

## Marsh wants a clean India

PERTH, Australia, Oct 5: Geoff Marsh will seek reassurances on match-fixing issues when he meets Indian cricket authorities, this month to discuss coaching their national team, reports AFP.

The former Australian team coach will go to India in a fortnight to be interviewed as one of four candidates short-listed to replace Kapil Dev who resigned last month amid vows to clear his name of match-fixing allegations.

Marsh said Wednesday he was approached by Indian cricket officials two months ago. It caught me by shock at the time and I said I'd sit down and have a chat to the Australian Cricket Board and see what it requires," Marsh told ABC radio.

"I got a phone call back last week to say they want to have a chat so in two weeks I'll go over and see what comes from it (but) there's a lot of things we've got to sort out before I agree to go over there and do the job."

The problem of match-fixing has become a major issue in international cricket in the wake of the Hansie Cronje affair and allegations involving the Indian and Pakistan teams -- all stemming from the influence of illegal Indian bookmakers.

Marsh, who coached the Australia team for four years, said he would raise the issues of match-fixing and bookmakers' access to the players' dressing room with the Indian officials.

"That's something I'll be talking to them about ... because that is a problem."

It would be a great challenge to coach a country such as India, Marsh said.

"It's a different country and they run their cricket a lot differently over there," he said.

"Whilst their country is fanatical about the game of cricket, there's 700 million people (who) all listen and watch cricket over there, and there's a lot of talent over there, and there's a long way to go."

If appointed, Marsh said he would have to consider his loyalties when India and Australia met in international matches.

"The first Australia tour India (is) in February and March but I guess it'd be a bit like Western Australia playing against the rest," he said.

If he got the job, Marsh said he would return to Australia in any lengthy spells between series.

Marsh is weighing up the Indian position despite stepping aside as Australian coach last year because he wanted to spend more time with his family.

"I think my family know that cricket's been my life and when these opportunities come up you've got to grab them at my age."

"In 10 years' time there'll be another group of coaches come through."

## Carlsson to play in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 5: Sweden's Anna Carlsson will return to Malaysia next month to defend her title in the 170,000 dollars Wismilak International Women's Tennis Championship, news reports said Thursday, reports AFP.

Carlsson faces stiff competition in the Nov. 4-12 tournament from last year's losing finalist, American Erika de Lone, and Italy's Silvia Farinella, who reached the last 16 at the Sydney Olympics.

China's Yi Jing-Qian, who won the title in Surabaya, Indonesia, three years ago, will also compete at Kuala Lumpur's National Tennis Centre. The Star and New Straits Times newspapers reported.

## Student punished to send death threats to Jones

FREDONIA, New York, Oct 5: The FBI is investigating a college student who allegedly e-mailed death threats to Olympic athletics champion Marion Jones during the Sydney Games, reports AP.

An 18-year-old man, whose name is being withheld, has been suspended from Fredonia State University because of messages sent to Jones, her husband, shot put world champion, CJ Hunter, and at least one other family member.

A decision on whether to file criminal charges could be made within a few weeks, said First Assistant US Attorney Kathleen M. Mehlretter.

Jones became the first woman to win five athletics medals at one Olympics. The threats were sent after reports surfaced that her husband had used steroids, authorities said.

Fredonia State University and federal law enforcement officials told the Buffalo News they take the threats seriously, even though they don't believe the student intended to harm Jones.

Mehlretter said the student could face felony charges of sending threatening messages over interstate wire connections.

The student told the FBI he had no real intent to harm anyone and apologized for what he had done, police said.

A spokeswoman at the US Olympic Committee's public affairs office in Colorado Springs, Colorado, said she could not comment on the case.

Jones is scheduled to compete in the IAAF Grand Prix Final on Thursday in Doha, Qatar.



Winners of the National Housing Finance Cricket Quiz contest are seen with the Managing Director MH Samad (sitting third from left) & the staff members of the company at the prize-giving ceremony recently at the corporate office of National Housing Finance at Chamber Building, Motijheel.

## Greene spurns fast bucks

DOHA, Oct 5 (AP): Maurice Greene, the new Olympic 100m champion, has spurned the chance of a quick half-a-million dollars for 10 seconds on the track.

When the possible bonuses are added to the 350,000 USD prize money available at this meeting - the richest single day's athletics event - Greene effectively turned down a potential 500,000 USD when he flew straight home from Sydney to the United States.

Greene claimed he was too tired after the Olympics to be able to race the 100m on Thursday, but immediately came under fire from world athletics officials.

"I cannot understand an athlete who says I do not want to win 350,000 USD, an athlete who does not come but pretends to rest," Lamine Diack, the Senegalese president of the International Amateur Athletics Federation, said.

In his world record-breaking season of 1999, Greene earned an estimated three million dollars. The world's fastest man routinely commands 100,000 USD in appearance fees.

But Diack ruled out any possibility that Greene would have been paid an appearance fee for racing here.

"We will not give extra money to an athlete just to come," Diack said. "We prefer to make the prize money of the highest level."

With a total prize fund of 3.4 million USD, Thursday's event has attracted 12 individual Olympic gold medalists.

By not competing in Doha, Greene has also forfeited an

additional 100,000 USD, his share of the Golden League jackpot he secured before the Olympics began.

Greene's decision to miss the meeting brought disbelief from other athletes' managers.

"You don't walk away from thousands of dollars like that. You can never get that money back," said Charlie Wells, the manager of Marion Jones, the triple gold medalist in Sydney, who will be competing in Doha.

Taylor's biggest previous payday was just 15,000 USD dollars. "I don't normally get a large appearance fee when I compete," Taylor said. "For me, it's a chance to make a big amount of money."

Jones is definitely racing in the 100m, but there remains some uncertainty over whether she will compete in the long jump, which promises a rematch against Olympic champion Heike Drechsler of Germany and Sydney silver medalist Fiona May of Italy.

Wells refused to join some of the critics among the 200-strong party of athletes, officials and managers flown from Sydney, many of whom arrived at 2 o'clock on Wednesday morning - three hours late after a 21-hour flight.

"It requires us to travel 24 hours to put on a show, then that's what they pay us for," he said. "It's part of our job. Our job is to entertain. It's a shame for the ones who miss it."

Wells confirmed that Jones has chosen to compete in Doha, rather than to return home directly after her gruelling Olympic programme of five events, because of the financial rewards available. "It's business," Wells said. "Strictly business."

As well as Jones, other Sydney champions competing in Doha include British triple

jumper Jonathan Edwards, America's 400m hurdler Angelo Taylor, and Norway's javelin winner, Trine Hattestad. Taylor, aged 21, from Atlanta, could win 50,000 USD if he finishes first in his 400m hurdles, and another 200,000 USD if he ends up top of the overall Grand Prix points table, which pits together athletes from the whole range of different disciplines.

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## Hingis advances

FILDERSTADT, Germany, Oct 5: Martina Hingis struggled early on against Justine Henin in the 350,000 dollars Filderstadt women's tennis tournament yesterday before winning 6-3, 3-0 when the Belgian retired hurt, reports Reuters.

The top-ranked Swiss woman had picked up her game in the second set and was heading for an easy win when 18-year-old Henin gave up.

Hingis, looking for her first tournament win since the Canadian Open in August, won the 24-year-old Filderstadt tournament three times - 1995, 1997 and 1999.

Spain's Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, seeded fourth, also struggled in her opening match before beating unseeded Caren Black of Zimbabwe 6-2, 3-6, 6-4.

Black, ranked 36, looked as though she might pull off an upset in the day's best match. Sanchez-Vicario fell hard at the start of the third set chasing a ball and appeared to be injured. But she battled back to win the decisive third set 6-4.

Kim Clijsters of Belgium, who ousted Russia's sixth seed Anna Kournikova on Tuesday, advanced further by beating Jana Kandarr of Germany 7-6 (11-9), 6-3.

## Kiefer coasts into qtrs

HONG KONG, Oct 5: Third-seed Nicolas Kiefer of Germany coasted past Jason Stoltenberg of Australia 6-3, 6-2 on Wednesday to earn a quarterfinal meeting with doubles partner Nicolas Lapentti in the 375,000 dollars Salem Open, reports AP.

Kiefer overwhelmed the 62"-ranked Stoltenberg, who failed to match the German's consistency.

"I had a good start in the match, although I lost my concentration at times. I managed to raise my game again and played well to win the match," the 23-year-old Kiefer said.

"We know each other's game inside out," said Kiefer of his match-up against Lapentti. "I'm sure he knows my game and I know his. It's going to be an interesting game."

Lapentti earned his place in the final eight by beating American qualifier Kevin Kim 6-1, 3-6, 6-2.

Meanwhile, second-seeded Tim Henman of Britain continued his run by sweeping aside Mariano Zabaleta 6-2, 6-4 for only his second victory over the Argentine in five meetings.

Eighth-seeded American Michael Chang had the easiest passage into the last eight when he ousted the Netherlands' Sjeng Schaiken 6-1, 6-2.

## Tyson pays fine

LONDON, Oct 5: Mike Tyson has finally paid a 125,000 pound (187,500 dollars) fine for late hits to Lou Savarese during a June heavyweight bout, the British Boxing Board Control said Wednesday, reports AP.

Tyson also paid 1,000 pounds (1,500 dollars) in costs on top of the fine, levied after he continued to throw punches when referee John Coyle stepped in to call off the bout 38 seconds into the first round.

Payment allows Tyson to pursue another fight in the country, but the boxing board expressed doubt he would gain approval.

Calling the controversial fighter's return "highly unlikely," board secretary general Simon Block said: "There is nothing statutory preventing him from coming back here, however ... I don't anticipate Mike Tyson making an application in the foreseeable future."

In its August decision on the matter, the board made an unusual ruling of insisting Tyson apply for a new fight in person.

After knocking out Savarese, Tyson unleashed a verbal tirade against heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis, saying: "I'll rip his heart out and feed it to him," and "I want to eat your children."

The board did not fine Tyson for the comments but reprimanded him.

## Samoan boxer goes in court on rape charge

SYDNEY, Oct 5: An Olympic boxer from Samoa appeared in court Thursday charged with raping a woman behind a bar close to one of the main Sydney 2000 sports sites, reports AP.

Panga Lalau, 25, who was arrested Tuesday, was charged with having sexual intercourse without consent. The heavy-weight fighter faces a maximum sentence of 14 years imprisonment if convicted.

Police claim Lalau met his victim at the One World Sports Bar, Darling Harbor, in the early hours of Sept. 29 and had sex with her behind the bar despite her asking him to stop.

Olympic sports including boxing, weightlifting and wrestling were staged at Darling Harbor.

Lalau did not enter a plea but his defense attorney Ivan Bertola told Burwood Local Court his client conceded having sex but believed it had been consensual.

Magistrate Geoffrey Bradd ordered Lalau to appear in Sydney's Downing Center Local Court on Oct. 19 for a pretrial hearing.

Lalau lost in the preliminary round of the Olympic boxing competition to Russia's Sultanbueg Izmaglov, who went on to take the silver medal.

## Dokic sails, Mauresmo fails

TOKYO, Oct 5: In the day's biggest upset, qualifier Daja Bedanova from the Czech Republic defeated third seed Amelie Mauresmo of France 5-7, 6-3, 6-3 Thursday, reaching the quarter finals in the Toyota Princess Cup women's tennis tournament, reports AP.

In another upset, wild-card Mauresmo of France 5-7, 6-3, 6-3 Thursday, reaching the quarter finals in the Toyota Princess Cup women's tennis tournament, reports AP.

In a fourth singles match, an

Shinobu Asagoe overcame seventh-seeded Ai Sugiyama, Japan's top-ranked singles and doubles player, 6-3, 7-5, advancing to the round of eight players for the first time in five appearances at the tournament.

But not all seeds fell, with eighth-seeded Jelena Dokic of Australia beating Russian wildcard Lina Krasnoroutskaya 6-4, 7-6 (11).

In a fourth singles match, an

all-American contest, Kristina Brandl rallied past higher-ranked Corina Morariu 2-6, 7-5, 6-2.

Badi is 60", and Morariu 52".

For Bedanova, the triumph was her best result since turning pro late last year. "I was really excited to play this game (because) I haven't played against a lot of seeded players," she said.

"I played a really good tennis from the baseline and I tried to come in, and it worked pretty well," said the 17-year-old player who lives and trains in Leonberg, near Stuttgart in Germany.

Bedanova started the 2000 season ranked No 294 and came into the Toyota Princess ranked 87.

She said she represented the Czech Republic tennis team at the Sydney Olympics, where she lost in the second round to Julie Halard-Decugis of France, who is seeded fourth at the current tournament.

Bedanova meets fifth seed Amy Frazier of the United States on Friday.

For Mauresmo, the Toyota Princess is her first tour event since Wimbledon, in which she lost to Leon Garcia in the first round. She has since withdrawn from a number of tournaments due to a chronic low back injury.

The 24-year-old Asagoe ranked 85", sometimes sent her higher-ranked compatriot chasing from side to side and returned relentlessly. She sometimes waited for a weak return to attack, pushing the world's No 32 player to press too hard for winners.

"I've been doing well recently, in the US Open and elsewhere," said Asagoe, who reached the third round of the Open defeating Patty Schnyder in the second round for her best result at a grand slam event. "I'm very glad to beat the top player of the country and in our first meeting."



Australian Jelena Dokic follows through on a service against Lina Krasnoroutskaya during the Princess Cup match yesterday. - AFP photo

## Chang stands in Henman's way

HONG KONG, Oct 5: British number one Tim Henman can take another step towards a possible end to his two-year title drought with a quarter final victory over Michael Chang on

Friday at the 375,000 dollars Salem Open, reports AP.