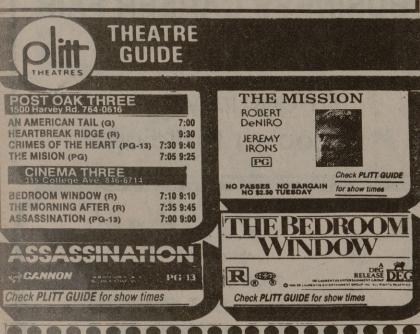
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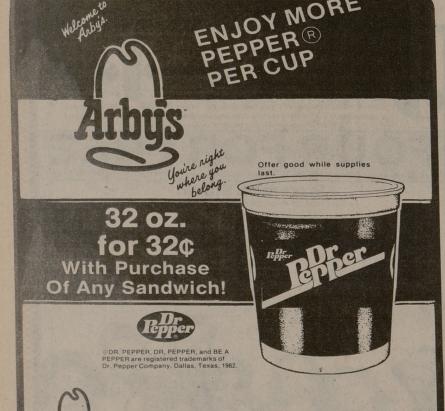
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Edberg pounds Mecir in Australian Open

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Defending champion Stefan Edberg of Sweden rode a powerhouse serve to crush sixth-seeded Miloslav Mecir of Czechoslovakia in straight sets Wednesday to advance into the semifinals of the Australian Open

tennis championships.
Edberg, 21, romped to a 6-1, 6-4, 6-4 victory in a match that was interrupted by rain for almost an hour early in the second set.

Other men's quarterfinals Wednesday sent top-seeded Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia against Sweden's Anders Jarryd, Yannick Noah of France against Australian Pat Cash, and Kelly Evernden of New Zealand against Australian Wally Masur.

Edberg, who defeated fellow Swede Mats Wilander in the last Australian Open final (held in De-cember 1985), combined power and placement in racing into the Final Four of the first Grand Slam event of the year. He dropped just two points on serve in the first set and only six in the second.

Edberg got an early break in the third set, but Mecir, a finalist in the U.S. Open last September, came right back, breaking the champion to level the set 2-2.

The Swede, however, broke back in the next game and was never

again under pressure.

Edberg's win seemed almost effortless. He has dropped only one set in four matches in reaching the

On Tuesday, Masur, ranked 71st among the world's tennis players, upset second-seeded Boris Becker of West Germany 4-6, 7-6 (7-3), 6-4, 6-7 (9-11), 6-2 in their fourth-round

Masur won the last six games to outlast the two-time Wimbledon champion in a three-hour, 40-min-

The 23-year-old unseeded Masur, playing the finest game of his career on the grass courts of Kooyong, de-fused the 19-year-old West German's booming serve and kept his cool while Becker was losing his.

'I couldn't serve or return and suddenly I started to lose my cool," Becker said. "Then I got bad calls. It made me completely crazy."

Becker angrily slammed his racket

media terfin.

on a number of occasions and once

hit a ball into the crowd. "He had me in the bag," Masur said. "Then he let the crowd rattle him a little and I kept my head.

Lendl, seeking his first grass court Grand Slam title, posted a 7-6, 6-1, 6-3 triumph over No. 9 Anders Jarryd of Sweden.

Martina Navratilova and Hana

Mandlikova, the top two seeds in the women's division, clinched semifinal berths with easy victories on a day that the last three Americans were eliminated from men's singles play.

crush seventh seed Zina Garrison of Houston, 6-0, 6-3. Eighth-seeded Lori McNeil, also

of Houston, failed to win a game and dropped her quarterfinal to Mandlikova, 6-0, 6-0

Catarina Lindqvist became the first Swedish woman to reach the semifinals of a Grand Slam event when she upset third-seeded American Pat Shriver 6-3, 6-1. Lindqvist, essentially a baseliner, hit a succession of passing shots to frustrate Shriver, who has never won a Grand Slam singles title but has teamed with Navratilova to capture 14 Grand Slam women's doubles

Kohde-Kilsch, reaching the semifinals at Kooyong for the second straight time, struggled past un-seeded Elizabeth Smylie of Australia 7-6 (7-3), 4-6, 6-2.

Third-seeded Frenchman Yan-Noah rallied to down 14th seeded Tim Wilkison 4-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2; Australian Pat Cash, the 11th seed, advanced with a 6-4, 6-1, 6-7 (4-7), 1-6, 6-2 triumph over Paul Annacone and Kelly Evernden of New Zealand outlasted Derrick Rostagno 6-7 (4-7), 6-2, 6-4, 5-7, 7-5.

Noah will play Cash in the quarterfinals, while Masur will play Ever-

Kookaburra III capitalizes on poor start by Australia IV to grab victory in Cup finals

FREMANTLE, Australia (AP) — Kookaburra III took advantage of a bad start by its desperate rival and sailed to a 55-second victory over Australia IV, completing a 5-0 sweep in the America's Cup defender trials Tuesday.

The victory made Iain Murray's boat the likely defender against Stars & Stripes, which won its best-ofseven series, 4-1, over New Zealand. Before the final best-of-seven match begins Jan. 31, Kookaburra III will undergo speed trials with stablemate Kookaburra II.

The exact form of the competition is unknown but it could result in Kookaburra II, which was elimi-

nated in the previous round, being chosen as Cup defender.

"They got a bad start and we sailed a very defensive race today and really didn't give them any room," Murray said of the clinching victory in the best-of-nine series.

Both boats belong to a syndicate headed by Kevin Parry, who is making his first bid for the trophy. He overcame Australia IV syndicate head Alan Bond, who was in his fifth Cup campaign. Bond's Australia II became the first non-American boat to win the Cup in 1983 when it beat Dennis Conner, now skipper of Stars & Stripes, and Liberty in Newport,

Parry lashed out at Bond, a fellow Perth millionaire, at a postrace news

At a ceremony after the race at the Royal Perth Yacht Club annex, Bond had said, "We won it, Kevin... Don't you lose it.

'If Kevin doesn't defend the Cup, onds, it's even harder.'

we'll go and get it back for you," Bond told the crowd.

At the news conference, Parry said, "I don't think it's necessary to stand up today . . . and say 'Well, we won it and if you lose it we'll have to go out and get it back.' I think that's childish, unnecessary and not worthy of your previous efforts."

Bond then repeated an offer to help Kookaburra III but said, "I'm not going to comment on Mr. Parry's idiosyncracies.'

The way Kookaburra III wiped out Australia IV left little doubt that it is a very fast boat in varying weather conditions.

The wind speed ranged from 12 to 14 knots Tuesday, much calmer than the breezes that blew at more than 20 knots in the previous four

In this race, Australia IV was

done before she even started. With Peter Gilmour handling the prestart maneuevers, which begin 10 minutes before the actual start of the race, Kookaburra III forced Australia IV close to the committee boat at the right side of the line.

By the time skipper Colin Beashel reacted to avoid a possible collision with the much larger vessel, the start was just seconds away. He had to circle around behind the line and approach it again.

Meanwhile, Kookaburra III was off and sailing toward the windward mark, a 36-second lead in hand.

"Once you get behind in these boats, it's tough anyway," Murray said, "And to be behind 30-40 sec-

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	W	L	Pct.	GB		W	L	Pct.	GB
Boston Philadelphia	27 22	11	.711	5	Dallas Utah	. 24	14	.632	01/
Washinaton	19	19	.500	8	Houston	19	19	.568	21/2
New York	13	25	.342	14	Denver	17	23	.425	8
New Jersey	10	28	.263	17	Sacramento	11	26	.297	121/2
					San Antonio	11	28	.282	131/2
Central Division					Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB		W	L	Pct.	GE
Detroit	25	11	.694		L.A. Lakers	30	8	.789	
Atlanta	25	12	.676	1	Portland	24	17	.585	74
Milwaukee	24	17	.585	31/2	Golden State	23	17	.575	3
Chicago	20	17	.541	51/2	Seattle	20	17	.541	91/
	20	18 24	.526	111/2	Phoenix L.A. Clippers	16	23	.410	141
Indiana Cleveland	15								251/

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Navratilova, seeking her fourth open title, took just 45 minutes to

Lindquist will play Navratilova in one semifinal match Thursday, while Mandlikova, the 1980 Austra lian Open winner, will face fifth-seeded Claudia Kohde-Kilsch of West Germany in the other.

The last three American men were eliminated from singles play on Tuesday

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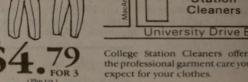
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