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Martina Hingis in the top 15

Martina Hingis is back at the top. In Rome, the tennis player from St. Gallen notched up the 41st championship victory of her career and the first since her comeback in January. The win pushes her back into the top 15 of the WTA rankings. At the French Open, Hingis reached the quarter-finals.

Sion promoted, Zurich wins league

After its enforced relegation in 2002, Sion FC won its promotion battle against Neuchâtel Xamax, and will now be playing in the Super League next season. This year's Cup winner will be the only club representing French-speaking Switzerland in the top Swiss division. The league championship was won by Zurich, who beat Basel 2:1 in their last game. Because of serious violence involving its fans, Basel will be forced to play its first three home games next season in front of an empty stadium.

Cantons say "Non" to English

The people of Thurgau and Zug don't want their primary school French interfered with. Following a similar move in February by Schaffhausen, the two cantons voted against a move to teach English only to children in this age group. Zug and Thurgau have therefore closed ranks with the majority of German-speaking cantons and accepted the recommendations of the Swiss Conference of Cantonal Ministers of Education.

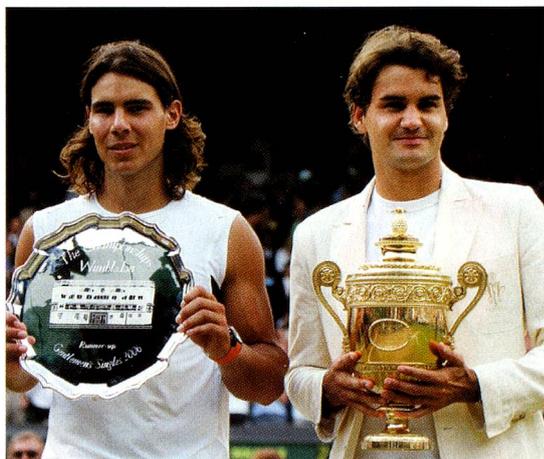
Leuenberger and four-wheel drives

Swiss President Moritz Leuenberger attributes the current

fascination with four-wheel drive cars to the sense of power and superiority these vehicles give their drivers in traffic. He says their success is more than a fashion trend. The Federal Council has decided to adapt an energy label to grade the energy efficiency of cars on a scale of A to G. It will now be harder for heavier vehicles to obtain a good efficiency rating.

King Roger

Roger Federer may have lost the final of the French Open to Rafael Nadal, but Grass King Federer soundly trounced the



young Spaniard in England to win his fourth Wimbledon title. He was last beaten on grass in the opening round of Wimbledon back in 2002.

Euro 2008 is good for tourism

Switzerland Tourism plans to invest CHF 15 million in an advertising campaign for the 2008 European Cup. Director Jürg Schmid says, "The aim is for people to remember our country for more than simply staging a football competition. The largest proportion of television viewers will be Chinese. For us that's a huge opportunity!"

Number 1 in reinsurance

Swiss Re has completed its takeover of GE Insurance Solutions. Reinsurance giant

Swiss Re bought the insurance business of General Electric for a total of CHF 9.1 billion. The takeover creates the world's largest and most diversified reinsurance company. Credit Suisse has sold Winterthur to the French AXA insurance group.

Freddy Nock walks into the record books

Forty-one-year-old tightrope walker Freddy Nock from Thurgau has set a new world record on the high wire. With the aid of just a balancing pole weighing 30 kilograms, he walked 1122 metres along the cable of the suspension railway from Schwägalp station (1306m) to Säntis (2502m).

"Big Ben" visits Emmental

Ben Roethlisberger, an American football star with Swiss roots, visited the land of his forefathers in May. "Big Ben" and the rest of the Pittsburgh Steelers won the Super Bowl back in February. But he was forced to undergo surgery in June following a serious motorbike accident in which he was lucky to escape with a few broken bones and concussion.

Falling rocks block Gotthard motorway

Six huge boulders of up to 50 m³ in size detached themselves from the Gotthard massif in Uri canton and plummeted onto the A2 motorway below. One of them, weighing dozens of tons, fell on a car travelling south. The vehicle caught fire, killing the German couple inside. The A2 was closed for an extensive clear-up operation because the rock face is still unstable and there is a high risk of further falls.

Coordinating education

The people of Switzerland have voted overwhelmingly (85.6%) in favour of revising constitutional regulations on education. The outcome of the referendum means cantons will now be obliged to coordinate their education systems. However, the turnout was poor at only 27.23%.

93% of Swiss have a mobile phone

The number of electronic devices in use around Switzerland has increased by 10.3% compared with last year. Almost 93% of the Swiss population owns a mobile phone. The number of Internet users continues to rise (70.1%), as does the number of households with a computer (90.8%).

Eurovision Song Contest

Switzerland did poorly at this year's Eurovision Song Contest with its band of musicians from six nations – only one of them Swiss. The entry finished 16th out of the total of 24 competing countries. The outcome raised questions about the selection of the country's musical representatives. Most importantly, when there are so many great Swiss musicians, why send an uninspiring group that has relatively little to do with Switzerland?

Italy win World Cup

Italy became world champions when the squad beat France in a penalty shoot-out in the final of the 2006 World Cup in Germany. Germany won the third-place match against Portugal, and Switzerland was Group winner but dropped out in the second round after losing to Ukraine – also in a penalty shoot-out. ALAIN WEY