

Sport

Mighty Marat

NEW YORK, Sept 11 (Reuters): On Saturday, faced with the prospect of playing Pete Sampras in the US Open final, Marat Safin indicated that merely getting this far was good enough.

On Sunday, he changed his mind.

Befitting a 20-year-old, Safin is a man of many moods. He started the year by losing his opening match in his first five tournaments and seven of the first nine. In the Australian Open, he was fined for tanking his opening-round match, and at Indian Wells in March, he said he considered giving up tennis after losing in the second round.

Then, he said, he got tired of "making Christmas presents" and decided to fight back. "My confidence came. I just found it in two days, three days. I don't want to lose it now."

The last thing Safin need do now is worry about confidence. On Sunday he toyed with Sampras, the all-time Grand Slam champion, emerging with a 6-4, 6-3, 6-3 victory to claim his first major crown in his first Slam final.

Incredibly, the Sampras tour de force was close to being Safin's easiest conquest of the championship. He struggled through two five-set matches last week, including a fifth-set tiebreaker against Sebastian Grosjean ("I was almost on the plane to leave... I felt like I don't know how to play tennis anymore").

"I found my game after the Grosjean match because I was scared to lose," he said. "I just understood that I could lose here very easily."

At the same time, Safin altered his mood again and decided he would settle for nothing less than the championship.

Chappell in the line of Indian job

LONDON, Sept 11 (Internet report): Former Australian batsman Greg Chappell is the latest of four foreigners of being considered by the Indian Board (BCCI) to take over as coach from the beleaguered Kapil Dev.

However, senior members of the BCCI are split on the issue after an announcement of the intention to hire a foreign coach was made by Board president AC Muthiah from Dubai, where he went to attend the Asian Cricket Foundation meeting.

Board members feel Dr. Muthiah should not have aired his views before the appointment is finalised in the Board's annual general meeting in Chennai, September 29.

Though no direct approach has been made to the likely candidates - Geoff Marsh, Rodney Marsh, John Wright and now Greg Chappell, although reports suggest that "feelers" were sent out to them a month of

time ago.

The successful candidate is likely to be offered about 700,000 USD a year. But with there being tremendous opposition against the appointment of a foreign coach among board members, many of them would find it difficult to sanction such huge amounts at the AGM.

Tough day

From page 8
shoot-out Farashgian's Arman drove the ball wide off the left-hand post, leaving Prodip of Muktiyoddha to seal the fate of the marathon tie-breaker.

The experienced central defender did it in style, sending Dhanu the wrong way.

The outcome took Muktiyoddha to eight points from three matches while Farashgian improved their tally to five.

Yellow Cards: Askar babu, Bidyut, Al-Amin (Farashgian) and Hasan-Al-Mamun (Muktiyoddha).

TEAMS

Muktiyoddha: Aminul, Hasan-Al-Mamun, Rajani, Prodip, Masud Rana, Tushar, Liton, Abdullah (Mintu), Asif, Farhad and Johnny (Saurav).

Farashgian: Dhanu, Sohel, Arman, Ashraful, Masud, Jewel (Chandan), Askar Babu, Bidyut, Mithu (Al-Amin), Jalal and Pash.

Referee: Ram Krishna Gosh.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Premier Division

Dharmonti Club vs Victoria SC (5:30 pm)

First Division

WMC Fakirerpool vs Wari Club (3:30 pm)

Venue: Both matches at the bangabandhu National Stadium

Sorry

Owing to technical reasons, we could not publish today's crossword.

-Sports Editor

TV Guide

Tuesday 12th September

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

BTW

3:00 Opening Announcement, Recitation From The Holy Quran And Programme Outline 3:15 Patriotic Song 3:20 Open University Prog 4:00 Bangla News 4:05 Pusti Thathro 4:20 Sports Programme 5:10 Modar Gorob Modar Aasha 5:40 Sastho Thathro (Health Developing For Mother & Children) 6:05 Sabar Janno Shikha 6:30 Transmission From Chittagong Center 7:00 Sambad (Bangla News) 7:05 Sangita (Aadhunik Song) 7:25

Safin slays Sampras



NEW YORK, Sept 11: Stunning 20-year-old Russian Marat Safin played a near perfect match here Sun

day, crushing American Pete Sampras in straight sets to capture his first US Open final. Marat Safin indicated that merely getting this far was good enough.

On Sunday, he changed his mind. Befitting a 20-year-old, Safin is a man of many moods. He started the year by losing his opening match in his first five tournaments and seven of the first nine. In the Australian Open, he was fined for tanking his opening-round match, and at Indian Wells in March, he said he considered giving up tennis after losing in the second round.

Then, he said, he got tired of "making Christmas presents" and decided to fight back. "My confidence came. I just found it in two days, three days. I don't want to lose it now."

The last thing Safin need do now is worry about confidence. On Sunday he toyed with Sampras, the all-time Grand Slam champion, emerging with a 6-4, 6-3, 6-3 victory to claim his first major crown in his first Slam final.

Incredibly, the Sampras tour de force was close to being Safin's easiest conquest of the championship. He struggled through two five-set matches last week, including a fifth-set tiebreaker against Sebastian Grosjean ("I was almost on the plane to leave... I felt like I don't know how to play tennis anymore").

"I found my game after the Grosjean match because I was scared to lose," he said. "I just understood that I could lose here very easily."

At the same time, Safin altered his mood again and decided he would settle for nothing less than the championship.

Chappell in the line of Indian job

NEW YORK, Sept 11 (AP): 20-year-old Russian Marat Safin kisses the US Open trophy after beating American Pete Sampras in the men's singles final at the Flushing Meadows in New York on September 10. —AFP photo

US OPEN NOTEBOOK

CHAMPIONS NEW YORK, Sept 11 (AP): There were plenty of aces in the women's tournament, and the Williams sisters led the way.

JUNIOR MINTS The 595 total aces for the two weeks were the most by the women at a US Open since complete tournament statistics for all 127 women's singles matches started being kept five years ago.

SHOWING UP Serena Williams topped the tournament for a second straight year, recording 45 aces even though she only made it to the quarterfinals. She had 62 aces last year when she won the title. Open champion Venus Williams ranked second, with 40 aces, followed by losing finalist Lindsay Davenport, with 32.

Another mark for Warne Chase Manhattan Bank is donating 29,750 dollars - 50 dollars per ace over the entire women's tournament - to fund inner city tennis camps for girls.

Double delight for Sugiyama Men's champion Marat Safin finished with a tournament high 115 aces, 14 more than runner-up Pete Sampras.

SHOWING UP The 2000 US Open drew the tournament's largest crowds ever.

Another mark for Warne With 23,115 people attending Sunday, the two-week total for the event reached 605,487 - 20,997 more than showed up at

Two months later, the 20-year-old American captured her first Grand Slam singles title at Wimbledon, ousting Lindsay Davenport in the final and becoming the first African-American to accomplish that honor since Althea Gibson in 1958.

Rejuvenated and having the weight of a first Slam victory off her shoulder, she started playing much better.

Another mark for Warne Venus went on a red hot winning streak all summer long, capturing WTA titles in Stanford, San Diego and New Haven, brushing opponents aside along the way without dropping a set.

Another mark for Warne She punctuated her astounding summer run with the US Open crown Saturday, storming back after an hour and a half rain delay, from a 4-1 deficit in the opening set to pull out a 6-4, 7-5 victory over compatriot fellow-American and world number two Lindsay Davenport.

Another mark for Warne Venus is now riding a 26 match winning streak and has not lost a match since the quarterfinals at Roland Garros against Spain's Aranxta Sanchez-Vicario.

Another mark for Warne Despite her hot streak, Venus expressed some concerns on the way she played during the two-week hard court event. "At Wimbledon, I was playing pretty good tennis all the time," she said. "These two weeks, I didn't play extremely satisfying tennis and I was even less confident than at Wimbledon."

Another mark for Warne Women's doubles duo of France's Julie Halard-Decugis (right) and Japanese Ai Sugiyama hold aloft the trophy after their victory in the final over Zimbabwean Cara Black and Russian Elena Likhovtseva in New York on September 10. —AFP photo

Another mark for Warne Ekushey News Headlines 6:02

Another mark for War