

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 Ullyet 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.



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.

We've played five tournaments and we've played well in all five of them. There's no need to change anything."

But the six-foot-one-inch big-server, ranked sixth in the world in individual doubles, said he did not rule out getting back with Paes again.

He said: "I'm not going to say we're never going to play again. But I've been playing some of my best tennis since we split. We haven't talked about it but if things work out, I won't say no."

The two had a dream year together in 1999, becoming the first pair in nearly 50 years to reach the final of all four grand slams and winning titles in the French Open and at Wimbledon.

But personal problems led to a bitter split in early 2000 after a sudden dip in performances.

They came back together just before the Sydney Olympics and, though the two could not reach the level they had in previous years, managed to win the 2001 French title at Roland Garros.

But even when they seemed to be on a high, there was trouble again. Bhupathi and Paes, once inseparable friends, did not speak openly about their differences but broke up again this year.

They combined for the Davis Cup and a few odd tournaments, but the two have decided to go their own separate ways despite 24 doubles titles together.

"I was looking for a break," Bhupathi said of the split. "I found we were falling into a rut. We needed to do something different."

Paes has not fared as well as his former partner. He crashed out of the doubles first round at Wimbledon, playing with Australian Stephen Huss, but he made it to the mixed doubles quarterfinals with American Lisa Raymond.

Australian day out

REUTERS, London

Lleyton Hewitt's first men's singles title at Wimbledon was only the start of a day of celebration for the hordes of Australians at the All England Club.

While Hewitt cruised to victory over Argentine David Nalbandian on Centre Court, Australian doubles specialist Todd Woodbridge was on court one winning his seventh men's doubles title -- his first with Swede



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.



PHOTO: AFP

SISTER ACT II: Venus (L) and Serena Williams acknowledge the crowd's applause after winning the ladies' doubles final.

Double impact

Tennis

REUTERS, London

Venus and Serena Williams have completed their domination of this year's Wimbledon in ruthless fashion by adding the women's doubles crown to their bulging trophy cabinet.

Not satisfied with leaving the rest of the women in the singles draw empty handed and in their wake, the sisters have now weaved their brand of power tennis to bulldoze through the doubles draw and pick up their second pairs' title over the last three years.

Just a day after the Serena beat elder sister Venus in the women's final -- the first sisters to contest the Wimbledon final since Maud beat Lillian in the inaugural contest in

1884 -- the Americans teamed up to throttle the challenge of Spaniard Virginia Ruano Pascual and Paola Suarez of Argentina 6-2, 7-5 in the doubles final on Sunday.

"We've had a great six weeks with the French Open and Wimbledon but we realise that doesn't make a career," said Venus, who also came off second best to Serena in the French Open final last month. "We want to just keep our level up and also want to improve."

Serena, who defeated Venus in two sets on Saturday, was the weak link in the doubles final as she dropped her serve twice during the one hour 20 minutes match, compared to just once for Venus.

In cold and blustery conditions on Centre Court, Serena struggled with her service rhythm and often had to count on Venus to get her out of trouble.

"I was a little tight today going out

there," said Serena, who will become the world number one when the new rankings are issued on Monday.

"Venus really had to calm me down and said 'you know just calm down and enjoy the battle'."

"I just didn't want to let Venus down."

"I didn't want to miss too many returns because it's okay in singles to let yourself down but to let someone else down, it's not fair."

For their effort over the fortnight, the sisters walk away with a combined purse of \$923,250 pounds.

The Williams also become the first sisters finalists to pair up to capture the women's doubles crown at the same championships since their fellow black American Althea Gibson and Darlene Hard achieved the feat in 1957.

'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 Norberto Nalbandian, the player's

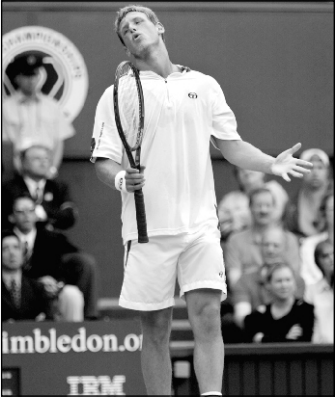


PHOTO: AFP

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.

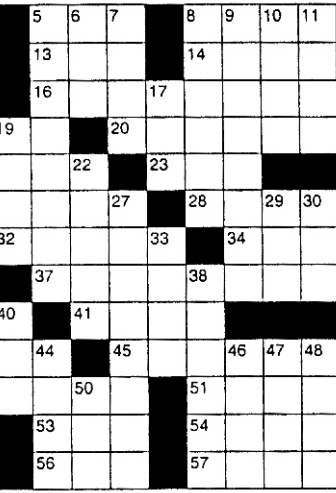
father and a motorbike mechanic, at his modest white-washed home.

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

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 41 Marathon fraction 42 Moon-landing program 5 Bovine beast 8 A/p's style 12 Actress Kudrow 13 Exploit 14 Hollywood clashers 15 Basic (Abbr.) 16 Meadow songbird 18 Authorizes 20 Beastly types 21 Orders to a guard dog 23 Author LeShan 24 Bonanzas 28 Lat. list-ender 31 Past 32 Emanations 34 Harem room 35 Flex 37 Annie's song? 39 Seek restitution

DOWN 24 Poke 25 Prepare wine 26 Says, "There, there!" 27 Underground publication 29 Com-motion 30 McBeal's milieu 33 Seafood selection 36 D.C. 38 The Two Sisters' painter 40 Subordinate 42 Touch 43 Jalousy 44 "How clumsy of me!" 46 Bygone Peruvian 47 Abound 48 Heavenly instrument 50 Approximate VIP



CRYPTOQUIP

P J Z U S W G Z . S B W E G R W E G A A G A M G U R N W S R A P R S D J R B H X E E W H U . M W ' H W D J

S B W E X R B A W G N X W . Saturday's Cryptogram: LIGHTNING HIT THE ORCHESTRA YESTERDAY. MAYBE IT SHOULD BE BLAMED ON THE CONDUCTOR.

Today's Cryptogram Clue: A equals L. The Cryptogram 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.

Singing Hewitt song

Tennis

AFP, London

Former champion Pat Cash on Sunday hailed fellow Aussie Lleyton Hewitt as a worthy Wimbledon champion.

Cash, the last Australian to win the title in 1987, admitted that his countryman was in a class of his own over the past fortnight.

"There's no doubt about it. He was the only guy out there who is the worthy champion," Cash told the BBC.

"Sampras (Pete) is on the way down, and Agassi (Andre) didn't get through and other than that there isn't anybody who deserves to win that trophy."

"He (Hewitt) was the toughest player and the best all around player he could be. It was faultless really."

"Lleyton was his usual ruthless self. That was the title he really wanted to get and now he's going to get it in his way."

And Cash said that 21-year-old Hewitt, the reigning US Open champion, had some of the best years ahead of him.

"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 disap-

pointed by 20-year-old Nalbandian's display, but admitted that an exhausting fortnight had taken its toll on the Wimbledon novice.



PAT CASH

"I suppose it was a bit dull for us watching and the crowd tried to get Nalbandian back in the match but he didn't have anything in the tank," said Cash.

"Not having a day off and not being able to recover is really tough for him. I expected him to play better than he did. He probably played two thirds as well as he could play."

"He needed to start pretty well and drop into a rhythm and whether it was nerves or not he didn't have a rhythm."

"He did break serve a couple of times and it looked like we had a match but he couldn't get going."



PHOTO: COURTESY

Bangladesh Cricket Board Development Committee chairman Arafat Rahman (R) is being introduced to the divisional school teachers who took part in the Level-1 coaching course at Sultana Kamal Women's Sports Complex yesterday.

Tough guy

Tennis

AFP, London

Like him or loathe him, you can't ignore Lleyton Hewitt.

Brash, confident, controversial - few 21-year-old sportsmen create such extremes of either admiration or abject horror than the world number one, and now the new Wimbledon champion after his easy 6-1, 6-3, 6-2 victory over David Nalbandian here on Sunday.

All the elements of this Aussie rough diamond were on show for all to see here over the last fortnight.

Hewitt greeted every impossible winner with a roar, which would have sent shivers down the spines of shoppers on Wimbledon high street.

Then the finger pointed at the crowd, at his entourage, at no-one in particular, fists pumping against chest.

Hewitt argues that what you see is what you get, although there are many at the ultra-conservative All England Club who wish he'd tone it down a bit.

But the Australian is no stranger to controversy with his behaviour plunging him into a series of controversies over the last year.

lems. He was fined again last year for swearing at Spain's former French Open champion Carlos Moya while at the Italian Open earlier this year he had a point deducted for arguing a line call and then for throwing a ball at the umpire.

Brad Gilbert, the coach of Andre Agassi, said recently that if there was a vote on which player would be first to take a beating in the locker room it would be the Australian.

But the Adelaide insists he is a different man and is learning slowly to adapt to the demands and expectations that go with being the youngest ever world number one.

"I just block out as many things as possible. I wasn't going to let anything ruin the way that I was playing throughout that second week, and nothing did," he said reflecting on his US Open experiences.

"I got better and better with every match that I played. I learned how to block out everything, apart from going out there and playing, the tennis that I felt like I was capable of doing."

Hewitt can rightly claim that his sporting instincts are hereditary. His father Glynn is a former Aussie Rules player and mum Cherylin played netball.

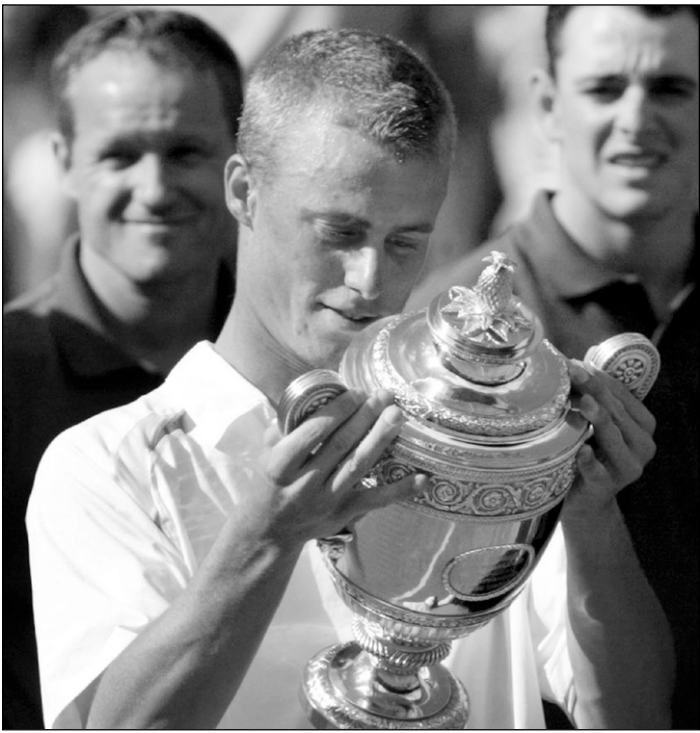


PHOTO: AFP

WHERE'S MY NAME? Australian world number one Lleyton Hewitt admires the list of winners inscribed on the champion's trophy on July 7.

At the French Open in 2001, he was fined 500 pounds for calling umpire Andreas Egli a 'spastic' and then, at the US Open later in the year, found himself embroiled in a race row.

Playing against black American James Blake, he was called for a foot fault by a linesman, also black.

The Australian exploded into a fit of rage demanding the linesman be changed and pointed back and forth from the official to the player screaming: 'Look at him, look at him and you tell me what the similarity is.'

He was cleared of racism but the New York crowd were not so forgiving, roundly booing Hewitt throughout the rest of the tournament - not that it bothered him too much, he went on to beat American hero Pete Sampras in the final to win his first Grand Slam title.

There have been other prob-

Girlfriend is leading Belgian women's player Kim Clijsters who seems to have grafted a gentle side on to the Hewitt machine - at the start of Wimbledon, she even found herself denying stories that he had proposed to her on top of the Eiffel Tower during last month's French Open.

Hewitt would be embarrassed by such a revelation. He's a man who spends his spare time watching satellite broadcasts of 'the footy' or watching reruns of Rocky tapes.

On court, he often stirs himself out of a jam by shouting out loud: 'Come on Rock' in honour of his Stallone role model.

The signs are that this Aussie rock will be rolling over a lot more victims in the future and will he feel sorry for them?

Will he heck!

Forgive and forget

Tennis

REUTERS, Sydney

Lleyton Hewitt's past indiscretions and often fragile relationship with the Australian public and media were forgotten when he beat Argentina's David Nalbandian to win the Wimbledon men's singles title.

Pictures and reports of Hewitt's historic win on Sunday were plastered over the front pages of almost every major newspaper in the land while politicians, former players, and even his critics heaped praise on the feisty 21-year-old.

Australia's sports-loving Prime Minister John Howard took time out from his European tour to pay tribute to Hewitt while the South Australian Premier Mike Cann said the state's new sporting hero would be feted with a street parade.

In Hewitt's hometown of Adelaide, the local newspaper's front page banner read: "Our champion Lleyton, you little ripper".

A similar headline in Sydney's Daily Telegraph read: "Lleyton slams his way to immortality".

Other major newspapers said Hewitt, who also won last year's U.S. Open title and is already the youngest man in history to hold the year-end world number one ranking, now deserved to be rated among the sport's greatest players.

"Lleyton Hewitt made the short trek down leafy Church Road before taking up residence alongside the Wimbledon Gods by completing an extraordinary tennis odyssey," said Brisbane's Courier-Mail.

The Sydney Morning Herald said Hewitt's triumph would help endear

him to Australians after years of acrimony.

Under the headline "Bad boy turns legend...", the paper's lead story said: "Self-effacing, he is not. Neither is he obviously good-looking or witty. But for the myriad of things he isn't, the world of tennis, and Australia in general, has started to love Lleyton Hewitt, not so much for what he is but for what he promises to become."

Despite all his success, Hewitt's on-court antics have polarised many fans and he is not loved in the same way as many of the country's other tennis greats like Pat Rafter and John Newcombe.

Hewitt has never been far from controversy. He once described spectators in his home town as "stupid" after they cheered an opponent in 2000, and he was fined at the 2001 French Open for calling the chair umpire a "spastic".

He was also at the centre of a race row at the 2001 U.S. Open over a comment he made to a court official during a match against James Blake.

More recently, at this year's Italian Open, he had a point deducted for arguing a line call then throwing the ball at the umpire.

The Townsville Bulletin, in an article headlined "Will fist-pumping Lleyton ever really be loved?" wrote: "Hewitt has the attributes Australians love in their sportsmen - a passionate desire to represent his country, tenacity and a lot of courage."

"But the apparent absence of traits such as humility and grace -- which made his predecessor Pat Rafter such a loved figure -- makes it difficult for them to universally like him."