

World number three Roger Federer of Switzerland makes a backhand return against Juan Ignacio Chela of Argentina during the Rogers Cup at the Rexall Centre in Toronto on Tuesday.

Roger off the mark

Tennis

AFP, Toronto

Roger Federer blasted out of the starting blocks for US Open hardcourt build-up, overcoming early niggles to beat Juan Ignacio Chela 7-6, 6-3 to reach the third round of the Toronto Masters Tuesday.

Federer is working on a trial basis with coach Paul Annacone, former mentor to Pete Sampras, with the Swiss third seed's game already showing a few fresh touches.

"I'm glad to go through," said Federer, who needed seven set points to win the opening frame in 48 minutes.

"I was a bit rusty in the opening match and he really made me play. But I'm very happy with how it went tonight."

Federer approached the net more than he has done recently, showing off a favourite tactic of Annacone, who will work with the Swiss on an interim basis with a decision on a future partnership to be decided after the US

Open. Federer, who stalled at the quarter-finals at both Roland Garros and Wimbledon after winning the titles last season, has this week and the next at Cincinnati to hone his game into shape for a run at the final Grand Slam of the season, which starts on August 30.

After winning five titles in a row in New York, he lost the 2009 final to Juan Martin del Potro.

"It's always nice to come back after six weeks and get the win," said Federer. "I think that's really what counts the most tonight. It's normal that you're a bit rusty after six weeks. You have to work your way into playing matches again, even though you play a lot of practice sets and matches.

"Overall it was a good match. I think I really did some good things out there and a bit of a

pity I had a bit of a letdown at 5-2 up in the first

"I had many options, I wanted to play on my terms against a player like that, and that's what I was able to do today somehow."

Fellow seed Robin Soderling overcame Ernests Gulbis of Latvia 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 for a thirdround spot, joining Wimbledon finalist Tomas Berdych -- the quarterfinal winner over Federer

-- in moving ahead in Canada. Berdych is seeking his first 2010 title and began his latest quest with a 6-2, 6-4 defeat of Sergiy Stakhovsky.

"I've been to finals this year but have not won a tournament yet," said the 24-year-old, who has won six ATP titles, the last at Munich last year.

"But I wouldn't change anything I did, for anything.'

In first-round matches, Washington winner David Nalbandian proved his fitness with a flying start as he upset Spanish tenth seed David Ferrer 7-5, 3-6, 6-3.

The number 45 said he has improved

already since returning to the game last week, his first event since April following a 2009 hip operation and subsequent injury worries. "I played more offensive today and tried to

end the points a little faster. He's tough from the baseline without a lot of errors," said Nalbandian. "There is no secret to my comeback, it's

tough. Ferrer would not be your choice for first round, but I know I'm not seeded so I could play against anyone. I have to keep going no matter who is in front of the net." Serb Viktor Troicki upset Croatian 11th seed

Marin Cilic 6-4, 7-6 (7/2), and Alexandr Dolgopolov rallied past German Philipp Petzschner 1-6, 6-2, 7-6 (7/4).

Italian Fabio Fognini kept injury comeback player Radek Stepanek winless since February with a 6-2, 6-4 result.

Split-innings tried

Cricket

CRICINFO

Australian cricket carried out its first experiment with the split-innings format -- two innings of 20 overs each -- in a practice game between South Australian Redbacks and Tasmanian Tigers at the Marrara Oval in Darwin on Tuesday.

The initial verdict from the two coaches, who set up the match to trial Cricket Australia's new proposed format for the first-class limitedovers game, was a generation gap of sorts: it was more popular with the younger players.

The Tigers won by six wickets and 8.3 overs to spare with Tasmania coach Tim Coyle saying the trial had showed up the pluses and minuses of the new proposals. Player response to the new format had been diverse and Coyle told Cricinfo: "There was some scepticism from the guys who have been around for a long time while the young guys were quite excited by it."

Acting Tigers captain Xavier Doherty told AAP: "There are probably a few blokes a bit shirty about having this split innings (format), but without trialing it no-one's going to know

Loew's high

Germany coach Joachim Loew

said Wednesday that he

expects his team, third at this

summer's football World Cup,

to peak at the 2014 tourna-

future. There are a lot of

changes to make and this

team should evolve to its

maximum potential for the

2014 World Cup in Brazil,"

Loew told Sport Bild maga-

After the withdrawal of

Michael Ballack, Simon Rolfes

and Heiko Westermann

because of injuries before the

South African tournament,

Loew lined out with a young

and inexperienced side which

Newcomers Manuel Neuer,

Mesut Ozil, Sami Khedira and

Thomas Muller, the top scorer

and best young player of the

tournament, blended with

veterans such as Philipp Lahm,

Bastian Schweinsteiger, Lukas

Podolski and Per Mertesacker,

who are themselves aged

missed the World Cup with an

ankle injury, Loew stopped

short of guaranteeing the 33-

year-old a place in the qualifi-

ers for Euro 2012 in Poland

Concerning Ballack, who

between 24 and 26 years.

and the Ukraine.

FROM PAGE 17

made a big impression.

"We have a hard core for the

hopes for

2014

AFP, Berlin

ment in Brazil.

what it's going to throw up, so the only way to go is to try it and see what happens."

For the support staff, Coyle said the format had made teams think more about the tactics to be employed and the teams to be picked. What the team found challenging, Coyle said, was the "stop and start" for the batting line up but added "it is something good sides will find a way to get used to. Even though one game is not the ideal example, you can see that a team would need batting depth and bowling options."

The most obvious danger of the split-innings format, in terms of renewing public interest in limited overs, would arise from a big discrepancy in scores after the first round of twenty overs. If in reply to a first 20-over split of 2-130 the opposition were at 6-60, the spectators would be presented with a repetition of the tedious kind of middle overs of the 50-over game.

Preparation for the split-over innings tria game, Coyle said, was in no way different to a normal 50-over game. After the match, though, key issues around the pattern of play came into focus. Overs no. 17-20 were seen as overs of containment to the bowling side as the batsmen tended to focus on going into their break losing fewer wickets.

Modi's appeal

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has rejected

a request by Lalit Modi, the suspended Indian Premier

League (IPL) chairman, for specific members of the board's

disciplinary committee, investigating charges against him

to recuse themselves from the proceedings. A brief state-

ment by the board didn't outline any reasons but stated that

the next hearing of the committee will be on Wednesday,

removal of interim IPL chairman Chirayu Amin and BCCI

vice-president Arun Jaitley from the committee on grounds

that they were biased against him. The committee met on

August 1 to discuss the recusal issue but adjourned the meet

ing without a ruling. Modi did not attend the meeting via

the allegations against Modi. The committee has unti

October 26 to submit its recommendations to the board. The

BCCI suspended Modi immediately following the conclu-

sion of IPL 3 in April and charged him with financial irregu-

larities relating to the bidding process for IPL franchises, the

mid-over ad sales and the sale of theatrical rights. He was

also charged with colluding to set up a rebel league in

was biased because Modi revealed he was part of a failed bid

for one of the two new IPL franchises. Modi's lawyers have

also argued Jaitley should not be on the panel either because

he had voted to ratify the charges against Modi at the board's

special general body meeting on July 3.

Maria beats

Modi has repeatedly sought Amin's recusal, claiming he

This disciplinary committee has met thrice to investigate

video conferencing despite saying he was willing to do so.

Modi, the suspended IPL chairman, had sought the

turned down

Cricket

August 18, in New Delhi.

CRICINFO

England.

Gul to miss **Eng Tests**

INTERNET

Pakistan paceman Umar Gul has been ruled out of the remainder of the Test series against England because of a torn hamstring.

Gul, who was hurt on Saturday during the second-Test defeat in Birmingham, is to sit out the third match at The Oval next week and the fourth and final game at Lord's. Pakistan manager Yawar

Saeed said the fast bowler

would have his injury examined again on August 18 to determine his involvement in the limitedovers section of the tour. "We are hoping he will be available for the Twenty20 and

one-day series next month," said Saeed. Pakistan, who trail 2-0, will not fly in a replacement for the

last two Tests. Rossi's eyes on Brno

INTERNET

While much of the attention on Valentino Rossi is likely to centre on his movements off the track, the Italian remains focused on the job in hand as he resumes action following the summer break.

Still recovering from the broken leg that effectively ended his chances of challenging for the 2010 MotoGP title, while Rossi completed a remarkable run to the podium last time out at Laguna Seca, he maintains the time away has not left him feeling quite 100 per centfityet.

Nonetheless, the reigning champion is well on the way to getting back to his best and is confident of another step forward at Brno.

"I've had a good break and it's helped me a lot to have this time to work on my physical condition," he said.

"I'm feeling good about my leg and my shoulder and I hope that this weekend I'll be feeling much stronger. Brno is a great track for me and it's always special because it's the first place I ever won at."

Sheikh Jamal

FROM PAGE 17

senior one will act as coach while the other will be appointed trainer, said Kader adding that they would sign up foreign players if needed in line with the recommendations of the coaches.

The season's curtain-raising tournament, Federation Cup, will be held in between October 7 to 31 before the second tournament of the Super Cup which will take place in December.

India tested

FROM PAGE 17 bowlers, a strategy which worked well for them, but India were left with only two quick bowlers for much of the innings after Abhimanyu Mithun's heat stroke. While the new-ball bowlers, Praveen Kumar and Ashish Nehra, took 7 for 90 between them, India's spinners were caned for 161 runs in 26 overs. "We had four fast bowlers and they had three. That was the difference," Styris said. "We knew

Styris is reborn

Cricket

CRICINFO

Six months ago, Scott Styris' international career was on the rocks after he was axed from the one-day side for the home series against Bangladesh. The drop came barely four months after his recall for a limitedovers series against Pakistan. How many can make two international comebacks after turning 34? Yet, Styris is now firmly back in New Zealand's plans for the 2011 World Cup, and he gave another demonstration of his usefulness on a tricky Dambulla track to set his team up for a victory that pushed them to the No. 2 spot in the ICC rankings.

An inexperienced New Zealand side wasn't given much of a chance coming into the tournament and it seemed to show why when it tumbled to 28 for 3 in the face of a hostile new-ball spell from Ashish Nehra and Praveen Kumar. That brought together Styris, the most experienced man in the line-up, and Ross Taylor, their captain and most important batsman. The two senior players just about managed to survive the next few overs, before getting more settled once the spinners were brought on.

Styris, in particular, had a nervous beginning. There was an lbw appeal from Praveen which Hawk-Eye suggested would shave the outside of legstump, a close caughtbehind shout in Abhimanyu Mithun's first over, before being saved by the height on being struck in front of middle by Mithun's stock incutter. His

biggest reprieve was a missed stumping off Pragyan Ojha when he was beaten by the turn after waltzing out of the crease, but the sharp spin meant Dhoni also failed to collect cleanly.

By then, the pair had added more than 50 runs with Taylor unleashing a bunch of boundaries. With Mithun suffering a heat stroke and the senior quicks having already bowled plenty of overs, Styris then cashed in on some amiable leftarm spin. Boundaries off Ojha and Ravindra Jadeja were mixed

with sensible singles and before you knew it New Zealand had moved to 150 off 30 overs. Then Taylor risked taking the

batting Powerplay early. Styris' boundary-count shot up in those five overs, at the end of which 300 was in New Zealand's sights and the two batsmen seemed to be in a race to reach triple-figures. Styris drew level with Taylor on 89 with a straight swing for six off Ojha but a fifth ODI century eluded him when he was dismissed two balls later. On a pitch where 240 was talked

and the media."

35 Insect

38 Profit

40 Weep

42 Perch

45 Create

47 Car

49 Egg

loudly

48 Christmas

paper

con-

50 Genetic

sub-

stance

51 Charged

52 Drunkard

singer

Brooks

54 Country

tainer?

runner,

maybe

vessel

8 Coffee

9 Past

to 219 for 4 with more than ten overs to go. "The bounce is spongy here.

of as the par score at the toss,

Styris had piloted New Zealand

It's not true bounce as at WACA or some of the pitches in South Africa. It's a tennis ball bounce. On top of that it spun fast,' Styris said after New Zealand completed their win. "It was particularly tough to bat on and that's why Ross and I are particularly pleased with the runs we were able to get."

The 200-run victory was New Zealand's biggest over India. "We are obviously delighted with the result,' Styris said. "We were missing [Brendon] McCullum and [Daniel] Vettori and perhaps we didn't have the same respect from the opposition

This performance extends a rich vein of form for Styris, who kickstarted his attempt to recement a place in the one-day side with a cool 34-ball 49 in a big chase against Australia in his first match on comeback. He put in four solid contributions with the bat in five games that series, and has continued the run during his stint with Essex over the New Zealand winter.

With emergence of Grant Elliott and the presence of Jacob Oram, New Zealand aren't exactly short on medium-pace allrounders and the competition for spots remains fierce. "Some nine-ten months ago I was a bit on the outer, which was disappointing. But since than I have done well in domestic cricket, in the series against Australia and for Essex," Styris said. "Always wanted to play in the 2011 World Cup and if you put performances on the board you have the right to be picked."

SCOTT STYRIS

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 60 Cowboy 19 Pitch 36 Depend 1 "Holy (on) nickname 21 Foolish 37 Memorize 61 Choose mackone erel!" **39** 8 pecks 23 Deity 4 Stir-fry = 2 -DOWN 25 Duel 1 Chicken 41 Someone tool pan 7 Campus 26 Streamlet who (out) belongs 2 Hershiser 27 Unfavorarea, for 43 Sticky able short 11 Baghstuff baseball votes dad's 3 Decline 28 Coconut 44 Teensy land 4 Existed bit provider 46 Muscle 29 Sheltered 13 Commo-5 Valhalla 50 Platter 30 Clayey tion bigwig 14 Incite 53 Erstwhile 6 "M*A*S*H" soil 15 List of 31 Symbol of locale acorn intrigue 55 Foolproof 7 Track

10 Lair 58 Greek feature 20 Approach vowels 12 Gridiron 22 Tatter 59 Pismires VIPs 24 Toward the rear

56 Snug

corner

Picabo

Street

57 Emulate

options

address

17 Unsigned

(Abbr.)

18 Accordion

of a

ship

color

new-

comer

16 Knight's

Solution time: 24 mins. L E E C H F R A U D
C I C E R O L I N N E T C I C E R O L I N N E T A S H L E Y O P I A T E 28 Actress ITOELATEBOA Gwyneth REEDELSALUM O D D E R P A N D E R S
L E D M O D 32 Old photo SHRIVEL DUCAT 33 Lotion LEESWEBPIPE additive OLDADIEUPIE T O R P O R G R A H A M
S T E R N O O S I E R S
S W E E P T A R R Y 34 Society

12 29 47 48 49 45 50 51 52

CRYPTOQUIP

VZOPNC LPGUI VUZYNTBLJ

YRU GBUQHPBLYC PV CPOU

JPISVBCR: "YRU QPTIS

DZTH."

Saturday's Cryptoquip: WHAT IS THE SPEED AT WHICH ONE'S BODY PROCESSES A CERTAIN

AROMATIC HERB? BASIL METABOLISM. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals F

ZDDPTSBLJ

slid the ball past backup US goalkeeper Brad Guzan in the 53rd minute but it bounced off the post. Guzan saved an angled shot by Neymar in the 61st and

Revamped

made a diving save on Neymar in the 70th. In the 83rd Guzan dived again to deny Carlos Eduardo. The match was held in the new 1.6 billion-dollar stadium

that will host its first NFL games next month. It might have been the last US match with coach Bob Bradley at the helm. His contract expires in December.

In other second-round action, Akgul Amanmuradova advanced 6-2, 6-0 win over Bojana Jovanovski.

FROM PAGE 17

Sixteenth-seeded Marion Bartoli also reached the third round, beating Alona Bondarenko 7-6 (7/4), 6-1.

Fifteenth-seeded Nadia Petrova tumbled out of the two million-dollar event, retiring with heat-related symptoms while trailing Christina McHale.

America's McHale had won the first set 7-6 (7/4) and was up 5-3 in the second when the 21st-ranked Russian called it quits.

player to retire because of the steamy conditions. Olga Govortsova retired against 13th-seeded Shahar Peer on Monday. "I'm not really sure what

She became the second

happened," said McHale, whose biggest career win came at Charleston in April when then-number nine Victoria Azarenka retired from their match.

"I know she called the trainer, but I wasn't sure what she called the trainer for. I didn't try to focus too much on that. I'm just excited to move on to the that they didn't have reserves." next round.