

Lidya downs
Martin

JAKARTA, Sept 4: Dane women's singles top seed Camilla Martin was ousted in Indonesian Open badminton tournament quarter finals in Denpasar, capital of Bali, on Friday afternoon, reports Xinhua.

The world champion Martin had to bow out to Indonesian Lidya Jaelawijaya by 11-13, 11-7 and 9-11.

After losing the opening set 11-13, Martin rallied again in the second set 0-6. However, the world champion slowed the game down with clever play, leveling the match at 6-6 finally rallied for 11-7.

In the deciding set, the scores were tied four times at 3-3, 5-5, 6-6 and 9-9. Aided by the crowd in the stadium, Lidya took the last two points and entered the semi-finals of the tournament.

This was Martin's second lost in one week. She became the victim to unseeded Japanese Kanako Yonekura in Singapore Open on August 26.

Indonesia's Ellen Angelina beat fourth seed Mette Sorensen from Denmark with 11-7, 11-9, and Yuli Marfiah, also from Indonesia, beat Judit Meulendijk from the Netherlands by 11-9, 11-4. Angelina and Marfiah entered the women's singles semifinals.

Three Indonesian pairs also entered the semifinals of mixed doubles. Second seed Tri Kusherjanto/Martini Timur, Bam-bang Suprianto/Zelin Resiana and Wahyu Agung/Emma Er-mawati beat their rivals respectively in the quarterfinal on Friday.

Top seed Michael So-gard/Rikke Olsen from Denmark beat Indonesia's Imam Tohar/Vita Mariss by 15-5, 15-5, preventing the missed doubles semi-finals from all-Indonesian affairs.

Northern Ireland coach's caution

BELFAST, Sept 4: Lawrie McMenemey has vowed to quit as Northern Ireland boss if the fans turn on him, reports AFP.

McMenemey's contract is up for renewal at the end of Northern Ireland's Euro 2000 campaign and he claims he will not stay if the supporters do not want him.

McMenemey came under fire from some fans following the disappointing draws against Moldova and Canada last season.

He has since silenced some of his critics with victory over the Republic of Ireland in Dublin and a narrow defeat against world champions France.

The Irish face Turkey on Saturday in their last home qualifying tie and even though their hopes of reaching the finals have all but gone, McMenemey claims he has made progress during his 19 month reign.

"At the end of the day the public and my players will be my judge," he said.

"If we have not made progress, I will put up my hand and say the time is right for me to move on."

"I don't need hassle at this stage of my life. I believe, though, that we are making progress and my biggest achievement so far has been to appoint people of the quality of Joe Jordan, Pat Jennings and Chris Nicholl."

"They are experienced professionals of the highest standard and they have really helped the Northern Ireland senior and Under-21 squads."

Keith Gillespie is resigned to starting the match against Turkey at Windsor Park on the bench.

The one-time star of Northern Irish football expects Jon McCarthy to take his right-wing role.

The Birmingham winger seized his opportunity when Gillespie was unavailable for the Republic game and he followed that up with another impressive performance in the 1-0 defeat against France.

McCarthy's displays mean that for the first time in Gillespie's four-year international career he is not an automatic choice.

Gillespie admits that McCarthy deserves to start ahead of him, but has vowed to win his place back.

"Jon has done really well in the last two games and to be honest I don't expect to be in the 11 which starts against Turkey," he said.

"It's up to me to keep plugging away because I'm desperate to get back into the team."

McMenemey is delighted with how well McCarthy has grabbed his chance. "He has done well in his last two games for us and I don't think anyone can argue with that," he said.

One of the targets McCarthy has set himself this season is to score more goals and McMenemey would be thrilled if he could find the back of the net against Turkey.

Scoring goals remains Northern Ireland's biggest problem and Iain Dowie, with just one international goal in nearly two-and-a-half years, will once again lead their attack against the Group 3 leaders.

The 34-year-old, who needs one strike to equal Colin Clarke's record of 13 goals for Northern Ireland, only plays reserve football for QPR.

However Turkish coach Mustafa Denizli refuses to write Dowie off. "Dowie is the most attacking player in the Northern Ireland team," he said.

"In the last years he has not scored too many goals, but maybe that is down to the whole team and not just him."

He remains a very important player for Northern Ireland and he must be watched.

McMenemey is expected to keep faith with the side which performed so admirably against France.

Turkey have injury worries and Hakan Sukur, Seren Yalcin, Abdulkadir Ercan and Ogun Temizkanoglu have all been receiving treatment.

Sport

Martina, Arantxa progress



NEW YORK, Sept 4: Martina Hingis breezed into the fourth round while Jana Novotna Czech-ed out of the US Open on a day when a who's who of men's tennis was replaced by a record "who-cares" set of qualifiers, reports AFP.

Top seed Hingis ripped German qualifier Sandra Klose 6-3, 6-1 here Friday. Now all that stands between her and the quarterfinals is a 12th consecutive triumph over 10th seed Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain.

And strangeness continued on the men's side, where four qualifiers and a lucky loser have reached the third round, matching a 15-year-old mark for success by those who failed to make the main draw automatically.

Hingis began her streak over Sanchez-Vicario in the round of 16 here in 1996 and has ousted the Spaniard from Grand Slams five times -- at least once in each of the past four years.

The Australian Open champion has won 11 sets in a row from Sanchez-Vicario since the 1998 Wimbledon quarterfinals and beaten her three times this year, including in the French Open semifinals.

"When you play the number one player in the world you have nothing to lose," Sanchez-Vicario said. "I will try to give her a hard time. I will play her better than the last matches we played."

"She has more pressure. You must take opportunities when you get them against her. You have to be bold and aggressive when you have the chance. It means more risks for you. You have to show her you're not going to just stand there. You can't make too many unforced errors."

Sanchez-Vicario, who beat Hingis in their first meeting in

1996, advanced by beating 18th-ranked Swiss teen Patty Schnyder 6-2, 6-2.

"It surprised me how she beat Patty. I thought it was going to be harder for her," Hingis said. "But Arantxa always gets where she is supposed to get. Going into that match you have to take her seriously. But I won the last matches quite easily."

In other matches, Barbara Schett downed Virginia Ruan Pascual 6-1, 6-0 and Mary Joe

Fernandez beat Dominique van Roost 7-5, 6-0. At night, France's Amelie Mauresmo beat American Tara Snyder 6-4, 6-3.

Injuries have already forced out all four 1988 men's semifinalists -- world number one Pete Sampras, 11th seed Mark Philippoussis, eighth seed Carlos Moya and reigning champion Pat Rafter.

An Open record crowd of 29,042 attended even without

top remaining men's draw Andre Agassi, who plays fellow American Justin Gimelstob in the third round Saturday.

Despite the lost talent, and the rise of qualifiers, this 14.5 million-dollar Grand Slam has not become a Grand Slam. Agassi said:

"To win this tournament, you have to be worthy of it," Agassi said. "Not having Pat and Pete in there certainly opens up the draw for a lot of people. Whoever holds up the trophy is certainly going to deserve it."

He could come from the side of the draw vacated by Rafter and Sampras, where fifth seed Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil, seventh-seeded American Todd Martin and British ninth seed Greg Rusedski all advanced.

Rusedski, the 1997 runner-up here, beat 56th-ranked David Prinosil of Germany 6-4, 6-3, 6-1, and fired a 143-mph ace in the third set.

"Every player in the draw has a chance to win the title once you get to the third round," he said. "With Sampras and Rafter and players like that out, there's always more optimism. It's about taking those chances."

Martin beat Richey Reneberg 6-4, 6-3, 6-1 and could face Rusedski with a quarterfinal spot at stake.

"I feel like I could beat everybody," Martin said. "Feeling able to and being able to do it are two different things. I have never won seven matches at a Grand Slam event. It's awfully difficult to say, 'All right, no problem.' Even Pete can't say if he's going to win another one."

Kuerten ousted Dutchman Paul Haarhuis 6-3, 7-6, 6-2 to book a date with Goran Ivanisevic, a seeded failure in past years here who has never won a US hardcourt tournament.

Ivanisevic outlasted Italian qualifier Cristiano Caratti 6-1, 4-6, 6-2, 2-6, 6-4, winning a second match in a row on hardcourts for the first time this summer despite a rare five double faults in one game.

The freak feat came in the last game of the third set, when the Croatian had a double fault called good by Caratti but squandered his second chance at the point with yet another double fault.

"I started to think too much," Ivanisevic said. "I have to hit hard serves. I hit harder and harder and I lose the rhythm. But I cannot control it. I just started to force it."

Tommy Haas defeated Mariano Puerta 6-3, 6-2, 6-4, and 148th-ranked Fredrik Jonsson upset fast-rising 16th seed Nicolas Lapent of Ecuador 6-4, 5-7, 6-4, 7-5.

Former ITF boss honoured

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, Sept 4: Brian Tobin, the former president of the International Tennis Federation, has received the Olympic Order for "significant contributions to the tennis world" and the Olympics, the IOC said Friday, reports AP.

Tobin, an Australian once ranked No 8 in his country and who played at Wimbledon in the early 1960s, stepped down from the ITF post earlier this year after two four-year terms.

"In the beginning, I was a bit nervous," said Hingis, who next plays former champion Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario. "I was like, trying to get my rhythm. I missed a couple of shots, so I was a little bit scared ... Then the second set I was getting better."

Hingis, 18, clearly is ahead at the moment, a winner of five majors since turning pro five years ago. Neither of the Williams sisters has won even a single major. Venus, 19, reached the US Open final in her debut two years ago -- only to lose in straight sets to Hingis.

So when Richard Williams claimed that his girls are better than Hingis and everyone else, that they're too fast and too athletic and too smart to the beaten, Hingis said she had to wonder.

"He always has his comments," she said. "You know, it's fun. Because I'm better than them so far, I'm the No. 1, not

them."

She said Richard Williams came up to her after her victory over Venus for the 1997 US Open title.

"He said, 'Why did you beat my girl so badly?'" Hingis said. "In one way, he's also responding that he appreciates me or he respects me, the way I am and the way I play tennis."

Hingis doesn't mind his predictions, but didn't much care for Serena's comments about her lack of formal education.

"I learned enough traveling," Hingis said. "I don't think I'm that dumb. I'd like to see some other people talking in three languages. It's not always easy. It's a little misunderstanding sometimes, what I say. I don't always mean, like, to hurt anybody."

"I never missed (school). I was always very happy about, you know, the thing I'm doing right now. I don't think the money's too bad either."

Hingis moved along in the tournament without much problem, though she played a somewhat ragged first set.

"In the beginning, I was a bit nervous," said Hingis, who next plays former champion Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario. "I was like, trying to get my rhythm. I missed a couple of shots, so I was a little bit scared ... Then the second set I was getting better."

Tobin deserved the award "for his enduring work on and off the tennis court and the added appreciation of the entire Olympic movement for helping bring tennis back to the Olympics," International Olympic Committee president Juan Antonio Samaranch said in a statement.

In July, Italy's Francesco Ricci Bitti was elected to replace Tobin as ITF president.

Asian jr tennis Seeds sail smoothly

CHENNAI, Sept 4: All the eight seeds in both boys' and girls' section of the Indian Oil-Servo Asian junior championship had a smooth start with easy victories in totally one-sided affair here yesterday, reports PTI.

Top-seeded Korean Ryu Sung Min outplayed Maldivian Ahmed Thamoor 21-5, 21-9 and the second seed Subhajit Saha of India had things easy against Aleksander Kartsen of Turkmenistan 21-9, 21-8.

Third seeded Yung To Long (Hong Kong) had the measure of Salauddin Abu Taher (Bangladesh) 21-13, 21-9 and China's Tang Peng met initial problems against Hussain Han (UAE) 21-11, 21-12 to keep his fourth seed in tact. Fifth seed Lin Ching Hung (Taipei), Sakamoto Rikko (Sure) (Japan), Kim Jung Hoon (Korea) and China's Wang Hao also streamlined over their lesser fancied opponents.

Similarly, Fujinuma Ai (Japan), Mouma Das (India), Pouloini Ghatak (IND), Li Quangbing (China), Lee Hyangmi (Korea), Lu Yun Feng (Taipei), Lai Ka Yau (Hong Kong) and Zhang Fang (China) also made it into the second round of the girls' event from the twelve groups. So also the winner of the boys' section from 14 groups also moved into the next phase.

In the doubles, top seeded Pouloini Ghatak and Mouma Das were beaten by the Chinese Taipei's Lu Yung-ping/Parli Chun combine in the semifinals of the girls' section.

In another event, China's Chen Qing and Zhang Fang faced stiff challenge from the Korean duo of moon Hyun Jung and Kim Ryung Ha before the latter surrendered at 21-17, 23-25, 21-7.

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