to return

prize money

ports Reuters.

blood.

don tournament.

championships of 1998.

#### Del Piero's promise

MILAN, Sept 2: Alessandro Del Piero claimed on Thursday that he would be back in an Italy shirt against Belarus next month, after sitting out their Euro 2000 qualifier with Denmark, reports AFP.

Del Piero has been left out of Dino Zoff's squad, given his current form after a ninemonth absence following surgery and the crucial importance of Wednesday's match in Naples for the hosts.

Victory will book them into next year's finals and Zoff has a reputation for being cautious. Del Piero's place alongside Christian Vieri will instead go to club teammate Filippo Inza-

Del Piero admitted: "It could only have been a certain kind of comeback for me, given my condition. And at the same time, there are other men who are in excellent shape."

As for his own form, the striker who sparkled in the Intertoto against Rennes but who dimmed markedly against Reggina last Sunday night, had no illusions.

"It's good." he said. "But at a time like this, it's only to be expected that there are some positive moments and others that are less so, like in the match against Rennes and the one

against Reggina." But after talking things over with Zoff and being re-assured of his importance to the national team, Del Piero said: "I feel as if I've been called up. And the attention I've had from Dino Zoff, from the press, from public opinion and from the fans means a great deal to me.

"And I can assure everyone that next time. I'm going to be there.'

Italy are away to Belarus on October 9, when qualification for the tournament in Holland and Belgium should already be in the bag.

#### Rangers duo Scotland's best

GLASGOW, Sept 2: Scottish champions League Rangers were toasting a double success on Thursday after Dick Advocaat was named manager of the month for August, while midfielder Claudio Reyna was named player of the month.

The awards, voted for by the Scottish Football Writers' Association, reflect Rangers' excellent start to the season.

They have lost only one out of nine competitive games since July, scoring 24 goals and establishing a three-point lead at the top of the Scottish premier league after five games.

Reyna, a 1.4 million pound German club Wolfsburg, in

April. has been outstanding. The American has scored five goals already this season, including one against Italian giants Parma that sent them on their way to the group stages of the Champions' League.

### German booter tests positive

COLOGNE, Germany, Sept 2: The German Football Federation (DFB) demanded that midfielder Thomas Ziemer of second division Nuremberg explain himself after laboratory reports confirmed Thursday that he took an illegal steroid,

reports AFP. A B-sample of Ziemer's urine came up positive, confirming

the result of initial tests. Ziemer, 30, claims the abnormally high testosterone in his urine sample may have come from an energy powder imported from the United States which he was given by a team official who specialises in homeopathy.

"These food supplement products, which contain substances like DEHA, are really big in the US," Ziemer said.

He's noticed the changing face of his half of the draw. "They are available here in Germany too through the Internet. Players have to be careful more open," he said. "There's not to fall into the trap of still a lot of guys who can play good tennis, still a few guys you thinking that whatever is not available from the chemist is can kind of pick as favorites in the top section." okay to take."

It is also thought that Ziemer may have received a banned steroid from his local doctor in the form of injections which he received over several weeks to speed up the healing of a torn muscle.

Ziemer was tested in May after Nuremberg's final game in the Bundesliga last season against Freiburg before they were relegated. He is the fifth player to test positive for doping since the Bundesliga began tests in 1988.

## SOCOG plans to change athletics

schedule SYDNEY, Sept 2: Sydney Olympic organisers are on the

verge of making major changes to the athletics schedule for the 2000 Games, reports AFP. The current programme was "clearly not acceptable" to the sport's governing body, the International Amateur Athletics

Federation (IAAF) and its president Primo Nebiolo, said John Coates, SOCOG vice-president. There would have to be compromises and that meant the

dates of some athletics finals would have to be changed, he added.

The IAAF is demanding that there be one day's break between the semi-finals and finals for events of 400 metres and upwards and two days' break for events of 3,000 metres

or more. But the changes are sure to cause uproar among the many Australians who have applied for tickets in the belief that they will see certain events.

## Inside Goran's world

NEW YORK, Sept 2 (AP): In the complex world of Goran Ivanisevic, even he doesn't know from match to match, sometimes from

point to point, just what kind of tennis he is going to play. He claims there are at least two Gorans locked up inside him, the good Goran, who delivers one of the hardest serves in tennis, and the bad Goran, who can lose his concentration in the blink of an eye.

The good Goran overcame the bad one Wednesday in a 7-5, 7-6 (7-5), 4-6, 6-2 victory over

Ville Liukko at the US Open. The first-round victory was no small bit of business for Ivanisevic, of Croatia, who has had a terrible summer, winning just two matches and losing in the first round of nine events. At Key Biscayne, Florida, he received a first-round bye and then lost in the second round.

"It's not easy when you prac-tice, lose Monday, practice, lose Monday, practice again until Monday, four, five weeks in a row," he said. "After 11 years on the tour, that's tough to moti-

"But I still have motivation. I see some guys in front of me in ranking, which is very disgusting. I have to go back because

this is not good. Ivanisevic is fond of saying, "You never know with me," and the fact is, he never knows ei-

He tried to explain his complicated little world. "There's a couple of guys

two of the tournament favorites

and one of its heaviest hitters.

It is left with No 5 Gustavo

Kuerten of Brazil as its top

Sampras and two-time defend-

ing champion Patrick Rafter

out of the mix early. Before the

tournament ever began, their

half of the draw took a hit when

No 11 Mark Philippoussis, a

big-serving finalist last year.

pulled out because of a knee in-

a match, his run at a record

13th Grand Slam title ended by

a herniated disc in his back.

Then Rafter went down with an.

aching shoulder, forced to retire

from his first-round match

against France's Cedric Pioline.

It marked the first time since

this tournament began in 1881

that a defending champion has

ment," Rafter said. "Especially

with Pete playing such great

good, as well, coming into here.

tennis, and my form was pretty

was feeling pretty confident

"For me, it's very tough to

For Pioline, the casualties

That left Kuerten, who was

hitting with Sampras when the

four-time champion was in-

jured on Sunday, at the top of

that half of the draw and per-

French Open two years ago, has

never made it past the second

round of the US Open. He plays

Paul Haarhuis of the Nether-

Behind Kuerten comes No 7

Todd Martin of the United

States, who barely made it

through the first round with a

five-set victory that included

Next is No 9 Greg Rusedski of

"I think it's definitely a little

No 14 Tommy Haas of Ger-

many advanced with a 6-2, 6-4,

7-6 (8-6) victory over Sweden's

Thomas Enqvist but, in keeping

with his half of the draw, he

needed some treatment from

bit," he said. "I pulled a little

around him falling, Haas is de-

draw," he said. "Maybe there are

chances for the other ones. You

know, it's just bad luck. That's

just the way it goes. Injuries

happen to everyone. It just makes the players appreciate to

be healthy and can't wait to

come out again to play next

of Croatia advanced with a 7-5,

7-6 (7-5). 4-6, 6-2 victory over

Finland's Ville Liukko and was

philosophical about his

PSG charged

with racism

division side Paris St Germain

are to face charges of racism af-

ter they allegedly refused to sell a ticket to a black supporter, re-

The charges have been

brought by SOS-Racisme and

will be heard in a Paris court on

one of their members of Senegal

origin went to the the PSG shop

to buy a ticket for the match

against Bordeaux last May.

According to SOS-Racisme

PARIS, Sept 2: French first

Unseeded Goran Ivanisevic

"It's bothering me a little

With so many of those

"Obviously, it opens up the

the trainers for a hip flexor.

muscle. I have to be careful."

termined to hang on.

time."

chances.

ports AFP.

December 9.

Britain, a finalist two years ago

who held off Spain's Juan Car-

los Ferrero 4-6, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

The Brazilian, winner of the

haps wondering about it.

about having some good wins

pull yourself off that court."

were no problem.

lands next.

three tiebreakers.

"It's tough for the tourna-

lost in the first round.

Sampras left before playing

Injuries took top-seeded Pete

remaining seeded player.

NEW YORK, Sept 2

(AP): Three days

into the US Open,

the top half of the

men's draw is

drooping, missing

there," he said. "I have a little chat. Which one is going to go now? Sometimes we fight — 'I go. 'You go."

The many faces of Ivanisevic often leave him confused. But he's not about to take this problem to a psychologist. "I don't think he can understand that," he said. "It's too



GORAN IVANISEVIC "I am the best psychologist for myself. I have to hit forehands. I have to hit backhands. He cannot tell me, 'Now hit ace, it's break point.

"They all talk. 'Concentrate. Keep your mind. Breathe. Breathe.' Then you start to breathe, breathe, but nothing happens. Still, tennis does not seem to

Kuerten last man standing

**GUSTAVO KUERTEN** 

COLOGNE, Sept 2:

Top German Bun-

desliga outfit Kai-

serslautern fined

Ciriaco

from his contract but a pro-

posed move to Borussia Dort-

media said that Sforza was free

to leave whenever he wanted -

as long as Rehhagel agrees and

that an acceptable offer is

qualifiers this weekend, in-

Thursday's statement to the

and out of his depth.

mund broke down.

the club.

be all that complicated. Some players play from the baseline. Others come to the net. Pick a style and go out and play. Sounds simple, but not when

all those voices are giving you mixed messages.

"Sometimes it's the legs," Ivanisevic said. "You have to control the legs. You cannot go without the legs. You have to get to the net. It's like 5, 10 metres. You have to go. It's not easy.

"I want to go in, but then don't want to go in. Then think, 'When I go in, I lose the point.' I think, 'OK, why don't you stay back?' When I stay back it's always, 'Why didn't you go in? It's always, 'Why? Why? Why didn't you choose that? Why didn't you choose that? 'When you buy a red car, you

say. Why didn't I buy a blue car?' You come home, your wife says, 'Change this.' "

Got all that? Ivanisevic, unseeded for the Open because of his difficult summer, is in the top half of the draw, where main threats American Pete Sampras and Australian Patrick Rafter are gone. It could give him a chance at an elusive first Grand Slam championship, provided the right Goran shows up from match to match.

What if he won? Which Ivanisevic would get the trophy?

"Oh, we all get the trophy," he explained. "I get the trophy, then I buy another two trophies.

That way, there will be no arguments and all the Gorans will wind up happy.

"Even with Pete here and

Rafter, Grand Slam is nobody's

tournament," he said. "In a

Grand Slam, you cannot ever

predict who will win. Anybody

The top half of the draw was

hurt early when Philippoussis,

a big hitter who flourishes on

hard courts like those at the Na-

tional Tennis Center, pulled out

and was replaced by clay court

specialist Felix Mantilla of

long, losing on Wednesday in

Magnus Norman of Sweden 1-6.

roe, broadcasting the Open for

USA Network. thinks the casu-

alty rate can be traced to a

schedule packed with too many

tournaments," he said. "They

expect too much from the top

players. The quality goes down

If you play too much, the odds

are higher that something had

The top half of the Open

is going to happen."

Sforza penalised

draw can confirm that.

"We have way too many

Hall of Famer John McEn-

The pinch hitter didn't last

can win this tournament.

"Why not?" he said.

Even him?

Spain.

6-1, 6-2, 6-4,

#### Aussie natants rolling with world mark

CANBERRA, Spet 2: Australians Susie O'Neill and Michael Klim broke world shortcourse swimming records Thursday, continuing an amaz-ing run Down Under after 12 longcourse records fell at the Pan Pacific Championships

last week, reports AP. Klim broke Englishman James Hickman's world record for the shortcourse 100-meter butterfly event with a swim of 50.99 seconds. Hickman set the previous mark at 51.07 in

Sheffield, England, in December last year. O'Neill, who narrowly missed Mary T Meagher's 200 butterfly longcourse record at the PanPacs, improved her own world record during the national shortcourse championships Thursday. She clocked 2 minutes, 04.43 seconds, shattering the 2:05.37 she set in Malmo, Sweden, earlier this year. On that occasion O'Neill broke swimming's oldest

standard of 2:05.65 from January 1981. Klim was a member of the Australian 800-meter freestyle relay team which broke one of the 12 longcourse world records during the PanPacs. He was also on the Australian Institute of Sport team which broke the

record, Meagher's shortcourse

#### relay Wednesday. Kostadinova says it's over

shortcourse record in the same

SOFIA, Sept 2: World high jump record holder and Olympic champion Stefka Kostadinova of Bulgaria says she will never compete again after a two-year absence from the

athletics arena, reports Reuters. "Nothing can take me back to the high jump. I withdrew when I was on top," 34-year-old Kostadinova said in an interview in Wednesday's local sports daily 7 Dni Sport. Kostadinova withdrew from

competition in 1997 because of a bruised heel, having won her first Olympic gold at the Atlanta Games the previous year clearing 2.01 metres.

She subsequently said she would skip all competition in 1998 to take a much needed rest and to recover from injury. She has not competed this year, and the newspaper interview of offered the firmest word from her so far that she would not return. Kostadinova won the world

title in Gothenburg in 1995 with a jump of 2.01, recapturing the crown she won in Rome in 1987 when she set the current world record of 2.09. Asked whether she expected

her record to be broken in the next century, she said: "On the one hand, I am glad that no one has broken it so far but on the other hand I am fed up with having this record since 1987. "I want someone to break it

but at the same time I feel pleased it is mine."

## Weight woe for Welsh fans

STANSTED, England, Sept 2: Wales's preparations for Saturday's Euro 2000 qualifier in Belarus were plunged into disarray when fans were thrown off the team's flight because the plane was too heavy.

The flight to Minsk from Stansted Airport in east England was delayed for two-and-ahalf hours after airport officials said it was carrying too

much weight Playing kit, food and min-eral water was taken off and left on the tarmac, but the aircraft was still overweight and Welsh football officials had to ask 14

fans to stay behind. They were offered a night in a hotel and a flight out to Minsk on Friday.

But the supporters were not happy and angrily confronted the officials, forcing airport police to intervene. The team spent two hours in an airport lounge and were es-

corted onto the plane as fans argued with police. Tour organiser Tony Klemo of Red Arrow Travel said: "The problem is that we have far too much food and water. We were told there would only be 10

skips but we ended up with 16."



Britain's Greg Rusedski hits a sliced backhand during his match against Spaniard Juan Carlos on September 1.

# Yevgeny sails into Round 3



NEW YORK, Sept 2 (Agencies): Yevgeny Kafelnikov, suddenly elevated

to second favourite to win the US Open, played up to his heightened expectations last night. Facing 22-year-old Belarus-

sian Max Mirnyi and a hostile night crowd looking for an upset. Kafelnikov produced an impressive 7-5, 6-1, 6-7, 6-3 victory to cruise into the third

The third-seed, named behind Pete Sampras, Andre Agassi and two-time defending champion Patrick Rafter on most lists of pretournament favourites, awoke on Wednesday to find himself as number two after Sampras and Rafter

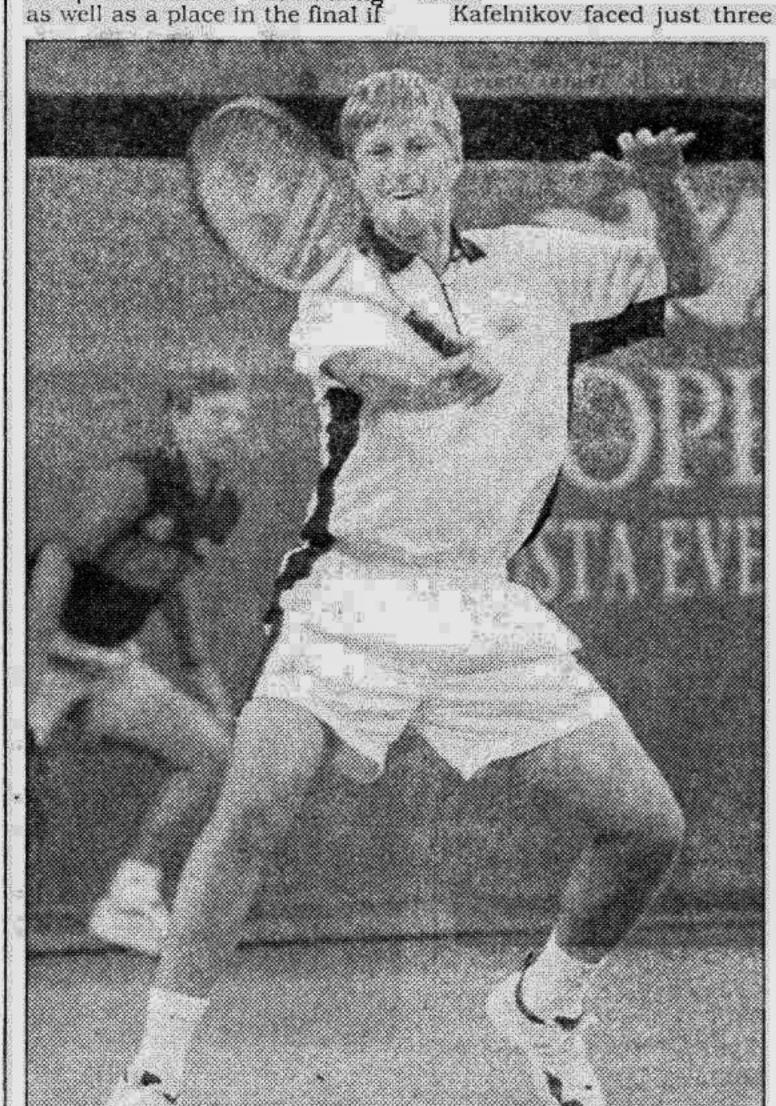
were lost to injuries. "It's always a little bit relief when the favourite's gone out of the tournament for whatever reason," said the honest Russian, who will battle Agassi for Sampras's number one ranking form holds the rest of the way. "It definitely opened up room for the rest of the guys, includ-

ing myself. And when you have that chance you have to be able to capitalise on that because not so many times the draw is wide open like that," said the 25year-old Australian Open champion.

Under the lights at Arthur Ashe Stadium, Kafelnikov unleashed some of the best groundstrokes in the business to counter the rocket serve of the towering Mirnyi, who got into the draw as a lucky loser and played like he had nothing to lose.

Still, Mirnyi put up quite a fight, much to the delight of those who stuck around, chanting "C" mon Max" at every opportunity.

The 6-foot-4 (1.92) Belarussian bombed in 17 aces, many in excess of 120 mph (193 kph) But he was never able to break through on the third seed's



Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov in action against Max Mirnyi

DOWN

1 Largest of

the seven

gardene

additive

songbird

Pointer

by guilt

8 Aide to

Stalin

reveille

11 Kreskin's

19 Undeni-

Solution time: 25 mins.

KYDMTRAYSMTV

MILD BETA

Yesterday's answer

9 Played

10 Sweet

4 Colorful

5 West

3 Lotion

By Eugene Sheffer

2 Contrary 23 Taken —

6 Favorable 27 Flight a la

7 Overcome 28 Cup

21 Chic, to

Powers

24 Feedbag

25 Fit inside

snugly

26 "I'm - girl

Lindy's

32 Seinfeld's

33 "Platoon"

specialty

setting

35 Pinkerton

Agency

36 Kingston

emblem

Trio song

temporar-

playwright

Imparts

39 "Ghosts"

lunch?

43 Portent

(summsed)

of Belarus on September 1.

ing abbr.

36 Surround-

37 Skedaddle

40 Hammer-

41 Anticlimax

acres

world

ruler

captain

cousin

51 Guitar's

52 Bellicose

deity

53 Puts on

54 Corral

Lisa"

55 "---

the line

49 Veme

45 Green

47 Under-

head part

**ACROSS** 

5 Figure

head?

(Abbr.)

8 Danny or

Sammy

in a casa

13 Kues' suc-

cessors

going to

Simpson's

expletive

Madagas-

15 Unyielding 50 007

St. Ives'

12 Room

14 "As ---

16 Homer

17 Incline

20 Uncon-

26 Bonfire

29 Founda-

tion

30 Dundee

31 Piglets'

32 Blue

33 11/11

celebrants

34 Under the

denial

trollable

22 Skedaddle

evidence

18 Lemur of

1 He loves

#### was able to steal a set was by coming us with some big shots in the tie-break. "The good thing was that I kept fighting," said the satisfied Russian, who will face Jonas Bjorkman in the third round after the Swede ousted Kenneth Carlsen of Denmark 5-7, 6-2, 6-3, 6-3 in an evening clash in the

break points in the two hour

and 20 minute clash and saved

them all. The only way Mirnyi

old stadium. Australian Open champion Martina Hingis and third seed Williams advanced to the third round with straight-set tri-

umphs here Wednesday before the teens traded taunts. Hingis beat France's 34thrated Sarah Pitkowski 6-1, 6-1

in 46 minutes and will face 213th-ranked German qualifier Sandra Kloesel next. Williams beat France's 35th-rated Anne-Gaelle Sidot 6-4, 6-3 in 77 minutes and next plays 32nd-rated

Henrieta Nagyova of Slovakia. Asked about outspoken tennis father Richard Williams prediction that the finals would match his daughters 19-yearold Venus and 17-year-old seventh seed Serena. Hingis ripped

the whole family for arrogant antics. "They always have a big mouth. They always talk a lot," Hingis said. "It happened before. It's going to happen again. don't really worry about that. I like that. It's more pressure on them. Whether or not they can handle it is the question. The other players are really pumped up about that,"

Venus laughed when told Hingis called her a big mouth. "I think the quote is funny," she said. "Yeh, it's funny. I'm just here to play tennis. Naturally she is too, out there working hard, winning matches. Guess that's her opinion. I don't quite understand it."

Williams faces a possible quarterfinal against 20thranked Romanian Irina Spirlea, who bumped her during a changeover in a 1997 semifinal here. Each has two foes to get past before that rematch is set.

Earlier in the day, munth seed Greg Rusedski, another player whose chances of advancement greatly improved with the disappearance of Sampras from his quarter of the draw, got off to a successful start with a four-set opening round win over Spanish newcomer Juan Carlos Ferrero.

In other women's matches, No. 10 Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain defeated Australia's Nicole Pratt 6-2, 6-2. No. 15 Amelie Mauresmo of France's beat South Africa's Mariaan de Swardt 4-6, 6-1, 6-3, and No. 8 Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic beat Slovenia's Tina Krizan 6-0, 6-3.

# 26 27 28 CRYPTOQUIP

- AFP photo

NSS TNQYLBQZMAK LMAO-CNZOQP NQO GOTOCOAX:

XTOMQ KQNDO DSNAXP NQO YBMAK GMAO.

44 McGuire's Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN GIVING ESTIMATES, SHREWD ROOFERS MUST FIGURE 45 "Cabaret" IN THEIR HIGH OVERHEAD. Today's Cryptoquip clue: S equals L

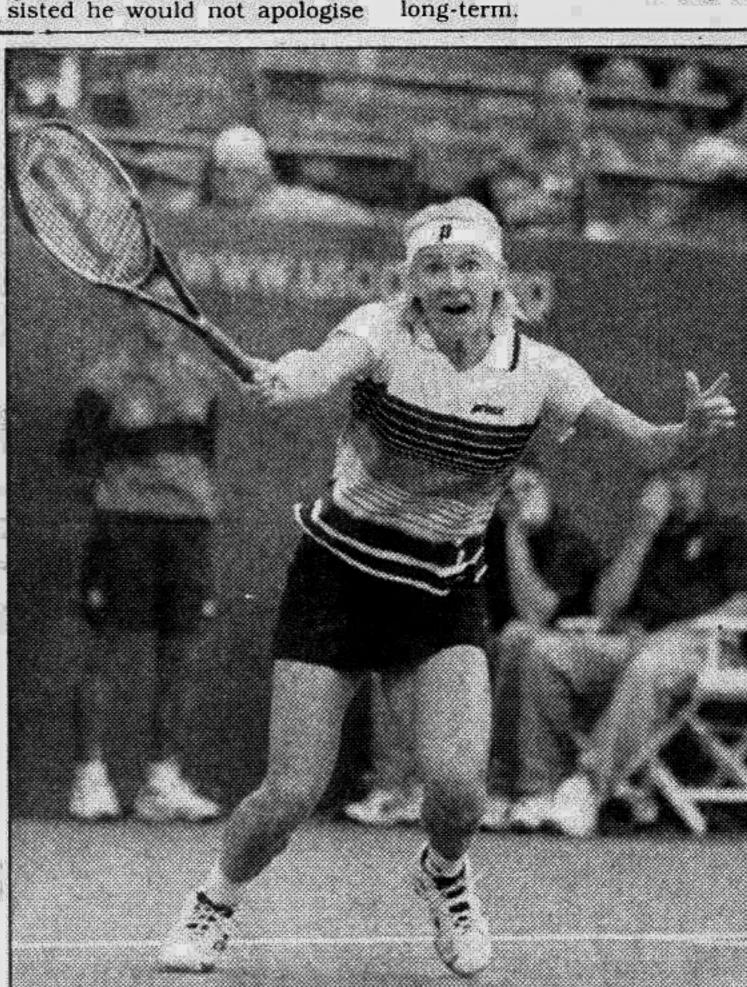
46 Caviar The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the 48 Mamie's puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Czech Jana Novotna makes a forehand return against Tina Krizan of Slovenia on Wednesday.

Sforza insists Rehhagel "The days of giving orders and everyone obeying them is ness or a small time theatre let

alone a football club!" Rehhagel, a tough disci plinarian who insists on the coach having total control over his team, has the full backing of Kaiserslautern board. Since taking the club from the second division to the 1998 Bundesliga title in the space of two seasons 61-year-old Rehhagel has written himself a blank cheque at

Sforza, on duty with the the club. Swiss national team preparing for European championship



- AFP photo

"because I've got nothing to apologise for." Rehhagel responded by saying he was deeply disappointed by Sforza's behaviour.

Swiss captain Sforza Sforza told journalists after 30,000 Marks (some 16,000 last week's 2-0 home loss to dollars) Thursday for un-Arminia Bielefeld that he could dermining the authority of see no concept in Rehhagel's coach Otto Rehhagel, reports planning or overall strategy and that the wrong players had been bought, most specifically There have been tremors of French world champion Youri discontent at Kaiserslautern all Djorkaeff - a central playweek after Sforza publicly criticised Rehhagel for being too old maker.

fashioned, lacking a concept should have bought a defender. A crisis meeting by Kaiserslautern's executive Wednesday evening firmly came out in supover," Sforza was quoted as sayport of Rehhagel and issued a ing. "Whoever fails to understatement saying Sforza had stand that is going to have probgone public with his criticism lems. Issuing commands is no in order to force his way out of way to run either a global busi-Back in June Sforza wrote to the club asking to be released

His contract is due to expire at the end of the season but the club are keen for him to stay on long-term.