AFP, London

Former South African coach Bob Woolmer is to stand down as Warwickshire's first team coach at the end of the season, it was announced

Woolmer, who played Test cricket for England but has since settled in South Africa, said he was leaving after a second spell with the county because he was tired of spending half the year away from his family in Cape

He did offer to maintain his links with Warwickshire on a part-time consultancy basis if required.

Rangers supremo to step down

INTERNET, Glasgow

Rangers have announced that David Murray is stepping down as chairman of the club.

Murray's present understudy John McClelland will take over the reigns at Ibrox, while Murray will continue in the role of honorary chairman and maintain his major shareholding of 66 per cent.

The news, which was broken on the club website, states that Murray is seeking "a slightly more withdrawn position".

Murray has invested massively during his 14-year spell at Rangers and has been a major driving force behind one of the club's most successful periods.

Murray said: "It has been a great honour to have held the position of chairman for 14 years but I feel a change of management style would be beneficial for the club as the whole industry faces new chal-

"A strong team is now in place to assist John in reaching our financial, commercial and football targets which collectively must be more realistic as recently costs have soared and incomes remained static. These facts are facing all clubs at present.

"I will still be available for support and advice when required.'

McClelland told the website: "This is obviously a great privilege and I value David and the Board¿s confidence in me by making this

The new chairman went on to praise the work Murray has done at

Follow the

FROM PAGE 13

"We need a bit more confidence when we are on the field. There was a sense sometimes that New Zealand were on the ropes and there was a lack of team spirit and discipline to press home sometimes." he said.

Richards said the West Indies should draw inspiration from Brazil's victory in the soccer world-cup.

"Its how you finish that counts. We have the ability, but we need to get all the guys playing like Carl (Hooper) did against the Indians," Richards said.

Sandrine bids

FROM PAGE 13

sports daily L'Equipe.

"My life as a tennis player is finished, guite finished." the world number 10

was quoted as saying "I won't come back to the circuit after the birth," Testud, who discovered while she was playing in Birmingham a month ago that she

was pregnant, told the French

Testud, 30, who reached her highest singles ranking of ninth in February 2000, pulled out of the women's doubles third round at Wimbledon on Monday saying she was unwell and left London for her family home in Lyon.

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Woolmer to quit Warwickshire Ruing his luck

Tennis

AFP, London

Having defeated a careerthreatening right elbow injury, shaken off a bad back, overcome the pain of two infected bad toes and then been hamstrung by aching thighs, the challenge of Xavier Malisse was just one fight too many for 1996 Wimbledon champion Richard Krajicek.

Very much an emotional choice to win the men's title again on Sunday, the 30-year-old Dutchman simply ran out of steam at a tournament which was only his second in 20 months as he fought back from that elbow injury to win the hearts of admiring Wimbledon crowds.

"One day of tennis too many," said Kraiicek after his 6-1, 4-6, 6-2, 3-6. 9-7 quarterfinal defeat to the 21-year-old Belgian on Thursday.

Late on Wednesday night, Krajicek had been required to finish off another five-setter to dispose of Australia's Mark Phlilippoussis in the fourth round, while, in the second round he had also come out against James Blake winning 11-9 in the final set. "I had been happy with the rain breaks on Wednesday because they gave me time to rest my infected big toes, but the downside of the rain was that I played late that night and didn't have time to recover to face Malisse.

"I really noticed it today. I wasn't very sharp and I was getting irritated because the only thing I had going for me was a bluff on his serve.

"I wasn't even coming in on great shots and I missed a lot of vollevs. But I made a match of it because my serve always keeps me in the

WIMBLEDON

GOSSIPS

game," added the Dutchman who admitted that with the likes of Pete Sampras, Andre Agassi, Marat Safin and Greg Rusedski missing from his half of the draw, he had a real chance of going all the way to the final.

"I have a bad after-taste from this



FALLEN DUTCHMAN: Richard Krajicek looks despondently during his quarterfinal defeat against Belgium's Xavier Malisse on July 4. The !996 Wimbledon champion lost in a gripping five-setter.

event because I really want to win another Grand Slam.

"If I had lost to Rusedski, I could have accepted it much more second Grand Slam.

"I am happy I got to the quarterfinals but it was a good chance to get to the final and maybe win my

because he is a great grass court

player, but playing Malisse and then

Nalbandian in the next round that is

a good draw and when you get to the

the other guy can get tight - miracles

"You can have a good day and

final anything can happen.

can happen.

They're bored of it

AFP, London

Those people hoping to dispel the notion that tennis in Britain is an elitist sport would have been plunged into despair had they read a national newspaper advertisement

A Centre Court debenture ticket for the men's semifinals on Friday was being sold for 999 pounds (1500 dollars) while a treasured women's final ticket was going for the princely sum of 1299 pounds (plus car

MY HERO IS BORIS

David Nalbandian, the first Argentine man to reach the Wimbledon semifinals, was inspired to make history by his hero Boris

I was only three years old when Boris won here for the first time, but t was him who made me want to start playing tennis. He has always been my idol. I don't think I play like him, but he will always be my idol," said the 20-year-old.

TO DO WITH IT?

When love broke down for Xavier Malisse and Jennifer Capriati, their careers went on the up and up. The Belgian, who is playing in his first Grand Slam semi-final here, and Capriati were an item until a few vears ago. "When we broke up, she went on to win the Australian Open. For me, things have got better too. But I don't watch a lot of women's tennis. She has been doing well, but

THANKS TIM

By Eugene Sheffer

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Tennis fan Callum Sinclair received a surprise early birthday present from British player Tim Henman at the end of the fourth seed's quarterfinal win over Andre Sa on Centre Court. Henman gave his racquet to the schoolboy because he was the youngest fan in the front row. "I was scared at first because Tim was pointing at me and I thought I had done something wrong, but he was telling a ballboy to give the racquet to me. I think he gave it to me because I was shouting so loudly.'

AFP, London

Venus and Serena Williams went

Mauresmo, who were crushed by the sisters in the Wimbledon semifinals on Thursday, warned that the Americans were becoming so dominant that they were becoming a two-girl super league.

Saturday.

"We make the covers of magazines, you guys (the media) are always writing about us and people are paying attention to women's

The sixth-seeded Henin lost 6-3 6-2 in her semi-final against Venus on Thursday while Mauresmo surrendered 6-2, 6-1 to Serena as the American girls powered into another Grand Slam final, the third they have contested

"They were both in the final of the US Open, French Open and now here, so it's good for them, but I think that maybe the crowd would also like to see other players in different finals at the Grand Slams," said Henin, who had lost to Venus in the final here last year.

"But if they are in the final, that's because they're playing so well. So

Tennis

on the offensive on Friday telling their growing army of critics to pay them more respect. Justine Henin and Amelie

"Maybe the fans are becoming

bored, but I haven't spoken to any about it. However, I think that the attention the game gets now is unreal," said Venus, who will attempt to win her third successive Wimbledon singles title when she plays against her sister here on

Serena also said that other players on the women's tour should appreciate the publicity that she claims the Williams duo have brought to the tour.

tennis all of the time.

in the last four majors.

it's a difficult situation. "It's hard for the other players

but we will continue to fight "They are the two best players in the world, and we can see that

on the courts but I think they are now pulling away from the others." Mauresmo, the ninth seed, was equally despondent after only taking three games off Serena.

"They were in the French Open final and now they are in the final again, so it means they are better than everyone else.

"But I think it's sad for women's tennis. I think people are going to become bored of it. "It was like that at the French

Open and I'm not counting how

many people have said to me this week that they didn't want a "I don't think I will be watching

the final and if you want a prediction then you would have to ask them," added the Frenchwoman hinting again at what many people suspect that the destiny of all-Williams finals at Grand Slams is predetermined by family orders.

Meanwhile, there was no sign of an end to Williams domination on

Before the rains returned in the afternoon, they had enough time to dispose of Tina Krizan and Katarina Srebotnik, the 10th seeds of Slovenia, 6-2, 6-0 to reach the semi-finals of the women's dou-

But the sisters are becoming

Former men's champion John McEnroe suggested on Friday morning that if the girls played in the men's tournaments, they would probably be only ranked in the 200s in the world instead of their current top two places in the women's game.

what John McEnroe thinks," said

A Latin plot

AFP, London

Ecuador's Nicolas Lapentti on Thursday accused Wimbledon chiefs of trying to sabotage the chances of a South American player winning the prestigious Grand Slam tournament.

Lapentti, who lost his quarterfinal clash 6-4, 6-4, 4-6, 4-6, 6-4 to David Nalbandian of Argentina, was outraged that the match was relegated to an outside court while the other three last eight matches all took place on Centre Court and Court

"It's not nice. Just because we are South Americans and no-one expected us to do well here.

"Maybe they are still upset that we beat them in the Davis Cup here a couple of years ago. Who knows?" said Lapentti who inspired Ecuador to a famous Davis Cup World Group win over Great Britain on Court One

"It's stunning that there are two South Americans in the quarterfinals here but I also think it's stunning that the match was played on Court Two. It is disappointing that when you have made it to this stage you are not playing on the big courts.

"I would have loved to have played on Centre Court or Court One," added Lapentti.

It has been a memorable tournament for South American men at Wimbledon with Lapentti, Nalbandian and Brazil's Andre Sa, who lost to Tim Henman, all featuring in the last eight - the first time that three men from the continent had made it to the quarter-finals here.

By his victory, Nalbandian is only the second South American man to reach the last four here following Peru's Alex Olmedo who went all the way to the title beating Rod Laver in

Albertini loaned to Atletico

AFP, Milan

Veteran Italian international Demetrio Albertini's dream of ending his career at AC Milan appears over after the Italian side loaned him out to Spanish aces Atletico Madrid, he told a press conference on Friday.

The 31-year-old, who was a member of the Italian side that reached the 1994 World Cup final. rejected a series of moves in the summer including English the match that a German fan who Premiership side Fulham, insisting has been stalking her at championhe didn't want to end his 14-year association with the Serie Agiants.

However Atletico moved in swiftly to tie up Albertini on Ioan for next season

"I don't know if it's a farewell or a good-bye," said the 31-year-old midfielder who was ruled out of Italy's World Cup 2002 squad with an Achilles injury. hoped to finish my

The Williams III

FROM ;PAGE 13 "I'm still waiting for the catch," said Serena. "There's always a catch."

Essential facts about the finalists in

the 2002 Wimbledon women's singles tournament **VENUS WILLIAMS (USA X1)**

Age: 22 Titles: 25 Prize money: 10,210,271 dollars

Double Wimbledon and US Open champion and runner-up at French Open. Has won four of the nine tournaments she has played in this vear with a quarterfinal defeat to Monica Seles at the Australian Open - her earliest exit in 2002. Dropped one set in the third round here to Canadian veteran Maureen

PATH TO FINAL 1st rd: Jane O'Donoghue (Gbr) 6-1,

6-1 in 45 minutes 2nd rd: Virginia Ruano Pascual (Spa) 6-3, 6-1 in 57 minutes 3rd rd: Maureen Drake (Can) 5-7, 6-2, 6-1 in 83 minutes

4th rd: Lisa Raymond (USA x16) 6-1, 6-2 in 48 minutes Quarterfinal: Elena Likhovtseva (Rus) 6-2, 6-0 in 47 minutes

Semifinal: Justine Henin (Bel x6) 6-3, 6-2 in 77 minutes Total time on court: 5hrs 57min

SERENA WILLIAMS (USA X2) Age: 20 Titles: 15 Prize money: 7,588,846 dollars

Defeated older sister Venus to win French Open title last month, her second Grand Slam title after the US Open in 1999. Has played only seven events going into Wimbledon winning four of them in Scottsdale, Miami, Rome and French Open. Quarterfinal loss to Patty Schnyder in Charleston was 'worst' result of year. Has not dropped a set during the championship.

1st rd: Evie Dominikovic (Aus) 6-1, 6-1 in 42 minutes

3rd rd: Els Callens (Bel) 7-6 (7/5), 7-6 (7/2) in 99 minutes 4th rd: Chanda Rubin (USA) 6-3, 6-3 in 68 minutes

> charges winning three Olympic gold medals and setting five world records between them



Nicolas Lapentti of Ecuador plays a forehand against Argentine David Nalbandian during their quarterfinal at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships on July 4.

Sisters only

Tennis

AFP, London

The Williams sisters wrote another page in tennis history at Wimbledon on Thursday powering their way to their third Grand Slam final leaving their European opponents reeling in their wake

Top seeded Venus defeated last year's runner-up Justine Henin, the Belgian sixth seed, 6-3, 6-2, in 77 minutes, and not to be outdone younger sister Serena slayed French ninth seed Amelie Mauresmo 6-2, 6-1 in just 55 min-

The duo are now set for the first Wimbledon final between sisters since the inaugural championships in 1884 when Maud Watson beat sister Lilian - after also meeting in the finals of the French Open and the US Open.

Serena, the second seed, also

overtakes Venus as world number one in next week's WTA rankings as a result of the semi-final win. "It's been a goal of mine, it really

feels great." said Serena of being the top women's player in the world. "I've worked really hard, I deserve Serena said that her mother Oracene had not told her until after

in Wimbledon, adding that she tried not to let that bother her. "I'm very excited about

Saturday," said Serena. "The past three Grand Slams I've competed in I've been in the

final of all three. That's not bad. I really want to be a member of the All Fngland Club."

But first she has to get past Venus, who wants to take a third title here and is aware of the history that is being created.

"I think it's good for Serena and I more than anything else," admitted 22-year-old Venus "It's just something that's been

unprecedented, never seen before. We make the headlines and the cover stories, all the news, because it's Serena and I, it's something that's never happened." Both Henin and Mauresmo were unable to match their power with both saying that they felt the sister's

game, by making it boring for Henin was unable to build on an early 2-0 lead in her match with the American taking 18 minutes to get onto the scoreboard, but then

dominance was damaging the

Twenty-year-old Henin, runnerup to Venus in last year's final, admitted that the sisters were now in a league of their own. "There isn't any comparison of last year's match with today, she

blasted her opponent off court.

was simply too strong, she was in my opinion untouchable," admitted Henin. "She had power like I'd never seen before. You need an incredi-

little demoralising. But Henin added: "It's not good ships across Europe has turned up to see two sisters always in the final, even for the public. Serena was in equally devastat-

ble level to play against her. It was a

ing form as she took the first set of

her semi-final against Mauresmo 6-

her own serve in the entire first set. Serena continued her assault into the second set as she broke the Mauresmo serve immediately, but

The second seed simply

smashed her powerful opponent off

the court behind a strong serve with

a series of devastating forehand

It was one-way traffic as Serena

broke in the fifth and seventh

games and lost just three points on

passing shots

suffered a problem in the following game, needing to save four break points before holding onto her own serve for a 2-0 lead. Serena continued to play virtually faultless tennis with Mauresmo caught in two minds about whether to come into the net. When Serena

break up it was all over. Mauresmo had battered Jennifer Capriati in Wednesday's quarter-final but proved no match

took advantage of her eighth break

point in the fifth game to go a double

for the French Open champion. "There was nothing to do about it," said Mauresmo. "At the moment they're number one and two and that means everything, they were in the final of the French Open and

here again.' But Mauresmo does not think it's good for women's tennis.

"I think it's a little bit sad for women's tennis, people are going to get bored. They were already in the final of the French Open. Many poeple told me to win because they didn't want to see an all-Williams

final again. And as always with the sisters she said that it would be impossible to predict who would win.

'You have to ask them that," said the Frenchwoman.

Kansas Comet in Paris



America's 100m world record holder Maurice Greene has looked a shadow of the athlete who was crowned Olympic champion in 2000 on his last two runs in Europe but here Friday he will try and restore his previous dominance in the

Golden League meeting.

tinctly lacking his usual fireworks when going down twice to Briton Dwain Chambers at the first Golden League event of the season in Oslo last Friday and then Sheffield on However having decided to opt out of the prestigious meet in

The 'Kansas Comet' was dis-

Lausanne on Wednesday because he felt tired he returns with the added bonus that his nemesis Chambers is not running. In a rare example of sportsmen these days Chambers has opted to

rest up a bit before the

Commonwealth Games and the

European Championships rather

in the 50kg gold bar should he have won all seven Golden League Greene, though, will still face stiff

opposition from his main rival from

Obikwelu, who won world outdoor 200m silver in 1999 for Nigeria but has since gained Portuguese citizenship after living there for eight years, served notice on the others with a stunning double success in

The ageless Gail Devers will seek to keep her dreams of a share in the gold bar and judging by her world best time for the year in the 100m hurdles in Lausanne the 35vear-old should prevail.

last time to add a hurdles title to her two 100m crowns is open to question but she says she has never felt in better shape. "The day that I don't feel right will no question of that happening. "I am much more relaxed now

don't feel like it," she added.

and some days I don't even train if I

Marion Jones too will be looking

to take another bite into winning her third share of the Golden League bonus and while her times have not been that impressive she has still been winning.

"I think the cold weather in Oslo and Lausanne had something to do with my below-par times," she said.

The most mouthwatering battle of the night should be the men's 400m hurdles with the Dominican Republic's world champion Felix Sanchez back in the fray after missing Wednesday's meet.

Briton Chris Rawlinson, who put Olympic champion Angelo Taylor and two previous world champions to the sword in Lausanne. Sanchez, though, was highly impressive in Oslo and the man who

However he will have to cope

with the ever improving 30-year-old

sports a Superman tattoo on his arm should still be in with the gold bar hopefuls come Saturday.

Aouita's assignment

camps in Canberra."



AFP, Canberra

Australian athletics Wednesday was hoping for a golden era for its distance runners with the announcement that Olympic gold medallist Said Aouita would become the new distance coach of the Australian Institute of Sport

The Moroccan, who won the

5,000 metres at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, is regarded as one of the best middle-distance runners of all time. Aouita possesses an impressive coaching record, with six of his

Australian middle distance running, I found that the under-20 and under-16 athletes are very strong, Aouita said.

"What they need is a long-term

South Wales Institute of Sport in Sydney and said he had been looking for an opportunity to work in Australia. Athletics Australia chief execu-

tive Simon Allatson said having

someone of Aouita's experience

was a huge boost to the sport.

"In the short term we want him to convert some of our prospective medallists into medallists," he said. "While in the long term the focus will be on putting in place an

identification system in both metropolitan and regional areas." Aouita was the first man to break 13 minutes in the 5,000m in

distance for ten years. He held five world records in the 1,500m, 2,000m, 3,000m, two

1984 and was unbeaten at the

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XCWME FRD ZFRDY XNF GZV LF'Q QFCXMD JZGWLFLZG

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I'M A PRETTY GOOD PLUMBER, BUT I ACTUALLY PREFER TO CALL

MYSELF A DRAIN SURGEON Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals R and I didn't know anything about it. The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for This time, I will not miss the match because maybe I'll sleep here

court tournament as a senior, have FRD YCJDRZYQD V C Q

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,

sensitive to the criticism.

"We are not here to talk about

French Open

sional career.

Date with FROM PAGE 13

last four appearance at Roland Garros in 1997. something else instead, maybe I'll dye my hair," said the Belgian who has yet to win a title in his profes-

fourth.

Marat Safin were culled last week. For the 20-year-old Nalbandian, the semi-final represents a chance for redemption - he was kicked out of the junior event here in 1999 for "They changed the schedule

the fourth round at this year's

"I can't cut my ponytail off. I'll do

Now he has become only the

second Belgian man to make it to a

semifinal following Filip De Wulf's

"I had been expecting to lose in the second or third round here but every round since then has been a bonus," added Malisse who beat fifth seeded Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov in the third round and Britain's Greg Rusedski in the Both Malisse and Nalbandian

who is playing in his first ever grass

benefitted from being in the bottom

half of the draw from which the likes

of Pete Sampras, Andre Agassi and

turning up late for his semi-final

PATH TO THE FINAL 2nd rd: Francesca Schiavone (Ita) 6-3, 6-3in 67 minutes

Quarterfinal: Daniela Hantuchova (Svk x11) 6-3, 6-2 in 68 minutes Semifinal: Amelie Mauresmo (Fra x9) 6-2, 6-1 in 55 minutes

Total time on court: 6hrs 39min

than keep his hopes alive of sharing meets.

2 in just 23 minutes.

last year Tim Montgomery and Portugal's 'new find' Nigerian-born Francis Obikwelu.

Lausanne on Wednesday.

Whether Devers can keep going till the 2004 Olympics and try one

be the day I call it quits," she said. "However at the moment there is

AIS director Michael Scott said Aouita will be based at the New

dedicated and a fierce competitor," Scott said on Wednesday. "As a coach he will identify 30 AIS development scholarship holders and also oversee distance

"As an athlete, Said was totally

Aouita would identify Australia's

next generation of distance run-

ners and assist with their develop-

Aouita, 42, said long-term development plans were needed to maximise Australia's potential in middle-distance running. "On doing some research into

development plan to make them the best they possibly can be."