

Defending champions Graf, Sampras continue quest for consecutive titles



Steffi Graf advanced to the semi-finals and will face No. 12 Kimiko Date on Thursday.

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — Steffi Graf and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario seem destined for yet another Grand Slam final.

Less than a month since they played for the French Open title, Graf and Sanchez Vicario are on course to meet again in Saturday's championship match at Wimbledon.

Both women reached the semifinals with impressive straight-set victories Tuesday, the top-seeded Graf outplaying No. 6 Jana Novotna 6-3, 6-2, and No. 4 Sanchez Vicario beating Judith Wiesner 6-4, 6-0.

In Thursday's semis, Graf will face No. 12 Kimiko Date, who became the first Japanese player in history to reach the Wimbledon semifinals by overcoming Mary Pierce 2-6, 6-3, 6-1.

Sanchez Vicario will meet the unseeded Meredith McGrath, who continued her surprising run by beating No. 9 Mary Joe Fernandez 6-3, 6-1 to reach her first Grand Slam semifinal.

Led by top-seeded Pete Sampras, the men moved into today's quarterfinals minus yet another seed. Tenth-seeded Michael Stich, the 1991 Wimbledon champion and runner-up at the French Open last month, fell on Tuesday to Richard Krajicek 6-4, 7-6 (7-5), 6-4.

Sampras stopped No. 16 Cedric Pioline of France 6-4, 6-4, 6-2; No. 13 Todd Martin defeated Sweden's Thomas Johansson 3-6, 6-3, 7-5, 6-2; American MaliVai Washington ousted Dutchman Paul Haarhuis 6-3, 6-4, 6-2; and Germany's Alexander Radulescu downed South African Neville Godwin 6-3, 6-0, 6-4.

Sampras, seeking his fourth consecutive Wimbledon title, took on Krajicek in today's quarterfinals, while Martin was up against Tim Henman, the first British quarterfinalist in 23 years; No. 4 Goran Ivanisevic, a two-time finalist, faced Australia's Jason

Stoltenberg; and Washington met Radulescu.

It's the first time in the Open era that only three seeds reached the men's quarterfinals.

If Graf and Sanchez Vicario get through as expected, they will meet in a repeat of the 1995 Wimbledon final. Graf won that three-set classic, which featured one game lasting 20 minutes and 32 points.

Graf and Sanchez Vicario have met 35 times, including 24 times in a final and six times in a Grand Slam championship match.

In Paris last month, Graf beat Sanchez Vicario 6-3, 6-7 (4-7), 10-8, in the longest French Open women's final in history.

Nine-time Wimbledon champion Martina Navratilova is convinced Graf will wind up beating Sanchez Vicario in the final again.

"She (Arantxa Sanchez Vicario) is probably the only one who believes she can beat Steffi," Navratilova said. "I think Sanchez Vicario would be the only one, but I would put a lot of money on Steffi Graf to win this tournament again."

Graf is 6-1 against Date, but the Japanese player won their last meeting, prevailing 12-10 in the third set of a Fed Cup match on indoor carpet in Tokyo this spring. It was one of only two defeats for Graf this year.

"Of course, I want to do the same thing as I did in the Fed Cup," Date said. "But until I go up to the court and face her, I won't know what will happen. Mentally, I just try to keep myself as usual, not to put too much pressure on me."

Sanchez Vicario has beaten McGrath in straight sets in their only two previous meetings. But McGrath, a Swiss-based American who won a warmup tournament in Birmingham last month, is playing the best grass-court tennis of her life.

Payton joins Barkley in Rockets' rumor mill

CHICAGO (AP) — If what Gary Payton and Charles Barkley are saying is true, both could be playing for the Houston Rockets next season.

Payton, a free agent, said Tuesday the Rockets are bidding for his services, and Barkley has been mentioned in a rumored three-way trade that would send him to Houston.

"They made their bid. They done came in with a bid and they're trying to do something," Payton said.

However, teams are not allowed to make offers to free agents until July 9, and any offers tendered before that time could be viewed as tampering.

Payton, who has spent six seasons with Seattle and helped lead the SuperSonics to the NBA Finals last month, sounded open to the idea of playing for the 1994 and 1995 league champions, especially if Barkley was on board.

"That'll be a good lineup, Barkley, the Dream (Hakeem Olajuwon), Clyde (Drexler) and myself," Payton said. "That'd be a nice little lineup and we'd win a few ballgames."

The rumored trade involving Barkley would also send Robert Horry and Sam Cassell from Houston to Denver, with the Nuggets signing free agent center Dikembe Mutombo and shipping him to the Phoenix Suns.

"I hear the deal's done," Barkley told the Houston Chronicle and Arizona Republic.

"I don't have any proof, that, but my inside sources say they're just trying to sign Mutombo. If it works out for Houston, that would be a great honor to play there. I think it's going to happen."

Payton said he has narrowed his list of possible teams to three teams in addition to Houston—Seattle, New York and Miami.

"Out of the four, I've got to say that I'm going to look at the hardest and the other two might be X'd out. I'm debating," said Payton, whose asking price could top \$50 million for four years.

"I've got to ask for more than that. For somebody to lure me from Seattle they've got to give me a little extra to get me away from a team that got to the finals and has been averaging more than 60 wins a season for four years."

An eight-day moratorium imposed by the NBA on signing trades and negotiations went into effect Monday. After noon EDT on July 9, the free agent market will be open for business.

Payton said he would like to resolve his status quickly so he can be settled by the time the Dream Team arrives in Orlando for its final pre-Olympic training camp July 15.

Morales says ruling affects financial aid, private colleges

AUSTIN (AP) — Attorney General Dan Morales says a U.S. Supreme Court order not only halts consideration of race in public university admissions but extends to student financial aid programs and to private colleges taking federal funds.

"We will never overcome past discrimination by practicing discrimination today," Morales said Tuesday, one day after the U.S. Supreme Court let stand a lower court ruling striking down the University of Texas law school's 1992 admissions policy.

In a ruling that's binding law for Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi, the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans said the policy discriminated against whites.

The appeals court also said a landmark 1978 Supreme Court ruling allowing the use of race as one factor in college admissions is no longer good law.

But Al Kauffman of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educa-

tional Fund said Morales is interpreting the 5th Circuit decision too broadly.

"It does not require the end of affirmative action policies at public colleges or universities, let alone private colleges that are recipients of federal funds," Kauffman said.

Morales said, "My office will recommend to Texas colleges and universities that only race-neutral admissions criteria be considered in making admissions decisions."

"We further advise that Texas institutions tailor their financial aid, scholarship and fellowship policies to consider only race-neutral factors such as economic need, social and family background," he said.

Morales also said that while private colleges can make their own legal decisions, "Our view is that the ruling and the impact of the 5th Circuit opinion would be viewed to apply to all institutions of higher education in our state that receive any type of federal assistance. ... That would probably include all private institutions in the state."

Morales said despite his recommended race-neutral policies, he believes universities still can make strong efforts to recruit minorities and build a diverse student body.



MORALES

Menendez brothers given life sentences

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Erik and Lyle Menendez are not a threat to themselves or others and should be "an asset to any institution," said a probation officer who recommended they be placed in the same prison.

But a police detective opposed the request, insisting the brothers might plot to escape.

The brothers were sentenced Tuesday to life in prison without parole for shooting their parents to death in 1989.

They probably will be sent to North Kern State Prison in central California for four to six weeks before officials decide where they'll be placed permanently, said J.P. Tremblay, assistant secretary of the state Youth and Adult Correctional Agency.

"There have been situations where family members have been put together," Tremblay said. "But there are situations where we don't put partners in crime together."

The probation report by Gary McMillen praises the brothers

and is supported by a stack of letters from relatives, friends, a clergyman, teachers, psychologists and jurors from the first trial.

A priest says he was uplifted by the "conversion" of the brothers in prison, and Lyle's fiancée pleaded for him to remain with his brother.

"In quiet moments, Lyle will say to me, 'Aside from my brother, you're the best thing that has ever happened to me,'" wrote Anna Eriksson. "The love he feels for Erik is palpable."

Relatives who live in different parts of the country said it would be more difficult for them to visit the brothers if they aren't imprisoned together.

The only voices of opposition were those of Beverly Hills Police Detective Leslie Zoeller, who said the brothers might try to escape, and their maternal uncle, Brian Andersen, who rejects the brothers' claim that they were sexually molested and psychologically abused by their parents.

Independence Day

Continued from Page 1

to be an overwhelming match, as do all other U.S. and world military efforts — including a full nuclear strike launched by American stealth bombers over Houston.

The president and his advisers are forced to re-evaluate their options, which they do as they enter Area 51 — the United States' top-secret Nevada base rumored to house alien technology from a crash in the 1950s.

While ID4 does not enjoy the big-name actor recognition that Mission: Impossible and The Rock have enjoyed this summer, its balanced cast lets the audience to see many sides of how the alien invasion affects Americans.

The finest performances are turned in by Smith, who pays homage to Harrison Ford's Han Solo as the tough, wisecracking ace pilot Capt. Miller and Randy Quaid as Russell, a Vietnam vet and crooked duster who's as white-trash as they come. Russell, who swears he was abducted by aliens years ago, seeks revenge when his captors return.

But the finest part of the movie, and the most eagerly anticipated, are the enormous, daylight battle scenes between the alien fighters and the American F-18s. The United States' immense military buildup since the end of World War II has never been truly tested against any other foe, but the military pulls out all the stops against the extraterrestrial menace.

The sight of over 50 American fighter planes rocketing toward the alien mothership are unbelievable and truly breathtaking, as are the scenes within the ships that show glimpses of the alien's bizarre culture.



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Student Russia

By Amy Protas THE BATTALION

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