

SPORTS FOCUS

Pearson captures Southern 500

Compiled from wires
David Pearson, who faced the possibility of forced retirement earlier this year, lived up to his nickname of "The Silver Fox" and waited patiently while other cars and drivers burned out Monday as he coasted to victory in the Southern 500 stock car race. Pearson put his Chevrolet a cozy two laps ahead by the end of the race. Bill Elliott, driving a Mercury, finished second with Terry Labonte third in a Chevrolet. . . Pie in the Sky outran favorite Streakin Six by a length and a half Monday to win the All-American Futurity and take a purse of \$437,500. Pie in the Sky, owned by Dan Urschel, covered the 440-yard sprint in 21.76 seconds. The victory was the fourth this season for the Easy Jet-sired speedster. . . Midway through the race, Streakin Six took a short-lived in the middle of the track but it became apparent he would not be able to hold off Pie in the Sky's rush along the outside. . . Czaravich, making his first start since winning the Withers Mile at Aqueduct in May, won the \$109,300 Jerome Handicap for three-year-olds by two lengths at Belmont Park Monday. A Labor Day crowd of 37,575 saw the son of Nijinsky II, ridden by Jean Cruguet, circle the field from last place at the head of the stretch and draw out for his victory over Valdez, making his first start in the east since arriving from California. . . Golden Act outdueled Smarten by a neck to win Monday's \$151,800 Secretariat Stakes at Arlington Park. . . A California man won New Haven's 20-kilometer road race Monday, crossing the finish line 25 seconds ahead of his closest pursuer. Dave Babiracki of Granada Hills, Calif. won the race in one hour, three minutes and 36 seconds. . . Larry Olsen of Franklin rac 25 kilometers in 1:23:22 to win the scenic Cape Ann Classic road race by 49 seconds ahead of second-place John Kessinger of Boston. Brian Reinhold of Somerville was third. . . The Meadowlands begins a new meeting today with Triple Crown jockey Steve Cauthen leading the switch from harness to flat racing. Cauthen, who had been riding in Europe for five months, has been lured back for one night by the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority for a fee believed to be \$10,000. . . Affirmed, the leading career money-winner in thoroughbred racing history with more than \$2 million, was assigned top weight of 133 pounds while Spectacular Bid got 124 pounds for Saturday's \$300,000 Marlboro Cup Invitational at Belmont Park.

U. S. reaps swim gold

Cynthia Woodhead of Riverside, Calif. shattered her own world record in winning the women's 200-meter freestyle Monday, leading the United States to five gold medals on the final day of the World Cup Swimming Championships. Woodhead, who earlier had won the 100 and 400 meter freestyles, led all the way in the 200 and finished in 1:58.23, bettering her pending world mark of 1:58.43 set in July at the Pan-Am Games. . . The Nashville Sounds hold the modern minor league attendance record, it was reported Monday. The Southern League club drew 504,401 fans to their 66 regular season home games, breaking the record set by the Hawaiian Islanders in 1970 with 467,217 fans at 70 home games. . . Actor Paul Newman stretched a winning streak to eight and wrapped up two divisional road racing championships Monday with a pair of victories in a Sport Car Club of America event at Lime Rock, Conn. . . Hollywood stuntman Kelly Brown, the defending National Hot Rod Association world champion, defeated Johnny Abbott in the final top fuel elimination Monday to win his first U. S. Nationals drag racing title.

Subduing Stockton Borg survives struggle

NEW YORK (UPI) — Only hours after he was referred to as the best tennis player who ever lived, Bjorn Borg had to struggle for survival Monday before subduing Dick Stockton to gain the quarterfinals of the U.S. Open.

Borg, who contends he can't go through a major tournament without teetering on the brink, did just that against Stockton, dropping his service twice in the second set and going down a break in the third before rallying for a 6-4, 1-6, 7-6, 7-5 victory.

Borg, with his lethal passing shots, won the third-set tie-breaker, 7-3, and then made what appeared to be the decisive break in the fifth game of the fourth set. Stockton, however, broke back at love in the 10th game before Borg reeled off the next eight points to win the match.

"He likes this kind of surface and he can be very tough for me," the top-seeded Swede said of Stockton prior to the match. "I had three easy matches before this, and for sure I'm going to run into trouble. Maybe it will be against Stockton."

Vitas Gerulaitis, pointing for a semifinal showdown with Borg, referred to his close friend as the best he'd ever seen, perhaps a shade better than Rod Laver, a player he idolized.

The fourth-seeded Gerulaitis had an easier time in winning his fourth-round match from No. 10 seed Jose-Luis Clerc, 7-6, 6-2, 6-2, and next meets South African Johan Kriek, who outlasted Arthur Ashe protege Yannick Noah, 6-3, 7-6, 4-6, 1-6, 6-4, in 3 1/2 hours.

This will be the second year in a row Kriek is meeting Gerulaitis in the quarterfinals, and he said of last year's experience, "I walked onto center court and thought I was walking into a grave, it was so big. But I'm playing a lot better this year and my overall game has improved a lot."

Moving on to the women's quarterfinals were No. 2 Martina Navratilova, No. 4 Virginia Wade and No. 5 Evonne Goolagong Cawley. Navratilova, yet to lose a set, beat 10th seed Greer Stevens, 6-2, 6-2, Goolagong overcame Jeanne DuVall, 6-3, 3-6, 6-0, and Wade advanced when Regina Marsikova was forced to default after twisting an ankle in the first game.

Despite his unabashed admiration of Borg, and the fact he has yet to beat him in 10 attempts, Gerulaitis says he is feeling sharp and won't be ready to concede anything should he meet his frequent practice partner and occasional houseguest in the semis.

"There's the law of averages," Gerulaitis said, "but I thought of that the last eight times we've played. He's so far and above anyone else in the game, I'm not embarrassed to say I've lost to the

guy 10 times. I'll just keep plugging away. Sooner or later I'll pay the guy off or I'll beat him. I can't pay him off, though, because he's got so much money."

Gerulaitis contends that the problem he and others have against Borg is that they get overzealous and overplay shots.

"You have to overplay a lot because he gets to so many. He goes for passing shots wherever he is on the court and he never plays a defensive shot. When you get up to serve you know he's going to return every ball."

Gerulaitis, who is likely to play Clerc in the American Zone Davis Cup final at Memphis next week, was in trouble only in the first set, which he finally won in the tie-breaker, 7-3.

"I didn't think he would serve as well as he did," Gerulaitis said of the Argentine, whom he was meeting for the first time. "In the first set he caught me off guard. He had a couple of chances to break me, but I hung in there. I served well the last two sets and he hit some erratic shots."

MAHER WINS TENNIS TITLE

PITTSFIELD— Warren Maher of Australia turned back Harry Fritz of Toronto, 6-3, 6-3, in the finals of the Western New England Tennis Championships Monday at the Country Club of Pittsfield.

\$1,000 for his victory. He gained the title round with a 7-6, 6-0 win over Dean Jaubert of South Africa. Fritz made the finals with a 6-0, 6-1 decision over Mike Miburg of South Africa.

Chris Mayotte of Springfield, seeded fourth, lost to Miburg in the quarterfinals, 4-6, 7-5, 6-0. Maher, seeded third, picked up

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