

Mixed moment



TENNIS

SYDNEY, Sept 22: American involvement in the men's tennis at the Olympics came to an abrupt and embarrassingly premature end on Friday as their US teammate Venus Williams moved a step closer to gold in the women's singles, reports AFP.

Jeff Tarango, the only American to get through the first round in the singles, succumbed to Argentina's Mariano Zabaleta, hours after highly-rated doubles pair Alex O'Brien and Jared Palmer fell at their first hurdle. "It's a bummer," admitted Tarango.

The rout cruelly exposed the weakness of a US men's team lacking Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi on a day that saw Williams give her aura of invincibility another polish.

The second seed brushed aside Germany's Jana Kandarr like a pesky fly to set the stage for a quarterfinal showdown with Spain's Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, the last player to have beaten her.

Williams' 6-2, 6-2 win extended her unbeaten run to 29 matches while Sanchez-Vicario, seeded five, overcame Fabiola Zuluaga of Colombia 6-2, 6-0.

Sanchez-Vicario, whose win over Williams came in the quarterfinals at the French Open, was confident about her prospects of upsetting the odds again.

"She's on a good run," Sanchez-Vicario said. "But it is possible to beat her. I've played her before and I know I can win."

Sanchez-Vicario, seeded fifth here, needs a gold medal here to complete a unique collection after winning silver and bronze at Atlanta and Barcelona respectively.

Williams, who was cheered on by Chelsea Clinton, is bidding to add gold to the Wimbledon and US Open titles she has won this year in the best run of her career.

The two women have met several times before, with Venus leading 4-3. "She beat me a couple of times when I was younger," she said.

"But things have changed now. I'm a little smarter," Sanchez-Vicario's tenacious running down of every ball can frustrate big-hitting players like Williams into errors, but the American insisted she would not be reining in her aggressive approach.

"I can't change the way I play. I just want to keep going the way I am and try to do my best," she said. "When I do that, usually I win."

Friday's biggest upset came in the men's doubles, where O'Brien and Palmer fell at their first hurdle, continuing a nightmare run for the American men here.

"I don't think I have felt worse in my entire career," a distraught O'Brien said after the American team was dumped out 6-2, 6-4 by Mark Knowles and Mark Merklein of the Bahamas. "I might go break every one of my racquets."

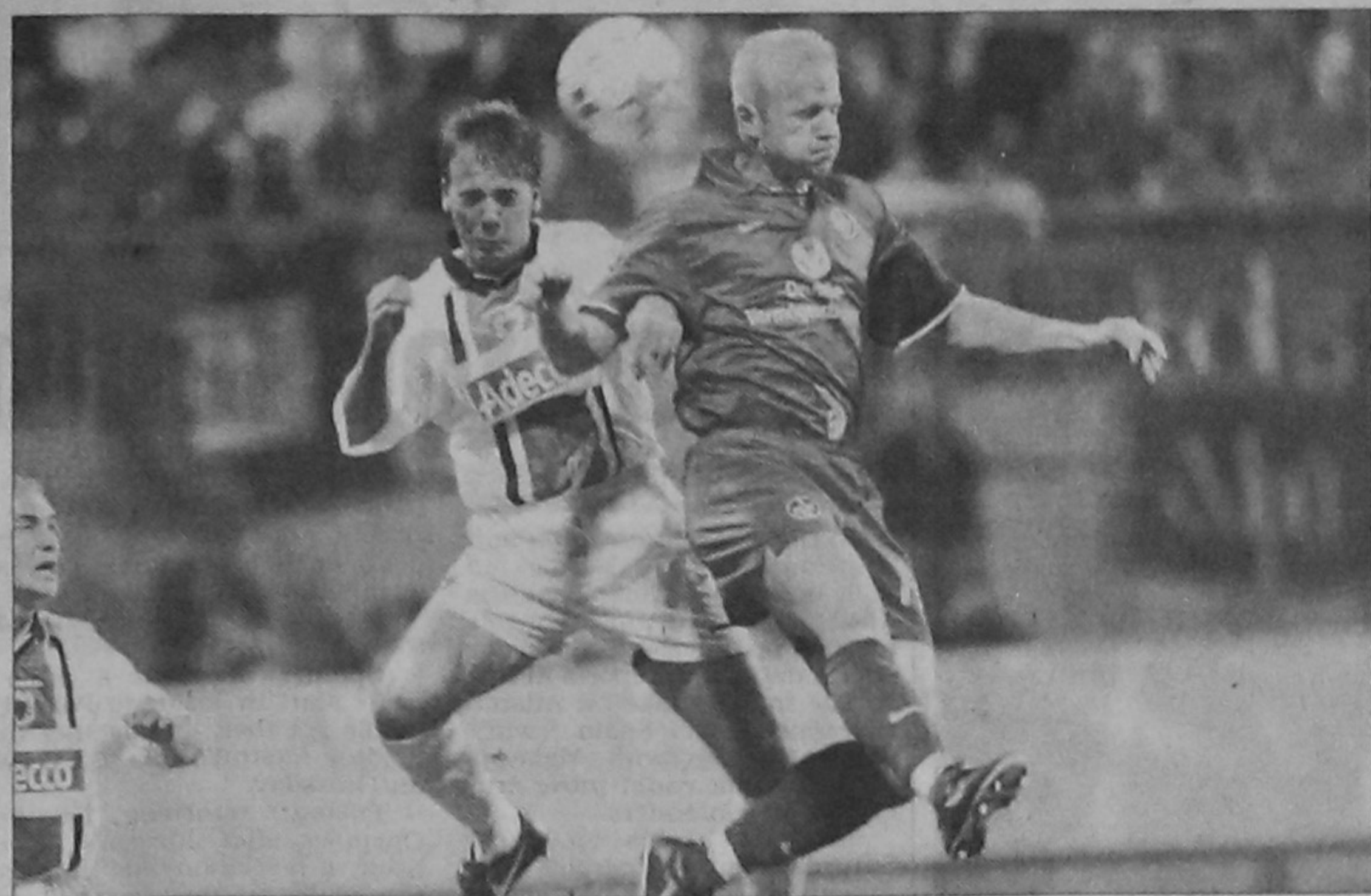
"I wanted this more than anything in my career and to be sitting here telling you we didn't get the job done—I feel like an idiot."

O'Brien and Palmer, who were given a bye into the second round, were caught cold by the Bahamians who were battle-hardened after a tough three-setter in the first round.

"They really got on to us early and that set the tone for the match," Palmer said.

Roger Federer of Switzerland, a 19-year-old who was a former world number one in juniors, demonstrated why he is being tipped for great things with a 6-4, 7-6 (7/5) win over Karol Kucera, the Slovakian who had dumped Tim Henman out of the tournament in the first round.

Alex Corretja, the only seed left in the top half of the draw, survived a scare against France's Arnaud Clement. The 6th seed was down 4-2 in both the second and third sets before pulling through 6-7 (7/5), 6-4, 6-4.



Kaiserslautern's Igli Tare (R) and Robert Bowman of Bohemians Dublin are in quest of the ball during their UEFA Cup first round second leg fixture at Kaiserslautern on September 21. —AFP photo

UEFA Cup first round second leg

Solace for Bohemians



KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany, Sept 22: Bohemians of Ireland humiliated Kaiserslautern, German champions just two seasons ago, with a 1-0 away win in their UEFA Cup first round, second leg tie here Thursday, reports AFP.

But it still was not enough to put the Dubliners through to the next stage of the competition.

"It's one of the worst games we have played since I have been here," Kaiserslautern coach Otto Rehagel groaned. "I warned the guys before the match it would be difficult if they scored. We just didn't get into the match. We took it too easy. No matter where I look I cannot find a single positive thing to say about tonight's game - except that we reached the next round."

Having won 3-1 in Dublin last week, Kaiserslautern limped to an aggregate victory but the real accolades go to the Irish visitors.

Sheer heart and determination made up for what they lacked in skill and Glen Crowe scored the only goal of the evening after 36 minutes, a simple tap in after being left unmarked.

He ought to have grabbed a second in the 77th minute after a catastrophic mistake by Kaiserslautern's Egyptian defender Hany Ranzhy but Georg Koch somehow managed to block his powerful shot in a one-on-one duel.

"We were missing our exceptional players Yuri Djorkaeff, Mario Basler and a few others tonight and when they aren't present things don't work well in the midfield," a frustrated Rehagel said. "That's not meant to be an excuse, though."

The guys who played tonight are all professionals and many are internationals and they just didn't come to grips with the Irish visitors.

As was the case a week ago, when Bohemians were reduced to 10 men, the Germans just could not crack their defence - which was certainly not formidable.

Jorgen Pettersson had a promising 53rd minute shot blocked by keeper Wayne Russell while Miroslav Lokvenec scraped the crossbar with an injury-time shot.

It was an embarrassing performance by Kaiserslautern and their own fans jeered them off the field and after the game.

"What else can I say? We played at home and lost 0-1," Swedish striker Pettersson said. "It was a catastrophic game. We played terrible football. The crowd should boo us - we deserve it."

The pain of defeat was accentuated by seeing Japan, co-hosts of the 2002 World Cup finals, reach the Olympic quarterfinals.

As I consider myself responsible for the team's failure to advance to the eight-team Olympic round, I'm leaving," Huh said as he returned to Seoul on Friday from Sydney.

Huh said he did not want to hinder preparations for the Asian Cup in Lebanon next month and that his resignation letter had already been delivered to the Korea Football Association.

He became coach in August 1998, taking over from Cha Bum-Kun who was blamed for South Korea's poor showing at the 1998 World Cup finals in France.

South Korea's Olympic hopes were shattered with a 3-0 defeat to Spain in their first match. They could have qualified by beating Chile 3-0 in their last group match but only managed a 1-0 win. Spain, Chile and South Korea had the same number of points but the Koreans lost out on goal difference.

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Paris, Sept 22: Big-spending Paris Saint Germain, fresh from their Champions League success in the French final, aim to go to the top of the French table by continuing their formidable home record against Nantes, reports AFP.

The odds appear to be in their favour as the two teams ahead of them both face awkward away matches.

Surprise leaders Bastia travel to Sedan, while Lens, who are second only on goal difference, play a local derby on Sunday at newly-promoted Lille who have already shown they are not in the First Division simply to make up the numbers.

PSG have won all four matches at home in the league and comfortably disposed of Swedish outfit Helsingborg 4-1 in the Champions League.

Nantes who have been erratic to date come to the capital on Saturday, hoping to upset the form book.

Paris coach Philippe Bergeret has yet to find the recipe for success away from the cosy confines of Parc des Princes, but his team have notched up a packet of goals at home scoring 13 and conceding only four.

Frederic Dehu, who recently signed from Spanish giants Barcelona, should recover in time from a slight groin injury and looks set to line up in what has been a somewhat suspect

defence. Bernard Mendy is suspended as a result of his sending off at Lens last Saturday.

Nantes, French Cup winners for the past two seasons, albeit on both occasions thanks to dubious penalties against lower-order opposition - Sedan and amateur side Calais - have only minor injury doubts over midfielder Yves Defoff and Argentine defender Nestor Fabri.

Bastia saw their proud unbeaten record at home shattered in their last outing against Rennes 2-0, and will put their rather shaky away form to the test against last season's surprise package Sedan.

The Corsican side will be without sweeper Morlaye Soumah who was sent off against Rennes and it looks as though coach Frederic Antonetti will give Laurent Casanova his first outing of the season.

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Schalke to sue neo-Nazi fans

GELENSKIRCHEN, Germany, Sept 22: German First Division club Schalke 04, are to sue five young neo-Nazis who they have also banned from their stadium, the club's management said Thursday, reports AFP.

The five youths are reported to have chanted neo-Nazi slogans during Schalke's 1-1 draw with Werder Bremen in Gelsenkirchen last weekend.

The fans will be charged with fomenting race hatred, wearing the insignia of prohibited organisations, threatening behaviour and violence.

Schalke 04 also released a statement in which they praised their ground stewards who apprehended the five and claimed that neo-Nazism was uncommon at the club.

"Right-wing extremism is not in itself a reality amongst the supporters of our club," underlined the statement.

ROK soccer coach quits

SEOUL, Sept 22: Huh Jung-Moo quit as South Korea's coach on Friday after the national team failed to reach the quarter-finals of the Olympic football tournament, reports AFP.

"As I consider myself responsible for the team's failure to advance to the eight-team Olympic round, I'm leaving," Huh said as he returned to Seoul on Friday from Sydney.

Huh said he did not want to hinder preparations for the Asian Cup in Lebanon next month and that his resignation letter had already been delivered to the Korea Football Association.

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Prmera Liga preview

Galicia toast of Spain



MADRID, Sept 22: Out on a limb geographically the rural western province of Galicia is ruling the roost in Spain's Primera Liga so far this season with both reigning champions Deportivo La Coruna and Celta Vigo setting the early pace, reports AFP.

The two neighbours have the only 100 percent records in the Primera Liga after just two matches and have only conceded one goal between them, leaving the likes of Barcelona and Real Madrid trailing in their wake.

Celta, having scored a goal more, are enjoying top spot for now after thrashing Real Sociedad 4-1 last weekend and are looking forward to Sunday's home clash with Espanyol - but they could be toppled overnight by Deportivo, who face Sociedad at San Sebastian on Saturday.

Deportivo, having finally captured the title last season after a pair of painfully near misses in the 1990s, are on a roll having picked up three

points in midweek in the Champions League with a 2-1 home win over Germany's Hamburg.

European champions Real Madrid, who will hope to put Deportivo through the mincer if the two clubs should meet later in Europe - as they did Valencia in the Champions Cup final - also enjoyed midweek success, 1-0 over Spartak Moscow.

But the 'meringues' have ground to make up in the league following last week's thrilling 3-3 draw at Malaga.

Real, who could be without talismanic striker Raul with a back injury, now host Athletic Bilbao, who arrive flushed with their 3-1 success in their last match against Barcelona.

Barcelona, having finished empty-handed on all fronts last season, could well do so again if they continue their current dismal form.

After flattering to deceive by hammering Leeds 4-0 in their opening Champions League encounter they slipped in Bilbao and then lost disastrously, 3-0, at Turkey's Besiktas to throw their hopes of European

glory into question.

The Catalan club's Nou Camp faithful will expect a stark reversal of the past ten days' fortunes against Racing Santander on Saturday - otherwise the farewell white handkerchiefs could be soon out for coach Lorenzo Serra Ferrer.

Ferrer only replaced unlamented Dutchman Louis Van Gaal in July.

Valencia, buoyed by two wins in two Champions League outings over Olympiakos and Heerenveen, thrashed Mallorca last week and will go in search of a fourth straight win at Numancia despite the injury absences of French star Didier Deschamps and Argentine Kily Gonzalez.

WEEKEND FIXTURES:
Celta Vigo vs Espanyol, Osasuna vs Rayo Vallecano, Real Zaragoza vs Alaves, Villarreal vs Oviedo, Las Palmas vs Valladolid, Numancia vs Valencia, Mallorca vs Malaga, Real Madrid vs Athletic Bilbao, Barcelona vs Racing Santander, Real Sociedad vs Deportivo Coruna

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TV Guide

Saturday 23rd September

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

BTV

Morning Prog.
9:00 Opening Announcement, Recitation From The Holy Quran And Programme Outline 9:05 Patriotic Song 9:10 Khela Dhula 9:40 English Debating 10:05 Sastho Tathito: Serial- 10:35 Dripto Uchcharon (Prog. For Poem) 10:50 Movie of The Week: Ben Hur-2 ("Charlotte Heston, Jack Hawkins, Stephen Boyd, Haya Harareet") 1:00 Sydney Olympic 2000 Highlights 2:00 Live- Sydney Olympic 2000 4:00 Sambad (Bangla News) 4:05 Nabagato (New Artist Audition Live Coverage) 5:25 Utlaron (Prog. For Developing) 6:05 Nibedan 6:30

Transmission From Chittagong Center 7:00 Sambad (Bangla News) 7:05 Gocimallay (Song of Robin-dranath) 7:25 Series: Mowgli (Bangla Dub) 8:00 Bangla News At 8: 8:20 Weekly Drama: Daag ("Tanima Hamid, Kabir Ahmed, Masum Aziz, Afroja Banu, Sanjana, Mahmood Sajjad, Nargis, Gahangir Alam") 10:00 News At Ten (English) 10:20 Khola Jaanala (Talk Show) 10:50 Mini Series: A Son of Good Earth 11:30 Sambad (Bangla News) 11:35 English News 11:40 A) Programme Outline For Sunday B) National Song 11:45 Closing

EKUSHEY TV

2:00 Aj