

Reeve, Lewis are fit to play

SYDNEY, Mar 21: Injury-hit England received a boost ahead of Sunday's World Cup semi-final against South Africa when all-rounders Dermot Reeve and Chris Lewis were declared fit to play, reports AFP.

Reeve was troubled by a hip injury while Lewis suffered a side strain, and both were absent during England's shock defeat by Zimbabwe in Albany on Wednesday.

Team coach Mickey Stewart said today both players "were okay" after undergoing a strenuous workout at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

"We will name our playing eleven on the morning of the match, but both Lewis and Reeve are available," Stewart said.

However he did not hold out much hope for seamer Derek Pringle, who is still down with a rib injury.

"Derek is improving, but I should think he is still doubtful for the semi-final," Stewart said.

"The South Africans are very competitive and have done very well for themselves since their return after the ban," Stewart said, adding, "We are in for a game against them."

"Everyone has the same ambition and that's to win the semifinal and then win the World Cup," Stewart said.

"In terms of preparation there's a variety of things we did to make it interesting for the players — but by and large it's been the same format as usual."

Both teams beat Australia in earlier matches at the Sydney Cricket Ground and both are led by vastly-experienced captains — Graham Gooch and Kepler Wessels.

South African skipper Wessels, who played 54 one-day games for Australia in the mid-1980s, said his players were more confident after a month of international competition.

"They know what they're capable of now at this level," Wessels said. "The guys feel a lot more at home in this competition and have much greater belief in their abilities."

"We learned quite a bit when we lost to England in Melbourne last week and we will be going flat out."

England have made the semifinals of all four previous World Cups but have yet to win the tournament. South Africa are playing in their first Cup after 21 years of sporting exile.

The winner of Sunday's match will meet Pakistan in the final on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the South Africans will go in with their most experienced team in a bid to make the final in their first-ever Cup appearance.

Coach Mike Procter said he would field the same team that defeated India in a rain-hit league match last Sunday.

It means all-rounder Brian McMillan will continue to play despite and Achilles tendon injury, and coloured spin bowler Omar Henry will sit out even on a wicket likely to assist him.

"It is difficult to change a winning combination," Procter said.

TEAMS:

England (from): Graham Gooch (captain), Ian Botham, Robin Smith, Allan Lamb, Neil Fairbrother, Alec Stewart (wicket-keeper), Graeme Hick, Chris Lewis, Dermot Reeve, Philip DeFreitas, Phil Tufnell, Richard Illingworth, Gladstone Small.

South Africa: Kepler Wessels (captain), Andrew Hudson, Peter Kirsten, Adrian Kuiper, Jonty Rhodes, Hansie Cronje, Brian McMillan, Dave Richardson (wicket-keeper), Allan Donald, Meyrick Pringle, Richard Snell, Mark Rushmore (likely 12th man).

Umpires: Brian Aldridge (New Zealand), Steve Randell (Australia).



An ecstatic Waseem Akram hugs team mate Aamir Sohail after the memorable victory against New Zealand in the World Cup semifinal yesterday at Eden Park, New Zealand. —Star TV photo

The great Khan gets it right, again

By Tawfiq Aziz Khan

The scheme of things that the great Khan had thought of the previous night had started to fall in the right places at daybreak. His main wish of offering the enemy the first chance to lead the charge was, by an act of providence, served on a platter by his opposite number at the lush green Eden Park yesterday.

The wind-swept but sun-bathed, picturesque ground was full to the brim — a noisy and boisterous home crowd expecting a runaway victory and revenge for the defeat they suffered only 96 hours earlier. But the sword of Damocles in the form of a late afternoon shower hung ominously over the head of the Khan and his light brigade since they would in any event have done the same thing had they called the spin of the coin correctly.

For the Kiwis, reinforced by Mr Wright, business was brisk and forthright. Greatbatch, after some initial jitters, broke the shackles and went berserk. He knew the ground like the back of his palm and swiftly despatched the ball to the crowd, taking the shortest routes. But his merry-making did not last long for Aaqib Javed, who had come in for a bit of stick in the previous match, soon accounted for the most wanted scalp with a well-directed slower one which left Greatbatch in the middle and he was on his walk back to the pavilion to the obvious relief of the Pakistanis and disenchantment of the home crowd.

"Indiana" Jones and Mr Wright did not last long and everything went rosy in the Shalimar Bagh. But the majestic Martin Crowe, who at 29, led his side to astounding successes in this present fray, arrived on the scene and together with Rutherford, who took a long time and survived a confident lbw appeal from the Pakistani hatchetman Wasim Akram (the TV replay of the

no-ball was not shown) as burly David Shepherd the English umpire called a no-ball, took the bull by the horn and defied all gules and enticement from Imran Khan to add a precious



IMRAN KHAN

107 runs for the fourth wicket. This was when the match appeared to have slipped away from the hands of the Pakistanis. To make matters worse, Aamir Sohail doled out a generous dose of 11 runs in one over and Iqbal Sikander went quickly through the air costing the team dear.

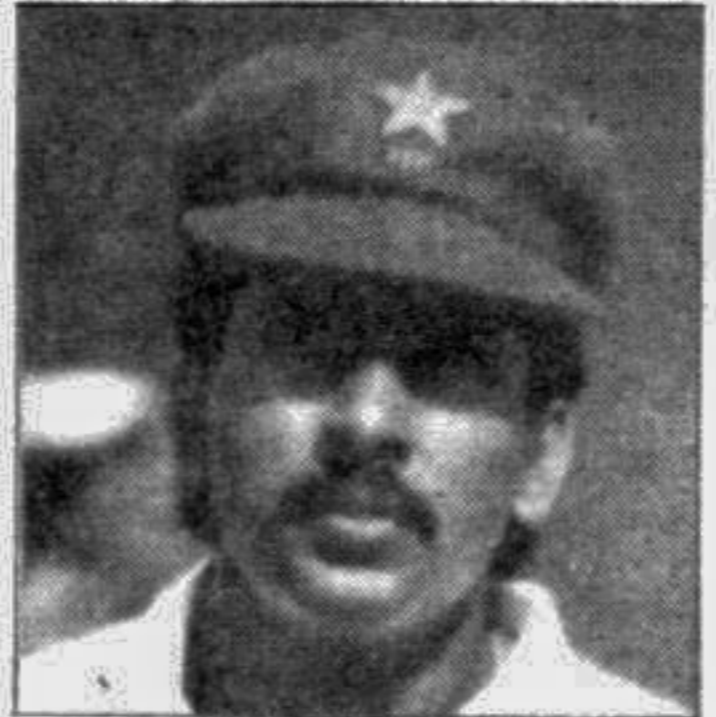
The strategy Imran Khan had adopted by playing two leg-spinners in a limited-overs match backfired completely as Sikander was nowhere near the class of Mushtaq, the other leggie. But Mark Greatbatch, coming as a runner for the injured Crowe, messed it up and ran his captain out.

It was one of the finest innings that I have ever seen from a Kiwi batsman. No wonder Imran had long before ranked him as one of the best in modern cricket.

As the Pakistanis were pushed to the precipice of frustration the umpires removed the balls, much to the relief of Pakistan that the umpires did not lose count of the overs.

The target of 263 in 50 overs was a bit of an overdose for Pakistan with the prospect of afternoon rains. They set about their task briskly against

the mediocre attack of the Kiwis. Mr Wright put on the mantle of Crowe who watched the entire proceedings from the dressing room. He went one step ahead than Crowe by



SALIM MALIK

opening the attack through Patel. But obviously it was not his day. He removed Sohail but at a premium and then Mr Wright made a mistake by holding him back after eight overs.

Imran Khan, along with Rameez Raja, slowly improved the score but not the rate. Imran was pitifully out of touch and flung himself at anything but only succeeding in sending the ball to the fielder. He was having the lion's share of the strike with the in-form Raja playing a second fiddle.

Raja skied one in desperation, making room for the maestro Javed Miandad to carry on the daunting task. Watson relieved Imran Khan from his pains and the unassuming Salim Malik strode into the middle like Alice in Wonderland. He played two balls and then showed his back to the opponents. Something must be terribly wrong with this gifted player. In the past he had faced many such desperate situations for his side and pulled the chestnuts out of the fire almost single-handedly. But that Salim Malik is now a sweet memory. As if Baghe'Jinnah has gone dry and bereft of foliage.

And then strode in a stal-

lion on the starting line uncommonly named Inzamam-ul-Haq, eighteen days past 22 years. His pedigree has been certified by the inimitable Sunil Gavaskar and his own captain Imran Khan. No sooner had the starter's gun been fired than he took off. He was no hobble horse in the steeple chase. The Kiwi attack was torn to shreds. Together with Miandad he rattled up 57 runs in six overs and completed his half century from only 31 deliveries. But a premature call for a 'quickie' from Miandad saw the end of his hurricane hitting (again the replay from the batting crease angle was not shown).

Inzamam had played possibly the best innings so far and took his side to the threshold of victory. As long as he was on the field the Kiwi fielders were running all over the place like chickens with their heads cut off.

Miandad was there to encourage Moïn Khan and the 'ruffian' heaved the longest sixer and sent the next one from Morrison to the ropes to give Pakistan their first berth in the final of the World Cup.

Let's I forget. The hordes of experts and commentators from Britain, Australia and New Zealand were chirping throughout the day under the leadership of the "efficient tail-polisher" of his time Richie Benaud about what the Kiwis should do or should not do to win the match and when 25 overs were complete he declared "We have match," implying that if the rains were to come New Zealand were sure to win. And then the tall fool Tony Greig (6 feet 7 inches in his socks) had the impertinence to say that Miandad had a "nuisance value" as long as he was at the crease. But Greig cannot claim to possess the experience or the expertise to pass judgement on the "diminutive" Miandad.

Wari outplay Adamjee



Wari Club posted their third victory in the First Division football league beating Adamjee

SCC by two goals to one at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Wari led 1-0 at the breather.

Wari, who earlier had recorded an impressive solitary goal victory over title-aspirants Mohammedan Sporting Club and held Federation Cup Champions Brothers Union to a two-all draw, appeared well-organised from the very outset under the able coaching of Sitangshu, an outstanding goal of the '50s, and '60s.

Adamjee, on the other hand, fought valiantly throughout the match but were desperately short of skill and imagination in attack.

Wari were denied an early lead when Tutul's shot from inside the Adamjee box went over the post.

Shahjahan Hamid Bobby, younger brother of Mohammedan star defender Kaiser Hamid, found the net for Wari in the 12th minute. Shudhir of Wari moved into the Adamjee box and took a powerful shot which beat goalie Narayan all ends up, but the ball hit the side bar. Bobby, lurking nearby, brilliantly sent the rebound home (1-0).

Adamjee were rather unlucky in not getting the equaliser in the 28th minute as a powerful Badshah right footer from outside the box also hit the side post.

Liton doubled the margin for Wari in the 57th minute. He received the ball a few me-

ters inside the Adamjee territory and sprinted down. Narayan, sensing danger, rushed out in anticipation, but Liton intelligently chipped the ball over the custodian, one bounce into the net (2-0).

In the 68th minute Bobby, with a good run, moved inside the Adamjee territory and dodged past Narayan but his placing shot missed the post.

Adamjee reduced the margin ten minutes from the time from a penalty. Ripon of Wari intercepted an Akhter cross with his hand inside the box and referee R Alam had no hesitation in awarding Adamjee a penalty. Badshah made no mistake in converting the spot kick (2-1).

Adamjee's last chance of restoring parity came in the 89th minute but Wari goalie Shukur Md Totam foiled the Adamjee hope saving a powerful Mithu shot on the top of the box.

Javed of Wari, who invited a yellow card in the first half, was sent off with the red card in the 85th minute.

Wari now have 14 points while Adamjee have ten from twelve encounters each.

WARI: Totam, Ripon, Javed, Chhoton, Haran, Manik, Bobby, Kabir, Tutul, Liton, Sudhir (Zaman).

ADAMJEE: Narayan, Zamirul, Dilip, A Hossain, Rakkhal, Maruf, Babul (Shaheer), Yousof, Badshah, Akram (Mithu), and Akhter.

TODAYS MATCH

Abahani vs Victoria (6.45 pm)

Volleyball final today

Sports Reporter

Dhaka and Tangail DSAs have reached the final of the Incontrad inter-district volleyball tournament now being held at the Outer Stadium volleyball court.

The two semifinals were held yesterday.

In the first match of the day, Dhaka posted a straight sets victory over Comilla, winning 15-9, 15-5 and 15-5 while in the other keenly-contested encounter, Tangail DSA beat off a stiff challenge from their opponents Rajshahi DSA, overcoming them 15-12, 12-15, 15-11, 12-15 and 15-13.

The final will be held today at 3 in the afternoon while Comilla and Rajshahi will meet each other to decide the third place at 8:30 this morning.

Minister for Communications Col (rid) Oli Ahmed will give away prizes among the winners after the final while Yousuf A Haroon, Managing Director of Incontrad, sponsor of the meet, will be present as a special guest.

Judge rejects defence request

INDIANAPOLIS, Mar 21: The judge who will sentence boxer Mike Tyson next week on a rape conviction denied a defence request Friday to release the names of people who had offered information about the case, reports AP.

Marion Superior Court Judge Patricia J Gifford denied the motion, saying "the information requested is not available."

Boxing results

LAS VEGAS, Mar 21: Iran Barkley won a 12-round split decision on Friday to take the World Boxing Association light heavyweight title from fellow American Thomas Hearns, reports Reuter.

Englishmen resent absence of anthem

SYDNEY, Mar 21: Some of England's cricketers are annoyed the national anthem will not be played at the start of their World Cup semifinal against South Africa on Sunday, reports Reuter.

The changing political situation in South Africa has led to them not using their national anthem which is not recognised by the black majority in the republic.

"I don't see why we can't still have ours," grumbled batsman Neil Fairbrother. "It's been a great experience going on to the field to the sound of the national anthem."

All-rounder Ian Botham jokingly threatened to use his ghetto blaster to play "God save the Queen" as the players took to the pitch.

No anthems have been played at any of the matches involving South Africa or West Indies.

England manager Bob Benoni said it was not an important issue.

"Much as the team have greatly enjoyed going on to the field to the national anthem, we accepted at the start there would be none against those two teams," he said.

Independence Day cricket

Sports Reporter

The 1991-92 Independence Day cricket tournament begins today with Brothers Union taking on Victoria Sporting club at the Dhaka Stadium this morning.

Four teams are taking part in the BCCB organised tourney, the other two being Uditly Club and Bangladesh Biman.

The winners of today's match will face the winners of the tie between Uditly and Biman in the final scheduled to be held on March 26, the Independence Day.

Mathaeus' awards stolen

COMO, Italy, Mar 21:

Thieves have broken into the villa of German captain Lothar Mathaeus and stolen the trophy he was awarded as European footballer-of-the-year in 1990, police said on Friday, reports Reuter.

The "golden ball" trophy, other awards and jewelry were stolen from the international midfielder's villa outside Como in northern Italy on Thursday.

The four thieves threatened his girlfriend Lolita Morena, who was alone in the house at the time, before fleeing, police said.

Mumtaz's third hattrick for MSC

Sports Reporter

Mumtaz Haider and Ashar Karim Kidwai, the two Pakistani recruits of Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club, were instrumental in their emphatic win against Mariner Young's Club in an important match of the Green Delta First Division hockey league at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Mumtaz scored another hattrick as last year's joint champions recorded a facile 3-1 victory against powerful Mariners to stay at the top of the points table with 26 points, winning all their 13 matches, while Mariner Youngs have 25 points from 14 engagements.

The first blood was, however, drawn by Mariners, rigged in all orange, when Jamil Parvez Lulu, the kingpin of the Mariners attack, had a shy at the Mohammedan goal after Blaka Lusai had pushed a penalty corner but Montu, the Mohammedan custodian, kicked it away to safety.

Jacob wins WBC title

CALAIS, France, Mar 21: Thierry Jacob of France won the World Boxing Council (WBC) super-bantamweight title by outpointing holder Daniel Zaragoza of Mexico on Friday, reports Reuter.

Mohammedans retaliated a few minutes later when outside-left Barkatullah Chapal crossed from the left but Zahid Maqbool, the third member of the Pakistani trio in the

Club, were instrumental in their emphatic win against Mariner Young's Club in an important match of the Green Delta First Division hockey league at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Mumtaz scored another hattrick as last year's joint champions recorded a facile 3-1 victory against powerful Mariners to stay at the top of the points table with 26 points, winning all their 13 matches, while Mariner Youngs have 25 points from 14 engagements.

The first blood was, however, drawn by Mariners, rigged in all orange, when Jamil Parvez Lulu, the kingpin of the Mariners attack, had a shy at the Mohammedan goal after Blaka Lusai had pushed a penalty corner but Montu, the Mohammedan custodian, kicked it away to safety.

Mohammedans team, failed to tap home from close.

Mohammedans shot into the lead shortly after the resumption of play after the breather when centre-forward Mumtaz Haider, currently the top scorer in the First Division hockey league, scored from close after a Chapal cross from the left was missed by Zahid Maqbool and Ashar (1-0).

The Mariners players protested the goal as they thought the ball had struck the leg of a Mohammedan player before entering the goal.

a few minutes as the disgruntled Mariners players protested against the goal but good sense prevailed and the match resumed after a lapse of ten minutes or so.

Mohammedans made the most of the upset Mariners players after the resumption when Mumtaz Haider latched on to a fine pass by Ashar Karim Kidwai in the 17th minute (2-0).

Mariners, who forced three penalty corners against none by Mohammedans, failed to reverse the trend of the match as their players lacked coordination and Mumtaz completed his hattrick in the 22nd minute from a breakaway move.

Ashar Karim Kidwai, the live-wire of the Mohammedan attack yesterday, weaved his way through a maze of players to send in a neat cross from the right and Mumtaz, who seemed very adept in sniffing goals, was in position to flick it home with the minimum of fuss (3-0).

It was Mumtaz's 25th goal in the league.

Mariners, without some of their key players like Jasimuddin Kanchan and others — suspended because of their involvement in some unsavoury incidents in the match against Abahani Krira Chakra — looked a totally depressed side and never looked like posing any serious problems for the

alert Mohammedan defence, yet they got a consolation goal at the lag end of the match when the veteran Lulu scooped a ball past the advancing Mohammedan custodian Montu after Dipu failed to utilise a penalty corner (3-1).

The Mariners players, known for their fiery temper and proneness to trouble, gave a good account of themselves and played an important role in the smooth holding of the match.

Zahid Maqbool, the Mohammedan centre-half, was rather at fault as he showed his resentment against the decision of one of the umpires by throwing away his stick.

TEAMS: MOHAMMEDANS: Montu, Robi, Nixon, Nannu, Mittal, Jamal, Zahid (Shabbir), Mumtaz (Zahid), Ashar, Haider and Chapal.

MARINERS: Pintu, Selim, Minar, Apu, Lulu, Nanna, Mukti, Blaka, Qamrul, Shaheed and Dipu.

Usha Krira Chakra defeated Police two-nil in the first match of the day.

Haabi opened the account in the third minute from a penalty corner and Faisal doubled the margin with a field goal in the 50th minute.

TODAYS MATCHES

Wari vs Azad (1.45 pm) Wanderers vs Railway (3.15 pm)

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

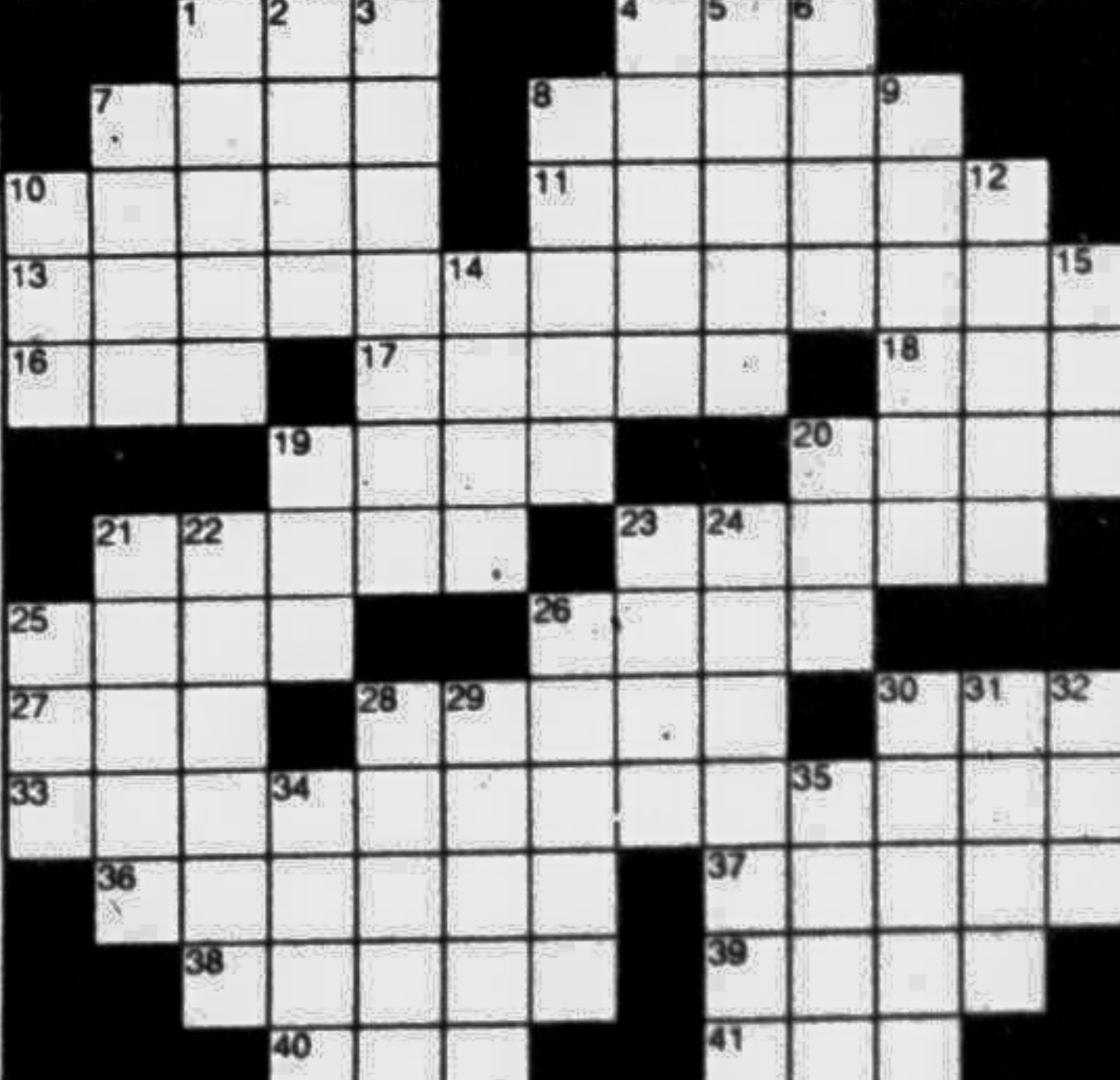
ACROSS 30 Bag or house lead-in 1 Ending for abet 4 Mayday! 7 Mad as a wet hen 8 Plaintive sounds 10 Gem stones 11 South Dakota Indian 13 Way off target 16 Print units 17 Alex Haley work 18 Golfer's gadget 19 Catchall phrase 20 Singer Horne 21 Convulsion 23 Giant armadillo 25 Very old 26 Drill a hole 27 Make a boo-boo 28 Make amends

DOWN 1 Loathsome ones 2 Band on a shield 3 Aspen, et al. 4 View 5 Eyes boldly 6 Counterfeit 7 Washer cycle 8 Yuccalike desert plant 9 Roof worker 10 Anagram

Solution time: 22 mins.

CHAR TOP BEST RUNE ADE ERIE OLEG CATALINA CATALOS BUNKS RES HUG SANDE CATALPA EPI DIM AIM CANTANIA BARGE REP MAR OHARA CATAWBA CATAPULT MAUL AMOY TAT INGE SEPS EYE SSS

Yesterday's answer 9-18



9-18 CRYPTOQUIP
EYD BGS, ATW HADYJJS PKJ
XSEXOVGOWD, PH G HVGSS-
APVW EBWDGAED
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I LIKE TO GO OFF TO THE RACETRACK, BUT I THOUGHT BETTOR OF IT.
Today's Cryptoquip clue: V equals M
The Cryptoquip 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.