

## Workload of fast bowlers being monitored

AFP, Sydney  
The Australian Cricket Board (ACB) is funding a research project which requires state associations to monitor the workload of bowlers from training to match situations.

Injured pace trio Brett Lee, Nathan Bracken and Ashley Noffke will be late starters for this summer's domestic season in the lead-up to Australia's World Cup defence in 2003.

In the next 16 months Australia will play 20 Tests and at least 36 one-day international matches, maintaining the pressure on some of the nation's hardest-working sportsmen.

"This calendar year we have Australian players in the Test and one-day team playing approximately 130 days of cricket," national coach John Buchanan said Tuesday.

"That doesn't include training and fitness sessions so the workload is fairly demanding, especially compared to other sports."

"(Physical) management is becoming very important but we also have to think of batsmen, wicketkeepers and even slow bowlers."

The ACB has reacted by enforcing bowling restrictions in first-class matches for under-19 players for the first time.

But the biggest watch on Australian players will be the core group who feature in the Test and one-day teams, including Steve and Mark Waugh, Glenn McGrath, Adam Gilchrist, Ricky Ponting, Lee and Shane Warne.

"These players are spending up to 250 days of the calendar year away from home so it's important that they are managed the best way," Buchanan said.

"But they're already pretty good at knowing what is best for them during training sessions and in the lead-up to games."

Steve Waugh has insisted he would play on in the near future despite the 36-year-old Test captain's recent injury setbacks.

Waugh expects to overcome deep vein thrombosis before the opening Test of the summer against New Zealand at Brisbane's Gabba ground on November 8.

Australia will play three Tests each against New Zealand and South Africa before heading to South Africa and Zimbabwe in February for a three-month tour.

## Watson's claim falls short

AFP, London

Brain-damaged boxer Michael Watson was told in the High Court here Monday he will receive no more than 400,000 pounds (588,000 dollars) compensation in settlement of a damages claim worth up to 2.5 million pounds (3.7 million dollars).

The 36-year-old super middleweight was struck down at the peak of his career by catastrophic head injuries sustained as a result of his WBO world championship bout against Chris Eubank in September 1991.

Two years ago, the High Court ruled that British boxing's governing body, the British Boxing Board of Control (BBBC), breached its duty of care to Watson because ringside resuscitation facilities were inadequate.

The settlement of Watson's case against the BBBC was said to be the best that could be achieved in view of the cash-strapped board's lack of assets and the fact that it was uninsured.



Monica Seles in action at the Kiwi Cup in Shanghai yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Monica coasts

Tennis

REUTERS/AFP, Shanghai

Top seed Monica Seles needed only 42 minutes to advance to the second round of the Kiwi Cup on Tuesday with a 6-0, 6-0 win over Lenka Nemeckova of the Czech Republic.

In other matches, eighth-seeded Nathalie Dechy of France advanced with a 6-1, 7-6 win over Chinese qualifier Li Ting but South African number five seed Joannette Kruger was upset by South Korea's Cho Yoon-Jeong 6-4, 7-6.

World number eight Seles has won 11 matches in a row since a fourth round loss at last month's US Open. Her unbeaten run includes victories at tournaments at Brazil and Japan.

However her main rival here Yugoslav star Jelena Dokic withdrew Monday from the 300,000-dollar event, citing a sprained ankle. "I'm disappointed I can't come back to Shanghai because I had a great time there last year," she told organisers.

"But after spraining my ankle early in the Moscow final I need to rest for the upcoming tournaments." Dokic, 18, won the 1.18-million-

dollar Kremlin Cup in Moscow on Sunday, ousting Elena Dementieva in straight sets.

"I'm really happy with the way I'm playing right now, so it's a shame I can't make it to Shanghai this year," said the world No 11.

Dokic won her first title at the Italian Open in May and her second at the Princess Cup in Japan last month.

On the opening day, Japan's Saori Obata eased into the next round with a 6-2, 6-2 victory over China's Li Na.

Her compatriot Rika Fujiwara beat Germany's Marlene Weingartner, the sixth-seed, 6-4, 6-1.

## Ferrero cruises

INTERNET, Lyon

Spain's Juan Carlos Ferrero displayed his comfort on the indoor courts at the 800,000-dollar Grand Prix of Tennis on Monday, while compatriot Albert Portas demonstrated his uneasiness.

Ferrero, the second seed, rolled over Andrea Gaudenzi of Italy, 6-1, 6-3, while Portas, the seventh seed, suffered a 4-6, 6-2, 6-2 defeat to Michal Tabara of the Czech Republic.

Top seed Gustavo Kuerten, third seed Marat Safin and fourth seed Sebastian Grosjean all face first-round matches on Tuesday.

Known as a claycourt specialist, Ferrero has won three of his four titles this year on that slow surface. However, the 21-year-old said the pace of the carpet at the Palais des Sports de Lyon complements his style of play.

"It's not too fast and it suits my game," Ferrero said. "I feel good here. I felt comfortable during practice yesterday and today I played well. There's no reason why I shouldn't do well."

Ranked fifth in the ATP Champions Race, Ferrero also believes he has a significant motivation to do well this week.

"I want to play in the Tennis Masters Cup for the first time, so I have to play well in my next tournaments if I want to make it to Sydney," Ferrero said. "I did my job today. I served really well and played a solid game."

Portas, however, continued his string of poor performances in events not played on clay. Monday's upset marked the ninth time in 10 such tournaments

in 2001 that he has been eliminated in his opening match. Portas' only piece of

success came on the hard courts of the U.S. Open, where he advanced to the third round.

In Monday's other match involving a seeded player, No. 8 Nicolas Lapentti of

Ecuador, the 1999 champion here, eased into the second round with a 6-2, 6-2 win over French wildcard entrant Paul-Henri Mathieu.

Kuerten looks to add a seventh title to his 2001 haul. The Brazilian enjoyed a strong summer on American hard courts. The three-time French Open champion won the Tennis Masters Series event at Cincinnati and reached the final of the RCA Championships at Indianapolis in consecutive weeks.

The 25-year-old also advanced to the quarterfinals of the U.S. Open for the second time in three years. The world No. 1 is competing in his first event since being surprised in the opening round of the Brazil Open by fellow countryman Flavio Saretta.

Safin will look to rebound from being booed off the court after falling in the second round of the Kremlin Cup in his native Moscow.

He also lost in the second round of the Salem Open at Hong Kong the week before. After advancing to the semifinals at the RCA Championships and U.S. Open,

## Patrick under no illusion

Tennis

REUTERS, London

Pity Patrick McEnroe. Forever in the shadow of his more illustrious older brother, Patrick had been determined to succeed in the one area where John failed as Davis Cup captain.

But it has not been going well so far and McEnroe has a lot to prove when his team take on India in this weekend's world group qualifying playoff.

Patrick, who took over as captain after John resigned from the post last November, tripped up on his first outing when the United States lost to Switzerland in the first round in February.

This weekend, if the Americans lose, he could earn the dubious distinction of guiding the most successful nation in Davis Cup history out of the elite world group for only the second time since its inception in 1981.

The last time the Americans failed to play in the 16-team world group was in 1988, following a first-round loss the previous year when the nation boasted three top-10 players.

Victory this weekend in North Carolina is no foregone conclusion.

Patrick, winner of one singles title to brother John's 77, will be aware that the unfancied Indians, led by French Open doubles champions Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi, have a habit of surprising higher-ranked teams in the Davis Cup.

In the last 21 years Ramesh Krishnan and Vijay Amritraj are the only Indians to have been ranked in the top 30.

But Paes and colleagues have pulled off some remarkable Davis Cup upsets in the last decade, notably when India, losing finalists to Sweden in 1987, defeated France 3-2 in the 1993 quarterfinals on clay.

Surprisingly the Indian side, without a singles player ranked in

the top 200 in the ATP Entry system, also have more Grand Slam titles to their credit than the current American Davis Cup team spearheaded by teenager Andy Roddick and veteran Todd Martin.

Paes and Bhupathi have won six Grand Slam doubles titles between them, one more than Wimbledon

use our best players."

In Agassi, Sampras, Michael Chang and Jim Courier -- all Grand Slam winners -- the United States probably had the greatest group of players competing in the same generation over the last decade.

But the reluctance of the Grand Slam champions to commit themselves to the annual competition has often frustrated recent American captains.

John McEnroe spent one unfulfilling year as Davis Cup captain in 2000, annoyed that top players did not jump to answer his call to duty.

His campaign to win tennis' premier team competition ended in an embarrassing 5-0 semifinal loss to eventual champions Spain.

The elder McEnroe, who as a player helped the US to win five of their 31 Davis Cup titles, saw his dream job turn sour when he found he was unable to consistently rally top players such as Sampras and Agassi to the cause so close to his own heart.

A more practical Patrick, learning from John's mistakes, has put his efforts into building a winning team rather than pointing a finger at those unwilling to lend a hand.

Hot shot Roddick, winner of three titles this year, has already been hailed as the new standard bearer for American men's tennis.

And with a 220-kph serve, the world number 15 should be able to blow away the challenge of the Indian team.

With former US and Australian Open runner-up Martin backing up Roddick, the side look capable of giving the 35-year-old Patrick his first Cup victory and the chance to better his brother's record.

However, the team should take heed of Patrick's words before the first-round encounter in February when he said: "I love the morale on our team...we're going to go there (Switzerland) with our guns blazing."

But McEnroe's words rang hollow when the Swiss humiliated the former champions 3-2.



PATRICK MCENROE

doubles champions Don Johnson and Jared Palmer who complete the US line-up.

Active American players boast 20 singles Grand Slam titles between them but the successful Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras have refused to play this week's tie in Winston-Salem.

In fact, the duo have ruled themselves out of any future Davis Cup duty in protest at the scheduling format of the Cup.

The attitude of the top American players towards the competition, which involves playing up to four rounds of the three-day competition, contrasts starkly with that of other nations whose players usually jump at the chance to represent their country.

"One thing I still can't understand is why the US doesn't always have the best players in the Davis Cup," said Mervyn Rose, Australian doubles specialist in the 1950s, during his induction into the International Hall of Fame in July.

"In Australia, we have a special pride in Davis Cup and we always

## Scud shot down

Tennis

AFP, Vienna

Mark Philippoussis, the former Australian Davis Cup star who wants to prove wrong those who say he is finished, suffered a disappointing first round defeat in the CA Trophy here today.

Philippoussis, trying to recover from his third operation on the knee he injured playing Pete Sampras in the 1999 Wimbledon tournament, went down 3-6, 6-3, 6-1 to Alberto Martin, a Spaniard ranked outside the top 30 and better known for his clay court exploits.

It was Philippoussis' second tournament back after a six-month absence and, after an encouraging start, his mind began to wander. When he was then drawn into a lengthy match, he began to struggle physically as well.

"Everything was going fine and then I lost a bit of concentration," the 24-year-old admitted.

"I was serving and volleying but

then I stopped doing it. When you lack match practice that's what happens."

Increasingly Philippoussis was made to cover plenty of ground on an indoor hard court, which was not too fast to deny Martin chances to employ his consistently forcing ground strokes.

This was Philippoussis' undoing, for after a while it became evident he still has work to do to improve his mobility.

"It was tough for me," he said. "I am not the type of guy to have big legs and I have to work on them. I have to strengthen them. But I think I am getting there."

However the chances of Philippoussis playing Davis Cup again in the foreseeable future look remote.

Although his efforts in the 1999 final in France did more than anything to bring the trophy back to Australia, the rift which has grown between the Florida-based player and the rest of the squad over the past year clearly remains.

Philippoussis admitted he has had no contact with either Patrick

Rafter or Lleyton Hewitt, the two who will shoulder the burden in the Davis Cup final against France in Sydney in December. Nor did he ring to congratulate Hewitt on winning the US Open last month.

Another well-known name departed in the first round. Alex Corretja, a former winner of the ATP tour's year-end finals and still with a chance of making the eight who qualify for next month's finals in Sydney, was beaten 3-6, 6-1, 6-4 by the enthusiastic hitting of the 20-year-old Swede, Andreas Vinciguerra.

Later another seed was beaten. Fabrice Santoro of France, the number seven, who led by a set and a break of serve in the second set but became more and more passive as the match wore on and subsided 6-7, 6-4, 6-4 to the Austrian qualifier, Jurgen Melzer.

Titleholder Tim Henman of Britain, however recovered from a break down in the first set to begin with a 6-4, 6-0 win over Wayne Ferreira, boosting his hopes of making it to Sydney.

## Aussies remain divided

Tennis

AFP, Sydney

US Open champion Lleyton Hewitt and Mark Philippoussis will play in Europe but Pat Rafter is keeping his options open amid fresh security concerns over terrorism.

Hewitt has flown to Europe after Sunday's Japan Open title success and will look to extend his 14-match winning streak at the Stuttgart Masters next week.

His manager John McCurdy said Hewitt had not changed his program

following the US-British military strikes on Afghanistan this week.

"He's in Europe now. He's just arrived there, he went on from Tokyo," said McCurdy Tuesday.

"Obviously (the current security situation) is a concern for everyone, what's happening over there."

"But he's flown on to Europe from Tokyo and got the week off this week but starting up again next week."

Hewitt's Davis Cup teammate Rafter is also entered in the three big European indoor events in Stuttgart, Stockholm and Paris.

He has previously indicated he could miss the Stuttgart tournament

through injury and has indicated he won't go to Europe at all if there's conflict there.

However his brother and manager Steve Rafter said no firm decision had been made yet, with Rafter still wanting tournament play ahead of the season-ending Masters Cup in Sydney and Davis Cup final against France in Melbourne.

"He's still entered and he's playing it by ear," Steve Rafter said Tuesday.

"There's no commitment either way. If things escalate or whatever he'll just pull out."

Philippoussis, who lost in the first round in Vienna Monday, aims to play as many matches as possible as he attempts to come back from his third knee operation.

## WTA rankings

AFP, Miami

The WTA women's tennis rankings following last weekend's tournaments:

Player	Points
1. Hingis	5100
2. Capriati	4984
3. Davenport	4345
4. V Williams	4333
5. Clijsters	3280
6. Mauresmo	2842
7. Henin	2704
8. Seles	2508
9. S Williams	2501
10. Dokic	2347
11. Tauziat	2089
12. Shaughnessy	1905
13. Dementieva	1876
14. Farina Elia	1685
15. Testud	1591
16. Maleeva	1585
17. Coetzer	1509
18. Schett	1492
19. Sanchez	1430
20. Huber	1263

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Hotel employee  
5 Tasseled hat  
8 Impale  
12 Saxophone range  
13 Khan title  
14 He shot an arrow into the air  
15 Postal receptacle  
17 Facility  
18 Super-market section  
19 Grief  
21 Exam format  
24 Marry  
25 Nasty slinger  
28 Manager of the Cardinals?  
30 Tease  
33 Agriculture Secretary  
34 Charlemagne's father  
35 Praiseworthy piece

**DOWN**

1 One of the Three Bears  
2 Jai follower  
3 "And that's the way"  
4 Whipped-cream serving  
5 Distant  
6 A matter of pride  
7 Nails with a ray gun  
8 Cordwood measure  
9 Earring shape  
10 As well  
11 Puffed  
16 Aachen article  
20 "The Virginian" writer  
21 Wister  
22 Pinnacle  
23 "The Cell" actress  
25 Major skirmish  
26 Blackbird  
27 Amaryllis' cousin  
29 Yearn  
31 Altar affirmation  
32 Wager  
34 "Rich Man, Man"  
38 Summer-time shoe  
40 "Monopoly" purchase  
42 "For shame!"  
43 Boston, e.g.  
44 Canyon comeback  
45 Swedish pop four-some  
47 Woody's son  
48 Crucifix  
49 Duel tool  
52 "Bow-wow!"  
53 Barracks bed

**Solution time: 27 mins.**

JUST SOU TAPE  
AFEW ANN AVOW  
NOTTABLES MIKE  
TIMAIGET FRADDER  
RELY TABLETOP  
ANTICABLE EGO  
QUOTABLE PALO  
TIDLE BAKER  
PHRASE CAR  
STOARE HUXTABLE  
ASTIA ORL DOOM  
MEISS PIN EATS

**CRYPTOQUIP**

RYVNGK UJ IGGD BD LXUZ  
UZG PGYU, UZG VDVPUAGYU  
UGYVYU FVL ZXAFGKE  
VFEKVU NPJIG

Yesterday's Cryptquip: I ONCE OWNED A CHICKEN THAT WAS POSITIVELY EVIL. IT KEPT LAYING DEVILED EGGS.  
Today's Cryptquip Clue: Y equals N

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 missing vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

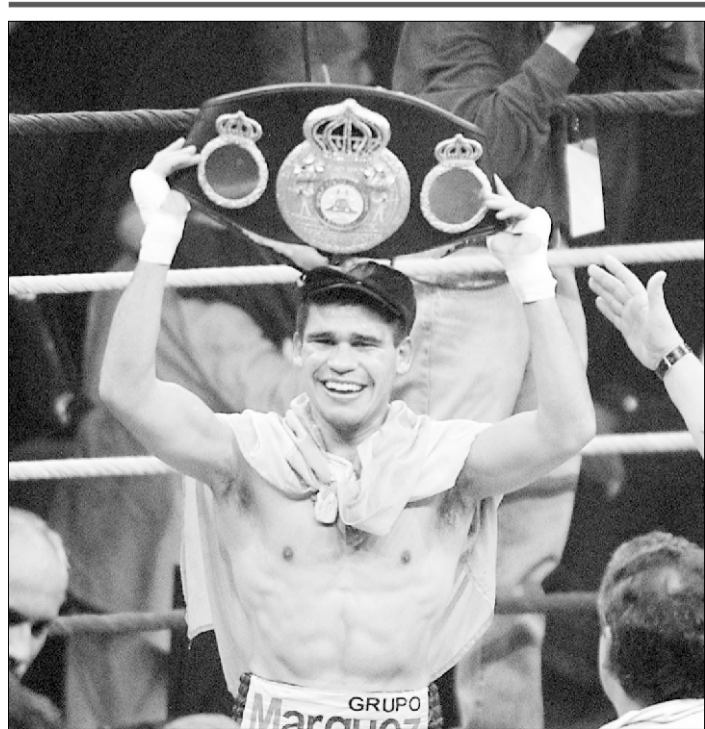


PHOTO: AFP

Argentine Raul Balbi shows off the WBA lightweight belt he won after beating Julien Lorcay of France at Porte de Versailles on October 8.