



American Andy Roddick celebrates after beating Thomas Enqvist of Sweden at the Davis Cup World Group first-round tie on Friday.

Roddick rescues US

Tennis

AFP, Delray Beach

Andy Roddick posted a swift straight-set victory over Thomas Enqvist on Friday to pull the United States level at 1-1 with Sweden after the rainy first day of their Davis Cup World Group first-round tie.

Jonas Bjorkman had given Sweden the early advantage with a 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 7-5 win over Mardy Fish in the opening match of the tie.

But Roddick responded with a 6-4, 7-5, 6-2 triumph that left Enqvist visibly frustrated.

"I didn't really think about it so much," Roddick said of taking the court with his side down a match. "Obviously, they put us in a position that our backs were against the wall. But I just went out there and played."

Roddick started out strong, leading 3-1 and then 4-2 in the first set, but couldn't hold on to the advantage.

In the second set, Enqvist had two break points against Roddick, but couldn't convert them to put himself in position to serve for the set.

Trailing 5-2 in the third, Enqvist double faulted twice from 30-15 and

then netted a forehand to end the 1hr 58min match.

Roddick improved his Davis Cup record to 11-3 with the win over Enqvist.

For Bjorkman, experience and patience paid off in a match disrupted three times by rain.

In all, the five rain delays during the day meant the two opening singles matches took nearly nine hours to complete.

"I always perform good in Davis Cup," said Bjorkman, who is now 15-7 in Davis Cup singles action. "For me, it's such a great feeling to be part of the Swedish Davis Cup team. I'm always trying to do 110 percent out there."

Fish, 22, was honest about feeling like the inexperienced underdog in the match, despite the fact that he ranks nine spots ahead of Bjorkman in the world rankings.

"I don't know whether it was nerves or just inexperience in this type of situation," said Fish, who is now 1-3 in Davis Cup singles play. "I've been really good all week in practice - hitting the ball great, my forehand great. It just didn't click."

"He's very experienced in these types of situations, and he's won big matches before."

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rarely giving Bjorkman an opening into the match.

But Bjorkman, 32, had faith that Fish would not be able to carry on at that level of play throughout the match.

"If he can do that for three sets or five sets, I will lift my hat and say, 'That's too good. I couldn't do anything, I got beaten by the better player.'

"But at the same time, I knew that it's hard to keep that sort of way of tennis. I was just trying to find a game that would be a more effective to come back and win. Once I got the second set, I felt I was in the match again."

Fish wrapped up the first set on a controversial point - at 40-30 in the 10th game his forehand was first called long then changed to good, prompting the umpire to order the point replayed. Fish won it, but Bjorkman took charge in the next three sets.

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But Fish surrendered his serve at 15-40 with a forehand wide in the 11th game to enable Bjorkman to take advantage of the second of two match points in the final game.

Petrova shocks Serena

AFP, Amelia Island

Russian seventh seed Nadia Petrova ousted second-seeded American Serena Williams 6-2, 6-3 here Friday in the quarter-finals of this 585,000-dollar WTA Tour clay court tournament.

Williams, who made a stunning comeback from eight-month layoff with a victory in the prestigious tournament in Miami last week, will now have some time to rest her surgically repaired left knee.

Williams had beaten Petrova in all three prior meetings but literally gave this match away with 42 unforced errors.

Petrova is ranked ninth in the world, two spots behind Williams. She was coming off a semi-final appearance last week and reached the semi here for the second time in four years.

Earlier Friday, top seed Justine Henin-Hardenne of Belgium overcame poor serving to defeat eighth-seeded Russian Vera Zvonareva 6-4, 6-3.

Race against time

FROM PAGE 13
"Money is important, which means we have to work harder and be more creative."

A month ago, the big threat to a successful tournament was seen as hooliganism but the March 11 bomb attacks in Madrid have shifted the focus to more serious security matters.

"The policy of UEFA is to hand this over to governments because we are not security specialists, we are football guys," Kallen said.

"But we are doing things to help. We're screening accreditation requests from journalists, we have data from ticketing that the police can screen and we are working closely (with the government) in controlling access to stadiums.

"We organised a security workshop on behalf of the government, with the 16 participating countries, and we have government people working on security here in the company."

Hooliganism is also being taken seriously and Kallen warned that the threat of expulsion for teams that

bring big problems with them is a serious one.

"I don't think anything will happen around the stadiums but it could do in the cities," he said.

"We have spotters going around and we have to see how fast the police will be."

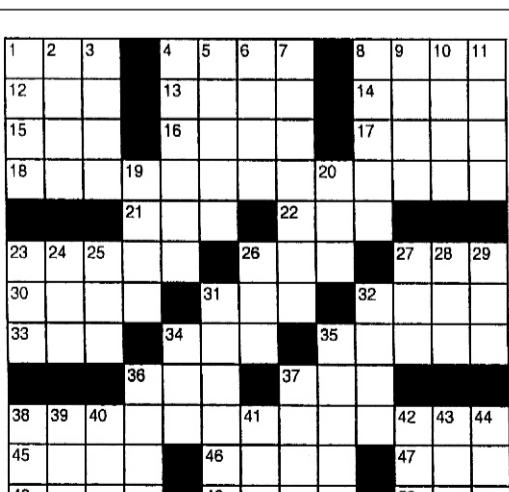
"People will see this as a party but problems can start with a single spark. If something does happen UEFA will go so far as to send the respective team home."

In past tournaments, UEFA handed over control to a local organising committee but for Euro 2004 Kallen was placed in charge of a joint venture between UEFA and the Portuguese Football Association.

"Marketing, TV, licensing and local organisation are all in the hands of one company," said Kallen, who worked for UEFA on logistics at Euro 96 in England and was in charge of marketing in the Netherlands and Belgium four years later.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer



CRYPTOQUIP

P S N R P H Q U S S P W Y P L X

H O T P R Y H L B P A N W W

A T X N I - Q U N B H M , P X T H A A

P B A Q N L M P H M Q N Y H I N

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF AN ORCHESTRA

MEMBER'S TOUPEE FELL INTO HIS FRENCH HORN, WOULD HE BLOW HIS TOP?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals C

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.

Deschamps keeps options open

Football

AFP, Paris

Monaco coach Didier Deschamps has said he would be willing to stay in the Principality, but only if the club has high ambitions.

Deschamps skippered France to success in both the 1998 World and Euro 2000 Cups and his managerial career at Monaco since 2001 has been impressive.

They currently top the French first division and produced one of the greatest-ever European performances on Tuesday when they beat Real Madrid 3-1 at home to qualify for the semifinals of the Champions League.

All indications had been that Deschamps would move next season to Italian giants Juventus with whom he played from 1994 to 1999, but Deschamps has hinted that may not be a done deal.

"I am waiting to see which direction Monaco are going in and I only hope that would allow me to develop things the way I would like to," he said following the Real triumph.

"Those in charge here know my intentions and the ball is now firmly in their court."

Monaco were in big financial difficulties at the start of the year with debts of 53 million euros and were nearly relegated to the second division because of their troubles.

But Prince Albert of Monaco said this week that the clubs are on the verge of securing the support of a major new investor.

The prince said he could not give more specific details, but hinted that

the new investor was resident of the tax haven on France's stylish Mediterranean coast.

Playing in the tiny Louis II stadium, Monaco seldom pull in big crowds and are reliant to a great deal on outside investment to survive and compete with the bigger European sides.

Deschamps has been urged to stay at Monaco by non other than French legend Michel Platini who said that at 35 years old he was too

young and too inexperienced a coach to take on such as big job as Juventus.

And it is still uncertain over what current Juventus coach Marcello Lippi will do next.

Lippi, who has been linked with the Italian national side is under contract until June 2005 and he has said he will announce his future intentions shortly.

Schumi in charity soccer match

INTERNET REPORT, undated

BKSP, Kalindi

FROM PAGE 13
High School scored 119 for six in 25 overs after deciding to bat.

Formula One champion driver Michael Schumacher is to star in a soccer match in Naples later this month.

A team made up of race aces past and present, including Riccardo Patrese, Max Biaggi, Ivan Capelli and Fernando Alonso, will take on a team of Italian MPs.

Proceeds of the April 30 match are to go to victims of the recent "Nassiriya mission" killings in Iraq and also to a charity for children with leukaemia.

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