



US swimmer Ryan Lochte celebrates after winning the men's 200m individual medley final on July 30, 2009 at the FINA World Swimming Championships in Rome. Lochte won the title in a world record time of 1min 54.10sec.

### Kimi welcomes Schumi back

AFP, Jyväskylä, Finland

Former Formula One world champion Kimi Raikkonen said Thursday he is looking forward to working alongside Michael Schumacher at Ferrari.

"It really happens I will be happy to partner him, even though it may not have much effect on my own performance," said the 30-year-old Finn, who was the 2007 Formula One world champion.

Seven-time world champion Schumacher will make a sensational comeback to the sport at the European Grand Prix in Valencia next month to replace Felipe Massa who was injured in qualifying in Hungary last weekend.

Raikkonen will take part in the Rally of Finland here this week and he has not ruled out the possibility of switching to rallying in the future.

"I still have a year's contract (at Ferrari) in Formula One, but anything is possible and I still have an open mind," said the Finn.

"I am too young to stay idle and a lot will depend on the way the F1 contest evolves, but for the moment nobody knows, and anyway I am in no hurry."

Raikkonen will drive a Fiat Abarth Grande Punto, prepared by four-time world rally champion Tommi Makinen, in the Rally of Finland.

"I love rallying and I didn't have anything else to do this weekend," he told reporters.

He will be joined in the car by Kaj Lindstrom, Makinen's long-time driving partner.

"It will be good experience for me and I hope we get a good result and have fun," Raikkonen said.

"I guess it will feel more normal to drive on ground rather than on snow. It will be faster, the car will stick to the road better and the tracks are wider which will allow me to control the bends more easily."

### Finnan seals Pompey switch

AFP, Portsmouth

Portsmouth signed Steve Finnan on a free transfer on Friday after the former Liverpool defender terminated his contract with Espanyol.

Republic of Ireland right-back Finnan struggled to settle in Spain and has been keen to return to the Premier League for some time.

Pompey want Finnan to fill the void created by England defender Glen Johnson's move to Liverpool.

Portsmouth manager Paul Hart told the club's official website: "It whetted my appetite to think that we could get a player of Steve's calibre here."

"He's really looking forward to coming here and we're looking forward to seeing him play."

### Pakistan

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World Cup 2011, in a meeting earlier this month, awarded eight of Pakistan's matches to India, four to Sri Lanka and two to Bangladesh -- a decision which Pakistan did not accept.

Butt also ruled out shifting the matches to neutral venues.

"There is no such clause in the agreement among the four co-hosts, so we are not pressing for playing our matches at neutral venues," said Butt, who earlier pressed for the UAE as a neutral venue for Pakistan.

## Schipper, Lochte join gold rush

Swimming

AFP, Rome

Australian Jessica Schipper jumped on the world record bandwagon Thursday, winning the women's 200m butterfly world title in 2min 03.41sec.

"Crazy, even thinking about it now, two seconds off my personal best in two days -- it's crazy," said Schipper, who successfully defended the title she captured at the 2007 swimming World Championships in Melbourne.

Schipper broke the record of 2:04.14, set in the heats here on Wednesday by American Mary Descenza.

China's Olympic gold medalist Liu Zige was second in 2:03.90 and Hungary's Katinka Hosszu was third in 2:04.28.

Liu set the pace through the first 150m, but she couldn't hold off Schipper on the final lap. Hosszu was sixth at the final turn but stormed home to snatch the bronze from Descenza, who was unable to match her performance of the previous morning.

Although Schipper went into last year's Beijing Olympics as the reigning world champion, she settled for bronze there behind Liu and compatriot Jiao Liuyang.

She was delighted to reverse the order in Rome.

"Finally," said Schipper. "I definitely didn't expect to go that fast and I didn't feel that fast."

Schipper added the gold to the 100m fly silver she earned on Monday, and said she was benefitting from her decision to switch from long-time coach Ken Wood and join up with Stephan Widmer.

"I'm a lot more confident in my swimming, a lot happier," said Schipper, who decided she

needed a change after an Olympics in which she earned bronze in both butterfly events.

Schipper is also swimming in an Adidas Hydrofoil suit, one of the latest-generation high-tech suits that have the world record tally at these championships at 29 and counting.

"It's hard to say," Schipper said when asked to analyze the avalanche of records. "It has been a very exciting meet. It's very fast and we all knew it was going to be fast."

"I think that the world records, while they may have been helped with the suits, they still have a lot to do with the swimmer and the work they've put in."

Meanwhile, America's Ryan Lochte seized Michael Phelps's 200m medley world record at the swimming World Championships Thursday, his superstar teammate urging him on all the way.

Lochte lifted the title that Phelps had held since 2003 in a time of 1min 54.10sec.

That broke the record of 1:54.23 set by Phelps in winning Olympic gold in Beijing last August and gave Lochte the title over Hungary's Laszlo Cseh (1:55.24) and fellow American Eric Shanteau (1:55.36).

After lowering the world record seven times since 2003, winning three world titles and two Olympic gold medals, Phelps opted out of the 200m medley this year to focus on freestyle and butterfly events.

While Lochte came up on the losing end often enough against his illustrious teammate, he would have preferred to take the battle to him again.

"It feels good to do that," he said of the world record. "But at the same time I wish he was doing it."

"I love a challenge. And I love racing against him, because he is one of the best swimmers ever. Anytime I can race against him, I would be more than happy to."

## 'Bring on Phelps'

Swimming

AFP, Rome

Milorad Cavic doesn't want his longed-for 100m butterfly rematch against Michael Phelps to be tainted by any swimsuit controversy.

The outspoken Serbian took a poke at the US superstar and his outdated Speedo LZR swimsuit Friday after clocking the top time in qualifying for the 100m fly at the swimming World Championships.

"I know he's making a lot of money from Speedo," said Cavic, who wears the Arena X-Glide polyurethane suit. "It's loyalty. But throughout all my experiences, I've learned this - free will is a gift with a price tag, and whatever you choose to do you're going to pay. How much you're going to pay is really dependent on you."

The X-Glide and another polyurethane marvel by Italian manufacturer Jaked are thought to be the fastest available. They and their brothers have contributed to an astonishing 29 world

records in the first five days of racing here.

While Speedo has given its sponsored swimmers the green light to wear a different suit, Phelps stuck with the LZR developed last year by the company that has sponsored him for nearly a decade.

"If Mike wants an Arena, he just has to say it," Cavic said. "If he wants a Jaked and they don't want to give it to him free, I'll buy it for him. He has options."

"I think in the media it has been portrayed that he has no option, he has to swim for them. It's a complete lie."

Cavic won his 100m fly heat in 50.56sec, while Phelps won his in 50.90, joint second-quickest overall alongside fellow American Tyler McGill.

Phelps edged Cavic by one-hundredth of a second in the 100m butterfly in Beijing last year to stay on track for his unprecedented haul of eight gold medals at one Olympics.

Cavic, who was gliding in at the finish, still believes he touched the wall first, but that Phelps's stronger hit on the timing pad got the American the victory.

## Sir Bobby passes away

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A year later Robson was appointed England coach and, after missing out on qualification for the 1984 European Championships, he took England to the quarter-finals of the World Cup in 1986.

England's run in Mexico ended in controversial circumstances when Diego Maradona's infamous 'hand of god' goal and a brilliant solo effort handed Robson's team a 2-1 defeat.

"It wasn't the hand of God, it was the hand of a rascal," Robson said.

By the time England reached the 1990 World Cup in Italy, Robson had grown tired of the pressures of the job and revealed he would leave to take charge at PSV after the tournament.

He almost went out on a high as England, inspired by a young Paul Gascoigne, reached the last four for the first time since winning the competition in 1966.

A heart-breaking penalty shoot-out defeat to West Germany ended Robson's England reign, but he was to enjoy more success for the rest of his career.

With his reputation restored, Robson won the Dutch league twice with PSV, then went on to Sporting Lisbon and Porto in Portugal, where he won more championships.

A move to Barcelona in 1996 was perhaps the biggest job in his club career, and he led them to Spanish Cup and Cup Winners' Cup success in Europe before he briefly became general manager.

In 1999 he made a romantic return to Newcastle at the age of 66 but was unable to end the club's long wait for silverware.

Robson was knighted in 2002 but two years later Newcastle chairman Freddy Shepherd sacked him despite a fifth place finish in the Premier League the previous season.

His last job in football came in 2006 when he was a consultant to the rookie Republic of Ireland boss Steve Staunton.

Robson was first diagnosed with cancer in 1992 while working in Holland and when he was 62 a malignant tumour was detected in his head.

A routine check-up in February 2007 revealed more tumours on his lungs. This time they were inoperable.

He devoted his time to raising cash for the fight against cancer and launched the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation.

He finally admitted cancer was going to kill him, saying: "I have accepted what they have told me and I am determined to make the most of what time I have left."

"But then everyone has to go some time, and I have enjoyed every minute."

Sir Bobby is survived by his wife Lady Elsie and their three children, Andrew, Paul and Mark.

## Aussies salute English gesture

Cricket

AFP, Birmingham

Australia coach Tim Nielsen hailed England's sportsmanship in allowing them to bring in reserve wicket-keeper Graham Manou for his Test debut here at Edgbaston on Thursday.

Australia suffered a setback shortly before the match started when regular wicket-keeper Brad Haddin sustained a finger injury during the warm-up.

Haddin had been named in the Australia team at the toss and that meant the tourists had to seek permission from England captain Andrew Strauss to select a specialist replacement in South Australia's Manou for an unexpected Test debut.

This series, which England lead 1-0, has seen some controversial moments with Australia captain Ricky Ponting all but accusing the home side of time-wasting during the drawn first Test in Cardiff and Strauss under fire for claiming a disputed catch during England's 115-run win at Lord's.

"To refuse is well within his rights," Nielsen told reporters. "It was a fine gesture."

"We used the England team doctor to

assess Brad's finger, he was concerned about its stature, the process worked really well and for the game's sake we are now going to have 11 fit blokes on each team."

Nielsen added: "Haddin has fractured the end of the ring finger on his left hand. He was catching the fast bowlers at the end of the warm-up."

"Knowing we were batting, he stayed out to catch a few extra balls, one dipped a bit and hit him on the end of the left ring finger."

"He's got a fracture in the last part of his finger."

Off-spinner Graeme Swann, who took England's wicket as Australia ended a rain-delayed opening day on 126 for one, said: "We've got no problem with it, I think it's only fair we let Manou play because we'd hope in a similar situation we'd have the same courtesy shown to us."

Haddin is now doubtful for next week's fourth Test at Headingley and Nielsen said: "We would have to be careful about the fourth Test but we will know a lot more when the specialist (in Australia) has looked at the pictures."

Australia officials were embarrassed earlier in the day when opening batsman Phillip Hughes revealed on the internet micro-blogging site Twitter he had been dropped before the official team

announcement.

His manager Neil D'Costa took the blame for the incident and Nielsen said: "I can't honestly tell you how Twitter works. But it is one of those things that happen with the way the world works these days, in terms of communication."

"We have made them aware that those sort of things are needed to be kept in-house until they are announced officially."

On the field, Hughes's replacement, Shane Watson, who'd previously never batted higher than no. 6 in a Test match, finished the day on 62 not out having already scored more runs in the series than the man whose spot he'd taken.

"Phil has been under some pressure from their fast bowlers, we recognised that, and with Shane being our spare batsman it was a positive move to make," Nielsen explained.

"When you are 1-0 down in the series you need to be proactive."

"We couldn't afford to sit on our hands and say, 'Okay, let's hope we play a bit better'."

Swann, who with his sixth ball had Simon Katich lbw for 46, said of Watson: "I was surprised because I didn't realise he was an opening batsman. But he played like one today."

### Nat'l rugby final today

SPORTS REPORTER

Chittagong beat Dhaka by 12-5 points in the first semifinal while Faridpur defeated Munshiganj by 18-8 points in the other as the two teams made it to the final of the Diamond Melamine 1st National Rugby Competition at the Outer Stadium Ground yesterday.

The winning teams meet in the final today at the same venue following the three-place deciding match between the losing semifinalists.

Whip of the National Parliament Segufta Yasmin Emily will be the chief guest in the final and distribute the prizes.

### Indian stars

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of players from all countries, except India, had submitted information about their whereabouts.

"I understand and appreciate that there will be some concerns and reservations from all players and I am sure they feel that those concerns are genuine," Lorgats said.

"However, the ICC has spent the past few months addressing all of those concerns, and, having taken great care to do so, we see no further reason to delay the full implementation of the requirements specified by the WADA code."

"WADA's whereabouts system was developed after months of consultation and by adopting the same, we hope to ensure that our sport remains fair and clean."

"We will seek to remind the Indian cricket board of this point when we meet with it on Sunday."

Lorgat said the ICC was keen to find a "pragmatic solution" to the stalemate.

"If we think that there are things that need to change in the system, we will provide feedback to WADA in the course of our wider review of the international pool," he said.

"There are a number of ways of ensuring compliance with the requirements. For instance, the players need not necessarily submit all of the information themselves."

"The national board can appoint an administrative official who can help to manage the process. All that the ICC is striving for is the most pragmatic solution."

### Good start

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West Indies were at 106-3 after 22 overs with Dowlin (32) and Reifer batting when this report was filed.

Bangladesh made two changes as Mahbubul and Nazmul came in place of Syed Rasel and Rubel Hossain and both the pacers got early success to set the platform for the spinners, who have found the West Indies batsmen wanting all through the series.

Mahbubul had a wide in his first delivery but trapped debutant Powell in front with the next ball. The ball pitched in line with the off stump and swung back in sharply which seemed too good a delivery for Powell who was beaten comprehensively as the ball thudded into the pad.

Nazmul then cleaned up Smith (4) in the fourth over with a good length delivery.

Bangladesh have already confirmed the series victory by winning the first two one-dayers and are looking forward to the whitewash with the depleted West Indies side playing only for pride.

## Venus to meet Maria in qtrs

Tennis

AFP, Stanford

Venus Williams booked a date in the WTA Bank of the West quarterfinals with Russian star Maria Sharapova by matching top-seeded sister Serena with a straight-set triumph on Thursday.

Second-seeded Venus defeated Russia's Alla Kudryavtseva 6-1, 7-5 while Serena fired 10 aces to oust Hungary's Melinda Czink 6-3, 7-6 in second-round matches at the 700,000-dollar hardcourt tournament.

Sharapova is 3-2 lifetime against Venus, winning most recently at Miami in 2007. Venus took her only wins over Sharapova at Wimbledon in 2005 and 2007.

"My key is to execute my game as best I can," Venus Williams said. "There's no secret to that. I feel like it will be a good matchup for me. I always enjoy playing against Maria."

Venus Williams, whose seven Grand Slam

titles include five Wimbledon crowns, faces three-time Slam winner Sharapova as the Russian beauty queen is on the rebound from right shoulder surgery.

"I'm excited," Sharapova said. "I love playing against her and it has been a while. It's great to come back and have the chance to play against a great player like Venus, who is at the top of her game right now."

Serena Williams, an 11-time Grand Slam champion who won the Australian Open and Wimbledon crowns this year, has won nine matches in a row and 13 of her past 14. She will face Aussie Samantha Stosur in another quarter-final Friday.

"It should be a good match," Serena Williams said. "She has improved tons - leaps and bounds. I've been a little bit off this whole week. I hope I can get back on."

French eighth seed Marion Bartoli eliminated American Melanie Oudin 7-5, 6-4 and will next face Serbian fourth seed Jelena Jankovic, who rallied to defeat Germany's Sabine Lisicki 2-6, 6-2, 6-4.

## England take control

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Sachin Tendulkar (12,773) and Brian Lara (11,953).

But the big innings Ponting, who made a superb 150 in the drawn first Test in Cardiff, craved did not come his way Friday.

Instead, on 38, he feathered an attempted hook off a well-directed short ball from Onions through to wicket-keeper Matthew Prior.

Anderson then, as Onions had done, struck twice in two balls.

Left-hander Marcus North edged a full length ball and was brilliantly caught one-handed by a diving Prior, who took the left-handed chance from in front of Strauss at first slip.

Anderson then had Mitchell Johnson, caught on the crease, lbw.

Australia's last two wickets though added 60 runs before Onions, who had two catches dropped off his bowling, ended the innings by having Hilfenhaus caught in the gully.

Graham Manou, making his debut after first-choice wicket-keeper Brad Haddin broke a finger in Thursday's warm-up, had his first Test dismissal when he caught Cook off Peter Siddle.

But left-arm quick Johnson, whose eight wickets this series had come at an expensive average of 41, had to wait his turn behind spinner Nathan Hauritz.

When he did come on, Bopara punched his fifth ball through to the cover-boundary before Strauss drove him straight down the

ground for four more to bring up a second-wicket fifty stand in 93 balls.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the second day of the third Ashes Test between England and Australia at Edgbaston on Friday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings (overnight 126-1)

Watson lbw b Onions 62  
Katich lbw b Swann 46  
Ponting c Prior b Onions 38  
Hussey b Onions 0

Clarke lbw b Anderson 29  
North c Prior b Anderson 12  
Manou b Anderson 8  
Johnson lbw b Anderson 0

Hauritz not out 20  
Siddle c Prior b Anderson 13  
Hilfenhaus c Swann b Onions 20  
Extras: (b-5, lb-7, w-2, nb-1) 15

Total: (All out in 70.4 overs) 263  
Fall of wickets: 1-85, 2-126, 3-126, 4-163, 5-193, 6-202, 7-202, 8-203, 9-229.

Bowler O M R W  
Anderson 24 7 80 5  
Flintoff 15 2 58 0

Onions 16.4 2 58 4  
Broad 13 2 51 0  
Swann 2 0 4 1

ENGLAND: First innings  
Strauss not out 33  
Cook c Manou b Siddle 0  
Bopara not out 23  
Extras: 0

Total: (For 1 wkt in 18 overs) 56  
To bat: Bell, Collingwood, Prior, Flintoff, Broad, Swann, Anderson, Onions.

Fall of wickets: 1-2.  
Bowler O M R W

Hilfenhaus 5 0 23 0  
Siddle 6 0 16 1  
Hauritz 4 0 4 0

Johnson 3 0 13 0

### Ponting

FROM PAGE 17

game and put that behind us.

"Twenty-five runs is not what I am after in this game, I am after a big score."

But for that Ponting, who made a superb century in the drawn first Ashes Test in Cardiff, will have to wait until at least the second innings.

The fact the 34-year-old Ponting has played in the same era as India's Tendulkar and now retired West Indies star Brian Lara, allied to Australia's general dominance of Test cricket in that period, has tended to obscure his greatness as a batsman.

Yet Ponting's average is higher than both that of Tendulkar and Lara while, when it comes to Test centuries, he is only four behind Tendulkar's world record of 42.

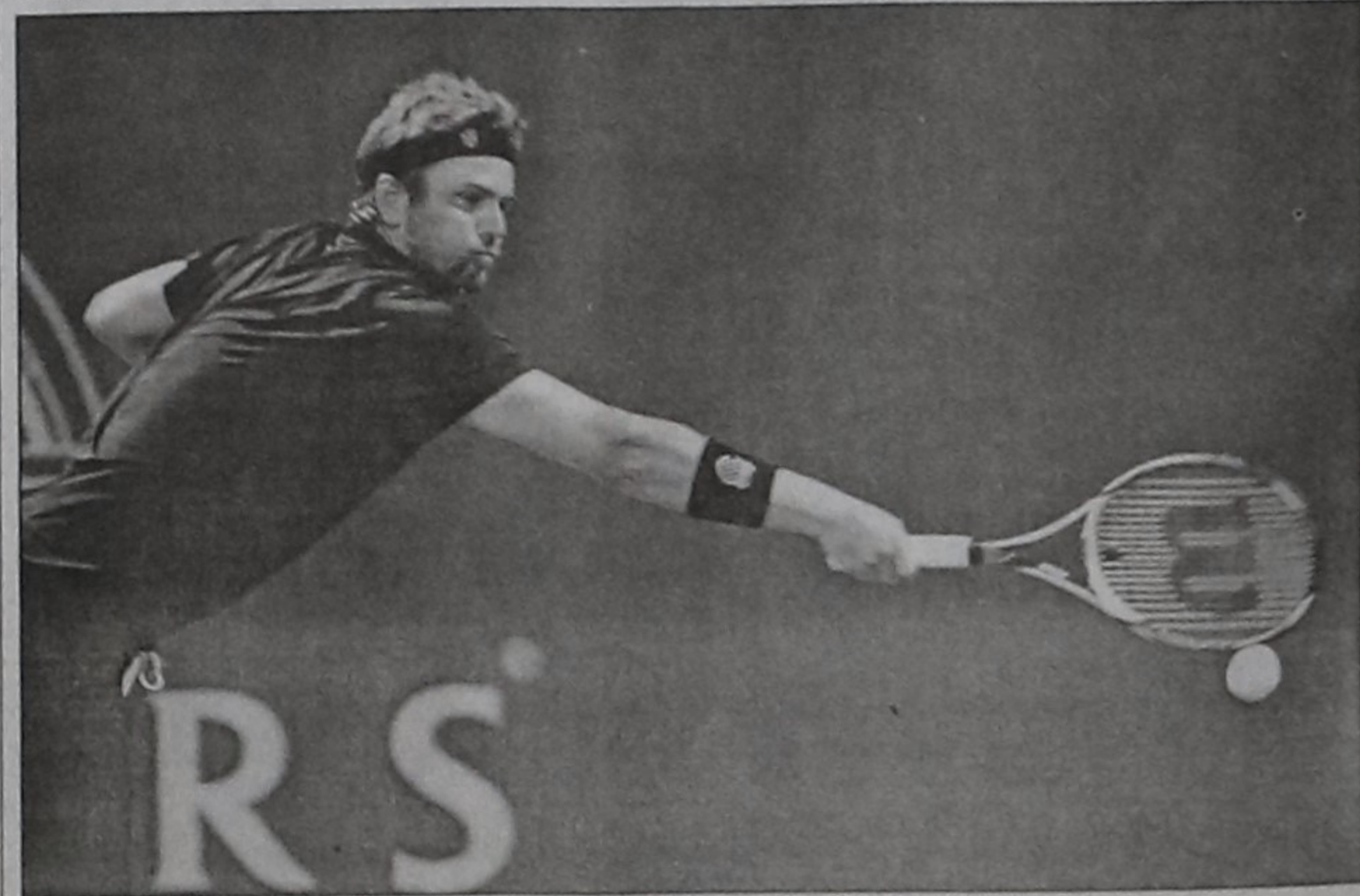
Fish survived a 16-minute tie-breaker in the second set by denying the Aussie on three match points, the last on a backhand drop volley winner to reach 10-10, and taking his fourth set point when Guccione hit a forehand long.

### Fish advances

AFP, Los Angeles

US second seed Mardy Fish saved three match points in a tie-breaker and rallied to defeat Australian Chris Guccione 6-7, 7-6, 6-4 and reach the ATP Los Angeles Open quarterfinals.

Fish survived a 16-minute tie-breaker in the second set by denying the Aussie on three match points, the last on a backhand drop volley winner to reach 10-10, and taking his fourth set point when Guccione hit a forehand long.



American Mardy Fish plays a backhand against Chris Guccione of Australia during the LA Tennis Open at the Los Angeles Tennis Center on Thursday.