

## Bundesliga Schalke 04 hold Bayern

MUNICH, Oct 4: Stefan Effenberg rescued Bayern Munich with seconds remaining to earn a 1-1 draw with Schalke 04 but they still lag five points behind Bundesliga leaders Borussia Dortmund in fifth place, reports Reuters.

Dortmund claimed their fifth victory courtesy of two goals from summer signing Victor Ikpeba of Nigeria which helped them to a 3-0 win over struggling Hansa Rostock. Bayer Leverkusen suffered their first defeat of the season to drop from top to third in the table as VfL Wolfsburg beat them 3-1.

## Frank de Boer out for three months

MADRID, Oct 4: Dutch international defender Frank de Boer is set to be out for up to three months with a right knee ligament injury following Saturday night's 2-0 win over Real Valladolid, reports AFP.

De Boer is therefore definitely out of the October 13 match against arch rivals Real Madrid. The Catalan club defence will also have to do without Holland's suspended Winston Bogarde and injured Frederic Dehu of France for the Real fixture.

## Bout of sexes

SEATTLE, Washington, Oct 4: American Margaret McGregor will fight Canadian Lol Chow here Saturday in a historic four-round boxing match -- the first ever between a woman and a man, reports AFP.

"Why not?" said McGregor, 36, the larger fighter at 5-foot-5 and 130 pounds. Chow, a jockey and weightlifter with a 0-2 boxing record, is three inches shorter and five pounds lighter than his female foe.

"This fight will be over within a minute," Chow said. "The first combination I land, the fight will be over."

McGregor also predicts a knockout victory. Regardless of the outcome, each will be paid 1,500 dollars in a bout sanctioned by the Washington state licensing department and being watched by promoters.

"She took offence to the fact someone told her, 'You can't do it,'" said Vern Miller, McGregor's trainer. "She doesn't want to have a little asterisk by her name saying she is just a girl."

There are more than 1,200 registered female boxers in the United States alone, four times as many as just four years ago. McGregor became a karate black belt after being hit by the man she loved.

"I felt so violated and helpless," she said. "I had a burning anger."

She had an 8-0 with one draw record as a kickboxer, turned to boxing a year ago and has won three pro fights in six months.

The bout could be to women's boxing what the Billie Jean King-Bobby Riggs match was to tennis in the 1973 "Battle of the Sexes," even though these are novice fighters and not champions.

"Dead set against it," said Rick Kulis, president of the International Female Boxers Association, based in Torrance, California. "It's not Bobby Riggs versus Billie Jean King."

But it might have a greater impact, Indiana University sports sociology professor Gary Salles said.

"If the female boxer wins, it's going to be huge," Salles said. "I don't think women have anything to lose by this. It doesn't prove anything. This is the side-show."

## WTA's top earners

ST PETERSBURG, Florida, Oct 4 (Reuters): Top money-winner this year in women's tennis according to WTA Tour Rankings.

Players	dollars
1. Serena	2,564,171
2. Hingis	2,504,180
3. Davenport	1,960,363
4. Venus	1,828,082
5. Graf	1,193,367
6. Seles	726,680
7. Pierce	648,092
8. Novotna	606,154
9. Arantxa	596,221
10. Kournikova	548,624
11. Schett	530,385
12. Mauresmo	503,776
13. Likhovtseva	411,707
14. Halard-Decugis	386,645
15. Coetzee	386,470
16. Martinez	376,292
17. Zvereva	375,452
18. Morariu	354,730
19. Tauziat	350,582
20. Testud	328,746

## WTA Tour rankings

ST PETERSBURG, Florida, Oct 4 (Reuters): Top 20 women's tennis players, according to the WTA Tour rankings.

Players	Points
1. Hingis	5,620
2. Davenport	5,014
3. Venus	3,991
4. Serena	3,144
5. Seles	2,880
6. Pierce	2,628
7. Coetzee	1,929
8. Schett	1,918
9. Halard-Decugis	1,897
10. Van Roost	1,833
11. Tauziat	1,796
12. Mauresmo	1,753
13. Testud	1,721
14. Arantxa	1,586
15. Kournikova	1,574
16. Likhovtseva	1,554
17. Novotna	1,421
18. Spirlea	1,319
20. Frazier	1,300

## Serie A

# Shevchenko spoils Lazio party



MILAN, Oct 3: Inter Milan found themselves two points clear at the top of the Serie A on Sunday after a night of madness in Rome ended with a memorable 4-4 draw between Lazio and champions AC Milan, reports AFP.

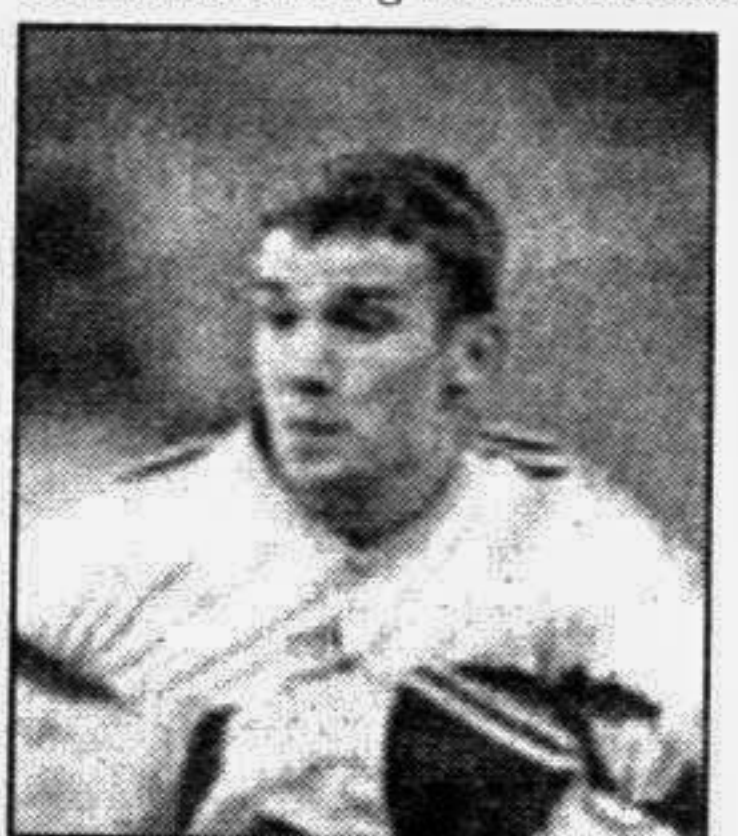
Lazio were 3-1 up and coasting for sweet revenge after Milan had snatched last season's league title from their grasp.

But Ukrainian signing Andriy Shevchenko promptly bagged a hat-trick in under half an hour's play to put the visitors in the driving seat.

Lazio's saviour was the man who has also dominated their European Champions League campaign, Chilean Marcelo Salas, dubbed "El Matador", who steered home his second goal of the night to earn a draw.

Not only did Lazio miss out

Roma skipper Francesco Totti and Fiorentina's German defender Jorg Heinrich being sent off in the closing minutes after.



SHEVCHENKO

an off-the-ball incident. Capello had mixed feelings afterwards, saying: "It was a

Lecce and we pushed hard all through match, even though we weren't always that lucid.

"But I think we deserved the result for all the work we put in."

Paying tribute to his captain, Ancelotti added: "Conte was the player who most believed we could do it -- and it was his commitment as well as his goal which won it for us."

The victory moved Juventus into fourth slot in the Serie A, a point behind the two Rome clubs.

Parma romped to a 3-0 win over Verona, with the UEFA and Italian Cup holders' first league victory being sealed in the first 10 minutes.

Argentinian playmaker Ariel Ortega set up the first goal for striker Marcelo Amoroso, the Serie A's top scorer with Udinese last season, and then swept the second into an open goal in the seventh minute.



Juventus' French playmaker Zinedine Zidane (R) and Venezia's Emanuel Brioschi fight for the ball in their Serie A encounter. —AFP photo

on revenge, but they also slipped to third place in the table, trailing hated rivals AS Roma on goal difference.

Team coach Sven-Goran Eriksson tried to explain the night's bizarre events by saying: "These are two teams with great attacking capabilities."

"And what came out was a match that was strange, mad but certainly wonderful as well."

Milan coach Alberto Zaccheroni, who rested German centre-forward Oliver Bierhoff, said: "I'm fortunate enough to have various strikers, each with different characteristics, to choose from."

"That means I'm not limited to a single system of play, and I enjoy changing from one match to another, and even during matches."

"I'm pleased with what I've seen so far from Milan this season. We're not at the peak of condition yet but then it would be a problem if we were at this stage."

AS Roma meanwhile showed their championship credentials by beating Fiorentina 3-1 away to move up to second place.

Roma's new coach Fabio Capello, who won four league titles in five seasons with AC Milan, had Brazilian defender Cafu to thank for a win which is bound to raise hopes of a title-winning season.

Cafu drove in with two sizzling drives, either side of a goal by Damiano Tommasi, before Fiorentina skipper Gabriel Batistuta scored for the hosts, who suffered their first home defeat since the 1997-98 season.

The match was marred by

great game, a great performance against a very good Fiorentina. We really deserved to win.

"There's great joy for the win but also disappointment for the sending off of Totti, which I think was unjust, and an injury to (Marco) Delvecchio which is going to keep him out for a long time."

Capello said he would call for television evidence to clear Totti of the suspension will probably follow the red card.

Juventus looked destined for a humiliating 0-0 draw at home to Venezia until the third minute of injury time, when skipper Antonio Conte hit a low drive from 20 metres past Austrian goalkeeper Michael Konsel.

Coach Carlo Ancelotti tried to be positive about the lacklustre display, saying: "We were coming off a bad game against

Verona goalkeeper Graziano Battistini was sent off just two minutes later for a professional foul on Amoroso, as the Brazilian headed for goal.

Verona replaced midfielder Martino Mellis with young goalkeeper Sebastian Frey, on loan from Inter Milan, but the Frenchman was abandoned by his defence as Hernan Crespo made it 3-0 in the 35th minute.

Japanese midfielder Hidetoshi Nakata clipped the wings of high-flying Reggina, steering Perugia to a 2-1 victory from the penalty spot.

Bari drew 1-1 after 21-year-old Brazilian substitute Warley scored a late equaliser for Udinese with a banana shot from outside the area.

And Bologna celebrated the club's 90th birthday by finally notching their first league win of the season, beating Lecce 2-0.

## STANDINGS

Italian Serie A table on Sunday night (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points)

Inter Milan	5	4	1	0	11	2	13
AS Roma	5	3	2	0	10	4	11
Lazio	5	3	2	0	11	6	11
Juventus	5	3	1	1	7	4	10
AC Milan	5	2	3	0	14	8	9
Fiorentina	5	2	2	1	9	7	8
Reggina	5	2	2	1	6	5	8
Perugia	5	2	1	2	8	7	7
Udinese	5	1	3	1	7	7	6
Bari	5	1	3	1	3	3	6
Parma	5	1	2	2	7	9	5
Lecce	5	1	2	2	3	7	5
Bologna	5	1	2	2	3	6	5
Torino	5	1	2	2	3	6	5
Verona	5	1	0	4	3	11	3
Venezia	5	0	2	3	4	8	2
Cagliari	5	0	2	3	3	8	2
Piacenza	5	0	2	3	3	8	2

# Savouring a classic



ROME, Oct 4: Lazio boss Sergio Cragnotti was fuming and AC Milan's hat-trick hero Andriy Shevchenko was celebrating after a 4-4 draw here dubbed one of the best soccer matches ever seen in Italy, reports AFP.

Lazio had a 3-1 lead and three points in the bag when Shevchenko turned Sunday night's amazing match on its head. It needed a second goal from Lazio striker Marcelo Salas to deny Milan a remarkable victory.

The jaw-dropper was watched by Italian sports supremo Gianni Petrucci, head of the national Olympic committee, who said: "A match like this has never been seen at the Olympic stadium before and perhaps never in any Italian football ground."

Lazio were desperate for revenge after Milan beat them to last season's league title and Cragnotti was mortified to see the chance squandered.

"We've missed a great opportunity to get the better of AC Milan," he said. "And four goals conceded at home are just too many."

"There were too many lapses in concentration and we paid dearly for them, even though we deserved to win."

Collective madness was his coach Sven Goran Eriksson's

explanation.

"I honestly can't remember having conceded so many goals since I took over at Lazio," he said. "It was a crazy match. We could easily have won 3-1 and instead within half an hour we were losing 4-3."

"At that moment, I could see the team were demoralised and I was frightened we were going to lose," he admitted. "But there was a great reaction, real character, and at the end we could have won deservedly."

Asked whether the tension which had been building up all week was to blame for the mistakes, Eriksson said: "I don't know. It's hard to get inside other people's heads and understand what's going on."

"Clearly though, things were happening which don't usually happen. You ought to win when you're 3-1 up but instead Milan found it too easy to score two goals -- without mentioning their fourth."

But if Lazio were shaking their heads, Shevchenko was thanking his new teammates after they helped him to bag a hat-trick, little more than a month after starting his new career in the Serie A.

Shevchenko, the Champions League's top scorer last season with Dynamo Kyiv, said: "They were all really good, they all put me in a position to score goals."

"And at this point, I'm hoping there are going to be even

better matches than this one... this is my first year here and I have to do what I can to help the team."



Liberian George Weah of AC Milan takes a shot before Lazio's Yugoslav international Sinisa Mihajlovic can intercept. —AFP photo

## Boris on himself

MUNICH, Oct 4: Former German tennis star Boris Becker said in an interview released yesterday that his Jewish mother lived in a tent for years after fleeing the Soviet army after World War Two, reports Reuters.

Becker, one of the country's most popular figures, told Inside Tennis magazine in an interview that his mother, Elvira, had fled from Czechoslovakia.

Becker said the fact that his mother had a Jewish background and his father came from a Catholic family made it easy for him to be tolerant.

"If you look at my background, I have from my mother's side Jewish background, from my father's side a very Catholic background," Becker said.

"My mother had to defect in the Second World War when the Russians invaded her home town in Czechoslovakia," he added. "She was in a (refugee) camp in Germany" in Heidelberg.

More than six million European Jews were killed in the Holocaust that was organised by Nazi Germany. Germany's once thriving Jewish population was nearly wiped out.

There are about 50,000 Jews living in Germany today. Jewish schools and Jewish community leaders receive intense police protection.

"My mother slept in tents for years. That's part of me. That's my background. So therefore I'm everything a little bit. That's probably why I am more open-minded than most people."

Becker said that his wife was an African American and that it took him several months to realise that.

"I didn't see she was black for three months," he said. "I didn't know she was black."

## Romanian Open Martin's

BUCHAREST, Oct 4: Spaniard Alberto Martin crushed Karim Alami of Morocco 6-3, 6-2 to win the final of the Romanian Open yesterday, reports Reuters.

A self-controlled Martin, 21, won comfortably, especially compared with his first match when he saved 10 match points against Romanian Adrian Voinea in the first round.

Alami was overwhelmed in his second final of the season and made several unprovoked errors in crucial moments of the final.

The 26-year-old has now re-established himself as the man to stop on fast indoor surfaces.

## Dutch Open Sino shuttlers shine

DEN BOSCH, Netherlands, Oct 4: China won all but one title in the Holland Plaza Open '99 badminton Grand Prix in the Southern Dutch city yesterday, reports Xinhua.

The women's singles produced the most spectacular final between Chinese Tang Chunyu and Mia Audina of the Netherlands.

Tang, 20, who made her debut in the world arena, defeated Audina 11-13, 11-4 and 11-7 after Audina, a former Indonesian player, eliminated Tang's Chinese compatriot seventh-ranked Zhou Mi, who was the top seed of the tournament.

Both the men's singles and women's doubles became the all-Chinese affairs.

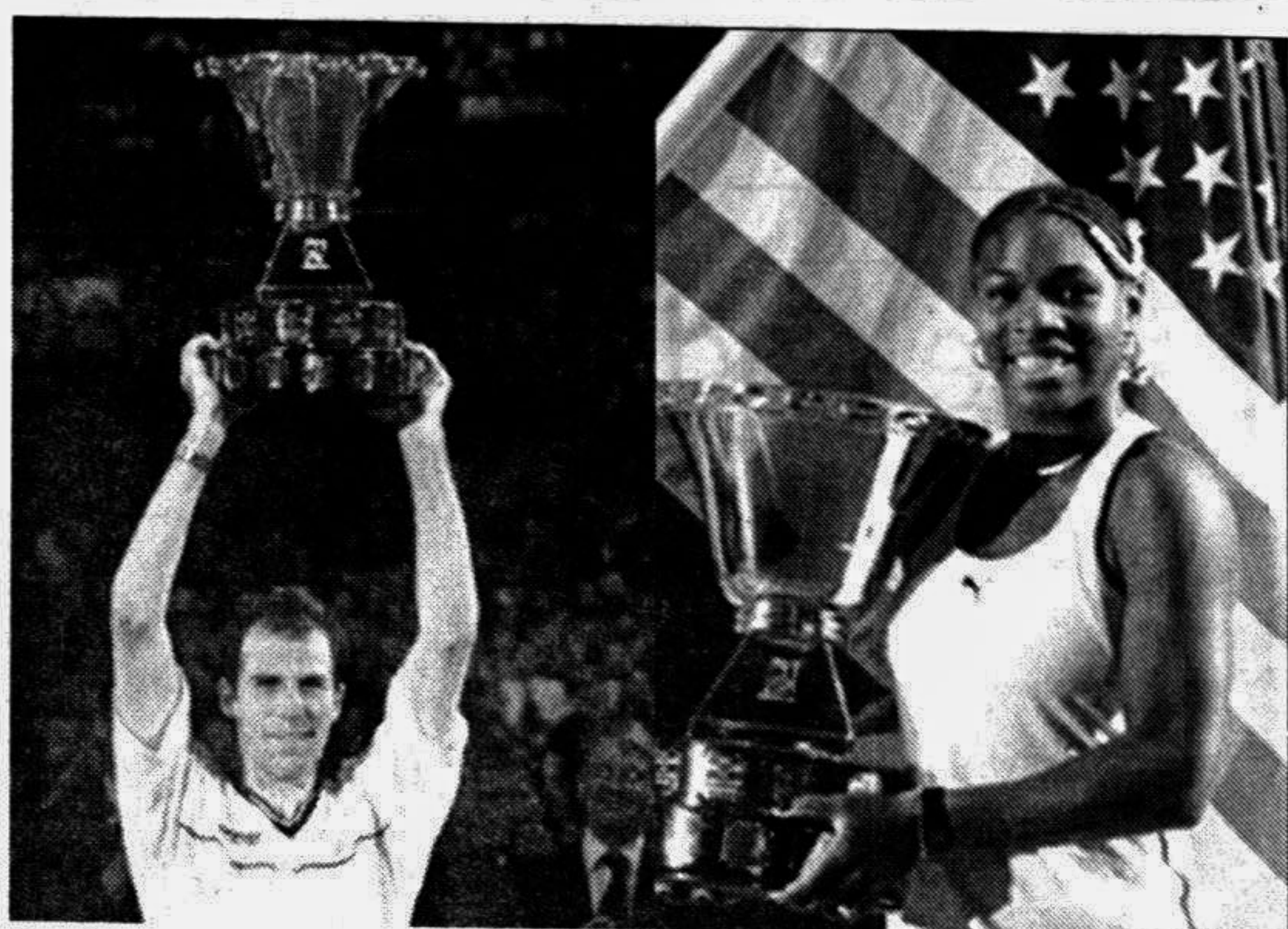
Xia Xuanze, champion in the fourth Chinese City Games last month, outwitted teammate Ji Xinpeng, top seed of the Dutch open, 15-10, 15-13, while Chen Lin and Jiang Xuelian defeated Zhou Mi and Tang Chunyu 15-9, 15-4 to take the women's doubles title.

In the mixed doubles, China's Chen Qiqiu paired with Chen Lin overcame Denmark's Martin L. Hansen and Pernille Harder with 15-11, 9-15 and 15-10.

The only title that slipped away from the Chinese players was in the men's doubles, which was won by Choong Tan Fook and Lee Wan Wah of Malaysia who defeated Lars Paaske and Martin L. Hansen of Denmark 15-4, 6-15 and 15-9.

A total of 50,000 US dollars was put at stake for the top 16 players, with the men's single champion getting 4,000 and women's singles champion pocketing 3,450.

The Chinese badminton team, which is the second-string squad in the country, will try its best again later this month in the German open and the Danish open.



Grand Slam Cup winners Greg Rusedski (L) and Serena Williams with their prizes. —AFP photo

# G & S stand for Grand Slam



MUNICH, Oct 4: Greg Rusedski proved he's a power house on an indoor court with his first title of the year while Serena Williams whipped her elder sister Venus for the first time ever to join the Briton as a champion at the 6.7-million-dollar Grand Slam Cup Sunday, reports AFP.

Rusedski earned Britain's first-ever title at the elite event for top performers at the year's majors as he overcame late nerves to beat home hope Tommy Haas 6-4, 6-3, 6-7, 7-6.

The world number six -- the man they call The Joker for his constant grin -- claimed the biggest prize of his career, 1.3 million dollars. Haas, the third German to play for the trophy in a decade, settled for 650,000 dollars.

Williams, at 18 already crowned US Open winner three weeks ago, beat her big sister 6-1, 3-6, 6-3 in an all-sibling affair which will net the Williams family a cool 1.3 million dollars combined from the best-of-three-set finale.

Rusedski won his last trophy in Paris in November, defeating Pete Sampras in straight sets at Bercy.

The 26-year-old has now re-established himself as the man to stop on fast indoor surfaces.

He will be tested next week at Basel, where British rival Tim Henman is defending champion.

In the first two sets, I couldn't have played any better," said Rusedski, who has now won eight career titles. "I dipped in the third and Tommy came up with a great tiebreaker. In the fourth I dominated."

While serving for victory with a 5-3 lead in the fourth, Rusedski seemed to catch a case of the shakes.

He volleyed carelessly low into the net to yield three break chances for the young German. Haas took advantage with a break for 4-5.

Rusedski finally claimed victory in the tiebreaker, when he slowed himself down and deliberately played his game at the tight moments.

"I rushed when I served for it the first time and he was a good enough player to come up with great shot and break," said the winner. "But I took my time when it counted in the fourth-set tiebreaker and managed to win the match."

Rusedski stayed dominant with his powerful serve against Haas, 11-6 in the world. The Briton claimed his second career victory against the 21-year-old German in two hours, 46 minutes.

Rusedski clinched it on his

fourth match point of the afternoon with a touch volley cross-court at the net which Haas could not touch.

The two other Germans who played for the title here both won it. Michael Stich in 1992 and Boris Becker three years ago.

Becker, now retired and coaching the German Davis Cup team, commented the match for television as his pupil tried and failed to lift a third trophy here for the hosts.

Serena Williams blew through the first set against her 19-year-old sister to whom she lost the first three times the pair played.

Their only other meeting for a title came in Miami last March, with Venus taking three sets to get through in the family feud.

Venus, who has yet to win a Grand Slam, but still ranks third in the world to her sister's fourth, took a 5-1 lead in the second, as she eventually turned the tables.

The pair traded breaks in the third, with Serena finally grabbing the upper hand as she broke her sister back for a 5-3 lead and served out the victory in one hour 45 minutes on her third match point.

Escude's maiden ATP title

TOULOUSE, France, Oct 4: Frenchman Nicolas Escude beat Czech Daniel Vacek in straight sets to win his first ATP Tour title in Toulouse yesterday and set his sights on a Davis Cup final appearance for France in December, reports Reuters.

"I don't want to talk too much about it, but I think I have the potential to play singles (in the Davis Cup)," said Escude after his 7-5, 6-1 victory.

"But it's up to the captain to decide. Guy (Forget) has a good team, good guys who get on well together. It will depend on my next tournaments," added Escude, currently ranked 80th in the world.

France are playing Australia in the Davis Cup final in the first week of December with Cedric Pioline, Sebastien Grosjean or Fabrice Santoro favoured to play.

Escude, who received a wild card to play in the \$375,000 Toulouse event, had a fine week, beating world class players like top-seeded Briton Tim Henman on his way to victory.

Escude, who was an Australian Open semifinalist two years ago before being sidelined by injuries, shot back this season by reaching the US Open last eight, losing to eventual champion Andre Agassi.

"Three or four years ago, everybody was telling me I was talented and I took it for granted. As a result I fell apart," he said.

"Agassi said I was gifted. Now I must prove it," said the 23-year-old from Pau.

Against Vacek, he showed for 70 minutes why he was nicknamed "Scud", hitting his opponent gradually in the first set before crushing him in the second.

MIKE TYSON

lions of dollars in fight contracts.

Tyson has climbed into the ring to pay taxes on properties here and in Ohio, Maryland and Connecticut. He said his wife and four children are major reasons for him to return to the ring.

"I have got to fight because nobody would fight for me. I know nobody has sympathy for me," Tyson said. "I don't know if I'm a pease, with me or anybody. Everybody is out to get me and I'm not going to let anybody destroy me."

MIKE TYSON

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