

### Dale to play in Lancs League

BRISBANE, Australia, Mar 27: World Cup seam bowler Adam Dale will head to England next month for a summer playing stint with Lancashire League side Bacup, reports AFP.

The 30-year-old swing bowler, who played in Australia's World Cup-winning squad last year, is looking to the English season as a chance to regain national selection.

"It's been an interesting 12 months with injury and hopefully this time in England will help my chances," Dale said Monday.

Dale will be joined by six other Queenslanders in England, including captain Stuart Law (Essex) and one-day international batsman Matthew Hayden (Northamptonshire), who have signed to play in the county competition.

Martin Love, Clinton Perren (Littleborough), Geoff Foley (Burnley), Ashley Noffke (Liverpool) will play in the Lancashire league.

### Basler staying at Kaiserslautern

BADEN-BADEN, Germany, March 27: Kaiserslautern's midfielder Mario Basler, who has been linked with a Turkish club, said Monday that he would stay with the German First Division club in an interview with radio station SWR3, reports AFP.

Nicknamed "Super Mario" or "The terrible child of the Bundesliga", Basler told the SWR3 radio station: "I will be finishing my career at Kaiserslautern."

The former German international left league leaders Bayern Munich last November after being suspended following an incident at a pizzeria.

Basler and reserve keeper Sven Scheuer were kicked out of the restaurant after punching another customer which led to Basler's eventual departure for Kaiserslautern.

### Tennis tragedy

CAPE TOWN, Mar 27: Veteran Dutch tennis player Hubert Verbeke suffered a heart attack and died Sunday soon after losing a match at the ITF World Veterans Championships in South Africa, a news report said Monday, reports AFP.

Verbeke, competing in the over 65 age group, died on his way to hospital after being temporarily revived by shock treatment at the court, the Citizen newspaper reported. He was a former Wimbledon player.

About 400 international players are in South Africa for the championships, which run between March 26 and April 2.

### Historic Australians

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tea due to a chronic lower back injury, suffered during Saturday's second day in the field.

Vettori, the youngest bowler to reach 100 wickets in Test cricket after his 12-wicket haul in the first Auckland Test, was sadly missed as the New Zealanders relied solely on strike bowler Cairns.

Vettori is unlikely to be available for the third Test with selectors to announce their team on Tuesday. There could be other changes.

The Kiwis resumed at 189 for five on Monday with hopes hinging on captain Stephen Fleming and Cairns to continue their defiant 105-run partnership.

But Australia broke through removing Cairns to a dubious leg before decision off Glenn McGrath for 69 and Fleming for 60 in a soft catch to Greg Blewett at mid-wicket.

### SCOREBOARD

Final score after the fourth day of the second cricket Test between New Zealand and Australia at the Basin Reserve Monday:

**NEW ZEALAND:** First innings 298 (C Cairns 109, N Astle 61; S Waugh 4-68)

**AUSTRALIA:** First innings 419 (S Waugh 151 not out, M Slater 143; C Cairns 3-110, C McMillan 3-57)

**NEW ZEALAND:** Second innings (189 for 5 overnight) Home b Lee

Spearman c Langer b Miller	38
Sinclair b Lee	30
Fleming c Blewett b Miller	60
Astle b Warner	14
McMillan c M Waugh b Warner	0
Cairns lbw b McGrath	69
Parore run out	33
Vettori c S. Waugh b Lee	8
Doull c S. Waugh b Warner	40
O'Connor not out	4
Extras (lb-3; lb-8; nb-3)	14
Total: (All out in 96.2 overs)	294
Fall of wks: 1-46, 2-46, 3-69, 4-84, 5-84, 6-198, 7-205, 8-222, 9-276, 10-294	

<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
McGrath	22.2	11	35	1
Lee	23	6	87	3
Miller	21	5	54	2
Warner	27	7	92	3
Blewett	3	0	15	0

**AUSTRALIA:** Second innings Slater st Parore b Vettori 12

Blewett b Cairns	25
Langer c Spearman b O'Connor	57
M. Waugh not out	45
S. Waugh c Fleming b O'Connor	15
Martyn not out	17
Extras (lb-2; lb-2; w-2)	6
Total: (For 4 wks in 54.1 overs)	177
Fall of wks: 1-22, 2-83, 3-110, 4-144	

<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Cairns	13	2	45	1
O'Connor	11	2	43	2
Doull	8	1	19	1
Vettori	10	2	35	0
McMillan	2	0	13	0
Astle	10.1	4	19	0

**Result:** Australia won by 6 wickets and lead series 2-0

**Man-of-the-match:** Michael Slater

**Note:** 2 runs scored off Vettori's wide

## Pakistan shrug India off

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates, Mar 27: Inzamam-ul-Haq blazed an unbeaten 121 off 113 balls as Pakistan crushed India by 98 runs in a must-win Sharjah Cup match here on Sunday, reports AFP.

Pakistan, who would have been knocked out of the three-nation Coca-Cola Cup tournament had they lost, piled up 272 for three from their 50 overs and then rode on a five-wicket haul by Waqar Younis to restrict India to 174-9.

It was Pakistan's first win in three matches, putting them on par with India. Both teams play South Africa in their remaining league matches over the next two days.

Desperate to wriggle out of a tight situation, Pakistan went for the runs after electing to take first strike on a good batting wicket.

Inzamam, the newly-appointed deputy to captain Moin Khan, smashed nine boundaries and five sixes in his seventh one-day century and the first against India.

Inzamam added 151 for the unbroken fourth wicket with Younis Youhana (56 not out) after putting on 66 for the third with Younis Khan (44).

Pakistani fans among the 18,000 spectators cheered wildly as Inzamam and Youhana hammered 93 runs in the last 10 overs, 44 of them coming off the final five overs.

Inzamam was particularly severe on the spinners, lofting left-armers Sunil Joshi for two sixes and leg-spinner Anil Kumble for three, including two off consecutive balls.

Kumble was the most expensive bowler, conceding 66 runs in his nine overs, although seamer Venkatesh Prasad was not far behind giving away 63 in his 10 overs.

India, chasing a target of 5.5 runs an over under lights, went out of the hunt by the fifth over when they lost their star batsmen Sachin Tendulkar and skipper Saurav Ganguly.

Ganguly made seven when he tamely patted back a return catch to Waqar in the fourth over.

Five deliveries later, Tendulkar was also back in the pavilion, bowled by a sharp inswinger from Wasim Akram for 10.

Pinch-hitter Sunil Joshi fell to Waqar for three, leaving Rahul Dravid and Mohammad Azharuddin to build the tottering innings.

The pair carried the score from 23 to 63 when Dravid was caught behind off fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar for 29.

Former captains Azharuddin and Ajay Jadeja made 20 apiece before being claimed by Waqar, who worked up a tidy pace under lights.

Waqar finished with five for 31 after bowling Ajit Agarkar off his final delivery.

"People had written us off, but I was confident we would come back after losing the first two matches," Pakistani captain Moin Khan said.

"We rate Inzamam as the best batsman in the game and he proved it again today with a brilliant knock. No bowler can stop him when he is in such form."

"I was particularly happy for Waqar, who has overcome his injury problems and is now bowling as well as ever."

Indian coach Kapil Dev conceded Pakistan played a better all-round game in a crunch situation.

"From the start it was evident there will be plenty of runs to be had," he said. "But we gifted at least 30-40 runs by wayward bowling."

Losing Saurav and Tendulkar early was a big setback.

<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Agarkar	10	0	50	1
Prasad	10	0	63	0
Kumble	9	0	66	1
Robin	10	1	34	0
Joshi	9	2	42	1
Ganguly	1	0	4	0
Tendulkar	1	0	11	0

<b>INDIA</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Ganguly c and b Waqar	7			
Tendulkar b Akram	10			
Dravid c Moin b Shoaib	29			
Joshi c Moin b Waqar	3			
Azharuddin c Moin b Waqar	20			
Jadeja b Waqar	20			
Robin c Moin b Arshad	22			
Karim c Younis b Arshad	13			
Agarkar b Waqar	20			
Kumble not out	14			



Man-of-the-match Inzamamul Haq raises his helmet after his magnificent century against India at Sharjah on March 26.

We depend on these two for a good start, but when they go early the rest of the batting becomes unsettled."

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Sharjah Cup one-day international between India and Pakistan here on Sunday:

<b>PAKISTAN</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Nazir c Kumble b Agarkar	11			
Afridi st Karim b Kumble	28			
Younis c Azhar b Joshi	44			
Inzamam not out	121			
Younis not out	56			
Extras (lb-2; w-8; nb-2)	12			
Total: (For 3 wks in 50 overs)	272			
Fall of wickets: 1-20, 2-55, 3-121				

<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Akram	7	2	16	1
Waqar	10	1	31	5
Razaq	5	1	29	0
Shoaib	5	0	24	1
Arshad	10	0	32	2
Afridi	8	0	21	0
Younis	4	0	17	0
Nazir	1	0	2	0

**Result:** Pakistan won by 98 runs

**Man-of-the-match:** Inzamamul Haq and Waqar Younis

### ODIs TOP RUN-GETTERS

<b>Player</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>O</b>
M Azharuddin	330	304	53	9303	153	37.06	7	58	15
S Tendulkar	245	238	22	9069	186	41.98	25	46	83
D Haynes	238	237	28	8648	152	41.37	17	57	59
A de Silva	264	256	25	8193	145	35.46	11	56	82
M Waugh	214	209	16	7481	130	38.76	14	47	90
A Ranatunga	269	255	47	7454	131	35.83	4	49	63
Javed Miandad	233	218	41	7381	119	41.70	8	50	71
Saleem Malik	283	256	35	7169	102	32.88	5	47	81
Saeed Anwar	200	197	18	7084	194	38.92	17	33	38
Inzamamul Haq	212	201	25	6741	137	38.52	7	47	63

**As on March 26, 2000**

## Sampras pulls through

MIAMI, Mar 27: Pete Sampras once again found himself sick to his stomach on court and once again the Grand Slam great persevered, fending off surprising Swedish teen Andreas Vinciguerra yesterday at the Ericsson Open, reports Reuters.

The second-seeded Sampras overcame his queasiness to beat the 19-year-old Vinciguerra 5-7, 7-6 (7-3), 6-4 in their third-round match.

The last time Sampras relieved his nausea on court came during the fifth set of his memorable quarter-final win over Alex Corretja at the 1996 US Open, his last US Open title.

"I make it a habit to throw up," cracked Sampras, who said the nausea came on as a result of a bad reaction to an anti-inflammatory pill for his ailing back.

Sampras, who is 11-2 but has yet to win a title this year as he has battled hip and back pain, was impressed by his young opponent.

"His wheels, he's about as quick as anyone I've played," Sampras, who won this tournament in 1993 and '94 when he was known as the Lipton

"I'm 2-0 in those matches. It's all a play," he joked. "It wasn't a big deal, it's something I've become pretty good at."

Vinciguerra, the son of an Italian pizza-maker whose allegiance is to his mother's Swedish roots, took advantage of Sampras's sluggishness in the first set and pushed the former world number one to a second-set tiebreaker.

Sampras was overcome by nausea just after ripping a backhand winner for a service break to go up 4-3 in the third set against Vinciguerra, who has climbed from a ranking of 637 to 96 in the past year.

The Swedish player said he did not realise his illustrious opponent was ill.

"I didn't see it," said Vinciguerra, a left-handed topspinner with Michael Chang-like quickness. "If I had won the match, it's going to be an unbelievable victory if I beat a player like Sampras."

Sampras, who is 11-2 but has yet to win a title this year as he has battled hip and back pain, was impressed by his young opponent.

"His wheels, he's about as quick as anyone I've played," Sampras, who won this tournament in 1993 and '94 when he was known as the Lipton

Championships.

Sampras, who said he will change his back medication immediately, bailed himself out of trouble with his trademark serve, throwing in 21 aces and 21 volley winners.

In other action, Britain's Greg Rusedski belted 15 aces on his way to a 6-1, 7-6 (7-4) victory over Byron Black of Zimbabwe, setting up a fourth-round match with Sampras, who holds a 7-1 edge over the powerful-serving Brit.

"Whenever you face Greg, it's kind of a crapshoot," Sampras said. "He serves them big and can kind of overwhelm you with his power."

American Jan-Michael Gambill pulled off the biggest upset on the men's side, beating fifth-seeded Magnus Norman of Sweden 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.

Australian teenager Lleyton Hewitt boosted his season record to 23-2 with a straight-set demolition of Germany's Tommy Haas, while compatriot Patrick Rafter battled back from 2-4 down in the second to beat France's Sebastien Grosjean, last year's runner-up, 2-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Third seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia had an easier time, advancing 6-4, 6-3 over Brazil's Fernando Meligeni.



American Pete Sampras disputes a line call during his match against Andreas Vinciguerra of Sweden at Ericsson Open in Key Biscayne on March 26.

### Nigeria,Morocco Cameroon book Olympic ticket

JOHANNESBURG, March 27: Defending champions Nigeria, Cameroon and Morocco clinched places at the 2000 Olympic Games football tournament after the final qualifying matches at the weekend, reports AFP.

And Africa could have a fourth representative at the 16-nation event for the first time if South Africa defeat Oceania champions New Zealand in a two-leg play-off.

Nigeria, who beat Argentina 3-2 in a dramatic 1996 Atlanta Olympics final, Cameroon and Morocco topped four-team mini-leagues and South Africa were the best runners-up.

It was a close shave for the Nigerians as they pipped Angola and Zimbabwe on goal difference in Group A. Cameroon finished top in Group B and South Africa in Group C and Morocco had a similar advantage over Egypt in Group D.

A 1-0 win for Angola in Uganda through a late goal from Jose de Almeida left Nigeria needing a four-goal triumph over Zimbabwe in Lagos and an injury-time goal from Plus Ikedia did the trick.

Emmanuel Ebiede struck twice for the champions just before half-time and Yakubu Aiyegbeni snatched the third in the final minute of normal time at Surulere Stadium.

Samuel Eto'o, a member of the Cameroon team that lifted the African Nations Cup in Lagos last month, broke the deadlock against 1992 silver medalists Ghana in Accra with a 71st-minute goal.

Albert Zimeyongue added a reassuring second for the indomitable Cobs and Eto'o from famous Spanish club Real Madrid completed the scoring flurry with five minutes left.

Morocco had to come from behind to defeat Ivory Coast 2-1 in Casablanca through first-half goals from Abdelkader Khattari and Karim Ben Kauror after Aruna Dindane had edged the visitors in front.

Boosted by a 60-second goal when Ibrahim Said converted a penalty, Egypt overcame Tunisia 3-0 in the ancient Mediterranean town of Sousse for a bitter-sweet success.

Qualifying matches are restricted to players born on or after January 1 1977 with three over-age footballers permitted at the finals, scheduled for September 13-30 in Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney.

The two top 10 players meet Monday evening in the fourth round at the Ericsson Open, and it turns out Seles is a fan of her foe.

"Anna is very hardworking," Seles said. "She's one of the few people who is here early in the morning practising. I've never seen her slack off in practice."

"It's really terrific how hard she's working and how much she wants to be the No 1 player in the world."

Kournikova and Seles easily reached the fourth round with victories Sunday. Seles, seeded seventh, beat Lisa Raymond 6-3, 6-2. No 9 Kournikova swept Natasha Zvereva 6-1, 6-4.

Monday's match will present contrasting styles and images. Seles is a sentimental favourite and Grand Slam champion; Kournikova is a glamorous starlet who makes more news off the court than on it.

The latest item for the tabloids surface Sunday: An American Airlines crew says Kournikova and her mother became belligerent during a recent flight from Dallas to Miami, forcing the pilot and police to intervene.

The crew told police the dispute began when Kournikova refused to put her miniature Doberman pinscher in its carrying case, as FAA rules require. The Kournikovs denied the claim and said the flight crew treated them rudely.

Kournikova said she dislikes sharing her private life with the public.

"They know everything — more than they need to know," she said.

One well-documented fact is that the 18-year-old Russian has never won a tournament title. But if Seles is correct, Kournikova could be on the verge of a breakthrough.

"Anna has really improved her serve a lot from last year," Seles said. "She's a really attacking player, a great mover. She's very solid off both sides. She's not afraid to come to the net. I think she has an all-court game."

Another intriguing fourth-round match Monday pitted Serena Williams against Jennifer Capriati. Williams, seeded fifth, advanced Sunday by beating Ai Sugiyama 6-3, 6-0. No 13 Capriati beat Chanda Rubin 6-1, 6-3.

Top-seeded Martina Hingis of Switzerland, needed just 53 minutes to defeat France's Anne-Gaëlle Sidot 6-0, 6-3. Hingis committed just eight unforced errors to Sidot's 29.

Second-seeded Lindsay Davenport, who has twice beaten Hingis in finals this year, including the Australian Open, rolled to a 6-2, 6-2 win over Croatian Silvija Talaja.

Davenport has won 33 of her last 34 matches.

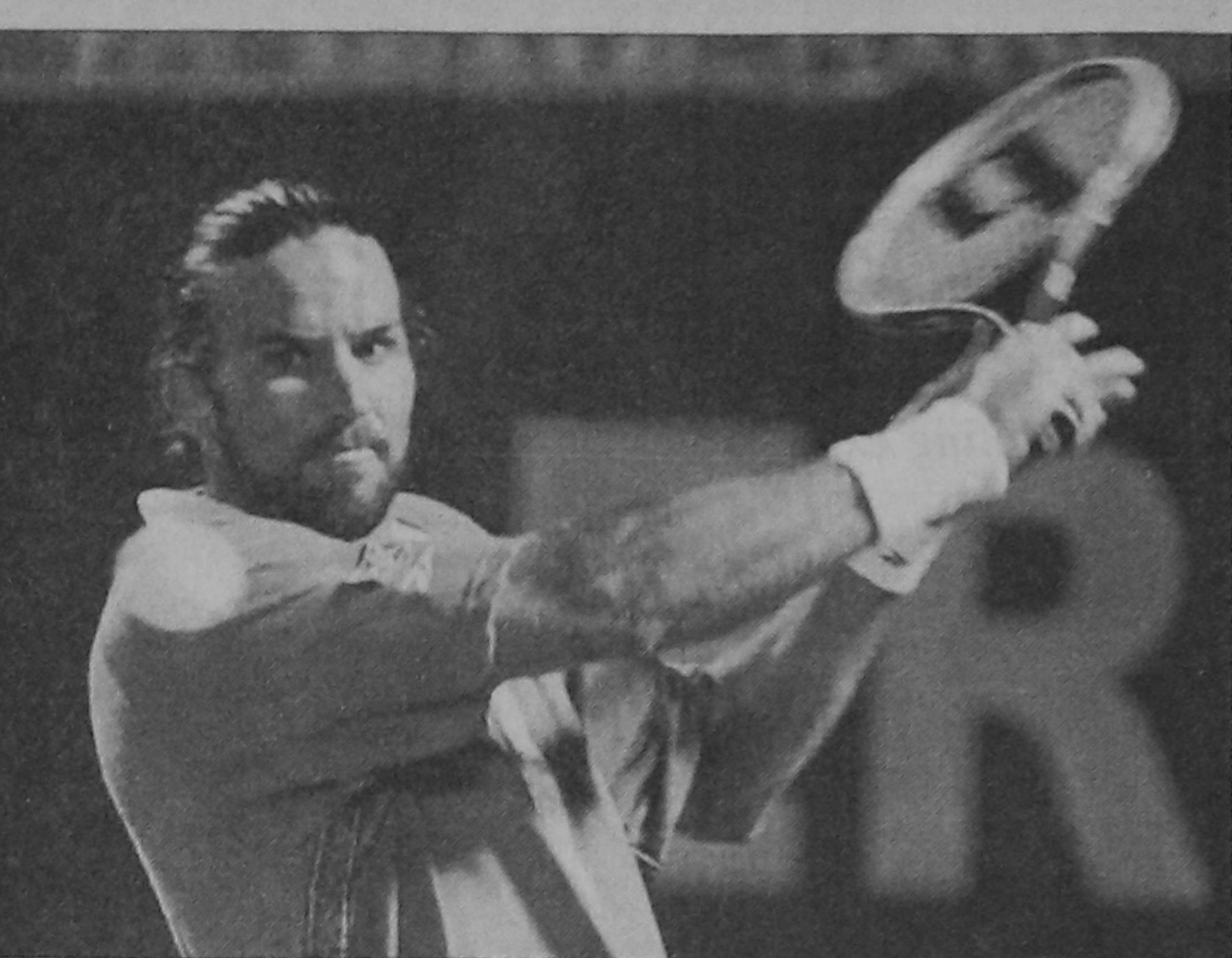
"I can't help but know that you're one of the ones to beat," said Davenport, who notched her 400th career win in advancing to the fourth round to the tournament.

Anna Kournikova of Russia in action against Natasha Zvereva in Key Biscayne on March 26.

—AFP photo

—AFP photo

—AFP photo



Patrick Rafter of Australia hits a backhand against Frenchman Sebastien Grosjean at the Ericsson Open on March 26.

## Rafter ponders future

MELBOURNE, Mar 27: Former US Open champion Patrick Rafter says he is starting to think about retiring and getting a life, reports Reuters.

"I'm starting to have enough of it," Rafter, who is continuing his comeback from shoulder surgery at the Ericsson Open tournament in Florida, was quoted as saying by The Australian newspaper today.

"I don't want to put a date on when I call it a day," said the 27-year-old Rafter.

"Listen, I'm enjoying coming out here, I really do get a lot out of this still. But the body finds it harder and harder the longer time goes on, the grind, the travel, the hotels."

He said playing a part in

"To be honest, I'm beginning to become a little bit bored."

"I still feel very confident in my own ability to survive but there are a lot of young players out here who are really up for it now ... I've got used to being away from home. I've been living out of a suitcase since I was 17, but I'm starting to enjoy having my own life and I want to do my own things."

Rafter, winner of the 1997 and 1998 US Opens, is playing his fourth tournament after surgery on his right shoulder late last year. He beat France's Sebastien Grosjean 2-6, 6-4, 6-3 in the third round of the Florida tournament on Sunday.

"I had time to reflect on my career while I was out of the game and I have to be honest and say I didn't miss it as much as I thought I would," Rafter said.

He said playing a part in

Australia's defence of the Davis Cup was his main goal this year. He missed his homeland's win over France in the Cup final last December because of his shoulder problems.

"My goal is to be ready for the Davis Cup tie against Germany (in Adelaide) next month, and I'm working hard towards it," he said.

"If we can keep winning Davis Cup, I'll continue to have goals throughout the year."

Rafter would not be drawn on who should take over from Davis Cup captain John Newcombe and coach Tony Roche, who are expected to vacate their roles at the end of the year.