

# Women born again

AFP, New York



**Boring? Predictable?**  
Women's tennis has been written off as a spectacle in recent times, but the US Open has proved otherwise.

While the men's tournament stuck mainly to the script, the women's singles was a roller-coaster of upsets, incidents and talking points.

Kim Clijsters topped the bill winning her second title at Flushing Meadows, just five weeks after ending a 27-month long retirement during which time she married and had a baby girl.

But there were other strong storylines.

Serena Williams's blowing a fuse after being foot-faulted in her semi-final against Clijsters and taking out her frustrations on the lineswoman who sanctioned her with a profane rant.

Teenager Melanie Oudin's stirring run into the quarter-finals cutting down Russian seeds along the way.

China's Li Na and Italy's Flavia Pennetta showing that sheer hard work, experience and guile still have a place in the sport.

It all added up to the best women's Grand Slam tournament in years.

Clijsters, having left the sport in May 2007, when she and compatriot Justine Henin along with the Williams sisters and Maria Sharapova were head and shoulders

above the rest, is well-placed to judge the changes.

"I definitely think that there's a different type of tennis out there that's being played, and I think the Open has been really interesting this year just because it's been so unpredictable," she said after her straight sets win in the final here over 19-year-old Caroline Wozniacki, another star in the making.

"I remember a few years ago when Justine and I were playing each other again or when the Williams sisters were playing each other again, people were kind of complaining because it was everything repeating."

"So I think it's a good thing, because there are so many new players out there who have a great talent, and a lot of young girls, as well."

"On any good day they can beat a lot of top players and a lot of players who have been in the top 10 now for a few years."

"I don't think women's tennis has anything to worry about."

The revival is crucial for the Women's Tennis Association (WTA), which governs the women's game, coming as it does at a time when all sports are struggling to keep their sponsors in the face of the global economic recession.

Newly-appointed WTA chairman Stacey Allaster is upbeat saying that the circuit to date has lost only one sponsor in 2009 while three new tournaments have been added for 2010 in Copenhagen, Kuala Lumpur and San Diego.

"Our players are delivering, the fans and sponsors, and what a time for it to come particularly during these tough economic times," Allaster said at the US Open.

"The bottom line is we want to be a credible product, consistently delivering to fans and sponsors and in 2009 our athletes have done that."

Allaster added that the focus will be on "fan growth," especially in non-traditional markets in Asia and South America.

"We need a younger fan base to have sustainable sponsorship revenues and we need fan growth in key strategic markets," she said.

"That's why China is an incredibly important strategic priority for us and I think we do need to look at other markets where we might not have events."

"But it doesn't mean we can't build a brand presence in markets like India and/or Brazil, which are key for the long-term growth of this business."

"When we sit with a global sponsor, they say, 'We want Russia, we want Brazil, we want India, we want Europe and we want the United States.' So we have to adapt."

The 2009 US Open will certainly have helped the product and 2010 looks promising with Clijsters sure to be a huge draw in Australia at the start of the year, Sharapova hoping to be back at full fitness and even a possible return of former world No. 1 Justine Henin.



PHOTO: STAR

New president of the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) General Abdul Mubeen (R) watches the facilities at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Tuesday as part of the build up for the upcoming SA Games.

## BCF election demanded by Sept

SPORTS REPORTER

## Tandil erupts

INTERNET, undated



Juan Martin del Potro's US Open final victory has sent

shockwaves of delight through his native Tandil, a modest rural city which has become an unlikely production line for Argentine professionals.

But since they have been made members of the new body, they -- Dr AR Khan, Khandokar Kayes Hasan, Monzur Hossain Zimmo and Mushfiqur Rahaman -- accepted to work with the committee if the government announced an election date before the end of September.

The four organised a press conference yesterday at the National Press Club where they also warned if anything otherwise happened, they would step down from the committee. They thought such process (appointment of the ad-hoc committee) was not right.

"With due respect to the sports minister and the National Sports Council, we have decided to stay on the committee until September 30 if the government announces the election date and completes it by October. Otherwise, we all will step down," said AR Khan, a former general secretary of the federation.

The four organised a press conference yesterday at the National Press Club where they also warned if anything otherwise happened, they would step down from the committee. They thought such process (appointment of the ad-hoc committee) was not right.

"With due respect to the sports minister and the National Sports Council, we have decided to stay on the committee until September 30 if the government announces the election date and completes it by October. Otherwise, we all will step down," said AR Khan, a former general secretary of the federation.

Among them was del Potro's childhood coach, Marcelo Gomez, who has trained five other professional men's players from Tandil.

"Juan Martin has just made history in Argentine tennis," an emotional Gomez said after the victory.

"At the age of 20, he beats number one ranked Federer to win the US Open. I don't think he understands the magnitude of what he's just accomplished."

Gomez also coached Mariano Zabaleta, Diego

## Bolt's long jump not imminent

INTERNET, undated

Triple Olympic and world champion Usain Bolt said Monday that while he may try out the long jump it will not be in the near future.

"I did say that I wanted to do the long jump but that will not be anytime soon," Bolt told a news conference in Kingston after returning from the World Athletics final in Greece.

"I want to try the long jump before I retire, maybe five years from now. As for the 400 metres that is out," Bolt added to laughter.

The 23-year-old was still undecided over whether or not to compete at next year's world indoor championships and Commonwealth Games.

"I have never competed at an indoor meet before and I have never competed at the Commonwealth Games, so I will see what my coach has in store for me and then decide," Bolt said.

## Veni, vidi, vici for Del Potro

FROM PAGE 17

But it was uncharacteristic, much like Federer's noncommittal fifth set. He lost a break early, fell down 3-0, and it was a matter of playing out the string.

"I thought he served twice, held twice; I got broken; then he got the 3-0 lead. Pretty obvious," Federer said, not bothering to expand.

His empty stare at the end was much different than the tear-filled reaction at the Australian to start the year, when he lost to Nadal in five sets and was left still seeking Grand Slam title No. 14 to tie Federer on 18.

He, however, said that they would level the ground in their own initiatives during the postponement of the tournament as the 3rd B. League would also be played in the same ground in October.

The BOA and NSC has been ensuring time and again to provide all facilities for the athletes to bring better results in the SA Games at home and the incident at Krira Palli was not the first time as the hockey players had earlier boycotted the training camp citing the low standard food and poor conditions of the accommodation as well as toilet facilities.

"I think this is easy to get over just because I've had the most amazing summer," he

said. "I tried everything, you know. Didn't work. I missed chances. He played well and in the end it was a tough fifth set. It's acceptable. But life goes on. No problem."

Life should change now for del Potro, who joined Guillermo Vilas as the second Argentine to win the Open. Vilas, the 1977 champion, was on hand to watch his countryman, who will move up to No. 5 in the rankings and now has signature wins under his belt.

Del Potro beat Nadal and Federer on back-to-back days -- how many people can say that? -- and got stronger as the matches went on. That's unlike his meeting with Federer earlier this year in the French semifinals, when he held a 2-sets-to-1 lead but let it slip. This time, he came back from down 2-1, two points away from losing the match.

"I think, okay, you never

lose until the last point, so keep fighting," he said. "The crowd helped me, and they saw my fight in every point."

When the fight ended after 4 hours, 6 minutes, del Potro fell to the ground, spread eagle, and put his hands over his face. Later, he was weeping.

"I think the first major is always a big deal," Federer said. "Best feeling on the planet after all the hard work you put in. It was good to see him being so happy and emotional about it."

About an hour after the match, del Potro conceded he hadn't processed the whole thing, didn't know what to do with the car they gave him, the trophy he kissed, the 1.85 million dollars he won.

"Maybe cheesecake for my birthday," he said.

Not bad for starters.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "Waterloo" accessory

36 Fourth estate

5 "Go, team!"

37 Having the same

8 Too confident

40 Bagdad's country

12 Complain

14 Banks on the runway?

15 Despot

16 Old soldier

17 "It Romanitic?"

18 Doddering

20 Sodium chloride

22 Accordion's cousin

26 Utter disorder

29 Companion to green eggs

30 Proof abbr.

31 Stop

32 Lustrous black

33 Car

34 Under the weather

35 Feathery accessory

36 Fourth estate

37 Having the same

38 Words to live by

39 Unfair?

42 Seed covering

43 Pleasant

44 "Monopoly" card

45 "This means —!"

46 Expert

48 Menagerie

54 Actress Myrna

55 Coaster

56 Part of UCLA

57 Branch

58 Swindle

59 Big bothers

60 Stylish

61 Head light?

62 Until dawn

63 Daffodil's cousin

64 Robin Hood and his Merry Men, e.g.

65 Well, I'll — monkey's uncle!"

66 4-Down has one

67 Words to live by

68 Unfair?

69 Seed covering

70 Pleasant

71 "Monopoly" card

72 "This means —!"

73 "Well, I'll — monkey's uncle!"

74 "Well, I'll — monkey's uncle!"

75 "Well, I'll — monkey's uncle!"

76 "Well, I'll — monkey's uncle!"

77 "Well, I'll — monkey's uncle!"

78 "Well, I'll — monkey's uncle!"

79 "Well, I'll — monkey's uncle!"

80 "Well, I'll — monkey's uncle!"

81 "Well, I'll — monkey's uncle!"

82 "Well, I'll — monkey's uncle!"

83 "Well, I'll — monkey's uncle!"

84 "Well, I'll — monkey's uncle!"

85 "Well, I'll — monkey's uncle!"

86 "Well, I'll — monkey's uncle!"

87 "Well, I'll — monkey's uncle!"

88 "Well, I'll — monkey's uncle!"

89 "Well, I'll — monkey's uncle!"

90 "Well, I'll — monkey's uncle!"

91 "Well, I'll — monkey's uncle!"

92 "Well, I'll — monkey's uncle!"

93 "Well, I'll — monkey's uncle!"

94 "Well, I'll — monkey's uncle!"

95 "Well, I'll — monkey's uncle!"

96 "Well, I'll — monkey's uncle!"

97 "Well, I'll — monkey's uncle!"

98 "Well, I'll — monkey's uncle!"

99 "Well, I'll — monkey's uncle!"

100 "Well, I'll — monkey's uncle!"