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SPORTS

Thursday • September 4, 19

Upset-minded Hingis to face Graf in U.S. Open semifinals

NEW YORK (AP) — Like the the Open semis for the first time the semis in all three events bbit in Alice in Wonderland, since 1992. The 1989 French Novotna in 1994. rabbit in Alice in Wonderland, Martina Hingis knew she had to hurry. So late, so late, for a very important date.

The rabbit's refrain might well have been Hingis' lament. She had a mixed doubles semifinal match over on Court 16, and here she was still in the stadium playing singles against Jana Novotna in the U.S. Open quarterfinals.

What to do?

Shorten the points, of course. Hingis did just that, rushing the net the way another Martina once did and dancing into the semifinals at age 15 on Wednesday.

Next up is that other Martina's old nemesis, Steffi Graf.

Hingis, named after Navratilova and guided toward a tennis career since birth, beat the No. 7 Novotna 7-6 (7-1), 6-4 to become the youngest Open semifinalist since Jennifer Capriati in 1991.

In the men's quarterfinals, Andre Agassi and Michael Chang won to set up a meeting in Saturday's semifinals.

Agassi, No. 6, beat No. 3 seed Thomas Muster 6-2, 7-5, 4-6, 6-2 Wednesday night to move within a victory of his third straight Open final. Agassi won the title two years ago, then lost in the final last year to Pete Sampras.

Chang, No. 2, beat unseeded Javier Sanchez 7-5, 6-3, 6-7 (7-2), 6-3 in a nearly three-hour baseline duel Wednesday and reached Open champion at 17, Chang is still seeking his second Grand Slam title.

The top-seeded Sampras plays Alex Corretja on Thursday, and No. 4 Goran Ivanisevic goes against two-time champion Stefan Edberg for the other semifinal spots.

Two days after knocking out

"I've played so

some points

shorter."

many matches, I

wanted to make

Martina Hingis

U.S. Open Semifinalist

No. 3 Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, Hingis put on an even more spectacular show of versatile tennis by taking apart Novotna from the baseline and the net.

"I've played so many matches, I wanted to make some points shorter,"

Hingis said of her net attack

Hingis, who became the youngest champion at Wimbledon when she won women's doubles with Helena Sukova this summer, was still going at the Open for three titles - singles, doubles and mixed doubles.

Why was Hingis playing so much tennis?

"I have a lot of fun playing doubles, and I have great part-ners, so why not?" Hingis replied. The last player to reach

Hingis had to get this one quickly, she said, because had a mixed doubles semif match to play with par Christo van Rensburg. match was scheduled "not be make 5 p.m." She would be late, her diness excused, because here not about prid

gles match ended at 5:41 p.m. selfish ambition. After a 1 1/2-hour rest, Hinwas about vict joined Across the b Rensburg, but

ere lay a self were beaten by bleeding con No. 4 team, Marth Bollegraf and H Leach, 5-7, 6-4, 7 ack Kemp. Against the Dole and K

charging Novo ends in the did everything, she The two have ging winners fr ing from thei In March, K the baseline, d ping cute, deft leys, whacking or publican no heads from the Kemp didn't

and service line.

All those talents were on play during two brilliant swe a 10-point surge from the set tiebreaker to love-40 in ive strengths second set's opening break, uest for the V It is obviou an 11-point streak near theen the second set that virtuner's theories clinched the match.

'When she needed it, she up with a good passing shot of ed talking sup spin lob," said Novotna, ad And how a that she was surprised by Hilbi lget appro 33 charges to the net.

"If the chemistry is right, we can improve Kemp's plan to Senior team captain Nancy Dingwalls Kleinecke's ability to motivate plays a role in

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"He is always out there giving encouragem e to end th Dole's unex helping me to improve," Dingwall said. "It is in personality to motivate us. He is very approacha there is ever any problem. You can work thing

But what motivates Kleinecke to light a fire his players, besides his strong tennis backgr and player's coach mentality?

"I like winning," he said. "I don't know a

KLEINECKE

Continued from Page 13

not completely change their stroke," he said. Although Kleinecke stresses to his players the importance of hard work, junior Monica Rebolledo said he does not overdo it. The A&M coach is satisfied with their performances as long as they have contributed a 100 percent effort.

"We don't feel a lot of pressure," Rebolledo said. "He is always willing to help and give us extra practice." Coach Kleinecke said maintaining team unity is the key to a successful season in 1996-1997

quickly," Kleinecke said.

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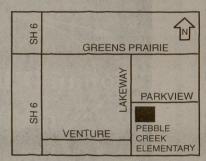
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