

Pierce leads the way

MANHATTAN BEACH, California, Aug 12: France's Mary Pierce, enjoying her highest ranking in a year but still without a title in 1999, beat Japan's Ai Sugiyama 6-5, 7-5 in the second round of the Acura Classic, reports AP.

Pierce, ranked sixth in the world, won four titles last year. She has reached three finals this year, but twice ran into Venus Williams and lost in straight sets.

"I'm trying to get a lot of matches on hard courts just to really give myself the best chance at the US Open," she said after Wednesday's match.

No. 2 Martina Hingis of Switzerland played qualifier Lisa Raymond of the United States in the night match.

A week ago, Sugiyama got into the TIG Classic in Carlsbad as a lucky loser and proceeded to upset Pierce in three sets in the first round.

"You don't want to think about it too much, but you don't ever forget it," Pierce said. "Going out today, I was trying to think about matches when I had beaten her and what I did last week, why I lost and try to not do that again."

Pierce, the third seed, twice broke Sugiyama's serve in the first set, occasionally venturing to the net for volleys or drop-shots her Japanese opponent.

She broke Sugiyama's serve to open the second set, then served a love game punctuated for a 4-2 lead.

Sugiyama broke back and then held to go up 5-4. Pierce held serve, then Sugiyama committed two consecutive errors to trail 6-5. Pierce wrapped up the match when Sugiyama's forehand went wide.

"To beat her you have to really be on your game and playing well and not making unforced errors," Pierce said.

In other matches, fourth-seeded Aranxta Sanchez-Vicario of Spain defeated Ruxandra Dragomir of Romania 6-3, 6-1; No. 6 Serena Williams of the United States beat Patty Schnyder of Switzerland 6-3, 6-1; and Julie Hingis of France got by Amy Fraze of the United States 7-6 (7-5), 7-5.

Williams needed just 47 minutes to finish off Schnyder after struggling to beat Russia Elena Likhovtseva in three sets Tuesday night. Her sister, Venus, is cheering her on this week.

"I guess I did have a much easier time," Williams said. "I don't think Patty played that good. I've played her before and she played a lot better than that. So did I."

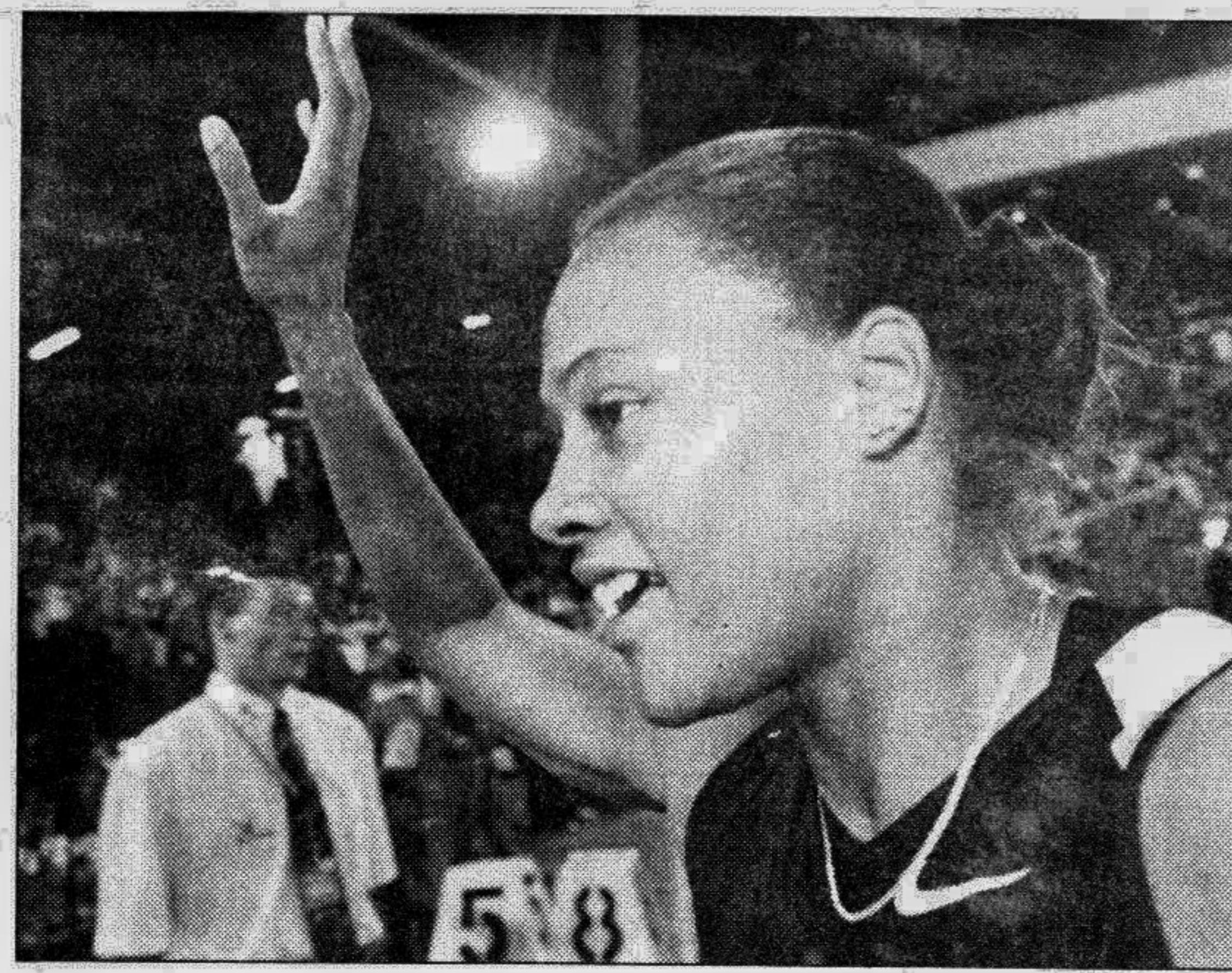
Williams led 3-2 when she won eight straight points to go up 5-2. Williams won the first three points of the next game but Schnyder came back to win it 5-3.

Williams served out the set when Schnyder netted a forehand. Schnyder double-faulted to lose the first game of the second set and only had one break point on Williams' serve the entire match.

"I'm trying to cut down on my unforced errors and get a lot of balls in play and move it around and then attack," Williams said.

She converted 66 per cent of her first serves after getting in only 52 per cent against Likhovtseva.

"I served better, but I wasn't hitting them hard, just 100 (mph)," she said. "I can really get it up there. I've really been practicing. I can really get it up 119-120 mph. I'm just not hitting that hard."



American track star Marion Jones gestures after winning the 100 metres in Zurich on August 11. — AFP photo

Sport

Comedy of errors mark German Cup draw

COLOGNE, Germany, Aug 12: The German Football Federation has left itself open to a storm of protests after an embarrassing incident happened Wednesday evening during the drawing of the teams to play in the third round of the German Cup, reports AFP.

One of the plastic balls in the large open pot broke apart and the half containing the name of third division club Eintracht Trier was accidentally put to one side while the empty half was unwittingly put back into the bowl.

Germany's champion shot putter Astrid Kumbernuss, called in at the last minute to replace celebrity figure skater Katarina Witt to make the draw, was the unlucky protagonist of the controversy.

While swirling the balls around the one containing Trier's name broke open, unbeknown to those looking on. Kumbernuss drew it, thought it was broken and put it to one side.

That left an embarrassing scramble at the end of the selection process when one team was missing: Eintracht Trier, which was among the discarded lots.

The error was impossible to cover because the draw took place on live television during the half time break of Hertha Berlin's Champions League qualifying match Wednesday against Anorthosis Famagusta which Hertha won 2-0.

There were red faces among DFB officials present however a legal representative was on hand and decided after the match that the third round draw would stand as called.

He concluded that the broken ball was an accident and that no deliberate manipulation had taken place to rig the selection of teams.

The highlight of the third round of the German Cup will be the derby between arch capital city rivals Hertha Berlin and Tennis Borussia Berlin from the second division.

Boldon to miss World C'ships

ZURICH, Aug 12: Reigning 200 metres champion Ato Boldon has withdrawn from this month's World Championships in Seville because of injury, reports Reuters.

Boldon, who has not competed in an individual sprint since pulling a hamstring while warming up for a Golden League meeting in Paris on July 21, said today that the injury had not responded to treatment.

The 25-year-old Trinidad sprinter had looked poised to make a return to competition.

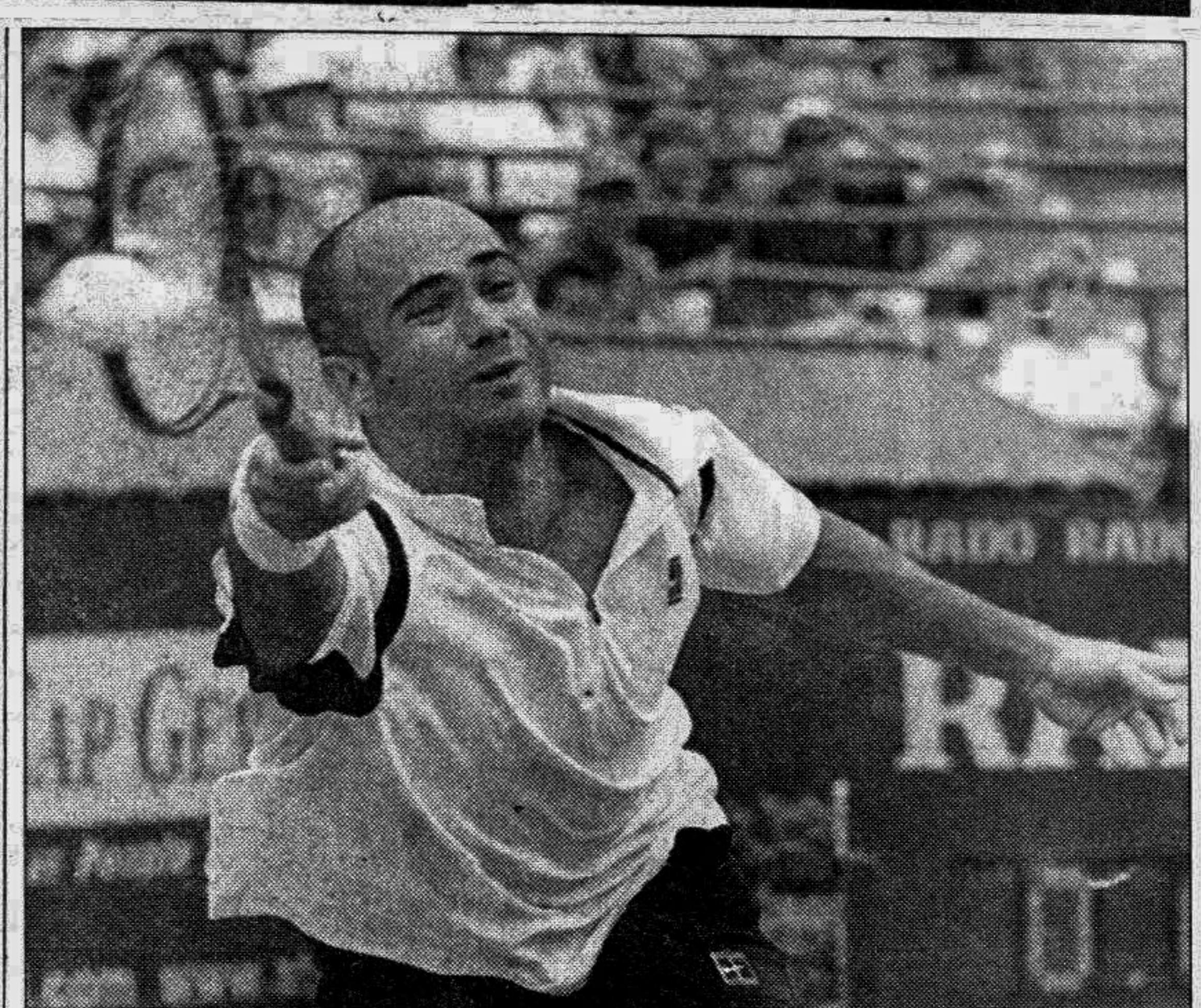
He ran a 4X100 relay leg at the Grand Prix meeting in London on Saturday and was scheduled to run in both the 100 and 200 metres at today's prestigious Zurich Golden League meeting.

But Boldon told reporters in Zurich: "The relay just made it worse. The season is over for me, there is no way I can get fit for Seville."

Until his injury problems Boldon was expected to have a superb chance of defending his 200 crown after clocking the fastest time this year when he ran 19.86 seconds in Athens in June.

The performance came on the same night that he pushed friend and training partner American Maurice Greene to a world record of 9.79 in the 100 metres.

Boldon was expected to provide Greene with one of his toughest tests in the Seville 100 metres, having twice run 9.86 this year.



Andre Agassi is of the United States at full stretch while returning serve by Frenchman Arnaud Di Pasquale during their ATP Championships match on August 11. — AFP photo

Rafter, Agassi advance



MASON, Ohio, Aug 12: Defending champion Patrick Rafter of Australia and third-seeded American Andre Agassi won 6-4, 6-1 in a brief 56 minutes.

The reigning French Open champion and one of just five men to win all four Grand Slam titles in their careers, Agassi has a 21-3 record since the beginning of Roland Garros and returned to the number one ranking for three weeks last month for the first time since February 1996.

"It means number one meant more this time than the first time," said Agassi, who has occupied the top ranking for a total of 35 weeks since his first outing in the position on April 10, 1995. "It was a symbol of a roll again."

Rafter recently spent his one and only week — the week of July 26 — in the top ranking on the ATP computer before Pete Sampras wrested the spot away by winning in Los Angeles.

"I've been on medication for

my shoulder, but it's been holding up really well at the moment," he said. "We have a long summer to go, so I'm trying to keep a check on it."

A two-time titlist at the ATP Championships, Agassi whipped 51st-ranked Frenchman Arnaud Di Pasquale 6-4, 6-1 in a brief 56 minutes.

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"I feel like my game was capable of it (reaching number one again), but it requires a lot of things falling into place at the right time. So when it happened, I think I just was at a

place where I could really appreciate it a lot more."

Agassi was joined in the third round by three unseeded Americans who beat seeded players Wednesday — Michael Chang, Justin Gimelstob and Chris Woodruff.

On the road to recovery after a year of battling injuries, the 58th-ranked Chang upset eighth-seeded Alex Corretja of Spain 6-3, 6-7 (5-7), 6-2 in the second round. It was Chang's first victory over a top ten opponent since he beat Sampras, who was ranked number one then as he is now, in the third round of the Italian Open in May 1998.

The 105th-ranked Gimelstob surprised ninth-seeded fellow American Todd Martin 6-4, 6-4, while the 86th-ranked Woodruff, who missed all of 1998 recuperating from knee surgery, beat 13th-seeded Thomas Enqvist of Sweden 6-1, 7-5.

Jim Courier retired from his second round match at 6-7 (5-7), 7-6 (7-4), 2-0 for Frenchman Cedric Pioline with heart-related cramps in his legs.



Gabriela Szabo of Romania in action during the 3000 metres steeplechase at IAAF Golden League event in Zurich on August 11. — AFP photo

American sprint Roger Kingdom waves goodbye to spectators in Zurich on August 11. Kingdom announced his retirement from athletics. — AFP photo

TV Guide

Friday 13th August

(All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme)

BBC

6:00 BBC World News 6:05 USA Direct 6:30 World Living: Talking Movies 7:00 BBC World News inc World Business & Asia Today 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 World Focus: USA Direct 11:30 Europe Direct 12:00 World News 12:30 Moneywise Presented by Sucharita Ghose (On Indian Business Market) 1:00 World News 1:30 World Living: Talking Top Gear: The Air Show #9 2:30 World Focus: The Sky At Night #5/10 7:00 BBC World News 7:15 World Business Report 7:30 BBC World Today Asia & Pacific 8:30 World Living: Talking Movies 9:00 BBC World News 9:30 Hard Talk 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 World Living: Face To Face India Talk (Presenter: Karan Thapar) 11:00 World News 11:30 BBC World Today 12:30 Hard Talk 1:30 World Focus Correspondent 2:00 BBC World News 2:30 World Living: Havanly Bodies #2/6: Space Superstation 3:15 Europe Direct 4:00 BBC News Inc. World Business Report/24 Hours

1:00 [V] Hit Machine 1:00 [V] FDFS 1:30 [V] Hit Machine 2:30 [V] Eye 3:00 [V] Hit Machine 4:30 Tea With [V] 5:00 Virtual [V] 5:30 Tea With [V] 6:00 [V] Style Police 6:30 [V] Tea With [V] 7:00 [V] Line Lagao 7:15 [V] Bheja Fry 7:30 [V] Hit Machine 8:30 [V] The Ticket 9:00 [V] Hit Machine 9:30 [V] FDFS Spl 10:00 [V] Hit Machine 10:30 LateNight [V] 11:00 [V] Dares You 11:30 LateNight [V] 12:30 [V] Hit Machine 2:00 [V] Top Of The Pops 3:00 [V] Hit Machine

9:00 Walker Texas Ranger 10:00 Due South 11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 12:00 Ordinary Extraordinary 1:00 The Bold And The Beautiful 2:30 Movie Heat 3:00 Jack Hanna's Animal Adventure 3:30 2 Point 4 Children 4:00 Hollywood Squares 4:30 World News 5:00 Asia News Update 5:15 World Business Report 5:30 Dr Quinn Medicine Woman 6:45 Asia News Update 7:00 Heartbeat 8:00 Pop Practice 9:00 The Bold And The Beautiful 9:30 Home Improvement 10:00 Dr Quinn Medicine Woman 11:00 Heartbeat 12:00 The Simpsons 12:30 3rd Rock From The Sun 1:00 Home Improvement 1:30 Dr Quinn Medicine Woman 2:30 Heartbeat 3:30 Extended Word 4:00 Aerobics Oz Style 4:30 World News 5:00 Voyage To The Bottom Of The Sea

STAR MOVIES

7:30 Western Los Locos: Posse Rides Again 9:30 Action: Death Hunt 11:30 Action: Firestorm 1:30 Drama: Naked Fright 3:30 Comedy: Eight Heads In A Duffel Bag 5:30 Drama: The Brothers McMullen 7:30 Action: Chain Reaction 9:30 UK Top Ten 10:00 Friday Night All Stars: New York New York 1977 1:00 Life Fury Fury Back Alley Princess 3:00 Action: Death Hunt 5:00 US Top Ten 5:30 Drama: The Brothers McMullen

MTV INDIA

7:00 Non-Stop Hits 8:00 MTV Hanging Out VJ Rahul/Sonia 9:00 Classic MTV VJ Sarah/Rahul 10:00 Non-Stop Hits 10:30 MTV Most Wanted VJ Nadya 11:30 MTV Chill Out VJ Shehnaz/Amrita/Nikhil 12:30 MTV Hit Film Music 1:00 MTV Housefull V Nafisa 1:30 MTV In Control: Cricket 2:30 MTV Select VJ Nikhil 3:30 Love Line VJ Malaika 4:00 Non-Stop Hits 4:30 Pepsi Dance Connection Special: MTV MTV 5:30 MTV Most Wanted VJ Nadya 6:30 MTV Chill Out

STAR PLUS

6:30 Nisha 7:30 Good Morning India 9:30 Good Morning India 10:00 Shock TV 12:30 TVC 1:00 Hit Ya Fit 1:30 Virasat 2:00 Ajeeb Dastaan 3:00 Swabhiman 3:00 Zindagi Com 3:30 Tea Time Cinema: Karamdai (Mithun Chakraborty, Amrita Singh) 6:30 Zabana Samthal 7:00 Hit Ya Fit 7:30 Star News 8:00 Kucha Paapad Pucca Paapad 8:30 Pal Chini 9:30 Star News 10:00 Muster Card Family Fortune 10:30 Star Talk 11:00 Aaj Ki Baat 11:30 A Mouthful Of Sky 12:00 Star News Late Night Edition 12:30 The Bold And The Beautiful 1:00 Brittas Empire 1:30 Baywatch Nights 2:30 The Knock 3:30 Snow River McGregor Saga 4:30 Fashion TV 5:00 The Bold And The Beautiful 5:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show

STAR WORLD

6:00 Aerobics Oz Style 6:30 Hollywood Squares 7:00 Brittas Empire 7:30 Jack Hanna's Animal Adventure 8:00 2 Point 4 Children 8:30 Newhart 8:30 Tilwat Aur Tarjuma/Hamid/Naat 8:20 Boltay Haath 8:35 Sada-

e-Kashmir 9:10 Dastar Khwaan 9:35 Karb Serial 11:00 Aap Ke Farmaesh Pop 11:30 Fakir-E-Alam Game Show 12:30 Sports Prog 2:02 Bismillah 2:15 Fehm-Ul-Quran 2:40 Natah Rang 3:25 Ek Raat Ek Kahani 4:40 Sehat Aur Sikhoon 5:23 Biology For 10th 5:55 Uffag 6:25 Aion Course 7:20 Full House 7:45 English News 8:10 Fun Time Puppet Show 8:30 Tiffin 8:45 Paal Do Paal Serial 9:00 Break for Headlines News 10:00 Khabarnama & Commercial News 10:35 Lollypop Top Ten Countdown Film Music 11:35 Serial: Pinjira 12:00 Friday Night Classic Cinema & Khas Khabrain/Close Down

ZEE INDIA TV

7:00 Jagran 7:30 to 11:30 PM Every Half Hour-Zee News Hindi 12:30 News in Hindi 12:57 News Headlines 1:00 Ru Ba Ru 1:30 Jaanch Ya Aanch 2:00 The Tech Show 2:30 Ap Ki Adalat 3:00 India Debates 3:30 Bourvita Quiz Contest 4:00 Teer Kannaan 4:30 Session With Seshan

STAR CHANNEL-1

7:30 Non-Stop Hits 8:00 MTV Hanging Out VJ Rahul/Sonia 9:00 Classic MTV VJ Sarah/Rahul 10:00 Non-Stop Hits 10:30 MTV Most Wanted VJ Nadya 11:30 MTV Chill Out VJ Shehnaz/Amrita/Nikhil 12:30 MTV Hit Film Music 1:00 MTV Housefull V Nafisa 1:30 MTV In Control: Cricket 2:30 MTV Select VJ Nikhil 3:30 Love Line VJ Malaika 4:00 Non-Stop Hits 4:30 Pepsi Dance Connection Special: MTV MTV 5:30 MTV Most Wanted VJ Nadya 6:30 MTV Chill Out

DD CHANNEL-1

5:55 Vande Mataram & Thought of The Day 6:00 Aradhana 6:30 UGC Prog 7:30 Samachar 7:45 Sabera 8:45 The News 8:50 This Morning's Business 9:00 Non-Stop Hits 10:30 Jharkhand 11:45 Junoon 12:15 Music Mantra (Trailer Show) 12:30 Boogie Woogie 1:00 Chhaya 1:30 Aaj Ka 1:30 Aurat 1:45 Junoon 2:00 Dilkash 2:30 Bajrangi 2:45 Rang Bihari 2:50 Rang Bihari 3:00 Junoon 3:15 Cine Nite Show 3:30 Hindi Feature Film: Woh Chali 4:00 Ek Saath 4:30 Ek Saath 5:00 Ek Saath 5:30 Ek Saath 6:00 Ek Saath 6:30 Ek Saath 7:00 Ek Saath 7:30 Ek