



Gulf News Archives

Overcoming odds

Fabrice Santoro with Shaikh Hasher Al Maktoum, Director General, Dubai Director of Information and President of UAE Tennis Association, and DDF's Salah Tahlak.

Santoro beat illness to win the 2002 title

French player fell sick hours before final

Staff Report

Dubai In 2002 French players won both singles titles. Fabrice Santoro, who had contested the very first final in 1993, claimed the men's trophy by beating Younes Al Aynaoui in extraordinary circumstances.

Hours before the match, Santoro was sick and in a wheelchair at a local hospital and thought he would have to default the match. However, he show-

ered in readiness to come to the stadium to withdraw, and that revived him and he decided to try and play and he won 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.

Al Aynaoui had benefited when top seed Juan Carlos Ferrero retired against him in the second round. Yevgeny Kafelnikov was seeded two but failed to progress beyond the quarter-finals, losing to Jiri Novak. The men's doubles went to Mark Knowles and Daniel Nestor.