

## Sport

## Draw for Champions League

GENEVA, Switzerland, July 23 (AP): Draw for the third qualifying round of the European Champions League, made here on Friday:

**Chelsea (Eng) v Rapid Bucharest (Rom) or Skonto Riga (Lat)**

**Rapid Vienna (Aut) or Valletta (Malta) v Galatasaray (Tur)**

**Florentina (Ita) v Lieteck Lovetech (Bul) or Widzew Lodz (Pol)**

**Aalborg (Den) v Dynamio Kiev (Ukr) or Zalgiris (Lit)**

**CSKA Moscow (Rus) or Molde (Nor) v Real Mallorca (Spa)**

**Lyon (Fra) v Maribor (Slo) or Genk (Bel)**

**Croatia Zagreb (Cro) v Vestmannayjaer (Icel) or MTK Budapest (Hung)**

**FC Haka (Fin) or Rangers (Sco) v Parma (Ita)**

**FC Sloga Jugomagnat (Mkd) or Brondby (Den) v Boavista (Por)**

**AEK Athens (Gre) v FC Dnepro Transmash Mogilev (Ukr) or AIK Solna (Swe)**

**Besiktas (Tur) or Hapoel Haifa (Isr) v Valencia (Spa)**

**Hertha Berlin (ger) v Anorthosis Famagusta (Cyp) or Slovan Bratislava (Svk)**

**Dinamo Tbilisi (Geo) or Zimbru Chisinau (Mol) v PSV Eindhoven (Ned)**

**Spartak Moscow (Rus) v Partizan Belgrade (Yug) or NK Rijeka (Yug)**

**Sturm Graz (Aut) v Servette (Swi)**

**FK Teplice (Cze) v Borussia Dortmund (Ger)**

**First leg ties August 10 or 11. Second leg ties August 24 or 25.**

## Bellmare rope in Laybutt

HIRATSUKA, Japan, July 23: Struggling J-League club Bellmare Hiratsuka said Friday it has acquired current Australian international defender Stephen Laybutt for the remainder of the season, reports AFP.

The 21-year-old former Parramatta Powers SC defender, also a member of the Australian Olympic squad, has already joined the team and is waiting for a medical check before completing the move, a club official said.

Bellmare have also acquired Brisbane Strikers midfielder Chay Hews of Australia, 22, and Brazilian midfielder Jaiton Nunes de Oliveira, 25, from Brazilian club Golas.

They were to replace Brazilians Claudio, Ricardinho and Thiago, and Pavel Badea of Romania, who all left the team after Bellmare finished bottom in the first stage of the league.

## Douglas Tyson's next opponent

NEW YORK, July 23: Mike Tyson could get a shot at avenging his shocking heavyweight championship loss to James "Buster" Douglas in Tokyo about 9 1/2 years ago, reports AP.

The 39-year-old Douglas is one of three men being considered as an opponent for the 33-year-old Tyson's next comeback October 2 in Las Vegas, according to Jay Larkin, senior vice president in charge of sports for Showtime.

Larkin said the other two are 33-year-old Orlin Norris and 30-year-old Zeljko Mavrovic of Croatia.

"We're been negotiating with all three of them simultaneously," he said Thursday. "We hope to have things done by the end of next week."

Because of the shrinking time frame to publicise the fight at the MGM Grand, indications are the match would be televised on Showtime, not on pay-per-view.

Since Tyson was knocked out in the 10th round by Douglas, a 42-1 shot, February 11, 1990, he has regained and lost pieces of the title (WBC and WBA), served two prison terms and had his licence revoked for biting Evander Holyfield's ears in their title rematch June 28, 1998. In his only fight since he got his licence back, he knocked out Francois Botha in the fifth round Jan 16.

Douglas wasn't champion long. Obviously, not in the best physical condition, he lost the undisputed title when he was knocked out in the third round by Holyfield October 25, 1990. He then retired, but in retirement his weight soared to more than 180 kilograms (400 pounds) and in 1994 he was hospitalised in a diabetic coma.

After leaving the hospital, Douglas began exercising and this led to his return to boxing. Since coming back in 1996, he has won eight of nine fights against mostly mediocre opponents. It appeared he would retire again after being knocked out in the first round by Lou Savarese June 25, 1998. Since then, however, he scored a one-round knockout of Warren Williams and Andre Crowder.

"I screwed up big time," Douglas (37-6-1, 24 knockouts) said after the loss to Savarese. But, that quick knockout defeat could play a big role in getting him the rematch with a fading Tyson.

Norris, older brother of former junior middleweight champion Terry Norris, is a former cruiserweight champion. Despite 26 knockouts on his 49-5 record, Norris is a defence-oriented and his fights are often devoid of action. At about 100 kilograms (220 pounds), Norris would be closer to Tyson's weight than would be the much heavier Douglas and Mavrovic. Norris would have much less of a height advantage over Tyson than Douglas or Mavrovic, each 1.93 metres (6-foot-4).

## Euro meet begins Monday



ISTANBUL, July 23: A flurry of records over the past few weeks augurs well for an exciting time at the European Swimming Championships, beginning next Monday, reports Reuters.

The records in Europe have principally fallen in sprint events which will feature in the championships for the first time — 50 metres backstroke, breaststroke and butterfly — and more are likely to fall in seven days of action in the Atakoy Olympic pool.

Germany's Sandra Voelker improved her own 50 backstroke world mark in Monaco and that has been followed by successive women's world 50 butterfly records by Inge de Brujin of the Netherlands and Swede Anna-Karin Kammerling and a European women's 50 breaststroke mark by Britain's Zone Baker.

Two of the European records set by East German women have gone from the books this month, 10 years after the Communist state collapsed.

Baker took the 50 breaststroke record from Silke Hoerner and Sweden's Johanna Sjoberg bettered the 100 butterfly European mark set by Kristin Otto in a spree of six gold medals at the Seoul Olympics. The two East German

swimmers had set their records on the same day in September 1988.

The cream of swimmers from more than 40 nations will chase new standards in a programme extended by a day to accommodate semifinals, which will return to the Olympics for distances up to 200 metres in Sydney next year and expanded to 38 events with the introduction of the extra sprints.

"That made me furious and my self-assurance went," Van Almsick said recently of her failure in the German nationals at Leipzig.

"After that I tried to approach everything more positively but at first I didn't want to go to the European championships and be sitting it out again while the others swim the 200 freestyle."

However, she will contest the 100 freestyle, thanks to the disqualification of second-placed finisher Antje Buschschulte, and also the 100 butterfly and relays.

"Many will perhaps not be reckoning with me and I can just see what happens," she said.

The championship provide one last chance of a comeback for Denis Pankratov, the Russian who has fared dreadfully since he won the 100 and 200 butterfly golds at the 1996 Olympics. He was beaten by Anatoly Polyakov in both events at the Russian trials and swims just the 200.

## Women WC soccer

## Sissi, Wen win Golden Shoe

ZURICH, July 23 (Internet report): Brazilian Sissi and Chinese star Sun Wen have both been awarded the Adidas Golden Shoe as the joint top scorers at the FIFA Women's World Cup in the United States.

Both players finished the tournament with seven goals and three assists, as confirmed by the FIFA Technical Study Group.

In third place and winner of the Bronze Shoe, was the top scorer from the 1995 Women's World Cup, Ann Kristin Aarones of Norway, who had four goals and one assist to her credit.

Sun Wen had also won the adidas Golden Ball trophy after being nominated the outstanding individual player of the Women's World Cup, ahead of Sissi and Michelle Akers (USA).

All these trophies, as well as the FIFA Fair Play Trophy awarded to China, will be presented at the FIFA World Player of the Year gala in Brussels on 24 January 2000.

## Modahl out of World C'ships

LONDON, July 23: Troubled British 800-metre runner Diane Modahl has been forced to pull out of this weekend's World Championship trials in Birmingham, reports AFP.

The 33-year-old has been diagnosed anaemic and suffering from stress following the British Parliament decision to dismiss her appeal to widen the scope of a damages action she launched against the British Athletic Federation (BAF) after clearing her name of drug-taking allegations.

Modahl is seeking to recover the 480,000 pounds (\$720,000 dollars) she spent on legal and medical costs in challenging the four-year drugs ban imposed by the BAF after urine tests in Lisbon in 1994 allegedly showed a high level of testosterone in her body.

"I'm so tired of the injustices of this struggle," she said.

## Becker, Muster to miss US Open

WHITE PLAINS, New York, July 23: Former top-ranked players Boris Becker and Thomas Muster are the only men in the top 100 not entered in the US Open, reports AP.

Muster, of Austria, is ranked No 84 on the ATP Tour, and Becker, of Germany, is No 88.

Two of the 104 direct entries in the men's singles championships Aug 30-Sept 12 are No 1 Andre Agassi, the French Open champion and Wimbledon runner-up; and No 2 Pete Sampras, the Wimbledon champion and four-time US Open champion.

Also entered are defending champion Patrick Rafter of Australia and Australia Open champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia.

Aslihan Pilling of the Football Supporters Association is convinced the plan will improve ticket distribution and won't necessarily mean a snub for British fans.

"If England stages the World Cup in 2006 and all tickets are equally available I still think the home nation will still buy up the majority of them, especially in a nation of football-lovers like ours. It's about having a fair crack of the whip," she said.

The EU Commission has decided everyone should have equal access to tickets for major sporting events in Europe after the debacle of France 98 when thousands of fans outside the host nation were denied tickets.

Strictly speaking, this would allow anyone from a European member state to apply for tickets on general sale for the FA Cup final, Five Nations rugby international or Wimbledon.

On the other hand, British sports fans would have a better chance to see the French Open tennis or an Italian Cup final.

The FA were not unduly concerned, however, about the impact on the FA Cup final, although they stressed crowd segregation remained a key issue.

Spokesman Steve Double said: "We certainly don't believe this would affect a domestic competition like the FA Cup."

"We would certainly expect to argue that proper segregation and security is of paramount importance and would certainly outweigh arguments in favour of an effective free-for-all."

These rules will apply to future international sporting events, said EU spokesman Ste-

fan Rating, and the organisers of next year's European Championships in Holland and Belgium have already been briefed.

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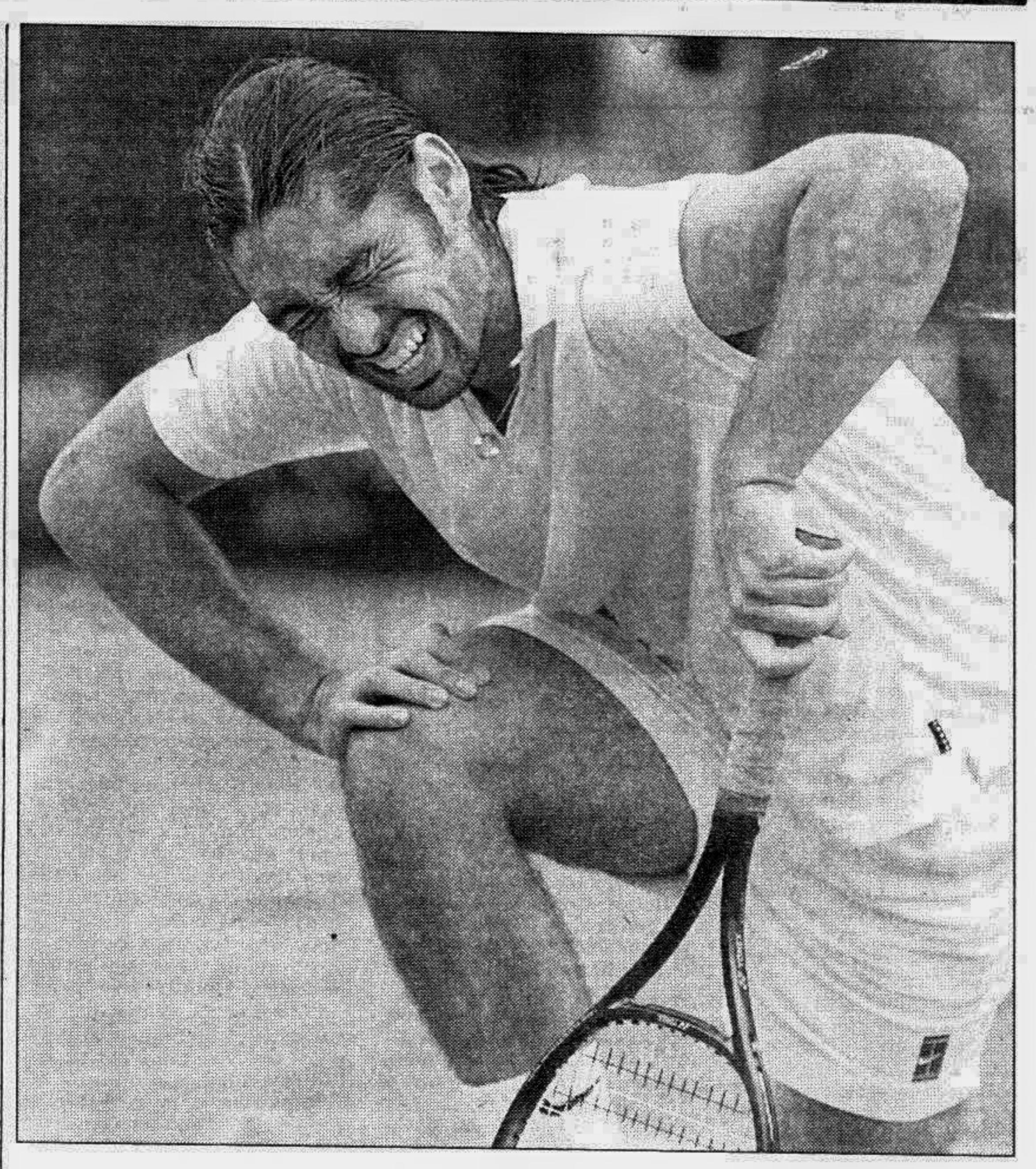
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Chilean Marcelo Rios gives a look of anguish after a fall during his engagement against German Jens Knippschild at the Mercedes Cup on July 22. —AFP photo

## Rios, Moya reach qtrs



STUTTGART, Germany, July 23: Marcelo Rios joined Carlos Moya in scoring a straight sets victory as the pair of former world number one players moved into the quarterfinals of the 1.05 million-dollar Mercedes Cup on Thursday, reports AFP.

Second-seeded Spaniard Moya, the 1998 French Open champion who reigned on top of the ATP Tour standings for the last two weeks of March, shrugged off an unaccustomed early start in beating Brazil's Fernando Meligeni 6-4, 6-3 in their third-round contest.

Rios, the third seed, clocked up a 6-4, 6-4 win over German Jens Knippschild. The Chilean held the top ranking spot for six weeks during 1998.

Rios is playing his last summer event on clay before competing next week in Los Angeles, the start of his four-week buildup for the US Open.

The result appeared to be 1-1 work than a three-set decision Rios needed 24 hours earlier to advance over Hernan Gumy of Argentina in the second round.

"It may have been 6-4, 6-4

but we had some tough games. It was very windy," said the world number 11, who now stands 27-6 on clay this year.

"I had my chances early on and didn't take them right away."

Rios' win leaves Tommy Haas as the last remaining German hopeful at the Weissenhof club. The seventh seed advanced over Norway's Christian Ruud 7-5, 6-3.

On a day interrupted by a late-afternoon rainstorm, Ecuador's 10th-seeded seed Nicolas Lapentti beat eighth-seed Dominik Hrbaty of Slovakia 7-5, 6-3.

French player Jiri Novak accounted for 12th seed Francisco Clavet, knocking out the experienced Spaniard 2-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Swede Magnus Norman, who advanced when an exhausted Gustavo Kuerten quit only 37 minutes into their Wednesday match, moved ahead, dismissing Australian Richard Fromberg with a 6-2, 6-1 scoreline.

In contrast to Rios, who said he prefers playing in the States to competing in Europe, Moya will stay on this side of the Atlantic for as long as possible before venturing onto the hard-

courts.

The Spaniard, who reached the Stuttgart semi-finals in 1998, will compete next week in Croatia and will not switch before mid-August.

The run-up to the US Open starts Monday in Los Angeles, with major names including new world No. 1 Pat Rafter, Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi competing as the race to the final Grand Slam of the season heats up.

"It's the same schedule I've had for the past few years and it's worked," said Moya, who played a US Open semifinal a year ago.

"I'll go over three weeks before the Open, that's enough. Being out of Spain for six weeks, that can be tough. I'll play Cincinnati, Indianapolis and Long Island to get ready."

Moya is the highest-ranked player remaining in the clay-court field at the Weissenhof club after the second-round abandonment of Kuerten on Wednesday.

The Brazilian is currently headed home for a few weeks of rest to combat burnout from too much tennis and will resume on the ATP Tour next month.

## Russia start favourites



MOSCOW, July 23 (AFP/Reuters): Russia's women, minus Anna Kournikova, must emulate their male compatriots this weekend if they are to reach the Fed Cup final.

Last weekend, Russia's Davis Cup team edged Slovakia 3-2 to reach the semifinals and the two nations will face each other again in the Fed Cup semifinal on the very same clay court at the Olympic Sports Complex in Moscow this weekend.

Kournikova has shunned her native country once more so Russia will rely on the same team which upset favourites France 3-2 in the quarterfinals.

Elena Likhovtseva, ranked 20th in the world, and diminutive Tatyana Panova are expected to play the singles as they did against France. Panova has a 7-1 record in Fed Cup, a remarkable achievement for a player who has never reached the top 50.