

DU cricket

Public Administration Department crushed Marketing Department by 93 runs in the Dhaka University inter-department cricket competition at the Jagannath Hall ground yesterday, reports UNB.

Batting first, Public Administration scored 213 for six in stipulated 30 overs with Shipon making 89 and Bappi unbeaten 51.

Manna claimed four for 38. In reply, Marketing were restricted to 120 for nine in their 30 overs. Didar top-scored with 32 not out.

Bappi and Ratul took three wickets each.

Women's maiden confce May 22

For the first time in the country, a national women sports conference, organised by Bangladesh Women Sports Federation, will be held on May 22, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to inaugurate the two-day conference.

A meeting was held yesterday at the National Sports Council to discuss on the forthcoming conference. State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader chaired the meeting.

The conference to be participated by female players and organisers from across the country is aimed to encourage womenfolk in sports at grassroots level.

Tyson clenches fist for Lewis

LONDON, May 9 (Reuters): Mike Tyson is ready to take on world heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis and says he will fight him "in the streets" if he has to.

The former world champion was also quoted in the Sun newspaper on Tuesday as saying the Briton's last defence against Michael Grant in New York on April 30 was such a turn-off for the fans that it showed he "can't draw flies".

"Let's go man to man. Me and Lewis - in the streets if he wants to. No bodyguards or anything. He can't beat me there and he can't beat me in the ring," he said.

"I'm coming at Lewis. I want this guy and when it happens I'll make sure he pays," added 33-year-old Tyson, whose next fight is against American Lou Savarese on June 24 at a European venue still to be announced.

Tyson, the youngest heavyweight world champion before his career imploded and he was sent to jail for rape, sold out his last bout against British journeyman Julius Francis in Manchester in January.

The fight lasted just four minutes but tickets sold out in two days.

Lewis sold only 17,234 seats at the 19,000 capacity Madison Square Garden and reports have suggested that pay per view television sales were disappointing for a fight that saw Grant knocked out in the second round.

"Lewis can't draw flies," said Tyson.

"My worst pay-per-view figures tripled what he got against Michael Grant. I don't need Lewis, he needs me."

Courier calls it quits

NEW YORK, May 9 (AP): American tennis star Jim Courier has announced his retirement from professional tennis after 13 years and four Grand Slam titles.

The 29-year-old was ranked world number one for 58 weeks during the 1990s, and tenacious, battling performances became his trademark.

The baseball cap-wearing big hitter won the French Open twice in 1991 and 1992, and the Australian Open twice in 1992 and 1993, with losing finals in



front of his home crowd in the US and at Wimbledon.

He is one of only six men to have reached the finals of all four Grand Slams during the Open era, but it was his Davis Cup victories that showed his grit the best.

Courier claimed five five-set victories in the tournament - an American record - and spearheaded the US team to 13 victories from 14 matches, including two championship wins in 1992 and 1994.

Speaking to USA Today, he was as uncompromising as ever about his decision to quit.

"I wouldn't trade anything for one more title, one more match - won or lost. I feel full," he said.

He is set to go on to a career as a tennis commentator for an American network.

Courier, of Dade City, Florida, played his last Tour match on 25 March, when he lost to Sweden's Thomas Enqvist in the second round of the Ericsson Open.

His last tournament victory was in April 1998 when he beat Michael Chang in Orlando, Florida.



Match officials talk to the players of Bangladesh Rifles B team who were awarded a walkover after their yesterday's opponents Bangladesh Police did not turn up in the Premier Division Kabadi League at the court near Bangabandhu Stadium. —Star photo

A Richards revelation



NEW DELHI, May 9: West Indian great Vivian Richards added fuel to the raging match-fixing row in cricket on Tuesday, saying he suspected foul-play even in the mid-seventies, reports AFP.

Richards, adjudged one of the five top cricketers of the 20th century, said a former Pakistani captain had forfeited the toss during the home series against the West Indies in 1974-75.

"I will not take names here because I hate controversies, but I will tell you this: Clive Lloyd went out for the toss in one of the Tests in Pakistan and came back and said, 'You know what? I just lost the toss and I was told by the other captain that I had won,'" Richards said.

"It was in 1974-75 if I can remember right," Richards told Cricket Talk magazine during a personal visit to India last week.

"I clearly remember Clive telling me this... I will not name the other captain, that's for you to figure out... but Clive said 'Man, I lost, and he said I won'."

"So obviously something has been going on since then," Surrey leg-spinner Intikhab Alam was Pakistan's captain during the two-Test series against the West Indies in February-March 1975. Both matches were drawn after the West Indies were credited with winning the toss in the first Test at Lahore and Pakistan in the second at Karachi.

Richards said that some people had even suspected the West Indies of throwing away

the World Cup final against India in 1983.

"I know people said all sort of things back home. That we threw it away, that we under-

estimated India. But they were so silly, it showed their smallness. That was terrible injustice to India who won fair and square," Richards, known as the master blaster for his attacking batting, said.

The match turned India's way when Richards, who looked in terrific touch, fell to a brilliant catch near the mid-wicket boundary by rival captain Kapil Dev.

"Kapil changed everything

with one brilliant catch," Richards said. "To me, that's what cricket is all about."

"To even suggest that we would throw something away like the World Cup is insane. I only know that at the end of the game, there were a lot of sick people in our dressing room. We felt sick that we could not win that game."

Richards said he was devastated that a great cricketer like Kapil Dev had now been accused of match-fixing.

"I just pray it's not true," he said. "We are only judging from allegations now. It's the word of someone against someone else."

"I have always thought that Kapil was one person who carried the Indian flag to the cricket field. He was always the great fighter, he had his chest out and took immense pride in representing his country."

"Kapil left me the lasting impression of being one of the last true great competitors. So let's pray this is not true. Because if this is true, then I would have lost my faith," Richards said.

Kapil was last week accused by former Indian cricket chief Inderjit Singh Bindra of being the team-mate who offered Manoj Prabhakar a bribe to play badly in a one-day international against Pakistan in Sri Lanka in 1994.

Kapil vehemently denies the charge and ordered his lawyers to initiate legal action against Bindra.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been asked by the Indian government to probe whether any Indian cricketer or official has been involved in match-fixing.

Pope's football philosophy

VATICAN CITY, May 9: Pope John Paul II on Monday warned athletes against the dangers of money and economic interests in a plea for a more responsible football, reports AFP.

"In contemporary society football is a widespread sporting activity, which involves a great number of people, and in particular, young people," said the pope in a meeting with UEFA officials.

Being "a major mass phenomenon, involving many individuals and families", those who look after the organization and promote the spread of this sporting activity at professional and amateur level "have a special responsibility, he added."

"In a special way, sportsmen, especially the more famous, should never forget that they in fact become models for the world of youth."

"It is therefore important that...they also carefully develop human and spiritual qualities which will make them truly positive examples in the public mind," he added.

He said it "would be good if promoters, organizers at different levels and communications personnel engaged in concerted efforts to ensure that football...is not submerged by other concerns, especially economic ones."

John Paul II, who as Polish student Karol Wojtyla was a goalkeeper in his home parish near Krakow, welcomed a UEFA move to foster football among youths in developing countries and eastern Europe.

Fifty-one UEFA member countries were represented at Monday's audience with the pope.

TWI feels cheated?

GEORGETOWN, May 9: Trans World International, the television production company that has beamed live coverage of cricket from the Caribbean for the last decade, has taken a hit through the West Indies Cricket Board's new deal with British Sky Broadcasting, reports AFP.

WICB president Pat Rousseau and chief marketing executive Chris Dehring signed a five-year deal in London last Wednesday for satellite broadcast and Internet rights from 2004 to 2008.

"We are very shocked and sad that it happened so quickly without due consideration for the ten years that we have been working hard for West Indies cricket," a well-placed TWI source told the Guyana Chronicle newspaper.

"We have developed such good friendships and relationships in all the countries and we are very aware that there are very separate countries we are dealing with."

The source said the new deal was "very sad indeed."

TWI only knew about the deal when BSKyB executives visited Jamaica in late March during the second and final Test against Zimbabwe.

"When the offer was made, we made a bigger offer, but that offer was not considered," the TWI source said.

"We are all very sad. Once we learnt of the BSKyB offer, there was a counter offer which was much bigger."

Hingis returns to No 1 spot

MIAMI, May 9: Swiss Martina Hingis, fresh from winning the Hamburg Open, officially regained the number one slot from Lindsay Davenport of the United States in the new WTA rankings published here Monday, reports AFP.

Hingis, who beat Spaniard Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario 6-3, 6-3 to lift the Hamburg title, now has a 108-point lead over Davenport after scoring her third tournament win of the year.

French veteran Nathalie Tauziat pushes Venus Williams out of third spot to claim the best placing of her career.

Williams lost in the quarter-finals in Hamburg, her first tournament of the year following injury, to South African Amanda Coetzter and slips back to fourth.

Sanchez-Vicario moves back into the top ten in claiming ninth spot.

Following is the list of top twenty players:

Table with 2 columns: Player, points. Lists Martina Hingis (6181), Lindsay Davenport (6073), Venus Williams (2523), Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario (2503), and others.

Asprilla returning to England?

BOGOTA, May 9: Colombian veteran striker Faustino 'Tino' Asprilla, currently playing with Brazil's Palmeiras, could be on his way back to England, Colombian national coach Luis Garcia said Monday.

"He is close to being transferred again to an English club," Garcia told Radionet radio, reports AFP.

"I believe this team is very interested in him," he added - but did not reveal which club was on the player's trail.

Agassi starts superbly



ROME, May 9: World number one Andre Agassi turned on the style on Monday as he brushed aside fellow American Todd Martin on the opening day of the 2.95 million-dollar Masters Series event here, reports AFP.

Agassi cruised to a 6-2, 7-6 victory on a day which saw no upsets, although the likes of Magnus Norman, Tim Henman and Cedric Pioline all reached the second round with varying degrees of difficulty.

Italian wildcard entry Davide Sanguinetti threatened to defy the formbook in his night match with ATP Tour newcomer-of-the-year Juan Carlos Ferrero, before the 20-year-old Spaniard pulled his game together to win 6-4, 6-7, 7-5.

Agassi's win was an ideal start to a tournament which last year saw him reach the third round, buoying him up to later win the French Open and eventually the number one slot in the world rankings.

On the personal side, the 12 months have also seen his relationship blossom with Steffi Graf, following his divorce from movie star Brooke Shields.

"Here last year was a very good week for me," he told a news conference. "I started to feel confident and it was the start of the most incredible year of my life. I wish everybody could have a year like I've had. It's been amazing."

"It feels like my New Year, January 1st is everybody else's New Year, for me coming out here and feeling good in Rome was the start."

Agassi said he would have no problem finding the motivation to defend his title at Roland Garros.

Being the defending champion in Paris is nothing short of an honour," he said. "And it's almost like stepping out there will be another opportunity to take in such a wonderful accomplishment and experience."

"I think that will certainly be motivating on its own."

Explaining the difference between the two sets here on Monday, Agassi said: "It's been three months since Todd has played a match and I think his

rhythm was a little bit off early in the first set and I got into a quick lead."

"In the second set, he was holding serve strongly and he played one game to break me with four good returns and so I just had to get back into the set."

"I was pretty fortunate to finish it 7-5. I thought he was getting better."

The top seed signalled his intentions by taking the first set to love, breaking for 2-0 and then serving out for 3-0.

Both men then kept serve until the eighth game when Martin let slip a 30-15 lead by first double-faulting and then skying a backhand.

He coolly fought off the first break point with an ace, but was immediately caught out by a spectacular lob for deuce and conceded the set when he drilled a backhand into the net.

Agassi started the second set in the same style as the first, serving out to love.

He cracked in the seventh game, surrendering his serve without scoring a point, but needed only to keep the ball in play in the following game to break back for 4-4 as Martin made a string of unforced errors.

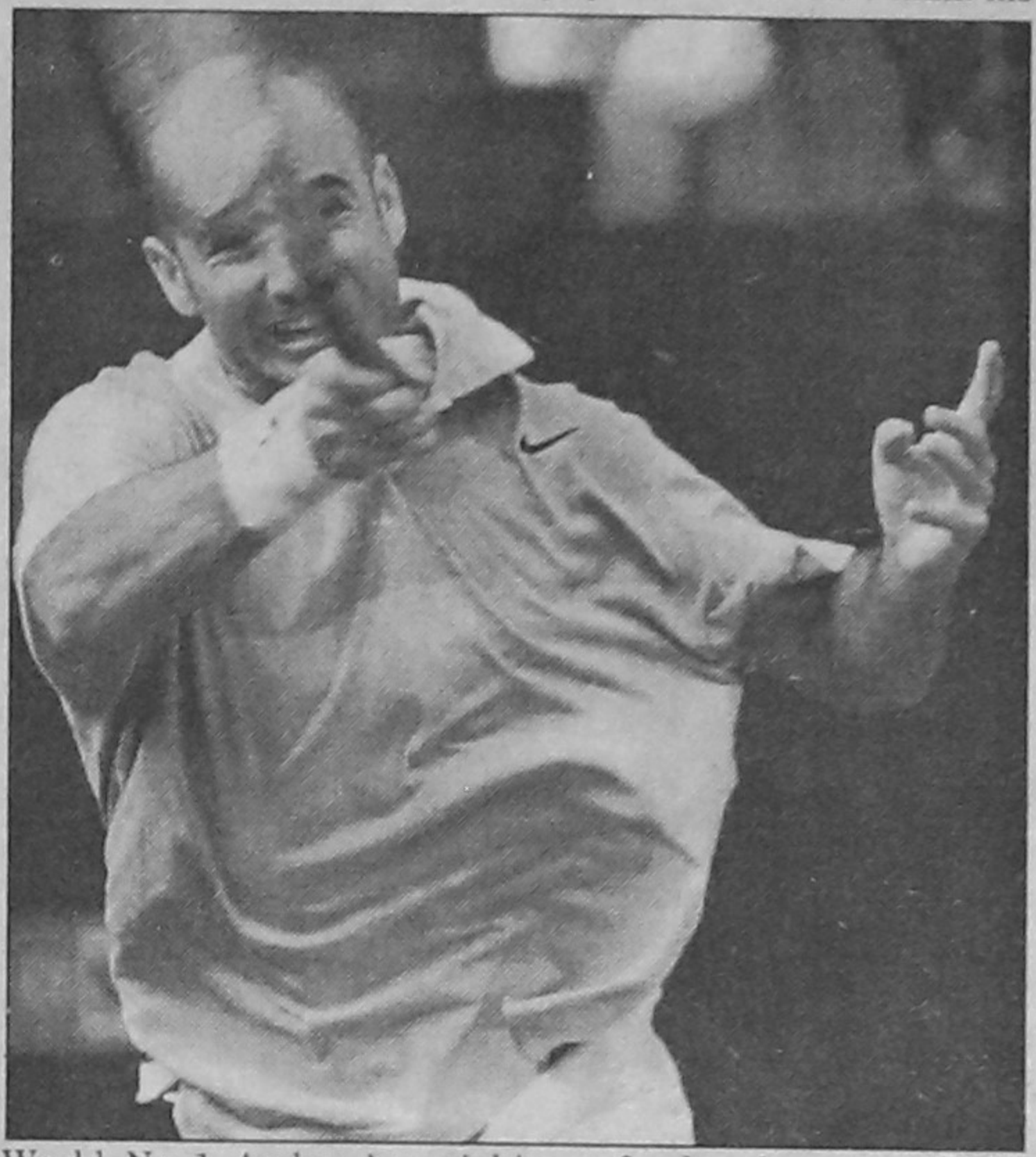
Agassi's serve began to wobble as the set wore on and he needed a sweeping cross-court forehand to stave off break in the 11th before edging 6-5 ahead.

But he hit two consecutive service winners to reach 6-3 in the tied-break and took the match at the second attempt with a barrelling forehand down the line. He now meets Argentinian qualifier Gaston Gaudio.

Spaniard Carlos Moya, winner of the French Open before Agassi, breezed through the other night match 6-3, 6-1 against Norwegian Christian Rud but other pre-tournament tips had a mixed time.

Poline, who scored the biggest win of his career in last month's Monte Carlo Masters, hammered American Chris Woodruff 6-1, 6-1, but Henman had a battle to overcome Byron Black of Zimbabwe 7-6, 6-4 while Norman needed a tie-break to see off Frenchman Sebastien Grosjean 6-3, 7-6.

Australian Lleyton Hewitt, the ninth-seeded winner of three ATP tournaments this year, scored a comfortable 6-4, 6-2 win over Austrian Stefan Koubek.



World No 1 Andre Agassi hits a forehand against Todd Martin during his Italian Open first round encounter on May 8. — AFP photo

Stevenson's winning debut



BERLIN, May 9: Wimbledon semifinalist Alexandra Stevenson made her European clay court debut at the German Open on Monday and came away with a 6-2, 7-6 win over Tatiana Panova of Russia, reports AFP.

It was a rare success for the 19-year-old American.

Since arriving on the scene by qualifying for Wimbledon and then marching all the way to the semifinals she has struggled to establish herself. She gained just two wins in the remaining six months of 1999

and her victory against Panova was only her fifth in 10 events this year.

"I just expected to be great, but it doesn't come that easy," said Stevenson. "It was hard because I was used to being a tennis player and not playing tennis that much. Then I had to train really hard and play all these professionals that had been out there for years and knew how to play. I was thrown into it all of a sudden, but it was great. It made me tougher."

Having never played on Europe's red clay, she went to the Sanchez Casal Academy in

Barcelona for a few days to learn how to adapt her game.

"I learned how to position myself," she said. "Angel Gimenez is here with me from the academy and he's been teaching me how to be in the right place on the court and also how to attack. It's hard work."

While Stevenson claimed a welcome victory, another Wimbledon semifinalist was in despair. Mirjana Lucic, once spoken of in the same breath as Martina Hingis and Anna Kournikova as one of the young stars of the game, slumped to a 7-6, 6-3 defeat by Luxembourg's Anne Kremer.

Since Wimbledon, Lucic has salvaged just four wins from 11 tournaments. Against Kremer, she received a warning for racket abuse at 6-6 after serving in vain at 5-4 and 6-5.

"I'm not only disappointed that I lost but with my behaviour on court," said 18-year-old Lucic. "I have been training hard and I am on my game, but I need to relax a little and calm down."

"I don't doubt myself. It will just be a matter of time before I play great again, but I'm not getting there as fast as I should."

She admits she didn't react as she should have done to her Wimbledon run, and like Stevenson thought further success would come as a matter of course.

"I was young at the time and didn't do things right afterwards. I didn't think I had to practise so much after Wimbledon. There was not enough intensity and I got out of shape. I thought it would be enough just to show up on the court, and then you lose matches and get down on yourself," she said.

In the only upset of the day, Hungary's Rita Kuti Kis defeated 16th seeded Patty Schnyder of Switzerland 6-3, 6-4.



Australian Lleyton Hewitt clenches his fist after defeating Austrian Stefan Koubek at the Italian Open on May 8. — AFP photo

Jones' desire is to fight Lewis



NEW YORK, May 9: Undisputed world light-heavyweight champion Roy Jones is seriously considering moving up to the heavyweight ranks with an eye to challenging another unquestioned champion, Britain's Lennox Lewis, reports AFP.

The New York Times reported Monday that Jones, who defends his crown against fellow American Richard Hall on Saturday in Indianapolis, would like to give the heavyweight division a try and meet Lewis.

"He would be hell to beat, and hard to get to, but I would sure try," Jones said.

Lewis would have a significant size advantage over Jones, who at 31 is three years younger than Lewis, who kept his crowns by knocking out Michael Grant in the second round 10 days ago here at Madison Square Garden.

Jones, a starting point guard for a minor-league basketball team he owns, said he would not have to add much weight to make the move.

"I'm touching 190 pounds right now. I never used to get that high," Jones said. "One more pound and hello heavyweights."

Expect Jones to be in shape and at the limit when weigh-in time arrives against Hall. But also look for him to make a run at Lewis if the European continues to dominate the heavyweight realm as he has.

"People think he would run right over me. It wouldn't happen that way," Jones said. "I like Lennox. I respect him as a champion because he will fight anybody. He is good. But he can

be beat. He is big. He is strong. But he wears down quick. He takes punches on the chin just like everybody else."

Plenty of others are already in line to face Lewis. South Africa's Francois Botha takes on the champion in July in London. New Zealand's David Tua, a Samoan-born slugger, is expected to meet Lewis in November.

Former world heavyweight champion Mike Tyson and Ukrainian brothers Vladimir and Vitali Klitschko also want a chance at Lewis. But the entry of Jones could spark renewed US interest in boxing's largest weight-class -- interest dimmed since Lewis has taken the title across the Atlantic Ocean.

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WTA money winners

Table with 2 columns: Player, Dollars. Lists Martina Hingis (1,123,039), Lindsay Davenport (1,075,655), Mary Pierce (431,677), and others.

Baumann hopeful

STUTTGART, May 9: Former 5,000 metres Olympic champion Dieter Baumann, suspended after testing positive for nandrolone, said on Monday he had not given up hope of taking part in the Sydney Olympics in September, reports Reuters.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a solution time of 24 mins and a list of answers at the bottom.

Cryptogram puzzle with a grid of letters and a clue: "Today's Cryptogram Clue: K equals W".