



PHOTO: AFP

Dane Caroline Wozniacki plays forehand against Lucie Hradecka of the Czech Republic during their first round match of the China Open at the National Tennis Center in Beijing yesterday.

Caroline survives scare

Tennis

AFP, Beijing

Holder Caroline Wozniacki survived a tough challenge to begin her title defence of the ATP-WTA China Open Monday, with the top seed stretched to the limit in a win over Lucie Hradecka 3-6, 6-0, 7-5.

Wozniacki, the top-ranked player on the WTA but without a Grand Slam crown, has had a patchy few months, winning a minor pre-US Open title, stalling in the semifinals of the New York major and then crashing to a second-round loss last week in Tokyo.

"It wasn't a pretty match, but I'm through," said the top seed after reaching the second round. "That's what's most important."

Beijing has a special place for the Dane, winner of six titles this season, who first took over the top ranking in the Chinese capital a year ago.

"It's been a year now that I'm number one, it's an amazing feeling. It's something I've always practised for and tried to achieve. Over the last few tournaments of the season, I want to finish off well," she said.

Wary of the first-round upset loss of French Open winner Li Na of China,

Wozniacki made sure she came through for victory over her 49th-ranked opponent from the Czech Republic, but not before dropping the first set.

However, the 21-year-old belatedly came good, ignoring nine aces from her opponent, who also sent over seven double-faults. Wozniacki broke six times on her way to victory and a meeting with Australian Jarmila Gajdosova.

"It was a tough match because there was no rhythm, so it was tough to really get into the game. But the second set her first serve percentage dropped, and made it easier for me to start the rallies," said Wozniacki.

"It's never easy to start and play your first match. I didn't really put too many balls in the court [in the first set]. She was putting the pressure on me from the beginning."

In other first-round matches, Zheng Jie earned a welcome home win as she beat Italian Alberta Brianti 4-6, 6-1, 7-5, while Russian Maria Kirilenko, the 2005 winner, beat German Julia Goerges 7-6 (11/9), 6-3.

Virginie Razzano of France reached the second round by beating Argentine Gisela Dulko 6-2, 6-3.

Austrian Tamira Paszek booked the first of the third-round places with her

defeat of Czech Petra Cetkovska 1-6, 6-4, 6-2.

Seventh seed and former Roland Garros champion Francesca Schiavone of Italy went out to Slovak Dominika Cibulkova 6-2, 6-2.

In men's first-round play, four Europeans advanced.

Croatia's former top 10 regular Marin Cilic, now standing 25th, defeated China's Wu Di 6-2, 6-0, while Spain's Feliciano Lopez put out Turk Marsel Ilhan 6-2, 7-6 (8/6). Spaniard Fernando Verdasco defeated Michael Llodra of France 6-2, 6-4.

Florian Mayer of Germany, playing his first match since winning the clay Bucharest title eight days ago, made a successful change of surface to the hardcourts, taking out Spaniard Albert Ramos 6-2, 6-4.

Cilic said that while his game has slipped, he believes it's on the mend.

"I feel my form is rising since July. I've had some really good tournaments and good wins against top players so I'm feeling confident," he said.

"I played well today and I'm looking forward for my next match. It won't be easy, but I hope I'm going to be 100 percent ready," he said of his clash against either second seed Gael Monfils or Italian Fabio Fognini.

'Comments were misinterpreted'

ANI, Islamabad

Pakistan fast bowler Umar Gul has claimed that his comments about ball tampering were misconstrued by the media.

Gul's statement comes after reports that he accused England fast bowlers James Anderson and Stuart Broad of ball tampering last year.

"I was asked to respond generally to Shoaib Akhtar's recently made statement on ball tampering. I clarified that the term ball tampering is often misused," PakPassion.net quoted Gul, as saying.

"I was explaining that the ball gets scratched when it is thrown against the rough surface or hits the advertisement boards along the boundary rope. In this manner, I said, every bowler can be accused of doing it," he added.

Gul had earlier said that he had seen Anderson tamper with the ball during the Pakistan-England Test series in England last year, while Broad during the Ashes series. I saw Anderson do it last year when we went to England. Then in the Ashes series Broad was seen roughing up the ball with his boots. All these methods are part and parcel of the game to obtain reverse swing with the old ball," Gul had said.

Pakistan recall

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Malik had gone to Zimbabwe with the full squad in August but did not play in the lone Test.

Mohsin said the team management and selectors were now keen to give Malik a chance to break into the Test squad.

"It is basically up to him the chance will come sooner or later," said Mohsin.

The selectors also did not retain pace bowlers Sohail Khan and Sohail Tanvir from the Zimbabwe tour although both were preferred over Gul and Riaz for that tour.

But left-arm pacer Junaid Khan retained his place in the side.

Pakistan have been forced to play their "home" series in the UAE after the Sri Lankans refused to tour Pakistan because of security concerns and the series includes three Tests, five ODIs and a Twenty20 international.

Pakistan have not played a series at home since March, 2009 when militants attacked the Sri Lankan team in Lahore.

SQUAD

Misbahul Haq (captain), Imran Farhat, Taufiq Umar, Mohammad Hafeez, Younis Khan, Asad Shafiq, Azhar Ali, Shoaib Malik, Adnan Akmal, Abdul Rehman, Saeed Ajmal, Wahab Riaz, Umar Gul, Aizaz Cheema, Junaid Khan.

T&T contain CSK

INTERNET, Bangalore



Sunil Narine and Keven Cooper contributed significantly to Trinidad and Tobago's 12-run win over Chennai Super Kings on

Sunday as Group A of the Champions League Twenty20 was thrown wide open.

Narine made optimal use of the slow pitch at the MA Chidambaram Stadium and bowled with control and guile as he ended with dream figures of 4-0-8-3. Narine started the CSK slide when he clean bowled Murali Vijay and then caught Suresh Raina off his own bowling before Ravi Rampaul had Michael Hussey caught behind by Denesh Ramdin with the hosts in deep trouble at 27 for 3 after six overs.

Wriddhiman Saha, who was surprisingly promoted to No. 5, tried to consolidate the CSK innings with S Badrinath, who was struggling with his timing, but he was trapped in front by Cooper as the hosts continued to slide. Badrinath, who scored 14 in 26 balls before he was run out with CSK 52 for 5 in the 12th over.

CSK captain MS Dhoni (7 in 22 balls), who struggled with his timing and found life tough on the slow pitch, was put out of his misery by Narine as he caught him off his own bowling. Rampaul continued to struggle in the death overs and conceded 35 runs in his four overs. Albie Morkel hit consecutive sixes off the last two balls of the match bowled by Sherwin Ganga, but that effort came too late in the day to make any difference to the final outcome. Dwayne Bravo, who hit five boundaries in his 22-ball 32, was the pick of the CSK batsmen.

Earlier, Cooper's late charge helped T&T score 49 runs off the last five overs of their innings and put up a competitive total of 123 for 8 on the slow MA Chidambaram Stadium pitch.

Cooper hit a boundary and three huge sixes in his 10-ball 28 before he was dismissed by Doug Bollinger in the last delivery of T&T innings, who were given a slow but steady start by Lendl Simmons and William Perkins. The openers added 52 runs in 9.3 overs with Perkins being the more aggressive of the pair even as Simmons struggled with his timing. Perkins hit two boundaries and a couple of sixes in his 28-ball 34 before he was the first batsman to be dismissed when he was caught by S Badrinath at backward point off Shadab Jakati's bowling. Simmons (20) returned to the dugout soon after when he was run out while attempting a tight single and Jakati, who had a fantastic match with the ball took his second wicket when he caught Darren Bravo off his own bowling as T and T slipped to 57 for 3 in the 12th over. Daren Ganga and Ramdin failed to make meaningful contributions with the bat, but Adrian Barath, who batted at No. 4 in this match, lent some solidity to the middle order and batted well for his 22-ball 23 before he played down the wrong line to get clean bowled by Bollinger. Jakati (2-18) and Bollinger (3-30) were the pick of CSK's bowlers with Dwayne Bravo and R Ashwin taking a wicket each.

SCORES IN BRIEF
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO: 123 for 8 (Perkins 34, Cooper 28, Barath 23; Bollinger 3-30, Jakati 2-18)
CHENNAI SUPER KINGS: 111 for 6 (Bravo 32 not out, Morkel 18 not out; Narine 3-8)
Result: Trinidad & Tobago won by 12 runs.

Blues squeeze out 2nd win

IANS, Chennai



New South Wales recovered brilliantly from 28 for five to beat Mumbai Indians by five wickets for their second win in the Nokia

Champions League T20 tournament here Sunday.

On a pitch that was at once a hero and villain with its inconsistent and slow bounce, the Mumbai Indians crashed to 100 for seven in their 20 overs and then had the Blues on the ropes, but Steve Smith (45 not out) and Ben Rohrer (26 not out) put on 73 runs for the sixth wicket as the Australian outfit made 101 for five in 17 overs.

Blues now have four points after three games while Mumbai Indians remain on five and have completed their league engagements.

It was new ball bowler Abu Nechim who did the early damage as he picked up three wickets to leave the Blues in a precarious position before Smith and Rohrer scripted a fine rescue act.

The Blues could not have asked for a worse start as they lost three wickets in a matter of 11 deliveries with just 17 runs on the board in three overs.

Abu Nechim, who opened the bowling with Malinga, removed openers Shane Watson and David Warner in his very first over. A Malinga toe-crusher then trapped skipper Simon Katich plumb in front to put Mumbai on top.

Watson was a trifle unlucky as the ball struck his pads and then rolled on to the stumps while Warner, after two consecutive boundaries, fell prey to the inconsistent bounce as he drove uppishly to extra-cover where Harbhajan held an easy catch three deliveries later, and Katich had no clue to Malinga's yorker in the next over.

Harbhajan persisted with Malinga and

Nechim, giving each a third over. The move paid off as Nechim had Daniel Smith edging behind to Ambatti Rayudu as Blues slid to 24 for 4 in the sixth over. Nechim ended his three-over spell with figures of 3 for 13.

Worse was in store for the Blues as Moises Henriques departed in the seventh, adjudged leg before to young leggie Yuzvendra Chahal who had replaced Malinga.

The dismissal brought Steve Smith and Rohrer together and the duo batted sensibly, eschewing risk. The two batsmen batted quite brilliantly, knocking the ball around and building up a partnership that eventually turned the tide in Blues' favour.

Earlier, it was a most tame going for the Mumbai Indians as there was neither momentum nor much aggression as the score dawdled along while wickets fell at regular intervals.

As well as the Blues bowled and showed great discipline in sticking to the basics of line and length, the Mumbai batsmen, almost without exception, struggled.

Franklin's fighting 42 was the saving grace for Mumbai Indians whose total just about reached three figures with the lower-order batsmen Rajagopal Sathish (14 off 16) and Harbhajan Singh (15 off 14) knocking the ball about for some useful runs.

Yet again, the two big-hitters in Mumbai ranks, Andrew Symonds and Kieron Pollard barely made an impression, neither being able to get going and getting out playing injudicious shots.

SCORES IN BRIEF
MUMBAI INDIANS: 100 for 7 (Franklin 42 not out; Clark 2-15, O'Keefe 2-18)
NEW SOUTH WALES: 101 for 5 in 17 overs (Smith 45 not out, Rohrer 26 not out; Ahmed 3-23, Chahal 1-17)
Result: New South Wales won by 5 wickets.

Pak chief

FROM PAGE 16 assumed charge as chief selector in 2010.

He is the fourth coach since PCB chairman Ijaz Butt's tenure began in 2008.

Butt sacked Australian coach Geoff Lawson and then replaced Intikhab Alam with Waqar in 2010.

Naveed Akram Cheema will join the team as manager after the Tests and will stay on for the December tour of Bangladesh.

Hafizur

FROM PAGE 16 "Regaining the crown of the fastest is always pleasing but it would have been better had I competed against Beauty," said Chumki adding that she received intensive training on endurance which helped her performance.

"The result will be better in future if I can maintain the way I have been training and I hope I can do better in the next South Asian Games," said the 25-year old athlete.

Apart from Hafizur and Chumki, there was a commendable performance from Meruna, who won five gold medals in 400m and 800m sprint, 3000m and 1500m run and 400X100 relay.

Despite Meruna's five gold-medal haul, her team Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation had to be content with second place with 10 gold, as many silver and six bronzes.

Bangladesh Army became champions with 10 gold, 11 silver and 12 bronze while Bangladesh Ansar and VDP finished third with five gold, one silver and five bronze.

Of the 38 teams, 22 returned empty handed while nine teams managed at least one bronze medal in the meet that featured 36 events.

Trio goes on trial today

Cricket

AFP, London

Three Pakistan Test players go on trial in London on Tuesday charged with spot-fixing during a match against England last year, allegations which rocked the world of cricket.

Former captain Salman Butt, prodigal talent Mohammad Aamer and star bowler Mohammad Asif are due to appear at Southwark Crown Court charged with conspiracy to obtain and accept corrupt payments, and conspiracy to cheat.

The players' agent Mazhar Majeed will go on trial alongside them charged with the same offences, which carry maximum sentences of seven years and two years in prison respectively.

The charges relate to allegations of deliberately bowling no-balls during England's fourth Test against Pakistan at Lord's in London in August 2010.

The allegations were made by the Rupert Murdoch-owned News of the World tabloid, which was closed down in July this year when it became engulfed in the phone hacking scandal.

At the time of the alleged offences, Butt, 26, was captain of Pakistan's Test side and

had won plaudits for his leadership.

Asif, 28, was the team's senior pace bowler, while teenage left-arm swing bowler Aamer, 19, was regarded as one of the hottest properties in world cricket.

Majeed, from south London, is a sports agent with a history of working with Pakistan players.

Detectives raided the Pakistan team hotel in London as part of their investigations following the News of the World story.

The cricketers were outside Britain when summons were issued and they returned voluntarily.

A separate and independent International Cricket Council anti-corruption tribunal, sitting in Doha in February, banned the three players for a minimum of five years each.

Butt was banned for 10 years, with five suspended. Asif was banned for seven years, two of which were suspended, with Aamer handed a five-year penalty.

All three have filed appeals against their bans at the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Prior knowledge of when no-balls will occur could be exploited in what is known as 'spot-fixing', hugely popular in South Asia, whereby gamblers bet on various possible incidents in a match rather than the final outcome.

Greens trump Reds

FROM PAGE 16

who batted with authority, was caught behind for 19 off 15 balls. Nasir Hossain too fell cheaply when Alok Kapali trapped him leg-before-for nine.

Mahmudullah Riyad and Academy recruit Tanvir Haider added 44 for the seventh wicket with the latter hitting two sixes in his 28-ball 26.

The newly-appointed Tigers' vice-captain made an unbeaten 30 off 35 balls with two boundaries but his innings too depicted the stark lack of Twenty20 experience among all the batsmen. Pacemen Shahadat

Hossain and Alauddin Babu kept the Reds' batting in check with two wickets each but more than their scalps, it was the discipline that actually worked.

The two sides will play a second practice Twenty20 tomorrow at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium.

BRIEF SCORES
BCB Red: 119-6 in 20 overs (Riyad 30 not out, Tanvir 26; Shahadat 2-12, Alauddin 2-14).
BCB Green: 121-1 in 16.5 overs (Nafees 61 not out, Mominal 35 not out; Razzak 1-14).
Result: BCB Green won by nine wickets.

HK SUPER 6S

Razzaq leads Pakistan side

AFP, Karachi

All-rounder Abdul Razzaq will lead Pakistan at this month's Super Sixes in Hong Kong as he attempts to resurrect his career at international level.

The 31-year-old, dropped from the national side since the World Cup in April, will lead a second-string Pakistan team for the Hong Kong event, which will be held from October 28 to 30.

Umar Akmal and Sohail Tanveer were also among the seven-member squad.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	33 Lamb's dam	53 Rhyming tribute	19 Drawn-out drama
1 Jazz style	34 Trot		
4 "Got —?"	35 Bygone gulf	DOWN	20 Weeding need
8 Mideast	36 Handle roughly	1 Gridlock sound	23 "See ya"
12 — out a living	37 Corroded	2 Gumbo ingredient	24 Line count
13 Unyielding	38 Taking up a collection	3 Pod dwellers	26 Annoy
14 Do nothing	45 Vicinity	4 Mar-ceau's	27 Started Before
15 Historic time	46 Magnet end	5 O. Henry's specially rized	29 Hostel
16 Stereo alternative	47 Ostrich's cousin	6 Protracted	31 Memo-
17 Enticement	48 Piscine organ	7 In a tangle	32 Run for your life
18 Law student's hope	49 Culture medium	8 Cats' hangout	34 — alai
21 Whatever number	50 Cage component	9 Smear	35 Not us
22 Plaything	51 Cheese choice	10 Pound of poetry	36 Churchly song
23 North Carolina fort	52 Pitch	11 — do-well	37 Hold-up man?

Solution time: 27 mins.

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CRYPTOQUIP

BYOKA CGZC EAFFPU YB Z NIP
ZC UPIDYOR UYCG NIAKYPVB
RAJB, UA OYKDOZJAT GYJ
" Z K A P E T Y Z J P O T B . "

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN YOU NO LONGER HAVE A PASSION FOR A HOBBY, I SUPPOSE YOU'VE FALLEN OUT OF FERVOR WITH IT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals W