

Not a good day for Steve

AFP, London
Aussie skipper Steve Waugh endured a miserable day for Kent in the English county championship on Friday.

First, he was forced to leave the field in the first division match against Leicestershire at Canterbury after being struck on the hand by a Devon Malcolm delivery.

He retired hurt, but later returned after being told he had not broken any bones.

He went back to the crease following Ed Smith's dismissal for 87 but scored just four more to reach 16 before falling to Indian seamer Javagal Srinath, leaving his side 217 for four at the close.

Leicestershire were earlier bowled out for 259 in their first innings.

It was a brighter day for Aussie leg-spinner Stuart MacGill as he inspired Nottinghamshire to an innings victory over Gloucestershire in the second division.

Beginning the day still needing another 212 to make the hosts bat at again, Gloucestershire rallied thanks to a gritty unbeaten 45 from Jack Russell but Stuart MacGill finished off the job.

The prolific Australian claimed four of the remaining five wickets to take his tally to 27 in just three championship matches and condemn Gloucestershire to defeat by an innings and 85 runs.

Freeman back in training

Reuters, Sydney

Olympic champion Cathy Freeman said yesterday she is back in training, spurred on by her relay success at the Manchester Commonwealth Games and by the improving health of her husband.

The Australian only ran the 400 metres relay in Manchester and chose not to compete in the individual event so she could devote more time to helping husband Sandy Bodecker in his battle against throat cancer.

But she said the relay gold had renewed her enthusiasm for competing and that she returned to training two weeks ago instead of taking a long rest after Manchester.

"I started training actually two weeks ago because after the gold medal in Manchester I kind of got really hungry," Freeman was quoted as saying by Australian Associated Press.

"I was always hungry - but like, demonic, like crazy, possessed, like that pre-Sydney Olympic thing. The obsession came back."

Freeman said she had also been motivated by the performances of rising Mexican runner Ana Gabriela Guevara, currently ranked second in the 400 metres by the IAAF.

But she stressed that she had only returned to light training.

Freeman has also been greatly encouraged by her husband's progress as he receives treatment, including chemotherapy, in Melbourne.

"He's improving all the time," she said.

"It's good news, fantastic news actually. It's encouraging, it makes me happy, knowing that he's getting better."

It's not over yet

FROM PAGE 13
price tag on Ronaldo, who had a hugely successful World Cup after years of uncertainty caused mainly by injury and two knee operations.

Real then offered 50 million euros (48.5 million dollars) plus players for the Brazilian, who would join Spanish international Raul up front for the Spanish super team.

Ronaldo had returned home for a friendly against Paraguay in Fortaleza on August 21 which Brazil lost 1-0 in a tie expected to be the last for World Cup winning coach Luis Felipe Scolari.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

40 Polygon
1 Ersatz chocolate
6 Ailment
12 Prop for funt
13 Aviatrix
Earhart
14 Clint's acting daughter
15 Guru
16 Broad
17 "Star Trek" villain
19 B&B
20 Poi base
22 Speck
24 Shooter's ammo
27 "Fiction"
29 Atmosphere
32 "Every-thing in its place" arrangement

DOWN

2 In the portion
3 VCR
4 Short button
5 Bad news from Pat
6 One of the
7 Improve
8 Novelist
9 Height
10 Belmonts leader
11 Old salt's story
12 Cornfield comment
18 Most thick of
21 Mimic
23 One in a partner
24 Dog's dog
25 Alter (Pref.)
26 Hunger
28 Regretful
30 Monterey monarch
31 "All the Things You..."
33 Astro-naut's vehicle
34 Peculiar
39 ESPN subject
41 Actor
42 Cook-ware
43 Computer name
45 Puts to work
47 Marathon
48 Yalies
49 Barbie's beau
51 Holster occupant
53 Sundial notation

SOLUTION TIME: 27 mins.

SHE SCIAM PLAN
CEL MACIE RILE
ARMO TRES TOLIE
NOTODLE ARMAIDIA
DIALITY AGIE LAB
AJJOY GIDE WOVIE
TAJO AHIS MOTTEL
ARMANIT TOM
WASH ARMEIN TAIN
WEAIR OODS ELS

Indomitable Dwain, Marion

Athletics

Reuters, London

Dwain Chambers and American Marion Jones ignited the British Grand Prix with scintillating sprint victories over world class fields.

European champion Chambers again put Olympic and world champion Maurice Greene in his place by storming to 100 metres success in 9.98 seconds.

It was the fourth time the 24-year-old Englishman had beaten the American this season.

Triple Olympic champion Jones won her much-hyped showdown with arch-rival Zhanna Pintusevich-Block, gaining revenge for her shock defeat by the Ukrainian at the World Championships last year.

"Dwain Chambers 4 - Maurice Greene 1. It's a good tally to have on my CV this year," said Chambers, who admitted after the race that he had been suffering from a cold and had considered pulling out.

"I am busted, busted, busted. I really didn't expect to win here."

"Winning the European title has given me great confidence to believe in myself. Now things seem to be going my way and hopefully the tables have been permanently turned."

American Tim Montgomery chased Chambers home in 10.05 with Greene, who said recently he had suffered a "technically horrible" season, taking third in 10.06.

Greene was less than magnanimous in defeat saying Chambers had "been lucky".

The women's 100 metres was, as expected, a battle between Jones and Pintusevich-Block, the first head-to-head meeting this season between the two fastest women in the world.

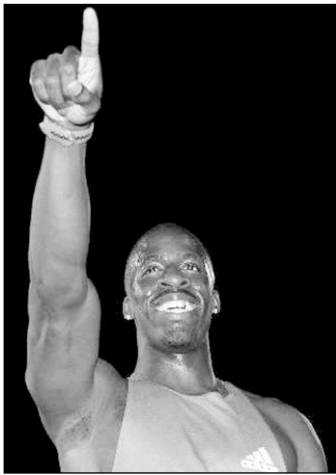
It was the 26-year-old Jones who prevailed with a comfortable victory in 10.97 seconds, ahead of Pintusevich-Block (11.11) and American Chryste Gaines (11.12).

"There was a lot of pressure because there was such a great array of talent lining up," said Jones, whose dominance at the distance has been tested ever since her

arch-rival stormed to victory - inflicting a first defeat on Jones since 1997 - in Edmonton.

"People have asked me about motivation, what more motivation do you need than to line up against the world champion?"

"I just felt good, it's as simple as that," Jones said.



DWAIN CHAMBERS

Pintusevich-Block, who did not compete in the European championships, put her defeat down to a poor start.

"I didn't start very well. The race just didn't come together and Marion ran really well," she said.

Victories for Chambers and Jones overshadowed a memorable night for Felix Sanchez, who secured a unique double.

The 24-year-old from the Dominican Republic won the 400 metres hurdles, then returned to the track two hours later to finish first in the 400 metres.

On an emotional night, Welshman Colin Jackson received a standing ovation following his last ever run at Crystal Palace.

The 35-year-old double world champion and world record holder, who says he will retire next year, had to be content with third behind Americans Allen Johnson and Larry Wade in the men's 110 metres hurdles.

"I wanted to cry on the line. What a feeling, I'm so chuffed," Jackson said.

"It was amazing. Such emotions."

I am sorry I didn't win, but losing to Allen Johnson is hardly poor." Johnson, the current world champion and the fastest man at the distance this year, took the prize in 13.23, with Wade clocking 13.26 and Jackson 13.37.

Another Briton to feel age catching up with him was European



MARION JONES

javelin champion Steve Backley. Backley managed a best throw of 82.49 metres, only good enough for sixth place with Russian Sergey Makarov, silver medallist behind Backley in Munich, coming out on top with a mark of 86.70.

"I am 33 years old, in Munich I felt like 23 years old and today I feel like 43 years old," Backley said.

Olympic 5,000 metres champion Gabriela Szabo suffered another surprise defeat as she was out-gunned by Ethiopian Berhane Adere.

The 26-year-old Romanian, who took silver behind Turkey's Sureyya Ayhan in the women's European 1,500 metres final in Munich, finished second again. Adere kicked clear 200 metres from home and held on to win in 14:33.65.

Szabo's famous finishing kick came all too late, closing on Adere in the final strides to take second in 14:34.29, with Ireland's Sonia O'Sullivan third.

Moroccan Hicham El Guerrouj won the men's mile but his attempt to beat his own world best ended in failure.

Haas in last four

Tennis

AFP, Comrack

For the third consecutive time this week, top-seeded German Tommy Haas rallied from a set down to advance into the semifinals of the 480,000-dollar ATP tennis tournament here on Friday.

The 25-year-old defending champion downed eleventh-seeded Jarkko Nieminen of Finland 3-6, 6-4, 6-2 in one hour, 43 minutes.

Haas will meet Paradorn Srichaphan of Thailand in the last four.

Srichaphan upset fourth seed Younes El Aynaoui of Morocco 5-7, 6-3, 6-4, to make the semifinals of his second straight hardcourt event.

"Maybe it's just a slow start or the opponent playing well," Haas said.

"Today, I thought I got off to a good start but my arm was bothering me and I had trouble focusing on my game."

Haas has been bothered by shoulder tendinitis since the beginning of the year.

"If the arm feels like this tomorrow, there is no way I can play," said Haas, who fired up nine aces along with nine double faults.

Nieminen was playing his second single's match of the day Friday.

The 21-year-old southpaw finished off Brazil's Flavio Saretta 2-6, 6-3, 6-4 in a late third-round morning match that was halted by rain Thursday night.

He then came back at night to face Haas and played inspired tennis, breaking the German in the

seventh and ninth games to secure the first set.

Haas stormed back in the second set to go up 5-1 and fended off a late rally from Nieminen to even out the match three games later.

On a roll, the third-ranked Haas opened another 5-1 lead in the decisive set to coast to victory.

The other semi-final Saturday will pit fifth-seeded Alex Corretja of Spain against the number seven seed, Juan Ignacio Chela of Argentina.

Corretja easily booked passage into the last four when Frenchman Paul-Henri Mathieu, who beat Pete Sampras earlier in the week, retired after trailing 4-5 in the first set because of a left foot blister.

Chela beat American Mardy Fish 7-5, 6-3.

Tribute for Holly, Jessica

Reuters, London

England and India cricketers followed the example of premier league footballers and observe a minute's silence on Saturday for two murdered 10-year-old school-girls.

The tribute to Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman take place just prior to the third day's play in the third Test at Headingley, Leeds.

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) spokesman John Read said: "The whole country has been shocked by the horrific events that have unfolded in the village of Soham over the past three weeks."

"In our own very small way, this minute's silence is cricket's way of showing profound sympathy for the parents of Holly and Jessica."

"We cannot fully appreciate the depths of despair and sheer sorrow that they are feeling, but we can show that we care."

Both the fathers of Holly and Jessica, Kevin Wells and Les Chapman, are keen cricket followers.

The players in Friday's Chelsea v Manchester United premier league match and other games during the weekend will also hold a minute's silence for the girls whose murders have dominated front pages and news bulletins in Britain.

Hewitt hopeful

Reuters, New York

Twelve months ago Lleyton Hewitt was jostling for position among a new generation of players, with a bright future ahead of him but still to prove himself on the big stage.

When the Australian steps into New York's Flushing Meadows arena next week he will be defending a Grand Slam title for the first time and is, most certainly, the man to beat in men's tennis.

In a whirlwind 12 months the explosive baseliner has won the 2001 US Open and this year's Wimbledon, finished the year ranked world number one and contended with a bout of chicken pox.

Now he cannot wait to get back to an arena he loves.

"The US Open holds a very special place for me, being the first place I really performed well in a Grand Slam," he says, looking forward to the fourth and final slam of the season.

"I made my first semi in a slam there, won the doubles there and my first Grand Slam singles title so I hold that place pretty dear."

Defending a Grand Slam brings with it different pressures, but Hewitt shrugs them off with typical confidence.

"It's my first time. I'm not going to go in there with anything different to last year."

"I'm still going in there with the same attitude that I've got to beat seven guys to hold up the trophy again."

"I think it's obviously going to be a bit of a buzz for me, going back to a place that has changed my life in a lot of ways."

"I really look forward to getting back there."

New York is a different place since Hewitt's last visit after the September 11 attacks, and the 21-year-old knows a different atmosphere will prevail at the raucous major.

'Sachin greater

FROM PAGE 13
rare batsman who reminded him of himself.

Tendulkar was honoured to be invited to the exclusive Bradman's birthday party shortly before he died.

The right-hander from Bombay has also scored 33 one-day international hundreds, the most by any player.

Waugh survives

FROM PAGE 13
and it has come so soon after the selectors put me in the mix for the one-day team," Hauritz said.

"The rise in my career has happened so quickly and it is going to take me a few days to calm down now that I have been included in the Test squad. I believe I'm ready for the challenge and I can't wait to get away for the next few months of cricket."

"I used the South African tour to look, learn and listen and I'll take a similar approach to the Test series against Pakistan. If I'm lucky enough to get a Test berth, it will be a dream come true."

Australia earlier this month said it would not play three scheduled Tests in Pakistan in October but the Australian Cricket Board has offered to play the series as scheduled at an alternate venue.

SQUAD

Stephen Waugh (capt), Adam Gilchrist (vice-capt), Andrew Bichel, Jason Gillespie, Nathan Hauritz, Matthew Hayden, Justin Langer, Brett Lee, Darren Lehmann, Damien Martyn, Glenn McGrath, Ricky Ponting, Shane Warne, Mark Waugh.



Australian swimming superstar Ian Thorpe on his way to win the 400 metres freestyle gold at the Pan Pacific Championships in Yokohama yesterday.

Thorpe opens account

Swimming

AFP, Yokohama

ian Thorpe admitted he was a little below his best but it was good enough to hold off his great rival Grant Hackett and claim the 400-metre freestyle gold medal at the Pan Pacific Championships here on Saturday.

The triple world record holder was more than five seconds outside his world record time set at last month's Manchester Commonwealth Games, but he kept teammate Hackett in his sights to hit the wall in three minutes 45.28 seconds.

Swimming's Thorpedo was not forecasting any flash time first-up in the 400m coming just weeks after his record six gold medal haul at the Commonwealth Games.

It was there that he claimed his 13th world long course record of 3:40.08 in the 400m.

Nineteen-year-old Thorpe

claimed his fifth Pan Pac gold medal after he won four at the last Pan Pacs in Sydney three years ago.

There were expectations that the swimming marvel would again lower his record in the 400m event given his knack of opening his major meets with a bang.

Thorpedo did it at the last Pan Pacs in Sydney in 1999, the 2000 Australian Olympic trials, the 2000 Sydney Olympics, last year's world championships and last month's Manchester Commonwealth Games.

But he was more concerned with reserving his energy for his swims ahead after a gruelling schedule in Manchester where he swam in seven events.

"I was happy with that swim, I was a little bit off my best tonight," said Thorpe.

"It was an important race to swim in the first part of the meet and I was trying to get off to a good start for Australia and myself."

"If I had got down to 3:40 and close to a world record it would have taken a lot out of me for the rest of

Venus, Lindsay face off

Tennis

Reuters, New Haven

Defending champion Venus Williams eased past Daniela Hantuchova 6-3, 6-3 to set up a final against Lindsay Davenport at the New Haven Open on Friday.

Second seeded Davenport had earlier despatched a weary Anastasia Myskina of Russia 6-2, 6-2 in their semifinal match.

Top seed Williams was always in control against Hantuchova, who struggled with the American's powerful serve and committed far too many errors.

Williams started badly by hitting double-faults on the first and last points of the opening game, but quickly settled and broke back immediately.

She broke again for 5-3 when Hantuchova double-faulted and was able to serve out the opening set.

In the second set, Williams dropped just three points on her serve and broke the seventh seed at 5-3 to win the match with a crisp double-handed backhand volley.

Williams is thrilled to see Davenport doing so well since she returned from injury, and was looking forward to renewing their rivalry after they had split their career meetings so far at 10 wins apiece.

"At one time I was down 1-8 against her, and if I lost another match I was going to retire. I couldn't handle that any more," Williams said.

"I guess the turning point was at Wimbledon (in 2000). I was still down 9-3, but it didn't matter to me if it was 9-3 or 100-0. It was the Wimbledon final and I didn't care what the odds were against me."

Hantuchova believed that Williams had improved significantly since she took a set from the American at the Australian Open in January.

"She played really well, and especially her serve was unbelievable. There was not much I could have done about that," Hantuchova said.

"But I gave my best and got a lot of experience from the match."

In the four tournaments Davenport has played since making her comeback following nine months of inactivity due to a knee injury, she has reached two semifinals and two finals.

She was beaten two weeks ago in the Manhattan Beach title match by Chanda Rubin, and also reached the semi-finals in Stanford and San Diego.

Myskina, who upset fourth seed Justine Henin and fifth seed Martina Hingis in her two previous matches, struggled to rise to the occasion against Davenport.

The tired Russian looked slow and was unable to hit the ball with the conviction she had shown earlier in the week.

Myskina made an unforced forehand error to give Davenport a break to lead 3-2 and another poor forehand gave the American a second break for 5-2.

In the second set, the pair exchanged breaks in the first two games, before Davenport swept the last five for the loss of just six points.

"It was really hard for me because when I went to the court I felt I'd been there the whole night," Myskina said.

"I didn't sleep well because we finished late, and I couldn't move well. I made a lot of unforced errors, and she hit harder than Martina (Hingis) for sure."

"With Martina it's more mental, and with Lindsay it's boom-boom, so it was harder for me today for sure. You have to be 100 per cent to beat her, and I wasn't."

Davenport admitted it had been a comfortable match for her, and appreciated that it was difficult for Myskina to come back after a big win the night before.



American Lindsay Davenport salutes the crowd after beating Russia's Anastasia Myskina at the Pilot Pen tennis tournament in New Haven on August 23.

Tim to meet Ketola in opener

BBC, New York

Tim Henman will meet Tuomas Ketola in the first round of the US Open after the Finn comfortably came through qualifying.

Ketola beat Croatian Mario Ancic 6-1, 6-1 to earn a match against the British fifth seed.

Ancic, who beat Henman's fellow Briton Martin Lee in qualifying, has also made the main draw as a lucky loser.

He will meet Slovakia's Dominik Hrbaty in the first round.

Also qualified is Dick Norman, the Belgian who has waited 11 years to play at Flushing Meadows.

Norman beat top-seeded qualifying hope Lars Burgsmuller in straight sets to progress.

Edwin Kempes of the Netherlands won the closest men's match, winning a final-set tie-break against Israel's Amir Hadad 11-9.

Meanwhile, Henman has been struggling with a shoulder injury but is expected to be back to full fitness for the start of the action at Flushing Meadows on Monday.