

Henin meets Stevenson in final

AFP, Linz
Belgian Justine Henin and Alexandra Stevenson of the United States have a date in the \$85,000-dollar WTA event final after winning their respective semifinals here on Saturday.

Henin, the number four seed, ensured her participation in Sunday's match when seeing off American Chanda Rubin 7-6, 6-4. Earlier red hot Stevenson, who knocked out world number one Jennifer Capriati in the quarters, kept up her good run beating fifth seed Daniela Hantuchova 6-4, 7-6.

Stevenson, figuring in her second final of the season, is desperate to land this tournament to gain a pass to next month's Masters in Los Angeles.

A sniff victory

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ball bowler Hasibul gave him a good support with three for 36.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the third day of the Challenge Trophy match between Bangladesh A and BCB Development squad at the Dhanmendi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

DEVELOPMENT SQUAD: First innings 223 all out in 98.2 overs (Mahmudullah 62, Nazimuddin 45, Jubair 41, Shamimul 22, Enamul Sr 3-45, Hasibul 3-51).

BANGLADESH A: First innings 225 all out in 68.2 overs (Enamul Sr 49, Mehrab 30, Naimur 30, Anwar Jr 29, Ehsanul 24, Aminul 22; Enamul Jr 6-65, Shafaq 2-49).

DEVELOPMENT SQUAD: Second innings (Overnight 30 for 1 in 14 overs)

Table with columns for player names and scores. Includes names like Jahurul c Ehsanul b Naimur, Jubair c Anwar b Alamgir, Nazimuddin c Anwar b Hasibul.

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Monday Mark's

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form for South Australia in their Sheffield Shield loss to New South Wales in Adelaide on Sunday.

Selectors have gone with experienced players in recent years when filling vacancies, promoting Matthew Hayden, Damien Martyn and Justin Langer since 1999-2000.

Lehmann has played five Tests and been the back-up batsman on Australia's last two Test tours, returning from the Pakistan series earlier last week to score a shaky 45 and seven as his SA side was trounced outright by NSW in under three days.

Clarke made 129 in that match -- his second successive first-class century this summer -- to boost his chances of a Test call-up at 21 years of age.

Now in his fourth season for the Blues, Clarke has been earmarked as future Test material.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words. Includes clues like '43 Foolish', '1 Decays', '5 In addition', etc.

Marcus will brave pain



AFP, Perth

Big left-hander Marcus Trescothick was confident here Sunday that he and Michael Vaughan will quickly re-establish their prolific liaison at the top of the England order when Vaughan returns from injury.

"We won't find any problems getting back together," Trescothick, from Somerset, said as England prepared for a three-day match against Western Australia starting at the WACA Ground Monday.

"It's not a major worry that we cannot bat together at the moment," he said.

"Once he comes back, it just won't be a problem.

"We get a rapport going in terms of running between the wickets, and you talk together when you are having a partnership.

"You settle in and feel quite at home with someone you know."

Vaughan, still recovering from right knee surgery at the end of the English season, has not played in the tourists' first two games and is also expected to miss this three-day match.

This has left Trescothick to face the new ball with Robert Key -- a

teaming likely to be used again in the new clash.

Vaughan is hoping to be ready for the following game, another three-day encounter, against Queensland in Brisbane from



MARCUS TRESCOTHICK

Saturday.

England will rely heavily on the Trescothick-Vaughan combination to provide them with strong starts against the powerful Australian attack.

The English pair had outstanding success on home soil last summer, averaging starts of 86.4 runs the seven times they padded up together in three Tests against Sri

Lanka and one against India after Trescothick returned from injury.

Off the Sri Lanka bowling, they hit 17, 168, 92, 66 and 50 (unbroken stand), while in the fourth Test against India they helped themselves to 98 and 114 (unbroken).

Vaughan had an extraordinary summer, striking 285 runs, with one century, at an average of 71.25 against Sri Lanka, followed by 615 runs (three centuries) off India at an average of 102.50.

Trescothick cracked 354 (one century) off Sri Lanka for an average of 88.50 and 115 (for one dismissal) against India.

Trescothick also has an injury problem -- he is having treatment on his right shoulder aimed at having him 100 per cent for the opening Test. He was given a cortisone injection Friday.

But he was confident he would be available for selection for the match starting Monday.

He said the injury restricted him in the field, but caused few problems when he was batting.

"I just get a bit of pain with the odd shot when I am batting," he said.

"It's not bothering me to the degree that I think I am not going to play any games. I am completely happy that I am fit for selection."

Up against McGrath fire



INTERNET, Sydney

The heat generated by subcontinent spin doctors failed to wilt England's batsmen this year. But it was Luke warm compared with the blowtorch set to be applied by Australia's world-beating pacemen.

And according to four experts, England's top four batsmen, who looked fragile as the tour began last week, will either make or break their side.

Former Test captain Bill Lawry believes chinks are appearing in Australia's bowling.

"The thing is that Glenn McGrath is not getting any younger," Lawry said. "His workload has been enormous in recent years. If Brett Lee doesn't come up to scratch and [Jason] Gillespie's not 100 per cent fit, there's probably a window of opportunity for the top order if they can get a start.

"Pakistan showed in the first Test that the Australian side's not unbeatable. So England have to be positive.

"If they can get away from Perth, which is not a great place to land with the extra bounce, and get up to the Gabba, a good batting wicket where there are lots of runs to be made, one never knows."

Lawry, who played in six Ashes campaigns between 1961 and 1971, said England's top order must not allow McGrath to dominate when the Ashes series starts on Thursday.

"All other sides, except maybe India, allow McGrath to dictate terms. I think they've got to be positive against McGrath early on.

"It's always possible to score against Lee because he's a bit all over the place. But if Gillespie fires up with McGrath, England's top order will probably struggle."

Lawry said Shane Warne would be as potent as ever, but still expected big things from openers Michael Vaughan and Marcus Trescothick and captain Nasser Hussain.

"And [Mark] Butcher's been around," he said.

"He played one fine innings against Australia.

"He's been a bit iffy but he's a very experienced cricketer and he has the advantage of being a left-hander."

So much depends on England's top four batsmen -- Trescothick, Vaughan, Butcher and Hussain --

that their ability to contend with Australia's fast bowlers will largely dictate the result of the series.

The early indications are not good. In the opening first-class tour match, Hussain and Butcher failed and Vaughan was out injured. Only Trescothick made double figures.

Lawry's former opening partner and Australian coach Bob Simpson believes John Crawley may find himself playing a crucial role at the top of the order.

Asked how he saw the fortunes of England's top four unfolding, Simpson said: "I think you should add John Crawley to that list because he's a very talented player.

"Last time he came out here it wasn't a happy tour for him, he was many stone overweight. But he's had a change of county, he's slimmed down. He'll play an important role."

Simpson coached Lancashire for

ence playing in England, believes the England top-order batsmen will struggle without Graeme Thorpe and under Australian-style verbal pressure.

"Their top four batsmen are good players and coming in with some form," he said. "But I think the pressure of playing an Ashes tour and playing on our types of wickets might be a bit difficult.

"The pressure that the blokes like McGrath and Gillespie, with their line and length, pace and bounce [apply], and then Brett coming in, with his pace and ability to reverse-swing the ball, will definitely test them out, compared to what they've been playing against recently."

Harvey predicted an Australian victory, but one more hard-fought than previously. But as well as having to cover for Thorpe, an 11-hour drop-out from the tour, he believes the quartet will find Australia's verbal heat in the field too much to contend with.

"The Australian all-over-you mentality -- a lot of them wouldn't have had that before," he said. "I'll be very interested to see how they handle the verbal pressure."

Blues captain Simon Katich, who played with Vaughan at Yorkshire this year, rates the top four highly but can't see England's batsmen dominating.

"I don't think they'll get a tougher test than facing our bowlers, regardless of what happened in the past season," he said, acknowledging their efforts against Sri Lanka and India.

"It's such a well balanced attack that, even if they get through McGrath early on, they've still got to contend with guys like Warney and Brett Lee."



GLENN McGRATH

two years from 1990 and watched Vaughan and Trescothick begin their careers.

"It's interesting to see them in the Test arena," he said. "Vaughan had a wonderful series against India. He looked very, very good. And Nasser's always been a reasonable player.

"I think it's a stage in their lives where it's almost do or die for the current group of people, with the exception of the younger ones. They'll be very determined."

Simpson sees opportunities for left-handers Trescothick and Butcher.

"I don't think Glenn bowls as well to left-handers as he does right-handers," he said. "He always bowls well to right-handers."

Victoria and Gloucestershire all-rounder Ian Harvey cannot see a way for England's top order to control Australia's pacemen.

Harvey, who has plenty of experi-

Kallis kills

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delivery from Hayward. Hayward picked up a second wicket when Tushar Imran (0) botched a pull shot and was caught at short square-leg.

Earlier Shaun Pollock made an enterprising declaration with South Africa 267 runs ahead on 482 for five.

The morning session had provided some long-awaited relief for the Bangladesh bowlers. Seamer Talha Jubair had bowled well without success earlier in the innings but finally earned his reward with the wickets of both Gary Kirsten (160) and Ashwell Prince (0) in the fourth over of the day.

Kirsten had added only six runs to his overnight score when he attempted to glide a wide delivery down to third-man and succeeded only in guiding it into the gloves of Khaled Mashud.

It was the end of a six-hour knock from Kirsten, during which he faced 228 balls and struck 17 fours and a rare six. It also brought ended a partnership of 234 for the third wicket with Kallis.

Four deliveries later Prince was back in the pavilion, beaten by a good delivery from Jubair which angled across the left-hander and took the edge through to Mashud.

Tapash Baisya made the third breakthrough of the morning when he trapped Martin van Jaarsveld plumb in front for 11. Kallis remained undefeated after four-and-a-half hours at the crease after facing 227 deliveries and hitting 16 fours and a six.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard on the third day of the second and final Test between Bangladesh and South Africa at the North West Stadium on Sunday: BANGLADESH: First innings 215 (H Sarkar 65)

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings (overnight 414-2) Smith c Mashud b Sanwar 24 Gibbs run out (Baisya) 114 Kirsten c Mashud b Jubair 160 Kallis not out 139 Prince c Mashud b Jubair 0

Advantage

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Dilhara Fernando.

Boeta Dippenaar racked up 134, his 15th first-class century, off 354 balls. It included 18 fours.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of play on the second day of the four-day cricket tour match between South Africa A and Sri Lanka at the De Beers Diamond Oval on Saturday:

SOUTH AFRICA A: First innings Rudolph b Vaas 0 Petersen c J'suriya b D Fernando 42 Dippenaar c J'suriya b M J'dene 134 McKenzie c P'dene b D Fernando 160 Benkenstein lbw b D Fernando 0 Ontong run out (Atapattu) 38 Peterson c P'dene b Vaas 13 Hall not out 38 Tsolikele st P'dene b Vaas 18 Elworthy not out 23 Extras: (lb-9, nb-5, w-3) 17 Total: (For 8 wks decl in 134 overs) 483 Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-68, 3-324, 4-324, 5-376, 6-395, 7-396, 8-431

Bowler O M R W Vaas 25 8 79 3 D Fernando 27 3 108 3 Lakshitha 24 3 113 0 H Fernando 29 8 68 0 Arnold 19 3 55 0 Tillakaratne 2 0 21 0 Jayawardene 7 1 30 1

SRI LANKA: First innings Atapattu not out 74 Arnold c Tsolikele b Feroz 1 Sangakkara lbw b Elworthy 1 Jayawardene c Hall b Peterson 60 J'suriya c Benkenstein b Peterson 24 Tillakaratne not out 2 Extras: (lb-4) 4 Total: (For 4 wks in 45 overs) 166 Fall of wickets: 1-10, 2-11, 3-112, 4-150

Bowler O M R W Elworthy 12 2 68 1 Friend 8 1 31 1 Peterson 15 6 37 2 Hall 7 3 15 0 Ontong 3 0 11 0

THE State's pace attack will be completed by Stuart Karppinen, who snapped up five wickets when the South Africans toured a year ago.

It is a measure of the state's bowling strength that there is no room in the side for swing bowler Callum Thorp, the window cleaner from Wanneroo, just north of Perth, who destroyed the England batting three days ago.

His burst of 4-58 included the scalps of Robert Key, Mark Butcher and skipper Nasser Hussain.

Test players Adam Gilchrist and Damien Martyn have been rested from the Western Australian side.

Taste of WACA

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the WACA."

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TEAMS

ENGLAND (from): Nasser Hussain (captain), Marcus Trescothick, Mark Butcher, Robert Key, John Crawley, Alec Stewart, James Foster, Andy Caddick, Matthew Hoggard, Simon Jones, Steve Harmison, Ashley Giles, Richard Dawson, Craig White (to be finalised).

WESTERN AUSTRALIA: Justin Langer (captain), Michael Hussey, Jo Angel, Ryan Campbell, Murray Goodwin, Brad Hogg, Stuart Karppinen, Scott Meuleman, Matthew Nicholson, Marcus North, Chris Rogers, Brad Williams (12th man to be nominated).

Van Jaarsveld lbw b Baisya 11 Boucheron not out 14 Extras: (b-13, lb-2, nb-5) 20 Total: (For 5 wks decl in 121 overs) 482

Fall of wickets: 1-61, 2-202, 3-436, 4-436, 5-452

Bowler O M R W Monjurul 26 7 80 0 Baisya 28 3 103 1 Jubair 26 3 109 2 Kapali 20 2 75 0 Sanwar 20 1 98 1 Bashir 1 0 2 0

BANGLADESH: Second innings Hannan b Ntini 17 Al Shahrar c Kallis b Hayward 27 Bashir c Boucher b Ntini 7 Sanwar c Kallis b Ntini 6 Imran c Prince b Hayward 0 Mashud c Boucher b Kallis 9 Kapali c Boucher b Kallis 23 Rafiqul c Kirsten b Kallis 1 Baisya c Gibbs b Kallis 0 Monjurul c Gibbs b Kallis 5 Jubair not out 1 Extras: (lb-8, nb-3) 11 Total: (All out in 30.3 overs) 107

Fall of wickets: 1-33, 2-43, 3-52, 4-60, 5-61, 6-95, 7-101, 8-101, 9-104

Bowler O M R W Pollock 6 0 25 0 Ntini 12 1 37 3 Hayward 8 3 16 2 Kallis 4.3 1 21 5

Result: South Africa won by an innings and 160 runs and take the series 2-0.

Man-of-the-match: Jacques Kallis. Man-of-the-series: Jacques Kallis. Umpires: Daryl Harper (Australia) and Russell Tiffin (Zimbabwe).

Norman out of Paris Masters

AFP, Stockholm

Sweden's former world number one Magnus Norman on Saturday withdrew from the final Masters Series of the season starting Monday at Paris Bercy with a hip injury, his coach "Fidde" Rosengren said.



Paradorn Srichaphan offers a traditional Thai gesture after beating Spaniard Tommy Robredo in the semifinals of the Stockholm Open tennis tournament on October 26.

Srichaphan, Rios face off



AFP, Stockholm

Paradorn Srichaphan set up a finale at the 650,000-dollar Stockholm Open with Marcelo Rios with a Saturday victory fuelled by the cultural confidence that the colour red can bring to a Thai.

The seventh seed donned a dull scarlet shirt while leading 2-1 in the third set against Spain's Tommy Robredo. After the quick change, he didn't drop a game on the way to a 6-4, 6-7, 6-1 victory.

He will Sunday take on Number six Marcelo Rios, who won a battle of stylish left-handers 6-3, 7-5 over Morocco's Hicham Arazi.

Paradorn also ignored some brief pain from an overworked shoulder as he reached his fourth final of a breakthrough season.

The Thai ace's remarkable late-season surge shows no signs of fading as the 23-year-old from Bangkok plays full steam ahead for a likely Top 20 ranking by the end of next week.

His best-of-five contest against moody Chilean Rios could be a celebration if the mythical Thai power of red works for him again.

"Red is a winning colour in Thailand, and it means even more to wear it on a Sunday," he explained. "When I see it in my bag, I want to put it on. A lot of players know now that Paradorn in red can be tough.

"I'll keep the red in reserve, I'd love to wear it to finish the match."

The 23-year-old Asian has been the sensation of this season, rising from a standing outside the Top 125. On the way, he beat Andre Agassi in the Wimbledon second round, stopped Lleyton Hewitt in Tokyo and lifted a first trophy at Long Island a week prior to the U.S. Open.

The Thai is still going strong with the season all but done and says that he won't be able to take more than a week off when he heads home for the brief off-season after next week's Paris Masters.

"I can take a week, then I feel like hitting balls. I want to keep the way I'm playing."

Rios won his first set against Arazi, and escaped from a third set with a winning recovery from 1-4 down in the second. The Chilean, who admits that the down time while waiting to play drives him to acute boredom, saved two Arazi set points in the tenth game.

He then broke for 6-5 and reached his first final of a season or period in this match for anyone and I think it was a great match by both players. My game was strong and I was able to volley well and play well from the baseline and also get to the net."

Nalbandian, who has risen from 70th in the 2001 ATP Champions Race to 15th this year, added that he was looking forward to meeting Gonzalez in the final because it would be "a real South American affair."

But Nalbandian's success was not what the Swiss public came to see. They packed in to cheer Basel-born Federer's bid to reach his third successive final in the hope that this time it would be third time lucky and he would lift his first Swiss Indoors final. Last year he was beaten by Henman and in 2000 he lost to Thomas Enqvist of Sweden.

But Federer's form deserted him and, upset by a blister on the second toe of his right foot that required medical attention twice during the match, he slipped to defeat.

The first set produced one break of serve by each player before it went to a tiebreak in which Federer ran out victorious 7-2.

He began the second set crisply, breaking in the second game when Nalbandian netted after a long rally at 30-40, but could not maintain his momentum.

The Swiss was rolled over by the



Argentina's David Nalbandian in action against Switzerland's Roger Federer in the semifinals of the Swiss Indoors in Basel on October 26.

plagued by knee tendinitis a game later, improving his 2002 mark to 32-19.

"I think I played pretty well in the whole match. I had a few mistakes for him to break me. But I was feeling pretty good. I had confidence that I could break back."

But the former World Number one of four years ago has no desire to hide his distaste for much of the world of tennis, directing much of his wrath at the ATP.

"There are too many fines when you pull out of tournaments," said a man who has played nearly 20 this year and won around 450,000 dollars. "All they want to do is take your money. You can't be sick or pull out of events."

"I've got a lot of fines this year, pulling out because I'm injured or because I don't feel like playing. If you throw a racket, it's a fine; if you say something, it's a fine."

Rios had one last moan: "The new ranking system (Champions points race) is no different anyway. If you are a good player, you'll have a good ranking -- nothing has changed. If I had my way, I'd like to play just the four Grand Slams in a year."

Latin American finale



REUTERS, Basel

Sixth seed David Nalbandian sprung a surprise when he beat local favourite Roger Federer 6-7, 7-5, 6-3 to set up an all-Latin American final with Fernando Gonzalez at the Swiss Indoors.

Playing muscular and aggressive tennis, the Argentine disappointed the Swiss public by forcing his way through to meet seventh seed Gonzalez of Chile, a 6-4, 4-6, 6-1 winner over second seed Juan Carlos Ferrero in the opening semifinal.

The 22-year-old Gonzalez, mixing hard hitting with subtlety at the net, reached the first indoor final of his career.

Nalbandian's run to the final ended a poor run of results since he became a surprise runner-up to world number one Australian Lleyton Hewitt at Wimbledon in July.

"It was tough and very close today but I played well and I returned well," said Nalbandian, who beat top seed and defending champion Tim Henman in the previous round.

"In the second set, I was a set down and a break down but I was able to play my way back. When I broke again, from then on, I played well.

The Swiss was rolled over by the

Argentine's beefy strength in the sixth game, a cross-court forehand on break point at 30-40 bringing Nalbandian the break he sought.

Federer broken again in the 12th game by a crashing backhand cross-court volley that levelled the match at 1-1.

With Federer troubled by his toe, Nalbandian managed to gain the advantage in the decider and clinched the match on his first match point when the Swiss sailed a return long.

Nalbandian became the first Argentine to reach the Basel final since Guillermo Vilas won it in 1978.

Gonzalez, one of the most improved players of the last year, produced big shots when they mattered to wear down Ferrero in the other semi.

"He was very aggressive and he returned (serve) very well. I have played him a lot since we were juniors and I don't know of any other player who hits the ball harder," said Ferrero.

Ferrero, fourth in the Champions Race at the start of the week, will need to avoid defeat in the opening