

Sport

Leeward start strongly

POINTE-A-PIERRE, Trinidad Jan 5 - Leeward Islands opening batsman Stuart Williams started the Caribbean cricket season with a dazzling 160 as the Leeward Islands posted an impressive 324 for six off hosts Trinidad and Tobago on the opening day of the Busta Cup series on Thursday, reports AP.

Haas spoils Hewitt party

ADELAIDE, Jan 5: German Tommy Haas crashed Lleyton Hewitt's homecoming party here Friday, sending the Australian No 1 tumbling out of the Australian Hardcourt Tennis Championship, reports AFP.

Q'land quash Tasmania

HOBART, Australia, Jan 5: Queensland cemented their place at the top of the Sheffield Shield cricket standings by beating Tasmania by an innings and 144 runs inside three days at Belter Oval in Hobart on Friday, reports AFP.

Second win for AICRI

The touring All India Cricket Research Institute (AICRI) under-17 team earned their second consecutive win by beating Kalabagan Cricket Academy (KCA) by 4 wickets in an exhibition match at the Dhamondii Club ground in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

Rajshahi cricket

From Our Correspondent RAJSHAHI, Jan 5: Baikali Saugha and Padma Garden Cricket School won their respective matches of the sixth Bishrestha Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir Smriti Gold Cup cricket tournament today at Railway play ground.

Northern champs

PANCHAGARH, Jan 5: Northern Cricket Club of Boda became champions in a cricket tournament defeating Aristocrats Cricket Club by one wicket yesterday, reports BSS.

All-Aussie affair

GOLD COAST, Australia, Jan 5: Unseeded Italian Silvia Farina Elia ended Friday a four-match losing streak against Swiss number two Patty Schnyder to set up a final with Belgian teenager Justine Henin at the Australian Women's Hardcourt Championship here, reports AFP.

Yevgeny earns his place

DOHA, Jan 5: Olympic champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov's warning campaign for the Australian Open suffered a wobble here Thursday as the Russian struggled through to the Qatar Open quarterfinals, reports AFP.

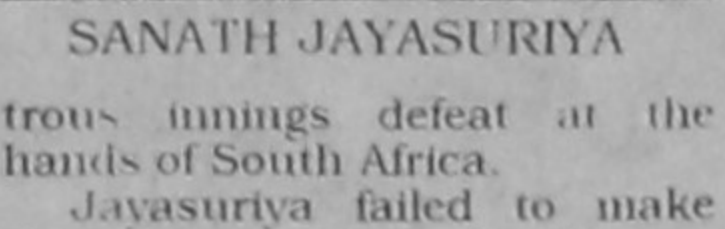
Pierce back in action soon

CANBERRA, Jan 5: World number seven Mary Pierce is looking to use next week's Canberra Tennis International to launch a comeback after four months nursing a shoulder injury that ended her US Open ambitions, reports AFP.

Arjuna slams Sanath



COLOMBO, Jan 5 (AP/AF): Arjuna Ranatunga, who led Sri Lanka to World Cup cricket victory in 1996, has strongly criticised skipper Sanath Jayasuriya and cricket selectors for the team's disastrous



trous innings defeat at the hands of South Africa. Jayasuriya failed to make the best use of his bowlers as Sri Lanka crashed in the second Test on Thursday at Newlands to give the home side their biggest ever Test win, the Daily Mirror on Friday quoted Ranatunga as saying.

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Cairns missing final ODI

WELLINGTON, Jan 5: Re-curring knee injuries mean New Zealand all-rounder Chris Cairns will miss the third and deciding one-day international against Zimbabwe in Auckland on Sunday, reports Reuters.

Golmard bows to injury

MADRAS, Jan 5: Defending champion Jerome Golmard of France retired midway through his second round match with Romanian Adrian Voinea at the 400,000-dollar Indian Open on Thursday, reports AFP.

Sorry Becker

MIAMI, Jan 5: A family court judge Thursday denied Boris Becker's request to have his wife's alimony and child support case conducted in private, reports AP.

Quarterfinal pairings

Kristian Pless (DEN) vs Adrian Voinea (ROM); Cedric Pioline (FRA) vs Michal Tabara (CZE).

Scorecard

Table with columns for WEST INDIES, AUSTRALIA, WEST INDIES, AUSTRALIA, and BOWLER. It lists scores for batsmen and bowling figures for both teams.

Lankan cricket," he said. Ranatunga, a veteran of five World Cups, retired last year from the international cricket. He made his Test debut at the age of only 18. He is part of Sri Lanka's cricket history, having experienced it first hand.

Since retirement, he has been named by Indian book-makers as one of the players who took money in return for helping to fix matches.

The BCCSL has appointed a one man commission of inquiry to study the evidence against both cricketers. The Commission was yet to submit its report.

He also attacked board officials for living in luxury, while the players received a paltry fee.

"Board officials who go on tour and stay in air conditioned rooms are entitled to an allowance of 350 dollars for a day while players get just 50 dollars. But they (the officials) are not doing a good job for the Sri

not out 34 and Don Nash was unbeaten on 14. Brad Haddin held the NSW innings together with a classy

Meanwhile, champion leg-spinner Shane Warne kept up the pressure for an early return to the Australian side, snapping up 4-53 for Victoria on the day.

Just back from a two-month injury absence, Warne is keen to force his way back into the Australian line-up for a one-day series involving the West Indies and Zimbabwe later this month.

He wants to use the limited-overs games to demonstrate he still has the skills to merit selection for the Australian squad to tour India from February and England later in the year.

Warne's fine effort helped dismiss Western Australia for 235, 19 behind Victoria's 254.

Victoria went to stumps with 146 for three in their second innings-leading overall by 165.

Jason Aramberger was in fine touch, finishing with an unbeaten 63, while Clinton Peake will resume Saturday with 24.

Warne's four-wicket haul was all the more impressive because he has not previously enjoyed much success at the WACA Ground, noted mainly as a happy hunting ground for fast bowlers.

He had his only chance at breaking the Russian in the third game of the match, which went to 12 deuces. The Swede held six break points, all of which were saved.

Stoliarov ran to a 5-0 lead before Vinciguerra managed to hold on. The Russian, completely in control, held serve in the next game to wrap up the set.

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Swiss mixed doubles pair of Martina Hings (L) and Roger Federer is jubilant after beating South Africans Amanda Coetzer and Wayne Ferreira at the Hopman Cup in Perth yesterday. —AFP photo

S Africa surrender

PERTH, Jan 5: Switzerland's world number one Martina Hings and teenager Roger Federer top

pled reigning champions South Africa in Perth Friday to book their place against the United States in the final of the million dollar (\$54,000) Hopman Cup tennis tournament, reports AFP.

The top-seeded Swiss pair will face off against the American duo of former world number one Monica Seles -- currently ranked 4th -- and Jan-Michael Gambill in Saturday's final.

The formbook suggests that the Swiss will be strong favourites to win the title and the 240,000 (130,000 US) first prize for a second time after Jakob Hlasek and Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere beat Czechoslovakia in 1992.

Hings has a 12-2 head-to-head advantage over Seles, while Federer has beaten Gambill in their two engagements.

In what was virtually a semifinal of the round-robin contest at the Burswood Dome, the Swiss pair snatched a tough

tie 2-1 when they proved the masters in the decisive mixed doubles, winning 6-2, 6-3.

The singles confrontations had earlier been shared, with Hings destroying veteran Amanda Coetzer in two sets and Wayne Ferreira reviving South Africa's hopes when he beat 19-year-old Federer.

Ferreira, 29, ranked number 13 in the world, defeated the 29th ranked Federer, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 to level the tie at 1-1 after Hings had scorched to victory over Coetzer.

Displaying a brand of ruthlessness that swept Coetzer off the court, Hings won in straight sets, 6-1, 6-0 in 47 minutes.

Coetzer, 29, ranked 11th, fought gallantly against the 20-year-old superstar, but had no answer to her power serving and precision returns.

"I was a little tired going into the singles match," said Hings, who hardly made an error.

"I am trying to improve all my shots, because if you don't try, you don't get anywhere."

Hings, 20, said she had been very nervous going into

the mixed doubles, a view shared by her partner.

"I was also nervous going into the doubles after my singles loss, but Martina was great to have as a partner and she did it again for us," the 19-year-old Federer said.

Despite losing the doubles event, Ferreira was happy about his form, in particular during his singles clash: "I hit the ball very well, and Roger let me in a bit. I am happy with the way I am hitting the ball and I cannot complain."

"I hung in well in the critical third set, and as well as I played, his concentration never wavered."

However his compatriot Coetzer admitted she had lost to the better person on the day. "I was a bit outclashed in the singles. Martina played really well."

The final promises to deliver a ferocious clash between Hings and Seles -- a confrontation which could be decisive.

Both players are approaching peak form and are both unbeaten in their three matches in the tournament over the past week.

Yevgeny earns his place

DOHA, Jan 5: Olympic champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov's warning campaign for the Australian Open suffered a wobble here Thursday as the Russian struggled through to the Qatar Open quarterfinals, reports AFP.

Top-seed Kafelnikov - who will attempt to regain the Australian Open crown he won in 1999 later this month - was made to toil by little-known Swedish qualifier Fredrik Jonsson before finally winning 6-3, 7-6, (7/3).

The tall right-hander was forced to save eight break points and survived a second set tie-breaker on his way into the last eight.

Jonsson frequently caused problems for Kafelnikov, his buccannering style putting the Russian under pressure.

This quality really began to develop after Jonsson had gone a set and a break of serve down.

From 0-2 in the second set the Malmo man played three excellent games to go to 3-2, disconcerting the favourite and perhaps contributing to the three double faults Kafelnikov delivered in the next game.

Kafelnikov only saved that after ten deuces, uttering to himself as he laboured to hang on, and eventually fretting a little during the long struggle to avoid a 2-4 deficit.

By this time Jonsson was pounding his ground strokes with penetration, and covering

the court surprisingly well for a man of six feet and four inches. The harassed Kafelnikov delivered another double fault in his next service game and slipped to 15-40, but once he had escaped from that his flirtation with trouble was over.

"Things got ugly in the second set," admitted Kafelnikov. "He played extremely well and could certainly make a main tour player. I am happy that I kept my momentum."

Eventually the high speed rallies took their toll on the less experienced player, and when Jonsson put a faded forehand drive into the net to concede a mini-break, Kafelnikov went on to win the tie-break with something to spare.

That earned him a quarterfinal with the improving Bohdan Ullrich of the Czech republic, who caused the fifth seeding upset of the week by taking the last six games in a row to eliminate the former Olympic champion from Switzerland, Marc Rosset, 6-2, 6-3.

The man expected to meet Kafelnikov in Sunday's final, the second-seeded Nicolas Pietrangeli, also had to survive a second set tie-break before reaching the last eight.

The German beat the German-born Spanish Alex Calatrava 6-0, 7-6 (7/2), though it might have been much easier for Kiefer had he not lost a second set lead of 4-2 after serving a double fault on break point.

"I didn't feel good. I had a headache and couldn't concentrate," said Kiefer, but he nevertheless halted the hard-serving Calatrava's comeback with a calmly played tie-break, in which his ground stroke fluency proved superior.

Kiefer now plays the Wimbledon semi-finalist Vladimir Voltchkov, who won the battle of Belarusia by 4-6, 6-3, 7-5 against his compatriot Max Mirnyi.

Pierce back in action soon

CANBERRA, Jan 5: World number seven Mary Pierce is looking to use next week's Canberra Tennis International to launch a comeback after four months nursing a shoulder injury that ended her US Open ambitions, reports AFP.

The French Open champion arrived in the Australian capital Friday with her major league baseballer fiancee Roberto Alomar, eager to hit the court for the first time since September.

"I felt that last year was the best year of my career so far, even though I played maybe only half of the season," Pierce said.

"I feel great and very fit. All I've been doing for the last four months is working out, not playing a lot of tennis to let my shoulder heal."

"I started playing a few weeks ago, so I'm looking forward to playing matches again."

The injury forced Pierce to retire from her fourth-round US Open match with Anke Huber of Germany after dropping the first set.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 41 Wide-spread 1 Loud noise 23 Gardens, in 4 Cleveland cager, short 7 SEATO setting 11 Sur-rounded by 13 Chartres chum 14 Fleet painter 15 Staff member 16 Halloween, cry 17 Merriment 18 Serious 20 Fish Magic painter 22 Sort of Duane or rock 28 Pan 32 Twenty 33 Apple invader 34 Puke 37 Hall 39 Interpret inaccurately

DOWN 1 Goller Ernie 2 Cupid's lorle, in England 25 Relocate 26 Neighbourhood 27 Dweeb 28 Pop member 30 Unyielding 31 Curry or Rice 35 Card-table call 38 Way out there 40 Weep 42 Elbow 45 Clock face 47 DMV announcement 48 Arrow poison 49 And Then There Were 50 Leprechaun's dance 51 Past 52 Werner 54 Leo's studio

CRYPTOQUIP MRD BSIV JSPD UROBR MRD EOJ YSIPDI BCSOPDV MQ COWD PQLM QY SCC USL EQIWDI

Saturday's Cryptiquip: THE CLOCK SHOP OWNER ASKS, "PLEASE CHECK OUT OUR NEW HOURS."

Today's Cryptiquip Clue: S equals A The Cryptiquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.



Former German tennis great Boris Becker (R) looking into a document presented to him by his wife lawyer during a hearing at the Miami-Dade Court on January 4. —AFP photo