

Clijsters the beneficiary

MIAMI, Florida, Oct 10 (AFP): Belgium's Kim Clijsters was the big winner Monday, when the new WTA tennis rankings were released, jumping 19 places up to 26th position, thanks to her final appearance at the Filderstadt Open last week, reports AFP.

Swiss superstar Martina Hingis who felled Clijsters at the final hurdle in Germany retained her number one ranking as the top ten positions were unchanged.

Lindsay Davenport remained second with Venus Williams, Mary Pierce and Monica Seles completing the top five.

Serena Williams who won the Princess Cup in Japan on Sunday stayed at number eight, but closed the gap on France's Nathalie Tauziat who is one place ahead of her, to 256 points.

Following are the top 20 women's tennis players:

Player	points
Hingis	5662
Davenport	5031
V Williams	4336
Pierce	2891
Seles	2889
Martinez	2716
Tauziat	2562
S Williams	2306
Sanchez-Vicario	2130
Huber	1785
Testud	1756
Coetzee	1740
Kournikova	1707
Rubin	1529
Mauresmo	1507
Capriati	1501
Van Roost	1501
Halard-Decugis	1412
Dementieva	1391
Frazier	1132

ATP rankings

PARIS, Oct 10 (AFP): Latest ATP men's world tennis rankings issued on Tuesday:

Player	points
Kuerten	645
Safin	639
Sampras	637
Norman	586
Kafelnikov	460
Hewitt	435
Corretja	424
Agassi	418
Enqvist	402
Henman	328
Carlos Ferrero	322
Squillari	296
Pioline	282
Philippoussis	279
Rafter	265
Kiefer	253
Puerta	244
Ferreira	239
Clement	210
El Aynaoui	210

Athens-IPC dispute

SYDNEY, Oct 10: Athens has not signed a host city contract for the 2004 Paralympic Games because of unacceptable financial demands by the event's world governing body, a Greek Paralympic Committee official said Tuesday, reports AP.

The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) said this week it had serious concerns about Athens hosting the Paralympics in 2004 because Greek organizers had shown minimal interest in the Games.

But Takis Papaconstantinou, a board member of the Hellenic Paralympic Committee (HPC), said delays in Athens' preparation were due to "unacceptable" economic demands made in the host city contract by the IPC.

In this contract there are some articles that were not acceptable for Athens," he said. "One of these is the lump sum Athens must pay to the IPC - double or more the amount that Sydney had to pay."

He said Sydney Paralympics organizers paid just over 1.2 million dollars as a lump sum to the IPC, while "they've asked in the vicinity of three million dollars from Athens."

McCarthy wary

DUBLIN, Oct 10: Following impressive draws away to Holland and Portugal, Republic of Ireland manager Mick McCarthy is warning against complacency on Wednesday when his team host minnows Estonia in their Group Two 2002 World Cup qualifier, reports AFP.

"I'm delighted with those results and those performances, of course I am," said McCarthy after watching substitute Matt Holland hit a spectacular equaliser in Saturday's 1-1 draw against Portugal.

"But it is no good shouting from the rooftops at this stage. We've got our first home game of the group now and we'll see what happens."

"And if we don't beat Estonia then those results in Amsterdam and Lisbon, much as we've all enjoyed them, won't really mean a thing."

McCarthy has steered the Republic unscathed through their opening tests away to the best two teams in the group.

But the two draws have certainly felt like wins against two of the Euro 2000 semi-finalists - even to the Aer Lingus stewardess who announced on the team's flight home from Portugal: "Congratulations, on your 1-1 victory."

On Saturday, though, it was largely a case of old-fashioned trench warfare which underpinned the Republic's latest achievement and repelled the likes of Portugal superstars Luis Figo and Rui Costa.

"I think you'll find we won't often be able to play as well away from home as we did in Holland," admitted McCarthy.

"But I enjoyed taking the point in Lisbon just as much. We knew we were up against another great team and it worked out that we had to defend better."



Russian sensation Marat Safin hits a backhand during his match against France's Nicolas Escude in the CA Trophy event in Vienna on October 9.

—AFP photo

Hingis Dokic's next hurdle

ZURICH, Oct 10: Australia's Jelena Dokic overcame jet-lag to defeat Switzerland's

Emmanuelle Gagliardi 6-3, 6-0 at the Swisscom Challenge on Monday, and lined herself up for a second round clash with top seed Martina Hingis, reports AFP.

It will be her first meeting since the young Australian's stunning victory over Hingis at Wimbledon last year, and it's a match she's looking forward to. "I've got nothing to lose," said Dokic. "I'm happy with the way I played today (Monday) and whatever happens happens. You can't worry about it too much and I'm actually looking forward to it."

I think her serve is the thing to attack. I've just got to play my game, not make errors and keep the ball in play. She's not going to overpower me, but she's been playing well. As I said, I've just got to play my game and take advantage when I can."

The first few games against Gagliardi were strewn with errors as Dokic struggled to find her range. The Australian earned no less than 19 break points, converting three in each set, but she also dropped her own serve twice in the first set.

"I'm zonked!" said Dokic, who had flown in from an event in Tokyo. "I didn't think I was going to have to play today (Monday)."

"I was a little upset, but they scheduled me and I just had to get used to it. It took me a bit of time to adjust because I just got in last night. I feel all right actually, not too bad. Once I got going I was all right, and it wasn't such a long match."

The 17-year-old is in Zurich without her father and coach, Danir. He is banned from the WTA Tour until the end of March after running foul of the authorities at Wimbledon and the US Open.

"He's staying at home with my brother and my mum is with me at the moment," said Dokic. "He's going to be coming

to some tournaments and we'll train off-site. I've think I've gotten used to it. I've played a few tournaments since (he was banned) and I've coped just fine. The biggest step was to get through the US Open, which I did."

In other matches, qualifier Anastasia Myskina of Russia disappointed local fans when she upset Patty Schnyder 6-4, 2-6, 6-1 and there were also success for two other qualifiers.

Another Russian, Tatiana Panova, overwhelmed Gala Leon Garcia of Spain 6-1, 6-3, and Germany's Jana Kandarr dismissed Anne Kremer of Luxembourg 6-4, 6-1.

In the remaining match of the day, Anne-Gaëlle Sidot of France outlasted qualifier Andrea Glass, beating the German 6-1, 6-7, 6-4.

Sidot won despite putting only 35 per cent of her first serves into play, but when she was successful she won an impressive 84 per cent of the points and never faced a break point.

Safin shocked

VIENNA, Oct 10: US Open champion Marat Safin suffered further disappointment after a first round exit at the Olympics last month, by losing to unseeded Frenchman Nicolas Escude at the CA Trophy on Monday, reports Reuters.

In his first appearance since the defeat at the Sydney Games to another Frenchman, Fabrice Santoro, the top seeded Russian bowed out of the opening round in Vienna's Stadthalle 5-7, 6-3, 7-6.

Safin's early exit is yet another blow for tournament organisers who had last-minute cancellations from Pete Sampras and Australia's Lleyton Hewitt.

Although Safin is second in the Champion's Race and has already assured himself a place in the inaugural Tennis Masters Cup in Lisbon, he was upset at having missed earning points in Vienna.

"I wanted to earn points here to fight for the number one spot," he said. "My next goal is to be number one. I would like to tell my kids I was the best player in the world, even if just for one week."

It's important to always have another goal. The US Open title was not the end of my career. It marked the beginning of it. I have enough motivation in me for the rest of my life."

After the Sydney debacle, which came directly after his maiden Grand Slam triumph and a fifth season title at Taschkent, Safin took two weeks off to relax.

"It's hard to get back into the game after a break. Escude played really well," said Safin, adding the Frenchman had pressured him by launching full attacks on his second serves.

The 20-year-old Safin claimed the first set of a three and a half hour match by hammering down a forehand to break for 6-5.

Visibly shocked by Escude's challenge, Safin dropped serve twice in the fourth and sixth games mainly due to imprecise shots and first serve misses. He lost the set despite reducing the deficit to 5-2.

The pair exchanged breaks three times and Safin fought off a matchpoint to level 5-5 but was defeated 7-5 in the tie-break.

Escude, who won his first title at Toulouse last year, will next meet local hero Stefan Kouck, who on Monday eliminated Frenchman Cyril Saulnier 6-2, 6-0.

Seventh-seeded Spaniard Juan Carlos Ferrero, a 2000 finalist in Dubai and Barcelona, was eliminated by former Wimbledon champion Richard Krajicek 6-4, 6-4.

Kiefer out of Japan Open

TOKYO, Oct 10: Nicolas Kiefer of Germany abandoned his defence of the Japan Open tennis tournament men's singles title without hitting a ball on Tuesday due to a right wrist injury, reports AFP.

An ATP spokeswoman said Kiefer, seeded second here, has been struggling with the wrist problem since before the US Open and he received treatment during the Hong Kong Open final Sunday.

The 23-year-old German, who defeated Mark Philippoussis of Australia to win his second career title of the year in Hong Kong, flew to Tokyo but found his wrist still sore and decided to pull out.

American Taylor Dent took his place in the draw. He will face Wayne Black of Zimbabwe in the second round Wednesday.

Gosper won't run for IOC presidency

SYDNEY, Oct 10: Kevan Gosper, Australia's top sports official, has decided to quit his race to succeed Juan Antonio Samaranch as IOC president, reports Xinhua.

The 66-year-old IOC vice-president said he felt "totally fulfilled" by his Olympic experience, as an athlete in the 1956 Games and an organizer of the Sydney Games.

"I go in a race if I think I can win, and I've certainly thought up until recently I could," Gosper told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation Radio Monday.

He said he would have had to spend much of the year overseas lobbying support. He added that he will now be able to spend more time with his family.

Gosper's withdrawal left the IOC presidency run between two contenders - Canada's Dick Pound and Belgium's Jacques Rogge. The current IOC president Samaranch is retiring in July.

"I believe that the power base of my two competitors was stronger," Gosper said. "Jacques Rogge, after all, lives in Europe where half the numbers are. And Dick Pound lives in North America, where the Americas have many votes... It would have been a very tough haul."

Gosper, an IOC member since 1977, was a founding member of the IOC's ethics commission but resigned from the panel this year after he came under investigation in the bribery scandal surrounding the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City. He was cleared of any wrongdoing by the panel.

He also apologized to Australians for allowing his traitorous for allowing his traitorous to become the first Aussie torchbearer of the Olympic flame.

Golota getting ready



JERSEY CITY, New Jersey, Oct 10 (Reuters): Andrew Golota came out of the gym office carrying his dry cleaning and let a tiny smile play across his lips as he heard the popular song and softly repeated its refrain, "Who Let The Dogs Out?"

Given the direction the careers of Golota and Mike Tyson have gone in recent years, that could be an appropriate theme song next week in Detroit when they are scheduled to attempt a boxing match.

Make no mistake about it: The people peddling the pay-per-view (PPV) encounter are betting that not only will fight fans want to see Golota-Tyson but that there are huge numbers of fans of mayhem who will tune in to watch the unleashing of boxing's two most infamous ring outlaws.

After all, both men have proven themselves adept with fists and fangs.

Tyson, of course, is the more widely infamous for trying to bite his way out of a pummeling he thought he was going to receive from Evander Holyfield in 1997. The "Bite Fight" will go down in boxing history as one of the sport's most outlandish performances, marking Tyson forever as the ring hoodlum who bit off a piece of his opponent's ear and spit it on to the canvas.

Golota, of course, is no stranger to abject rejection of ring rules.

The Polish-born heavyweight now living in Chicago, also bit an opponent and twice was disqualified for hitting Riddick Bawe below the belt. Adding even more to his mystique - some of his own people say

weirdness - was his imitation of a statue waiting to get knocked out in the first round by Lennox Lewis in 1997.

Then there was the Pole's inexplicable decision to quit against Michael Grant a year ago. Golota had knocked Grant down twice in the first round and was thrashing him for nine rounds when Grant dropped the Pole with a flurry of punches in the 10th round. Golota, well ahead on all of the judge's scorecards, rose quickly and appeared unhurt.

But after the referee asked him five times if he wanted to continue, he quit.

Quitting against Grant, fouling out against Bowe, biting an opponent and freezing against Lewis has labeled Golota strange at best. But unlike Tyson, who blames everyone but himself for his antisocial behaviour in and out of the ring, the soft-spoken, if moody, Golota accepts responsibility for his bizarre behaviour, not that he understands it.

Against Grant "I did what I did," said Golota in a recent interview in Rocky Marciano's gym here. "It's not important why I did it. I did it and I can't forget it."

While shadowboxing to work up a sweat before a sparring session, Golota, who will receive about 2.2 million dollars plus a cut of the pay-per-view take to Tyson's 10 million dollar plus, said: "I spent a lot of time thinking about Bowe. But I have to move on. I have to."

The thing was," he said panting while throwing short punches as he watched himself in the mirror. "I have to stay calm or more cool for this fight."

Asked if he's bothered by being the butt of jokes for his low blows and for losing so

lame against Lewis and Grant. Golota, rolling his shoulders and rocking his head from side-to-side to loosen his neck, said: "Yeah, you're right. But nobody's perfect. I gotta live with this. But, to be honest, I don't give a (expletive)."

The 32-year-old Golota (36-4) said he didn't know that he was winning his fight against Grant and that his cornermen "didn't know either. I was a little bit overheated. Everybody got crazy, you know. They should have at least calmed me down a bit, you know."

"This fight I don't know why I was feeling so tired. I was exhausted. Later on I found out you never should have done it. But it was too late."

After he got knocked down he said to himself, "forget this. I was losing anyway."

Following the Grant fight, Golota fired his long-time trainer Roger Bloodworth, replacing him with the colourful veteran trainer Al Certo, a tailor by trade who never met a sentence he didn't try to enhance with his X-rated vocabulary.

"Let me tell you something," Certo said. "This guy's got more (expletive) talent than 20 heavyweights. They just didn't know how to develop him. He should have been (expletive) champ five years ago. What do I do for him? Teach him how to (expletive) win. You don't change a guy like him. I'm not changing a guy like him."

That neither man has nor may ever change is exactly the message the promoters, the fighters and their kernel keepers hope will prod a lot of fans into paying a record - tying 49.95 dollar ppv price to watch what happens when Golota and Tyson are let out next week.



Chung Mong Joon (R), president of the Korea Football Association, and Lee Yun-Taek, chairman of the Seoul Olympic Sports Promotion Foundation, shake hands after they were sworn in as co-heads of South Korea's World Cup Organising Committee in Seoul yesterday.

—AFP photo

Daum gains support



HAMBURG, Oct 10: Germany's justice minister has leapt to the defence of Christoph Daum, na-

tional coach-elect, in his bid to clear his name over allegations of drug taking and involvement with prostitutes, reports AFP.

Herta Daubler-Gmelin, a Social Democrat, told the newspaper Bild: "It should not become a habit that an accused person has to prove his innocence."

On Monday, Daum supplied a hair sample in a bid to counter allegations of drug taking.

Bayer Leverkusen's current manager told a press conference: "This will provide proof of my innocence, even though my friends and colleagues advised me against taking this course of action. I don't have any other choice if I want to defend my reputation."

Under German law, the burden of proof lies with the prosecution and the accused is presumed innocent until proven guilty, the minister said.

She denounced the rumours circulating about Daum's personal life and said: "The law is clear - definite accusations necessitate definite proof."

Daubler-Gmelin also denounced Bayern Munich manager Uli Hoeness, who is the source of the slur campaign against Daum. "Proof is his duty and not Daum's," she added.

Rochus lone seed to fall

TOKYO, Oct 10: Fourth seed Nicolas Lapentti of Ecuador edged out Belgium's Olivier Rochus 7-

6, 7-6 Tuesday, advancing to the second round of the 970,000 dollar Japan Open tennis tournament, reports AP.

Lapentti, ranked No. 16 in the world, topped five seeds in action on the second day of the tournament. All but 16-seeded Christophe Rochus, Olivier's elder brother, were winners.

Leading 6-5 in the first set, Lapentti had three break points slip away.

In the tiebreaker, Lapentti built a 7-6 lead with an ace and then won the set with a sharp return that Rochus hit long and wide.

In the second set, Rochus built an early lead of 3-0 with some impressive sharpshooting and big ground shots before Lapentti came back and held his serve with four big serves, including three aces, in a love game.

Lapentti broke the seventh game at love and the two traded one more break en route to their second straight tiebreaker.

Leading 5-4 in the tie-

breaker, Lapentti volleyed a winner and then served an ace to win the set and the hard-fought match.

"Rochus has been playing some good tennis in the last few weeks," said Lapentti. "I had to play a great tennis to beat him, and we had two close games with two tiebreaks. I was lucky to win."

It was their first meeting on tour.

"I was sick last night with an upset stomach. I didn't take any food all day, and I felt somewhat weak and tired in the second set when I had to go to bathroom (during the interval)," he said.

"I wanted and tried to win the second set's tiebreaker because I knew I would have less chances in a third set."

Among those reaching the second round included 11-seed Mariano Zabaleta of Argentina, No. 14 seed David Prinosil of Germany and 15-seeded Harel Levy of Israel.

Andrea Gaudenzi of Italy, ranked No. 103, ousted the elder Rochus 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Of 16 seeds, eight had first-round byes. They include top-seeded Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil, defending champion Nicolas

Kiefer of Germany and No. 3 seed Mark Philippoussis of Australia.

In the women's singles, third seed Kristina Brandi breezed past her American compatriot Tracy Almeda-Singian 6-2, 6-0.

"I was happy with the way I played today. I played a solid tennis and I was aggressive," said Brandi.

The teen-aged Czech star Daja Bedanova, who reached the quarterfinals of last week's Toyota Princess as a qualifier, made an early exit with a 7-5, 7-5 loss to Lilia Osterloh of the United States.

Winners Tuesday included fifth seed Tamarine Tanasugarn of Thailand, who beat Iroda Tulyaganova of Uzbekistan 6-3, 6-2, and eighth-seeded Anna Smashnova of Israel, a 6-1, 7-6 winner over Miroslava Vavrinec of Switzerland.

The top two seeds, Julie Halard-Decugis of France and defending champion Amy Frazier of the United States, had first-round byes.

Halard-Decugis finished second to Serena Williams in the Toyota Princess but won its doubles title with her Japanese partner Ai Sugiyama.

Frazier was a quarterfinalist in the Toyota Princess.

Her efforts paying off



TOKYO, Oct 10: Serena Williams admires. Pete Sampras, tries to copy his forehand and she has already followed in the great American's footsteps towards world number one by winning her debut event in Japan, reports AFP.

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"When you are young, you usually get a player that you want to copy, because you are going to do as well as them, so I tried to copy his forehand and his running forehand, because he has a great shot and he does that very well," the 19-year-old from Saginaw, Michigan, said of Sampras.

Williams fired 10 aces and powered past doubles world number one Julie Halard-Decugis of France 7-5, 6-1 on Sunday to win the WTA Princess Cup, giving herself a 100-per cent winning record in Japan.

Sampras holds the same immaculate record in the country.

Sampras, who won a record 13th Grand Slam singles crown at Wimbledon in July, won the 1993 Japan Open to become the world number one for the first time and reclaimed the title in 1994 and 1996 here.

"Anyone you win a tournament, it is good. I have only won three this year. Last year I had a few more. I am glad that I was able to win this tournament."

ment," said Williams. "I will use it, obviously, to move up my ranking, because I do not have any points to defend this week at all. I am just going to shoot up in the rankings again next year, going to the top."

Currently, Martina Hingis of Switzerland leads the rankings ahead of former number one Lindsay Davenport.

Williams' most challenging rival for the top spot is probably her elder sister Venus, ranked third in the world, and with whom Serena captured the Sydney Olympic doubles gold medal.

At the 1999 US Open, Serena clinched her first Grand Slam title faster than Venus, beating Hingis. Davenport as

well as former number one Monica Seles, to reach her career high at fourth in the world.

It fired up Venus. She has continued an excellent 32 singles match winning streak, including victories at Wimbledon, Flushing Meadow and the Sydney Olympics, also targeting the world's summit.

Venus ascribes her current form to a change in attitude towards the game that she dates to the end of 1999, a year that saw her painfully eclipsed by Serena's US Open triumph.

Serena slipped down to eighth after a meniscus tear in her left knee left her out of the game for two and a half months before returning to court at Wimbledon where she was beaten by Venus in the semifinals.

"I did not play a very solid beginning of the year. I did not do anything until Wimbledon. If I had better results in some of the tournaments in the beginning of the year, I would have had a better ranking now," said Serena.

"I was ranked number four once but it is inevitable that I will get back or be even higher than that," she added.

Their father Richard, who coaches both Serena and Venus, has said his younger daughter has more potential than the elder.

"I don't like to answer the question," said Serena when she was asked about her father's opinion.



SERENA WILLIAMS

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	41 Deck	DOWN	24 Cornfield comment
1 Corpulent	45 Pure, clean air	1 Dress	25 Hematite, e.g.
4 Ovine comment	47 Michael Jackson album	2 War hero	26 Kids' card game
7 Dull		3 Swap	28 Kyoto cucumber-bund
12 Play with robots	48 One way to enliven	4 Thal money	30 "Simps-"
13 Timeable abbr.	16- Across?	5 Biblical mount	store-keeper
14 Jetsons' dog	52 In need of repair	6 Synthetic fabric	31 Animation frame
15 Harlem	53 Eastern Oklahoma	7 Unplanned	32 In the style of
16 One way to end a deal	54 New Haven collegian	8 Tray contents	33 Disen-cumber
18 Spanish literary hero	55 Multi-purpose truck, for short	9 Harper Valley grp.	36 Bronx cheer
19 Pick up the check		10 Annoy rabbit	37 Desolate
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21 "The Greatest"	57 Roger wd. 21	12 Speaker's platform	42 Roughly
23 Punt, e.g.	58 Pitch	21 Substitute	43 Big Three conference site
27 "Poppycock!"		23 Jolt	
29 World's largest desert			44 Stranger
31 Erasat			45 Youngs and mine
32 Chocolate			46 Green land
34 Strength			48 Dean's singing partner
35 Panacea			49 Praiseful piece
37 Robitaille of hockey			50 Deviate
38 Kenny Rogers hit			51 Morsel
39 Big fuss			

Solution time: 28 mins.

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FEER	ORGY	HEM

Yesterday's answer