

# SPORTS

**MICHAEL JORDAN** retired from basketball with a loss to his old team. — PAGE 11



**SWEDEN'S** Anja Paerson took the lead in the Women's World Cup slalom when she won the first leg Sunday.

## Agassi, Serena win Aussie Open

*Agassi wins 8th Grand Slam; Serena takes 4th straight major prize*

By Phil Brown  
The Associated Press

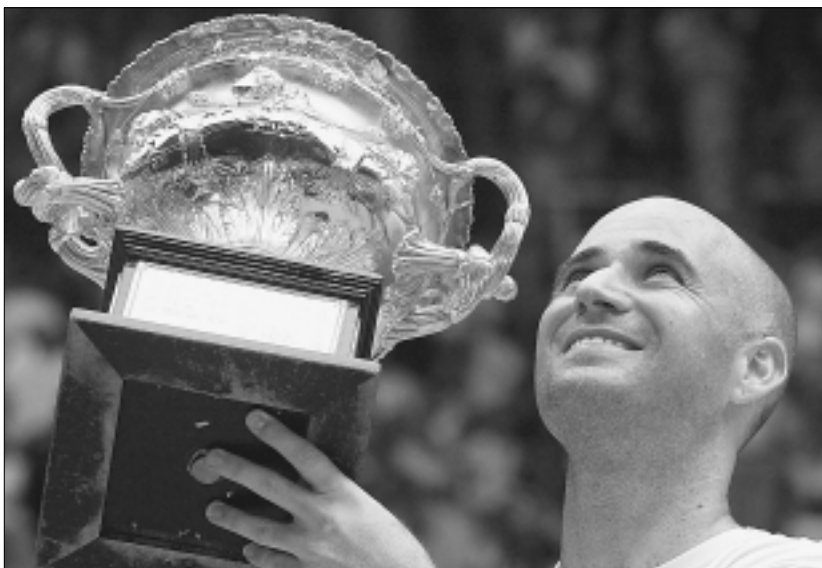
**M**ELBOURNE — Andre Agassi just keeps getting better with age. The 32-year-old Agassi overwhelmed Rainer Schuettler right from the start and breezed to his fourth Australian Open title 6-2, 6-2, 6-1 Sunday, becoming the oldest man to win a Grand Slam singles crown in 31 years.

"There's not a single day that's guaranteed or promised to us, and certainly days like this are very rare," Agassi said.

Agassi won his eighth Grand Slam championship. And the victory might also have been enough to lure his wife, Steffi Graf, out of retirement.

Agassi had said earlier that if he won this tournament, Graf would be his partner for mixed doubles in the French Open. After the final point, Agassi gave a quick wink into the stands at Graf, who won 22 Grand Slam singles titles before she stopped playing three years ago.

"There's one positive thing: I



**ANDRE AGASSI** displays the winner's trophy after defeating Rainer Schuettler of Germany in the men's final of the Australian Open Tennis Championships in Melbourne on Sunday. The second-seed won the match 6-2, 6-2, 6-1.

think everyone's looking forward to the French Open," Schuettler said, drawing laughs from Agassi, Graf and the fans.

Agassi was the oldest man to win a Grand Slam singles title since Ken Rosewall won the Australian Open in 1972 at 37. "You never

know when it's your last, but I'll never forget being here," Agassi told the crowd at the trophy ceremony. "I'll never forget playing for you. I'll never forget the love and support here. I feel like I'm half Australian."

Later, he said that trying to get

back to No. 1 might be too much of a grind, but "the year is a complete success for me now. I'm over the moon with it."

It was a mismatch from the beginning.

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**PHIL NEVILLE** scores in Man United's win over West Ham.

## Hammers thrashed by United

The Associated Press

**T**wo goals each by Ryan Giggs and Ruud van Nistelrooy and others from Phil Neville and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer swamped West Ham 6-0 Sunday, putting Man United into the fifth round of the FA Cup and adding more pressure to Hammers' manager Glenn Roeder.

Manchester United reached the final of England's No. 2 Cup — the League Cup — earlier in the week where it faces a showdown against Liverpool. Now the Reds are also a favorite to reach this spring's FA Cup final against defending champion Arsenal.

Man United had West Ham on the ropes from the first minute at Old Trafford, with Giggs scoring in the 8th on a defensive error and the 29th off a deflection. The early strikes were followed by Van Nistelrooy (49th), Neville (50th) and the Dutchman again in the 58th.

Substitute Solskjaer scored in the 69th on a shot from 12 meters that got behind goalkeeper David James and added more woe to the last-place team in the Premier League.

Fulham also picked up a victory Sunday to reach the fifth round, dropping fellow Premier League rival Charlton 3-0 on a hat trick by Steed Malbranque. Malbranque scored in the 59th, added a penalty seven minutes later, and got the third in the 87th.

First-division Stoke also grabbed a fifth-round spot with a 3-0 victory over third-division Bournemouth on two goals from Chris Iwelumo, who scored on a penalty in first-half injury time and again from open play in the 51st. Peter Hoekstra scored in the 84th.

Christopher Tardif was sent off on a red card in first-half

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## Panthers regroup against Carolina

By Cammy Clark  
The Miami Herald

**M**IAMI — With time running out in overtime, Panthers center Stephen Weiss got the puck just past the blue line and let it rip. The puck traveled 50 feet through the air and found the minuscule opening under the arm and over the left pad of Carolina goalie Arturs Irbe.

"I didn't see it go in," Panthers goalie Roberto Luongo said. "I just saw the red light go on and the fans cheering. That was good enough for me."

**NHL** The Panthers won, 3-2, on Saturday night at Office Depot Center, rebounding from a poor performance at Raleigh, N.C., the night before to the Hurricanes.

"It's a huge win in terms of responding after Friday night's game a 3-1 loss," Panthers coach Mike Keenan said. "The team we played wanted it badly, and we played very hard in a pressure-packed situation."

The 19-year-old Weiss, who has made the rare jump from junior hockey straight to the NHL, didn't hesitate with the shot that pro-

duced his first game-winning goal and fourth tally of the season.

"It's certainly a confidence builder for him," Keenan said.

After the fiasco at Raleigh, Keenan made lineup changes, benching wingers Niklas Hagman and Kristian Huselius and defenseman Andreas Lilja. The reason? "We lost Friday night," Keenan said.

The rest of the Panthers took notice and came out playing physical and with an intensity they lacked at Carolina.

It paid off. The Panthers ended a 10-game run without a first-period goal, thanks to Viktor Kozlov. It was set up by some nifty stick work and passing behind the net by rookie Denis Shvidki, who was playing in his third game since being called up from San Antonio of the American Hockey League.

But it was the play of Luongo that enabled the Panthers to pull out the victory.

He stopped 39 shots despite getting his cage rattled when Jeff O'Neill fell and smacked his stick against Luongo's mask in the second period.

"As bizarre as it might sound, it kind of gets me in the game more," Luongo said.

Keenan simply said: "Spec-



**CAROLINA HURRICANES** winger Bates Battaglia (top) knocks the Florida Panthers' Peter Worrell (8) into Carolina goaltender Arturs Irbe (1) as he makes a stick save Friday.

tacular goaltending, period."

The Panthers goaltenders have faced 1,679 shots, more than any other team. But the number is inflated by the number of overtime games Florida

has played — a league-high 21. The Panthers set a team record with their fourth overtime victory

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