



SPORTS BRIEFS

Becker outlasts Sampras

STUTTGART, Germany — Buoyed by a roaring home crowd and pelting his opponent with 29 aces, Boris Becker rallied from a set down Sunday to beat Pete Sampras in five sets and win the Eurocard Open.

Becker was at his best on the indoor court, posting a 3-6, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory and ending the 21-match winning streak of the world's No. 1 player, the longest such streak this year.

"He's to Germany what Michael Jordan is to the United States," Sampras said. "There's only one king in Germany and his name is Boris."

Becker, cheered at every move by a crowd of 7,200, won the 48th title of his career, 29 of those indoors.

New York fends off Braves' rally, captures World Series in 6 games

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But the UNC coach apparently convinced her audience at ACC Operation Basketball that the Tar Heels had improved enough to become the conference's team to beat, as the annual session's media contingent declared UNC the preseason favorite to win the ACC crown.

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MLB labor deal in limbo

NEW YORK — A day after players announced they had reached a tentative labor deal with owners, acting commissioner Bud Selig said Sunday he hadn't scheduled a meeting to consider ratification.

Meanwhile, a management source said owners probably would allow the players who need service time from the strike to become eligible for free agency to file provisionally and assume there will be a labor agreement that grants them the service time.

Georgia sinks swimmers

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The Bulldog men avenged an upset loss to the Tar Heels a year ago by capturing a 155-139 decision. North Carolina's women fell 174-126 at the dual competition, the season-opener for both schools.

Hamilton captures 1st win

PHOENIX — Bobby Hamilton won the Dura-Lube 500 at Phoenix International Raceway on Sunday, earning his first Winston Cup victory and giving car owner Richard Petty his first win in 13 years.

With a record raceway crowd of 104,000 on its feet and shouting its approval, Hamilton's No. 43 Pontiac led the final 30 laps on the one-mile oval, beating Mark Martin to the finish line by 1.23 seconds — about 20 car-lengths.

Aikman, Irvin lead Cowboys past Dolphins in 1st round of Johnson-Jones showdown

MIAMI — Jimmy Johnson found out what it's like to stand on the sideline opposite the Dallas Cowboys when they're playing well.

Not much fun.

The Super Bowl champions beat the coach who built them Sunday. Troy Aikman threw for 363 yards, including 12 completions to Michael Irvin for 186 yards, and Dallas dominated Johnson's Miami Dolphins 29-10.

Field hockey tackles ODU

The top-ranked North Carolina field hockey team avenged its only loss of the season on Saturday, topping No. 3 Old Dominion 4-2 before an NCAA-record crowd of 2,765 at Foreman Field in Norfolk, Va.

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Volleyball falls to 'Noles

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UNC (14-10, 4-6) lost its fifth match in six contests after taking an early advantage. The Tar Heels limited FSU to a .039 hitting percentage in the first game, but the 'Noles rebounded to snag the second game by hitting .600.

ACC media listen to Hatchell, pick UNC 1st

BY KURT TONDORF
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

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"This team is stronger than the one I had in 1994," Hatchell said. "Last time we were in a position like this, great things happened."

In a tight poll, the Tar Heels were voted into the top spot, edging out Duke, Virginia, N.C. State and Clemson, all of which fell within 21 points of one another.

It may be cliché to say the ACC is a conference of basketball parity. But it's also the truth.

"It's been a dogfight since 1988-89," Maryland coach Chris Weller said. "It remains that way, possibly becoming a little deeper over the last few years. ... There isn't a weak team in the conference."

Aside from, perhaps, Florida State. The Seminoles previewed at and finished at the bottom of the ACC last season, and despite handing the coaching reins to Chris Gobrecht this year, found themselves in the basement again.

"I'm not familiar with the conference," Gobrecht said when asked to analyze the ACC race for the coming year.

If Gobrecht wants to survive in this league, she had best start watching some tape of years past. The ACC has become a power conference, perhaps the second-best collection of talent in the land to the peerless Southeastern Conference. More than one coach at the Sunday session upheld that opinion.

"The SEC's always been a notch above us, and their top teams may be ahead of

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New York fends off Braves' rally, captures World Series in 6 games

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
NEW YORK — This is the story of the ultimate comeback — of a New York Yankees team that never gave up and never lost heart.

Given no chance of winning the World Series after two humbling losses at home, the Yankees won their first title since 1978 with a 3-2 victory over the defending champion Atlanta Braves in Game 6 Saturday night.

Jimmy Key, who missed almost all of last year because of shoulder trouble, worked the first 5 1/3 innings and then manager Joe Torre turned it over to his vaunted bullpen to clinch the Yankees' record 23rd championship.

"There are so many moving stories on this Yankee club," owner George Steinbrenner said. "I've never seen such a mentally tough team as this bunch of Yankees."

John Wetteland, the fifth New York pitcher, became the first reliever to record four saves in a Series — earning him the MVP award — despite giving up a run in the ninth.

Marquis Grissom's RBI single with two outs pulled Atlanta within a run and put runners at first and second. Mark Lemke fouled out to third baseman Charlie Hayes to end the game and start a celebration marked with a massive pileup of Yankees on the mound.

The Yankees beat Greg Maddux in becoming the first team to win a game at home in this Series.

Two days after a 1-0 win, New York again put together enough hits to win by a run — in baseball's Year of the Homer,

there were none in the final two games.

For the 56-year-old Torre, it brought redemption in his first year as Yankees manager. He had played and managed in 4,272 games without reaching the Series — the longest streak in major league history — and once was fired as Atlanta's manager. The win came a day after his brother, Frank, received a desperately needed heart transplant at a New York hospital.

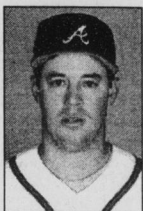
"I never had any doubts about this club," Torre said. "When you get as old as I am, you learn to appreciate it. It might come only once."

"My brother Frank with the heart yesterday. My brother, Rocco, too. I know he was with me tonight," Torre said, referring to the brother who died of a heart attack during the season.

For veterans like Wade Boggs and Cecil Fielder, it brought them their first World Series championship.

Boggs celebrated by climbing aboard a police horse and riding around the outfield while his teammates took a victory lap to the standing ovation of the 56,375 fans. In 1986, he was within one out of a title when Boston lost the Series to the New York Mets.

"Our heart is as big as the Twin Towers right now," Boggs said.



Atlanta pitcher **GREG MADDUX** gave up three runs in the third inning and took the loss.

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The Cowboys (5-3) won their fourth in a row, but still trail Washington by two games in the NFC East. Miami (4-4) has lost four of its past five games.

In the week leading up to the long-anticipated showdown, Johnson was on his best behavior, possibly because he knew he was outmanned. Dallas outscored Miami 20-0 in the second half and finished with 482 yards to 221 for the Dolphins.

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones, who hired Johnson at Dallas and fired him five years later after two Super Bowl titles, watched from a skybox as the grudge match turned into a rout. The game attracted 800 members of the media and a crowd of 75,283, the largest in stadium history, including two Super Bowls.

For the first time, Johnson had reason to regret drafting Aikman while at Dallas. Aikman hit 33 of 41 passes for three scores, with no interceptions.

The most damaging completion came when a breakdown in the secondary left Irvin wide open on third-and-17. The result was a 61-yard gain, setting up a 2-yard touchdown pass from Aikman to Irvin for a 22-10 lead in the third quarter.

Irvin's reception total tied his career high.

Aikman also threw for touchdowns

covering 4 yards to Eric Bjornson and 10 yards to Emmitt Smith.

Dan Marino, back in the lineup after missing three games with a broken right ankle, completed only 12 of 27 attempts for 173 yards against the NFL's top-ranked pass defense.

The Dolphins' lone touchdown came on Marino's 16-yard pass to fullback Stanley Pritchett.

The Cowboys had 248 yards and 15 first downs at halftime, but still trailed 10-9. They mounted drives of 55, 68 and 66 yards before settling for field goals of 33, 29 and 24 yards by Chris Boniol.

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INTERVIEWS IN CHARLOTTE IN EARLY FEBRUARY

this weekend **ON THE ROAD**

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The game broke the old regular-season attendance record of 1,976 set by the two teams in 1993.

The Lady Monarchs (14-3) snapped the Tar Heels' 28-game win streak with a 4-3 double overtime victory on Sept. 22.

"We wanted to play in a stadium atmosphere, and this was good preparation for the NCAA tournament scene," UNC coach Karen Shelton said. "We hoped to feed off the crowd and use that to our advantage, whether they were cheering for us or not."

UNC struck within the game's first minute when midfielder Abbi Keller sailed a penalty stroke past Monarch goalie Jamie Hill. ODU tied the contest at the 23:32 mark on a strike from Rosemarie van der Rijt, but Schott nailed a penalty corner with 13 seconds left in the first half to break the 1-1 deadlock.

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Freshman forward Laurie Schwoy garnered Most Valuable Offensive Player plaudits for the tournament after totaling three of the team's six goals in the two contests. Back Amy Roberts nabbed Most Valuable Defensive Player honors.

Schwoy netted two strikes in the first 20 minutes to pace the Tar Heels (15-1) over Wisconsin (11-3-3) 4-0 on Sunday.

The Baltimore native sent a Roberts pass into the upper right corner of the net for the game-winner against the Badgers, then knocked the ball in off a corner kick to increase UNC's advantage to 2-0.

Midfielder Aubrey Falk headed in a cross from Lorrie Fair to finish the first-

half scoring, and Debbie Keller recorded the Tar Heels' final tally when she tapped in a shot off a corner kick.

UNC outshot the Badgers 14-5 and won its seventh straight contest.

Goals by Schwoy and Falk enabled the Tar Heels to creep past Minnesota 2-0 on Friday. Schwoy headed in a cross by Sarah Dacey during the 15th minute, and Falk added the insurance goal from 15 yards out after gathering a loose ball.

UNC goalkeepers Gretchen Overgaard and Siri Mullinix combined for six saves in shutting out the Golden Gophers (12-4). The Tar Heels outshot Minnesota 15-9.

Sweeper Nel Fettig, midfielder Rebekah McDowell and forward Robin Confer were also named to the all-tournament squad.

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The Bulldog men avenged an upset loss to the Tar Heels a year ago by capturing a 155-139 decision. North Carolina's women fell 174-126 at the dual competition, the season-opener for both schools.

UNC's Richelle Depold posted qualifying times for three events in next March's NCAA Championships in Indianapolis — the 50- and 100-yard freestyles and the 100-yard butterfly. She set a school record with a 52.82 in the 100-yard butterfly, breaking the old mark of 53.91 set in 1985.

Depold's times in the freestyle events are the second fastest in UNC history. She finished the 50 in 22.89 and the 100 in 49.57.

Tar Heel junior Chrissy Miller also qualified for the championships with a 1:59.81 in the 200-yard butterfly, good for second in North Carolina's record book.

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UNC (14-10, 4-6) lost its fifth match in six contests after taking an early advantage. The Tar Heels limited FSU to a .039 hitting percentage in the first game, but the 'Noles rebounded to snag the second game by hitting .600.

After splitting the next two games, FSU never trailed to capture the fifth game and the victory.

Tori Seibert amassed 20 kills and a .432 percentage in leading the Tar Heels. Setter Erin Berg contributed 49 assists.

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