

Carlton seeking compensation

MELBOURNE, July 19: Australian club Carlton is seeking compensation after their key defender Simon Colosimo was seriously injured by a wild Andy Cole tackle in Sunday's match against Manchester United, reports AFP.

Colosimo is out of football for six months after Cole's studs slammed into the 20-year-old defender's left knee in the first half of United's 1-0 win over the Socceros at Sydney's Olympic Stadium.

A scan Monday revealed that Colosimo, a member of Australia's Olympic Games team, had cruciate and lateral ligament damage and his cartilage had also been damaged.

The Melbourne-based Carlton club said Colosimo will be out of football for up to six months and will require a total knee reconstruction.

Colosimo, who had a highly impressive first game against the European Cup champions in the 2-0 loss here last Thursday, had a rivalry with leading German team Bayern Munich and Greek club Panathinaikos and was expected to play in Europe next season.

Carlton manager Lou Sticca said his club would be seeking compensation for the player and the club.

"We are looking at all avenues for compensation, he was scheduled to go to Europe in the next couple of weeks and now this happens," Sticca said Monday.

Sticca refused to reveal who would be targeted in the compensation claim but the club has four options: Soccer Australia (SA), Manchester United, tour promoter Rivkin Entertainment and Cole.

Sticca was sickened by Cole's studs challenge on Colosimo as both went for a 50-50 ball.

Cole put the young defender out of the game in the 30th minute. Colosimo crumpled to the ground and began waving a hand frantically to the team bench indicating that he had a serious knee injury.

Video replays at the ground showed that Cole had collected Colosimo high on his knee with his studs.

The tackle from a seasoned professional like Andy Cole was totally reckless, he has destroyed the career of one of the brightest young prospects in Australian soccer and I hope he can live with that," Sticca said.

Australian coach Raul Blanco was also angry over the tackle and saddened that one his top Olympic prospects had been sidelined for months following a "vicious" challenge.

"What's upsetting is that it was such an unnecessary challenge, it was stupid, you knew as soon as he went down that he was badly hurt," Blanco said.

"He's had his career placed on hold due to an unnecessary and vicious tackle."

Blanco said SA would be doing everything possible to promote a quick recovery for the player.

Cole and Manchester United left Australia Monday for two more pre-season matches in Hong Kong and Shanghai before the start of the new English season on August 8.

Other Soccerworld news, striker Aurelio Vidmar is poised to return to Australia from Japan to play for Adelaide City in the National league.

Brisbane wants to host Davis Cup semi

BRISBANE, July 19: Brisbane, hometown of Patrick Rafter, has applied to stage Australia's Davis Cup tennis semifinal with Russia in September, reports AFP.

A Davis Cup semifinal in Brisbane with Rafter would have to be almost irresistible," Tennis Queensland marketing manager Stephen Ayles said Monday.

The application by the Queensland state capital is up against a bid by White City chasing a farewell Davis Cup tie for the ageing Sydney venue.

Davis Cup captains John Newcombe and Tony Roche come from New South Wales state, of which Sydney is the capital.

Brisbane has not hosted a Davis Cup tie since Wally Masur led Australia to a 2-2 win over New Zealand in 1990.

The winner of the semifinal would play France or Belgium in the final.

Injury blow for Deportivo

LA CORUNA, Spain, July 19 (Reuters/ Internet): Deportivo Coruna captain Fran Gonzalez will miss the start of the new Spanish league season because of a leg muscle tear.

The 30-year-old midfielder, who made his international debut for Spain last season, will undergo surgery this week and will be out of action for up to two months.

That will also make him a major doubt for two of Spain's three remaining European championship group six qualifiers, against Austria on September 4 and Cyprus four days later.

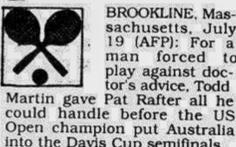
The Spanish league season starts on August 22.

Inquiry on in Bulgaria

SOFIA, July 19: The Bulgarian Football Federation has opened an investigation into an alleged match-fixing scandal involving the Metalurg team last season, reports AFP.

Kaloyan Stoyanov, the former vice-president of the First Division side, has alleged -- along with four players -- that the club's president, Parvan Parvanov, was behind the rigging of four matches last season.

Rafter guides Aussies



BROOKLINE, Massachusetts, July 19 (AFP): For a man forced to play against doctor's advice, Todd Martin gave Pat Rafter all he could handle before the US Open champion put Australia into the Davis Cup semifinals.

World number two Rafter outlasted eighth-ranked Martin 4-6, 5-7, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4, here Sunday after a neutral doctor rejected a United States appeal to have Wimbledon winner Pete Sampras replace Martin.

Aussie Lleyton Hewitt beat Alb O'Brien 7-5, 6-4, in a dead rubber to complete a 4-1 quarterfinal tie triumph. Australia will host Russia in September, likely on grass, for a finals spot against France or Belgium.

Rafter won 16 of the final 19 points to rally from a 4-2 fifth-set deficit and capture his 11th consecutive victory in five-set matches, outlasting Martin in three hours and 14 minutes.

"This is one of the most enjoyable occasions I've ever had," Rafter said. "It will sink in to me the next few days."

Rafter, set to become world number one in eight days, hugged Newcombe as he walked off the court and was carried out of the stadium on the shoulders of his joyous teammates.

Rafter only learned his foe's identity 20 minutes before the match, a factor Aussie captain John Newcombe called "a very unfair situation. It definitely preyed on him out there. He was tight for two sets."

"I was starting to get pretty fed up," Rafter said. "I wanted to know who the hell I was playing. He looked very pale at the beginning. But he came out firing and I knew I had a battle on my hands."

Martin, who took intravenous fluids before the match, said he was unable to play after temperatures on court reached 50 degrees Celsius during his workout.

"When I walked into the locker room I didn't have my bearings," Martin said. "Unfortunately I sat down in front of a mirror. I didn't like how I looked and didn't like how I felt after five minutes of rest."

"I didn't feel like I was fit to play. I was obviously fit to play. But I also felt like I was putting myself at risk. I didn't know I could play the whole way until very close to the end."

US team physician David

Altecheck, the ATP Tour medical director, also said Martin was disoriented and should not play.

"Todd wasn't feeling great," Sampras said. "I was ready. The doctors got involved and Todd was forced to play. He has shown a lot of heart out there and that's what it's about."

Martin was hurt by Gullikson's day-early notion Sampras might play. "I was disappointed. I was upset," Martin said. "I have never been happier to represent the States than today."

"Todd exceeded how I thought he could play," Gullikson said. "He played a heroic match."

Martin stormed ahead 4-0 before Rafter won a game. In the subsequent changeover, Gullikson asked a pale Martin about quitting but was told, "I feel fine, I'm all right."

"That's when I was having the most trouble coping with the situation mentally and emotionally," Martin said. "I was very distracted. I had a tough time controlling my emotions."

After taking two sets in 81

minutes, Martin made the shot of the day on the first point of the third set, a no-look, over-the-shoulder forehand winner off a Rafter lob.

But the magic faded. Rafter took two next two sets and rallied in the fifth after losing the first three games.

"I was not really out there completely. There wasn't as much planning," Martin said. "I had very low expectations of my performance. I'm pleased I had the courage to go out and play well."

The Sampras play aggravated an Aussie squad already unhappy at having the tie played here rather than Australia to accommodate 100th year Cup ceremonies as well as a failed US bid to play the tie on clay.

"We suspected this could happen," Aussie assistant captain Tony Roche said. "We would be very disappointed if Todd Martin is not telling the truth."

Ironically, a rule change starting next year will allow substitutions freely without any question of subtlety.



Patrick Rafter of Australia executing a backhand against American Todd Martin during their Davis Cup quarterfinal at Brookline on July 18. — AFP photo

Doctor stops Sampras

BROOKLINE, Massachusetts, July 19: A United States bid to have Pete Sampras replace Todd Martin in singles against Pat Rafter here Sunday was dented by a neutral doctor at the Australia-United States Davis Cup quarterfinal tie, reports AFP.

Eighth-ranked Martin took the court against the two-time defending US Open champion only after a last-minute US ploy to make the switch to improve their chances in a must-win match trailing the tie 2-1.

In effect, neutral doctor Rich Paul, a member here at Longwood Cricket Club, called Martin a liar who was trying to subvert Cup rules by faking exhaustion.

US captain Tom Gullikson said Martin was suffering from heat exhaustion after a pre-match workout before he was to face world number two Rafter.

"After 15 or 20 minutes of practice, he was suffering from the effects of the heat. He had heat exhaustion and clearly could not play."

But that was not the judgment of the neutral physician Paul, a member here at Longwood Cricket Club who would have had to declare Martin unfit to play to allow a substitution under Cup rules.

"The doctor looked at him and declared him fit to play," the referee Stefan Franoson said.

Meanwhile, Gullikson called Sampras to the stadium and hurried him onto the court for a 20-minute workout.

"He thought I was kidding," Gullikson said. "He said, 'You're joking, right?' I said, 'I'm dead serious.'"

Sampras, the Wimbledon singles winner and a 12-time Grand Slam singles champion, would offer a much better chance of victory against Rafter than Martin.

Sampras had decided to play only doubles at the tie, on hardcourt at Longwood Cricket Club. He said Martin and Jim Courier deserved the singles slots after their heroics in a first-round victory over England.

But Sampras, whose doubles win cut the Aussie edge to 2-1, would have offered a better chance at defeating world number two Rafter in a must-win match for US hopes of advancing to face Russia in a semifinal.

Sampras has an 8-4 career edge over Rafter despite losing the last three meetings. Martin is 3-5 against the two-time defending US Open champion after losing to him earlier this month in the Wimbledon quarterfinals.

Maiden victory for Bjorn Phau

STUTTGART, Germany, July 19: Teenage wild card Bjorn Phau won the first ATP Tour match of his career on Monday and then cautioned the tennis-mad German press not to get overly-excited at the 1.05 million dollars Mercedes Cup, reports AFP.

"Relax. It's just a match I've won," said the 19-year-old German-born son of an Indonesian father after local media began questioning him about his Davis Cup selection chances.

Phau, playing in only the second top-level contest of his career, advanced into the second round at the Weissenhof club with a 6-1, 6-3 win over Adrian Panu of Romania.

Germany play Romania in a Davis Cup World Group relegation round tie in September. Phau said he joked with captain Carl-Uwe Steeb that he would like a place, but then came back down to earth, saying, "I'm extremely happy, but it's only a first match."

Phau, ranked 449th-ranked, looks as a future star in a country aching for renewed tennis glory.

With the recent departures from the game of Becker and, apparently, Steff Graf, Germany could be in dire tennis straits. Nicolas Pietrangeli is not playing here while Becker's of his apparent, Tommy Haas, is seeded seventh.

Phau, the lowest-ranked man in the field, is one of seven Germans -- all but Haas unseeded -- competing in one of the last major clay outings before the North American hard-court season begins next week in Los Angeles.

The teenager has spent the year on the German Challenger circuit, compiling just three wins against 10 defeats.

Phau's modest 1999 prize-money earnings of 5,458 dollars will increase by at least 50 per cent thanks to the 3,300 dollars he earned on Monday.

SL prefers Jayasinghe

COLOMBO, July 19: Sri Lanka has chosen its top woman sprinter to run in the World Championships in Spain next month despite her falling a drugs test last year, a local newspaper reported today, reports Reuters.

Susanthika Jayasinghe, who tested positive for the steroid nandrolone in April 1998, has been entered in the women's 200 metres in Seville, the state-owned Daily News said.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) has recommended a two-year ban on Jayasinghe but the IAAF Arbitration Panel has yet to decide what penalty, if any, should be imposed.

Sri Lanka's Amateur Athletic Association exonerated Jayasinghe of all charges in August in a move the IAAF said was misguided. Sri Lanka has said it will stand by its decision.

The 24-year-old sprinter became Sri Lanka's most successful athlete in 1997 when she won silver in the 200 metres at the World Championships in Athens.



Xavier Malisse of Belgium doesn't hide his feelings after beating Switzerland's Roger Federer in their Davis Cup quarterfinal clash in Brussels on July 18. Malisse's win gave Belgium an unbeatable 3-1 lead. — AFP photo

Belgium join France, Russia

PARIS, July 19: Rank outsiders Belgium beat Switzerland 3-2 Sunday to reach their first Davis Cup semifinal for 42 years. They will meet France, who vanquished Brazil by the same scoreline, reports AFP.

Russia overcame Slovakia -- also by the narrowest margin -- and will go into battle with the winner of the century tie between the United States and Australia in their last four match.

Xavier Malisse beat fellow teenager Roger Federer in four sets to clinch Belgium's victory in Brussels.

Malisse, who turns 19 on Monday, beat Federer 4-6, 6-3, 7-5, 7-6 before Georges Bastl won the dead rubber for Switzerland when Christophe Van Garste withdrew when trailing 7-6, 1-0.

"It's unbelievable, I was completely shattered," Malisse said. "If we had had a fifth set I would have had no chance. But the crowd were superb and this victory is definitely the best performance of my career."

Belgium won both Friday's opening singles but Lorenzo Mantia and Marc Rosset beat Filip Dewulf and Christophe Rochus 2-6, 6-1, 7-6, 7-5 in the doubles on Saturday to keep Swiss hopes alive.

In the Pyrenees town of Pau, France's Cedric Pioline took just 1hr 19min to beat Brazil's Gustavo Kuerten 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 in Sunday's first reverse singles to put France into the semifinals.

The 3-2 French win earned them a meeting in September with their neighbours the Belgians.

Brazilian Fernando Meligeni won the final dead rubber

6-7, 6-4, 6-2 against Sebastien Grosjean.

Pioline broke Kuerten's serve in the first games of the first and third sets and in the seventh game of the second set and proved far too steady for his rival -- a former French Open champion.

Pioline said afterwards: "Today, I played almost the perfect match. Kuerten needed to do better than that to trouble me. I was pleased I was volleying so well because he's dangerous in a baseline battle."

The match was much closer than the score suggested, but I'm delighted with the win which has given me enormous personal satisfaction."

Fabrice Santoro and Olivier Delaitre scored a doubles victory Saturday to give France a 2-1 lead, beating Kuerten and Jaime Oncins 7-6, 6-4, 6-4.

In Friday's singles, Kuerten beat Sebastien Grosjean 6-2, 6-7, 7-6, 6-7, 9-7 before Pioline lifted France level by beating Meligeni 6-3, 6-3, 6-3.

France's non-playing captain Guy Forget said: "Cedric Pioline was very superior over his opponents in the singles and I guess we chose the right surface."

Forget, a Davis Cup winner as a player, said he would be happy to stage the semifinal with Belgium at Pau.

Russia's Marat Safin, playing under tremendous pressure, showed maturity beyond his 19 years to win the decisive singles and seal the win over Slovakia in Moscow.

Safin, world-ranked 37th, beat Dominik Hrbaty 6-3, 4-6, 7-5, 6-7, 6-4 after world number four Yevgeny Kafelnikov had been trounced in the day's first singles 6-1, 6-3, 6-4 by Karol Kucera.

Kucera and Hrbaty had won

Saturday's doubles against Kafelnikov and Andrei Olhovskiy following Russia's victories in both Friday's singles.

Safin won the vital break point of the match, forcing Hrbaty to net after a barrage of powerful backhands, to lead 5-3 in the fifth set. Safin had also been two points from victory in the fourth set when leading 6-5 on Hrbaty's service.

It had been an exciting match for the spectators at the Moscow Olympic stadium, marked by powerful Safin backhands against a less talented opponent who just would not give up.

Safin admitted: "It was one of the hardest matches of my life. It's a great honour for me to have scored the decisive point for my country here in the Olympic Stadium in front of our people."

Earlier, Kucera had scored a stunning victory over former world number one Kafelnikov to bring the score back to 2-2.

Kucera was always in command against Kafelnikov in a contest between the two baseliners.

Kafelnikov was never able to play his way into the match, with Kucera more powerful and precise from the back of the court.

The Russian became increasingly erratic as he tried to fight back, hitting several balls long and wide. Kucera clinched the win on his fourth match point.

Kucera said afterwards: "It was one of my best matches of the year. I hardly gave him any chances to get back into the match."

Kafelnikov was less verbose than his conqueror, saying: "About my match? No comment. I underestimated my opponent."

Russia will play Australia.

Kenyan gold rush

BY DGOSZ CZCZ, Poland, July 19: Kenya look set to continue dominating distance events well into the new millennium after cleaning the board at the inaugural athletics World Youth Championships which ended yesterday, reports Reuters.

There were no world records set for the under-18 age group -- with many of the 1312 young competitors from 141 countries suffering from jet-lag after long treks to the north of Poland -- but there were still many performances to savour.

Kenya dominated the distance events, finishing with five gold medals.

One of them, from Cheruiyot Cheronu who won the 2,000 metres steeplechase in five minutes 31.89 seconds, was arguably the best performance of the three days of action.

He ran the second best time by someone of his age, just 35-hundredths of a second away from the world best which has lasted nearly 16 years.

Britain's sprinting tradition

looks to be in good hands as the next millennium approaches.

Mark Lewis-Francis was an impressive winner of the 100 metres on Friday, the first day of competition, and Tim Benjamin took the 200 on Sunday.

Among the girls, one of the highlights was the victory of Australia's Georgie Clarke, a distant relative of the legendary Australian distance runner Ron Clarke, in the 900 metres.

Clarke shrugged off the effects of a gruelling 30-hour journey to get to Bydgoszcz and led from gun-to-tape to take the gold medal in 2:05.90.

At 15, she will be the only one of the inaugural champions eligible to defend her title in two years time.

The championship came about because International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) president Primo Nebiolo saw the success of age-group events in other sports, notably soccer, and the need to give the IAAF sponsors another vehicle with which to advertise their wares.

However there are still many doubts about whether the

championship should have taken place at all.

Many European federations and coaches are strongly opposed to it, fearing it will provide further encouragement for unscrupulous coaches prepared to push their young charges beyond their capabilities.

British team manager Brian Hall was another who expressed reservations but adopted the prevailing view amongst the sceptics.

"I suppose we have to live with it now that it is here," Hall said.

The British and the French have tried to keep a tight rein on their athletes.

Both Lewis-Francis and France's boy's 110 metres hurdles winner, Ladji Doucoure only train two or three times a week and they are continuing with their education for the foreseeable future.

By contrast Kenyan Cheronu said he trains twice, and sometimes three times, a day and wants to run on the lucrative Grand Prix circuit as soon as possible.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Undivided 44 Went by 3 Intellectuals 22 Start over 4 Gainer 46 Outre 5 Bleacherites' call 23 Heat source 8 Cole 50 On 51 On 52 Fizzy drink 27 Blasphemous 29 Off-white 30 Pennsylvania port 12 Pluto, for 56 Mrs. 57 Poker 8 Predatory place 58 Caustic 9 History 33 shout 15 Aubergine 59 Brewery products 10 Basmati, e.g. 35 Hair-salon application 17 Marathon 60 Nervous 11 Puts to work 38 "Le Coq" 18 Gilligan's house 61 Journey 16 Bit of wordplay 40 Political party motto 25 Cousteau's milieu Solution time: 23 mins. 43 Thin pancake 45 Star for Tiger Woods 46 Lower California 47 Stressful type: abbr. 48 Region 49 "Zounds!" 53 Musician's job 54 Verily 55 One of Louisa's girls

Cryptogram grid with numbers 1-31 and letters K O K M A Y J Q P Q Y J A O I J O E J O O Y A X H J N Y A M H V M O E Y O J N Y P I J A D Y D V X M ON A FERRY IT WILL SURELY MAKE ME CROSS.

CRYPTOQUIP KO KM AYJQ PQYJA OIJO EJO OYAX HJNYAM HVMO EY OJNYPIJADY DVXM. Yesterday's Cryptquip: I KNOW IF I'M STUCK ON A FERRY IT WILL SURELY MAKE ME CROSS.

Today's Cryptquip clue: D equals G

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

Newcombe's next target

BROOKLINE, Mass., July 19: Australian Davis Cup captain John Newcombe took special satisfaction in vanquishing the United States in their Centennial Celebration quarterfinal tie yesterday, reports Reuters.

A 4-1 decision avenged a defeat two years ago in the semifinals in Washington and was Australia's first win over the Americans on US soil since 1973 when Newcombe and Rod Laver posted a 5-0 shutout in the Davis Cup final in Cleveland.

Victory also took away the sour taste from having been made to play the tie in the United States despite it being Australia's turn to host a tie between the two greatest Davis Cup rivals.

That turn of events came down to the luck of the draw after it was decided two years ago to mark the 100th anniversary of the first Cup matches between the United States and Britain at the Longwood Cricket Club in 1900 by returning to the club in the sweltering summer of 1999.

There came the odd intrigue surrounding Pete Sampras. Sampras, the world's best player six years running, declared he would play only doubles against Australia but lurked in the shadows as a possible singles saviour up until half an hour before Sunday's matches as US captain Tom Gullikson tried to substitute him for an ailing Martin.

Australia overcame all this and did so on the big centennial occasion, which drew 51 former US Davis Cup players including Don Budge, Jack Kramer, Vic Seixas, Tony Trabert and Gardner Mulloy.

Thirteen Australian Davis Cup greats on hand included Frank Sedgman, Ken McGregor, Fred Stolle, Tony Roche, Newcombe and Neale Fraser.

Sweetest of all was the light at the end of the tunnel seen by Newcombe, who believed Australia was on track to add to their haul of 26 Davis Cup titles, second only to the 31 won by the United States.

"We were stung in the semis two years ago in Washington and now I think two years later we are a stronger team, a better team, a more experienced team," he said. "It is satisfying for Tony (Roche) and myself."

"I think we have got an excellent chance to win the Cup this year. This is our sixth year, we would really love to win it for the boys," Newcombe said of his and assistant Roche's time in charge of the Davis Cup team.

The next step in the Davis Cup campaign will be a semifinal match at home against Russia, which Newcombe said would probably be played on grass. Belgium and France will play the other semifinal.

"Pat (Rafter) played his first Davis Cup match with us and Mark Philippoussis did and Lleyton (Hewitt) did and we have sort of grown pretty close to all these guys," Newcombe said.

"So it will be just an enormous thrill for Tony and myself if we can do a little bit to help them get their names on the Cup. It will be a big thrill."

US Open champion Rafter, the world number two, beat Jim Courier in straight sets on Friday and overcame a two-set deficit on Sunday against Martin, who needed intravenous fluids before the match after suffering from heat exhaustion following his morning workout.

While Rafter yet again revealed his special qualities, 18-year-old Hewitt, the slight, nimble-footed son of an Australian rules football player, was a revelation in his Davis Cup debut.

Hewitt got Australia off to a flying start with his four-set defeat of Martin in the opening match, which ended on a 6-0 note.

None of the closest observers was the least bit surprised by Hewitt, whose aggressive baseline game recalls a young Andre Agassi.

"I think Lleyton is one of the few people in the tennis world that have very, very great nerves," Martin said after Friday's defeat. "He sees big occasions and he attacks them and I don't think he reacts at all negatively to any situation."

Said Newcombe: "He likes the big occasion. And he is good in the big occasions. And he has got this fire in his belly that he has been born with, and even probably more importantly, he is not frightened to win."

Another arduous week awaits Houllier

LIVERPOOL, July 19: Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier faces another week of frenzied transfer dealing as he continues his bid to reshape a squad that disappointed in the English Premiership last season, reports AFP.

Houllier is considering a 1-million-pound bid from Middlesbrough for former England midfielder Paul Ince, while Frenchman Jean-Michel Ferri and South African-born Sean Dundee may also be on their way out of Anfield.

Ince has been the biggest casualty of Houllier's summer revolution, which has seen the Frenchman bring seven foreign players to Anfield.

Midfielder Ferri, who was Houllier's first signing, is expected to complete a 1.5-million-pound move to French side Sochaux, while striker Dundee looks likely to return to Germany and he is being tracked by VfB Stuttgart.