

# Tyro topples Andre

Tennis

AFP, Shanghai

A left-handed teenaged outsider with a killer serve handed drawcard Andre Agassi a shocking first-round defeat at the 400,000-dollar Heineken Open Tuesday, sending the top seed crashing out 7-6, 7-5.

Georgian Irakli Labadze, playing in only his fourth event at the ATP level, wrecked the draw of a tournament already penalised by being programmed opposite Davis Cup semi-finals this weekend in Sydney and Rotterdam.

Agassi's first visit to China ended on court after one hour, 38 mintues as Labadze came back from a break down in the second set after winning the first in a tie-break effort.

Agassi, already qualified along with Gustavo Kuerten for the season-ending Masters Cup in Sydney in two months, credited his unknown opponent with producing a top effort.

He said that despite the tragic events of the last week in his home country, "I came here committed and ready to play. But he had one of the best serving displays I've ever seen."

Labadze hammered over 13 aces and saved four of the five break points he faced against the 31-year-old American tennis icon. Agassi was playing his first match since losing a thrilling U.S. Open quarter-final to Pete Sampras a fortnight ago.

His last time in Asia, Agassi won the Hong Kong tournament in 1999, beating Boris Becker.

The American said he was not overly distracted by the terror crisis which has shocked the world in recent days. "It's been difficult times



IRAKLI LABADZE

for all of us, but I think sport can be a great healer.

"It can be a distraction from an unfortunate tragedy. It's been difficult for us all. I only wish I'd been able to come here earlier."

Agassi began hitting the morning

after his Saturday night arrival in China's largest city with coach Brad Gilbert. He got a taste of what he could expect from Labadze during a Tuesday morning warmup.

"We hit on the same court," said the seven-time Grand Slam cham-

pion. "I'd never seen him play but I had good information on him from others. I was aware of the power of his serve."

Agassi missed a chance late in the opening set and was then overwhelmed in the ensuing tie-breaker in a contest where several dicey line calls could likely have some affect.

The American returned long to lose the first, but got up a break 2-1 in the second against the East European hopeful. But a frustrating moment towards the end resulted in a mild racket smash from Agassi has he failed to serve out the set to drop to 5-all.

Labadze held to force up the pressure quotient at 6-5 and Agassi got into his final round of trouble as he double-faulted to yield a match point. He saved it on a Labadze unforced error.

But the challenger sent a forehand down the line for another match-winning chance and passed again to ice the upset.

"Late in the second, he went up another gear which I didn't match," said a disappointed Agassi, who plans to remain in China's city of 17 million for a few more days. "I wish I had been able to get here earlier to prepare and adapt to the conditions."

"But I came here as ready as I could be. I just met a guy who played a bigger game on the day."

Second seed Rainer Schuettler advanced into the second round over Michael Russell 7-5, 6-4, while Australian qualifier Michael Tebbutt upset sixth-seeded Russian Andrei Stoliarov 6-3, 6-4

In other matches, Japan's Takahiro Terachi defeated American Cecil Mamiit 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, Yong-il Yoon of Korea ousted Thomas Shimada of Japan, 6-4, 6-4 and Swiss George Bastl accounted for Czech qualifier Petr Luxa 6-1, 7-5.

## Life ban slapped on Dees

AFP, Colorado

American hurdler Tony Dees received a lifetime suspension Monday from the International Amateur Athletic Federation after two positive tests for nandrolone metabolites.

The ban was announced by the United States Anti-Doping Agency and will be implemented by USA Track and Field.

Dees, a member of the 1992 US Olympic team, is serving a two-year suspension for a positive test for nandrolone metabolites at this year's US Indoor Track and Field Championships.

The latest positive results came in February at the Grand Prix in England and during a random test in May at Tampa, Florida.

The penalty for a second doping offense involving an anabolic substance is lifetime ineligibility.

Dees, 37, also will have his third-place finish in the 60-metre hurdles at the English meet wiped out.

Since becoming the independent anti-doping agency for American athletes last October, the USADA has imposed 11 sanctions.

## Jordan makes brief return in name only

AFP, Washington

Michael Jordan made a brief, unspectacular 90-minute return to a National Basketball Association roster here Monday thanks to a clerical error by the league.

Jordan's name was inaccurately listed on the active roster of the Washington Wizards on the NBA.com web site for about an hour and a half before the error was corrected after numerous telephone calls to the NBA.

The 38-year-old former Chicago Bulls star might yet return to active NBA duty, but as of yet he has not taken his place with the league's Washington Wizards, the club which employs him as president of basketball operations.

Jordan has been training for months to get himself in shape to see if he is ready to return. One week ago, he hinted to reporters he would return only to deny such comments when reports were made that he would come back.

Following the terrorist acts in New York and Washington on Tuesday, Jordan wiped out plans for a news conference to announce his comeback or non-return. Instead, faxes of a statement will be sent to announce his decision this week or next.

When Jordan returned from a 17-month retirement in 1995 after an ill-fated bid to play baseball, his return was confirmed by a two-word statement through the Bulls -- "I'm back."

The Wizards open training camp with a media day here October 1 before 10 days of training at Jordan's hometown -- Wilmington, North Carolina.

Before Jordan can join the Wizards as a player, he must divest himself of ownership shares in the NBA club. Plans are to have him do so by trading shares that will give him a larger stake in the Washington Capitals ice hockey club.

## Seles pulls out too

Tennis

AFP, Tokyo

Five-time champion Monica Seles Tuesday became the fourth player to pull out of the Princess Cup tennis tournament after the terror attacks in



PHOTO: AFP

Spaniard Cristina Torrens is disgusted with herself after she missed one during her first round engagement of the Princess Cup in Tokyo yesterday.

the United States, organisers said.

Seles, who had been seeded second here after winning her 49th career title last weekend beating Jelena Dokic of Yugoslavia in the

players.

"Many players have decided to remain home with their families or simply could not get a flight that would get them to Tokyo in time to

play," WTA Tour chief executive officer Bart McGuire said.

"The WTA tour understands the situation our players are faced with in attempting to travel this week and fully supports their decisions in this very difficult time," McGuire added.

Due to the late arrivals of some players caused by the disrupted international travel in the wake of the attacks, only four singles matches in the main draw were played Tuesday.

Eighth-seeded Cristina Torrens Valero of Spain became the first seed to fall, losing to home favourite Ai Sugiyama 1-6, 2-6 in the first round.

Janet Lee of Taiwan, who lost to Japan's Shihō Hisamatsu 6-2, 2-6, 1-6 in the last qualifying round Tuesday, joined the event as a "lucky loser," while qualifier Miho Saeki of Japan was drawn to take Seles' place.

Russian teenager Lina Krasnoroutskaya overcame a bout of illness, swirling winds and her terror at the attacks to beat Mariana Diaz-Oliva of Argentina 6-4, 6-0.

Cara Black of Zimbabwe eased aside Japan's Rika Fujiwara 6-3, 6-2, while Joannette Kruger of South Africa defeated Alicia Molik of Australia 7-5, 3-6, 6-2.

"I was shocked by the attacks in the United States and I'm really mad about that," said the 17-year-old Russian.

"When it happened, we didn't know what it would be ... maybe it's gonna be the third world war ... and I was really, really scared to fly here, but I did it and I'm here and I'm playing."

"I'm very happy that I'm strong enough and I was able to overcome my scare," added the Russian, who was sick and in bed for three days before the tournament.

Sugiyama said: "I was in New York until several days before the terrible incident. I can't believe such a thing really happened. I feel indignation against it and I can't keep tears back when I think about it."

Dokic, the third seed here who won her first career title at the Italian Open in May, arrived Tuesday, the organisers said.

# Attacked sports

AFP, Paris

Many sports events have been cancelled or postponed either for security fears or in solidarity with victims of the September 11 terror attacks on New York and Washington.

September 11  
BASEBALL: American Major League matches cancelled  
FOOTBALL: American Major League Soccer programme cancelled  
TENNIS: Hawaii women's tournament cancelled before second day's play.

September 12  
FOOTBALL: European club football (Champions' League and UEFA Cup) matches scheduled for September 12 and 13 were all postponed.  
September 14  
HANDBALL: German championship matches cancelled  
SKIING: German championships cancelled  
CYCLING: American riders in the Tour d'Avenir, France, withdraw from the tour.  
GOLF: Pro circuit tournaments at St Louis and Tampa Bay, United States cancelled.

BOXING: World middleweight unification fight between Puerto Rico's Felix Trinidad and America's Bernard Hopkins, scheduled for September 15 in New York City postponed.

September 13  
FOOTBALL: Organisers of the Japan-South Korea 2002 football World Cup announced reinforced security measures for the June-July event.  
AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL cancelled its weekend programme of 15 matches.

CRICKET: New Zealand made a last minute pull out of a tour of Pakistan and also withdrew an "A" team from India.  
CANOE-KAYAK: World championships due to start September 13 on the Ocoee River, Tennessee, cancelled.

September 14  
OLYMPICS: The International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced plans to beef up security at the February 2002 Winter Olympics at Salt Lake City, Utah.

ICE HOCKEY: Warm-up matches for the 2001-2002 North American League season cancelled.

BASKETBALL: NBA exhibition matches in Shanghai and Taiwan cancelled.

TENNIS: United States versus India Davis Cup match scheduled for September 21 at Winston Salem North Carolina, USA, cancelled.

GOLF: Tiger Woods dropped out of the Lancome Trophy scheduled for September 20 at Saint-Nom-La-Breteche, France.

SQUASH: Boston's US Open cancelled

September 15  
WRESTLING: World Championships scheduled for New York September 26-29 cancelled.

September 16  
GOLF: The Ryder Cup, pitting Europe against America event scheduled to start September 28 at The Belfry, Birmingham, England, postponed until next year.

FIELD HOCKEY: Men's Champions' Trophy scheduled for November 3-11 in Pakistan relocated to an as yet undecided country.

United States pulled out of Women's World Cup qualifying tournament September 18-30 at Amiens and Abbeville, France.

TENNIS: Jennifer Capriati and Serena Williams pulled out of Tokyo WTA tournament due to start September 17.

September 17  
GAMES: Postponement of the Afro-Asian Games at New Delhi November 3-11 because of feared reprisals by the United States on Afghanistan.

## Kallistatistics

from page 13  
into the last hour. But Hamilton Masakadza survived a shaky start and together with star batsman Andy Flower saw out the next 42 minutes before South Africa agreed to call off play. Henderson finished with three for 33 after having three for nine at one stage.

Throughout the match bowlers struggled on a slow pitch, while batsmen found it difficult to score quickly. Zimbabwe batted until almost the end of the third day in making 419 for nine declared, while South Africa were unable to maintain a markedly faster scoring rate.

Kallis batted for 581 minutes in his innings, facing 443 balls and hitting 19 fours and three sixes. Although he batted solidly, he seldom dominated the bowling.

Zimbabwe left-arm spinner Raymond Price bowled unchanged from the start of play Tuesday until the declaration and captured five wickets for 181 runs in 79 overs.

South Africa scored 40 runs in the first half hour of play after resuming at 300 for two, giving rise to the possibility that they would bat aggressively in an attempt to hurry to a reasonable lead.

During this early flurry, Kallis went to his ninth Test century after batting for 331 minutes and facing 280 balls. Immediately after reaching his hundred he slammed two fours off Price. But he went back on the defensive, especially after overnight batting partner Neil McKenzie was lbw to Travis Friend for 88. The pair put on 181 for the third wicket.

It was only when South African captain Shaun Pollock came in and struck 41 off 57 balls that the South African scoring rate lifted significantly.

Zimbabwe were without leg-spinner Paul Strang, who did not take the field after suffering a bruised right little finger while trying to hold a scorching catching chance from Herschelle Gibbs Monday.

With Strang absent, Price again bore the brunt of the bowling, making the occasional delivery kick off the pitch or turn sharply. But there was not the assistance for the spin bowlers that had been anticipated.

Price sent down 474 deliveries, the 14th highest number of balls bowled in a Test innings.

SCOREBOARD  
Final scorecard on the fifth day of the second Test between South Africa and Zimbabwe in Bulawayo on Tuesday:

ZIMBABWE: First innings 419 for 9 declared (A Campbell 77, D Ebrahim 71, S Carlisle 49, A Flower 67, G Flower 44; C Henderson 4-143)

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings (300-2 overnight)  
Gibbs c A Flower b Price 74  
Kirsten st A Flower b Price 65  
Kallis not out 189  
McKenzie lbw b Friend 88  
Dippenaar c G Flower b Price 11  
Klusener c Campbell b Price 27

Pollock c Carlisle b Price 41  
Boucher b Friend 14  
Henderson b Friend 0  
Extras: (b-3, lb-7) 10  
Total: (For 8 wkts decl in 186.2 overs) 519

Fall of wickets: 1-117, 2-162, 3-343, 4-368, 5-418, 6-490, 7-513, 8-519  
Did not bat: M Ntini, A Nel

Bowler O M R W  
Streak 25 9 64 0  
Friend 30 2 9 87 3  
Strang 14 2 2 52 0  
Price 79 19 181 5  
Whittall 29 4 6 80 0  
G Flower 8 0 45 0

ZIMBABWE: Second innings  
Campbell c Dippenaar b Henderson 20  
Ebrahim b Henderson 4  
Masakadza not out 42  
Carlisle c Ntini b Henderson 4  
A Flower not out 14  
Extras: (b-4, lb-4, nb-4) 12  
Total: (For 3 wkts in 42 overs) 96  
Fall of wickets: 1-21, 2-38, 3-58  
Did not bat: G Flower, G Whittall, H Streak, P Strang, T Friend, R Price

Bowler O M R W  
Pollock 4 1 8 0  
Nel 3 0 9 0  
Henderson 18 11 33 3  
Ntini 3 0 11 0  
Klusener 12 7 21 0  
Kirsten 2 1 6 0

Result: Match drawn and South Africa won the series 1-0.

Man-of-the-match: Jacques Kallis.

Man of series: Jacques Kallis  
Umpires: Kevin Barbour (Zimbabwe) and John Hampshire (England).

# Reducing men's power

Tennis

REUTERS/AFP, undated

Moves to blunt the bludgeoning power in men's tennis and counter-act monotonous play have been adopted by the International Tennis Federation (ITF).

In more than 100 years of tennis, the only rule changes have been the introduction of the tiebreak in the 1970s and permission for servers to jump.

But racket technology has developed far beyond the Bjorn Borg era of laminated wood and cat gut, and has changed the nature of the game into one dominated by big hitters with hi-tech rackets rather than finesse players.

Fewer rallies and "one-hit" tennis where the serve dominates are a common complaint among tennis fans, and the ITF has stepped in to try and find a solution.

Rule changes approving the use of three different types of ball were agreed by the ITF at its Annual General Meeting in Cancun, Mexico.

The meeting voted overwhelmingly to allow three different types of tennis ball according to the pace of the surface -- ball type 1 (fast speed), ball type 2 (medium speed) and ball type 3 (slow speed).

The introduction of the different balls will also help speed up the game on very slow surfaces, including European clay, where the service is almost negated completely.

ITF president Francesco Ricci Bitti said: "I want to congratulate the

AGM for their approval of this important amendment and thank the tennis ball manufacturers for their support during the experimental period and in the run-up to the AGM."

By varying the standard ball in size



GORAN IVANSEVIC

and material, the result will be slower balls being used on grass at Wimbledon and faster balls on clay at the French Open, the two extremes of the many surfaces used in international tennis.

The move will not go down well with everybody involved in tennis, however. Wimbledon champion Goran Ivanisevic relies on his serve to win matches as does Britain's Greg Rusedski, holder of the fastest recorded serve in tennis at 149 miles per hour.

There are also fears that there could be an increase in injuries as players try to hit the slower balls harder to

compensate. The ITF also has given the men's ATP and women's WTA tours the option of using the super-tie-break in their tournaments in an experiment lasting until December 31, 2002.

That would mean doing away with the traditional deciding fifth or third sets and replacing them with a first to 10 points tie-breaker including a two point differential from 9-9.

However, this would not be authorized in Davis Cup or Grand Slam singles matches.

The super-tie-breaker has already been used in a limited way, most recently in mixed doubles matches at this year's Australian and US Opens.

The ITF action follows criticism that tennis matches go on for too long which turns away both spectators and potential sponsors.

The 84 nations who attended also overwhelmingly approved a move to require team uniforms in national colours for Davis Cup, Fed Cup and other international team competitions.

At present players wear their own, often sponsored, tennis outfit but next year the ITF will ask nations to co-operate and will propose to the 2002 AGM in Morocco a rule change to make team uniforms in national colours compulsory.

The AGM also gave the ITF a mandate to amend the current Fed Cup format for 2002 to include a 16-nation World Group.

ITF members also voted to accept an application by the Kyrgyzstan Tennis Federation to become a member of the International Tennis Federation.

Tennis

REUTERS, Paris

Eclipsed this year by the rising generation of Sebastien Grosjean, Arnaud Clement and Nicolas Escude, Cedric Pioline hopes to

save his season by helping France reach the Davis Cup final against the Netherlands at the weekend.

After a string of disappointing results, the former Wimbledon and U.S. Open finalist is no longer an automatic choice as singles player for his country.

But despite an appalling performance in doubles with Fabrice



PHOTO: INTERNET

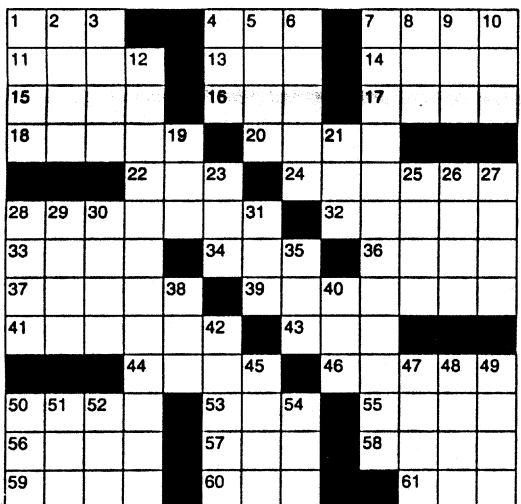
Andre Agassi greets China's tallest basketball player Yao Ming during a tennis charity promotion in Shanghai yesterday.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS  
1 Send speedily  
4 Singer Davis  
7 One of the Three Bears  
11 Pianist  
13 Ms.  
14 Dr.  
15 Frankenstein's aide  
16 Itsy-bitsy  
17 Libretto  
18 Colour inserts  
20 Galvanization material  
22 Lubricate  
24 Capital of Punjab  
28 Marriage-related  
32 Hamelin's haviour  
33 Burg  
34 Sailor  
36 "Peter Pan"  
37 Alpha's opposite

39 Moves like jelly  
41 Exodus festival  
43 Ovine opinion  
44 Caprice  
46 Muffler  
50 Internet language  
53 AAA job  
55 Satan's specialty  
56 Eastern potentate  
57 A Stooze  
58 Faction  
59 Brosnan role  
60 Remnant  
61 Gender  
2 Hit bottom  
3 Lawless character  
4 Stein  
5 The gamut  
6 Gripe over trivia  
7 Contenders for 12-Down  
8 Actuarial concern  
9 Plague  
10 Museum stuff  
12 Sports trophy  
19 Marie, to  
21 Donny  
21 Siesta  
23 Trail the pack

25 Autumnal stone  
26 Actress Russo  
27 History chapters  
28 Put a halt to  
29 Apple or pear  
30 Has bills  
31 Despondent  
35 Chest protector?  
38 Interlaken interjection  
40 Really good time  
42 Blackjack player's command  
45 Satellite rival  
47 Hertz  
48 Amusement park attraction  
49 Show off the biceps  
50 Poke  
51 --, amas, amat  
52 Sports-car  
53 Scully  
54 Marry



5-7 CRYPTOQUIP

Y P Z P O J M O W O X H N O N P M

Z H X Z - Y H J P K P J V B J Q P J

U P F F . " H ' Q O N N Z P

P W M B V Q U J B K P !"  
Saturday's Cryptquip: THE PERCUSSION SHOP OWNER TRIED WITHOUT SUCCESS TO DRUM UP SOME BUSINESS.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: M equals D

The Cryptquip 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.