

## 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. Beating 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 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 Farshigan's Arman drove the ball wide off the left-hand post, leaving Prodip 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 Farshigan improved their tally to five.

**Yellow Cards:** Askar babu, Bidyut, Al-Amin (Farshigan) and Hasan-Al-Mamin (Muktiyoddha).

**TEAMS**  
Muktiyoddha: Aminul, Hasan-Al-Mamin, Rajan, Prodip, Masud Rana, Tushar, Liton, Abdullah (Mintu), Asif, Farhad and Johnny (Saurav).

Farshigan: Dhanu, Sohel, Arman, Ashraf, Masud, Jewel (Chandan), Askar Babu, Bidyut, Mithu (Al-Amin), Jalal and Polash.

Referee: Ram Krishna Gosh.

## TODAY'S MATCHES

**Premier Division**  
Dharmendra Club vs Victoria SC (5:30 pm)

**First Division**  
WMC Fakirirpool vs Wari Club (8:30 pm)

**Venue:** Both matches at the bangabandhu National Stadium

## Sorry

Owing to technical reasons, we could not publish today's Crossword. —Sports Editor

## Safin slays Sampras



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

crushing American Pete Sampras in straight sets to capture his first US Open Grand Slam title, reports AFP.

The 20-year-old Russian was faultless, dismantling the fourth-seeded Grand Slam record-holder Sampras 6-4, 6-3, 6-3 in one hour and 38 minutes.

Safin, who earned 800,000 dollars for the victory, is the youngest US Open winner since Sampras and Andre Agassi squared off against each other in 1990.

"I can't explain how I feel right now," Safin said. "I feel like I'm still in the match. I can't think how great it is to win. Maybe when I'll begin to think about it."

This is Safin's second straight win over Sampras. He beat the American this August at the quarterfinals of the Tennis Masters series in Toronto after the American squandered two match points there.

Safin was also a runner-up in Indianapolis, making him one of the hottest players on the ATP Tour this summer.

The American, who was one match away from equalling his illustrious compatriot Jimmy Connors for a record five US Open titles, said he would set his sights on the number one ranking.

"I want to finish at number one," Sampras said. "If I don't it would be disappointing but I got what I wanted this year, the record and Wimbledon."

Sampras was 13 and 2 in Grand Slam finals, only falling to Swedish serve and volleyer Stefan Edberg in 1992 here and to Andre Agassi at the 1995 Australian Open.

Both men were on fire from the outset, firing up aces and going for winners at will. The hard-hitting Russian broke Sampras in the 7th game on a blistering cross-court forehand return that left Sampras perplexed.

Safin, who has lived and

**Venus aiming at No.1 spot**

NEW YORK, Sept 11: Venus Williams, who led the US Open to her Wimbledon crown Saturday, has now set her sights on the number one ranking, reports AFP.

"Being No.1 is definitely one of my goals," Venus said. "I've never been there before. So I'm trying. I will move forward in the ranking, it's just a matter of time."

But it will not happen in 2000 as Venus vows to go back to college in Florida where she studies fashion design. "School starts October 11," she said. "So for 11 weeks, I'm going to be grinding. I'll only play one or two events during that time."

The third-ranked Venus would have already grabbed the top spot by now if it hadn't been for nagging injuries that plagued her this season.

She was compelled to take a six-month leave of absence from the WTA tour last November to nurse severe tendinitis in both wrists and only returned in May at the Hamburg clay court event.

Two months later, the 20-year-old American captured her first Grand Slam single's 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.

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.

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 number two Lindsay Davenport.

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

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."

## EKUSHEY TV

2:00 Ajker Potrikay 2:10 Amader Kotha 2:35 Chitragati 3:00 Ekushey News Headlines 3:02 Bangla Movie: Aradana 3:40 Drishti 6:00

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6:15 Yeadon Ki Pal 6:45 Old Is Gold 7:00 Bhakti Songs 7:30 Jagran 7:55 Fitness Plus 8:05 Breakfast Zee 9:30 Akbar Virbal 10:00 Jungly Toofan 10:30 Ajker Potrikay 10:30 Ekushey News Headlines

11:30 Muskaan 12:00 Sound of Music 12:10 Naye Nazrane 12:40 Khaboorat 1:10 Sare Jahan Se Acheha 1:40 Jhalak 1:45 Daily Soap: Hasratine 2:25 Lakeeran 3:00 Banegi Apni Baat 3:30 Jackpot Jeeto 4:00 Daily Soap: Daily Sope Adhikar 4:30 Tum Dekar Lo 5:00 Intermission 5:10 Dear Women 5:40 Daye #58 6:10 Ek Nazar 7:00 Akbar Virbal 7:30 Jungly Toofan 8:00 Daily Soap: Dastan 8:30 Re Ga Ma 8:30 Samay 9:00 Basara #63 9:45 Kartavya 10:30 Thriller At 10:30 11:00 Apna Apna Style 11:30 Daily Soap: Chhatan 12:00 Zee Talkies 12:30 Ashirwad 1:10 Adhikar 1:40 Lakeerein 2:40 1:40 Jhatpat Khana Khajana 2:40 Naye Nazrane 3:10 Feature Film (B/W)

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trained in Valencia, Spain, for most of his career, held serve to go up 5-3 on a nice little forehand volley winner, his first of the match in two attempts at the net.

He served out a perfect set in which he only committed five unforced errors on a clipped forehand return wide by Sampras.

Serving and returning stupendously time and again, Safin broke a more offensive Sampras again in the 7th game of the second set on a good return at Sampras' feet that he could not negotiate.

The 6-foot-4 powerful baseliner went up 5-3 and gained



SWEETEST OF THEM ALL: 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



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

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.

Serena Williams topped the tourney 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.

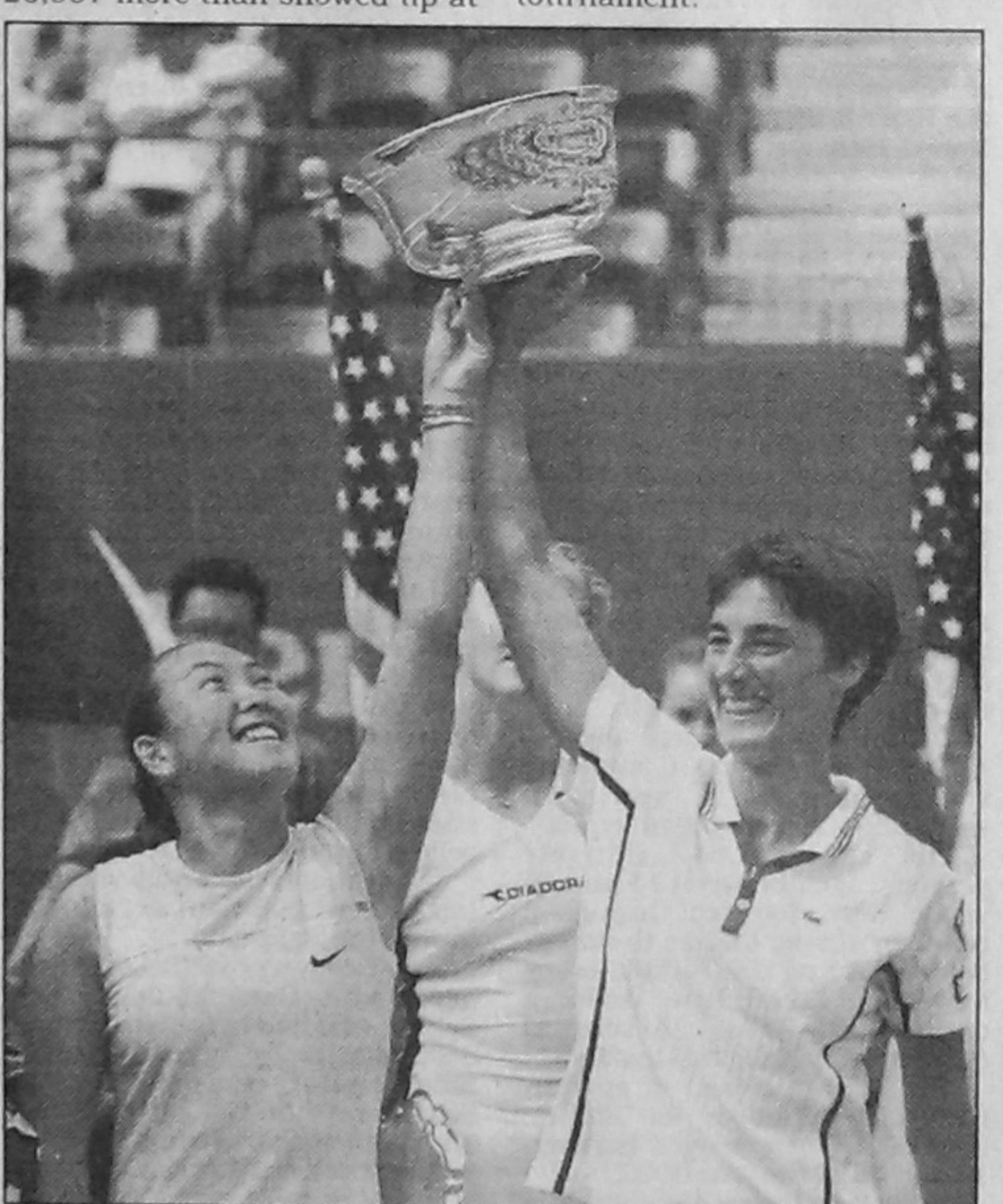
Chase Manhattan Bank is donating 29,750 dollars - 50 dollars per ace over the entire women's tournament - to fund inner city tennis camps for girls.

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.

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



Women's doubles duo of France's Julie Halard-Decugis (R) 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

the National Tennis Centre a year ago, when the previous record was set.

A day after US President Bill Clinton became the first sitting president to attend the US Open, former President Jimmy Carter was in the crowd Sunday.

**JUNIOR MINTS**  
Andy Roddick made a quick exit from the men's singles tournament at the US Open. He stuck around the National Tennis Centre, though, and wound up becoming the first American to win the junior boys' title since 1992.

Roddick beat countryman Robby Ginepri 6-1, 6-3 in Sunday's final.

"I'm part of the new generation and obviously I'm playing a pretty big role in it," Roddick, 18, said. "Hopefully, I'll be part of the next team that comes up through the pro ranks."

The last American to win the US Open junior boys' title was Brian Dunt.

Roddick, who turned pro shortly after winning the Australian Open junior title in January, was put in the main draw here as a wild card entry, but lost in the first round to Spain's Albert Costa 6-3, 6-7, 6-1, 6-4.

Argentina's Maria Emilia Salerni won the girls' junior title here, beating Tatiana Perebysin of Ukraine 6-3, 6-4. Salerni also won the Wimbledon junior tournament.

Warne finished with 4-23 from nine overs in a one-day against Derbyshire on Sunday to take his season's haul to 101 wickets.

He is sharing third place on the first class wicket-taking list for the season, with 68. Another Australian, Worcester's pace spearhead Glenn McGrath, is in second place with 68.

Warne's milestone came on an otherwise bleak day, however. After he had helped restrict Derbyshire to 195 from 45 overs, Warne was promoted to opening batsman, crashed for a duck, and watched as his side fell four runs short of victory.

Warne has also said he wants to return for another season at Hampshire. "I would love to come back either next year if I'm not on the Ashes tour, or in 2002," Warne was quoted as saying in newspaper reports.

## EUROPEAN FOOTBALL SCENE

UNDATED, Sept 11 (AFP): European football scenario after league games over the weekend.

**PREMIERSHIP**  
LONDON: English Premiership newcomers Charlton came back from two goals down at half-time to draw 2-2 against Derby at Pride Park on Sunday.

Two of Charlton's summer signings, Claus Jensen and Jonatan Johansson, scored in the space of three second-half minutes so the hosts had to be satisfied with a point and were left still seeking their first win of the season.

## PRIMERA LIGA

VILLAREAL: Rayo Vallecano meanwhile grabbed top spot on goal-difference after this first day with their 5-1 thrashing at newly-promoted Villareal on Sunday.

In fact all three sides to win promotion lost at home on Sunday - Las Palmas losing 3-0 to Alaves and Osasuna were defeated 2-0 by Celta Vigo.

## BUNDESLIGA

MUNICH: A 1-1 draw at 1860 Munich was enough for Schalke 04 to go top of the Bundesliga Saturday, after Bayern Munich were toppled 2-1 by VfB Stuttgart.

Schalke, who are enjoying the finest start to a season in the club's history, have 10 points from their four games and are trailed by Bayern on nine points with 1860 on eight.

## FRENCH FIRST DIVISION

PARIS: Paris St Germain continued their unpredictable form when they bounced back from a midweek loss at Troyes to maintain their 100 per cent home record with a 5-1 thrashing of St Etienne at a packed Parc des Princes Saturday.

Bastia continued their fine start to the season going top of the table courtesy of a 4-1 win at hapless Strasbourg which coupled with Lens crashing 3-0 at Lyon was enough to give the Corsican-based side a one point lead at the top.

Newly promoted Toulouse surprised Marseille as two first-half goals were enough to carry Alain Giresse men to a comfortable 2-0 home victory at Le Stadium and lift them out of the bottom three.

Four days after their 2-0 home defeat to Marseille, the misery continued for French league defending champions Monaco who lost 1-0 at Sedan.

Metz are in fifth place following their 1-0 win at Brittany-based side Rennes. Nantes are in sixth spot after drawing 2-2 at Auxerre. In other games, newly promoted Guingamp upset Bordeaux 2-0 at the Parc Lescurie while another surprise of the young season, Troyes won 2-1 at Lille to move up to fourth spot.

**Another mark for Warne**

LONDON, Sept 11 (Internet report): Shane Warne has brought up a century of wickets in all cricket with his English county Hampshire, after taking three scalps in four balls.

Warne finished with 4-23 from nine overs in a one-day against Derbyshire on Sunday to take his season's haul to 101 wickets.

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**Double delight for Sugiyama**

NEW YORK, Sept 11: Japan's Ai Sugiyama and France's Julie Halard-Decugis of France captured the US Open women's doubles title, defeating Cara Black of Zimbabwe and Russian Elena Likhovtseva in three sets at the 15-million-dollar Grand Slam hardcourt event here Sunday, reports AFP.

Sugiyama and Halard-Decugis, playing the day of her 30th birthday, beat 10th-seeded Black/Likhovtseva 6-0, 1-6, 6-1 in one hour and 19 minutes.

Sugiyama-Halard-Decugis, who earned 340,000 dollars for their victory, will now become the new world number women's doubles team when the new ranking comes out Monday.

**STAR SPORTS**  
7:30 Senior PGA Tour Golf Comfort Classic Indianapolis, IN USA Day Two 9:30 PGA Tour Golf Bell Canadian Open Oakville, ON CANADA Day Two 11:00 Fiv Beach Volleyball - Belgian Open Ostende, BELGIUM Men's Semifinals 1:00 Tennis World Sport 1:55 Live: Zimbabwe Cricket New Zealand Tour Of Zimbabwe Bulawayo, ZIMBABWE New Zealand Vs Zimbabwe 1st Test, Day 1, 1st Session 4:00 Yachting Swedish Match Grand Prix Sailing Tour Skövde, DENMARK 2000 Danish Open 4:30 Live: Zimbabwe Cricket New Zealand Tour Of Zimbabwe Bulawayo, ZIMBABWE New Zealand Vs Zimbabwe 1st Test, Day 1, 2nd & 3rd Sessions 9:00 Anz Sportsline 9:05 Spanish Football League 2000/01 11:00 Sports India 11:30 Anz Sportsline 11:35 Sanzar Domestic Competitions New Zealand Provincial Championships Div 1 Hamilton, NEW ZEALAND Southland Vs Waikato Round 4

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## NZ-Zim 1st Test from today



BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe, Sept 11: All the cards are stacked in New Zealand's favour when they take on Zimbabwe here Tuesday in the first match of