

## Chang still unbeaten in French Open American becomes youngest player ever to reach Open semis

PARIS (AP) — Seventeen-year-old Californian Michael Chang followed his stunning upset of Ivan Lendl with a victory over Ronald Agenor Wednesday and reached the semifinals of the French Open.

Chang, who beat Agenor 6-4, 2-6, 6-4, 7-6, became the youngest player ever to gain the last four in Paris as he advanced to a meeting with Andrei Chesnokov of the Soviet Union, another surprise winner.

Chesnokov eliminated defending champion Mats Wilander 6-4, 6-0, 7-5 and became the first Soviet since Alex Metreveli at Wimbledon in 1973 to reach the semifinals of a Grand Slam event.

In Friday's other semifinal, Boris Becker will face Stefan Edberg.

It will be the first time in six years that the French Open title will go to someone other than Wilander or Lendl.

At 17 years, 3½ months, Chang is the youngest male player in 56 years to reach a Grand Slam semifinal. He is also seeking to become the first

American to win the French Open in 34 years.

Chang, who fought leg cramps throughout the fifth set to beat Lendl in more than 4½ hours, said he had trouble preparing himself for the Agenor match.

"I was really drained mentally because of all the emotion in the match against Lendl," he said.

Chang resorted to some of the same gamesmanship that flustered Lendl — and he got some back in return from Agenor.

At break point at 4-4 in the fourth set, Chang crept up to within a few feet of the service line in an attempt to rattle Agenor's concentration.

When Chang employed the tactic against Lendl, the Czech double faulted on match point. On Wednesday, Agenor also responded with a double fault and Chang had a 5-4 lead.

"I don't do it to try to insult anybody or make fun of anybody," Chang said. "When you're in a situation where you're desperate for the

point, you do anything to bother concentration."

Agenor said it worked.

"It's bothersome," he said. "It's a mental attack. He makes you think. I'm sure he won't do it at 2-2 in the first set. He does it only at crucial moments. It's very intelligent and he's a very intelligent kid. But I don't know if he'll win the French Open this way."

Agenor gave Chang some of his own medicine in the very next game. With Chang up 30-0 and two points from the match, the Haitian crowded the service line. Chang didn't double fault, but he lost the point and Agenor went on to win the game to even at 5-5.

"It was a way of him saying, 'You do that to me. I can do that to you,'" Chang said.

"I didn't really want to do it," Agenor said. "The crowd encouraged me to do it. I just did what I was told."

Chesnokov, ranked 27th in the world, was asked for his formula in beating Wilander.

"I had good concentration and lots of patience and I was also a bit lucky," he said.

It is the second time that Chesnokov, 23, beat Wilander as defending champion in Paris. He beat him in the third round in 1986.

Wilander, the fourth seed, had not dropped a set in the tournament. But it was clear from the start of the match that he was in for a tough day against Chesnokov.

In uncharacteristic fashion, Wilander lost most of the long rallies so he tried to change the tactics and move to the net. But time and again, Chesnokov was in position to crack a passing shot down the line.

"I was a little bit surprised too," Wilander said. "I thought he played really well. It seemed nothing I did would bother him. Everything he did worked and put me in trouble."

## Pistons convinced defense a key to title

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP) —The Detroit Pistons are convinced that defense will carry them to the NBA championship.

"Our defense is so keyed in, it's like trying to break through a brick wall or climb a barbed wire fence," said Dennis Rodman, whose 10 rebounds Tuesday night gave him six straight games in double figures.

The Pistons' 109-97 victory gave them a 1-0 lead going into Thursday night's Game 2 of the best-of-7 NBA Finals. It was the 16th consecutive game they allowed less than 100 points, including 14 in the playoffs.

Detroit has allowed an average of 90.5 points in those 14 games. The record low for points allowed is 94.6 by the 1971 champion Milwaukee Bucks, who gave up less than 100 points in 10 of 14 playoff games.

The Lakers, averaging 113.5 points while winning their first 11 playoff games, played without Byron Scott, who was out with a hamstring injury, and got subpar performances from Magic Johnson and James Worthy.

"I have to do more and be more assertive," said Johnson, who had 17 points and 14 assists but was held to 12 field-goal attempts. "I have to do more than take 12 shots. I have to step up."

Pistons' forward John Salley said that Coach Chuck Daly kept reminding the team that Worthy was the Most Valuable Player of last year's finals.

"Chuck doesn't forget stuff like that," Salley said. "Worthy had that great game in Game 7 and it makes Chuck mad when someone has their best games against us."

## 1989 was a banner season for Ags despite missing CWS again

Aggie baseball players and fans experienced a bitter sense of deja vu at the end of May when A&M fell a game short of the College World Series in Omaha for the third straight year.

The shock and disappointment of both the players and fans ended the season on a sour note, and some may even say the season's hard work and accomplishments were all for nothing.

It is all too easy to let the early playoff exit shatter our perspective and throw out the good with the bad. Despite the unfortunate loss in the regional championship to the LSU Tigers, the Aggies 1989 baseball season should be remembered as an outstanding success.

A record-breaking 58 wins, a conference co-championship and a Southwest Conference Tournament Championship were not enough to get the Ags to Omaha, but thrilled fans for three months. We also had bragging rights as the nation's number

**Jeff Osborne**  
Assistant Sports Editor

one team for much of those same three months.

Incredible as it may seem, the Aggies fell short of their ultimate goal with what may have been their best season ever.

The heroics of Big John Byington in the series against the Texas Longhorns will probably always be remembered by Aggies. A long drought against the 'Horns finally ended (a year later than expected), giving A&M four wins over Texas in one season. Aggie coach Mark Johnson had previously beaten Texas only once before in his career, making the wins over the archrival 'Horns the season's highlight.

In the Central Regional, back to back losses to LSU seemed impossible, especially with the team hungry for a taste of the College World Series. This made the loss to the Tigers hard to swallow.

I walked around in a state of numbness and confusion for days, almost as if the loss was only a nightmare and I would wake up, turn on the TV and see the Aggies playing in THE SERIES on ESPN.

I can only imagine how the Aggie players and coaches felt, because I'm not sure I believe it myself. The Aggie magic that had carried them to the brink of the national championship faded just when they seemed to need it the most.

The end of the Longhorns SWC baseball domination certainly made this the best season in recent memory, perhaps the best in a quarter of a century (since A&M's last CWS appearance in 1964. Coach Mark Johnson and the rest of the Aggie staff and players certainly have nothing to be

ashamed of this season.

According to ESPN, every coach of baseball teams that played the Aggies said Texas A&M was the best team that they played this season (including the coach of LSU). Coach Ron Fraser of the Miami Hurricanes said he thought A&M might still win the College World Series, even though they aren't a part of it.

It is a sad fact of life for this year's team and the Aggie fans, but sometimes the best team doesn't win.

The strong performance of the Longhorns in Omaha speaks well of Texas A&M's ability, and the overall strength of the Southwest Conference in baseball. Texas Coach Cliff Gustafson may taunt the Aggies because they fell short and his team is on the verge of the national championship, but he even admitted that Texas A&M had a better team (four out of five wins in a season against the 'Horns speaks for itself).

1990 will probably be a rebuilding season with the loss of so much senior talent such as Eric Albright, Keith Langston, Kirk Thompson, Scott Centala, Anthony DeLaCruz, Andy Duke, Mike Easley, and Jim Neumann.

On top of that, the probable departure of juniors Chuck Knoblauch, John Byington and Terry Taylor will give a very different look to next year's squad.

Despite the fresh start of next season, the Aggies will again have the talent to be at the top of the conference, or at least in the thick of the title race.

But for now, Aggie baseball is eight months away. Congratulations to the nation's best, regardless of the CWS outcome or what the baseball polls say.

Aggie Baseball has given us something to be proud of, a feeling that shouldn't be snuffed out because of the unexpected early end of the season.

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