

Djokovic leads procession

Fellow heavyweights Federer, Serena and Wozniacki follows

New York

Novak Djokovic raced into the US Open last 32 with a ruthless demolition of Argentine Carlos Berlocq, as fellow heavyweights Roger Federer, Serena Williams and Caroline Wozniacki also cruised.

World number one, and top seed, Djokovic, the Australian Open and Wimbledon champion, destroyed Berlocq 6-0, 6-0, 6-2, to take his 2011 record to 59 wins against just two losses.

Djokovic, who dropped only one game in his first round match, was on his way to clinching a white-wash at 6-0, 6-0, 2-0 before world number 78 Berlocq broke for the first time in the third game of the third set. "Listen, I felt incredible pressure, honestly. It felt like it was 5-0 all really. It was really entertaining. I played fantastic tennis," said Djokovic, who next tackles Russia's Nikolay Davydenko.

"I was trying to be perfect but all credit to Carlos for hanging in and fighting," Federer and Serena Williams, with 29 Grand Slam titles between them, as well as top seed Wozniacki, who is still searching for her first major, were just as untroubled as the Serb.

Five-time US Open champion Federer eased past Israel's world number 93 Dudi Sela 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 for his 225th win at a major just eight behind Jimmy Connors's all-time mark of 233.

The third seed next faces Croatia 27th seed Marin Cilic who put out 18-year-old Australian Bernard Tomic, the youngest player

in the draw, for the loss of just three games.

"Not much trouble on my serve, and from the baseline I also thought I had the upper hand. When it's like that, obviously it's tough for the opponent, but I just think I was superior today," said Federer.

Federer unleashed 31 winners to Sela's 10 in his 77-minute victory, allowing his opponent just eight points on serve. Triple women's champion Serena Williams disposed of Dutch qualifier Michaella Krajicek 6-0, 6-1.

Williams has lost just three games in her two matches and now tackles Belarusian fourth seed Victoria Azarenka

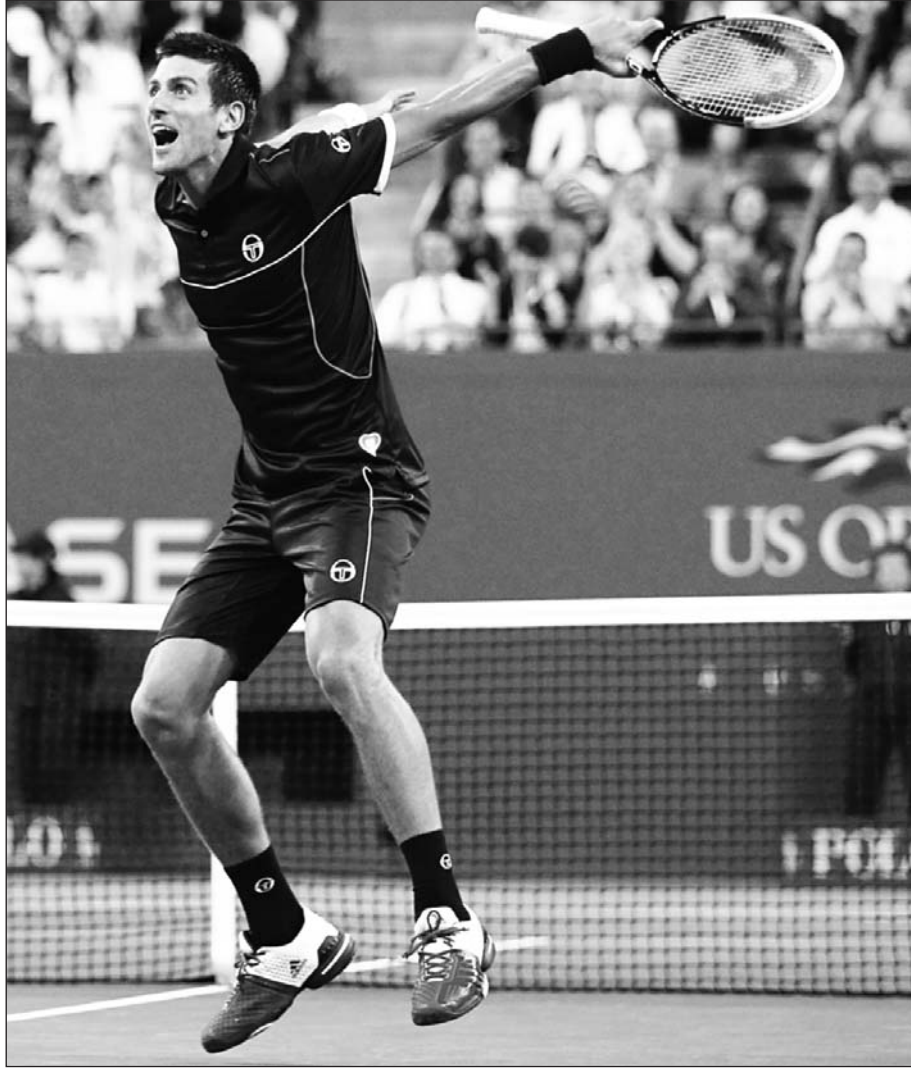
who defeated Argentina's Gisela Dulko 6-4, 6-3. Williams boasts a 5-1 career record over Azarenka, including all four of their Grand Slam meetings.

The American, who is seeded 28 after spending most of the last year fighting injury as well as life-threatening blood clots on her lungs, saw off Krajicek with a 10th ace, having unleashed 25 winners.

Williams insisted that she had not been distracted by seeing sister Venus withdraw from the tournament 24 hours earlier after being diagnosed with an autoimmune disorder.

"It really wasn't that difficult, to be honest. She wants me to do the best; she wouldn't want me to suffer. So now, if anything, it should motivate me more," said Williams.

Wozniacki brushed aside Dutchwoman Arantxa Rus 6-2 6-0 and next tackles Vania King of the United States. Meanwhile,



GREAT GOING: Djokovic, the Australian Open and Wimbledon champion, destroyed Berlocq 6-0, 6-0, 6-2, to take his 2011 record to 59 wins against just two losses.

Sania-Bhupathi sent packing

Sixth seeds Sania Mirza and Mahesh Bhupathi made a shock first-round exit from the mixed doubles event but Somdev Devvarman and his partner entered the men's doubles second round with a straight-set win in the US Open here.

Sania and Bhupathi lost 3-6 6-7 (5) to the Czech pair of Lucie Hradecka and Frantisek Cermak in a contest that lasted a little over an hour.

However, Somdev, who lost in the men's singles opening round against Andy Murray, ensured that India didn't go winless on day four of the season's last Grand Slam.

Somdev and his Filipino partner Treat Conrad Huey defeated Russians Igor Andreev and Igor Kunitsyn 6-3 6-4 to enter the men's doubles second round.

the number of walkovers and injury-enforced retirements at the tournament climbed to 13. Czech 23rd seed Radek Stepanek called it quits in the third set against Juan Monaco of Argentina with a shoulder injury.

Former French Open champion Ana Ivanovic reached the third round without hitting a ball when Czech player Petra Cetkovska, who beat the Serb at Wimbledon and was runner-up at New Haven at the weekend, withdrew through injury.

Defeat stares at Lanka

Tottering at 120-5 chasing target of 379 against Oz

Galle (Sri Lanka)

Australia closed in on a convincing victory in the first Test in Galle on Friday after Sri Lanka's top order was ripped apart for a second time.

Sri Lanka, set an improbable target of 379 to win on a crumbling wicket, were tottering at 120-5 at the close of the third day's play at the Galle International Stadium.

Former captain Mahela Jayawardene provided a batting lesson for his teammates, making an unbeaten 57 with the help of eight boundaries. Angelo Mathews was the other not out batsman, on 32, having put on 52 runs for the sixth wicket with his senior partner.

Australia start the fourth day's play on Saturday needing five more wickets to win and take the lead in the three-Test series, their first in Sri Lanka since 2004.

Sri Lanka need to defy history to stop the tourists — the highest fourth-innings score at the ground is 210 by New Zealand two years ago. The hosts, who were shot out for 105 in the first innings, succumbed to a hostile three-wicket burst by Ryan Harris and probing seam bowling from Mitchell Johnson and Shane Watson.

Harris trapped Tharanga Paranavitana leg-before with the first ball of the innings and then bowled Sri Lankan captain Tillakaratne Dilshan in his fourth over to leave the hosts 15-2.

Kumar Sangakkara would have been another Harris victim, but survived a review for leg-before off the first ball he faced.

Harris, a 31-year-old from Sydney playing only his sixth Test, followed his defiant 23 in Australia's second innings with 2-15 in his first five overs.

Sangakkara and Jayawardene, Sri Lanka's two most experienced batsmen, at-



HARRI-CANE: Ryan Harris (L) celebrates after he dismissed Prasanna Jayawardene during the third day of the Test cricket match against Sri Lanka in Galle.

SCORECARD

OZ 1ST INNINGS: 273

LANKA 1ST INNINGS: 105

OZ 2ND INNINGS: 210

LANKA 2ND INNINGS:

T Paranavitana lbw b Harris.....0

T Dilshan b Harris.....12

K Sangakkara c Hussey b Watson..17

M Jayawardene not out.....57

Samaraweera c Haddin b Johnson..0

P Jayawardene b Harris.....0

A Mathews not out.....32

Extras: (b1, lb1).....2

Total: (for 5 wks, 52 overs).....120

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-15, 3-52,

4-63, 5-68.

Bowling: Harris 9-2-24-3,

Copeland 9-5-8-0, Johnson 10-3-

20-1, Lyon 12-2-41-0, Clarke 2-0-6-

0, Watson 8-4-14-1, Ponting 2-0-5-

0.

tempted to rebuild with a

37-run stand on either side

of the tea break. Watson,

who took three wickets in 10

balls in the first innings,

broke the partnership when

Sangakkara (17) fended a vi-

lucious rising delivery to

Mike Hussey at gully.

Thilan Samaraweera edged a ball from Johnson to wicket-keeper Brad Haddin for a 14-ball duck, leaving Sri Lanka on 63-4.

Harris bowled Prasanna Jayawardene to complete a pair for the Sri Lankan wicket-keeper, but Mathews dug in to ensure the game went into the fourth day. Australia resumed at 115-6 after the entire morning session was wiped out by heavy rain and were dismissed for 210 in their second innings midway through the post-lunch session.

Left-arm spinner Rangana Herath finished with 5-79 after claiming three wickets in the first innings.

Australia added 15 runs to their overnight score when they lost the wicket of Johnson, who top-edged a high catch off Herath which was taken comfortably by the wicket-keeper. Usman Khawaja put on 40 for the eighth wicket with Harris before falling leg-before to Chanaka Welegedara for 26 to leave Australia 170-8.

India take on China in Asian Champions Trophy opener

● SUNDEEP MISRA
Ordos (China)

Bogged down by controversies in the past few months, the Indian hockey team begins its campaign in the Asian Champions Trophy by taking on hosts China here today, marking the start of its preparations for the upcoming Olympic qualifiers.

It has been a turbulent last six months for Indian hockey, with two federations slugging it out in court and then coming together in a compromise merger, two key players - Sandeep Singh and Sardara Singh - dropping out citing issues with

the management and injuries ruling out star players such as Tushar Khandekar, Shivendra Singh and Arjun Halappa.

Like hockey is trying to find its feet among the Mongol population in Ordos, so is new coach Michael Nobbs with the Indian hockey team. The former Australian midfielder who played with the likes of Ric Charlesworth in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, is a believer in the Indian team and is hoping to give the boys a flying start against the hosts, no mean opponents even though they have lost some momentum in the years after their Ko-

rean coach Kim Sang Ryeul left the team.

"I hope we win and have a good start," said Nobbs at the training session this evening. "The other teams are good and have some big players."

The Indian training session wasn't too hard - a light workout followed by sessions on penalty corners and defence work. Nobbs knows in the absence of Sandeep and Sardara, the team has its work cut out.

China have a good counter-attacking ability but they are also very good at set pieces. "I know the defence requires some work. But I am confident that this tournament is a way forward," said Nobbs. Nobbs is looking to the seniors to show the way forward.

Seniors like Rajpal Singh, Ignace Tirkey, Bharat Chhetri, Gurbaz Singh and Ravi Pal are expected to hold the team together and not let panic set in.

New Delhi

Narain Karthikeyan, India's first F1 driver, on Friday signed a sponsorship deal with Hero Motors for the inaugural Indian Grand Prix and hoped with the premier motorsport event making its foray into the country, more corporate houses will come to support the home grown racers.

Pankaj Munjal, the MD of Hero Motors, world's largest cycle manufacturers, signed the agreement with the Chennai-based driver in full media glare but the deal so far is restricted to just the Indian GP, slated for October 30.

"I think, it will happen slowly. Hopefully, others will follow. After the first Malaysian Grand Prix, four corporates are supporting their F1 team," Karthikeyan said when asked if there will be a paradigm shift with regard to



HAPPY MOMENT: Narain Karthikeyan says driving before the home crowd would be the most cherished moment of his career.

motorsport in India.

"Like TATA, it could be a long association. There are a lot of aspiring drivers and

corporates have a role to play."

Karthikeyan's Hispania car will bear a Hero Motors

logo during the race. Munjal said it was time that they support a sportsperson individually and that the

"doors were open" for a long-time association with Karthikeyan.

"We are trying to catch him young. We met and shared thoughts. We'll go step by step. The current association is only for the Indian GP," Munjal said without revealing the sponsorship figure.

Karthikeyan said driving before the home crowd would be the most cherished moment of his career.

"It will be the most special thing. I will do it in my life. On October 28 when I will be ready for practice at 10, it's going to be a very special day. As a kid I had always dreamt of becoming an F1 driver but never in my wildest dream, I thought, I would be driving in the inaugural Indian GP in front of my own people. It's becoming a reality now. It's going to be a thrilling experience," he said.

Gracias strikes in Mother Teresa win

● FPJ SPORTS DESK
Mumbai

Sheldon Gracias turned out to be the hero in Mother Teresa Foundation's (MTF) narrow 1-0 win against Soccer Club Chincholi in a Division-III match of the Mumbai District Football Association's (MDFA) League 2011-12 played at the St Xavier's Ground, Parel, on Friday.

Striker Gracias netted the lone goal of the match, which tilted the favour of his team and earn all the full three points.

Later in the day, Mubarak Hunters enjoyed a much easier time as they blanked Miracles FC by a convincing 5-0 margin. Shadabh Malik helped himself to two goals, while Sharik Sayed, Ismail Khan and Junaid Shaikh contributed one each to complete their win.

Meanwhile, Xavier's Boy's and Sainath Nagar won their respective league matches by identical 3-0 margins.



Xavier's Boy's riding on a goal each from the efforts of Alok Thakkar, Sheldon D'Souza and Fabian Mascarenhas tamed FC Prodigy 0.

Sainath Nagar proved too good for Sainath Mitra Mandal with Jatan Pathak, Venkatesh Sharma and Abhijeet Acharya netting a goal each.

Div-III Results: Xavier's Boy's 3 (Alok Thakkar, Sheldon D'Souza, Fabian Mascarenhas) beat FC Prodigy 0.

Mother Teresa Foundation (MTF) 1 (Sheldon Gracias) beat Soccer Club Chincholi 0.

Rishikul Vidyalyaya's chess supremacy

● FPJ SPORTS DESK
MUMBAI

MET Rishikul Vidyalyaya, Bandra, showed supremacy by scoring 17 points out of 20 points to top under upto 6th Std category to clinch 13th Smt. Susheela Vaze Rotating chess Trophy, in Inter-School Chess Team Championship, organised jointly by Dr. Prakash Vaze Sports Foundation and Maharashtra Seva Sangh, Mulund.

While A K Joshi English Medium School, Thane, Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School, Vashi and Gopi Birla memorial School, Walkeshwar also did well to scalp the title in 10th Std, 6th std & 4th Std categories respectively. More than 600 students took part in the tournament.



Rishikul Vidyalyaya students receiving the 13th Smt. Susheela Vaze Rotating Chess Trophy, in Inter-School Chess Team Championship, organised jointly by Dr. Prakash Vaze Sports Foundation and Maharashtra Seva Sangh, Mulund.

Luka disappoints at World Championship

Qualifies for 2012 Olympics

Daegu

India's campaign in the World Athletics Championships ended on a disappointing note with woman 800m runner Tintu Luka failing to qualify for the final round though she booked a berth for 2012 London Olympics here on Friday.

Luka clocked 2:00.95, her season's best, to finish sixth in heat number two of the semi-finals and 15th overall. She, however, booked a ticket to the London Olympics as she crossed the Games

'B' qualifying standard of 2:01.30.

The 21-year-old Luka, the prodigy of legendary P T Usha, holds the national record of 1:59.17 but even that mark would not have been enough for her to qualify for the finals as the last and eighth athlete who made the grade clocked 1:58.98.

Defending champion Castor Semenya of South Africa led the time chart among the eight athletes, who were through to the final round with 1:58.07.

The Olympic qualification was a consolation for Luka though her effort today was a big disappointment. She was not expected to win a medal here.