



Steffi Graf and Stefan Edberg with the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics gold medals (edited image)

from Associated Press



LOS ANGELES. Steffi Graf of West Germany beat Yugoslavian Sabrina Goles, and Sweden's Stefan Edberg defeated Francisco Maciel of Mexico Saturday to earn exhibition gold medals in the Olympic tennis tournament.

The 15-year-old Graf took advantage of Goles' back problems to post a 1-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory in the women's division at the UCLA tennis center.

Edberg thwarted a late bid by Maciel to take it 6-1, 7-6 and win the men's title.

Since tennis is a demonstration event this year, Edberg and Graf were presented gold medals with a different imprint than those awarded in the Games traditional events.

Maciel earned the silver and the semifinal losers Jimmy Arias, of Buffalo, N.Y., and Paolo Canè of Italy received the bronze. Silver also went to Goles and bronze to France's Catherine Tanvier and Italy's Raffaella Reggi.

Edberg, 18, the third seed in the tournament, breezed through the first set, but was sorely tested in the second.

Both players held serves to send the set to a tiebreaker. Maciel opened a 4-1 lead in the tiebreaker. Then, leading 6-5, the Mexican fell down during a rally to lose a point and double-faulted on the next serve.

"I was lucky today," Edberg said, "especially when he fell down and double-faulted."

Edberg had upset the top-seeded Arias in the semifinals.

In the women's final, Goles had trouble bending for the ball in the third set, and Graf began hitting low slices to her.

Goles, the 19-year-old seventh seed, said later that her shoulder hurt in the first set, and she had to ease up on her serve. The problem in her lower back began in the second set, she said. Goles lost her serve three times in that frame.

"I was sleeping in the first set," Graf said. "I had trouble getting into the game. But in the second set she began to miss easy shots and I got back into it."

Graf, from Heidelberg, is ranked 47th in the world.

Goles, ranked 38th, had ousted top seed Kathy Horvath in the quarter-finals.