

Edberg, Courier in final

MELBOURNE, Jan 24: Top seed Stefan Edberg displayed why he received the ranking, beating unseeded Wayne Ferreira in straight sets Friday to advance to the final of the Australian Open, reports AP.

The two-time champion from Sweden defeated Ferreira 7-6 (7-2), 6-1, 6-2 in two hours and seven minutes.

Edberg will face No 2 seed Jim Courier of the United States in Sunday's final. Courier advanced when Richard Krajicek, his unseeded Dutch opponent, was forced to withdraw with tendinitis in his right shoulder.

The matchup will be a repeat of last year's US Open final, which Edberg won in straight sets.

"No. 1 playing No. 2 in the final. I like that," Edberg said. Edberg won the first of his five Grand Slam titles in the Australian Open in 1985 on grass. He also won in 1987.

Ferreira, who made the semifinals with victory over veteran American John McEnroe, was unable to rekindle the form he displayed in the quarterfinals. The South African struggled with his own serve—the key to his game—and could not handle Edberg's serve. His game went rapidly downhill after he failed to convert a pair of set points in the 12th game of the first set.

"I was a little bit lucky to win the first set," Edberg said. "Once I got on top of him the match changed. I didn't have too much trouble once he started to make mistakes."

Ferreira, 20, made 87 errors and served nine double faults in the final two sets, with only one ace.

"If I'd got the first set under

my belt I'd probably have been a bit more on top of him," Ferreira said. "In Grand Slams, a lot depends on experience and he's got a lot more of it."



STEFAN EDBERG



JIM COURIER

Edberg, who has a 4-2 career record against Courier and has won four of their last five meetings, also had plenty of confidence going into the final.

"I'm feeling good going into the final," he said. Courier had mixed feelings about taking an enforced break.

"The upside is that I'm in the final, the downside is that I don't get to play," he said. "I'll practice hard today, practice hard tomorrow and I'll be ready."

Courier cannot overhaul Edberg as world number one by beating him in the final, but said he welcomed the challenge.

"Whenever you get the opportunity to play number one in the world it's pretty special," he said.

Krajicek was disappointed to have to withdraw, but felt he had no choice.

"Jim is a good player and if I couldn't play 100 per cent it would be almost impossible to beat him," Krajicek said. "It could have made it (the injury) worse."

Krajicek practiced in the morning, but then shook his head ruefully at coach Rohan Goetzike.

"I could hit, volley, even hit overheads, but I couldn't serve," Krajicek said. "It was one of the most difficult decisions I've ever had to make. It was the chance of a lifetime to play in the semifinals of a Grand Slam. I don't know if that will ever happen again. I hope it will."

Krajicek, 20, never had previously made the semifinals of Grand Slam.

Krajicek said he also was likely to miss the Netherlands' first round Davis Cup World Group match against Switzerland next week in the Hague. He has been told by tournament doctor John Fraser not to play for five days.

No women's singles were slated Friday. The final between defending champion Monica Seles and No 7 Mary Joe Fernandez is scheduled for Saturday afternoon.



Ms Nogami drives during yesterday's eleventh Lancer golf tournament at a record 161 players.

Solomon transforms Fernandez

MELBOURNE, Jan 24: Harold Solomon won 22 tournaments in a long and successful pro-tennis career, and rarely ventured to the net. As a coach, Solomon is teaching American star Mary Joe Fernandez to serve and volley, reports AP.

Fernandez showed the benefits of Solomon's counsel with a surprising 6-1, 6-4 victory over No. 3 seed Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina on Thursday in the semifinals of the Australian Open.

It put her in the women's singles final on Saturday against defending champion Monica Seles, who beat Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain 6-2, 6-2 from the baseline.

Fernandez only hooked up with Solomon last month but says he already "has influenced me a lot. He told me I had to take chances if I want to achieve a higher goal."

"I think Harold made me realize that I had no choice if it was to be my goal to be the best and improve my game," Fernandez said.

Solomon was among the top 15 money winners on the men's tour from 1974-80 but played his game almost exclusively from the baseline because he lacked the physical stature to match his rivals for power.

Now, he is urging Fernandez to practice what he preaches but never did himself.

Fernandez, a veteran at 20, calls Solomon "three coaches in one." He not only advises her on tactics, he also practices with her and the pair work out in the gym together.

"I think he is a very smart person," she said. "He knows

what it takes to reach the top. A lot of people think that he played very defensive. He didn't have the resources to cover the net, but he tried to take the ball early and pres-



MARY JOE FERNANDEZ

sure his opponent." Fernandez lost to Seles 9-7 in the third set in the semi-

nals of last year's Australian Open and was beaten by Steffi Graf in the 1990 final. She never has won a Grand Slam title.

She has vowed to adopt the same aggressive approach against top seed Seles, against whom she has a 1-10 career record.

"I am going to have to do the same thing as I did today—play aggressive and go for it," Fernandez said. "I was close last year, and I have learned from it. I got ahead and didn't go for it. I waited for things to happen. You can't do that against a top player."

Seles looked and sounded determined to hold onto her title and No. 1 ranking against Vicario.

"You can't stop and smell the roses," the Florida-based Yugoslav said, "because the No. 2 player wants the ranking of No. 1 so badly that if you stop you could end up being No. 5 pretty soon."

Courier is confident

MELBOURNE, Jan 24: Jim Courier advanced to his third Grand Slam final in eight months Friday, but the American found time to sympathize with his injured semifinal opponent, reports AP.

Dutchman Richard Krajicek had to default from his semifinal meeting with second-seeded Courier due to tendinitis in his right shoulder.

The upside is that I'm in the final. The downside is that I don't get to play," he said.

"It is unbelievable for Krajicek to make the semifinals in both singles and doubles and have to default. It's almost tragic. It's really disappointing for him."

"Things have been falling

my way," he said. "Being in three of the last four Grand Slam finals shows that I am among the elite. It eliminates any questions. I've shown time and time out that I can play in the very best. I've shown it (winning the French Open) was no fluke."

Courier said he had decided two years ago to base his year around the four majors—Wimbledon, the US Open, the French Open and the Australian Open.

"I've focused my campaigns for the year around the Grand Slams," he said. "I didn't expect his lack of match practice to affect him in the final."

"I don't think it's really going to cause me any problems," he said. "I've played eight matches in Australia so I think I'm match tough."

Cuba firm to host '94 World Cup

MEXICO CITY, Jan 24: Cuba on Thursday reaffirmed its commitment to host the track and field World Cup this fall despite an economic crisis, but dropped efforts to qualify for the 1994 world soccer championships, reports AP.

"I think we have the organizing capacity...to make this competition a success," said Alberto Juantorena, the Cuban delegate to the 186-nation International Amateur Athletics Federation, whose council is meeting here.

Juantorena, a former world record holder in the 800 meters, assured the council that his country is ready to host the event scheduled for Sept. 25-27.

"Sport has a very special importance" for Cuba, Juantorena said in an interview. "In spite of the economic difficulties, we have the will and we have made the decision to continue organizing this sporting competition."

IAAF Secretary-General Istvan Gyulai told a news conference that all the teams qualified for the event, even the United States, had indicated plans to

IAAF's 'no' to SA

MEXICO CITY, Jan 24: The International Amateur Athletic Association (IAAF) has put paid to South Africa's hopes of being readmitted as members at its council meeting here this week, reports Reuter.

Istvan Gyulai, the IAAF General Secretary, said on the eve of the two-day meeting starting on Thursday that the ban on South African athletes would remain until all three of the country's athletics groups were united.

South Africa applied to rejoin the IAAF 10 days ago after two of the three politically-divided athletics bodies agreed to unify under the non-racial Athletics South Africa (ASA) banner a day earlier.

send athletes for the 20 men's events and 17 for women.

Cuba's economy has spiraled downward due to the loss of aid and trade from the former Soviet Union, forcing the country to close some factories, reduce rations, sharply trim bus service and trade tractors for oxen in the countryside.

Even Cuba's sports effort, a centerpiece of pride and public relations for the country, has been squeezed.

The Mexican government news agency Notimex reported Thursday from Havana that Cuban sports officials had announced they would not try to qualify a team for the 1994 World Cup of soccer in the United States.

It quoted Jose Francisco Reynoso, president of the Cuban Soccer Federation, as saying the qualifying matches would have cost Cuba \$15 million, with little chance of success.

President Fidel Castro announced Tuesday that Cuba would send a reduced team to the 1992 summer Olympics in Spain.

At the same time, Castro has clamped down more firmly on local political dissent, especially in the wake of a fumbled attempt last month by a Miami-based Cuban exile group to mount a terror attack on the island.

Tyson found fit

NEW YORK, Jan 24: A doctor has found heavyweight fighter Mike Tyson completely healed of the rib injury that forced postponement of a title fight against champion Evander Holyfield last November, a spokesman said on Wednesday.

Dr Gerald Higgins cleared Tyson to begin training again, including sparring.

lining the political isolation of one of the few remaining hard-line communist states.

The political situation in Cuba is not our matter," Gyulai said. "We have given the right to hold the World Cup to Cuba and that's the end of the matter."

He said an IAAF technical team recently visited Cuba and their report was "very reassuring."

Juantorena said Cuba's sponsorship of last year's Pan American Games showed it could handle the much smaller World Cup.

He said about 4,000 athletes from 39 countries attended the Pan American Games while the World Cup involves only about 580 athletes.

Gyulai said representatives of the former Soviet republics recently indicated willingness to field a joint team at the competition.

ITF recognises Croatia

MELBOURNE, Jan 24: Tennis's ruling body, the International Tennis Federation (ITF), said on Friday it had accepted Croatia as a provisional member nation to enable its players to play at the Barcelona Olympics, reports Reuter.

The ITF said membership would be confirmed at its annual general meeting in the Dominican Republic in September.

"We have concluded that the Croatian Tennis Association is a body qualified

to represent tennis and tennis players in Croatia," ITF president Brian Tobin said in a news release.

"The decision was made by the ITF committee of management in order to enable Croatian players to be nominated and accepted for places in the Olympic Games tennis event in Barcelona at the end of July and early August," Tobin said.

Croatia has been recognised by more than 20 countries, including the European Community (EC).

Abedi Pele forced to sit out final

DAKAR, Jan 24: Ghana captain and African footballer of the year Abedi Pele was left in tears on Thursday when he was ruled out of their African Nations Cup final against Ivory Coast, reports Reuter.

Pele, who scored a spectacular 44th minute headed goal in Ghana's 2-1 semifinal win over Nigeria, collected his second caution of the tournament and is automatically suspended for Sunday's African soccer showpiece.

Pele's disappointment came in the first of two dramatic semifinals which saw Ghana squeeze through and then Ivory Coast clinch their first final appearance by beating 1990 World Cup finalists Cameroon 3-1 on penalties.

Ivory Coast's triumph was clinched by the brilliance of their goalkeeper Alain Gouamene, who had earlier saved a 17th-minute penalty taken by Cameroon captain Emmanuel Kunde during normal time.

The match ended 0-0 after extra time, after which Gouamene performed further heroics, saving three of Cameroon's four attempts to score during the shootout despite a shoulder injury picked up late in the game.

It was a tremendous triumph for Ivory Coast and their coach Yeo Martial, the only African coach involved in the semifinals.

But the day was bitter-sweet for Pele, who played a major part in guiding Ghana to their seventh final appearance.

Nigeria had taken an 11th minute lead through Mutiu Adegboye and it was Pele's genius, as he rose to head Ghana's equaliser from a corner, which dragged his team back into the game.

Polley Prince Opuku hit Ghana's winner eight minutes into the second-half of a game which erupted with three cautions, including Pele for dissent, and the second-half dismissal of Nigerian defender Ajibade Babalade for a second bookable offence.

Ivory Coast and Cameroon, provided a complete contrast in their semifinal as both sides

played sophisticated soccer, taking a cat-and-mouse approach and attempting to snatch a goal on the counter-attack.

Cameroon, seeking their fourth final appearance, had the best of the first-half and will curse their luck as they hit a post, through a Francois Omani-Biyik header after four minutes, and then wasted a glorious chance 13 minutes later.

Nagbeu Lignon handled and conceded a penalty which the astonishing Gouamene saved comfortably with a low dive to his left.

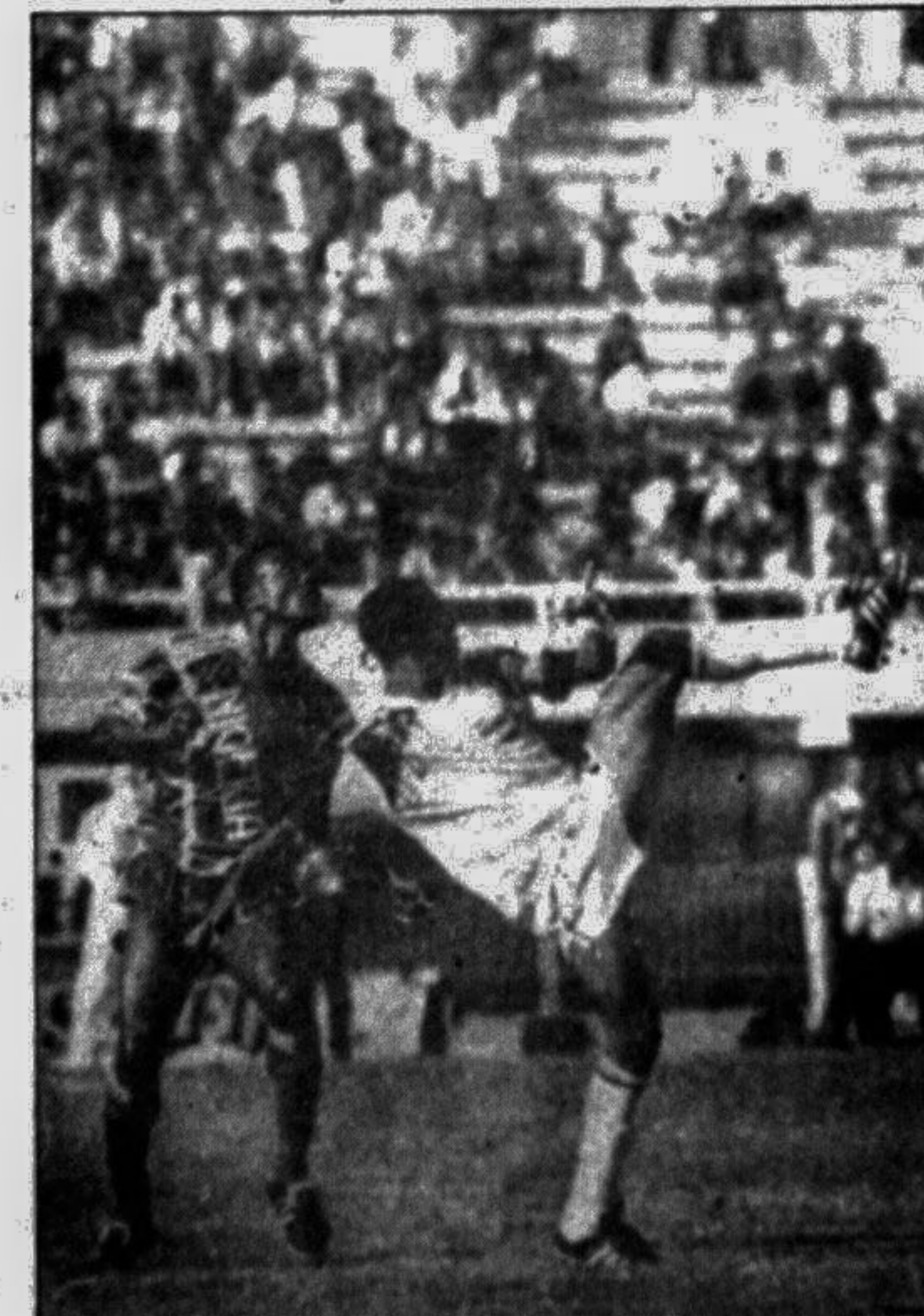
Ivory Coast took marginal control of the second-half and Kunde and Hans Agbo were

cautioned for fouls as the elephants poured forward on to the attack, but they rarely produced any penetrative finishing.

Inevitably, extra-time only extended the stalemate as both sides tired and it was left to Gouamene to take the lime-light.

Sekana Diaby, Moussa Traore and Abdoulaye Traore scored for Ivory Coast, with Eugene Beugre Yago their only failure, but only Bertin Ebwele found the net for Cameroon.

Gouamene saved from Cyril Makanaky, Francois Omani-Biyik and, finally, Cameroon goalkeeper Jean-Antoine Bell to seal a famous Ivory Coast win.



Ghana's superstar Abedi Pele (R) is challenged by a Nigerian player during the African Nations Cup semifinal in Dakar Jan 24. Ghana won 2-1.

China plans 2000 Olympics bid

BEIJING, Jan 24: Beijing, Setting its sights on playing host to the 2000 Summer Olympics, has unveiled a set of ambitious construction projects aimed at boosting the city's bid, the official New China news agency said on Friday, reports Reuter.

"The Beijing Olympic Bidding Committee has plans to build a 100,000-seat stadium, an indoor cycling velodrome, an aquatic sports centre, an equestrian centre and an athletes' village," it said.

"The city also plans a major new highway to the airport, a new railway station and a 900-km (560-mile) gas pipeline stretching to the northwest in an attempt to reduce the capital's reliance on smog-producing coal," it said.

The agency did not give an estimate of the cost of the projects.

Chen Xitong, Mayor of Beijing, said the city's bid should be strengthened by its successful hosting of the Asian Games in 1990, an event which also entailed vast construction efforts to improve sports facilities.

The Asian Games "demonstrated the political stability, economic prosperity as well as the determination, courage and strength of the Chinese people," Chen was quoted as saying.

Many Beijing residents say privately they oppose the huge expense involved in playing host to the Olympics. The Asian Games were funded in part by "voluntary" contributions automatically deducted from wages.

But China's leaders are eager to get the international exposure enjoyed by other hosts, most recently Seoul in 1988.

"The people's support is the source of strength for making a successful bidding," Chen was quoted as saying.

Milan, Berlin, Manchester and Sydney have also bid for the 2000 Olympics, and Athens, which lost the 1996 Games to Atlanta, may bid again.

Bidding closes in April and the International Olympic Committee decision will be taken in September next year in Monte Carlo.

Athens should bid again, says minister

ATHENS, Jan 24: Athens, still bitter over losing the 1996 Olympic Games to Atlanta, should bid for the Games in the year 2000, Greece's sports' undersecretary said on Thursday.

"A number of countries now feel guilty for giving the Games to Atlanta and not Athens," Vassilis Parageorgopoulos said. "We should take advantage of this and we are now more prepared to host an Olympiad. Athens should bid to host the 2000 Olympics."

Greece accused the International Olympic Committee (IOC) of selling the Olympics to the city which was likely to bring in the most cash, and Greek Olympic officials said they would never bid for the Games again.

Media stampede for Tyson's trial

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana, Jan 24: The more than 100 reporters expected at boxer Mike Tyson's rape trial next week may have a tough time getting within shouting distance of the former heavyweight champion, reports Reuter.

Officials of the Marion County Superior Court said on Thursday that Tyson's lawyers asked that arrangements be made to maintain the boxer's security and privacy during the trial, which begins on Monday and may last three weeks or more.

"Tyson will likely stay in a private home to avoid contact with the press and public," court officials said.

In addition, a private room for Tyson has been set up next to the courtroom of Judge Patricia Cofford for Tyson to use during breaks in the trial. Arrangements have been made to have food brought into the room at lunch time.

tions from around the world have been accredited to cover the trial.

With only 25 of the 55 courtroom seats allocated for media, the judge sought and won special permission for a closed-circuit television feed of the proceedings to be piped to a press room in the basement of the court building.

Normally, Indiana does not permit TV cameras in the courtroom.

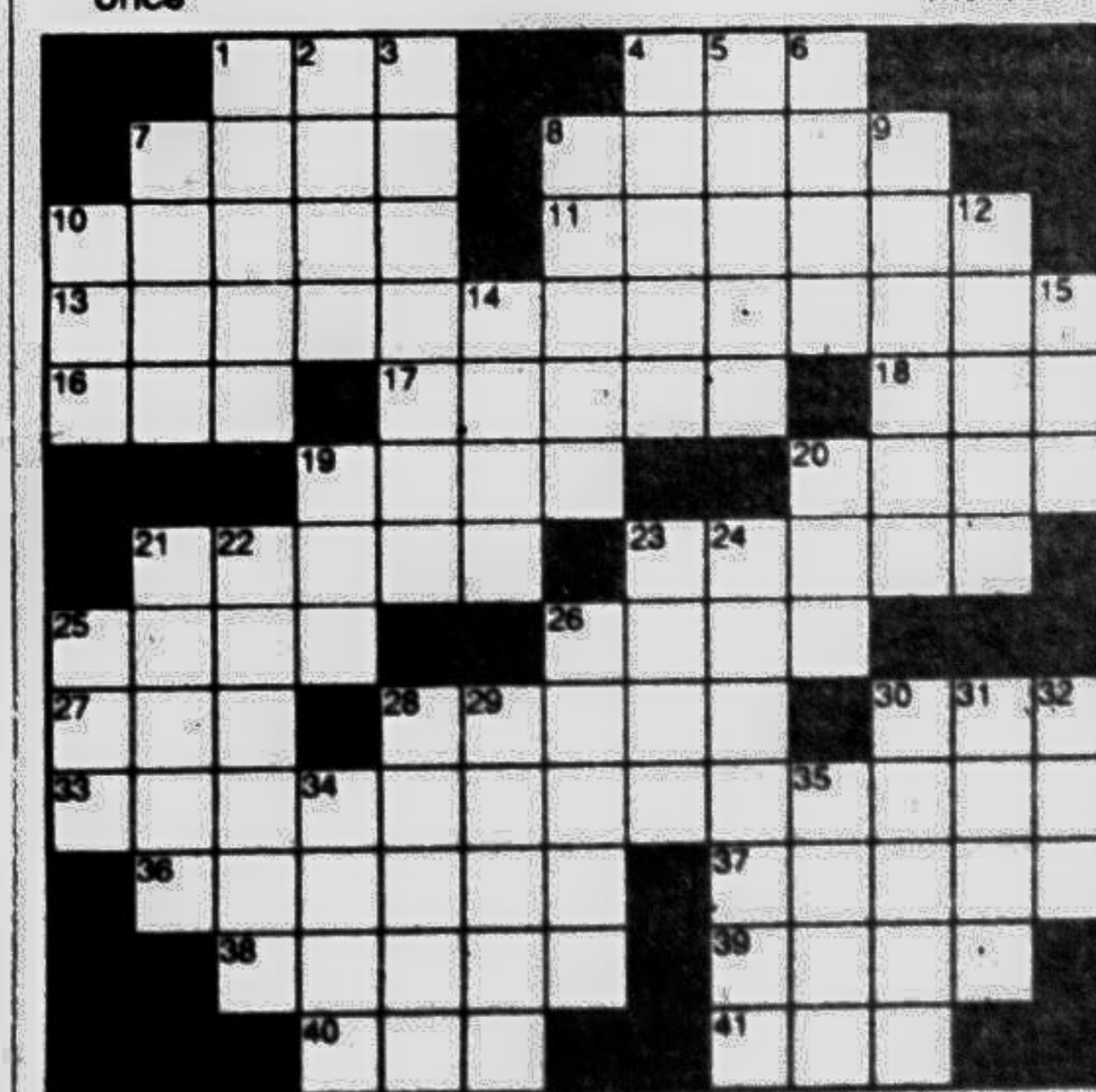
Tyson, 25, has been charged with raping an 18-year-old contestant in a black beauty pageant in Indianapolis last July 19. He has pleaded not guilty. If convicted, he could be sentenced to as much as 63 years in prison.

A conviction would likely end his boxing career as well, many experts in the field have said. Tyson's planned title fight against undisputed world champ Evander Holyfield has been delayed indefinitely by the trial.

The name of Tyson's accuser has not been revealed by news organisations.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 33 U.S. president 3 Burn without flame 15 Women's org. 1 They loop the Loop 36 Approached 19 Bad actor 4 Flower month in Paris 37 Greet the day 5 — forces 20 Glove leather 7 Slender 38 Lariat 6 Dolphin genus 21 Kind of protest 8 Endured 39 Mahjongg counter 7 Wild plum 22 Postal inquiry 10 Texas landmark 40 O.R. aides 8 Walls loudly 23 Appear in three's 11 Pointing 41 Japan follower 24 Arranged 13 U.S. president 42 Japan follower 10 Museum display 25 Make the — fly 16 One Kennedy DOWN 12 Strong winds 26 Hollywood's Hopper 17 Gave sparingly, with "out" 2 Ohio city 14 Cupola 28 Wrapping material 18 Labor org. Solution time: 22 mins. 29 Waste allowances 19 Garment edges WIMP CUP FLIT 20 "If You — Susie..." ODOR ASA LIDO ELLE REDRIVER 30 Banish SEESRED ENEMY 31 Prescribed amount TOT SEC 21 Gaze rudely COROT REDHEAD 32 — ALLI WAN BLY 23 Pigs' digs REDSKIN RUBLE 33 — PIT CON 25 Stable 27 Actress Hagen TOPIC REDWING BRICKRED IDEA 28 Guide ANNE UNA SOAP RETS TOR ELLS 30 Tokyo, once 34 Broadway musical 35 Author Murdoch



7-24 CRYPTOQUIP

L N A O A T I V J U W S L W T ' Z
H U A V P W T V J V D D A T O Q
S D H J H S Z L V T L A U P T W I
Z S T V L S N
Thursday's Cryptquip: AFTER WATCHING A FABLED HOCKEY TEAM ALL DAY LONG, I WAS SKATE BORED.

Today's Cryptquip clue: L equals T
The Cryptquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.