Seles remains undefeated since comeback

NEW YORK (AP) – Monica Seles consolidated a tenuous junior girl in the locker room, advising her not to take losses too seriously, then scolded herself for a tiny lapse in her longest and toughest match of the U.S. Open.

Still undeated in her comeback, Seles won 11-10 in the round robin to force a playoff with Zimmerman. The two had split their previous nine meetings.

Seles remained undefeated since her comeback from a three-year, voluntary self-imposed retirement last August.

Zimmerman captures first LPGA tourney

SPRINGFIELD (AP) – Mary Beth Zimmerman won her first LPGA tournament since 1987 on Monday in a sudden death play-off with the tour’s youngest pro, 21-year-old Emilie Klein.

Zimmerman came from seven shots back to win the 20th LPGA Rail Classic, shooting a tournament low 65 Monday.

Klein, who tied with LPGA Hall-of-Famer Emilee Klein, had won that second game. "As it was, Seles bore down on Huber’s hand on Seles’Serve in the 18th hole with a 25-foot uphill birdie putt." Seles’ one- hand on Seles’Serve in the 18th hole with a 25-foot uphill birdie putt. "Seles' one-stroke stretch was over. "I was a little mad at myself," Seles said. "I had control of the match, but then I let the control out of my hand. It could have been closer than it was."

"I just did a very weird service game. My mind wandered off. I felt I let the momentum slip away from me a little bit. That made the second set much harder than if I had won that second game," as it was, Seles bore down on Huber’s serve and took her to love-40. Huber saved those three break-points, the last on a brilliant rally by both players, but Seles got two more break-points and finally cashed in when Huber poked a weak forehand through the net.

Seles, who wore a black brace on her left knee again because of tendinitis, ended the match easily, yielding only three points in her next two service games, smashing her fifth ace, and moving on to the prospect of playing Wednesday against No. 3 Jana Novotna, a 6-4, 6-3 victor over Katarina Studenikova.

"Against Jana, I have had some very tough matches," Seles said. "She is going to come in and serve and volley a lot. Her serve is very strong. "Seles' strength is her refusal to give up in any match, but she has learned over the years and through her encounter with the man who stabled her more than two years ago that losing on the tennis court is nothing to cry about.

"When I go into the locker room, even the professional women or the juniors when they lose, they come in and they are crying," she said. "Like today, right before I went on, I saw a girl that was crying. You shouldn’t really cry over losing a tennis match. Tennis is a sport. You play against tennis because it is fun, not to be crying." Seles went over to the girl, Edit Pakay, who had a similar Hungarian ethnic background, and tried to calm her.

"I told her, life is not over because you lost one match," Seles said. "I told her I lost matches and I cried, but you forget it. You learn from your loss and go home now and try to work harder and do better. It shouldn’t affect your life or your outlook on life or your happiness."

"I know from the time I saw him at Charlotte when he was 18 that he could do anything and go as far as he wanted," Evenhaim said.

Gordon on cruise control

DARLINGTON, S.C. (AP) – Now that NASCAR’s newest superstar has won at the sport’s oldest raceway, what’s next for the seemingly unstoppable Jeff Gordon?

Can the 24-year-old hold off Sterling Marlin for his first Winston Cup championship? Will he use his skill and savvy to run down David Pearson’s career record of 30 victories at Darlington? Gordon’s crew chief Ray Evernham says with Gordon, anything, especially success, is likely.

"I knew from the time I saw him at Charlotte when he was 18 that he could do anything and go as far as he wanted," Evenhaim said.

Gordon held off Dale Earnhardt and Rusty Wallace in a 10-lap sprint Sunday to win the Southern 500, one of Winston Cup’s most prestigious races.

"The other drivers tell you about the prestige held over this track, about who wins here and who doesn’t," Gordon said. "That makes a win here even better." It also increases his chances of winning the points title. With eight races left, Gordon has a 217-point lead over Marlin, who finished 10th. Earnhardt is 294 points back in third.