

Sports

Connors meets Borg in semis, Lloyd in finals

United Press International
WIMBLEDON, England — Poor Jimmy Connors.

Since he first won the singles crown at Wimbledon back in 1974, he has been forced to play a supporting role to Sweden's Bjorn Borg, and last year also to John McEnroe, who squares off today against Australian Rod Frawley in the other men's semifinal.

The odds heavily favor a repeat of last year's final between Borg and McEnroe, who last year eliminated Connors in the semifinals.

But history and hardheaded bookmakers don't make much impression on third-seeded Connors, who displayed his iron determination to regain the Wimbledon crown when he came back from two sets down Tuesday to defeat India's Vijay Amritraj and reach the semifinals.

Today, he has the chance to dethrone Borg, but would still have to contend with secondseed McEnroe, who should comfortably dispose of underdog Frawley.

"If I am to win the tournament, I have to beat Borg and McEnroe," Connors said. "If I should beat Borg and not win the championship it will not be good enough."

Borg, the 8-11 favorite to take an all-time record-equating sixth Wimbledon title, does not understate the fighting qualities of Connors.

"Of course I can be beaten at Wimbledon," Borg said. "A guy can play unbelievably well and on grass the course of a game can change very quickly."

But Borg has yet to drop a set at this year's tournament and when he swept past Australian Peter McNamara to reach the last four he said, "I will have to be at the top of my game to win the

championship, but I am really motivated now."

The fiery McEnroe has beaten Frawley in both their previous meetings, but the Australian who has never played singles on Wimbledon's Center Court before, promised to "come out swinging" and try to upset the New Yorker.

"I haven't come all this way for nothing," he said. "I hope to give him trouble."

The women's final Friday will be Chris Evert-Lloyd's chance to avenge only her second clay-court defeat in eight years. She was dumped by Czechoslovak Hana Mandlikova in the French Open semifinals earlier this year.

Evert, beaten in the finals for the past three years, dropped only four games as she swept past fellow-American Pam Shriver in the semifinals Wednesday.

Evert said she had not yet thought about the possibility of losing a fourth Wimbledon final, but she will have no easy task against Mandlikova, who displayed her breathtaking talent in dumping fellow Prague native Martina Navratilova, 7-5, 4-6, 6-1.

"Hana's got every shot in the book, but she's moody," conceded Evert. "At her best, she's brilliant."

On Friday Mandlikova, holder of the Australian and French Open titles, will be watched by her parents. They are traveling from Prague to see their daughter play in the Wimbledon final, the third leg of the "Grand Slam" of the world's four major crowns and a dream come true for the young star.

"Now I am here," she said. "It is in my head now I can win big titles, and I can win Wimbledon."

No progress made in talks

United Press International
NEW YORK — Marvin Miller did not say if he would be present when representatives of the players and owners meet today in another attempt to end the major-league baseball strike but, apparently, it doesn't matter.

After the executive director of the Major League Players' Association made his first appearance at the bargaining table since the strike began June 12, both sides emerged from a 3½-hour meeting Wednesday — the first negotiations since last Friday — with the same feeling of futility which has prevailed since the walkout began.

The parties remain miles apart on everything except the belief no end is in sight to the strike, which enters its 21st day today. Miller's return did little to narrow the chasm separating the players and owners.

"Well, the point has been made," said Miller. "Some owners said we could reach a settlement if they could talk to the players alone. They did for the last two weeks and no progress was made."

The issue is not whether I attend the meetings. It wouldn't have mattered if I was here."

The issue remains compensation for free agents and the owners did make a new proposal Wednesday — one chief owners' negotiator Ray Grebey claimed was a "significant move" and Miller termed "outrageous."

The major feature of the owners' new proposal was a reduction in the maximum number of premium free agents for whom professional compensation is necessary.

Grebe said the owners feel the new proposal "addresses itself to some of the things which are troubling the players," and it "certainly shows the owners want to keep negotiating." But he conceded much more work needs to be done.

"There are still wide differences between us," Grebey said when asked if he thought progress had been made. "Who knows?"

Miller was more blunt.

"The gap between us is so great it defies my vocabulary to describe it," he said. "They have revised their last proposal slightly."

"This is a plan that is out-

rageous," he added. "It assumes the player is a piece of property. This proposal ends free agencies for some players and modifies it for others. There are some owners who would break the union."

Asked what point there was in continuing the meetings if such a big gap existed, Miller replied,

"You keep hoping further conversations will result in the owners rethinking the problem."

Federal mediator Kenneth Moffett went so far as to draw hope from continued meetings.

"We have another meeting tomorrow," he said Wednesday.

Oiler must lose weight or pay price

United Press International
HOUSTON — By the standards set by Houston Oilers new coach Ed Biles, second-year pro Angelo Fields is 30 pounds over weight and he may be forced to pay \$25 dollars per day if he doesn't get rid of the additional poundage in the next three weeks.

Fields now weighs 340 pounds and needs to go on a crash diet under the team's athletic discipline set by Biles and General Manager Ladd Herzog. The team will hold its first full work-out after the week.

Biles has said any player over

the club's designated weight will pay \$25 per pound per day, and he's likely to be a stickler for the rules since his predecessor, Bum Phillips, was fired partly for overlooking such situations and for allowing his players to discipline themselves.

Biles said, "I saw Angelo the other day. He's working out regularly and he looks good to me. He may be a little overweight, but he's a huge guy."

That statement was made before the players took physicals and were weighed Saturday.

Until then, Fields had not

known his exact weight because the scale at the team's practice field stopped at 300 pounds.

After the weigh-in, Fields said, "The weight doesn't bother me. I'm naturally a big man and I've learned to deal with it. That's all it is. I'm about 30 pounds over right now, but I'll be ready for camp. I'll be down. Maybe I'll have to spend a little bit of money, but I'll be down."

At his present weight he would be paying the Oilers \$750 a day. The Oilers are banking heavily on Fields' on-field contributions this season, particularly if the man

he replaced last year, Leon Gray, is slow in regaining his all-pro form because of an achilles tendon injury late last year.

Fields, 23, is 6-foot-6, and his weight fluctuated last season between 305 and 320.

He was the Oilers' second-round draft choice in 1980 out of Michigan State, and at a news conference following the draft he described himself as a junkfood junkie. "No more, he said."

"I've cut down a lot on the junk food and I just eat two meals a day," he said. "One of the reasons I'm overweight is because I've been lifting weights. After I lift weights, I've got a big appetite."

So he's cut out that activity, and now his "usual" breakfast consists of four eggs, eight strips of bacon and eight slices of bread.

"I love my bread," he said.

The first practice Oilers veteran have to attend — and the first day Fields may have to pay to play — is July 23.

Pickard voted Equipment Manager of the Year at athletic convention

Billy Pickard, coordinator of equipment and facilities for the Texas A&M Athletic Department, recently was recognized as the "Equipment Manager of the Year" at the Athletic Equipment Managers' annual convention in Fort Worth.

Pickard's award, a regulation size are simply Addidas football shoe, is determined annually by a vote of

the entire membership. It was presented to Pickard by Bob Jennings, promotions director of H.B. Hughes, Co., the Dallas Addidas distributor.

Earlier, at the National Athletic Trainers Association's convention, also in Fort Worth, Pickard was recognized for 25 years as a practicing athletic trainer.

Pickard has been with the Texas

A&M athletic department since 1965 when he became head trainer. He took over the dual role of trainer and equipment manager in 1972 and became coordinator of training, equipment and facilities in 1979.

Pickard graduated from Texas A&M in 1956 where he was a student trainer for Aggie athletics.

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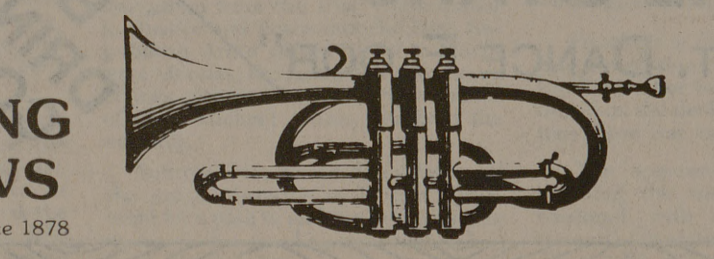
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