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Noah to Play Wilander in French Final

FRENCH OPEN, From G1
 down more balls than the tiring Higuera, who had played an exhausting five-set match against Guillermo Vilas spread over the past two days and was suffering from a bad case of tennis elbow that slowed his serve.
 "I played a very good clay-court player and it takes time to beat him," Wilander said. "I was tired also, but I won the games at the beginning of the third set and that fired me up."
 For his part, Higuera said he was so tired after all the running he has done on clay this spring that he was going home to Barcelona to rest on the beach. "I will watch Wimbledon on television," he said.
 He praised Wilander's Borg-like determination and concentration. Although he said the two have similar two-hand backhands, Higuera said Borg's big topspin forehand remained a stronger attacking weapon than anything of Wilander's.

Because Wilander does not have a knockout shot, Noah, 23, should have a good chance Sunday. Against Roger-Vasselin, he looked unbeatable, his topspin ground strokes landing deep in the court with good pace and his volleys angled and crisply hit. But it is hard to say whether Roger-Vasselin would have a chance to win.
 Since his victory over No. 1 seed Jimmy Connors Wednesday, Roger-Vasselin has been hounded at all hours of the day by the French press. Combined with the natural decomposition that follows a big upset, Roger-Vasselin never had his mind in this match.
 "The last few days have been absolutely exhausting," he said. "My mental attitude on the court was terrible."
 He tried to attack against Noah, but his shots did not have the pace, depth or consistency to bother his opponent. In the second and third sets, as Noah hit winner after winner, Roger-Vasselin straggled around the court like a wandering man lost in the desert. At one point, he kneeled and stared at his outstretched racket in prayer-like disbelief.

"I made a lot of unforced errors," Roger-Vasselin said. "I was hitting the ball short. I was making double faults. I was able to concentrate for one or two points. And then I would lose my concentration again."
 For his part, Noah seems to have the confidence and the strokes to become to win. He admits that he is a nervous person, and in pressure situations he has been known to fold. But in this tournament, he showed staying power in beating Ivan Lendl after squandering some match points and losing the third set.
 Along with his mental attitude, his game has come together. He is steady at the base line, and at the net his 6-foot-4 frame is tough to pass. His game matches up well against Wilander, who will be forced to take chances, not just make softball returns.
 "I am impatient to start the final," Noah said. "I am ready to put all my cards on the table. I couldn't be fitter."
 So with players of contrasting styles and the electricity of a Parisian throng rooting for a hometown hero against the imperturbable backboard of a Swede, the men's final should provide an exciting finish for a tournament mostly filled with uninspiring tennis.

The only men's matches with real excitement have been Noah's four-set win over Lendl and Wilander's victory over No. 2 John McEnroe, both in the quarterfinals. On the women's side, only the upset of No. 1 Martina Navratilova by 17-year-old Kathy Horvath and Jo Durie's refreshing serve and volleys have lived up to expectations.
 Saturday's women's final between second-seeded Chris Evert Lloyd and unseeded Mima Jausovec, the 1977 winner, seems to hold little promise to change this trend. The steady Evert should easily be able to keep the inevitable base line rallies going longer to win her fifth French Open.

Gault, Tennessee Win 4x100 Relay At NCAA Meet

NCAA, From G1
 Gault, a wide receiver drafted by the Chicago Bears, will try on Saturday to become the first man to win the 100 and the 110 hurdles in this meet. Then he will be married to Dainnese Mathis on June 11 before giving serious thought to whether he should put the Olympics or pro football first.

Merlene Ottey, the speedy Jamaican who attends Nebraska, also made the first big move toward an unprecedented multiple success. She won the 100 meters by a lean over Diane Williams of Cal State-Los Angeles, in a wind-aided 11.04.
 On Saturday, Ottey will run the 200 and 400, besides anchoring the Huskers' 4x100 relay team.
 "I feel better about all these races now, because I was concentrating on all four at one time and my coach said to take them one at a time," Ottey said. "It's very tough, because people have run some great times in the 200 and 400. If it happens, it happens."

Another sprinter with a four-event program, Marita Payne, got off to an easy start by anchoring Florida State to a collegiate record 3:28.46 in the 4x400-meter relay. Payne will run the 200, 400 and 4x100 Saturday.
 Nebraska finished fourth and Ottey joked, "I guess I'm just lucky I'm not running that, too."
 Carl Lewis was in the stands to watch Michael Conley of Arkansas break his meet record in the long jump with a leap of 27-2. Unfortunately for Conley, he saw Ralph Spry of Mississippi win the event with a wind-aided effort of 27-5 1/2 that was good for the gold medal, if not a record.
 Skeeter Jackson of George Mason placed eighth at 25-10 and was "disappointed that I didn't get one over 26. I had a foul by a half-inch in the final that was well past 26, but they don't count them."

Michele Bush of UCLA set two meet records, one for victory in the 1,500 meters in 4:14.8 and a second for quickest exit from Robertson Stadium. A UCLA coach explained that Bush is a member of the Church of Seventh Day Adventists and is prohibited from working from sundown Friday until sunrise Saturday. Bush's race ended at 8:10 p.m., seven minutes before sundown, and she immediately returned to her room.
 Jill Haworth of Virginia, bounced around early in the 14-woman field, battled back to place fourth in 4:16.89. "I missed five weeks' work because of a fracture in my foot, so I've got to be happy with this kind of comeback," she said.
 Joaquim Cruz, a freshman at Oregon who is from Brazil, won the 800 meters in a meet-record 1:44.91, after destroying the field with a 50-second first lap. Brian McNelis of Georgetown was eighth in 1:47.94.

Dean Crouser of Oregon broke the meet record in the discus by more than six feet with a throw of 216-2. Alan Baginski of Maryland threw 195-0 for eighth.
 Elliott Quow of Rutgers moved past favored Calvin Smith of Alabama in the last 10 meters to win the 200 in a wind-aided 20.31.

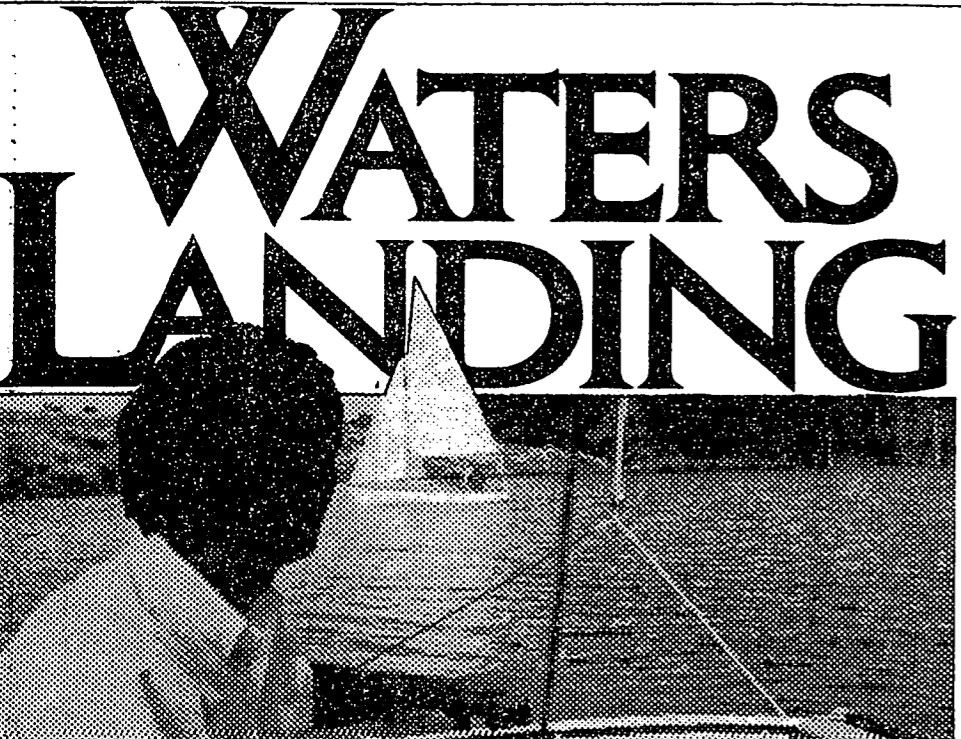
Rickie Thompson of Houston Baptist won the high jump at 7-5 1/2 as five others cleared 7-4 1/2. Leo Williams of Navy, the 1981 champion, was not among them, failing to clear 7-3 and finishing 11th.
 Carol Cady of Stanford improved the women's shot put record to 56 feet, as Marita Walton of Maryland finished fourth at 54-4 1/2. Other women's marks were set by Judi Brown of Michigan State (56.44 in the 400 hurdles) and Alison Wiley of Stanford (9:03.51 in the 3,000 meters).

Southern Methodist's hopes of a first men's team title were given a boost by the meet-record performances of English hammer thrower Robert Weir (244-2) and Swedish intermediate hurdler Sven Nylander (48.88).
 With 11 men's events scheduled Saturday, seven teams had shots at the championship. SMU led with 47 points, followed by Alabama with 46 and Texas-El Paso, seeking a fifth straight title, with 40 1/2. Others in contention were Oregon and Washington State (40 each), Tennessee (36) and Brigham Young (35).

1,800 Runners Compete Sunday

By Steve Nearman
 Special to The Washington Post
 Nearly 1,800 runners are expected to participate in Hecht's sixth annual 10-Miler Sunday in Rock Creek Park at 8:30 a.m.
 The race, which starts and finishes at the Carter Barron Amphitheater parking lot (16th and Kennedy Streets, NW) and follows a hilly course through the park, is conducted by the Washington Running Club in cooperation with Adidas to benefit the Big Brothers of the National Capital Area.
 Defending champion John Doub of Waynesboro, Pa., is expected to return this year. Doub, 26, beat Ned Poffenberger by seven seconds to win last year in 50:33.

Dave Patterson of the Adidas Racing Team, who placed third two years ago, and Adrian Leek of Johnson City, Ky., are also pre-race favorites. Leek, 25, finished third for the last two years in the prestigious Peachtree Road Race. The course record of 49:50 was set by Dan Rincon of Wheaton in 1980.
 In the women's division, Cynthia Lorenzoni of Charlottesville will attempt to repeat her 1982 record-breaking victory, when she won by almost two minutes in 58:22. Eleanor Simonsick, 25, of Baltimore, winner of the 1983 Cherry Blossom 10-Miler, will be Lorenzoni's biggest challenger.
 There will be no race-day entries accepted.



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