final place AFP, Paris

Sebastien Grosjean beat American Andy Roddick at Roland Garros here on Sunday to propel holders France into the Davis Cup final.

World number nine Grosiean won 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 in 2hr 42min for a 3-1 winning lead to render the final rubber between Arnaud Clement and James Blake aca-

Grosjean pocketed the opening set 6-4 in 42 minutes but fell badly at 1-4 down in the second and required lengthy treatment after twisting his

The French team looked on anxiously as Grosjean returned to the fray having come into the tie nursing a bad back which he insisted was no longer troubling

The Florida-based man from Marseille shrugged off his second mishap to bag a vital victory after the injury initially took the wind out of his sails, booking his country's passage to their 15th final in all - and third in four years - when Roddick fired long having lost his way in the fourth set. Grosjean was brimming with

delight at the end. 'This is fabulous. The stadium was full from around 10 o'clock. It's been a great weekend of sport. In front of these great fans I had a massive desire to go out there and win. This year we'll be at home in the final - and in front of these fans. That will be great."

French skipper Guy Forget emerged from being half-drowned in champagne by victorious squad members to say he was glad to have won at Roland Garros, home of French tennis, although the November 29-December 1 final against Russia or Argentina is likely to be at Bercy in eastern Paris.

League One

Nice dazzle continues

AFP, Paris

Surprise leaders Nice stayed ahead of joint leaders Auxerre at the top of the French League One (First Division) Saturday as both remained unbeaten in six matches on a day when champions Lyon were humbled at home.

The demands of midweek Champions League duties appeared to have taken its toll on Lyon who went down 3-1 to a spirited Monaco side who consequently jumped up to fifth spot behind Marseille who won 3-1 away at Le

Lyon, who were beaten 2-1 by Dutch masters Ajax midweek, looked a step behind Didier Deschamps' outfit throughout the match, with Monaco inflicting a first home defeat of the season on their

After just 15 minutes Deschamps, who took over at Monaco last season and had a disastrous start to his coaching career, was lifted when Burundi international Shabani Nonda produced a stylish lob to beat stunned 'keeper Gregory Coupet.

Although Lyon created chances to quickly get back on level terms a series of misses - notably from Brazilian ace Sonny Anderson and Pegguy Luyindula - left them want-

After the break Lyon came out flying but it was Monaco who doubled the score when Ludovic Giuly, with only to Coupet to beat, trundled a shot past the keeper's left hand side in the 53rd minute.

Lvon finally reduced arrears three minutes later when defender Florent Laville rose to head home a corner by Brazilian midfielder

Both teams were then reduced to 10 men when Laville and Marcelo Gallardo were sent off following an

37 Grand

setup

40 Shaving

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41 String

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42 Fly low, as

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48 Mined-over

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50 Fill till full

49 Laundry

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Solution time: 23 mins.

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14 Evergreen

17 "Monopoly"

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18 Colleague

man? 22 Get bigger

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24 Muppe

25Farm

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dance props 20 Hold-up

19 Song-and- 51 "Wham!"

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16 Street

19 Police

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9 Collateral

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6 Old French

21 Spelling o

22 Barbecue

23 Hitchcock

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25 Burn some

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28 Opening

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38"Green

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43 Historic

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France book final place Africa rejoices

Athletics

REUTERS, Madrid

Africa clinched an unprecedented fourth consecutive World Cup men's title on Saturday after their 4x400 metres relay quartet finished third in the final event of the two-day team

The African team gathered 134 points from 20 events to finish first ahead of the United States (119) and Europe (115).

Russia took the women's title with 126 points followed by Europe (123) and the Americas (110).

The four-yearly team competition featured continental squads from the United States, the Americas, Europe, Africa, Asia and Oceania plus men's and women's teams from hosts Spain.

Germany and Britain completed the field in the men's event and Germany and Russia also competed in the women's. Olympic silver medallist Wilson Boit Kipketer of Kenya edged the Africans ahead of Europe by a point in the 16th event when he outsprinted Spain's Luis Miguel Martin to win the 3,000 metres steeplechase in eight minutes 25.34 seconds.

South Africa's Commonwealth gold medallist Okkert Brits, a winner in London eight years ago, extended the lead with a year's best of 5.75 meters in the pole vault and Kenyan Paul Bitok gathered six more with fourth place in the 3,000 meters flat.

Another South African and Commonwealth champion, Frantz Kruger, finished second in the discus for eight points.

Asked the secret of the African success," Kipketer replied: "I think it's because of our dedication and training that we do and the climatic conditions in Africa with the high

Primarily for economic reasons, an increasing number of elite African athletes, both men and women, have emigrated to Europe in recent

One of these, Nigerian-born Portuguese Francis Obikwelu, the world bronze medallist three years ago in Seville, provided the upset of the day when he defeated Africa's Frank Fredericks in the 200.

Namibian Fredericks, the Commonwealth champion, former world champion and winner of four Olympic and four world silver medals his distinguished career, said before the meeting he was perturbed at the development.

"I think it is quite sad," he said. "Athletes can make more money in Europe. If you have a family that's a decision you have to make. I made a decision to remain in Namibia and I am proud of it."

The most commanding performance of the night came in the women's 1.500 metres where Turkey's Sureyya Ayhan, running for Europe, led from start to finish to win in four minutes 02.57 seconds. Avhan has been one of revela-

tions of the northern season, winning the European title in Munich, again running from the front, and setting a season's best of 3:57.75 at the Brussels Golden League meeting. Avhan, who led at one stage by

60 meters, said: "It was a very important victory, it was the second most important competition of the year after the European championships." American Gail Devers completed

her season with victory in the 100 meters hurdles against the strong wind which troubled all of the athletes in a creditable 12.65 seconds. A storm had halted proceedings on

The three times world champion and twice Olympic 100 gold medalage of 35 and set a veteran's best of 2.40 in Lausanne this year.

"I'm very pleased because it is the first time I have won at the World Cup," she said. "It's now time to go nome and get some rest and American food.

Cuba's Olympic champion Anier Garcia won the 110 metres hurdles for the Americas in 13.10 ahead of former Olympic gold medallist and three times world champion Allen Johnson of the United States who clocked 13.45.

Britain looked to old campaigners Jackson, Jonathan Edwards and Steve Backley to lift them up the table in what looked like one event too far for the men after a gruelling Edwards obliged as he triumphed

in the triple jump while Backley had to settle for fourth in the javelin before heading for the bars of the Spanish capital for his stag night. Edwards took the lead with the

second of his four jumps before sealing the triumph with a final round effort of 17.34m. Walter Davis of the United States was second with 17.23m while Olsson, who had toppled Edwards

from his European throne in Munich last month, back in third with a best of 17.05m. "It's 10 years since I last won the World Cup and I jumped the same distance then - I doubt if I will do it again in 10 years time." said

Edwards. Backlev had the opportunity to become only the fifth athlete to win four World Cups, but his best throw of 79.39m was enough only for fourth as Russia's Sergey Makarov won with 86.44m.

"The conditions were testing in the wind," said Backley, who won the Commonwealth and European titles



Gail Devers clears a hurdle during the 100-metre hurdles in Madrid on September 21.

Goran resumes training



Croatia's Goran Ivanisevic has returned to light training after undergoing shoulder-surgery in May, but the former Wimbledon champion has ruled himself out of the Australian Open at the start of next

Split with coach Mario Tudor.

renowned big serve.

per on Sunday.
"Nothing hurt me and I could hit

the ball without any problems.' But the left-hander said he would skip the Australian Open in January because he would not be able to

raise his game in time. There is no point in flying 25 hours just to exit in the first round,"

Ivanisevic added. The newspaper said he would return to action as leader of

Croatia's Davis Cup team later in Ivanisevic was a popular winner

Wimbledon in 2001 but has struggled with his left shoulder ever since. He underwent surgery in May at a private clinic in Germany



GORAN IVANISEVIC

Ivanisevic told Jutarnji List newspa-

REUTERS, Zagreb

The 31-year-old crowd favourite, known for his explosive temper and racket-smashing tantrums, played a 20-minute hit-and-return session in

But he did not practise his



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YZXHAOR, "T QAH L V T P V U Z H U C N U Z!"

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU WANT TO BUY
THE FINEST WINE, BE SURE TO CONSULT THE

The Cryptoquip 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

Scottish Premiership De Boer does it

for Rangers

AFP, Glasgow

Ronald de Boer scored twice as Rangers opened up a four-point lead at the top of the Scottish Premier League with a comfortable 3-0 victory over Partick Thistle at Ibrox on Saturday.

Peter Lovenkrands' early strike sent Rangers on their way although arch Glasgow rivals and reigning champions Celtic can cut the deficit to a point if they win at Dundee on

Rangers were ahead after two ninutes when Thistle captain Derek Whyte gave away a free-kick.

Midfielder Barry Ferguson lofted the ball into the box where Craig Moore headed on.

The Jags failed to clear and Lovenkrands challenged. The ball broke to de Boer, whose shot was blocked by Thistle keeper Kenny Arthur, and Lovenkrands followedup to score.

Partick were making life hard for Rangers by getting plenty of bodies behind the ball but Dutch international de Boer breached their defence in the 28th minute. Thistle failed to clear a throw-in

and as the ball bounced in the box, De Boer's overhead hook shot beat Arthur. That goal was good enough to

give Rangers a 2-0 lead at the In the 70th minute De Boer put

the result completely beyond doubt when he fired home from close range following Lovenkrands' centre.

In the day's other Premier League matches, Dunfermline beat Motherwell 1-0 and both Edinburgh clubs took all the points with Hearts 2-0 victors over Dundee United and Hibernian defeating Kilmarnock by the same scoreline

Cricket faces

Sri Lankan players were contained in a report by India's Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) which had looked into charges against players in that country last year.

Irani Ibw b Kumble

Shah c Dravid b Kumble Blackwell run out Stewart c Ganguly b Tendulkar35 Cork not out Giles not out Extras: (b-5, lb-9, nb-3, w-5) Total: (For 7 wkts in 50 overs) 269 Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-7, 3-80, 4-127 5-153, 6-257, 7-264 BOWLER 0 Zaheer 10 2 40 Nehra 10 49 2 Kumble 0 58 10 42 0 Harbhaian 0 Ganguly 0 10 0

Tendulkar

Yuvraj

Sehwag

Argentina stay alive relegation by taking an unbeatable

DAYIS CUP

REUTERS, Moscow

David Nalbandian and Lukas Arnold handed Argentina a lifeline after outlasting Marat Safin and Yevgeny Kafelnikov 6-4, 6-4, 5-7, 3-6, 19-17 in an epic doubles.

At six hours 20 minutes, it was the longest doubles match in Davis Cup history and just two minutes short of the longest Cup encounter ever - a singles clash between John McEnroe and Mats Wilander in 1982 when there were no tie-

The final set alone of Saturday's astonishing battle lasted three hours six minutes.

The success brought Argentina back into the tie at 2-1 after Safin and Kafelnikov had given Russia a

2-0 lead as they beat Juan Ignacio Chela and Gaston Gaudio in Friday's singles. The Russians are bidding to

year to send Kafelnikov into a happy retirement. After saving two match points in the 34th game of the fifth set with Safin serving for the match and the rubber, the Argentines finally

clinched victory by breaking

clinch their first Davis Cup title this

Kafelnikov's serve two games later. "Tennis is often like this, we survived two match points, then it was our turn to close the match. Arnold said. "I hope we win tomor-

The Argentines thought the tie was over when Wimbledon singles finalist Nalbandian lost his serve in the 33rd game, double-faulting on a break point.

In Karlsruhe, three-time Davis Cup champions Germany escaped Udomchoke

3-0 lead over Venezuela in their World Group qualifier. David Prinosil and Nicolas Kiefer

outplayed Jose de Armas and Jimy Szymanski 6-1, 6-3, 6-0 in the doubles match to make sure the home side, who have been through hard times lately, would win the tie whatever the outcome of Sunday's reverse singles. Rainer Schuettler crushed De Armas 6-1, 6-1, 6-1 before Tommy Haas beat Szymanski 6-1, 6-2, 6-1 in Friday's

opening singles. Tim Henman and Miles Maclagan gave Great Britain a 2-1 lead over Thailand following doubles victory in their World Group qualifier in Birmingham.

The British pair recovered from dropping the opening set to register a 6-7, 6-4, 7-5, 6-2 win over Paradorn Srichaphan and Danai

Princess Serena



REUTERS, Tokyo

World number one Serena Williams has recovered from an error-strewn first set to beat third seed Kim Clijsters 2-6 6-3 6-3 in the final of the Toyota Princess Cup and win her

champion committed a string of unforced errors in a first set delayed by rain and then interrupted for 20 minutes by a floodlight failure at Ariake Colosseum in Tokyo. But just as the lights were threat-

ening to go out on Williams under the closed centre court roof, the American lifted her game in the

second set, breaking Clijsters to go 5-3 up with a ferocious cross-court backhand pass. Williams, who turns 21 on

Thursday, was on a completely

continued to put pressure on the Clijsters serve and the Belgian wilted in the third game, Williams securing the crucial break with another bludgeoning forehand

She was in total control from then on and could even afford the luxury of letting three match points slip through her fingers after a seventh double fault from Clijsters had put Williams 40-0 up.

But a mid-court put-away produced her a fourth match point and the American closed out the match after one hour and 35 minutes when her lunging forehand return clipped the net and Clijsters was unable to do anything with the low bounce.

The victory saw Williams tie Venus for the most singles titles on the tour in 2002. Serena has also won the last three grand slams of the season after missing the Australian Open with an ankle

REUTERS, Adelaide Australia have completed a 5-0 win over India in their Davis Cup World Group qualifier by winning both reverse singles matches. With Australia already assured of victory after winning Friday's

Indians

blanked

singles and Saturday's doubles rubbers, both teams gave their top players the final day off. Scott Draper, filling in for Australia's world number one Llevton Hewitt, beat Rohan Bopanna, who replaced Indian

Wayne Arthurs made it 5-0 when he beat Harsh Mankad 6-4 3-6 7-5 in the final match.

veteran Leander Paes, 6-3 7-5 in

the first of Sunday's reverse sin-

Australia retain their place in the 16-nation Davis Cup World Group next year while India remains in the second tier.

Elia toppled

BBC ONLINE, Quebec City

Switzerland's Marie-Gaianeh Mikaelian is through to the final of the WTA Bell Challenge thanks to a 7-6, 6-1 win over top seed Silvia Farina Elia of Italy.

Mikaelian will be seeking her second career title after breaking her duck in Tashkent in June.

Farina Elia is the third seed to fall at the hands of the 18-year-old in Quebec. Mikaelian has also defeated third seed Magdalena Maleeva

and fifth seed Meghann

Shaughnessy en route to the final. The Swiss star will face seventh seed Elena Bovina of Russia in the final, who thrashed compatriot Anastassia Rodionova 6-1, 6-

Bovina has also had an impressive run through the tournament, dropping just three games in her last two matches. The 19-year-old Russian

captured her first WTA Tour crown in May and is coming off an impressive run at the US Open, where she reached her first Grand Slam quarter-final.

Rodionova, in her fifth main draw event, was playing in her first career tour semifinal.

Colin's pain

REUTERS, Madrid

World record holder Colin Jackson's 110-metre hurdles career ended in defeat at the athletics World Cup on Saturday,

but it could have been worse.

hitting the third hurdle, losing his balance and drifting into the next lane before temporarily halting to avoid a crash in the final outdoor race of his long career. He eventually recovered to

"I could have broken my leg,"

said the 35-year-old Briton after

finish in 22.16 seconds, a far cry from his 1993 world record of 12.91 seconds. He was later disqualified for

pushing over the fourth hurdle with his hand, then hurdling again. "I think I made the best deci-

sion (not to continue)," Jackson said, who clipped the first hurdle before banging the third and drifting out of his lane. Jackson said had he continued, either he or European silver

was in lane three, would have broken a leg. "I've got an indoor season to run and I've only got four weeks off, and I didn't want to spend those four weeks with a broken

medallist Stanislav Olijar, who

leg," Jackson said with a smile. Jackson, the European outdoor champion is taking a month off, before he begins training for what will be his last race -- the 60metre hurdles final at next March's world indoor championships in Birmingham.

Looking back at his outdoor career Jackson said he had no regrets and would remember his 1999 world title in Seville the

"It's been great," Jackson said, who won 25 major championships for Britain in 18 years. "It was a bit disappointing (the way it ended), but things like this don't get me down. You move on.

"Seville was very important...to come back from injury and show people.

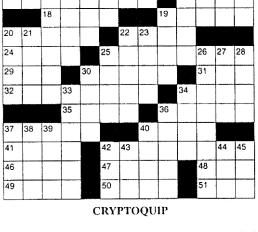
He would also remember

holding on to the world record, especially since other hurdlers had spoken of breaking it. While there will be as many races as possible during the 2003

be the final one at Birmingham's world championships. "And I feel very confident that I

indoor season, the biggest would

will win it."



CUUHDLEE

BEST-CELLAR LIST. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals A

FROM PAGE 13

Ian, Nick lift Eng

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Livingston entertain Aberdeen

different level after that, serving out the second set with an inspired love game that included the fourth of her six aces on set point A third set was almost uncharted territory for Williams, who was never seventh WTA tour title of the year. extended to a decider at the U.S. The newly-crowned U.S. Open Open in a remarkable run culminating in a 6-4, 6-3 demolition of elder sister Venus in the final. But Serena, who won here on her only previous appearance in 2000,



Umpires: Steve Bucknor (West Ulka Club defender Jahangir (R) tries hard to stymie Mamun jr of Maheshwar Pasha Club during their match of the Indies) and Russel Tiffin (Zimba-Khulna DSA Cup Football Tournament yesterday. Ulka won 3-1.