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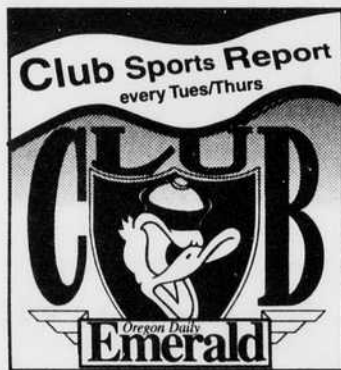
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Sampras beaten in second round of French Open

Once again, the clay courts at Roland Garros get the better of Pete Sampras

By Rob Gloster
The Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Pete Sampras solemnly packed his rackets and walked away, exiting the French Open after his latest loss on the clay courts that annually haunt him.

His recurring nightmare in Paris was caused this year by Ramon Delgado, a Paraguayan ranked 97th in the world. He defeated the world's top player 7-6 (8-6), 6-3, 6-4 on a soggy Wednesday that included three long rain delays.

Delgado knelt at the net after his victory, then ran to friends in the stands to get a Paraguayan flag. He waved it triumphantly as Sampras left the court.

"This is a dream," Delgado said.

"I worked all my life for a victory like this."

Sampras has won 10 Grand Slam titles and dominated tennis the past five years, but he has never won at Roland Garros. Year after year, he comes in as the top seed and loses to much lower-ranked players.

"It is disappointing. I put so much emphasis on the majors, especially this one," said Sampras, who will lose his No. 1 ranking if third-seeded Marcelo Rios makes the semifinals. "Each year you feel like it is a missed opportunity."

Rios advanced to the third round, along with No. 13 Albert Costa. But two-time champion Jim Courier was a loser, leaving only three of the original 12 American men in the tournament.

Top-seeded woman Martina Hingis and No. 8 Venus Williams both won easily, keeping very much alive the possibility of a Williams-Hingis clash in the quarterfinals.

terfinals.

Hingis was a 6-1, 6-2 winner over Meike Babel. Williams, who was a second-round loser in her French Open debut last year, served winners at up to 118 mph in a 6-0, 6-2 win over Ai Sugiyama.

Other seeded women to win were No. 3 Jana Novotna and No. 6 Monica Seles. But No. 13 Anna Kournikova's second-round match was pushed back to Thursday because of rain and darkness.

Sampras dominates with his powerful serve and sharp volleys, but the soft clay makes his serve less effective and makes it tougher for him to rush the net.

And when the air is heavy, as it was Wednesday, the conditions are even worse for a power player such as Sampras.

"I just can't afford to have a bad day, especially on this surface and in these conditions," he said. "Obviously, this wasn't a good day."

Sampras was leading 4-1 in the first set when rain stopped play. But he sagged when they returned, losing the first set in a tiebreaker and then struggling to catch up the rest of the match.

Always uncomfortable on the clay, Sampras stumbled and fell while trying to reach a shot in the second set and ended up covered with red clay.

By the start of the third set, as dusk began turning to darkness, Delgado's shirt was soaked with sweat despite the cool evening temperatures. But the Paraguayan continued to slam winners.

Delgado even outscored Sampras, slamming 12 aces and double faulting once while Sampras had 10 aces and six double faults.

In nine trips to the French Open, Sampras has lost four times in the first or second round and has made it past the quarterfinals just once.

Golf: Oklahoma State ends Day 1 with one-stroke lead

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"I don't think much over about even par for the two rounds is going to make the cut," Nosler said. "Going out 15 over, quite frankly it's kind of unrealistic to even think that we can shoot that kind of a number."

Oklahoma State ended the first 18 holes at the front of a crowded team pack with a 10-under-par 278. Four squads are within five strokes of first place as the Cowboys have a one-stroke lead over Georgia, a three-stroke lead on Georgia Tech, a four-shot advantage on Florida and a five-stroke

lead over Clemson.

UNLV, which is ranked No. 1 in the MasterCard Collegiate Golf Rankings, is in a two-way tie for sixth at four-under-par 284.

The individual leaderboard is no less dense with three players tied for first and 17 others within two strokes of the top spot. Kyle Voska of Miami (Ohio), Ohio State's Ryan Armour and Texas Christian's J.J. Henry all shot five-under-par 67s to share first



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place. Defending national champion Charles Warren of Clemson is in a 12-way tie for ninth, just two strokes behind the co-lead-ers.

Chris Cone paced the Ducks with a two-over-par 74 to tie for 88th-place individually. Oregon's Derek Crockrey finished the front-nine holes one under par, but then shot a 40 on the back nine to finish the day at 75 and tie for 108th. The Ducks' Andrew Tredway and Ryan Lavoie both finished at 77 to tie for 140th.

Nosler and Cone both said they did not believe the team wilted

under the pressure that nationals emits but simply suffered through a terrible round.

"It's kind of been the same old story," Cone said. "We seem the first round to dig ourselves in a hole and usually end up playing pretty good from here, but this time I think we dug a little too deep with the level of competition."

The tournament continues with today's second round, in which Oregon tees off at 1:30 p.m., before trimming to 15 teams for Friday's and Saturday's final two rounds.



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