

Seles signs up for Hopman Cup

Former American world number one Monica Seles will return to Perth later in the year for the Hopman Cup tennis tournament despite having sparked a security scare in the previous Cup contest here. Tournament director Paul McNamee said Monday Seles would partner Jan-Michael Gambill in the mixed teams event starting December 29 at Burswood Dome.

Trinidad enter

FROM PAGE 13 umpires' offer of bad light. Trinidad and Tobago got off to a frenetic start with in-form Andy Jackson scoring a brisk 59, sharing a 75-run stand for the second wicket with Lincoln Roberts who made 48. Jackson, who scored 120 against the Northern Windwards, hit three sixes and two fours before he became the second of five Trinidadian batsmen to go by the run out route.

An unsettled Brian Lara made 29 before he was fourth out with the score on 167. The rest of the innings folded with the addition of 26 runs. Bowling for Jamaica, off-spinner Marlon Samuels captured two wickets for 20 runs off five overs while fellow slow bowler Ricardo Powell claimed three for 27, also off five overs.

Jamaica got off to an encouraging start. Wavell Hinds and Leon Garrick posted 40 runs for the first wicket, but once the latter was dismissed by leftarm spinner David Mohammed for 10 in the 10th over, the innings declined.

Chappell

FROM PAGE 13 Waugh's side. They are headed by the world's greatest legspinner Shane Warne, fast bowlers Glenn McGrath, Jason Gillespie and Brett Lee, batsmen Michael Slater, Adam Gilchrist, Justin Langer, Damien Martyn, Ricky Ponting and Simon Katich. Other notable graduates are Greg Blewett, Brendon Julian, Michael Bevan, Andrew Symonds, Stuart Law and Stuart MacGill.

Yevgeny keeps Kremlin Cup



INTERNET, Moscow

There's no place like home for Yevgeny Kafelnikov. Although the 27-year-old Russian was born and still resides in Sochi, Kafelnikov has made the Kremlin Cup in Moscow his own, winning his fifth straight title at the \$2.19 million indoor event with a 6-4, 7-5 victory over Nicolas Pietrangeli of Germany.

of the President's Cup in Tashkent, Uzbekistan last month. Kiefer, who squandered a 4-2 lead in the first set, failed to capture



Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov celebrates after beating German Nicolas Kiefer at the Kremlin Cup final on Sunday.

The top-seeded Kafelnikov needed to rally from a break down in the first set to become only the third men's tennis player in the Open Era (1968) to win the same event five years in a row. Not since Hungary's Balazs Taroczy claimed the Hilversum title in 1982 has a player won five consecutive titles at the same tournament. Bjorn Borg won both Wimbledon and the French Open five years in a row. Kafelnikov has dominated this event, going 36-5 and winning 25 straight matches. His last loss at the tournament was to Goran Ivanisevic in the 1996 final.

His first title of the year and seventh of his career. He committed 35 unforced errors and had just seven winners. By prevailing in Sunday's messy final, which featured a combined 13 breaks of serve and 68 unforced errors, Doki earned 175,000 dollars and her third career crown. She won the Italian Open in March and the Princess Cup at Tokyo last month.

Anna, Martina lift doubles title

INTERNET, Moscow

Anna Kournikova and Martina Hingis put their singles sadness behind them to win silverware in the doubles in Moscow. The pair captured the Kremlin Cup title after defeating Elena Dementieva, who was the losing finalist in the singles competition and her partner Lina Krasnorutskaya, 7-6, 6-3. It was a well needed tonic after Kournikova crashed in the first round of the singles and Hingis in the quarters. It also marked their first doubles title win of the year together.

Hewitt moving up ATP rankings

AFP, Paris

Lleyton Hewitt of Australia is closing in on Andre Agassi for second place in the ATP Champions Race following his win in the Tokyo tournament on Sunday. Hewitt stands just six points behind the American after winning his fifth title of the year just one month before the season-ending Masters Cup in Sydney. Brazil's Gustavo Kuerten retained top spot despite being idle. He has 755 points, 72 points ahead of Agassi.

- ATP Champions Race Top 20
1. Gustavo Kuerten 755 pts
2. Andre Agassi 683
3. Lleyton Hewitt 677
4. Patrick Rafter 557
5. Juan Carlos Ferrero 552
6. Yevgeny Kafelnikov 438
7. Sébastien Grosjean 363
8. Pete Sampras 363
9. Tim Henman 352
10. Roger Federer 324
11. Marat Safin 316
12. Alex Corretja 303
13. Goran Ivanisevic 296
14. Arnaud Clément 293
15. Andy Roddick 276
16. Tommy Haas 270
17. Thomas Johansson 249
18. Guillermo Canas 249
19. Jan-Michael Gambill 242
20. Carlos Moya 241

Navratilova to play in charity match

AFP, London

Tennis legend Martina Navratilova will take on Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain in a charity match at the Royal Albert Hall on Thursday December 6, organisers announced Monday. Navratilova won nine Wimbledon singles titles including six in a row between 1982 and 1987, while Sanchez-Vicario was twice a runner-up at the All England Club and a three-time winner of the French Open.

Jr WC starts today



AFP, Hobart

Germany are favourites to topple defending champions Australia in the Junior World field hockey Cup which starts here Tuesday. The tournament brings the world's top under-21 players from 16 nations together for the first time in four years. Australia won the last Junior World Cup in 1997 at Milton Keynes, England, but Germany, with seven players who are regular members of their senior side, are strong favourites. Their stars include 19-year-old Matthias Witthaus, who played at the Sydney Olympics, and Florian Keller from the famous Keller family whose Olympic gold medals in hockey started with grandfather Irwin Keller at the Berlin Olympics in 1936.

as they only flew in at 2:30 that morning. Spain's talented team includes international striker Eduard Tubau with 52 matches for Spain's senior team, Albert Sala with 8 caps and Santiago Freixa with 11. Former Dutch senior men's coach Maurits Hendriks took over as Spain head coach after taking Netherlands to their second successive gold medal at the Sydney Olympics. India have high expectations with Gagan Ajit Singh and Deepak Thakur from the senior team and with Olympic experience. India changed coach last month from Charles Cornelius to Rajinder Singh after the loss of a series to Malaysia in India. Malaysia bring four experienced players from their senior team. Captain Boon Huat Chua has made a name for himself in international hockey circles as a very capable midfielder and tenacious striker over more than 100 games for Malaysia at senior level. Logan Raj Kali Kavandan and Jiwa Mohan at the back are almost as experienced as Boon Huat and as cool under pressure. Their collective leadership will be needed as Malaysia has the toughest task to qualify for a top 8 place as their pool includes Germany, Argentina and New Zealand.

Stadium row spoils British party

AFP, London

British sport enjoyed a number of successes over the weekend. On Saturday the English football team qualified for the 2002 World Cup with a 2-2 draw against Greece. Even Scotland and Wales both won, albeit that their chances of going to Japan and South Korea had long disappeared. In Harare the English cricket team beat Zimbabwe in a one-day international, a feat they repeated on Sunday. As Nasser Hussain's men were celebrating going 3-0 up in the series, back on home soil Britain's world class country champion Paula Radcliffe was reflecting on her victory Sunday in Bristol at the world half marathon championships. Yet the impact of all these good performances threatened to be overshadowed on the international stage by the collapse of London's bid to host the 2005 Athletics World Championships. On Friday, British culture minister Tessa Jowell officially withdrew London's bid saying the Government was not prepared to cover the spiralling costs of a proposed new stadium at Picketts Lock. That was bad enough for Britain's standing in world sport. But the Government then made itself look even more ridiculous when the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) by suggesting the northern English city of Sheffield as an alternative even though the IAAF has a clear policy of only taking its showcase event to major international cities. Sheffield is not even the biggest city in its county of Yorkshire.

Also on Friday, British sports minister Richard Caborn, who represents a Sheffield constituency, had, according to informed sources, told the IAAF's Senegalese president Lamine Diack that sports bursaries were on offer to Africans if the World Championships came to England. On Sunday a spokesman for Britain's Department of Culture Media and Sport told AFP: "The offer was linked into facilities at the UK Sports Institute - if there are countries who do not have those facilities, we could offer scholarships to athletes from Africa." Then what remaining credibility the Government had with world athletics' chiefs was clearly shattered when a senior IAAF official told AFP Sunday that wives of leading athletics administrators had been offered a shopping trip to top London department store Harrods if they agreed to the Sheffield switch. No wonder one IAAF official said: "It smacked of crass colonialism." So how did the British Government get itself into such a mess? The root cause of the current problem was its failure in 1999 to ensure that plans for the new Wembley Stadium would include a permanent running track with retractable seating so that major athletics, football and rugby events could all be staged at the one venue. Meanwhile, despite a lottery grant of 120 million pounds, the old Wembley and its famous twin towers are still standing while the Government conducts a review into the future of a replacement. Wembley, it must be stressed, is a particularly English failure. Wales

has shown with the new Millennium Stadium in Cardiff that major sporting venues can be built in the UK. Similarly, in Scotland, both football's Hampden Park and rugby union's Murrayfield have undergone redevelopment. All these projects had one thing in common - there was never any doubt or dissension about what they would ultimately be used for. The delay over Wembley is symptomatic of a wider problem in British sport which is not the Government's fault alone. Unlike European counterparts, Britain's sports minister has never had any real power whatsoever regardless of whichever party won a General Election. The post has been a political graveyard for everyone who has ever held it. Despite being a cricket enthusiast and sports lover, Britain's former Prime Minister John Major fought shy of attempts to give him the job early in his career. The result is that public money is distributed to a number of different bodies - Sport England, UK Sport, the British Olympic Association and numerous regional organisations with the inevitable bureaucratic confusion that entails. Should Britain adopt the French or German model then some good may come out of the current embarrassment. But that would mean Government having to take more direct responsibility for sport. In the meantime Britain's hopes of hosting the 2012 Olympics have all but vanished. The nation that gave the world the expressions 'fair play' and 'it's not cricket' has had its international reputation for sporting probity and competence tarnished.

Ndereba runs world's best



AFP, Chicago

Kenya's Catherine Ndereba set a new women's world best time of 2hr 18min 47sec on Sunday in winning her second consecutive Chicago marathon, eclipsing the mark set a week ago by Japan's Naoko Takahashi. Ndereba beat the previous best set last Sunday by Takahashi when she won the Berlin marathon in

2:19.46 and became the first woman to dip below 2hr 20sec. Ndereba's compatriot Ben Kimondiu won the men's race in 2hr 08min 52sec. Two-time Boston Marathon champion Ndereba, 28, finished more than six minutes ahead of Ethiopia's Efenesh Alemu, who crossed the line in 2:24.54. The winning time was originally listed as 20 seconds faster by race officials, but corrected when official results were announced. Ndereba, also a two-time Boston Marathon champion, surged to a 10-second lead nearing the halfway point and pulled away from there to set the world mark and achieve a long-sought goal. "It is my prayer and my dream," Ndereba said. Ndereba won her second Boston title last April in 2:23:53. She won her last year by ending Fatuma Roba's three-year reign in 2:21:33, her fastest ever and the best in the world last year. But Ndereba was irked at not being named to the 2000 Kenyan Olympic team and vowed she would smash the world mark to demonstrate her ability. The prison telephone operator trains with husband Anthony Maina. In the men's race, Kimondiu was originally intended to be a pace-maker but his more illustrious fellow Kenyan Paul Tergat was unable to catch him. Tergat finished in 2:08.56 and another Kenyan, Peter Githuka, was third in 2:09.00 to give his country a clean sweep of the men's medals. Kimondiu held off Tergat in a last-mile showdown, as the former world-record holder at 10,000 meters and cross country champion could not find the strength in the final stretch run. "I knew he might out-kick me at the finish but I made it," Kimondiu said. "Nobody expected me to win this race. I'm very happy and glad."

Catherine Ndereba of Kenya claps her hands after winning the Chicago Marathon on Sunday.

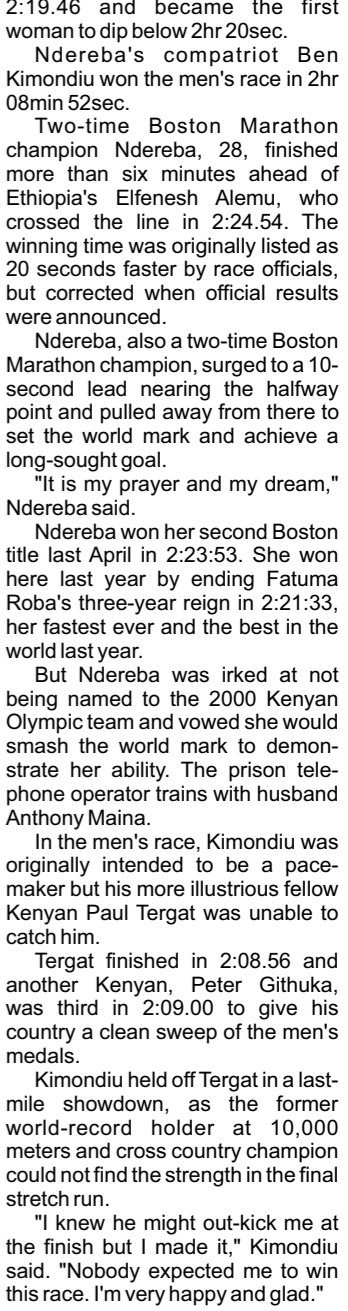


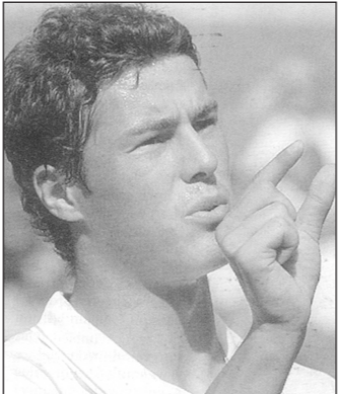
PHOTO: AFP

Enough is enough



REUTERS, Moscow

It has been a tough year for Marat Safin. After the highs of last year, when he won seven titles - the most on the ATP Tour including a shock straight-sets victory over Pete Sampras in the US Open final, Safin has come down to earth with a bump. The 21-year-old Russian has been troubled by injury and inconsistency and did not win a title until last month when he beat compatriot Yevgeny Kafelnikov in the final of the President's Cup in Tashkent. Now, even his hometown fans have turned against him. Safin was booed off court after losing to unseeded Slovak Dominik Hrbaty in the second round of the Kremlin Cup in Moscow last week and reacted angrily by saying he never wanted to play in Russia again.



MARAT SAFIN tennis school. Safin had hoped that the win in Tashkent, together with good performances in Hong Kong and at the Kremlin Cup, would help him to earn a place in the Masters Cup in Sydney at the end of the season when the top eight players fight for \$3.7 million in prize money. But he lost in the second round of the Hong Kong Open to Swede Magnus Larsson last month and is now only 11th in the champions' race standings. Safin was criticised by Russian tennis chief Shamil Tarpishev, who is also the country's Davis Cup

coach, for playing too many tournaments. "It was really stupid for him to go to Hong Kong right after his win in Tashkent," Tarpishev told Reuters. "Instead of playing in all these tournaments and chasing ATP points, he should have rather focused on better preparation for playing here in Moscow. That way he wouldn't have had a problem of getting acclimatised once again. But Safin refused to accept the criticism. "I respect Shamil a lot but I don't agree with him," he said. "I went to China to get points as they didn't have a particularly strong field, so I thought I would do well there." "If I had won there, had come here and played well, everyone would have said I'm a genius. Now people say I made a mistake. "But I'm a grown man now and I make my own decisions. I also have a coach, (Swede) Mats Wilander, whom I respect a great deal," Safin added. "Mats and I decided that it would be better for me to play as much as possible. Besides, I have commitments to various tournaments, to sponsors." After first saying that he never wanted to play in Russia again, Safin had second thoughts and said he would play in St Petersburg later this month. "St Petersburg is a different story, they have great fans," he said. "Their support helped me when I played Hrbaty in last year's final there. I was losing the match but they kept urging me to fight on and it pulled me through in the end."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues. ACROSS 1 Merely Down, California city. 5 Old French coin. 8 Recording. 12 Some. 13 Massachusetts cape. 14 Acknowledgement. 15 Celebrities. 17 Karaoke need. 18 Bottom line. 19 Merchant. 21 Representation. 24 Go below. 25 Hinge (on). 26 It may have a leaf. 30 Picnic intruder. 31 Family-room hookup, maybe. 32 Jung subject. 33 Worth repeating. 35 With 23-Down, California city. 53 Grub. DOWN 1 One of the Brady Bunch. 2 E.T.'s craft. 3 Flaring to go. 4 Nasal. 5 Old seaman. 6 Indivisible. 7 Rocky. 8 Mexican entree. 9 Eager. 10 Job. 11 Basin accessory. 16 Spelled down. 20 Anger. Solution time: 23 mins.

CRYPTOQUIP puzzle grid with clue: Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A BIG PAVAROTTI FAN SANG HIM A PERSONAL SONG, MIGHT IT BE "LOVE ME TENOR"? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals V

The Cryptoquip 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.