



UPI PHOTO

Steffi Graf and her fast forehand are working on a No. 1 world tennis ranking.

Fast forehand fixes Graf at top

WEST GERMANY — Tennis pro Steffi Graf, 17, hopes her fast forehand will earn her a No. 1 ranking in world tennis. Her forehand, her favorite stroke, is said to be faster than some male tennis pros.

Now Steffi is ranked No. 2 behind Martina Navratilova. But she easily handled Navratilova and Chris Evert (No. 3) to win the Lipton International Players Championships in April.

Steffi's court record sizzles. Up to the French Open, she had won 37 straight matches and six consecutive titles.

Steffi picked up her first racket at age four. Three years later, her dad sold his businesses and built a tennis club because he knew Steffi was going to be good. The club was Steffi's training court.

As a 12-year-old, she won the West German junior tennis title in the 18-and-younger division. At 13 she turned pro and dropped out of school. Her father coached her until recently when he hired Czechoslovakian pro Pavel Slozil to handle those duties. But her father still controls Steffi's schedule and limits her to 16 tournaments a year.

West Germans love their tennis stars — Steffi and Boris Becker. They are treated like celebrities. Steffi receives as many as 100 fan letters a day and about 150 "good luck" phone calls a week.

"When I was growing up, I saw only Chris and Martina always No. 1 and No. 2," said Steffi. Even she is amazed with how far her tennis has come. Steffi isn't just watching Evert and Navratilova, she's playing against them to net a No. 1 ranking.

SPECTACULAR SPORTS



North Valley's Christy Ward sends the shot put up for a U.S. best.

Paul Vandegrift of Archbishop Kennedy High (Conshohocken, Pennsylvania) ran the USA's fastest 1,600 meters for this season with a time of 4:03.22. The U.S. high school record is 3:58.3.

Bismark (North Dakota) Public High Schools are trying out soccer teams next fall. However, each player must pay \$180 to help fund the team.

The Parkersburg (West Virginia) girls' tennis team won its 214th straight dual match to set a U.S. record. The record of 213 wins was held by Tucson (Arizona) High.

Playing in the 18-and-younger divisions, Leighanne Coutu of Wilmington, Delaware, won three titles in the Junior Regional Qualifier racquetball tourney. She won the girls' singles, doubles and mixed doubles.

Christy Ward, a junior at North Valley High (Grants Pass, Oregon) holds the nation's best shot put throw this season. She threw a best of 48 feet, 3 inches.

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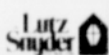
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Why is paper currency all the same size and printed in just one color?

Asked by DouangPhet PhanThavong of Aloha, Oregon



In 1929 the Bureau of Engraving and Printing developed a uniform size and color of currency. Because people found different sizes of currency difficult to handle, the current size of 6 1/4" x 2 3/8" was adopted for all denominations. The color green was selected because it was the most difficult to produce or counterfeit.

Americans still seem to want the same size and type of currency. When the Susan B. Anthony one-dollar coins were introduced, the general public did not accept them, and they are no longer in circulation.

Question answered by Lean Akbar, Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Washington, D.C.

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