

## All Africa Games F'ball Hosts thrash Mali

JOHANNESBURG, Sept 12: South Africa overcame the shock of conceding a first-minute goal to outclass Mali 4-1 in the All Africa Games football tournament here on Saturday, reports AFP.

In the other Group 1 encounter of the day, Algeria bounced back into contention for a semi-finals place with a 2-0 victory over Uganda at Rand Stadium. The teams have three points each after two rounds. All Bendebeke converted a cross after 34 minutes to put the North Africans ahead and a screaming 80th-minute drive from Reda Ben Hadjehali put the result beyond doubt.

Victory against Mali gave the South Africans a maximum six points after two rounds in Group 1 and a draw with Uganda at Orlando Stadium on Monday will assure them of top spot and a semi-final's place.

Mali have been a huge disappointment despite the inclusion of six overseas professionals and many of the youth team that finished third behind Spain and Japan in the world championships last April.

The West Africans complete their pool programme against Algeria and only a handsome victory coupled with an equally big South African triumph can save them from elimination.

South Africa fell behind after 107 seconds on a freezing, windy afternoon in the black township of Soweto when Soumaila Coulibaly converted a 30-metre free kick.

It took the home team some time to combat their superior physique of Mali and their equaliser after 30 minutes had an element of luck as Harealpa Marumo punished poor positioning by goalkeeper Bouabacar Keita to head in.

Marumo set up the second South African goal after 66 minutes with a cross that Keita parried into the path of Siyabonga Nomvete, who fired home from close range.

Nomvete also grabbed the third with a shot that trickled into the net after his header was struck by Keita and Patrick Mbuthu completed the rout from close-range strike in injury time.

**Results on the third day of the All Africa Games football tournament here on Saturday:**

**Group 1**

**At Orlando Stadium**

South Africa 4 (Nomvete 66, Marumo 30, Mbuthu 90) Mali 1 (Coulibaly 1)

**At Rand Stadium**

Algeria 2 (Bendebeke 34, Hadjehali 80) Uganda 0

**Standings**

**Played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points**

South Africa 2 2 0 0 6 1 6

Algeria 2 1 0 1 2 2 3

Uganda 2 1 0 1 2 2 3

Mali 2 0 0 2 1 6 0

**Group winners and runners-up qualify for semi-finals**

**Next matches**

**Sept 13 - South Africa v Uganda, Algeria v Mali**

## Second gold for S Africa

JOHANNESBURG, Sept 12: On an icy day that had swimmers wearing gloves and coats before plunging into the water and spectators wrapped in blankets, South Africa claimed a second gold medal Saturday in the All Africa Games, reports AP.

Michelle Cameron on the host country's second gold, retaining her all-round rhythmic gymnastics title and beating Egypt's Sherin Taama and Yasmin Lofti.

Lofti had started the event as the favorite, but Cameron was in front throughout as she started with 9.425 points for her rope routine. In the ball routine, Lofti lost the ball and scored a disastrous 8.925. Only Taama put any pressure on Cameron after that.

In the end, needing 9.1 for the ribbon routine to at least stay level with Taama, Cameron scored 9.275 for her gold medal tally of 37.550.

"I like the pressure," Cameron said. "It helps me focus and keep me in the zone."

Taama finished with 37.375, and Lofti with 37.087. To qualify for the Sydney Olympics, Cameron needs to repeat her victory over the Egyptian women at next month's world championships in Tokyo.

The swimming got under way with early-morning preliminary rounds in unseasonably icy weather. Multiple breaststroke world-record holder and double Olympic gold medalist Penny Heyns said she was relieved that her 200-meter final is scheduled for Sunday evening, when warmer weather was forecast.

Also Saturday, Kenya beat Namibia 1-0 in a preliminary women's field hockey match. In netball, South Africa trounced Namibia 67-15.

Problems continued to plague the games, which began on Thursday night and Sept 13. Weightlifting went ahead in an empty auditorium while officials turned away locals who said they couldn't afford the 12 rands (dls) two entrance fee.

Meanwhile, in baseball, officials let spectators in free because they had run out of tickets. Lesotho beat Ghana 18-14, recovering from its 43-0 loss to South Africa on Thursday.

Authorities, meanwhile, were investigating what caused about 600 children who were to participate in Friday's opening ceremony to contract food poisoning.

Games committee chairman Mthi Tyamzashe said the services of the caterer would not be suspended.

"They have not been found guilty," he said at a press conference.

The 20 children who were hospitalised overnight were released Saturday.

# An all-American affair



NEW YORK, Sept 12: French Open champion Andre Agassi recovered from a sluggish start to beat Australian Open champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov for a US Open final berth and reclaim the world number one ranking, reports AFP.

Second seed Agassi ousted the third-seeded Russian 1-6, 6-3, 6-3, 6-3, Saturday to reach Sunday's final against seventh seed Todd Martin, who beat Cedric Pioline 6-4, 6-1, 6-2 to reach his second Grand Slam final.

"It's really exciting. The US Open final is what it's all about," Agassi said. "Todd is playing so well. He's a big guy who serves well, returns well and can dictate play if you don't get a lot of returns."

The victory also means Agassi will replace injured Pete Sampras as world number one in Monday's new ATP rankings. Agassi spent three weeks atop the ratings earlier this year and will be tough to catch in 1999.

Agassi, now in his fourth US Open final, won his only title here in 1994 and sees winning his fifth career Slam title as more important than his rankings boost.

"A man has to have his priorities," Agassi said. "The US Open final is definitely leading that race."

Agassi, who lost to Sampras in July's Wimbledon final, became the first man since 1994 to play in three Slam finals in a row, since Sampras won the 1993 Wimbledon and US Open and 1994 Australian Open titles.

His French Open triumph in June made Agassi only the fifth man to collect the career Grand Slam. Agassi is 34-4 since the start of the French Open.

Agassi has an 11-match win streak and has lost only seven service games in that span entering the championship match of 29-year-old Americans at the 14.5 million-dollar hardcourt event.

As a result of Serena Williams' triumph in the women's singles and an all-American men's final, US players will sweep US Open singles titles for the first time since John McEnroe and Martina Navratilova in 1984.

Martin, who survived two five-set matches to get this far, needed only 96 minutes to reach his first Slam final since a straight-set loss to Sampras at the 1994 Australian Open. Martin is 5-9 against Agassi.

"It'll be a great challenge for me," Martin said. "There's nothing I would rather experience than playing in a Grand Slam final against one of the best in the world."

"You don't have to play great. You only have to play better than the other guy. That's what I will try to do."

France's Pioline said Martin is playing at a mighty level.

"He played too great. He was hitting very well," Pioline said. "I have never seen him playing like this. If he is able to play that way tomorrow, I think he has a good chance."

Kafelnikov captured the first set in 21 minutes while Agassi struggled with his first serves, connecting on only 36 per cent in the first two sets. But he broke Kafelnikov with volley winner in the fourth game of the second set and held out to level the match.

Kafelnikov sent backhands long to surrender breaks in the first and last games of the third set to put Agassi in command and netted another backhand in the sixth game of the fourth set for the deciding break.

Martin served 14 aces, made 65 per cent of his first serves and won 43 of 54 first serve points, 80 per cent. He also won six of nine break chances against Pioline and saved five of six break points.

## ROAD TO FINAL

**Andre Agassi**

**First Round:** Nicklas Kulti (Swe) 6-0, 6-1, 6-3

**Second Round:** Axel Pretzsch (Ger) 6-3, 6-2, 6-1

**Third Round:** Justin Gimelstob (USA) 6-1, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4

**Fourth Round:** Arnaud Clement (Fra) 6-4, 6-4, 6-3

**Quarterfinals:** Nicolas Escude (Fra) 7-6 (7/3), 6-3, 6-4

**Semifinals:** Yevgeny Kafelnikov (Rus x3) 1-6, 6-3, 6-3, 6-3

**Todd Martin**

**First Round:** Stephane Hue (Fra) 6-4, 6-3, 6-7 (2/7), 6-7 (5/7), 7-6 (7/3)

**Second Round:** Richey Reneberg (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 3-6, 6-1

**Third Round:** Magnus Larsson (Swe) 6-3, retired

**Fourth Round:** Greg Rusedski (Cbr x9) 5-7, 0-6, 7-6 (7/3), 6-4, 6-4

**Quarterfinals:** Slava Dosedel (Cze) 6-3, 5-7, 6-4, 6-4

**Semifinals:** Cedric Pioline (Fra) 6-4, 6-1, 6-2

## HEAD TO HEAD

**Todd Martin v Andre Agassi**

Agassi leads Martin 9-5

**1990:** Indianapolis Hard R16 Agassi 7-6, 6-4

**1993:** Memphis Hard QF Martin 6-1, 7-6

**1995:** Canadian Open Hard QF Martin 7-5, 6-3

**1993:** Cincinnati Hard R64 Agassi 6-3, 6-7, 6-3

**1994:** Wimbledon Grass R16 Martin 6-3, 7-5, 6-7, 4-6, 6-1

**1994:** US Open Hard SF Agassi 6-3, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3

**1994:** Stockholm Carpet R16 Agassi 6-7, 6-4, 6-1

**1994:** Paris Carpet R16 Agassi 6-2, 7-5

**1995:** Washington Hard SF Agassi 6-4, 7-6

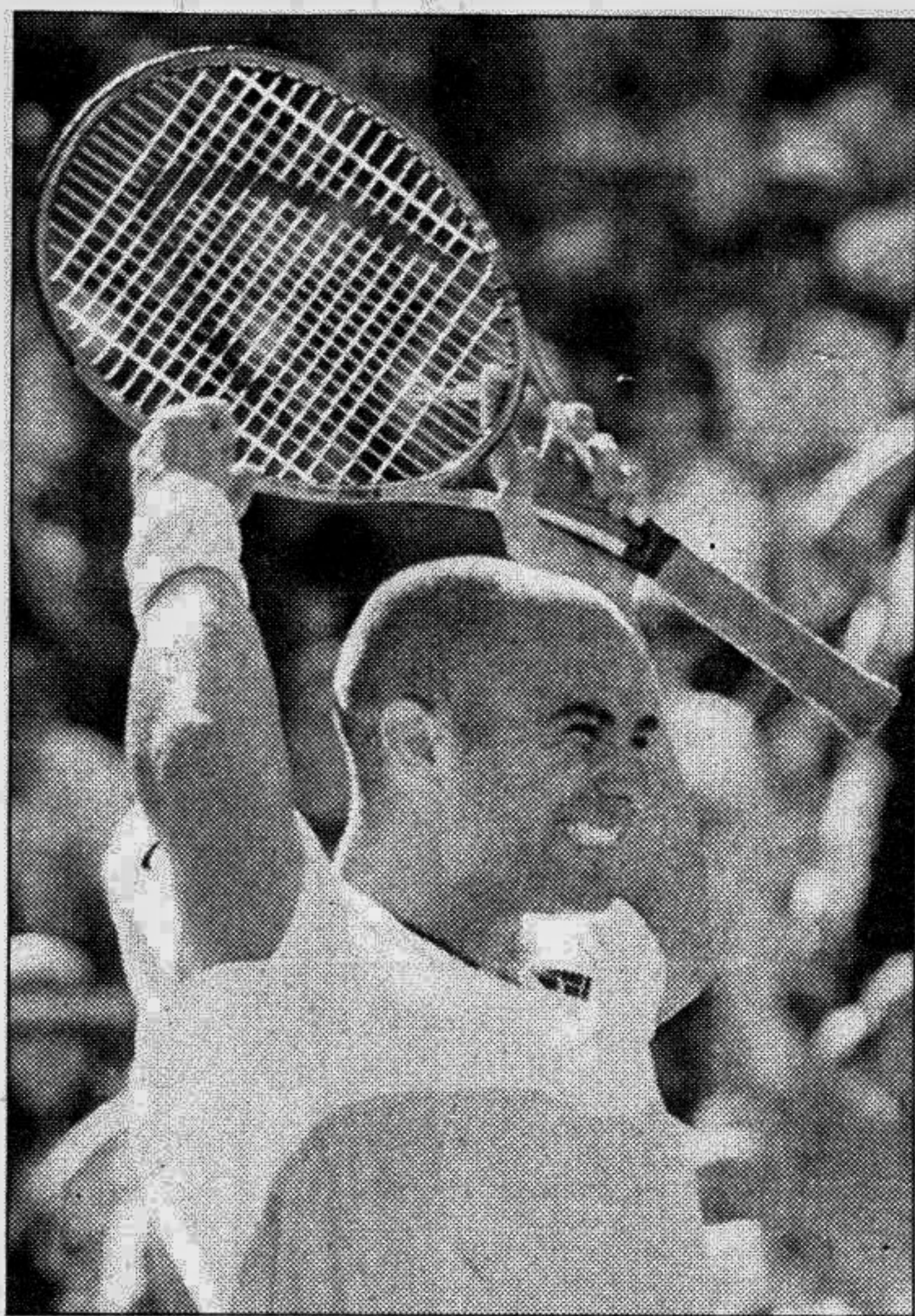
**1996:** Indian Wells Hard R16 Agassi 7-6, 2-6, 7-6

**1997:** Stuttgart Carpet R64 Martin 6-4, 6-4

**1998:** Monte Carlo Clay R64 Agassi 6-2, 6-1

**1998:** Paris Carpet QF Martin 4-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4

**1999:** Washington Hard SF Agassi 6-4, 7-5



American Andre Agassi is ecstatic after reaching the US Open final on September 11. —AFP photo

## FACTFILE

Factfile on US Open men's singles finalist Andre Agassi of the United States:

Age: 29. Height: 5-feet-11-inches. Weight: 165 pounds. Plays: Right-handed

Career titles: 42

Grand Slam singles titles: 4

US Open seeding: 2

**1990:** Won first ATP Tour title as wild card in Iliparica, Brazil

**1998:** Won six titles in seven finals, semi-finalist at French Open and US Open

**1999:** Won lone title of year in Orlando, Florida, runner-up in Rome

**1990:** Runner-up at French Open and US Open, won inaugural ATP Tour World Championships, won three other titles and helped US to Davis Cup victory over Australia

**1991:** Won titles in Orlando and Washington, runner-up French Open

**1992:** Captured first Grand Slam title at Wimbledon, where he beat three-time champions Boris Becker and John McEnroe

**1993:** Won titles in San Francisco and Scottsdale Underwent right wrist surgery in December

**1994:** Won US Open for second Grand Slam singles title Won four other titles, including Super Nine events in Toronto and Paris, became first player to move from outside top 30 to finish the year at number two in the world

**1995:** Won Australian Open for third Grand Slam singles title Won career-high seven titles in 11 finals, compiled 73-9 match record and claimed world number one ranking on April 10 Held number one ranking for 30 weeks Lost to Pete Sampras in US Open final

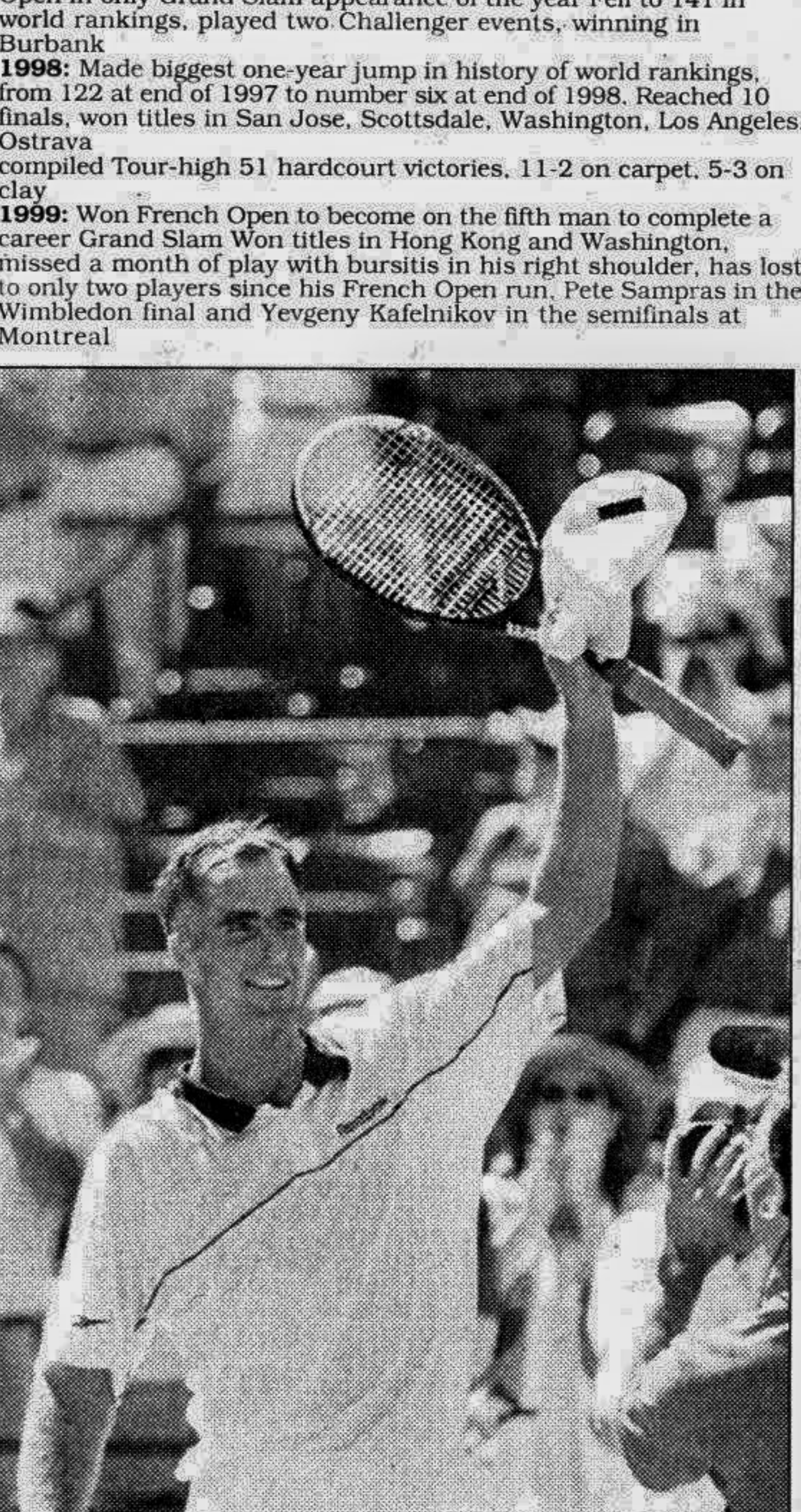
**1996:** Won Super Nine titles in Key Biscayne and Cincinnati, first player to win three Key Biscayne titles, Won Olympic gold medal in Atlanta Held number one ranking for two weeks

**1997:** Failed to reach an ATP Tour final, Lost fourth round of US Open in only Grand Slam appearance of the year Fell to 141 in world rankings, played two Challenger events, winning in Burbank

**1998:** Made biggest one-year jump in history of world rankings, from 122 at end of 1997 to number six at end of 1998 Reached 10 finals, won titles in San Jose, Scottsdale, Washington, Los Angeles, Ostrava

compiled Tour-high 51 hardcourt victories, 11-2 on carpet, 5-3 on clay

**1999:** Won French Open to become on the fifth man to complete a career Grand Slam Won titles in Hong Kong and Washington, missed a month of play with bursitis in his right shoulder, has lost to only two players since his French Open run, Pete Sampras in the Wimbledon final and Yevgeny Kafelnikov in the semifinals at Montreal



Todd Martin of the United States waves to the crowd after his semifinal victory over Cedric Pioline on September 11. —AFP photo

## FACTFILE

Factfile on US Open men's singles finalist Todd Martin:

Age: 29. Height: 6-feet-6-inches. Weight: 190 pounds. Plays: Right-handed

Career titles: 8

Grand Slam singles titles: none

US Open seeding: 7

**1990:** Turned pro at US Open

**1991:** Qualified and reached fourth round of French Open

**1992:** Broke into top 100 in world rankings

**1993:** Posted first career top 10 wins over Agassi and Chang Won first ATP Tour title in Coral Springs, Florida

**1994:** Runner-up at Australian Open. Won Queen's grasscourt title and Memphis hardcourt title Reached Wimbledon semifinals with four five-set victories, US Open semifinalist

**1995:** Successfully defended Memphis title

**1996:** Won fifth ATP Tour title in Sydney

**1997:** Missed seven months due to injuries to shin and elbow, reached semifinals in San Jose and Memphis

**1998:** Won ATP Tour titles Barcelona and Stockholm Finished in top 20 for fifth time in six years

**1999:** Won ATP Tour title in Sydney, reached quarterfinals or better in nine of 11 tournaments, including Australian Open. Missed French Open through injury but came back to reach quarterfinals at Wimbledon

## Presidential compliment

NEW YORK, Sept 12: US President Bill Clinton telephoned Serena Williams from New Zealand to congratulate her on winning the US Open women's title, thrilling the 17-year-old head-bashed black tennis star, reports AFP.

Clinton was calling from New Zealand where he and daughter Chelsea were attending a conference and watching television coverage of the Grand Slam final here Saturday at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

"It has been an incredible tournament. What a great victory for you," Clinton told Williams. "We're so proud of you. I know your whole family must be happy for you. What a great thing it is."

"I didn't really think my day could get any better," Williams said. "Now I hear the President wants to call. (I'm) pretty stoked. He said they watched my last three matches and they were really rooting for me."

"I was thinking, 'Wow,'" Clinton invited Williams and her family to visit the White House and then put his daughter Chelsea on the phone for some trans-continental girl talk.

"Congratulations," Clinton said. "Thank you. What are you majoring in at Stanford?" Williams asked. "History," Clinton said. "History. OK. I never knew. That's interesting."

"I'm pre-med, so a lot of people are assuming I'm majoring in science," Clinton said. "I'm actually majoring in history."

"That's exciting," Williams said. "American history or just history overall?"

"Actually I have to choose a speciality within history. I haven't done that yet," Clinton said. "Last year I had to declare my major. I'll be a junior in about a week."

"Wow," the US Open champion said.

"I have yet to figure out what area of the world and what time period I want to choose."

"Wow," the US Open champion said.

"That's definitely a tough subject. I don't think I would be able to do that. People like you can. I excel in athletics."

"You must certainly do," Clinton said. "That's great. How are you going to celebrate?"

"I don't know. I haven't decided," Williams said. "It's just setting in. Actually I have to play a doubles match with Venus. If we win, we will play tomorrow in the final."

"Wow," the president's daughter said.

Williams and sister Venus beat France's Mary Pierce and Austrian Barbara Schett 7-6, 6-3, to reach Sunday's final against American Chanda Rubin and France's Sandrine Testud.

Then Clinton and Williams figured out they would be at Stanford at the same time and made a date. Then President Clinton repeated his desire to have the Williams family visit the White House.

"Tell your family I want you all to come see us," the US President said. "I'm serious. I wish you would come to the White House. You have a lot of fans there. We were thrilled. The whole White House was out there cheering for you guys. It was really great."

"Wow," the US Open champion said.

## OPEN NOTEBOOK

NEW YORK, Sept 12 (AFP):

Third-ranked Yevgeny Kafelnikov predicted a week ago that either he, Richard Krajicek or Andre Agassi would win the US Open men's singles title and the Russian stands by his choice.

Kafelnikov ousted Krajicek in the quarter-finals and Agassi ousted him here Saturday in a semi-final, advancing to face fellow American Todd Martin in Sunday's championship match.

Now Australian Open champion Kafelnikov sees no way French Open champion Agassi can be denied his fifth career Grand Slam title by Martin.

"If the final was a best-of-three sets, maybe he would have a chance, but not best-of-five," Kafelnikov said. "He needs to serve as well as he can. I don't think he would be able to do that consistently three sets in a row."

Kafelnikov admitted he would have to rethink his idea that at 25 he was running out of chances to win the US Open. The champion will be a 29-year-old American no matter who wins.

"Time is running so quickly. I'm definitely getting older," Kafelnikov said. "It's so hard to compete now with the young guys. They are just breathing on your back. Perhaps I will have my shot later in my career."

## BUOYED BY THE OPEN

Cedric Pioline said his US Open run, halted in the semi-finals by Todd Martin on Saturday, was a confidence builder going into France's Davis Cup semi-final tie against Belgium. "I have a good feeling," said Pioline, who started the tournament ranked 26th in the world and will move up to 15 when the new rankings are announced.

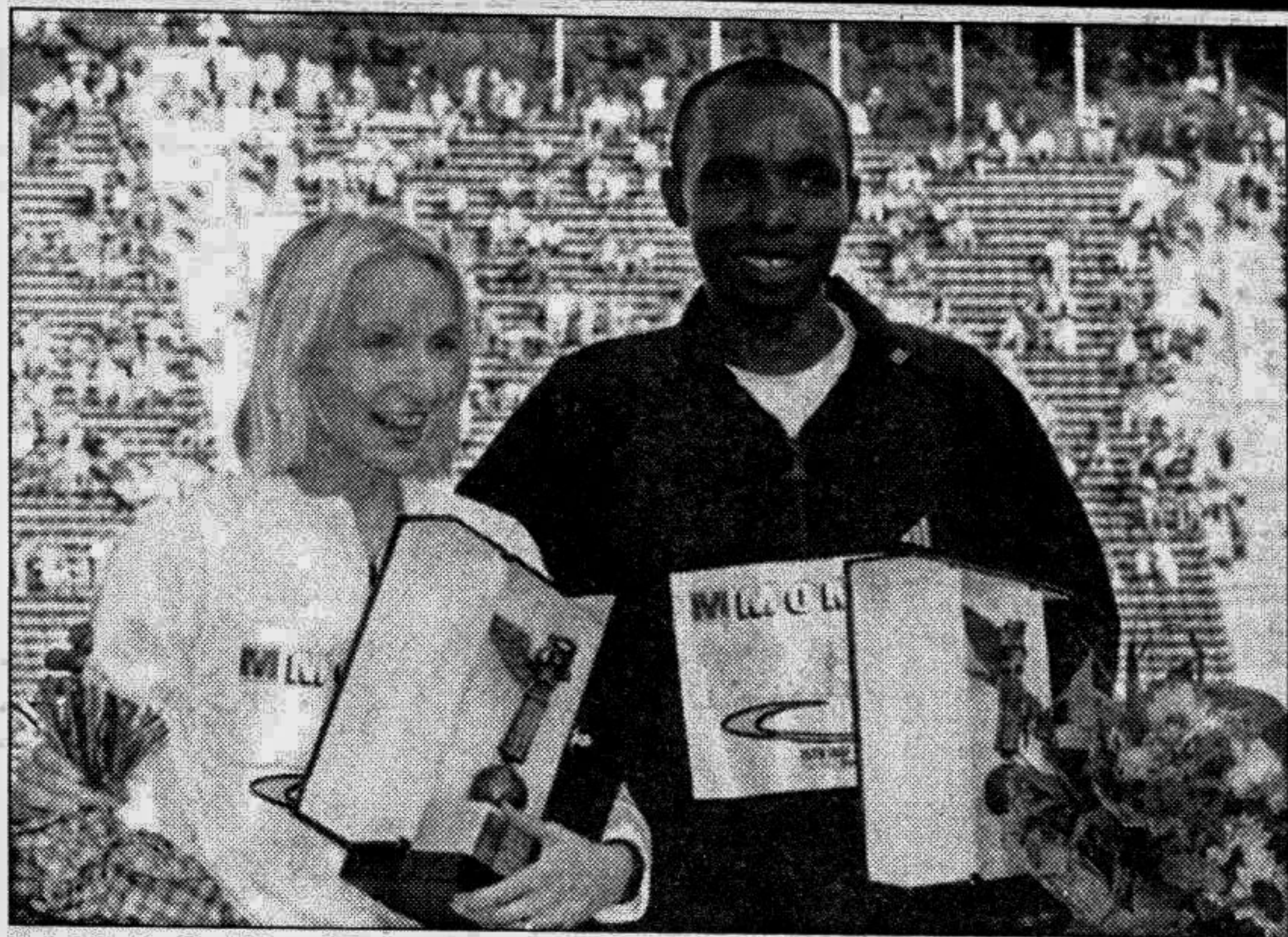
"I'm disappointed that I lost, which is normal, but I have a good feeling about this year's US Open. I played good tennis. I beat a couple of top players."

"It's very positive."

He said he expected to travel to Pau, where France will host Belgium in the Davis Cup, next weekend.

"It's going to be interesting to play Belgium in France because we have to be very careful because we are supposed to win," he said.

"It's always dangerous to be in that position, but I'm sure the team will be very concerned about the match."



Gabriela Szabo (L) and Bernard Barmasai pose with the overall winners' trophies after the Munich Grand Prix on September 11. —AFP photo

## Szabo, Barmasai stay the course



MUNICH, Sept 12: Gabriela Szabo and Bernard Barmasai grabbed large cheques for the overall Grand Prix titles Saturday but the season's finale had little to offer other than cash, reports Reuters.

Romania's Szabo, in the women's 3,000 metres, and Kenya Barmasai, in the men's 3,000 metres steeplechase, did what they had to do to leave the Bavarian city 250,000 dollars richer.

There were few other highlights, however. Many top athletes, following a busy season which culminated with the world championships last month in Seville, were either absent through injury or too tired to shine.

"It has been an exhausting season and we all need a rest," said double sprint world champion Maurice Greene after he was beaten into second by Brazilian Claudinei Quirino Da Silva in the 200 metres.

Sprint queen Marion Jones

and middle distance king Hicham El Guerrouj, who headed the Grand Prix standings last year, are both nursing injuries and so is another hero of Seville, 10,000 metre world champion Haile Gebrselassie.

Michael Johnson, who broke the 400 metre world record in Spain, ran a couple more races before heading home.

"Everybody's mind is already set on preparing for next year and the Olympics in Sydney," said Szabo, who earned a record 1,015,000 dollars this year.

For years after its introduction in 1985, the Grand Prix final was regarded as just another meeting which rarely produced major excitement as athletes wound down their seasons.

Cash bonuses have since added some spice, with several dramatic duels fought out on the final day of the season.

It was at a grand prix final that El Guerrouj marked the end of an era by defeating Algeria's Noureddine Morceli over 1,500 metres. Sergey Bubka wrote another glorious chapter

of his prolific pole vault career by clearing six metres to beat old rival Maksim Tarasov at the event.

But the creation of the Golden League two years ago, running alongside the Grand Prix events, upset the formula. The league, boasting a one-million-dollar jackpot for unbeaten athletes over its seven events, grabbed the spotlight.

Szabo and Dane Wilson Kipketer pocketed \$500,000 each this year, completing their clean sweep on Tuesday