

SCHROEDER - SEIXAS TO PLAY SINGLES FOR U.S.?

SYDNEY, Dec. 18.—Frank Sedgman and Ted Schroeder appear certain to be the No. 1 singles players for their countries in the Davis Cup challenge round at the White City next week. Vic Seixas is likely to be the second American singles player. The second singles berth in the Australian team is open, with Ken McGregor favoured because of his Davis Cup experience.

McGregor's attitude today suggests that he is confident of selection. He was in a happy frame of mind, and practised with tremendous enthusiasm. Observers feel that McGregor is regaining his touch at the right time. They suggest that he is ready to hand out another Davis Cup surprise.

In the last cup tie he "winded" the Americans by defeating Schroeder. In the absence of coach Jack Kramer, who is ill, Australian professional, Dinny Pails, practised with the Americans today. Pails played singles with Schroeder and Seixas.

After the practice Pails said that Schroeder and Seixas were both playing good tennis, and there was nothing further they could do but to keep on practising. Pails said that if the Americans were beaten it would not be through lack of condition.

Tony Trabert, who rested with a pulled back muscle yesterday, practised today. He played for half an hour with Junior Ham Richardson, but made no attempt to stretch out for his shot.

The Australian team captain, Harry Hopman, ordered Sedgman to wear spiked shoes on a dampened court. The surface of the court has been made slippery by overnight rain. Hopman said later that he would ask the White City Curator (Mr. Don Ryan) to prepare a dampened court for McGregor and Rose.

At today's training John Bromwich played four sets with Sedgman. Hopman said that Bromwich was playing well enough to officially be a member of the squad.

Reached Hospital Five Hours After Accident

MACKAY, Dec. 18.—A timber-worker reached hospital more than five hours after his leg was pulverised by a falling tree early today. He was William Joseph Pitkin (23, labourer) of Cathu, 35 miles north of Mackay.

Ambulance bearers and farmers took one and a half hours to cut their way out of scrub to the ambulance car one and a half miles away. With his brother George, Pitkin was cutting timber in broken scrub country.

When lawyer vines caught the falling tree, the log swung over and pinned Pitkin by the left leg. His brother cut the log about five feet from the injured man and made him comfortable before going for help.

He rang the ambulance and returned with farmers. The ambulance car from Calen, 15 miles away, could not get closer than one and a half miles from the injured man. Bearers and farmers cut their way out 20ft. at a time with the injured man on a stretcher. At Calen, Pitkin was described as a "nightmare" trip.

The party reached the car at about 1.30 p.m. and started on the trip to Mackay. A mile down the road the car was met by a Prospering car with a doctor, who administered morphine. At Calen, Pitkin was moved into the Mackay Ambulance Centre car with a doctor who gave Pitkin blood transfusions all the way back.

Late tonight Pitkin was reported by the Mater Hospital to be in a serious condition, and amputation may be necessary. The accident occurred at 8.30 a.m.

Doctors late tonight amputated Pitkin's leg below the knee. His condition is critical.

Twice Divorced From Same Husband

LONDON, Dec. 18.—British divorce courts yesterday featured Cupid as a malicious spirit.

In London Mrs. Catherine Towery was granted her second divorce against the same husband. They married in 1928, were divorced in 1934, but fell in love again, and were secretly married in 1937. The roundabout same back full circle yesterday. Mrs. Towery's divorce petition named the same woman as before.

At Chester, Mrs. Gwendoline Bithell was granted a divorce because of her husband's desertion. This was a marriage that ended on the wedding day, the judge said. At the height of the wedding reception gaily the husband accused his wife of being a prostitute. She walked out indignantly, and they had never lived together since.

Also at Chester, Mrs. Margaret Jones (75) was given a divorce from her husband, David (78). They had been married seven years. The wife said her husband was money mad, and constantly accused her of stealing.

COURT CHANGES COST £28,000

SYDNEY, Dec. 18.—Changes at White City tennis court, costing £28,000, and to seat 15,012 spectators, will be completed tomorrow. The changes are for the Davis Cup challenge round between Australia and the United States to begin today.

Galvanic steel stands to accommodate an extra 8412 people have been built on the northern, eastern, and western sides of the championship seats at a cost of about £20,000.

About 190,000ft. of 2 1/2 in. tubular steel and 90,000 super feet of Oregon timber have gone into the construction of the new stands.

Costs to be met by the Australian Lawn Tennis Association include fares and expenses of the players and the employment of about 140 ticket collectors and ushers, 30 ball-boys, and 20 cleaners. More than 20 policemen will be stationed at the ground to direct people to and from the stand area.

REAPPLICATION OF LEAGUE BAN OPPOSED

BRISBANE, Dec. 18.—The General Committee of the Queensland Rugby League tonight decided to oppose the reapplication of the international poaching ban.

The ban, which was imposed for five years in 1947, expires in August next year, when the question of its reapplication will be considered by the Australian Rugby League Board of Control.

New South Wales Rugby League is believed to favour the reimposition of the ban.

The Q.R.L. is recommending that if the ban is not repealed, a substantial fee be paid to the club or league losing the services of any Australian player through his transfer to another country.

AUST. JOCKEY RETURNS

SYDNEY, Dec. 18.—Australian jockey A. Bagnall, arrested in Sydney tonight by B.C.F.A. He won 129 races during his two-year visit to Britain. He said he would remain in Australia and ride in Melbourne.

VICTORIAN "HOUDINI" RECAPTURED

MELBOURNE, Dec. 18.—Police guarded all exits to the City Court today when Melbourne's "Houdini," Maxwell Carl Skinner (23), was charged with having escaped from Pentridge Gaol illegally.

He was recaptured in a Fitzroy Hotel bar yesterday, after having eluded a State-side police search for a month.

Mr. McLean, S.M., remanded Skinner to January 12 on the escape charge, and another of larceny.

QUEEN'S CAR DAMAGED IN COLLISION

LONDON, Dec. 18.—The "Evening Standard" says that the Queen's car was slightly damaged today in an accident outside the West End store of Fortnum and Mason's in Piccadilly. The collision occurred while the Queen and Princess Margaret were in the store doing Christmas shopping.

A lorry struck the car, damaging one wing, and scraping some of the paintwork. The car remained outside the shop until the Queen and Princess came out. They were able to drive off in it.

DRUNKEN DRIVING CHARGE

SYDNEY, Dec. 18.—Allan George Ridley Bagnall (55, union secretary), of Richmond Avenue, Dewey, was remanded until January 21 in the Central Court of Petty Sessions today on a charge of having driven a car in Benboy Road, Central Bay, on October 17, while under the influence of liquor.

Bagnall is Secretary of the bus action of the New South Wales Tramway and Motor Omnibus Employees' Union.

"FORGED BALLOT PAPERS" JUDGE DECLARES MR. SHORT IRONWORKERS' SECRETARY

MELBOURNE, Dec. 19.—The election of Communist Ernest Thornton to the position of National Secretary of the Federated Ironworkers' Association was on votes obtained "from a tainted source and by foul means," Mr. Justice Dunphy said in the Arbitration Court today.

His Honour gave reasons for his judgment in Sydney on November 25, when he declared that Laurence Short lawfully won the 1949 election for the National Secretaryship of the association.

Mr. Justice Dunphy said that after studying all ballot papers used in the election that were alleged to be forged, he believed one person probably filled in most of them. He said that Thornton would have been compelled to give evidence if he had not left the country when the inquiry was in its preliminary stages.

"It would be stretching one's credulity beyond all limits to even attempt to believe that this scheme was implemented without the knowledge or consent of the primary beneficiary," Mr. Justice Dunphy said.

The 1949 ballot result showed that Thornton best Short by 1678 votes for the secretaryship. Thornton is now in China as an official of the Communist-dominated World Federation of Trade Unions.

When he resigned from the F.I.A. to leave for China, another Communist, Mr. L. J. McPhillips, was appointed secretary.

Judge's Comments

Laurence Short, leader of the A.L.F. group in the F.I.A., sought the Court's order voiding the 1949 election. Mr. Justice Dunphy said that 1941 forged ballot papers were introduced into the Sydney branch of the 1949 national ballot, and 1682 into the ballot for officers of the Sydney Metropolitan Branch. Electors had been deprived of votes by a variety of means. He believed they could have been introduced by a systematic collection of papers sent out to voters who surrendered them to organised collectors, or additional papers and return envelopes could have been printed unlawfully, filled in, and returned through the post like valid votes.

"In the 1949 ironworkers' election," he added, "persons attained offices of profit, or power, in a key union in one of the nation's key industries, through a cynical and totalitarian disregard of the hard-won rights of organised labour, and by means which would not be tolerated in Parliamentary elections."

His Honour said that all possible legislative safeguards should be created to secure the validity and integrity of the "all-important matter of the election of union officials under our arbitration system."

If the forging of union ballot papers was not a crime, Parliament should remedy the situation.

He proposed to refer the ballot papers to the Attorney-General for examination of the legal position. If forgery of the papers amounted to a crime, and the perpetrator could be discovered, he should stand his trial.

Mr. Justice Dunphy emphasised that Short's allegations referred only to the conduct of elections in the Sydney Branch.

SOUTH KOREANS SAY P.O.W. LIST IS 80,000 SHORT

PUSAN, Dec. 19.—South Korea viewed with deep suspicion the Communist prisoner of war list, said the official Korean Government spokesman, Mr. Clarence Rye today.

The spokesman added, "We refuse to believe that the Communists hold only 7000 South Korean prisoners of war. It is known that 22,000 of our troops are missing in action. It is utterly impossible for more than 80,000 soldiers to just disappear from the face of the earth."

Mr. Rye said that either those men's names were purposely being withheld for some secret motives, or those Korean soldiers had been spirited away to slave labour camps or slaughtered.

Even worse, the Communists had made no mention of the scores of thousands of civilians who had been abducted and taken North by the Communists as "political prisoners."

3198 AMERICANS MENTIONED

TOKIO, Dec. 18.—The names of Major-General William Dean and American associated Press photographer Frank Noel were on the Communist list of American prisoners released in Tokio today.

The colourful general, captured in July, 1950, while leading units of his 24th Division against the enemy, is a Congressional Medal of Honour winner.

General Dean was last seen near Taejon, fighting furiously alongside his men. For his heroism he received the United States highest military award. Men who escaped from a Communist trap in Taejon said the general went back into the blazing town to bring out wounded and try to salvage equipment. He was credited with disabling several Communist tanks with a bazooka.

General Dean's name was among those of 3198 Americans listed as prisoners of the Communists. The Americans were among 11,589 Allied prisoners whom the Communists said were still alive in 11 prison camps in North Korea.

The list contained only a small percentage of the 100,000 or more Allied troops reported missing in action.

A quick check of the list failed to reveal the names of several missing war correspondents—Wilson Fielder of "Time and Life" magazines, Maurice Chatelet of Agence France Press, William Moore of American Associated Press, and Mike Gigantes (Philip Deane) of Inter-News, the "London Observer" and "Radio Athens."

Federal Union Secretary on Receiving Charge

SYDNEY, Dec. 18.—The Federal Secretary of the Tramway and Motor Omnibus Employees' Union, Thomas Junor (45), appeared in the Newtown Court of Petty Sessions today on a receiving charge.

Mr. P. T. Scroope, S.M., remanded him until February 12, and allowed him bail of £40.

Junor was described on the charge sheet as a "tramway employee." He was arrested on September 20 and charged at the Marrickville Police Station with having received, and had in his possession on or about September 9, three women's raincoats, three women's jackets, two women's toppers, two women's leather belts, a woman's cardigan, a woman's swimsuit, a woman's cotton jumper, a woman's scarf, and 20 pairs of women's stockings.

Police alleged that the goods were stolen from the Astor frock shop at Marrickville, and were the property of Samuel Thier.

Junor is also President of the New South Wales Industrial Group, and Organizer of the New South Wales Branch of the Tramway and Motor Omnibus Employees' Union.

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NEW GAINS IN THE FIGHT

In recent years, important advances have been made in the United States and other countries in poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis) research. Basil O'Connor, president of the United States National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis and the International Poliomyelitis Congress, is convinced that the conquest of this disease is in sight, though he cannot predict how many years it will take to reach the goal.

Poliomyelitis is one of the most complex medical problems. It is caused by viruses, micro-organisms so small they can be observed only under the powerful electron microscope.

Viruses grow within the body cell itself. That is probably why specific anti-serum is not effective in their treatment.

While many people have had polio at some time without even knowing it, severe forms of the disease result in paralysis or death. In these cases, the poliomyelitis virus destroys certain cells in the spinal cord, and the brain that control various voluntary muscles of the body. The dead nerve cells are not replaced, and the function of the muscles controlled by them is lost.

LOWOOD HAD NEARLY 50pts.

LOWOOD, Dec. 18.—Light showers began at 10 o'clock this morning and shortly after 7 o'clock a storm was experienced which yielded soaking rain all afternoon to 5 o'clock. A fall of nearly half an inch was recorded. The rain afforded relief to householders by replenishing empty tanks.

Lowood residents had never before so short of water for their household use. Many were purchasing water from owners of wells and bores, and having it carted long distances and siphoned into tanks.

The people in Walters Street were mostly dependent on the limited town water supply, and unless householders could fill containers during the night, or before 7 o'clock in the morning they had little hope of having any water during the day.

It would have been a hopeless task to stop an outbreak of fire, if one had occurred, because there was no spare water available.

The heat of the past week added discomfort to the troubles of residents in the drought stricken land, and many were beginning to despair because stock feeds on dairy farms were practically finished, and in the dry areas all reserves had gone.

Dairymen have been rushing to buy from any farmers who had cornstalks for sale, in an effort to keep dairy stock on their feet.

Business at Clarendon, Vernon, and Taranga have given much cause for worry. Sparks or ash from a train shortly after mid-day on Sunday are believed to have caused some of the worst fires residents of Vernon and Clarendon have had to fight this season.

Calls were sent out in all directions in an effort to save outbuildings and homes. A strong wind was blowing at the time, and fire was jumping along ahead of firefighters who were nearly in a state of collapse from the heat of the day and fire.

OTHER CENTRES

ROSEWOOD.—Storms on Tuesday night yielded 12 points of rain. Further storm showers yesterday yielded an additional 45 points, making a total of 57 for the two days. Although of very little benefit to farmers, it has given a measure of relief to householders, many of whom have had to have water for domestic purposes carted from Ipswich.

TOOGOOALWAL.—A "dry" storm passed over Toogoolwal on Tuesday night, but steady rain began to fall at 4 p.m. yesterday. The registration up to 5 p.m. was 50 points.

HARLIN.—Light falls of rain, averaging from 10 to 50 points, fell over the Harlin district last week, accompanied by strong winds. Tanks at Mr. W. Bleakley's farm were blown on to the adjoining road, sheds were unroofed, and large trees were blown down. The highest temperature recorded this month has been 106 degrees.

LAIDLEY.—About 75 points of rain fell in most parts of the Laidley district as a result of storms which broke over the area yesterday. Rain was again falling in the area at 11 o'clock last night.

WELCOME FOR AUST. GOVERNOR-GENERAL

MELBOURNE, Dec. 18.—The Governor-General (Sir William McKell) was given a 21-gun Royal salute, and was met by a naval guard of 100 while a military band played the National Anthem when he disembarked from the Oronsay at Port Melbourne today.

Four Vampire Jet Fighters flew overhead to add the R.A.A.F.'s welcome.

More than 200 people watched the ceremony from the ship wharf and nearby vantage points.

BRIEF ITEMS FROM U.S.A.

There are 40,000 different ways of forming a living in the United States, according to the Federal Security Agency.

The oldest library in the United States is that at Harvard University at Cambridge, in the north-eastern State of Massachusetts. Founded in 1638 with 400 books, this library now contains more than 5,400,000 volumes and pamphlets.

In the first nine months of 1951, 1856 locomotives were manufactured in the United States. This compares with 1992 in the same period of 1950.

The weight of electric gas and water meters manufactured in the United States now averages 5lb, as compared with 40lb. when they were first produced.

An automatic pilot designed to provide precise steering control for ocean-going ships has been developed in the United States by the Sperry Gyroscope Company. The mechanism, it is reported, eliminates any over-shooting of a course due to the turning momentum of a ship's hull.

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Storms and Showers Replenished Tanks

Following storm showers in some West Moreton centres on Tuesday night, showers and relms yielding light but soaking rain gave some relief in several district centres yesterday. The fall was not heavy enough to give much benefit to farmers without irrigation, but has been useful in filling empty household tanks.

DEAF MUTES' CONFERENCE

Christopher Serpell, the B.F.C.'s Rome correspondent, recently attended a conference which he described in "Radio Newsworld" as one of the strangest he had ever attended for the sound of the human voice was conspicuously absent. It was a conference of deaf mutes, representing the two and a half to three million people throughout the world who share this double affliction, people isolated from the rest of mankind through no fault of their own, and who are otherwise perfectly healthy and of normal intelligence.

The delegates met to exchange information on the treatment they receive in various countries and also to launch an international federation of deaf mutes which will compare and attempt to standardise their position throughout the civilised world.

Serpell was impressed by the eerie silence that hung over the proceedings, even though "speeches" made were in some cases obviously emotional.

He watched one delegate, "surely from a Latin country, whose movements were broad, passionate, and intensely dramatic. They were exciting to me, who could understand nothing, and they were frequently punctuated by applause from the audience." The only time at which any sound other than coughs and the movements of feet or chairs was heard in the hall.

It is very delectable concluded by flinging his right arm out wide in what appeared to be a vigorous inquiry, but when the next man rose the atmosphere changed. "Here," said Serpell, "was the practical man concerned with ways and means. The movement of his hands and fingers was rapid and fluent, but restricted."

SILENT CONVERSATION

There were other peculiar characteristics at the conference, for as the B.F.C. correspondent stood at the back of the hall during one of the addresses, a delegate beside him engaged in a long and animated conversation with a member of the presidential committee who was sitting some 20yds. away behind the speaker's rostrum. Ordinary delegates could only have conducted such an exchange in stentorian yells which would have ensured their being called to order by the President; but here a few rapid silent gestures with the hands were enough. There was a lot to be said for such a method for delegates and their interpreters could discuss the subject matter of addresses while these were still in progress, a practice which was widespread, judging by the constant fluttering of hands that went on. Serpell did not reveal the deaf mute's equivalent of a whisper. When the congress ended the Federation had been launched, its statutes outlined, the officers elected, and the headquarters established in Rome. Delegations of 18 nations, including Great Britain, had already joined it, and others were only waiting until its constitution was complete. The conference showed that social treatment of deaf mutes is most advanced in Scandinavia, Switzerland, and Holland, whilst France gained honourable mention for being the first nation to establish special schools for them.

MEET LOWOOD

GATTON, Dec. 18.—Players selected to represent the Lockyer Cricket Association in a match against the Lowood Association at Lowood on Boxing Day (December 26), play to commence at 10 a.m. are: C. Crosby, I. Hansen, L. Staats, L. Noffke, L. Otto, W. Wakeham, E. Kimlin, A. Steinke, T. Lyons, A. Petersen, R. Wagner, D. Gablonski. Players are asked to arrange their own transport, and if any player is unavailable to notify the Secretary immediately.

"SCOTTIE" ANXIOUS

BRISBANE, Dec. 18.—Two Murwillumbah men are anxious to know which of them owns half share in today's Golden Casket £6000 prize. Purchaser of the ticket, Mr. R. Davidson, is in Sydney on holidays and left no forwarding address. Each of the others thinks that he had a ticket with Mr. Davidson in the name of "Two Scotties," the syndicate named on the ticket.

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