

Sport

Dutch First Div
Feyenoord
down leaders

AMSTERDAM, Feb 4: A goal by Patrick Pauwe gave Feyenoord a 1-0 win over league leaders PSV Eindhoven in the Dutch First division on Thursday, reports Reuters.

Feyenoord played the last 18 minutes with 10 men after midfielder Jan de Visser was sent off for receiving a second yellow card.

PSV looked the stronger team at the start but it was Feyenoord who scored in the 23rd minute when Pauwe hit home a free kick from 25 metres.

After the goal Feyenoord pulled back to defend their lead.

Most of the remainder of the match was played in Feyenoord's half with PSV getting 18 corner kicks against Feyenoord's three but PSV were unable to score.

Despite the defeat PSV stayed in the league lead on 41 points, three ahead of nearest rivals Heerenveen and Vitesse Arnhem. Feyenoord are sixth with 36.

Night club owner
moans Burkina's
exit

KANO, Nigeria, Feb 4(AFP/Internet): Burkina Faso's exit from the African Nations Cup has left a night club owner ruing the departure of one of his venue's biggest patrons.

Tim Mbango, co-owner of the Makosa club sited in the hotel where the team were staying, said business had almost ground to a halt since Burkina Faso's exit from the championship.

The Burkinabes love Makosa music and they did not hide it as they usually flooded the club to dance. It was fun throughout while the championship lasted for them," Mbango said.



Real Madrid's Roberto Carlos claiming that he was fouled by a Real Zaragoza player during their Spanish King's Cup clash at Madrid on February 3. — Internet photo

Primera Liga preview

Real worry for Deportivo

MADRID, Feb 4(AFP/Internet): Deportivo La Coruna have a clearly-defined medium term goal - to win their first ever league title.

But their short-term aim - to cast off the suspicion that they are lame duck leaders - will prove no less difficult as Real Madrid are in town this weekend.

The match has come just at the wrong time for 'Super Depor', who have been anything but in recent outings.

Following hot on the heels of a 4-1 thrashing at modest Valladolid last week came a Spanish Cup exit to second division Osasuna and the vultures - in the shape of Barcelona and Real

as well as fellow challengers Real Zaragoza and Celta Vigo.

However, Deportivo hope that Brazilian star Djalminha will be recovered from a thigh injury to take his place and plot Real's downfall to keep his side's challenge burning brightly.

It was midfielder Djalmi who found the net in a 1-1 draw between the sides earlier in the season, Raul levelling late on.

Real, who reached the fifth round of the Spanish Cup on Thursday night with a 2-0 home success over Zaragoza, have struck a rich vein of form and last week waltzed past Athletic Bilbao 3-1 at the Bernabeu.

The three points garnered put the 'Merengues' up to fifth in the table seven points off the pace after a generally dismal autumn and they also have a game in hand after a six-match unbeaten streak.

Furthermore, the club have taken the loss of Nicolas Anelka through injury in their stride - even though he was belatedly starting to find his form in the World Club Championship last month.

Ironically, if Real do themselves a favour with a win they will also do no less of one to bitter rivals Barcelona, who could go top of the heap as long as Real take full points and Barca oust Alaves, going well in sixth place, at the Nou Camp.

Barcelona have to go for the jugular as they dropped two points last week in their derby with Espanyol which finished

1-1.

Barcelona almost stooped to lame duck level themselves as they scraped a 2-1 aggregate win in midweek over third division Ourense after a goalless home draw albeit with an under-strength team.

On Saturday the Catalan club will be without midfield inspirations Luis Figo and Luis Enrique, leaving Rivaldo to roam free.

Zaragoza will endeavour to keep pace with an away game at Atletico Madrid, who gained a shock 1-0 success last week at Celta Vigo, who are just hanging on to fourth place.

Valencia, who have fond hopes of a place in Europe, open the action with Saturday's match at home to relegation-threatened Betis, who have just appointed former Dutch national coach Gus Hiddink.

The 53-year-old Hiddink, who spent a solitary season at Real in 1998-99, took over in midweek from Argentine Carlos Timoteo Griguol, who was sacked Monday.

FIXTURES:

Saturday: Valencia v Real Betis

Sunday: Rayo Vallecano v Celta Vigo, Atletico Madrid v Real Zaragoza, Seville v Racing Santander, Real Oviedo v Espanyol, Barcelona v Alaves, Real Mallorca v Real Sociedad, Malaga v Real Valladolid, Athletic Bilbao v Numancia, Deportivo La Coruna v Real Madrid



American Chanda Rubin in action against Amanda Coetzer of South Africa at the Pan-Pacific Open in Tokyo yesterday. — AFP photo

Spanish Cup
Real make it
to last eight

MADRID, Feb 4: Real Madrid, boosted by a first minute goal by Jose Maria Gutierrez, moved confidently into the Spanish Cup quarter-finals with a 2-0 win over Real Zaragoza on Thursday, reports Reuters.

Gutierrez set Real on their way after being teed up by 'crando Morientes in the first attack of the game.

Yugoslav winger Perica Ognjenovic struck the second early in the second half to give Real a comfortable victory following the goalless first leg in Zaragoza.

Real join Barcelona, Atletico Madrid, Espanyol, Rayo Vallecano and three second division sides - Compostela, Merida and Osasuna - in the quarter-final draw to be made in Madrid on Friday.

Guti's early strike left Zaragoza chasing the game and although Txetxu Rojo's side enjoyed a lot of possession they rarely threatened the Madrid goal.

Their clearest chance fell to Luis Helguera midway through the first half. The young midfielder sent a stinging shot just wide as the home defence backed off.

Real's second came after 55 minutes as Ognjenovic, sliding in at the far post, finished off a sweeping breakaway move involving Raul Gonzalez and Fernando Morientes.

Reversal of
fortune for
Murphy

LIVERPOOL, England, Feb 4(AFP/Internet): Liverpool's Danny Murphy has signed a new two-year extension to his contract with the English Premiership side in what has been a remarkable turn about in his fortunes.

The former Crewe star was on the brink of being sold by the Anfield club last summer, having failed to impress boss Gerard Houllier.

However, the player who was signed for 1.5 million pounds (2.4m dollars) by former manager Roy Evans in the summer of 1997, has forced his way back into Houllier's plans this term and been rewarded with a new deal.

His current contract has one year to run after this campaign, so he is now committed to Anfield until 2003.

Murphy said: "The manager has been totally honest with me and said that if I kept working the way I have been this season things would work out for me. I worked hard in pre-season and he said that I would get my chance, which is what has happened."

"It shows the turnaround in my fortunes that they have offered me a contract and they want me to stay."

"The main thing for me was to be part of the club and to be playing, and that is what has happened this season."

India blank
Lebanon

NEW DELHI, Feb 4: Favoured India took a 2-0 lead over Lebanon in Friday's opening singles of the Asia Oceania Group 1 first round Davis Cup tennis tie, reports AP.

Leander Paes, the top ranked doubles player on the ATP Tour and a Davis Cup veteran, downed Ali Hamadeh 6-4, 7-5, 7-6(3) after a grass-court battle in the north Indian town of Lucknow.

Syed Fazaluddin, playing his first Davis Cup singles, followed with a win over Hicham Zaatini 6-4, 3-6, 7-5, 7-6(3).

Both matches lasted two hours.

Hamadeh's powerful returns often caught Paes on the wrong foot. Paes broke Hamadeh's serve twice in the first set, but ran into a stiff resistance in the second.

In the final set, Paes and Hamadeh broke each other's serve once to reach the tiebreaker. Hamadeh began with a double fault and dropped another point to trail 2-4. Paes then unleashed three winners to close the match.

Hingis humbles Kournikova



TOKYO, Feb 4: World number one Martina Hingis trounced former doubles partner Anna Kournikova to power into the semifinals of the Pan-Pacific Open tennis tournament on Friday, reports AFP.

The top-seeded Swiss defending champion, who won five

doubles titles with Kournikova last season, stood firm and never allowed the Russian fifth seed to hold her serve on her way to a 47-minute 6-0, 6-2 thrashing.

"I didn't think it was going to be that easy, definitely not. But I played very well, very focused and I was there from the beginning on," said the 19-year-old Swiss, who also won here in

1997.

"The first two games, the first two points of the match, that was very important. It can turn around so differently. Then I was cruising through the match after that."

"She has improved her forehand, but she was taking a very high risk because of the surface, it's so fast. She doesn't have much top spin, so it's very difficult (for her) to keep the ball in the court."

"I just played almost a perfect game today," she added.

Meanwhile, Kournikova said: "I think I wasn't 100 per cent today. Still, I felt like I could win, but I was a bit tired and I was mentally out there. Martina concentrated very well and that made a big difference."

American seventh seed Chanda Rubin earned a place against Hingis by eliminating last year's finalist Amanda Coetzer of South Africa 6-4, 6-4.

"I felt like I played a solid match. She (Coetzer) is a tough player, she gets a lot of balls back, she's quick and she doesn't give a lot of free points," said Rubin.

"Today I wanted to really be aggressive but not to make unforced errors. I think that was the biggest key."

The other semifinal match will be played between sixth seed Sandrine Testud of France and 1998 Wimbledon junior champion Katarina Srebotnik of Slovenia.

Testud saw off her compatriot and third seed Natalie Tauziat 7-6, 6-0, while Srebotnik defeated American Lilia Osterlof 7-6, 6-1.

"I didn't think I would get in to the main draw here, but then I knew it would be tough to win even a match. I'm very excited. To make the semis is just incredible," said Srebotnik.

"I wanted just to win one match. I didn't even look at the draw. I didn't think I was ready to make the semis of such a big tournament," she added.

Frenchwoman Sandrine Testud makes a backhand return against compatriot Nathalie Tauziat at the Pan-Pacific Open in Tokyo yesterday. Testud won 7-6, 6-0.

— AFP photo

Weary USA v Zimbabwe

HARARE, Feb 4: US Davis Cup captain John McEnroe and world No. 1 Andre Agassi say they're not expecting the Americans' first tournament in Africa to be a walkover, reports AP.

The first-round contest Friday with Zimbabwe's second-rated Wayne Black drawn to meet Agassi in the first singles encounter.

"It's going to be quite an experience. You can't take anything for granted," Agassi said after Thursday's draw.

Black, he said, had reached two sets to love ahead of Pete Sampras in last month's Australian Open before Sampras took the lengthy match.

"There's a lot of pop in Wayne's game. He can be dangerous," said Agassi.

Davis Cup

New Zealand
in command

TIMARU, New Zealand, Feb 4: Alistair Hunt was New Zealand's hero as the home team did what was almost unthinkable before play started by taking a commanding 2-0 lead in their Asia-Oceania Group One Davis Cup clash with Thailand on Friday, reports AFP.

New Zealand No 2 Hunt, who recently returned to action after a three-month injury layoff, put in a massive effort to beat highly-rated Thai No 1 and world No 101 Paradorn Srichaphan 7-6, 7-6, 3-6, 6-1.

Mark Nielsen had earlier beaten Thai No 2 Danai Udomchoke 6-1, 6-1, 6-3, but Hunt's performance against Paradorn was a revelation.

Hunt made a good start and while he looked sluggish around the court he managed to cover a lot of ground to produce some magical ground strokes.

His serve baffled the Thai, who sent down some ferocious serves of his own.

With the first two sets going to tie-breakers, Paradorn threatened to wear Hunt out. But after dropping the third set, the New Zealander broke Paradorn early in the fourth and hung on for one of the biggest wins of his career.

"Today was one time where I was thinking one point at a time. I think the first time I looked at the score was when I was 4-1 up in the fourth and had him 15-40," Hunt said.

New Zealand captain Glenn Wilson said he couldn't have asked for a more perfect start to the tie for his unfancied team, without long-time No 1 Brett Steven, who retired last year.

"I always knew Alistair could play like that. I thought he had a good chance and once he got going his confidence grew."

"Mark got off to a great start and set the pace for the rest of the match. He got on top and didn't let him back in."

Udomchoke, ranked 290 in the world, struggled against Nielsen's power and seldom left the baseline.

He relied on the 243-ranked Nielsen to make errors rather than trying to create his own opportunities.

Nielsen had an excellent first serve percentage and delighted the parochial crowd by smashing some superb winners.

The 18-year-old Thai showed some nice touches but lacked the confidence to threaten Nielsen.

"I didn't expect it to be that easy but I got stuck in early and didn't let go," Nielsen said.

After the double blow of losing Sampras and Todd Martin from the Davis Cup team, it was small consolation for Agassi to be drawn against Zimbabwe's second player.

Sampras withdrew with a hip injury and Martin suffered a viral infection, US team officials said.

Agassi said the Americans were still affected by travel fatigue and Harare's altitude of nearly 1,500 metres (5,000 feet).

"I'd be lying to say it's ideal. It isn't comfortable for any of us. Once you throw in variables it's better for the underdog," he said.

Zimbabwe's top player, Byron Black, Wayne's older brother, described the American's visit for the tie as "a great lift for the whole country. It's a breath of fresh air."

"We are the underdogs. Andre is the best tennis player on the planet, but we will try to hold our own," he said. "Wayne is comfortable with coming off the blocks first. He will be the aggressor and could give Andre a surprise," Black said.

The Zimbabweans would also reap the benefit of the home advantage, including fans who traditionally beat African drums.

"It will be very loud. Anything can happen. There have been so many upsets in the past," Black said.

McEnroe said he was not worried by the traditionally boisterous behavior of Zimbabwe fans.

"As long as it's fair and play isn't disrupted, I prefer that. I like energy," he said.

"I consider we are slight fa-

vorites. There's not a lot of tennis played at this altitude," he added.

Grace Mugabe, wife of Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe, drew Wayne Black's name from an antique silver bowl in the gardens of the colonial-style State House presidential palace in Harare.

Under Davis Cup rules, a second player drawn first must play his opponents' first rounder.

Byron Black then plays US second, Chris Woodruff, on Friday and Agassi in reverse single on Sunday.

Byron Black said he would have liked to have been drawn to play Woodruff in the opener in hopes of achieving one-love lead to the series to give Zimbabwe a morale boost.

Woodruff replaces Sampras and doubles veteran Rick Leach replaces Martin.

Wayne Black and teammate Kevin Ullyett are scheduled to meet Americans Alex O'Brien and Leach on Saturday at the 4,000 seat indoor National Sports Center in Harare, with reverse singles scheduled for Sunday.

The Black brothers last September led Zimbabwe back into the Davis Cup World Group by trouncing Chile 4-1 and beating team star Marcelo Rios.

NOTICE

Due to space constraint Crossword could not be accommodated today. Any inconvenience is regretted.

— Sports Editor

Government of the People's
Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department
Municipal Services Project
LGED Bhaban, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar
Dhaka-1207

Memo No. LGED/PMSP/C-30/2000/148 Dated: January 30, 2000

Invitation for Bids for
Appointment of C&F Agent

The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of Municipal Services Project (IDA Credit No. 3177-BD). The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) now invites sealed Bids from the eligible C&F agent having established offices in Chittagong, Benapole and Dhaka in order to clear imported consignment from Chittagong Sea Port, Dhaka Airfreight, and Benapole Land Port.

Payments under this contract will only be in Bangladesh Taka. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information and inspect the Bidding Documents at the office of the Project Director, Municipal Services Project, LGED, LGED Bhaban, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on submission of a written application to the undersigned and upon payment of non-refundable fee of Tk 200.00 (Taka two hundred only) in the form of Bank Draft or Payment Order from any scheduled Bank in Bangladesh during office hours up to February 22, 2000.

Bids shall be delivered to the office of the undersigned on or before February 23, 2000 by 2:00 hours and must be accompanied by a Bid Security of Tk 5,000.00 (Taka five thousand only) in the form of Bank Draft or Payment Order from any scheduled Bank in Bangladesh.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 2:15 hours on February 23, 2000.

Md Abdul Karim

Project Director

Municipal Services Project

Local Government Engineering Department

LGED Bhaban, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar

Dhaka-1207

DFP-2184-31/1

G-205

Don't write Swiss off

ZURICH, Feb 4 (AFP): Swiss number one Roger Federer admits his team have only a 30 per cent chance of ups-

wing defending champions Australia in their first-round World Group Davis Cup match here from Friday afternoon.

The Australians boast two top 20-ranked singles players in Lleyton Hewitt and Mark Philippoussis and are 27-time winners of the Cup.

The Swiss who have never won the Cup and pitch in inexperienced duo Federer and George Bastl against Hewitt and Philippoussis in the absence of their one big name: Marc Rosset.

The single-minded Rosset has refused to play here in protest against the appointment of Czech-born Jakob Hlasek as captain and coach of the Swiss team.

Federer is ranked 61 in singles and Bastl, who spent much of last year playing in second-tier Challenger events, is ranked 75th.

"Realistically we only have a 30 per cent chance of winning - but this is Davis Cup and anything can happen," Federer said.

Hlasek, while aware his team are huge underdogs, on

Thursday refused to write off his team's chances of an upset.

"If we play at 100 per cent - take it to the limit in every match - then we have a chance," he said.

"Our players are well prepared and there are no problems between them. They are ready. The Australians may be big favourites but that doesn't interest us. It's a big challenge for us - but we relish that."

"Most of the singles players on both teams are around the same age and when you have young guys playing, anything can happen."

"The players may not believe they can win now, but when they get onto the court, get into a good position, then they may be able to smell it - and feel it."

Friday's opening singles pit Bastl, who is so little-known that the organisers misspelt his name at the draw, against Hewitt, followed by Federer against power-server Philippoussis.

Saturday's doubles pit Federer and Lorenzo Mantia against Wayne Arthurs and Sanden Stolle with Sunday's reverse singles matching Federer against Hewitt followed by Bastl against Philippoussis.

Philippoussis said the Australians were treating the Swiss with respect.

"It'll be hard - it's always

hard when you play away from home," he said. "We are aware that it's Davis Cup and that anything can happen."

Hewitt on Thursday refused to comment on published reports that he had harassed an airline stewardess in Australia last month, but captain Newcombe said Hewitt had been angered by the report, which he said was "completely false".

Hewitt has been slammed in the Swiss media this week for having an arrogant attitude, but Newcombe said the 18-year-old was being cautious at the moment.

"Lleyton doesn't trust the media - he feels he's been picked on by them," he said.

Hewitt won tournaments in Adelaide and Sydney in January before losing to Swede Magnus Norman in the fourth round of the Australian Open.

He said he was pleased to be able to play in the opening match.

"I feel confident that if I go out and play my own game then it will be fine," he said. "It's the Davis Cup, so we won't be taking anyone lightly."

Most of the singles players will be meeting for the first time here, although Hewitt won his only previous meeting with Federer last year in Lyon, France.