



A 1 Choose the best word or phrase to fill each gap in this article:

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1 A worrying | B biggest | C large | D strange |
| 2 A new | B recent | C unknown | D anonymous |
| 3 A previous | B former | C past | D n other |
| 4 A passionate | B emotional | C unaccustomed | D temperamental |
| 5 A large | B huge | C great | D major |
| 6 A hard | B severe | C careful | D some |
| 7 A following | B next | C subsequent | D successive |
| 8 A constant | B regular | C gentle | D familiar |
| 9 A most youthful | B youngest-ever | C most junior | D most immature |
| 10 A family | B educational | C sporting | D professional |

Hingis beaten by girl wonder from down under

Wimbledon witnessed one of the upsets in its 122-year history after top seed and world number one Martina Hingis was defeated in her opening game by the Australian Jelena Dokic, ranked 129th in the world.

A packed court No 1 watched in amazement as Dokic, 16, won 6-2, 6-0, making her the lowest ranked player in modern tennis history to defeat a No 1 seed in a grand slam event.

Dokic, who is of Serbian origin, only made it to Wimbledon by winning a qualifying tournament.

She said after her victory: "I still can't believe I've

beaten her. It's a big win for me, especially in the first round, coming from qualifying, but I thought I played quite well and I'm happy that I've won." Moments after her defeat, Hingis revealed she was buckling under the strain and pressure faced by young tennis professionals and indicated that she needed a break from the game.

Hingis also revealed that she had decided to attend Wimbledon without her mother and coach Melanie Molitor because the two needed some time apart given the pressures of the last few weeks.

Yesterday's match was the first time that the Swiss player's mother was not present at a tournament where her daughter was playing. Ms Molitor has driven her daughter throughout her career.

Hingis, aged 18, who has earned around \$10m during her career, said: "I think I need to take some time off. Take a break and recover again."

"I think it has been a great life so far. I mean, I really like it, and I just probably... I need a break. It would really suit me right now." Hingis came to Wimbledon under scrutiny and criticism from the public and fellow professionals following her tantrum at the final of the French Open last month.

When on the verge of losing the match to Steffi Graf she served under-hand twice, entered the crowd and then stormed off court.

She was eventually persuaded to return by her mother, but was criticised for her impetuous, childish outbursts.

Hingis said yesterday that the events at the French Open and the criticism and a temporary separation from her mother had affected her.

She added: "I was probably too nervous, not much believing what I can do or not and didn't really see... I want to try it by myself here [at Wimbledon] and she [my mother] wanted to do more about her private life, to do the things she wanted to do, and the same for me.

"We decided to have a little bit of distance, as I said before, and probably work a bit more on our private lives and see how it is going to go in the future." News of the separation is being seen as a further indicator of Hingis's alleged emotional problems and the severe pressures faced by young women tennis professionals.

Many like Hingis have known little else other than tennis throughout their lives and are under pressure from pushy parents and coaches to compete at tournaments and win.

Hingis began playing tennis at the age of seven and was the player to win a grand slam tournament when she became the Australian Open champion at the age of 16. She won her first major title aged 12 when she won the French Open junior championship in 1993.

Despite the defeat, Hingis denied she wanted to break off all links with her mother and find a new coach. She said: "We are going to talk about it and then we will do some more decisions. But right now, I need a break."

Vivek Chaudhary

2 Find the answers to these questions in the article:

- 1 Martina Hingis was beaten by Jelena Dokic in . . .
A the Wimbledon final
B the final of the Australian Open
C the first match of Wimbledon
D the first match in Australia
- 2 Martina blamed her defeat on the . . .
A absence of her mother
B presence of her mother
C stress of being No 1 seed
D skill of her opponent
- 3 Martina was criticised after the French Open for . . .
A unsporting behaviour
B shouting at the crowd
C shouting at the umpire
D refusing to finish the match
- 4 Martina seems to have a . . . relationship with her mother.
A caring B childish C stable D tempestuous
- 5 After the French Open Martina and her mother agreed to . . .
A work more closely together
B focus on their individual private lives
C end their professional relationship
D spend more time together socially
- 6 When Martina won her first adult international tournament she was . . .
A seven B twelve C sixteen D eighteen

B Five paragraphs have been removed from this article. Choose the most suitable paragraph from the list A–E for each gap (1–5) in the article.

The ladies' man

Jon Henderson lifts the latch to discover Phil De Picciotto's Advantage in tennis

The big house on the hill overlooking the All England club, where the management company who look after Martina Hingis set up camp for the two weeks of Wimbledon, might not have been a good place to visit last Tuesday after the world No 1 had suffered one of the greatest upsets in a singles match since David loaded up a sling.

1

On the contrary, the front door was ajar and I let myself in to be cheerily greeted by a member of Advantage International's management team, who wondered if I had 'come to talk about Anna'. The queen is dead, long live the queen. In fact my appointment to meet Phil de Picciotto, the president of Advantage's athlete representation operation, had been made before the afternoon's drama to discuss the attractions of a company who have lured such a lustrous line-up. Now, though, a few specific questions about Hingis – and Kournikova – did seem in order.

2

He is sensitive about stories that she and her mother, Melanie Molitor, who was so unexpectedly absent from the Dokic defeat, have fallen out. 'There is no split,' he says. 'Martina's very honest and open with these things. She's a very nice girl who doesn't have any pretences whatsoever, and I think she'll become very much appreciated for this over time. When one

doesn't have any pretences in a world where many other people do and when one is young and is the best at one's craft, it's a combination that can lead to instances like this.'

3

Who decided that Molitor should forsake her customary courtside perch? 'Ultimately it's the athlete who makes the final decisions,' says De Picciotto, given an opportunity to discourse on his management techniques. 'We're there to educate, advise and present the options. Whether it's a tennis, business or family decision, we believe that each player is in the best position to make that decision.' But Hingis might have received some guidance from you? 'That's right,' he agrees, guardedly.

4

Dokic, too, comes complete with a ready-made parental problem – 'Damir the Dad from Hell', as one headline described the 16-year-old's father, who had been thrown out of a tournament two weeks ago for supporting his daughter too boisterously. De Picciotto is wary of fanning this one. 'I think there will be no difficulty coping with the father,' he says. 'Everyone is entitled to one bad tournament – on or off the court.'

5

'The point is the media are only interested in anyone over an extended period, and so it is in the interests of the women's tour and each player to eliminate or minimise the distractions so they can extend their careers. They'll all have better stories to tell if they do.'

A

Having recently interviewed Mark McCormack, the autocratic head of International Management Group, Advantage's great competitors (although neither company would admit a rivalry existed), the informality of the big house on the hill was striking. So was the difference between McCormack and De Picciotto. I had interviewed the besuited McCormack in an impressive office overlooking the Thames; I spoke to the casually dressed De Picciotto, a 44-year-old lawyer, under a tree in the garden. He helped to found Advantage in 1983 and, unsurprisingly, he has a different perspective on Hingis than the 'spoilt brat' portrayal in some newspapers.

B

However, in this case they were representing both Goliath and the David of the piece – the Serbian sparrow Jelena Dokic, now an Australian citizen. There were other clients from the company's starry cast list still to be attended to, including Anna Kournikova, Steffi Graf, Jana Novotna, Conchita Martinez and Amanda Coetzer. No drawn curtains, then.

C

Perhaps Advantage's greatest coup was being approached by Kournikova, previously represented by McCormack's IMG. 'We began working with Anna less than a year ago,' says De Picciotto, 'and at that point the tabloid media were creating whatever image of her they wanted. It was the image of the day, completely inconsistent and very difficult to manage. The only way is not just to curtail interviews but eliminate them, except for the obligation, which Anna handles very professionally, to give conferences after her matches.'

D

The story of Hingis and her mother provides a classic dilemma for De Picciotto and his Advantage team: the media are invaluable allies in establishing an athlete's name but they can also make life very difficult. 'It is unfortunate that everything is so public,' he says. 'It's always easier to work through any relationship issue if the discussions can remain entirely among the people concerned. At Wimbledon, though, not only is there an open window to these tennis players' lives, but the window has different filters on it depending on who writes the story. What the public decides depends largely on the way the information is presented to them.'

E

Was he, like the rest of us, unaware that Hingis's mother would be missing? 'We wouldn't be doing our job very well and the relationship wouldn't be very good if there were any surprises.'

KEY

A 1

ANSWERS

1 B 2 C 3 A 4 B 5 D 6 B 7 C 8 A 9 B 10 D

2

ANSWERS

1 C 2 C 3 A 4 D 5 B 6 C

B

ANSWERS

1 B 2 A 3 E 4 D 5 C