

Gay going great in Zagreb

AFP, Zagreb
American star sprinter Tyson Gay put Jamaican rival Nesta Carter in his place on Wednesday when he easily beat him in the 100 metres race at the Zagreb Grand Prix meeting.
The 28-year-old American got a poor start but still timed a meet record 9.92 seconds while Carter -- who on Sunday had equalled Gay's fastest time of the year of 9.78sec -- was second well back in 10.07sec.
American Michael Rodgers was third in 10.14sec.
"I made a lot of mistakes at the beginning of the race," Gay told Croatian national television.
"It was very cold but the cold weather did not affect my result."
"I thank Nesta for inspiring me for the victory. I'm in good shape, relaxed and enjoying running," he added.

Trio pleads

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Manager Yawar Saad added he could not comment about the players' state of mind, saying: "I cannot answer anything on their behalf because investigations are being made by Scotland Yard and the ICC (International Cricket Council) and others. The game must go on, cricket will be played at its best."
But, Asif and Aamer were quizzed by police during the Lord's Test and had their mobile phones confiscated as detectives tried to unravel claims the Pakistanis bowled no-balls to order as part of a betting scam.
London-based businessman Mazhar Majeed was arrested but released without charge on police bail following questioning.
Meanwhile Australian Test legend Shane Warne added his voice to the chorus of condemnation, saying authorities should choose the ultimate punishment if the three players were found guilty.
"If it is true and they have been found (guilty of) match-fixing and throwing games and spot-betting with the no-balls and stuff, if that's the case they should be thrown out," Warne told reporters.
"It's as simple as that. I don't think there should be any other way to do it. If it's fixed by players, they should be banned for life. Anyone who's involved should be thrown out."

Former England cricket coach Duncan Fletcher also adopted a hard line, writing in The Guardian newspaper that life bans were the only way to send a clear message to players who compromised the integrity of the sport.

Murray

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need to play my best."
Roddick, who has struggled with mononucleosis for months, fell behind 5-2 in the tie-breaker and had no answer for Tipsarevic, who connected on 59 percent of his first serves and won 81 percent of those points (58 of 72).
Tipsarevic next faces French 17th seed Gael Monfilis, who celebrated his 24th birthday by ousting 121st-rated Igor Andreev 6-3, 6-4, 6-3. The Russian, slowed by knee and ankle injuries, had won four of five prior matches against Monfilis.
Beating the Frenchman would allow Tipsarevic to match his best Grand Slam showings, fourth-round runs at Wimbledon in 2007 and 2008, the latter after dispatching Roddick in the second round.

Croatian 15th seed Ivan Ljubicic, who has never gone past the third round in 10 prior US Open starts, was eliminated by US teen qualifier Ryan Harrison 6-3, 6-7, 6-3, 6-4, on a steamy day at the Flushing Meadows hardcourts.
US 18th seed John Isner showed no sign of the right ankle injury he suffered two weeks ago, beating Portugal's Frederico Gil 6-4, 6-3, 6-4.
US 20th seed Sam Querrey, whose four titles this season rank second only to Nadal's five, beat US college champion Bradley Klahn 6-3, 4-6, 7-5, 6-4. He was apologetic for blasting a backhand shot into Klahn's groin in the second set.

Betting

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daily spread-betting during the entire period of the cricket season.
They will first take their position under the tall trees on the eastern side and slowly make their way to the west as the day rolls on. Reason for this movement is first to stay close to the scorer and then to sit in the shaded part.
It is one of the most intriguing sights in an already colourful domestic cricket.

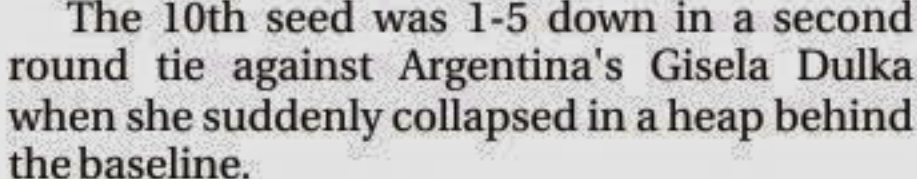


Victoria Azarenka of Belarus lies on the court after she collapsed during her US Open second round match against Gisela Dulko of Argentina at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Centre in Flushing Meadows on Wednesday.

Clijsters cruises

AFP, New York
Sweltering conditions and gusting winds proved a handful at the US Open on Wednesday, but it was the consequences of a simple training stumble by Belarus starlet Victoria Azarenka that shocked fans.
The 10th seed was 1-5 down in a second round tie against Argentina's Gisela Dulka when she suddenly collapsed in a heap behind the baseline.
She received urgent medical treatment for several minutes before being taken away in a wheelchair to hospital for tests on her condition.
With temperatures at Flushing Meadows once again soaring into the 90s Fahrenheit (30s Celsius), first indications were that she had fallen victim to the extreme conditions.
But Azarenka later shed light on the incident by explaining in a statement that she had fallen in the gym prior to her match while running a sprint and had stumbled forward, hitting her head and arm.
"I was checked by the medical team before I went on court and they were court-side for monitoring," she said.
"I felt worse as the match went on, having a headache and feeling dizzy. I also started having trouble seeing and felt weak before I fell."
"I was taken to the hospital for some medical tests and have been diagnosed with a mild concussion."
A former top junior, Azarenka is regarded as one of the best young players in the world at the moment and had been expected to make a run at the title here.
The conditions did pose problems for third seed Venus Williams as she struggled past Canadian qualifier Rebecca Marino.
The sole US seed in the women's draw won through 7-6, 6-3 to set up a third-round tie against another qualifier, Mandy Minella of Luxembourg, who upset 32nd seed Tsvetana Pironkova of Bulgaria.
But she was made to scrap for it all the way, especially in a first set which saw Marino, who at 19 was 11 years younger than her opponent and playing in just her second WTA Tour-level event, regularly out-hit the two-time former champion in New York.
Williams had trouble with her serve action as the hot morning conditions on the Arthur Ashe Stadium Court were joined by gusting winds in the afternoon.

Marino, behind a big serve and forehand, stayed with Williams to 3-3 in the tie-breaker, before the sole US seed this year ran off four points in a row to move ahead.
The American won three games in a row to move 4-1 up in the second set and then served out to advance into the third round.
"It was challenging, not just with the conditions, but also my opponent. She served so well and mixes up her shots," Williams said.
"It seemed like every time I had an opening she came up with a big serve, so I guess I know what it's like now playing myself."
Defending champion Kim Clijsters avoided the heat at least, winning the opening match of the night session 6-3, 6-1 against 19-year-old Australian qualifier Sally Peers.
Also through was French Open champion Francesca Schiavone, who looked back to near her best in a 6-2, 6-2 demolition of Spain's Maria Elena Camerin.
The 30-year-old, who played the best tennis of her life to lift the French crown in Paris in June, said that although she was pleased with the way she had played, she still needed to improve.
"It was nothing special because I want to serve better. I want to play some more aggressive shots," she said.
"I want to become much more stronger, and from the baseline go pushing to the net. I want to do this."
Just as impressive was former French Open champion Ana Ivanovic, who looked more like her old self in crushing China's Zheng Jie 6-3, 6-0 in the opening match on the Arthur Ashe Centre Court.
The 22-year-old Serb beauty has been mired in a rut since winning the French Open in 2008 and taking the world number one spot.
She failed to cope with the sudden celebrity and status and saw her world ranking plummet throughout 2009.
But after taking on Steffi Graf's former coach, Heinz Gunthardt, as her mentor in February this year, Ivanovic has been gradually working her way back.
Ivanovic next goes up against French wildcard Virginie Razzano of France, who ousted 13th seeded compatriot Marion Bartoli 7-5, 6-4.
"I feel like I am playing like a top-10 player again and my confidence is there, which is huge for me," she said.
Dulko, who advanced on the back of Azarenka's collapse, will next play rising Russian star Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, who ended the hopes of Sania Mirza of India 6-2, 6-4.



The threesome

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team, said he was working with other officials to draw up a plan to safeguard cricket in the country.
"We naturally have many challenges at ICC to face. Cricket fans across the world can be assured that we will be doing so," he said.
England and Pakistan play the first of two Twenty20 internationals, both in Cardiff, on Sunday.
The teams then face each other in a five-match one-day international series starting at Chester-le-Street, Durham's headquarters ground, in north-east England, on September 10.
Britain's News of the World newspaper has alleged that several Pakistan players were part of a scam to bowl deliberate no-balls at precise points in last week's Test match against England.
"If it is true and they have been found (guilty of) match-fixing and throwing games and spot-betting with the no-balls and stuff, if that's the case they should be thrown out," Warne told reporters.
"It's as simple as that. I don't think there should be any other way to do it. If it's fixed by players, they should be banned for life. Anyone who's involved should be thrown out."

Sania crashes

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reached the semifinals in Cincinnati in the buildup to New York, she came up against a big hitter who is targeting the world top 10 this year.
Mirza was quickly a break of serve down at 2-3 before squandering two break points in the sixth game with some wayward shot-making when it mattered most.
The 19-year-old Pavlyuchenkova made her pay the price by holding for 4-2 and then breaking serve again. The Russian comfortably served out for the set in just 32 minutes.
Mirza kept pace on serve until 3-2 in the second set and was given fresh hope when her opponent needed a medical timeout for treatment to her right forearm.
She immediately grabbed her chance by breaking Pavlyuchenkova for the second time in the match to establish a 4-2 lead.
Sadly for the Indian player, she promptly dropped her own serve in the next game.
That proved to be fatal for Mirza as the Russian pounded her into submission by winning the next three games to reach the third round.

Haddin kept out

Aussie squad for India named



AFP, Sydney
Wicketkeeper Brad Haddin was not included in a 15-man squad named on Thursday for Australia's two Tests in India next month.
Haddin has an elbow injury and will stay behind to rehabilitate ahead of the home Ashes Test series against England later this year, officials said.
"Brad is making good progress with rehabilitation of his elbow tendon injury," team physiotherapist Alex Kountouris said in a Cricket Australia statement.
"He is due to commence restricted batting in the next few weeks but will not be available to play in the Test component of Australia's tour of India."
"He is on track to be available for club cricket and for New South Wales with the possibility of being available for selection in the India or Sri Lanka one-day international series."
Opening batsman Phillip Hughes returns to the Australian squad from a dislocated shoulder, while young fast bowlers, Peter George and Josh Hazlewood, have been selected.
Australia will take two recognised spinners, off-spinner Nathan Hauritz and leg-spinner Steven Smith, to India.
"India is ranked number one in Test cricket and there is no harder assignment in Test cricket at the moment than playing India on their home soil," chairman of selectors Andrew

Hilditch said in the statement.
"The Australian squad is really looking forward to the challenge."
"The Australian team had a very successful home summer last year and an away series win against New Zealand."
"While it was disappointing to draw the series in England against Pakistan, the squad reflects the good performances of the team over the last 12 months as we continue to prepare for the Ashes."
Hilditch said the selection of Hughes, Smith, George and Hazlewood have the potential to be key players in future Australian teams.
"All these exciting young players have the potential to have a big impact in international cricket for many years and the selection panel is confident they will all equip themselves well if the opportunity presents itself on this tour," he said.
As the first one-day international of the Indian tour is not scheduled until October 17, Hilditch said the selection panel will monitor the fitness of injured players before making a decision on the squad for the one-day series.
Australia to play India in Tests in Mohali (October 1-5) and Bangalore (October 9-13).
SQUAD
Ricky Ponting (captain), Michael Clarke (vice-captain), Doug Bollinger, Peter George, Nathan Hauritz, Josh Hazlewood, Ben Hilfenhaus, Phillip Hughes, Michael Hussey, Mitchell Johnson, Simon Katich, Marcus North, Tim Paine, Steven Smith, Shane Watson.

Ban 'em if guilty: Warne



AFP, Sydney
Three Pakistan cricketers should face a life ban if they are found guilty of being involved in a betting scam, Australian leg-spin great Shane Warne said on Thursday.
Captain Salman Butt and bowlers Mohammad Aamer and Mohammad Asif, currently on tour in England, have been summoned to London to meet the Pakistan Cricket Board chief and the country's ambassador to Britain.

Britain's News of the World newspaper has alleged that several Pakistan players were part of a scam to bowl deliberate no-balls at precise points in last week's Test match against England.
"If it is true and they have been found (guilty of) match-fixing and throwing games and spot-betting with the no-balls and stuff, if that's the case they should be thrown out," Warne told reporters.
"It's as simple as that. I don't think there should be any other way to do it. If it's fixed by players, they should be banned for life. Anyone who's involved should be thrown out."
The International Cricket Council has promised "prompt and decisive action" if the spot-fixing allegations linked to underworld betting rings are proven.
The man at the centre of the alleged scam has also reportedly boasted that he earned 1.3 million US dollars for fixing January's Sydney Test between Australia and Pakistan, when the visitors threw away a commanding position.
Warne was a television commentator during the Sydney Test when Pakistan's bizarre field placings and batting collapse helped Australia claim an unlikely come-from-behind victory.
"They are only allegations at the moment so I suppose you have to say innocent until proven guilty," Warne said.
"But looking back at the (Sydney) Test match, if it was fixed, you could understand how it was fixed by the way they were captaining the side and their tactics."
"It would make sense -- if it was true."
Warne has had his own trouble with shady characters who stalk the game.
In 1998 the bowler and batsman Mark Waugh were fined by Australia's cricket board for providing information to an Indian bookmaker during a tour of Sri Lanka four years earlier.



Pakistan opener Shahzaib Hasan celebrates his hundred during a tour match against Somerset in Taunton yesterday. Pakistan made 264 all out in 47.3 overs.

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The UEFA pro-licensed coach last worked with famous Croatian club HNK Rijeka before stepping down in September last following a 6-0 defeat to Dinamo Zagreb. Rubcic also guided HNK Rijeka during last season's Europa League qualifying rounds, although his side did not make it into the tournament proper.

Goals galore in WC



AFP, Rosario
Low temperatures and high winds did nothing to stop the flow of 22 goals in three matches in Pool A of the women's field hockey World Cup here Wednesday.
Australia beat India 6-3, Netherlands gave New Zealand a 7-3 hockey lesson and Germany beat Japan 2-1.
Australia coach Frank Murray agreed Australia put in a poor performance against India.
"We realise we are not playing well enough in this tournament but I am happy we have the win today," Murray said.
Madonna Blyth put Australia on the board first and India's fifteen year old Rani Rampal scored India's first equaliser.
Ashleigh Nelson scrambled in a rebound of a penalty corner to give Australia a 2-1 lead a minute before the break.
Ritu Rani was on the end of a long pass into the circle to make a deflection for India's second equaliser at 2-2 early in the second half.
Australia took the game away from India at 5-2 with three goals in six minutes by Casey Eastham, a penalty corner to Nicole Arroll and Nelson's second goal.
Rampal drove in her second goal for India and Shelley Liddelow slapped in Australia's sixth goal in the last 10 minutes.
Murray praised his team's reaction when Aussie skipper Madonna Blyth was injured.
"When Madonna was hurt and had to come off the field, Casey Eastham stepped up and made a big difference and some of our other young players have also stepped up and have made a difference to the team," Murray said.
India coach Sandeep Somesh sees progress being made by India.
"I am obviously not happy with the result but I think we played a better game today compared with the first game and hopefully we can look at upsetting a couple of teams in the next few games, and see where that takes us," Somesh said.
Krystal Forgeson celebrated her 100th cap by scoring in the second minute and went on to score all three New Zealand goals.
Ellen Hoog scored for the Dutch within the minute and Kim Lamers put Netherlands ahead 2-1 in the middle of the first half.
Kiwi pride kept Netherlands at bay until after the break when Netherlands scored three goals in the first four minutes of the second half with Katie Glynn under suspension for New Zealand.

Goals by Marilyn Agliotti, Maartje Paumen's penalty corner conversion and Michelle van der Pols sank New Zealand to 5-1.
Janneke Schopman and Ellen Hoog added to New Zealand's troubles at 7-1.
Forgesson clawed back two late goals for the Blacksticks -- a field goal deflection of Charlotte Harrison's cross and a penalty stroke in the last seconds of play.
New Zealand coach Mark Hager conceded New Zealand had been taught hockey lessons by the Dutch.
"We got a lot of hockey lessons today from a very good team that is playing very sharp hockey," Hager said.
Germany gained their second win in a tough match against Japan.
Germany defended tenaciously in the scoreless first half as Japan took the match to them.
Ai Murakami's penalty corner conversion for Japan had Germany playing catch-up, achieved by stepping up in the midfield to give their strikers more chances.
Maik Stoeckel's reverse flick from an acute angle made the equaliser and Natascha Keller made a scorching drive under pressure for the 2-1 winner.
Germany coach Michael Behrmann described an intensive game.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Options list
5 Calf's mama
8 Cutting tools
12 On
13 Lawyers' org.
14 Witticism
15 "Th-th-that's all, folks!" speaker
17 Radius' neighbor
18 Dine on
19 Report card data
21 Scatter about
24 Talon
25 Bound
26 Have lofty goals
30 Author Fleming
31 Meat cut
32 Yoko of music
33 Oilfield structure
35 Mil. alliance since 1949

DOWN
1 Chart
2 DDE's command
3 Neither mate
4 Maintenance
5 Army rank (Abbr.)
6 Japanese sash
7 Swaying from side to side
8 Complain
9 "Lang Syne"
10 Sommelier's suggestion
11 Hot tubs
16 Deviate off course
20 File crosser
21 Lost traction
22 Rip
23 Hindu royal
24 Mountain range
26 Pulsated
27 Papa pig
28 Really enjoying
29 Hoodlum
31 Unkempt one
34 Famed London insurers
35 To wit
37 Fool
38 Recipe meas.
39 Christmas
40 Rowing team
41 Concept
44 Coffee shop vessel
45 Caustic solution
46 George's brother
47 State of matter

Solution time: 21 mins.

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CRYPTOQUIP
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N C Q K A A K N , C Q G W W M Q A N A
B F D B R Q G Q A Q O B F H M L H S A Q K .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE THE POLICE
OFTEN APPREHEND FELONS AT THAT DINER,
ONE COULD CALL IT AN ARREST-AURANT.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals H