

Repentant Cullinan

REUTERS, Johannesburg

South Africa's Daryll Cullinan has expressed regret over his walkout on the eve of a Test match against Australia in Cape Town in March.

The 35-year-old batsman met the South African cricket board's chief executive Gerald Majola on Thursday in an atmosphere described as cordial.

Cullinan had been recalled to the team for the first time in nearly a year only to quit over a contractual dispute.

He was widely regarded as having ended his international career and suspended by his province, Gauteng, pending an inquiry into his behaviour.

A cricket board news release quoted Cullinan as saying: "Gerald and I had fruitful discussions and there was regret expressed on my part in terms of my withdrawal from the team in Cape Town."

He added: "I would like to play a positive role in South African cricket whether that be as a spectator or as a player."

Majola said: "I accepted Daryll's explanation and I am glad we can put our differences aside and keep the game at heart."

Cullinan has played 70 Tests, averaging over 44, but last appeared in April 2001 against the West Indies in Jamaica.

MacGill moving to Nottingham

REUTERS, Nottingham

Australian Test leg-spinner Stuart MacGill is to join English county Nottinghamshire as one of their overseas players.

The 31-year-old New South Wales player will cover for Nicky Boje when the all-rounder is on international duty with South Africa in August and September, said Notts on their official website.

"I see it as an ideal introduction to playing county cricket, and find it hugely exciting to come over for the business end of the season," MacGill told the website.

"I had returned from a tour of South Africa and was just getting used to the idea of a winter of leisure when I got an e-mail from (manager) Clive Rice asking if I would like to join the Notts staff as cover for Nicky."

"I absolutely leapt at the opportunity because Trent Bridge is a magnificent ground with a lot of history and tradition. That's what our game is about and to be a part of that is a very exciting prospect," said MacGill.

"I have been checking out where Notts are in the Norwich Union League and County Championship on the internet and have been trying to learn all the players's names and what they do."

"I called everyone in Australia who has played county cricket to ask them about playing in England."

MacGill, who will arrive at Notts at the start of August, made his international debut for Australia in 1997 and has played in 17 Tests, taking 82 wickets at an average of 25.01.

Russia reach WTC final

REUTERS, Duesseldorf

Marat Safin and Yevgeny Kafelnikov powered Russia into the final of the World Team Cup with a crushing 6-1, 6-0 doubles win against Britain's Martin Lee and Miles Maclagan.

The towering Russians swatted aside the British pair in just 51 minutes to put their country at the top of their group and advance to Saturday's final against Argentina.

World number two Safin, who earlier beat Lee 7-5, 7-5 in their singles clash, totally overpowered the British duo and clinched the match with four big serves in the final game.

"Today we played great," Safin said. "I hope we're going to win tomorrow because we've been trying for the last three years to win this tournament."

The 22-year-old, runner-up in Hamburg to Roger Federer last weekend, was treated for back pain during his singles match against Lee, but said he hoped the problem would not hurt his chances at next week's French Open.

"It's nothing special. I expect I'll have pain for the next three or four days and keep doing something to help my back," he said.

"(But) definitely I want a good result (at the French) because I am playing quite well."

Former French Open champion Kafelnikov, however, was less happy with his form after losing to Britain's Tim Henman 6-2, 7-6 in the singles.

"I'm happy that the team is in the final, but so far I'm disappointed with my individual performance," Kafelnikov said.

Fixing goes

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two points adrift of leaders Orient Sporting Club who have won ten out of their 14 outings.

In the other match of the day, Uttara Sporting Club registered an identical win over Sadharan Bima Kira Sangsha.

Opener Nayeem Islam smashed an unbeaten 88 as Uttara, chasing a paltry Bima total of 143 in 50 overs, reached home in 26.5 overs with eight wickets in hand.

New face on England team

Cricket

REUTERS, London

England have called up uncapped Glamorgan quick bowler Simon Jones to add the option of raw pace to their attack for the second Test against Sri Lanka starting on Thursday in Birmingham.

Jones, 23, joined an unchanged squad which drew the first Test after fighting back from the follow-on.

Sri Lanka scored 555 in their first innings at Lord's and the England bowling attack looked anaemic on a flat wicket.

Jones, who attended England's National Academy in Australia under Rod Marsh last northern winter, has taken 14 wickets in first class cricket this season, including a career-best 6-45 against Derbyshire.

"Simon is young and raw but he has an outstanding natural asset in his speed. And we feel that we would like to have him at our disposal until we have had a chance to look at the pitch and assess how it will play," chairman of selectors David Graveney said on Saturday.

"The Lord's Test showed that Sri



SIMON JONES

Simon Jones and Stephen Harmison of Durham. We did not consider Stephen for this Test match due to injury but we feel that this is a good opportunity for Simon Jones."

England's bowlers Andy Caddick, Matthew Hoggard, Dominic Cork and Andrew Flintoff toiled to little avail against the Sri Lankans and captain Nasser Hussain said afterwards the side should not rely on playing to English conditions to get results.

Jones, son of former England and Glamorgan player Jeff, could unsettle Sri Lanka's batsmen with his firepower on a hard track.

But, after recent rain the pitch at Edgbaston is likely to favour seamers and Jones, whose accuracy is less developed than his speed, may well be sent back to his county.

Graveney said selectors had decided to call up 14 players instead of dropping one in case Cork failed to recover in time from a groin injury.

Of the 13 at Lord's, Alex Tudor was 12th man and spinner Ashley Giles went home early.

**SQUAD**

Nasser Hussain (captain), Mark Butcher, Andy Caddick, Dominic Cork, John Crawley, Andrew Flintoff, Ashley Giles, Matthew Hoggard, Simon Jones, Alec Stewart, Graham Thorpe, Marcus Trescothick, Alex Tudor, Michael Vaughan.

Gough targets tri-series

Cricket

INTERNET, London

England paceman Darren Gough hopes to make his comeback in international cricket in the NatWest Triangular Series starting on 27 June.

The one-day series would see him competing against Sri Lanka and India as a prelude to the home Test series against India.

"I want to be back for the NatWest Series. I think that is realistic," Gough said.

"It is four-and-a-half weeks away and that is my target."

The Yorkshireman has not played any competitive cricket since February when he bowled in the one-day series in New Zealand.

A knee injury forced him to miss England's current home Test series against Sri Lanka.

After the New Zealand tour, Gough underwent knee surgery but the problem appeared again last month forcing him to go under the

knife for the second time last Wednesday.

"I had a cartilage operation 12 weeks ago and was coming back from that," Gough said.



DARREN GOUGH

"It was going well, but I started to get problems in other parts of the knee."

"So I had another operation last Wednesday to get it sorted and I've been having treatment every day."

"I started cycling yesterday and

have been doing strengthening exercises. Hopefully I'm now on the road to recovery."

Gough is keen to put an end to his knee trouble once and for all.

"There are the four Tests against India, the ICC Champions Trophy, the Ashes and the World Cup," Gough said.

"So there's plenty of cricket to come and I just want to look forward to being part of that."

He has not played any Tests since August last year.

"Of course it's frustrating to be missing out on the Tests now," he said.

"It's disappointing not have been involved at Lord's, but I don't want to worry about that."

England badly felt his absence as the visitors managed to pile up a huge first innings total of 555 for eight at Lord's, which ultimately ended in a draw.

But Gough thinks the triangular competition would also offer some fascinating cricket.

"We've got some big matches coming up later in the summer and it would be nice to play in those."

Clay-court combatants

Tennis

BBC, Paris

This year's French Open is set to be one of the most open competitions for years.

But who will be celebrating glory at Roland Garros?

In the men's competition, Australia's Lleyton Hewitt is the number one seed, and his form this year is certainly impressive.

But clay is the one surface that the 21-year-old has not yet mastered, and Hewitt is yet to progress beyond the quarterfinals in Paris.

Every player is aware of the skills of Russia's Marat Safin. Powerful, athletic and accurate, few can match him when he is on his game.

But his temperament is undeniably suspect, and he has been erratic in the past. If 'bad Safin' comes to Roland Garros, he could under-achieve again.

Germany's Tommy Haas is number three seed - but he could be ruled out by a shoulder injury.

If he is, the resurgent Andre Agassi would take his seeding, and on current form the American is untouchable.

The 32-year-old is in arguably the best form of his life as he bids to recapture the title he won in 1999.

Just behind the leading pack is Britain's Tim Henman, who will be hoping, again, to put aside his 'nearly man' tag.

There have been signs of his clay court game improving, and he has beaten number five seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov in the World Team Cup singles.

But despite a relatively kind draw, Wimbledon still offers Henman his best chance of Grand Slam glory.

Defending champion Gustavo Kuerten cannot be discounted, although 'Guga' is still recovering from hip surgery and the tournament may have come a little too soon for him.

Switzerland's Roger Federer, Sweden's Australian Open champion Thomas Johansson and home favourite Sebastian Grosjean will also fancy their chances.

The women's tournament may not be quite so open, but there are still a clutch of players hoping to wrest the title from defending champion Jennifer Capriati.

Either of the Williams sisters is certainly capable of doing so.

Venus is traditionally seen as the stronger player, but her record at Roland Garros is erratic and younger sister Serena has shown signs of closing the gap on her sibling this year.

If either of the Williams sisters is off-form, expect the Belgian duo of Kim Clijsters and Justine Henin to take full advantage.

Clijsters came within two points of beating Capriati in last year's final, and will be desperate to erase that heartache.

Compatriot Henin reached the semis last year, losing to Clijsters, and was also runner-up at Wimbledon. She will be keen to secure her first Grand Slam.

Monica Seles is a three-time champion, and always impresses in Paris, while Jelena Dokic will be striving to cement her place in the elite of the women's game.

SPOTLIGHT ON SEEDS (MEN)

REUTERS, Paris

Following is a brief rundown of the strengths and weaknesses of the top 16 seeds in the French Open men's singles draw. Prefix denotes seeding:

**1-LLEYTON HEWITT (AUSTRALIA).** World number one and already a master tactician aged 21, Hewitt has yet to prove he has mastered clay and confesses it is his weakest surface.

**2-MARAT SAFIN (RUSSIA).** Runner-up in Hamburg on clay last week and a former world number one, the mighty Safin has all the tools to win at Roland Garros. His fiery temperament could prove his undoing.

**3-TOMMY HAAS (GERMANY).** Haas's highest Grand Slam seeding to date reflects his recent improvement. A big serve and powerful groundstrokes saw him into the final of the Rome Masters earlier this month and he could prove a threat.

**4-ANDRE AGASSI (U.S.).** Many pundits' favourite for his second French Open crown. The highest profile player in the sport has all the weapons, and confidence, to succeed again in Paris. May run out of steam, though.

**5-YEVGENY KAFELNIKOV (RUSSIA).** Champion here in 1996, Kafelnikov has one eye on retirement and the other on Russian Davis Cup glory. Unlikely to fulfil his potential here.

**6-TIM HENMAN (BRITAIN).** Three times a Wimbledon semifinalist, Henman's game is best suited to grass but he has come on leaps and bounds on clay, reaching the Monte Carlo semifinals earlier this year. Will find it tough to win seven matches on the surface, though.

**7-GUSTAVO KUERTEN (BRAZIL).** If fit, 'Guga' as he is known to his legion of fans would be hot favourite. Three times champion here, his title defence will be hampered by recent hip surgery and lack of match practice.

**8-ROGER FEDERER (SWITZERLAND).** Victory in the Hamburg Masters last weekend has given the Swiss dynamo a lot of confidence going into the French Open. A first Grand Slam title will almost certainly prove a step too far this time round, however.

**9-THOMAS JOHANSSON (SWEDEN).** The newest Grand Slam champion surprised everyone when he triumphed at the Australian Open in January but clay is not his strong surface. He has never progressed beyond the second round in six appearances.

**10-SEBASTIEN GROSJEAN (FRANCE).** A solid baseliner, Grosjean would love nothing more than to win his home grand slam. A semifinalist last year, he is France's best chance for victory.

**11-JUAN CARLOS FERRERO (SPAIN).** Patchy performances this season are a far cry from the clay dominance he displayed in 2001 but back-to-back semifinal showings in his only two appearances here make Ferrero a danger to anyone.

**12-PETE SAMPRAS (U.S.).** Winner of a record 13 Grand Slam titles, only the French has eluded him in a glittering career. He is unlikely to put that right on clay this time around.

**13-ANDY RODDICK (U.S.).** The rising American, Roddick lost to Hewitt in the third round on his debut last year when he retired injured. Whether he can last seven gruelling matches on clay remains a doubt.

**14-JIRI NOVAK (CZECH REPUBLIC).** Quiet and workmanlike, Novak is a competent, steady clay-courtier. Reached the Australian Open semifinals this year and is not cowed by anyone.

**15-GUILLERMO CANAS (ARGENTINA).** The gritty baseliner reached the fourth round last year before Hewitt edged him in five. Has the ability and determination to improve on that finish this year.

**16-YOUNES EL AYNAOUI (MOROCCO).** Fourth-round finishes in 1995 and 2000 are the stylish Moroccan's best showings at Roland Garros and, without a big shot, he is unlikely to improve on that this time

Inter-varsity sports

IU CORRESPONDENT, Kustia

The Islamic University plays host to the Inter-university volleyball, badminton and table tennis competition from today.

Seven universities will compete in the meet. They are Dhaka University, the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Jahangirnagar University, Chittagong University, Rajshahi University and Bangladesh Agricultural University respectively.

State Minister Youth and Cultural Affairs Fazlur Rahman is expected to inaugurate the event which run until June 1.

**Caddick taking wickets again**

AFP, London

Andy Caddick brushed off an unimpressive performance in England's first Test draw with Sri Lanka and claimed five wickets on his return to County Championship cricket as Somerset took charge against Surrey at The Oval on Friday.

Caddick took five for 66 as the visitors seized the initiative in the battle between the only two unbeaten sides in the First Division.

Ian Ward was the only home batsman to put up much resistance hitting 62 as his side were bowled out for 220 on a rain-curtailed day and Somerset were 10 without loss at the close.

Surrey got off to the worst of starts when England batsman Mark Butcher walked after the third ball of the day and out of favour England hitman Mark Ramprakash to the eighth.

Champions Yorkshire, still looking for their first win of the season, had another difficult day in the field at Headingley against Hampshire as John Crawley's rich vein of form continued.

Crawley, who was recalled to the England side because of his bright start to the season, struck 79 and Will Kendall 67 in a 145-run second-wicket partnership that saw Robin Smith's side get off to a flying start.

Smith himself weighed in with 41 but the day was far from a disaster for Yorkshire as they pegged the score back to 273 for seven at the close.

Matthew Hoggard, another England seamer looking for a lift ahead of next week's Edgbaston Test, claimed three for 61.

Leicestershire captain Vince Wells ended the day unbeaten on 85 as his side posted 257 for seven against Sussex.

Opener Trevor Ward got the innings off to a solid start once the rain relented with 48 before he became one of in-form Robin Martin-Jenkins' four victims.

Marion set to run again

AFP, Eugene

Olympic champion Marion Jones will run her first 100 metres race of the season on Sunday when she heads the field at the Prefontaine Classic IAAF Grand Prix meet.

Jones, making her fifth appearance at the IAAF Grand Prix meet, has never lost at the Pre Classic, twice winning the 100m, twice the 200m and twice the long jump.

In the past four years, Jones has won gold in the 100m and 200m at the 2002 Sydney Olympics, and was World Champion at 100m in 1999 and at 200m in 2001.

Her defeat in the 2001 World Championships 100m final -- where she was second to Ukrainian Zhanna Pintusevich -- was one of the biggest upsets of the year in sports. But Jones bounced back with Golden League victories in Zurich and Brussels and at the Goodwill Games.

On Sunday, Jones is expected to face a field including Olympic bronze medalist Tanya Lawrence of Jamaica, American Latasha Jenkins and Savatheda Fynes of the Bahamas as well as 1999 200m world champion Inger Miller.

Mariner, Abahani

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field goal in the fifth minute. Yusuf Ali Biswas then sealed the match after three minutes with another field goal.

It was Mariner's eighth win against a draw and a defeat that raised their tally to 25 points, three points less than leaders and holders Mohammedan Sporting Club.

On the other hand, Farashganj, on the verge of relegation to the First Division, tasted their tenth defeat in as many matches.

In the other match, Abahani, despite leading the first half 1-0, had to struggle until the penultimate minute of the match to come out as winners.

After Indian recruit Donald Kiran put the sky blues ahead through a short corner in the tenth minute, Hasan equalised for the bankers with a field goal in the 65th minute.

The winning goal came from Imtiaz at the stroke of the final whistle. It kept Abahani in third place in the table with 24 points from 10 matches.

Blaming the Indians

Cricket

INTERNET, undated

The Test series defeat against the West Indies has sparked a flurry of criticism of Indian players for their overall performance.

"We lost a golden opportunity..."



AJIT WADEKAR

after a gap of 16 years," former skipper and coach Ajit Wadekar said after the Jamaica defeat by 155 runs on Wednesday.

Wadekar is the only Indian skip-



CHANDU BORDE

Borde has also criticised the national side.

He blamed the batsmen's inability to come good on pacy wickets overseas and suggested fast

pitches should be provided at home.

He said the Indian fast bowlers also should share the blame for failing to provide early breakthroughs in Jamaica after India chose to bowl first.

And Wadekar criticised captain Sourav Ganguly's decision to field first in that Test.

"It was wrong. When you don't know the wicket, it is better to bat first as we are not good chasers," he said.

But Borde partly agreed with Ganguly's assessment that the Indian players should be mentally more focussed to win the games.

"To a certain extent he is right. The psychological thing plays a huge part," Borde said.

The Indian media has also come down hard on the team's overseas performance record.

"Same ending, familiar sight for India," blared the headline in the Indian Express while the caption in the Hindustan Times read: "Dream over, Indians wake up to reality."

The Times of India, in its report titled "Vindies rip India down the middle" criticised the strong middle-order for not performing when it mattered.

Hewitt in for hard time

Tennis

REUTERS, Paris

Top men's seed Lleyton Hewitt faces a tough first week at the French Open as his quarter of the draw is by far the most difficult of the Paris title favourites.

In the women's draw, the Williams sisters will not meet before the final after Serena and Venus were drawn in different halves.

Australian Hewitt, the world number one, was handed an easy first opponent in little-known Brazilian Andre Sa but things will quickly become a lot tougher for the U.S. Open winner.

Hewitt has no less than three past winners in his quarter of the draw - Spaniard Carlos Moya, veteran American Michael Chang and Brazilian Gustavo Kuerten - plus former world number one Pete Sampras and fellow-Australian Mark Philippoussis.

Defending champion Kuerten meets Swiss Ivo Heuberger in the first round. Fourth-seeded

American Andre Agassi, champion in 1999, has an easier task than Hewitt, meeting a qualifier in the first round.

In-form Swiss Roger Federer,



LLEYTON HEWITT

who faces a tricky first round match against Moroccan Hicham Arazi, and Spaniard Juan-Carlos Ferrero - the most two successful players on clay this season - are Agassi's main rivals in the third quarter of the draw.

Second seed Marat Safin of Russia will play against the French

crowd and wild card entrant Michael Llodra, one of French tennis's big hopes.

Another great French prospect, 16-year-old Richard Gasquet, faces a daunting task in his first Grand Slam tournament when he plays Spanish claycourt specialist Albert Costa.

The clash between Australian Open winner Thomas Johansson and former French semifinalist Franco Squillari is probably the highlight match of the men's first round.

In the women's draw top seed and title-holder Jennifer Capriati is certain to meet compatriots for two rounds at least, starting with Marissa Irvin in the first round.

Serena Williams, seeded third, plays Martina Sucha of Slovakia in the first round and big sister Venus, the second seed, starts against Bianka Lamade of Germany.

For the first time, 32 seeds were awarded for the French Open draws. French Federation president Christian Bimes said the new system would be reviewed at a meeting of the Grand Slam committee next week.

SPOTLIGHT ON SEEDS (LADIES)

REUTERS, Paris

Following is a brief rundown of the strengths and weaknesses of the top 16 seeds in the French Open women's singles draw. Prefix denotes seeding:

**1-JENNIFER CAPRIATI (U.S.).** Always a fierce competitor, the defending champion has been consistent throughout the clay-court season with three semifinal appearances. She can knock most opponents off on her day and is a good bet to retain title.

**2-VENUS WILLIAMS (U.S.).** Doubts remain about the American's fitness after she suffered a freak wrist sprain last week but she will be keen to avoid a repeat of her first round exit last year. Having already bagged a clay-court title this year, a fully fit Williams is likely to destroy opponents with her powerful groundstrokes.

**3-SERENA WILLIAMS (U.S.).** The athletic American has been in tremendous form in the run-up to the French, reaching two finals in the last two weeks. After claiming her first clay-court title at the Italian Open on Sunday, she is one of the favourites to lift the Roland Garros crown.

**4-KIM CLIJSTERS (BELGIUM).** Runner-up last year, she will be attempting to go one better this time round. A gritty baseliner, her Hamburg final victory over Venus Williams proved she has the tools to go all the way. A sore shoulder, however, could lead to an early downfall.

**5-JUSTINE HENIN (BELGIUM).** She can outwit most opponents with her lethal one-handed back hand shot and, along with Serena Williams, Henin is the in-form player in the run-up to the French. Triumphed at the German Open and was runner-up to Serena in Rome. Has all the weapons to succeed on clay.

**6-MONICA SELES (U.S.).** Three times champion but never the same force after she was stabbed in Hamburg in 1993. Now aged 28, she will find it difficult to last the distance.

**7-JELENA DOKIC (YUGOSLAVIA).** Dokic has put in the hours on court to make a serious bid to win her first Grand Slam title. Winner at Sarasota, she has the temperament to go all the way.

**8-SANDRINE TESTUD (FRANCE).** Has never fulfilled her potential at Roland Garros and has been in indifferent form all season. Will be lucky to survive the first week.

**9-SILVIA FARINA ELIA (ITALY).** The 30-year-old achieved her best grand slam result by reaching the fourth round at Roland Garros last year. Not expected to improve on that showing.

**10-AMELIE MAURESMO (FRANCE).** The baseliner lost in the first round last year to the dismay of the home fans. Although Mauresmo grew up on clay, she has only once made it past the second round in seven attempts.

**11-DANIELA HANTUCHOVA (SLOVAKIA).** The promising 19-year-old has been making inroads all year and claimed her first title with a shock victory over Martina Hingis at Indian Wells. Consistently reaching the quarterfinals on clay, could be the surprise package of the tournament.

**12-MEGHANN SHAUGHNESSY (U.S.).** Having reached the fourth round last year, she has not achieved any result of note in her French Open build-up. Likely to be an early casualty.

**13-ELENA DEMENTIEVA (RUSSIA).** The 20-year-old has failed to live up to potential following her semifinal appearance at the 2000 U.S. Open. Not expected to make waves this year having failed to play impressively on clay so far.

**14-IRODA TULYAGANOVA (UZBEKISTAN).** Tulyaganova lost in the first round on her Roland Garros debut last year but has steadily climbed up the rankings. However, she could be an early casualty because of her lack of big-match experience.

**15-ARANTXA SANCHEZ-VICARIO (SPAIN).** Three times former champion, she says she still enjoys being on the tour despite turning 30 last year. But her game is on the decline and she is unlikely to be able to keep pace with the young pretenders.

**16-BARBARA SCHETT (AUSTRIA).** Dumped the mighty Venus Williams out of the 2001 French Open in the first round. Having reached the fourth round in the last two years, her two-handed backhand shot could see her through to the second week.

Seles survives

Tennis

REUTERS, Madrid

Top seed Monica Seles fought her way back from a set down to reach the final of the Spanish Open clay-court tournament with a 4-6, 6-1, 6-3 win over gutsy Argentine Paola Suarez.

The three-times French Open winner will now face Chanda Rubin in Saturday's final, after the American swept to an easy 6-4, 6-2 victory in her semi against Fabiola Zuluaga of Colombia.

But the early setback brought the best out of the 28-year-old Seles who began to find her range on her serve and her trademark two-handed drives. She dropped just one game as she raced through the second set.

to play someone as aggressive as her because I expect the same in tomorrow's final."

Suarez, who lost to Lindsay Davenport in the 1999 final, gave a gritty performance throughout and edged a tightly-contested first set thanks to a break in the seventh game.

The 25-year-old Argentine pulled off numerous well-judged passing shots and forced Seles off the baseline with some delicate drop shots to go 5-4 up. She then unleashed two impressive aces to finish the set with a flourish.

But the early setback brought the best out of the 28-year-old Seles who began to find her range on her serve and her trademark two-handed drives. She dropped just one game as she raced through the second set.

Suarez, though, refused to fold and kept the pressure on Seles with her hard-hitting returns.

The turning point in the match came in the fifth game of the final set when Seles pulled off some pin-point passing shots to come back from 40-love down and break the Suarez serve.

With the next three games going with serve, Seles then showed she could move up a gear when she really needed to and broke the Suarez serve again to clinch the match.

Rubin, playing only her third tournament since recovering from knee surgery, produced a controlled performance against Zuluaga and was rarely troubled by her lower-ranked opponent.