

BILL PLASCHKE

Weis will venture anywhere for her

As strange Southern California invasions go, this ranks right up there with red tide and rain.

He is the Notre Dame football coach, and tonight he will enter USC country with hat in hand.

He will show up at a swank Beverly Hills hotel. He will step to the front of the room. He will make a speech.

He will ask for money.

You will wonder, how? How can tight-jawed, chilling Charlie Weis travel to the middle of a Trojans neighborhood in the middle of a Trojans dynasty and expect a gift that doesn't include a jeer or a gesture?

You will wonder, what is he thinking?

This is where he will really surprise you.

That jaw will go slack. Those eyes will go soft. His wallop becomes a whisper.

"Thinking about my angel," he says.

[See Plaschke, Page D9]



ALAN GRIEVES US PRESSURE
LOVING IT: Venus Williams beat Marion Bartoli, 6-4, 6-1, for her fourth Wimbledon title.

This never gets old for Williams

By CHUCK CULPEPPER
Special to The Times

WIMBLEDON, England — Who was that girl who made her Wimbledon debut at age 17 in 1997 with a big future and little purple-and-green hair beads?

"I don't even know how that girl won her first-round match," Venus Williams said Saturday. "She didn't understand anything. She didn't understand how to play. She could hit the ball hard."

And who was that young woman who first won Wimbledon at age 20 in 2000 from an ascendant No. 5 ranking as the first African American female champion since Althea Gibson in 1958?

"That girl was determined," Williams said Saturday. "She went home from the French Open and she worked extremely hard. That girl decided she was going to win the tournament. I remember going home in the car after I played Serena in the semifinals thinking, 'I'm going to win.' It was, like, so clear to me."

So, who was the middle-aged woman (in tennis years) who won Wimbledon for the fourth time Saturday, 6-4, 6-1, running down almost every screaming

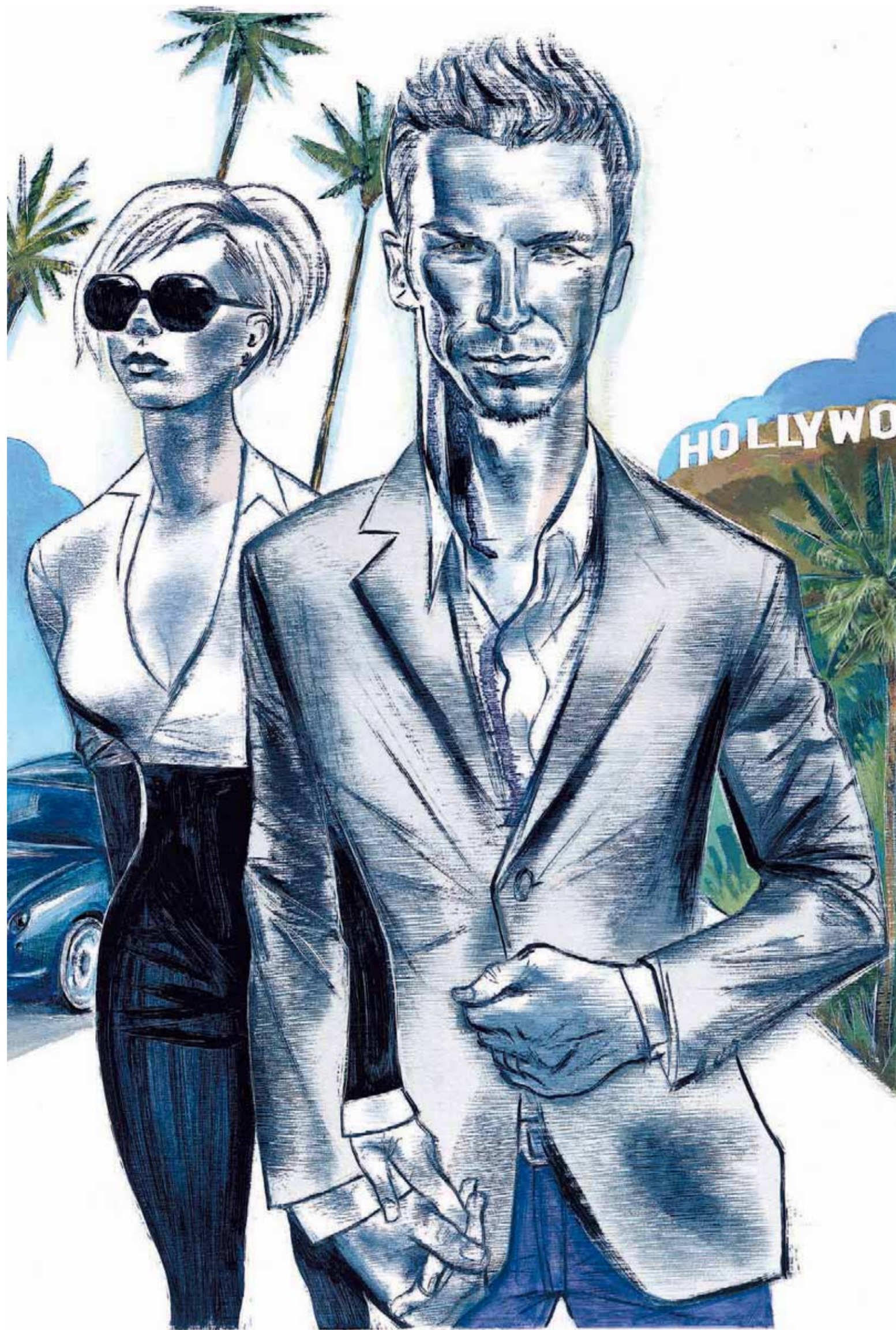
[See Williams, Page D12]

FLORIDA..... 7
DODGERS..... 2

Derek Lowe can't halt L.A.'s losing streak, which reaches four games. Marlins' Ramirez has another big night with four hits. **D4**

ANGELS..... 2
NEW YORK..... 1

On what supposedly was one of the luckiest days in history, the 13th inning provides some good breaks for the Angels. **D4**



JOE MORSE For The Times

BECKHAM

An über star, with spice

By GRAHAME L. JONES
Times Staff Writer

It was, not surprisingly, to the well-favored Meson Txistu restaurant on Plaza Angel Carbajo in the heart of Madrid, that David Beckham, his family and his friends weaved their celebratory way late on the night of June 17. ¶ Real Madrid had just won its first Spanish championship in four years, in Beckham's final game for the club, and the mood was festive. Choruses of "campeones, campeones, ole, ole, ole," soon drifted into the night sky from the windows of the restaurant's private upstairs dining room. ¶ It was a joyous occasion and a sad one, what with Beckham leaving after his turbulent but ultimately triumphant years in Spain. ¶ The wine bill, when it arrived about 5 a.m., came to \$60,000. According to some reports, a local vineyard owner picked up the tab. Even then, the festivities were not over. ¶ Beckham, his wife, Victoria — former Spice Girl Posh Spice — and close friends Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes then went dancing, the Beckhams not arriving at their multimillion-dollar mansion in the La Moraleja neighborhood until after 7:30 a.m. ¶ It's a different life that the Beckhams [See Beckham, Page D10]

Today: His riches

David Beckham is the world's highest-paid soccer star, and it pays for his extravagant lifestyle.

Monday: His roots

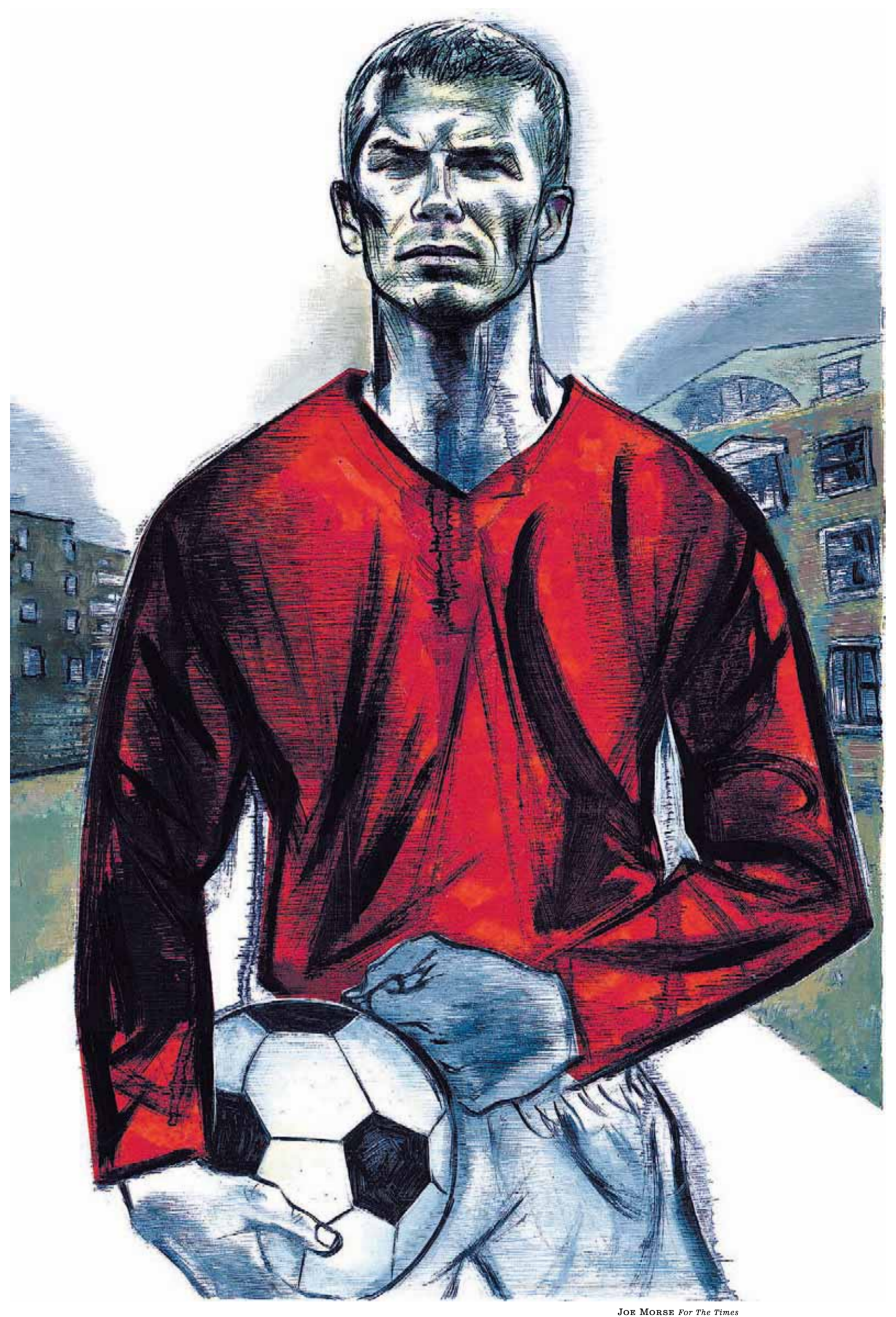
Beckham grew up in East London, the son of blue-collar parents who were fans of Manchester United.

Friday: His arrival

Beckham to be introduced as a member of the Galaxy and Major League Soccer's biggest star.

July 21: His debut

Beckham to play his first game for the Galaxy against English Premier League club Chelsea.



JOE MORSE For The Times

BECKHAM

Working-class boy to Man U

By CHUCK CULPEPPER
Special to The Times

LONDON — Somehow, a media throng did not congregate outside the Whipps Cross Hospital in Leytonstone, northeast London, on Friday, May 2, 1975. ¶ The plain, white, unassuming maternity ward — "Looks like an office building from the outside," said the hospital's press officer Lucy Reeve — probably went about business as usual. ¶ Even now, she says, "It's not really something that's brought up day to day. People might bring it up every now and then." ¶ It's just that one of the thousands of births per year turned out to be one of the most famous people on Earth, as Sandra and Ted Beckham welcomed the second of their three children, and their only son, and named him David Robert Joseph. ¶ Even blindingly famous people don't just emerge out of thin air as adults curling soccer balls right onto teammates' feet from 25 yards away. ¶ In David Beckham's case, they might emerge from Leytonstone and Chingford, two of the endless towns in the vast London area, both considered part of East London even if they're technically [See Beckham, Page D9]

Sunday: His riches

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Today: His roots

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HELENE ELLIOTT

Break is a call to arms for Dodgers

The Dodgers limped into the All-Star break a grateful and happy bunch Sunday, thoughts of their 9-3 rout of the Florida Marlins allowing them to forget, if only for a few days, that their pitching rotation is frayed at the seams and their bullpen is being held together by adhesive tape and hope.

Given the rare gift of plentiful run support, left-hander Mark Hendrickson earned his first victory in seven starts since May 2. Pitching on three days' rest, he gave up four hits and struck out six in becoming only the third Dodgers starter to get a win in the last 13 games. The others are Randy Wolf, now on the disabled list because of a sore left shoulder, and Chad Billingsley.

When Manager Grady Little lifted Hendrickson after five innings and 72 pitches, that left Billingsley as the only starter able to get through seven innings since July began. In their 10-game homestand, which included one 10-inning game and one that lasted 12 innings, the Dodgers went to the bullpen 37 times.

Not enough of those calls [See Elliott, Page D8]

RELATED STORY

Much-needed win: Dodgers end a four-game skid by beating the Marlins, 9-3. **D5**



GERRY PENNY EPA
ALL HEART: Roger Federer beat Rafael Nadal in five sets to win fifth straight Wimbledon.

Federer finds fifth gear to catch Borg

By CHUCK CULPEPPER
Special to The Times

WIMBLEDON, England — The world got an unprecedented peek at Roger Federer's guts Sunday, and it turns out they're considerable.

Hidden these last five kingly years by his celestial shots and his spiteful serves and his durable cool, they had never received a summons to contribute.

Never had Federer strayed into the fifth set of any Grand Slam final, let alone against a mobile blast furnace like Rafael Nadal. Never had he faced two bloodcurdling 15-40 games within that fifth set. Never had Bjorn Borg not so much sat as loomed in the front row of the Royal Box.

Never had Federer tried to win a fifth straight Wimbledon with, as he said, "Bjorn Borg sitting there, Jimmy Connors sitting there, John McEnroe sitting there." [See Tennis, Page D11]

INSIDE

Santana fails to keep Angels in the game
Right-hander gives up nine runs in three innings of a 12-0 loss to the New York Yankees. **D5**

Crowe's Nest **D2**
Day in Sports **D10**