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Sat. Sept 8

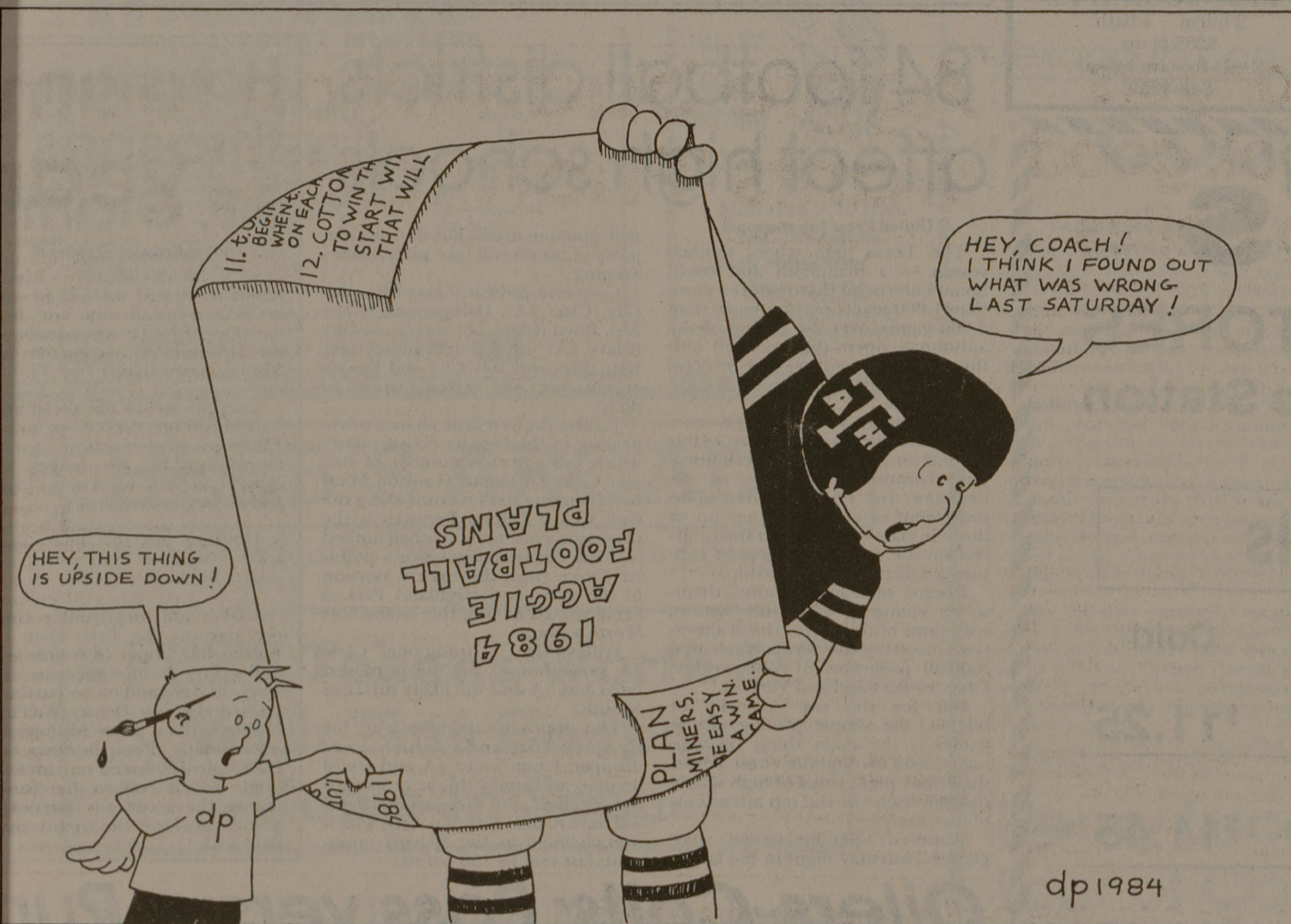
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## Connors rolls to Open semifinals

United Press International

NEW YORK — Defending champion Jimmy Connors claimed his customary spot in the semifinals of the U.S. Open Tennis Championships Thursday, ending the dream run of John Lloyd in straight sets.

Warming up to his task as the afternoon wore on, Connors steamed his way to a 7-5, 6-2, 6-0 victory over Lloyd, the surprise of the championship after registering four consecutive upsets.

Connors, who celebrated his 32nd birthday Sept. 2, swept through the final nine games against Lloyd and 12 of the last 13.

This marks a record 11th consecutive year Connors has fought his way into the Open semifinals, and he has won the title four times. It also was his 72nd singles success, three shy of the men's record held by Vic

Seixas in the national championships.

In Saturday's semifinals, Connors will take on the winner of Thursday night's match between top seed John McEnroe and Gene Mayer. The other semifinal will match Ivan Lendl and Pat Cash.

The women's semifinals will be played Friday with Martina Navratilova meeting Wendy Turnbull and Chris Evert Lloyd taking on Carling Bassett.

Just as he did in his previous match against Joakim Nystrom, when he was extended to a tie-break in the opening set. He then dropped only three games in the next two sets, with Connors put to a severe early test by Lloyd.

Lloyd, in fact, ranked only 49th in the world, raced to a 3-1 lead and it took Connors exactly an hour to

claim the first set, thanks to a break in the 11th game.

Given this big boost, Connors breezed through the second set in 31 minutes and then swept through the third in 20 minutes.

Starting with the final game of the second set, when he came back from 0-30, Connors won 15 points in a row.

"It was a little bit difficult playing out there," Connors said. "The wind was gusty and swirling, but after I got through the first set I was going to try and cut through the wind, make my shots and go ahead and play."

"I struggled a few times in the first set on my serve, but once I got through that set I felt a lot more confidence."

Lloyd, who saw his world ranking soar from No. 24 in 1978 to 356 in

1980, never had taken a set from Connors in three previous meetings, including a first rounder in the 1981 Open. But he achieved the first break Thursday, that coming in the fourth game at 15 when Connors sent a lob long.

Connors had to work long and hard to get it back. He had triple break point in the next game, only to have Lloyd come back to deuce, and it wasn't until his eighth chance that Connors gained the break with a lob.

A netted forehand by Lloyd, though, gave Connors the decisive service break in the 11th game. Lloyd had three break points in the 12th game, with a chance to force a tie-break, but eventually was long with a return to give Connors the set.

## PEKING GARDEN

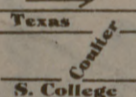
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