**GULF KNEWS** Sports 27 TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1993







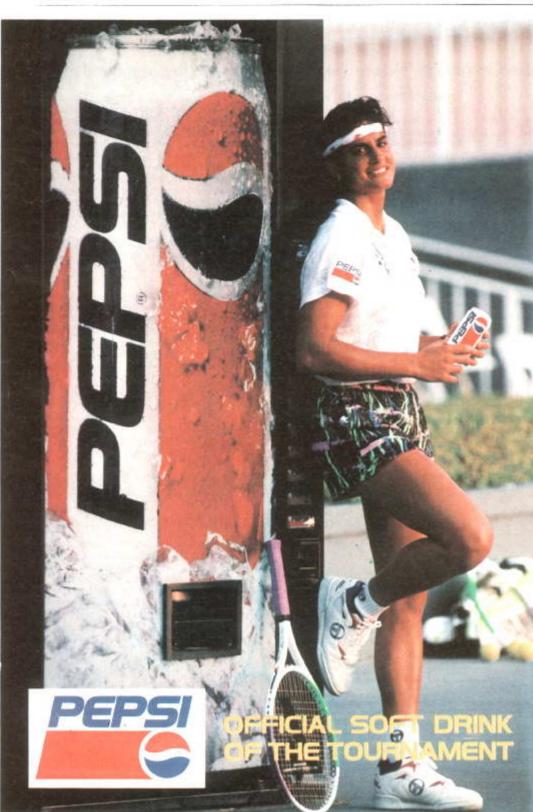




Sheikh Hasher Maktoum, Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, and Sheikh Saeed Al Maktoum watch the action on the first day yesterday. - GN photo

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GRAND STORES



# Sanchez shocked by fiery Joao

Bates pulls a rabbit out of the hat with a rapidly improved victory against a jaded looking Bergstrom

By Leslie Wilson Jr.

If the chair umpire encountered difficulties pronouncing Joao Cunha-Silva's name, then the popular Spaniard Emilio Sanchez had even far greater problems reading the sprightly Portugal Davis Cup player's serve, as he made an un-ceremonious exit from the Dubai Duty Free/BMW Open tennis tournament yesterday and then said that he was sad to lose, under-

standably.

In fact Emilio echoed the sentiments of the many fans who followed his every shot through the hree-setter with Joao only to see their hero fold up, almost willingly, in the final set 6-3, 4-6, 6-4.

I did not deserve to win," San-chez said without attempting to disguise his displeasure at being a first round casualty." I had difficulty with my confidence and concentration, there was nothing wrong with my game," the distraught fifth seed of this ATP tour event said. Joao in contrast was quite literally over the moon with his perfor-mance. "It's one of my best victories," said the attacking Portuguese star who played a positive game plan of attack and attack.

Later in the evening, as the humidity dipped England's Jeremy Bates proceeded to pull a rabbit out of the hat with a rapidly improving win against a jaded looking Christian Bergstrom of Sweden, the man who put away Ivan Lendl at the Australian Open only

a short while back.

Bergstrom looked the worse off for his heady exploits Down Under and caved in against Bates' concerted onslaught. Bates won 7-6, 6-1 but dismissed comments on the win being easy. "It was me out there struggling, even though I was

However there was no cause for alarm for the other seeds on view in yesterday's first round action at the Aviation Club courts with No 3 seed Karel Novacek of the Czech Republic sidelining countryman Daniel Vacek 6-0, 7-5, while Russian Andrei Cherkasov, seeded sixth here warmed up slowly but surely to dump Michael Schapers

Sweden's Lars Jonsson had the easiest passage into round two when his Italian adversary Claudio Pistolesi retired with a back injury after trailing 1-6, 0-1, with 23 min-

of the Netherlands 4-6, 7-6, 6-2.

## 'I did not deserve to win,' Sanchez said without attempting to disguise his displeasure at losing

utes into the game.

The news of the day undoubtedly was the exist of Emilio. Though the Spaniard had come off best in his only previous clash with Joao, with Portuguese player, yesterday showed scant regard for his lowly ranking at 124, a good 93 places behind Emilio, with a performance of high character and remarkable single-mindedness.

Joao seemed headed for a straight forward win when he wrapped up the first set with the minimum break required early in the match. But, as he went on to say later, he was fully aware that Emilio was not likely to take this sort of treatment lying down. Joao needed to play as consistently if not even better as the Spaniard came charging back in the second set with a flurry of high backhand volleys that time and

one set and 4-1 up. I haven't had a lot of good games and I was still quite tight." said the English No.1 again caught Joao on the wrong foot. Emilio broke Joao in the first game and then traded a break in the fourth before he really hit peak form in the 10th game, breaking the Portuguese to level sets.

Then came that drop in concentration that he had been talking about and in quick time Joao was once again calling the shots at 3-1 up. Emilio regrouped his game admirably to break his consistent rival who allowed little freedom on his pounding first serve. Emilio frequently ran around his backhand to pass Joao as he made a predetermined move to bustle his way at the net. A break in the sixth put Emilio on par at 3-3 and then came that fatal stutter in the seventh. Joao pounced upon the chance like bird of prey and served out the match at 6-4.

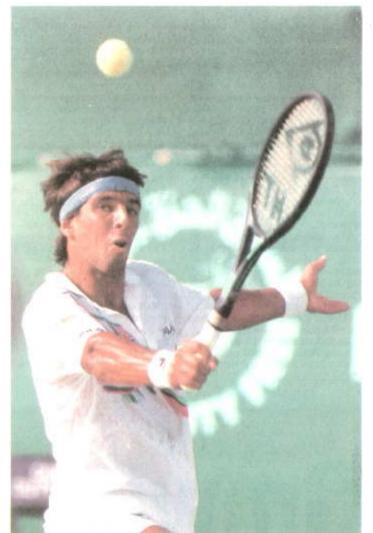
Joao later said that by attacking Emilio's strong backhand he prised open the higher rated Spaniard's game providing for the opportunity to dominate the net as he wished.

If the general standard of play on

view yesterday was anything to go by, then the likes of Becker and Courier won't be missed. The bigserving Czech tournament opener between Novacek and Vacek set the mood for the day with the third seed mastering his countryman's big serve to win two straight but reasonably competitive sets. Vacek missed the one chance he

had to break Novacek in the second set at 4-3 up, perhaps troubled by the high bouncy and deep ground strokes that the third seed essaved from the sanctuary of the baseline. The break was not forthcoming and with it went the young Czech's chances. For Novacek, a former top 10

player, this was a great start after a six-month sit-out. "I was happy to attain such a high level of concentration, particularly after a long layoff," said the strapping Czech who won four his 10 career titles in '91. But the man who got away with a



GIANTKILLER... Joao Cunha-Silva of Portugal plays a backhand shot on his way to victory over Spaniard Emilio Sanchez . - Picture by Sandeep Naik

sluggish early approach was the But Cherkasov proved he was made Russian sixth seed Cherkasov. He of sterner stuff winning a tight defeat seemed more a possibility. sian won the match at 6-2.

trailed by a set and when pushed shootout at 7-5. Obviously pumped into the tie-breaker in the second, up by his courageous show the Rus-



Singles (first round - seeding in

(3) Karel Novacek (Czech Republic)/ beat Daniel Vacek (Czech Republic) 6-0, 7-5; (6) Andrei Cherkasov (Russia) beat Michiel Schapers (Netherlands) 4-6, 7-6 (7-5), 6-2; Karsten Breasch (Germany) beat Bart Wuyts (Belgium) 6-4, 6;2; Joao Cunha-Silva (Portugal) beat Emilio Sanchez (Spain) 6-3, 4-6,6-4, Lars Jonsson (Sweden) beat Claudio Pistolesi (Itali) 6-1, 1-0 (retired).; Jeremy Bates (England) beat Christian Bergstrom (Sweden) 7-6, 6-1; Lars Wahigren (Sweden) beat Andrei Olhovski (Russia) 6-3, 3-6, 6-

Doubles (qualifying round) Buril-lo/Kafelnikov beat Braasch/ Karbacher 7-5, 6-3.

### TODAY'S ORDER OF PLAY.

1 p.m. J.Sanchez v Anders Jarryd; Nicholas Pereira v Thomas Muster; Marcos Gorriz v Black; Carl Uwe Steeb v Karbacher; Montana v Fabrice Santoro; Magnus Gustafsson v Tomas Carbonell; Dosedel v Gil-

7 p.m. Alexander Volkov v El Avnaoui

bert Schaller

Doubles: Garnett/Witsken v Connell/Galbraith; Bates/Black v Pearce/Talbot; Carbonell/Pereira v Sanchez/Sanchez; Montana Van Emburgh v Novacek/Steeb.

# **Courier tops** money list

Monaco (Reuter)

The top 20 men's money winners as issued by the Association of Tennis Professionals yesterday:

Jim Courier (U.S.) \$274,909 Stefan Edberg (Sweden) 165,518 Pete Sampras (U.S.) 108,327 Boris Becker (Germany) 83,107

Michael Stich (Germany) 68,727 Richey Reneberg (U.S.) 60,269 Laurie Warder (Australia)

Danie Visser (South Africa) Christian Bergstrom (Sweden)

53,835 10. Paul Haarhuis (Netherlands) 49.215

11. Michael Chang (U.S.) 46,305 12. Brett Steven (New Zealand) 46,055 John Fitzgerald (Australia)

14. David Prinosil (Germany) 41,840 15. Alexander Volkov (Russia)

41,181 16. Jacco Eltingh (Netherlands) 40,190 17. Guy Forget (France) 38,665 18. Patrik Kuhnen (Germany)

19. G. Ivanisevic (Croatia) 38,100 20. Nicklas Kulti (Sweden) 37,370.

