

Mahesh's new goal

Tennis

REUTERS, New Delhi

India's Mahesh Bhupathi says his Wimbledon mixed doubles triumph with Russian Elena Likhovtseva could put him on the path to recapturing the world's men's doubles top slot.

Sunday's 6-2, 1-6, 6-1 win over Zimbabwe's Kevin Ullyett and Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia was the sixth career grand slam crown for the 28-year old from Bangalore and his third mixed doubles title.

"I'm enjoying playing with Max.



PHOTO: AFP

WE'VE DONE IT: Mahesh Bhupathi of India and Russian Elena Likhovtseva embrace each other after clinching the mixed doubles title at the All-England Club on July 7.

'Nalbandamania'

Tennis

REUTERS, Unquillo

Argentina was left celebrating the performance of tennis player David Nalbandian despite his crushing defeat by Australian Lleyton Hewitt in the Wimbledon final.

After the match Nalbandian's family and friends took to the streets in a pick-up truck covered with national flags for a lap of honour in this tiny town of 15,000 inhabitants, a 10-hour drive from Buenos Aires across an endless Pampa plain.

"It is certainly a respite from the day to day slog of real life. This is a dream for us, an unexpected one. Obviously, a win would have been nice but just looking at the television and seeing my son is sufficient," said

Nalbandian, the player's



PHOTO: AFP

I DIDN'T DESERVE THIS! Argentina's David Nalbandian is unhappy with the way the men's final is turning out on the Centre Court of Wimbledon on July 7.

father and a motorbike mechanic, at his modest white-washed home.

During the match, the family drank homemade wine as they huddled by a television set resting

Australian day out

REUTERS, London

on a shelf cluttered with Nalbandian's trophies. Locals, excited by what they call "Nalbandamania," gathered outside the home to cheer him on like a soccer hero.

Nearby, a local hot-dog stand had been renamed "King David" and buses dropped townspeople off at a stop next door now called "David's Corner."

The 20-year-old Nalbandian was playing in his first Wimbledon tournament and had never expected such a successful run.

His surprise passage to the final delighted Argentines struggling in the country's worst ever economic crisis which has seen five presidents since December.

"Only years ago he was practising on the town's humble concrete court," Norberto added. There is only one court in the whole town."

In front of the Nalbandians' bungalow, a homemade big screen was erected for the crowds who came to join the party. Gauchos on horseback stopped to look and cars hooted as they passed the home.

A horse and cart were parked in front of makeshift screen of white cloth where images of the game were projected for the crowd. When the screen soon broke down the family brought out their own TV set for the crowds and the party continued.

"Win or lose, he has done something unheard of," Nalbandian's father added. "It has been nice to give the people some happiness in these hard times. The pride we feel is just indescribable, an unforgettable moment for the family and town," his mother, Aldi Nalbandian, said.

"He has been sent from God," said Jorge, a flag salesman, as he clutched a home made banner in the shape of a tennis racket.

"The football team failed to come up with the goods, but David had done us proud," said local history teacher Lazarete, referring to Argentina's shock first-round elimination from the World Cup last month.



PHOTO: AFP

BJORKMAN (L) WOODBRIDGE

Jonas Bjorkman.

Later in the day 18-year-old Australian Todd Reid won the boys' singles final 7-6, 6-4 over Lamine Ouahab of Algeria.

All three were cheered on by a large Australian contingent both at courtside and in front of the giant television screen on the grassy knoll dubbed "Henman Hill" -- several of their banners calling for it to be renamed "Hewitt Hill" in honour of their hero.

Hewitt, who draped himself in the Australian flag before parading the trophy, said the tradition of Australian success at Wimbledon made his victory all the sweeter.

Woodbridge celebrated his 6-1, 6-2, 6-7, 7-5 victory over Mark Knowles and Daniel Nestor with Mark Woodforde -- the now retired Australian with whom he won his previous six men's doubles titles here -- who is here as a television pundit.

"There's more Grand Slams in him. How many is anybody's guess," said Cash.

"It's kind of sad that he's got a couple of weeks before he's back playing tournaments. He's going to be exhausted. You look forward to a rest but he won't have much of a chance."

"I still think that when it comes down to the US Open he will find himself fired up," said Cash.

Cash said that he was dis-

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 41 Marathon 24 Poke

1 Surrounded 42 Moon 25 Prepare

5 Bovine 43 Landing 26 Wine

8 Arp's style 44 High 27 Says,

12 Actress 45 Point 28 Gotcha"

13 Exploit 46 Pattered 29 Under-

14 Hollywood 47 Uniformed 30 Youngster

15 Basic 51 Draftable 31 Com-

16 Meadow 52 Fonda 32 Motion

18 Authorizes 53 Shell 33 Seafood

20 Beastly 54 Cham-

21 Orders 55 Game 34 Star

22 Sen. 35 Rabbler-

23 Author 56 Bucket 36 D.C.

28 Lat. 57 Mrs. 37 Dragnel"

30 McBeal's

31 Requests 38 The

32 Sisters" 39 "Two

33 Seafood 40 "The

34 Selection 41 "Two

35 "The 42 "The

36 "The 43 "The

37 "The 44 "The

38 "The 45 "The

39 "The 46 "The

40 "The 47 "The

41 "The 48 "The

42 "The 49 "The

43 "The 50 "The

44 "The 51 "The

45 "The 52 "The

46 "The 53 "The

47 "The 54 "The

48 "The 55 "The

49 "The 56 "The

50 "The 57 "The

51 "The 58 "The

52 "The 59 "The

53 "The 60 "The

54 "The 61 "The

55 "The 62 "The

56 "The 63 "The

57 "The 64 "The

58 "The 65 "The

59 "The 66 "The

60 "The 67 "The

61 "The 68 "The

62 "The 69 "The

63 "The 70 "The

64 "The 71 "The

65 "The 72 "The

66 "The 73 "The

67 "The 74 "The

68 "The 75 "The

69 "The 76 "The

70 "The 77 "The

71 "The 78 "The

72 "The 79 "The

73 "The 80 "The

74 "The 81 "The

75 "The 82 "The

76 "The 83 "The

77 "The 84 "The

78 "The 85 "The

79 "The 86 "The

80 "The 87 "The

81 "The 88 "The

82 "The 89 "The

83 "The 90 "The

84 "The 91 "The

85 "The 92 "The

86 "The 93 "The

87 "The 94 "The

88 "The 95 "The

89 "The 96 "The

90 "The 97 "The

91 "The 98 "The

92 "The 99 "The

93 "The 100 "The

94 "The 101 "The

95 "The 102 "The

96 "The 103 "The

97 "The 104 "The

98 "The 105 "The

99 "The 106 "The

100 "The 107 "The

101 "The 108 "The

102 "The 109 "The

103 "The 110 "The

104 "The 111 "The

105 "The 112 "The

106 "The 113 "The

107 "The 114 "The

108 "The 115 "The

109 "The 116 "The

110 "The 117 "The

111 "The 118 "The

112 "The 119 "The

113 "The 120 "The

114 "The 121 "The

115 "The 122 "The

116 "The 123 "The

117 "The 124 "The

118 "The 125 "The

119 "The 126 "The

120 "The 127 "The

121 "The 128 "The

122 "The 129 "The

123 "