

Sampras advances, Edberg continues his quest at Open

NEW YORK (AP) — Pete Sampras took the sizzle out of Mark Philippoussis' serves, blocking back anything he could see and knocking the Aussie giant out of the U.S. Open.

Sampras lost the duel of aces, 7-11, but won the fourth-round match 6-3, 6-3, 6-4 Tuesday night with a masterful performance in every other phase of the game.

This was Sampras at his best, the three-time champion showing Philippoussis how to return against a big server, how to mix up serves, how to be patient in rallies, and how to smother an opponent on key points.

In all those ways, this fourth meeting between the No. 1 player and the tallest, most talented teenager in tennis was much like their match at Wimbledon two months ago, which Sampras also won in three sets. Though on hardcourt this time, Sampras dominated with the same kinds of skills and mature decisions that led him to victory on grass.

And it was again very different from their match in Australia, when Philippoussis won in straight sets and served so perfectly that Sampras said he "didn't get a sniff" of the ball. Philippoussis felt he "could do no wrong" that night, but this time he could do little right except run up his ace total.

"I was a bit nervous at the start," said Philippoussis, who served as fast as 134 mph but never led in the match after getting broken in third game. Sampras' fastest serve was a formidable 127 mph.

"I tried to force it a bit too much instead of playing solid tennis," Philippoussis said. "I kind of rushed everything and lost my rhythm. I felt it was going bad right from the start. I struggled. It's not a setback. It's definitely a roadblock." Pete plays great tennis, week in

and week out. And that's something I've got to try to do, try to learn."

Sampras, who also beat Philippoussis last year in the Open in four very tough sets, could virtually pencil his name in the slot for the men's semifinal. He goes next in the quarters Thursday against a much less intimidating opponent in Spain's Alex Corretja, who beat Guy Forget of France 6-4, 6-3, 7-6 (7-5).

Stefan Edberg, meanwhile, is conjuring up the magic of Jimmy Connors.

In his own quiet, yet fiery way, Edberg surged into the quarterfinals with a fist-pumping 6-7 (7-2), 7-6 (7-2), 6-4, 6-4 victory over Britain's Tim Henman.

Not since Connors' amazing run to the 1991 semifinals here at age 39 — the year Edberg won for the first time — has a player been such a sentimental favorite with the crowd.

He's only 30, but he's playing in his 54th consecutive and final Grand Slam event. They roar for him on each winning point, clap for him when he's down. They've been doing it all tournament, and they can be expected to do it Thursday when he plays No. 4 Goran Ivanisevic.

"The crowd was behind me once again," said Edberg, a little surprised because he never heard such cheers here in his prime when he was respected but not quite so revered. "It does help, but at the same time you need to play good tennis in the match to get them behind you. As long as you win the last one, that's what counts."

Edberg had the crowd screaming for him at the end against Henman by sweeping the final 12 points.

Edberg, who hadn't gone this far at the Open since winning it for the second straight time in 1992, now must find a way to cope with the brutal serves of Ivanisevic.

"Now starts the real tough matches," Edberg said.

Prairie View A&M football coach Sapenter suspended during investigation

PRAIRIE VIEW (AP) — Prairie View A&M announced Tuesday it has suspended head football coach and athletic director Hensley Sapenter Jr. amid an internal investigation into possible NCAA and Southwestern Athletic Conference infractions.

The investigation centers on use of ineligible players in Saturday's "Labor Day Classic" against Texas Southern, in which the Tigers defeated the Prairie View Panthers 42-24.

Sapenter was suspended with pay during the course of the investigation, the university said in a brief statement.

"They have a current investigation

going on into the use of ineligible players," said Harland Robinson, director of sports information. "I don't know if it is one player or two or three or what."

"No action has been taken yet," he added. "I think they are trying to get more information together before they make a decision."

Sapenter, whose telephone number is not listed, could not be reached for comment Tuesday by The Associated Press.

The school has named Clifton Gilliard, an assistant coach in football and track and field, as interim director of athletics, while assistant football coach Fred Freeman was given interim head coaching duties.

Sapenter, a Prairie View alum, was brought back to the school in 1995 to

stop years of losses and to rebuild a once-proud program.

When Sapenter arrived, Prairie View — forced to play with players not wanted by other schools — had not won since Oct. 28, 1989.

So Sapenter began meeting with alumni to establish a scholarship fund he hoped would help end the school's losing streak. Saturday's loss extended that streak — the longest in NCAA history — to 58 games.

When Sapenter was hired, he had not coached since being at a high school in 1972. He spent the following 19 years as athletic director of San Antonio schools and had recently retired.

A predecessor, coach Haney Catchings, was linked with a scandal in Prairie View's athletic department.

"They have a current investigation going on into the use of ineligible players."

Harland Robinson
Dir. of Sports Information

"The crowd was behind me once again ... Now starts the real tough matches."

Stefan Edberg
U.S. Open quarterfinalist

Smith leaves hospital, returns to Dallas

► The Cowboy's running back was not seriously injured in Monday night's game against the Bears.

IRVING (AP) — A sleepy and shaken Emmitt Smith came home in a neck brace Tuesday. That doesn't mean he's planning to take next weekend off.

The indestructible Dallas Cowboys running back could play in five days against the New York Giants.

"We feel good about the doctors' reports, because everything checks out OK," said Dallas coach Barry Switzer. "Emmitt was up all night and hasn't had any rest or sleep, but he says he feels good and maybe he could play this week."

Smith's latest injury came late in a 22-6 loss to the Chicago Bears, when he fell on his head carrying out a play fake. It came two weeks after Smith suffered a sprained knee ligament in the final exhibition game, which he overcame.

Smith stayed overnight in a Chicago hospital, then flew home with owner Jerry Jones in the Cowboys' private jet. Smith had some soreness and stiffness in his neck and shoulders, but results of an MRI, CAT scan and other tests were negative.

"Emmitt's OK," said team physician Dr. Robert Vandermeer in Dallas. "There are no fractures at all, and Emmitt is feeling well."

Asked if the All-Pro running back would be given the green light in the home opener Sunday against the Giants, Vandermeer said, "We're going to take it day by day, and I'll see him again tomorrow."

Jones, who signed Smith to an eight-year, \$48 million contract in mid-August, said Smith weathered the trip well and was "A-OK. We're relieved all the tests came out negative. We're encouraged. It was a close call."

Smith, a four-time NFL rushing champion, has missed only one regular season game because of injury in his six-year career.

"If Emmitt can't play on Sunday, we'll go with Sherman Williams," Switzer said. "We'll see how Emmitt works later in the week. He's got to be ready to go by Thursday, because that's a big day for offensive practice."

Switzer said he "thought" about taking Smith out of the game. The injury occurred with 3:41 left and the Cowboys trailing 22-3.

"I was thinking about it with seven or eight minutes to play, but then I would have been criticized for giving up," Switzer said. "Now, I'll be criticized for leaving him in there."

Quarterback Troy Aikman faked to Smith, then rolled out around right end and was knocked out of bounds. Smith had gone the other way and leaped into the air and came

down hard without being hit by a defender.

Smith, who started despite the sore knee, gained 70 yards on 18 carries.

It was the first time since 1989 the Cowboys failed to produce a touchdown in a season opener. The performance would have made a peewee football team blush.

"I looked at the films, and it was still ugly," Switzer said. "This is just not the same offense we had last year. You take away Michael Irvin and Jay Novacek and you see what happens. The defense played great. We'd take 15 more games like that."

Irvin is under suspension for five games and Novacek has a bad back.

Aikman said the Cowboys were out of synch from the start, with illegal formations, penalties, busted routes, poor blocking and dropped passes.

He said, "We have to just zero in on what we can do, even if it's just three plays. We need to make sure we can execute at least three plays before we try something else."

Switzer added, "When you can't even line up right, it's just inexcusable. It starts at the top with me and goes right on down. We were terrible (2-for-8) on third-down conversions." Switzer praised Deion Sanders for playing 107 snaps at both cornerback and wide receiver.

"At least Deion showed he's in great shape," Switzer said.

Now, the Cowboys pray Smith will be, too, in time for the game with the Giants.



Smith

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MITCHELL

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This year's defensive line, with Mitchell, Pat Williams and Edward 'Troup' Jasper, will no doubt be compared with the group in '93. All three are seniors and are ranked as the top defensive line in the country by The Sporting News.

"We've proven a lot of people wrong," Mitchell said. "When Adam (Adams) and Eric (England) left, people thought there would never be a line that good again."

Mitchell said his coaches have done a good job of bringing the talent of the defensive line. "Coach (Phil) Bennett calls good plays and puts us in the position to make good plays," Mitchell said.

And whenever we're down and out, Coach Johnson gets us up. We can get extra effort out of us. It makes practice fun."

Mitchell is not a player that is concerned with his own statistics and place in the Aggie record books. Only a few weeks ago did he realize that with his 22 career

tackles for losses, he has a chance to break John Roper's record of 32.

"Me and my friends were looking in the (Texas A&M Football) media guide and saw it," Mitchell said. "I didn't know I was close to breaking it until I saw it. If it happens, it happens. If it doesn't, it doesn't."

Mitchell made it clear that he is not striving to win awards such as the Lombardi Award or the Outland Trophy. He said he works hard for the good of the team, not for individual accomplishments.

"It would be an honor to receive those awards," he said. "If I do it's fine, and if I don't it's fine. I don't have personal goals, I just want the team to be good."

It has been a long time since Mitchell left Abbeville for the first time, but in Aggieland he has found a home.

"Louisiana is different from Texas," Mitchell said. "It's wild. But I like it here better because of my friends right here."

"Looking at the team right now, we need to apply more pressure on the quarterback."

Brandon Mitchell
A&M senior defensive end

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