-S-A."

After receiving their medals, the US team then paraded around the perimeter of the field with three large American flags much to the delight of the crowd. Midfielder Julie Foudy applauded the crowd and then hugged a television cameraman.

Played before a sunbaked Rose Bowl crowd, the match still didn't come up to the 94,184 that saw Brazil outlast Italy on penalties for the men's 1994 World Cup final at the same venue.

Neither side produced much in the way of threatening chances, although the Chinese seemed to come alive in the first extra time.

The Americans controlled the midfield for most of the game, having the greater amount of possession but only rarely getting inside the 18.

The Chinese's only legitimate chance before extra time came in the 69th when Jin Yan flicked on a header at the near post off a corner from Liu Ying that rolled across the face of the goal.

Sun Wen put a free kick from just outside the area about a me-

ter over the bar in the 35th and American midfielder Michelle Akers headed away a corner in the first minute of second-half injury time that squelched another opportunity.

The United States' had a handful of chances, none of which seriously threatened either. Akers launched a blast from 40 metres in the 12th minute that Chinese keeper Gao Hong had to knock down before controlling and Shannon MacMillan put a 25-metre free kick into the arms of Gao in the 81st.

Then came the opening festivities, featuring a performance by pop diva Jennifer Lopez, smoke-trailing rockets and a formation fly-over by military jets—all against the backdrop of the San Gabriel mountains.

Fan's header was the closest either team came to scoring as each remained wary of the potential explosiveness of the other.

"My defence was unbelievable today," Scurry said. "I think that one penalty kick save was my only save today. It's tough to bottle up a team like China but we were all over them today."

The game was back and forth, certainly at times we had advantages and I thought we were going to stick one in, and at times they were all over us," Diccico said. "Give credit to the two teams, to play in that heat, the extra time."

China's coach, Ma Yuanan, conceded nothing. "Even though the American team is the winner, I still think the Chinese team is the best in the world."

"Both of the teams had great performances. The American team was luckier."

After beating the United States in two of their last three meetings, China couldn't do it Saturday when it counted most.

Forward Sun Wen, the tournament's leading scorer with seven goals but who failed to connect until the shootout, agreed with her coach.

"I give congratulations to the American team," said Sun, who, like Ma, spoke through an interpreter. "The American team was more lucky."

Clearly the two best teams in the tournament—China outscored opponents 19-2 and the United States had an 18-3 margin—these teams have created quite a rivalry.

The Americans beat the Chinese 2-1 for the 1996 Olympics gold medal and 2-0 for the 1998 Goodwill Games crown. China had won two of three this year, including the championship of the prestigious Algarve Cup in Portugal.

But the big one went to the Americans, and the series now stands 12-5-5 for the United States, which also won the first World Cup in China in 1991.

Swedish Open tennis

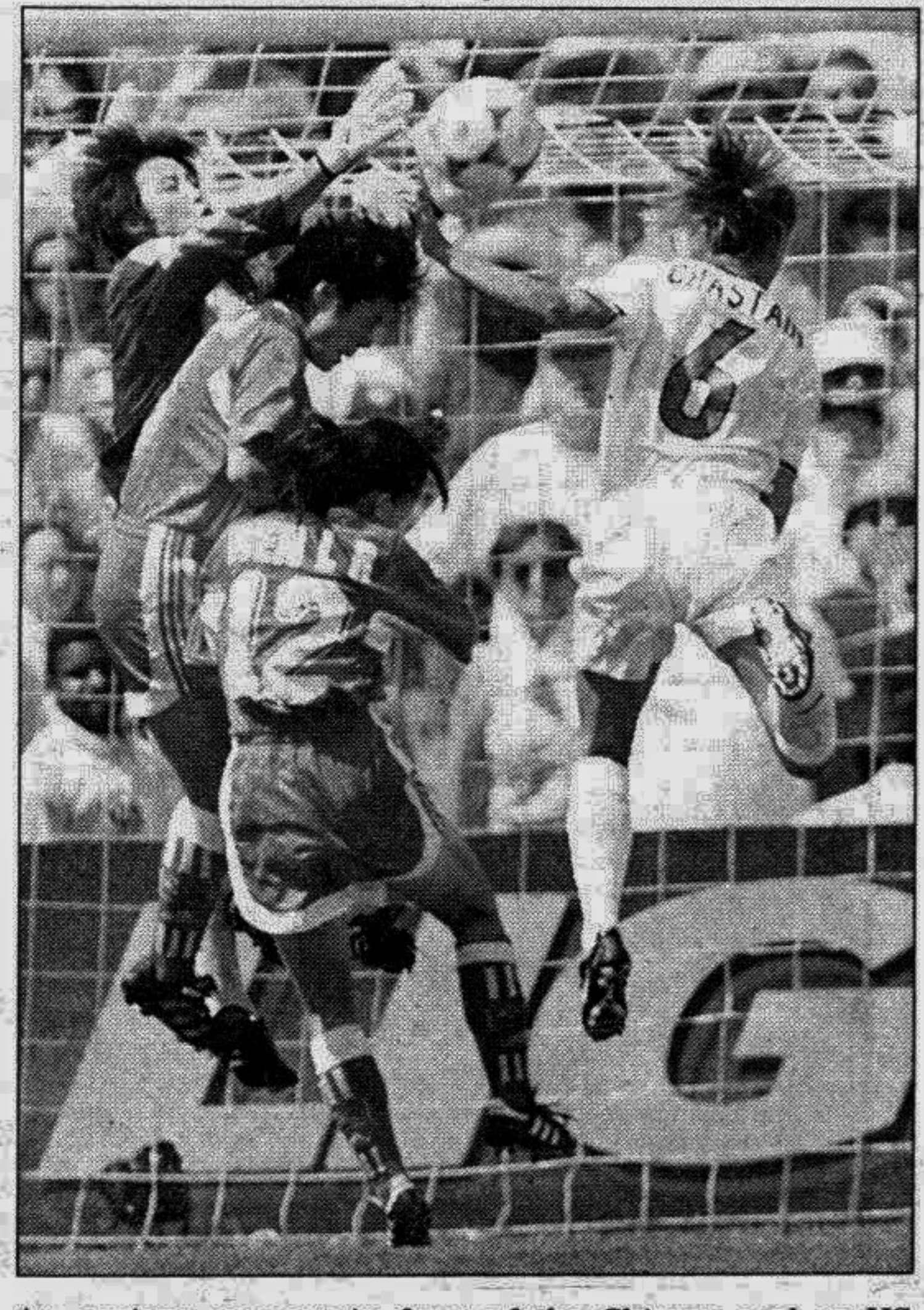
BASTAD, Sweden, July 11: Wild-card entry Andreas Vinciguerra advanced to his first ATP final Saturday as he beat fifth-seed Christian Ruud of Norway 6-3, 6-3 in the Swedish Open, reports AP.

Vinciguerra, 18, playing only a few hours drive from his home town in Southern Sweden, will face Costa Rica-born Juan Antonio Marin of Spain in the Sunday's title match.

Marin eliminated another Swedish wild-card, Nicklas Kulti, 2-6, 7-6 (11-9), 6-4 in the other semifinal.

Vinciguerra had only won one match in four ATP tournaments coming into the Swedish Open, which is Scandinavia's oldest clay court tournament, now in its 52nd straight year.

He's the youngest Swede to reach an ATP final since 1992 when Thomas Enqvist won at Bolzano, Italy.



An anxious moment in front of the Chinese goal as US striker Brandi Chastain(R) threatens to score during the final.