

Wright told to grow up

LONDON, Sept 21: Nottingham Forest striker Ian Wright has been told to grow up by Wolverhampton Wanderers' full-back Kevin Muscat in the wake of his sending-off last weekend, reports AFP.

Wright was sent off after a running battle with the Australian during the 1-1 first division draw with Wolves on Sunday.

On Tuesday Wright wrote in his regular column in The Sun newspaper: "He is a nobody. He knows it, I realise it and a hell of a lot of other people think it."

But Muscat hit back on Tuesday, saying: "He had a highly illustrious career but you would have thought he should have grown up."

"He kicked the ball away to get his first booking and then lashed out at me to get his second. He has only himself to blame - not anyone else. It was his ill-discipline."

"I'm told he has apologised to his manager and team-mates - and he should do. He has let them down."

Wolves manager Colin Lee came to Muscat's defence. He said: "I am a big admirer of Ian Wright's and for football's sake I don't want to see him getting sent off."

"With all his experience and his tremendous attitude to the game I wouldn't have expected a little incident like this to spark off such a major reaction."

Wright's anger was sparked near the end of the televised match when Muscat allegedly shouted over and prompted Wright to leave a ball that went straight to the Wolves number two.

The striker, already booked for kicking the ball into the stand after a decision had gone against him, had furious words with Muscat and then taunted him by peering at the back of his shirt in the pretence of finding out his name.

Three minutes from time Wright was sent off for a wild challenge that caught the Australian across the shins and was further irritated when his offer of a handshake was refused.

"I can sleep well and look in the mirror each morning, which is more than a certain Wolves player can probably do," the former England international also wrote.

"This guy isn't even worthy of mentioning his name. The unwritten code of gentlemen's conduct between players in these situations was broken and it sparked the worst kind of reaction in me."

"All it would have taken to sort the situation out was for him to say: 'Sorry, I was out of order.' It would have been finished with. But this bloke is not big enough to do that."

Berlusconi not pleased

MILAN, Sept 22: AC Milan may have snatched all three points against Galatasaray, but the Champions League win has failed to convince the club's waspish owner Silvio Berlusconi, reports AFP.

Brazilian striker Leonardo scored one and made the other just before half-time, but it was goalkeeper Christian Abbiati who kept the scoreline 2-1 after a series of crucial saves at the end.

Berlusconi, who watched Milan suffer in the second half after seizing the initiative in a scrappy opening 45 minutes, needed just four words to sum up Tuesday night's Group H tie: "Great Abbiati, small Milan."

Even Leonardo wouldn't be drawn on the quality of his team's football, saying: "The important thing was to win."

Abbiati, who scampered back to clear Erdem Arif's header off the line in injury-time, said: "I don't think I did anything heroic in the second half. At the end, I made a mistake coming out and then made up for it."

"I think we had a great first half and we knew that Galatasaray would improve in the second. It was only logical, and it happened."

"But in my opinion, there is only one reason why the second half was difficult for us: we conceded a goal straight away. That frightened us a bit and perhaps we needed to react in a way that we failed to do."

"However, we won, we're at the top of the group and I can't understand why there's all this discussion about it," he told the Gazzetta dello Sport.

Midfielder Gennaro Gattuso shared the general perplexity, saying: "We knew that Galatasaray were an aggressive team, and they certainly were in the second half. But if we hadn't conceded that goal straight away, I think that things would have worked out differently."

"We mustn't always look just on the negative side of things."

Laudrup new Danish asst. coach

COPENHAGEN, Sept 22: Michael Laudrup, one of Denmark's greatest ever players, on Tuesday accepted an offer to become assistant coach to the national side, the Danish football federation announced, reports AFP.

Laudrup, 35, who ended his career after last summer's World Cup, will act as Morten Olsen's number two after signing a two-year contract which takes effect July 1 next year, when Olsen takes over the reins from current coach Bo Johansson.

"I had some doubts but the idea of working with Morten Olsen appealed to me," said Laudrup. "I get on very well with Morten - we're on the same wavelength."



Hertha Berlin's Andreas Schmidt (L) takes a bi-cycle kick during the Champions' League match against Chelsea at Berlin on September 21. — AFP photo

Lazio lousy hosts?

ROME, Sept 22: Lazio were facing charges of a shameful lack of hospitality and organisation from Dynamo Kyiv as the two sides prepared for Wednesday's Champions League tie, reports AFP.

The Ukrainians claimed their hosts had left them waiting outside a locked Olympic stadium when they arrived for training and had also got all their estimates of travelling around Rome completely wrong.

The Serie A club holly denied the accusations, which are likely to add extra spice to their Group A clash here.

The trouble started on Tuesday, almost immediately that the Ukrainian squad set foot in Italy.

Alexey Mikhailichenko, who won the Italian league with Sampdoria in 1991 and who is now Dynamo's deputy coach, said: "We have been treated in a shameful way. Things have happened that are just incomprehensible."

"The Champions League is the most prestigious competition in Europe and people ought to know how to organise it," he fumed.

"Lazio officials told us it would take 45 minutes at most for us to get from the airport to our hotel by coach, but in the end we wasted an hour and a half."

"And it's not just that. They also sent us a faxing saying the hotel was only a quarter of an hour from the stadium. It took us over half an hour."

"But that's not all," he went on. "When we arrived at the Olympic stadium, all the gates were closed. We had outside for 20 minutes. And above all, there wasn't even a Lazio official there waiting for us."

"These things are really unacceptable," he told the Corriere dello Sport.

The pre-training news conference was cancelled, with Mikhailichenko saying enough time had been lost already, while coach Valery Lobanovsky apparently vented his anger to the Ukrainian press.

Parreira, Zagallo's job on the line

RIO DE JANEIRO, Sept 22: The double act who led Brazil to World Cup victory five years ago are in danger of succumbing to the country's frenzied "dance of the coaches", reports Reuters.

Carlos Alberto Parreira, coach in 1994, finds himself needing a victory against a team made up mainly of firemen to keep his job as coach of Third Division side Fluminense.

Mario Zagallo was Parreira's high profile assistant in 1994 before leading Brazil to the runners-up spot at the World Cup last year. Now he is, in an extremely precarious position at Portuguesa, one of the less fashionable Sao Paulo clubs.

Parreira took over at Fluminense with the task of halting the dramatic fall of a traditionally powerful club.

Three wins and two defeats in their first five games has, however, given Fluminense a less than ideal start in the third division and Parreira knows what could be in store.

"That's the culture in our country," he said. "The coach loses three or four games and is kicked out."

Parreira's crucial game is today at Dom Pedro who, like many teams in the third division, include several semi-professionals. At least five in the Dom Pedro side are firemen.

Zagallo finds himself in a similarly uncomfortable position after a 1-1 draw with Gremio on Saturday left Portuguesa 18th in the first division, where coaches are treated mercilessly.

Eleven coaches have fallen by the wayside in the 22-club league since the start of the competition in late July.

Although Portuguesa are not one of Sao Paulo's big clubs they have done well in the last few years, reaching the final in 1996. Zagallo complained his modest squad had been upset by political turmoil in the club.

The 68-year-old veteran said players had left their cars at the

STANDINGS

European Champions League standings after matches played Tuesday night (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

Group E							
FC Porto	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
Real Madrid	2	1	1	0	7	4	4
Olympiakos	2	0	1	1	3	5	1
Molde	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

Remaining matches:
September 28: Real Madrid v Porto
Olympiakos Piraeus v Molde
October 20: Porto v Real Madrid
Molde v Olympiakos Piraeus
October 26: Real Madrid v Olympiakos Piraeus
Porto v Molde
November 3: Olympiakos Piraeus v Porto
Molde v Real Madrid

Group F							
Valencia	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Bayern Munich	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
PSV Eindhoven	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Rangers	2	0	1	1	1	3	1

Remaining matches:
September 28: PSV Eindhoven v Rangers
Bayern Munich v Valencia
October 20: Rangers v PSV Eindhoven
Valencia v Bayern Munich
October 26: PSV Eindhoven v Bayern Munich
Rangers v Valencia
November 3: Bayern Munich v Rangers
Valencia v PSV Eindhoven

Group G							
Spartak Moscow	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Bordeaux	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Sparta Prague	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Willem II	2	0	0	2	3	6	0

Remaining matches:
September 28: Girondins Bordeaux v Spartak Moscow
Sparta Prague v Willem II Tilburg
October 20: Spartak Moscow v Girondins Bordeaux
Willem II Tilburg v Sparta Prague
October 26: Spartak Moscow v Willem II Tilburg
Girondins Bordeaux v Sparta Prague
November 3: Sparta Prague v Spartak Moscow
Willem II Tilburg v Girondins Bordeaux

Group H							
Hertha Berlin	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
AC Milan	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Galatasaray	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
Chelsea	2	0	1	1	1	2	1

Remaining matches:
September 28: AC Milan v Hertha Berlin
Chelsea v Galatasaray
October 20: Hertha Berlin v AC Milan
Galatasaray v Chelsea
October 26: AC Milan v Chelsea
Hertha Berlin v Galatasaray
November 3: Chelsea v Hertha Berlin
Galatasaray v AC Milan

team hotel because of fears they could be smashed by angry fans if taken to the stadium at the weekend. He said some fans had tried to invade the dressing room after Saturday's game.

"It's not a good atmosphere for the players," he said.

Brazilian coaches are sacked at an astonishing rate, some clubs employing half a dozen in the same year.

Botaogo have already used three coaches in the Brazilian championship, where they have played only 11 games. It has not done them much good as they remain rooted to the bottom.

Other key members of Brazil's 1994 teams are also at a low ebb. Captain Dunga, now 35, has been fiercely criticised

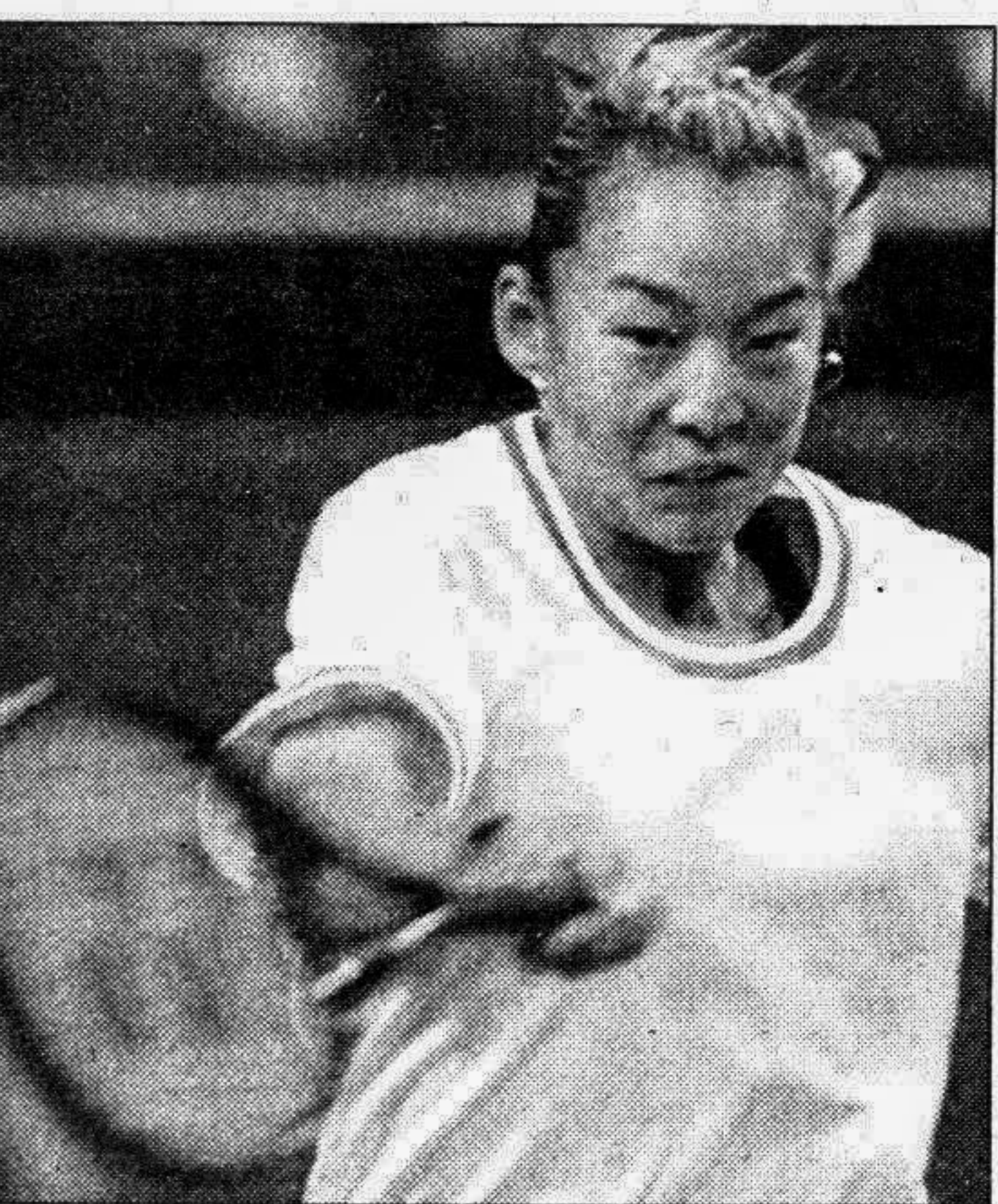
for his performances as captain of Porto Alegre club Internacional, which he joined last year after several seasons in Japan.

Striker Bebeto has yet to score for Mexican club Toros Neza, whose two wins in the championship came when he was not in the team.

At least Zagallo knows he will never be short of offers if he does get the chop.

Since joining Portuguesa, he has received offers from several Brazilian clubs and the Ecuador national team although he denied reports Costa Rica were studying his curriculum vitae.

"I don't have to send my cv to Costa Rica," he said dismissively.



American Jane Chi in action at the Toyota Princess Cup in Tokyo yesterday. — AFP photo

Spartak cling on for a draw

MOSCOW, Sept 22: Nine-man Spartak Moscow, so impressive in the 1999/2000 European Champions League up to now, squandered home advantage when scraping a 1-1 draw against Sparta Prague here Tuesday, reports AFP.

Spartak, who had two players red carded in the second half, went into the night's round of matches as Group G leaders after an impressive 3-1 away win over Willem II last week.

And the Russians tried to stun their Czech guests with an opening burst but the visitors defended stoutly, counter-attacking on the break.

In the 17th minute Sparta were rewarded for their efforts when striker Vratislav Lokvenec scored with a header after a well-taken corner kick from Vladimir Labant.

Spartak poured forward looking for an equaliser and seconds later Russia's international midfielder Yegor Titov missed a clear chance, when he tamely shot the ball into Czech goalkeeper Tomas Postulka from five metres.

Spartak, despite dominating play in the first half, failed to pose a serious threat to the Prague outfit, making too many unforced mistakes. Postulka made several easy saves from several long-range efforts from Spartak before the break.

In the second half Spartak moved up a gear, seizing the initiative only for their attacks to be snuffed out by Sparta on the edge of the penalty box.

However, the Moscow side drew level with a stroke of luck in the 73rd minute, when midfielder Titov softly lobbed the ball to Spartak substitute Artyom Bezyudny, who poked the ball past the helpless Postulka from close range for his first ever Champions League goal.

Spartak made life difficult for themselves when Brazilian striker Luis Robson was given his marching orders in the last 10 minutes of normal time, following defender Yuri Kovtun, who was ordered off 10 minutes earlier for a wild tackle, setting up a tense final period for the Spartak fans.

Sparta created several scoring chances in the final five minutes of the match but Spartak clung on grimly.

India beat Canada

SYDNEY, Sept 22: Indian men's coach Vasudevan Baskaran was relieved after his team topped Canada 3-2 on the opening day of a pre-Olympic field hockey tournament here today, reports AFP.

India have struggled to keep pace with the elite nations in recent years and, building toward next year's Olympics, have been finding victories difficult to achieve.

Placed ninth in the 1998 World Cup, India did not get to play in the Champions Trophy in Brisbane this year.

Today's win reversed a 2-1 defeat to Canada when India finished last in the four-nation Australia Cup in Canberra last week.

Already qualified for the 2000 Olympics, India beat the Australia Cup winners Canada with a counter-attacking game but Baskaran still had concerns about the number of errors committed which allowed the Canadians back into the game.

India went ahead early with the only goal of the first half through Anwar Khan.

Canada's 32-year-old captain Peter Milkovich, a veteran of over 240 internationals, equalised with a smart deflection midway through the second spell but India went ahead again when Deepa Thakur produced a brilliant diving, backhanded smash from the top of the circle.

Ajit Singh effectively made the game safe with a breakthrough goal with three minutes remaining but Milkovich was not done and added a penalty to reduce the margin in the final minute.

The Indians play hosts Australia Thursday.

Davis Cup Kafelnikov's forecast

BRISBANE, Sept 22: Yevgeny Kafelnikov predicts Russia's doubles and still beat an under-strength Australia comfortably in their Davis Cup semifinal this weekend, reports AFP.

"I feel we're going to win both singles on Friday, lose the doubles on Saturday and I make third point on Sunday, so we win 3-1," the world No. 2 said Wednesday.

Kafelnikov also rubbished the condition of ANZ Stadium's grass court and questioned Australian Davis Cup debutant Wayne Arthurs' mental character.

He said he would trounce the 28-year-old Arthurs and that Russian No. 2 Marat Safin would upset Leyton Hewitt in a battle of teenagers to grab a 2-0 lead on Friday night.

"I expect to beat both of them because I'm playing well," said the 25-year-old Russian.

"I have no other expectation for myself than to win both matches. And I think Marat's going to beat Hewitt on the first day."

"When the going gets tough, Marat will tough it out," Kafelnikov added. "He has won his last two Davis Cup matches by staying mentally tough."

Russian captain Shamil Tarpiushev complained about the grass court.

"It's in a bad condition," said Kafelnikov, suggesting the court had originally been prepared to suit the games of Pat Rafter and Mark Philippoussis and changed once both players pulled out injured.

Viele's losing debut



TOKYO, Sept 22: Monique Viele, a 14-year-old making her professional debut, made a first-round exit Wednesday with a 6-3, 6-1 loss to fellow American Jane Chi at the 520,000 dollar Toyota Princess Cup tennis tournament, reports AP.

"I wasn't feeling down at all. I was actually happy just to be out there," Viele said.

"It was tough just like playing with my little sister," said the 25-year-old Chi, ranked 69th in the world. "I didn't want to lose, though."

Viele, of West Palm Beach, Florida, entered the tournament as a wild card after fighting a legal battle challenging the WTA rule barring players aged 14 and under from playing in its events.

The organisation governing the top four tiers of world women's tennis tour amended in

June its rule to allow 14-year-olds to receive one wild card into WTA events.

"I think she presented about 50 per cent of her potential and ability," said Viele's coach, Rick Maciel. "When you are nervous, then the movement goes. If she might have been relaxed, she would have won that match."

The rain halted most of the day's matches, but Viele and Chi duelled for 80 minutes under the closed roof of the Ariake Colosseum.

The two played evenly at the start and tied the first set at 2-2 before Viele's double-fault and a couple of unforced errors cost her the fifth game.

A majority of Viele's first serves either sailed long or landed in the next, and she nervously bounced the ball more than a dozen times before serving. Romain Martens, the chair umpire, cautioned Viele on a couple of occasions, and Viele somewhat reduced the number

of bounces. Chi again broke Viele's serve in the ninth game with her punching a forehand approach shot out of Viele's reach and a pair of unforced errors of Viele's part.

"The way she served, taking a lot of time bouncing the ball, kind of threw me out of rhythm in the first set," Chi said. "And I just tried to hang in there and keep it going because I knew that sooner or later I would be able to break her."

"I read in the newspaper that she has serves of up to 150 mph (240 kph)," said Chi, of Medford, Idaho. "She was a new player. I didn't really know anything about her. Just the whole thing was a new experience."

While Chi and Viele were playing, top seeds of the tournament, including Lindsay Davenport and Monica Seles, were watching the match. Both Davenport and Seles, who have first-round byes, were idle Wednesday.

"That's really nice that they came and watched me play," Viele said. "I'm very, very happy and hopefully someday I'll play against them, too."

Viele said she chose the Toyota Princess Cup from among several offers because she always wanted to come Japan on her first trip abroad.

Maciel said Viele may come back to Tokyo in February to play in a tournament.

Japan's top player, Ai Sugiyama, in her first match since winning the mixed doubles in the US Open, beat Tamarine Tanasugarn of Thailand 6-3, 6-3, also reaching the second round.

"There was no big pressure after the US Open," said Sugiyama, ranked 28th and seeded eighth. "But singles is different from mixed doubles."

In the second round, Sugiyama takes on Chi.

In other first-round matches, seventh-seeded Amy Frazier of the United States beat South Korean Park Sung-hee 6-1, 6-4, and Swiss qualifier Miroslava Vavrinec eliminated American Tara Snyder 6-1, 6-1.

Tatiana Panova of Russia also advanced to the second round by defeating Miho Saeki of Japan 6-1, 6-1, while Australian Nicole Pratt beat Meilen Tu of the United States 6-3, 7-5.

Wayne to get biggies' help



BRISBANE, Sept 22: Australian captain John Newcombe and No.1 Patrick Rafter will work on rookie Wayne Arthurs to ensure he is primed for Friday's Davis Cup tennis semifinal against Russia here, reports AFP.

Newcombe has told Arthurs of some of his own Davis Cup nightmares as the 28-year-old left-hander prepares for his biggest tennis assignment on the ANZ Stadium grass court.

Rafter, who is out of the tie with a shoulder injury, will also help prepare Arthurs, who admitted he was still coming to grips with his accelerated rise to the national team.

"It's still pretty amazing for myself - I don't know where it's come from," Arthurs said Tuesday.

"I'm sitting here but I feel like I'm still sitting out there at the same time. It's a strange feeling."

Al-Ahram squash Egypt, Wales reach finals

CAIRO, Sept 22: Egypt and Wales upset Australia and England on Tuesday, winning their semifinal matches to advance to the finals of the Al-Ahram World Team squash championship, reports AP.

Egypt defeated Australia 3-0, and Wales overthrew England 2-1. The winners will compete in the finals on Wednesday.

The results were unexpected, as both England and Australia were considered the favourites in the tournament, in which some 29 countries have taken part.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	38 Beast of burden	3 Like EEE	23 Frequently
1 Curved	40 Mine car	42 Aries	24 A welcome site
6 Used goods	44 World (Suffix)	5 Harmful	25 Show you're human
12 Docking area	46 Rival	6 Singer	26 Really angry
13 Sent to Coventry	50 Prayer	7 Put forth, as strength	28 Boy who cried wolf
14 Garland	52 Antelope or auto	8 Round Table address	30 Cath. or Prot.
15 Discoverer of the Aleutians	54 Lost love in "The Raven"	9 Estrange	31 Fictional planet of TV
16 Cleece co-worker	55 Argentinian	10 Lead-in to 33	33 Misérables
17 Admitting a draft	56 Aces, on par-3	11 Lip	34 Paleo-zoic, e.g.
19 Seine season	57 Disobey a colonial flag?	12 Actress	39 XX
20 Sitarist's rendition	18 Potato skins	13 Zetterling	41 IHOP choice
22 Oodles of pounces	21 What Kind of Fool —?	14 Potatoes	42 Auditioner's desire
24 French possessive	1 Combo 2 Verbal	15 Laminated mineral	43 Vicinity
27 Gambing game	32 People Are Funny? host	16 French possessive	45 Individuals
35 Genealogy chart	36 Paraphernalia	17 Admitting a draft	47 Stromboli spillage
37 Wapiti		18 Potato skins	48 Begged

12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----