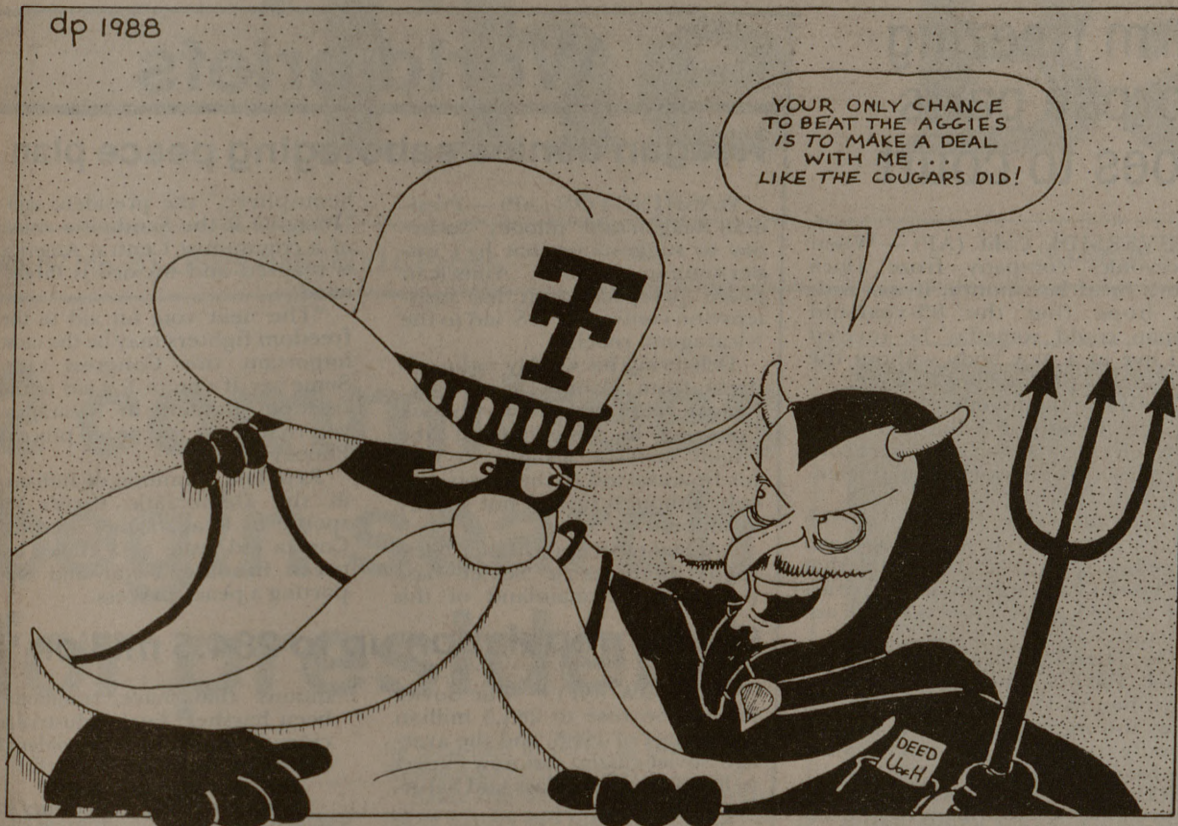


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Wilander beats Cash in 5-setter to win 3rd Australian Open title

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Hometown hero Pat Cash was hoping to turn the the Australian Open tennis championships into a national celebration.

But Mats Wilander spoiled the party. The 23-year-old Swede downed Cash in a marathon five-set final Sunday to win his third Australian Open.

Wilander said he has worked hard to improve his game since losing the French and U.S. Open finals to Ivan Lendl last year.

"I couldn't have won this match six or seven months ago," he said following his 6-3, 6-7 (3-7), 3-6, 6-1, 8-6 victory in the rain-interrupted match. "I feel a lot stronger, particularly with my serve."

It was the fifth Grand Slam title for Wilander, who has also won two French Opens. And it was the fifth

straight time the Swedes have won the Australian Open.

"It is a long time since I've seen the top four players in the world so intense to win a tournament," said Wilander, who was seeded third. "All four of us felt we could win it and that's why it feels so good to succeed."

Fourth-seeded Cash, who lost to Stefan Edberg in last year's final, was backed by a vocal crowd 15,000 at the new National Tennis Center.

"I'm not greatly disappointed, although I obviously wanted to win," the 1987 Wimbledon champion said. "You cannot play the best tennis of your life every day. There are only a few points between the top players in the world and one day it will go one way, another day the other."

Wilander, who had lost his previous four Grand Slam matches against Cash, was leading 4-1 in the

second set when the match was halted by rain.

After play resumed, Cash rallied to win the set in a tiebreaker. Wilander took a 2-0 lead in the final set before the 22-year-old Cash rallied to even it at 6-all.

Wilander broke Cash in the next game and then held serve to close out the 4-hour, 28-minute match.

The Swede said his serve was a key to victory.

"I served well when I needed it, which is unusual for me because I don't usually go for it on the first serve," he said.

Wilander earned a total of \$155,000 in prize money and bonuses for winning the \$1.9 million tournament. Cash received \$77,500 as runner-up.

This year's tournament was played on a cushioned hardcourt surface. It used to be played on grass in nearby Kooyong.

No. 1-ranked Graf defeats Evert for 2nd Grand Slam tourney title

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Steffi Graf downed veteran Chris Evert 6-1, 7-6 Saturday to win the women's singles title at the Australian Open Tennis Championships.

The world's top-ranked player outplayed Evert when play resumed following a 90-minute rain delay in the first set, and then rallied after a superb Evert comeback in the second set.

Graf, 18, led 2-1 when rain began to fall. And after the rain delay at the new National Tennis Center, officials decided to utilize the retractable sliding roof over Center Court, the first time a Grand Slam final has been played indoors.

The third-seeded Evert managed to win only five more points in the first set and crumpled in the second to trail 1-5 before ripping off the next five games to take a 6-5 lead.

After Graf pulled even at 6-6, she won the tiebreak 7-3.

Graf unleashed a barrage of penetrating groundstrokes to which the 33-year-old American had no answer until late in the second set.

Graf, playing in the fourth consecutive Grand Slam final of her career, collected her second Grand Slam tournament title. She won the French Open last year.

Evert, one of the dominant figures in the game for the last decade and a half, was playing her 34th Grand Slam final and had been aiming for her 19th title.

Graf now has won her last five meetings with Evert, all in straight sets, although she still trails 5-6 in their career meetings.

Graf collected \$110,000 for her victory with Evert earning \$55,000. The West German teen-ager now is riding a 21-match winning streak and sailed through the year's first Grand Slam tournament without dropping a set.

Evert was appearing in her sixth Australian Open final. She has won the title twice.

The veteran played patient tennis before the enforced break, but appeared rushed and uncomfortable after the match was restarted. Her game was error-riddled.

But at 5-1 in the second set, it was Graf's turn to become nervous, allowing Evert to win five straight games. But Graf regained her composure.

At 6-5, Evert looked as if she had a strong chance of forcing a third set, but Graf held serve and then unleashed more booming groundstrokes to take the tiebreak.

Evert, playing her first Grand Slam final since the 1986 French Open, took an indirect swipe at the decision to play under the roof in her post-match news conference.

"Steffi is a much better indoor player than I am," she said. "It took time to get used to the conditions. It's a lot different to outdoors."

Evert conceded conditions were the same for both players.

"She just handled it better," Evert said.

Graf said her victory was extremely pleasing.

"I'm very proud to be the first winner of this tournament in the new stadium," Graf said.

Redskins GM trades top draft picks for proven veterans with success

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The day after The Trade, Bobby Beathard was asked what he would do if he had the half-dozen top draft choices the Los Angeles Rams obtained in the deal with Buffalo and Indianapolis that sent Eric Dickerson to the Colts.

"What would I do with them?" laughed the general manager of the Washington Redskins.

"I probably wouldn't have them very long."

Contrary to the NFL's conventional wisdom that good teams build through the draft, the Washington Redskins have had only three first-round draft picks in the last 18 years. Yet, they have been to the Super Bowl three times in the last six years. Their Super Bowl opponents, the Denver Broncos, are not afraid to wheel and deal although they have been much less extravagant with their top draft picks.

The Redskins have just six first-round picks on their roster — only three of whom were drafted by Washington, wide receiver Art Monk, cornerback Darrell Green and offensive tackle Mark May.

Quarterback Doug Williams, Tampa Bay's top pick in 1978, was signed as a free agent after the USFL folded; running back George Rogers was the first pick in the 1981

draft, taken by New Orleans and he cost Washington, naturally, its top pick in 1985.

Defensive tackle Dave Butz, St. Louis' first pick in 1974, was obtained in a typical George Allen deal for two No. 1s and a No. 2 when Allen was coach and general manager.

The Redskins are basically the creation of the 51-year-old Beathard, who quarterbacked Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo to two 9-1 seasons in the 1950s.

But he was cut by the Redskins in 1959, played five games with San Diego in 1960 and started his front office career in 1963 as a scout for the Kansas City Chiefs, for whom his younger brother Pete was a quarterback. From 1972 until 1978, he was director of personnel for the Miami Dolphins.

Then he took over a Washington team left bereft of almost any draft choices by Allen, whose motto, "the future is now" left the future looking bleak.

But Beathard's philosophy isn't that different. He would just as soon stockpile lower picks or bid for a proven blue-chipper by surrendering high picks. Four years after he took over, Washington won the Super Bowl with 26 free agents and

11 players drafted below the fifth round.

More recently, he has done what Allen did — trade away high picks.

He got Rogers for a No. 1, and he was in the bidding for both Dickerson and linebacker Cornelius Bennett, but, typically, he didn't have enough high draft choices to give up for them.

But no one cares as long as the Redskins win. And they do — they have had just one losing season — 6-10 in 1980 — and have been 84-33 since Beathard hired Joe Gibbs the next year.

"I just worry about coaching and let Bobby go out and get me players," Gibbs says. "I don't know where he gets them, but he never fails."

True enough. Joe Jacoby, a fixture at left tackle this decade and a three-time Pro Bowler, was signed as a free agent out of Louisville.

The three starting linebackers are Mel Kaufman and Neal Olkewicz, both free agents, and Monte Coleman, an 11th-round draft pick.

Barry Wilburn, who led the league in interceptions this season was an eighth-rounder in 1985; starting defensive tackle Darryl Grant a ninth-rounder in 1981, the same year Dexter Manley was taken on the fifth round.

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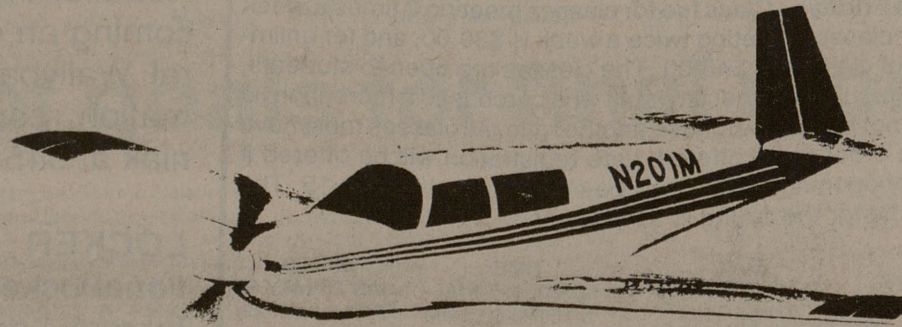
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