

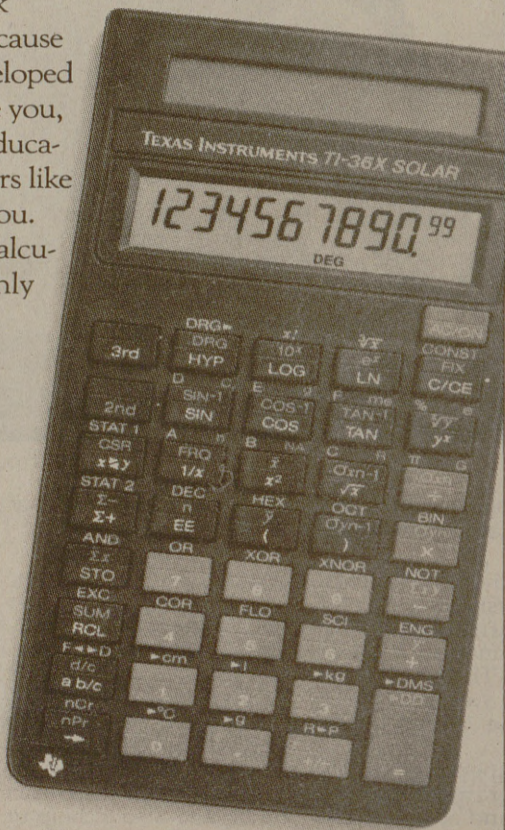
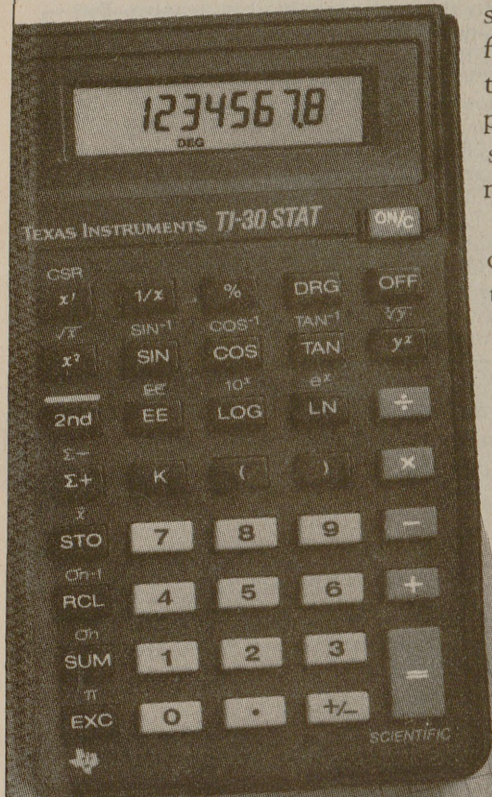
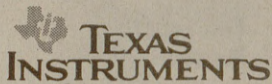
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Seles advances with 6-1, 6-2 trounce

NEW YORK (AP) — Monica Seles, still promising to set the tennis world abuzz with her sexy new garb, put off the fashion show to concentrate on reaching the U.S. Open semifinals Tuesday for the first time in her career.

She wore the same old outfit and had the same old strokes.

The victim this time was Gigi Fernandez, only 27 but still a full decade older than Seles, who barely broke a sweat in winning 6-1, 6-2 in 53 minutes of tedious tennis.

Seles has won the Australian Open this year and her second straight French Open.

Fernandez didn't act much like a serious threat on the court as she sprayed 36 unforced errors in her first match against Seles, who made only 10 errors.

Seles started as if she were

out to break the record for fastest match of the tournament, winning the first four games in 12 minutes while not dropping a point on serve against a player appearing in her first Grand Slam quarterfinal.

"I don't think that I was so much nervous or impressed by the event as much as by her game," Fernandez said. "She came out really strong and she was jumping all over my serve and serving really well."

"She is always fighting and thinking. She is a very smart player, very tenacious, and keeps coming at you. If you look at her, you don't think she is a tennis player. She is not built like a tennis player, but her mind just keeps her in there."

"I think all the great players have that," Seles said. "I mean, Chris, Martina, also Jimmy Con-

nors, Mac, everybody. I think you have to have that. I mean you can't be a dead person on the court."

A brief lapse in the fifth game, and a sudden spate of alert, aggressive net play by Fernandez, led to a break of Seles' service at 15-40.

Fernandez still couldn't cope with Seles' deep returns of service, and Seles came back to close out the set at love with a forehand crosscourt that Fernandez couldn't reach.

Fernandez finally held to start the second set, then held again after five deuces in the third game to make it 2-1. Seles ran into a little resistance with three break points in the fourth game, but pulled out the game and cruised through the next three games while dropping only four points.

Giants answer questions with victory over 49ers

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Since training camp got under way, the question persisted: Would the New York Giants go in the tank the way they did after winning Super Bowl XXI?

It was the one question that could get a rise out of coach Ray Handley.

Beating the San Francisco 49ers in the season opener Monday night seems to put a hole in the tank scenario. And the more optimum word might be, Repeat.

"It's still a good feeling," Handley said Tuesday, less than 12 hours after the Giants' last-second 16-14 victory over the 49ers in the new coach's regular-season debut. "But I learned a long time ago that you don't celebrate wins too long or it might be a while before you celebrate again."

Many people felt the Giants celebrated way too long heading in the 1987 season. They dropped their first two games the year after winning their first Super Bowl, and by the time their dismal strike replacement team was replaced by returning regulars, they were 0-5

and basically out of the playoff picture.

There were concerns about the Giants, starting with the coaching change from Bill Parcells to Handley to a 2-2 preseason that ended with a dismal 24-3 loss to the New England Patriots.

Against the 49ers, the Giants came up with two wrinkles that seemed to work. One was isolating Giants cornerback Mark Collins on wide receiver Jerry Rice.

Rice only caught a 73-yard scoring pass from Steve Young on a play in which safeties Greg Jackson and Myron Guyton blew the coverage.

The other was a little toss sweep to Dave Meggett on third down with the Giants in a four wide receiver formation.

The first one resulted in a nine-yard gain and the second went for eight yards. Both plays set up 35-yard field goals by Matt Bahr, the second one capping a game-winning 13-play, 60-yard drive with five seconds to play.

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Judges make ruling in NFL pension case

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — A federal appeals court told NFL team owners Tuesday to pay more than \$18 million into a players' pension plan, but refused to order improved benefits for retired players.

The 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a U.S. District Court order requiring the 28 NFL clubs to pay delinquent pension funds sought by the players.

The three-judge panel reversed lower court findings that some pension plan trustees had breached their duties and that the court should set retirement benefits for players.

"The clubs failed to make their full contributions but we do not believe the conduct of the trustees for the owners constituted a breach of their fiduciary obligations," wrote Judge J. Harvie Wilkinson III. He was joined by Judge Robert F. Chapman and U.S. District Judge Claude Hilton of Alexandria.

The judges also overturned the lower court's appointment of a special master to set pension improvements.

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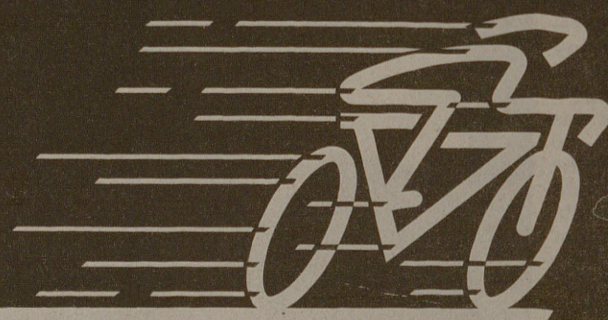
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