

Draws order of the day

Sports Reporter

Two barren matches were played yesterday in the First Division football league at the Dhaka Stadium but the outcomes of neither seemed to have been 'settled' beforehand.

Victoria Sporting Club took their points tally to 13 from 14 matches after a goalless draw with Dhaka Wanderers Club in the day's first tie. They enjoyed a slight edge over their opponents but poor marksmanship coupled with the determined attitude of the Wanderers custodian Aran Bikash Dewan deprived them of another point.

Wanderers, whose relegation worries increased after the 'upset' victory of Police against PWD, could only crawl to seven points after having played fourteen outings. Police are now one point ahead of Wanderers and the fear of relegation looms rather large and unless the traditional team really improves upon their performance the eventuality that they so luckily escaped the previous season may not prove ineluctable this time around.

Yusuf, one of the stalwarts of the Eighties now playing for Victoria was shown the yellow card for rough play.

VICTORIA: Aslam, Sagar, Prodip, Farhad, Anwar, Sujit, (Masbah) Yusuf, Towfiq, Zakir, Shankar and Mamun Babu.

WANDERERS: Arun, Kamal, Mansoor, Bhutto, Yusuf, Motaieb, (Diju) Moin Nipu (Gopal), Mosharrif, Dolon and Mustafa.

Portsmouth hold Cambridge 2-2

CAMBRIDGE, England, Apr 18: Portsmouth staged a late comeback at Cambridge United to earn a 2-2 draw on Friday and keep alive their hopes of a place in the Second Division play-offs.

Cambridge, pressing for an automatic promotion place, will see this as two points lost. They took a 2-0 lead but were finally pegged back by the beaten FA Cup semi-finalists and remain in third place.

Steve Claridge headed the home side in front in the fourth minute after beating the Portsmouth defence to a corner by Paul Raynor.

Richard Wilkins made it 2-0 in the 57th minute when he slotted past goalkeeper Alan Knight following a powerful run through midfield and a one-two with Dion Dublin.



Raju, the Eskaton custodian collects the ball as his teammates watch anxiously in yesterday's First Division football league match between Eskaton and Agrani Bank at the Dhaka Stadium.

a breakthrough. While the bankers goofed up things in the opposition territory, Eskaton were a trifle unlucky as their striker Shahjahan's grounder went out of play after

Swapan and Rinku. Referee: Manik Lal Dey

TODAY'S MATCHES
Rahmatiganj vs War (6 pm)
Abahani vs BRTC (8 pm)

Marseille, 8 other French clubs face probe for wrongdoing

PARIS, Apr 18: In a major assault on corruption in sports, the justice minister has ordered nine professional soccer clubs including champion Olympique Marseille, investigated for suspected financial wrongdoing, reports AP.

Marseille's president is Bernard Tapie, the flamboyant businessman who was named urban affairs minister in the Socialist government's new Cabinet on April 2.

Along with Marseille, which won France's First Division last season and leads again this season, the targets of the probe include First-Division clubs Cannes, Toulouse Montpellier, Nantes, Lille and Paris Saint-Germain; Nice of the Second Division, and Racing Club of Paris in the Third Division.

Justice Minister Michael

Vauzelle on Wednesday ordered local prosecutors to open investigations into each of the clubs, based on irregularities in their accounts.

The prosecutor in Marseille has been conducting a preliminary investigation of Olympique Marseille since last year and has said Tapie could face charges of fraud and misuse of public funds.

Tapie, a maverick leftist who is not a Socialist Party member quit his seat in the National Assembly in order to become urban affairs minister in the Cabinet of newly appointed Premier Pierre Bérégovoy. In doing so, Tapie lost parliamentary immunity which would have shielded him from any prosecution.

French soccer has been tainted by numerous financial scandals in recent years. Two clubs, Toulon and Breast Armoricque, have been liquidated because of mismanage-

ment, and the former president of Brodeaux, Claude Bez, was jailed a week ago for alleged fraud.

Other clubs have encountered legal troubles related to slush funds, questionable transfers of players and improperly financed construction projects.

On Wednesday, Sports Minister Frederique Bredin submitted to the Cabinet a proposed bill that would subject professional sports clubs to stricter financial requirements.

Beregovoy, in his first policy speech last week, called for an intensified crack down on corruption, which he described as a "plague" as serious as unemployment.

The president of the French Soccer Federation, Jean Fourmet-Fayard, said today the investigations should be "pursued to the end," in order to clear up doubts about the sport's integrity.



Scene from yesterday's play in the 18th national qualifying meet at the National Sports Council chess room.

Zmeskal, Okino roar into finals

PARIS, Apr 18: Americans Kim Zmeskal and Bet-ty Okino roared into the finals of the World Gymnastics Championships with snappy floor routines that earned them top scores in Friday's semifinals of the individual events, reports AP.

Zmeskal, 16-year-old from Houston and the all-around champion, had a 9.937 out of 10 in the floor exercise to pace the event. Defending champion Oksana Tchusovitanta of the former Soviet Union received a bye into Saturday's final.

A new formula for the World Gymnastics Championships will give individual titles in the six men and four women's events. Past championships had team and all-around competition in addition to the individual apparatus finals.

Semifinals were held in the six men and four women's events.

Okino, who was fourth in the all-around last year at Indianapolis, picked up a 9.937 in the balance beam to tie with another member of the former Soviet Union, Tatiana Lissenko, for first.

Svetlana Boguinskaja, last year's balance beam winner, gave an unmarked demonstration that showed she will be difficult to dethrone.

Zmeskal performed to a medley of 1950's rock and roll, with a tumbling run that included three whip backs to a double back somersault.

She also qualified for the finals in the balance beam, coming in fourth with 9.862.

Okino, 16, had a beam programme that included two full pirouettes on the beam as well as two back aerials in a row.

However, Lissenko's routine had a one-arm hand stand, the only one of the night.

Okino and American teammate Kerri Strug also made the final eight in the uneven parallel bars. Zmeskal had originally qualified fourth ahead of the other two. However US coaches let Okino and Strug compete because they felt they needed the exposure in that event instead of Zmeskal. Only two gymnasts can advance from each country.

Lut Li of China had the top score in that event with 9.887. Boguinskaja led the vault with a 9.912.

However, the Commonwealth of Independent States benefited from their depth when Rosa Galieva turned up sick and was pulled out of the three events she qualified for. She was replaced by teammate Lissenko in the balance beam, who tied for the top score with Okino.

The former Soviet Union led in five of the six men's event.

ramming the side post. Eskaton, who have promising booters in Arman, Akku and Rinku, promised to create a commotion in this year's league but are now languishing near the root of the leader with just eleven points from 14 matches.

Wakil of Eskaton was cautioned with the yellow card for splurge.

AGRANI BANK: Curzon, Kala, Bishu, Peter, Bachchu, Pappu, Jamal, Mongol, Jahangir, Bakhtiar (Gias) and Sattar.

ESKATON S S: Raju, Wakil, Rajab, Dablu, Ruhul Amin Litu, Arman, Akku, Shahjahan.

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Injured Matthaeus to miss Euro finals in Sweden

BONN, Apr 18: German World Cup-winning captain Lothar Matthaeus will not play in the European soccer championships in Sweden next June, national coach Bertl Vogts said on Friday, reports Reuter.

Vogts said the 31-year-old midfielder, who plays for Internazionale in Italy, had a serious knee injury and would not be able to play again this season.

"That's a serious blow for us," said Vogts shortly after talking with Matthaeus by telephone in Milan. "His season is over."

He said Matthaeus had torn a ligament in his right knee during a league match last Sunday against Parma.

Inter's doctor Arturo Guarino examined the injury on Thursday and said the player, must not play for seven to eight months.

The surgery will keep Matthaeus out of Germany's team for the championships from June 10-26 but Vogts hoped it would not mean the end of Matthaeus's international career.

He said the captain figured strongly in his plans for the 1994 World Cup in the United States.

Vogts was flying to Italy to watch Sunday's Roma Juventus match and check on the form of Germans Rudi Voeller, Thomas Hessler Juergen Kohler and Stefan Reuter.

On Sunday, the German team will gather in Frankfurt to prepare for next Wednesday's friendly international against Czechoslovakia in Prague.

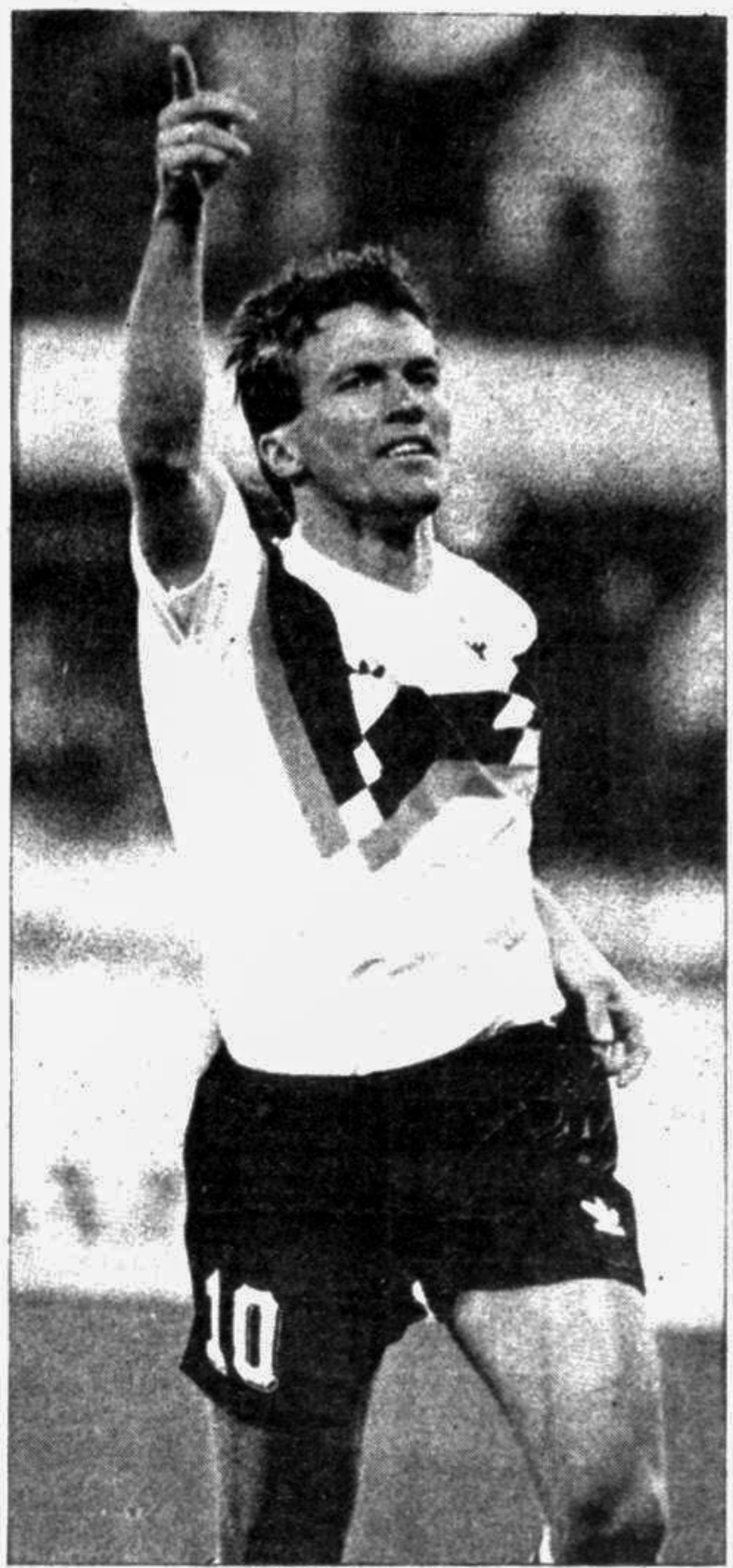
Meanwhile, another report from Bonn said: Manager Bertl Vogts insisted on Friday that Matthaeus's international career was not over.

Matthaeus rang Vogts from Milan on Thursday night to tell him he would be out of action for five months after tearing his right knee ligaments playing for Inter Milan last Sunday.

Matthaeus, who steered west Germany to World Cup victory in 1990, has won 93 caps, scoring 19 goals.

He will go to vail in Colorado for an operation by knee specialist Richard Steadman.

"Just after the injury on Sunday I had exactly the same feeling as when I had a ligament tear a few years ago," Matthaeus said on German



LOTHAR MATTHAEUS

television. "I thought at first: now everything's gone."

Matthaeus, who tried to leave Inter for Real Madrid at the beginning of the season, is under contract with the Italian club for another season.

However, the future of all three of Inter's German internationals, Matthaeus, Jurgen

Klinsmann and Andreas Brehme, was uncertain after a disappointing season.

Matthaeus joined Inter from Bayern Munich in 1988 after starting his career with Borussia Moenchengladbach.

The dynamic midfielder was voted best player in Italia '90.

Monaco out for revenge

MONACO, Apr 18: Monaco hope to right what they see as a wrong when they take on Marseille in a top-of-the-table clash here today which could decide the French Championship.

Monaco, who have not beaten Marseille since England international Glenn Hoddle left two seasons ago, claim Abedi Pele's equaliser in a 1-1 draw at Marseille last November should never have been allowed.

The Ghanaian held down Monaco full-back Patrick Valery to allow Manuel Amoros to get in a cross Pele shot home.

"That goal should never have been allowed," claimed Monaco midfielder Marcel Dib. "I'm not saying it will be a grudge match but we are eager to prove a point."

Monaco, who in midweek became the first French Club to reach the European Cup Winners' Cup final, tried to get the match put back to Sunday but the French League with Marseille.

"We would have appreciated an extra day to recover but as professionals it's something we have to take in our stride," said Monaco captain Jean-Luc Ettori.

The goalkeeper insisted the winners would not automatically claim the league title.

"We both have two more matches to play," he said.

Monaco, unbeaten in 12 matches, appear to have the harder fixtures against Le Havre and Montpellier, two clubs fighting for a place in Europe. Le Havre won 2-0 at Monaco last November.

Marseille, seeking their fourth title in a row, play relegation threatened Cannes and middle-of-the-table Lille.

"We'll win," said Marseille captain Jean-Pierre Papin. "We have to make up for the penalty I missed last week."

Papin's first penalty miss in almost three years allowed Montpellier to draw 0-0 and cut Marseille's lead to one point.

In the semifinals today, Applemans will face Medvedeva while Basuki will take on Strandova.

Win for Yusupov

LINARES, Apr 18: Russian Grandmaster Artur Yusupov beat Jan Timman of the Netherlands on Friday in the fifth game of their world chess championship semifinal to take a 3-2 lead in the best-of-10 series, reports Reuter.

Timman conceded a pawn and lost the game after 50 moves and five-and-a-half hours play.

British Grandmaster Nigel Short postponed his fifth game with former world champion Anatoly Karpov of Russia in the other semifinal. Each player has the right to one time-out in the 10 games.

The score in their contest stands at 2-1 to Karpov with one game adjourned. Short has the advantage in that game, with a rook, a bishop and two pawns against Karpov's knight, bishop and two pawns.

Niro leads in chess prelims

Sports Reporter

Neyamul Huq Niro of Bangladesh Ansars with five and a half points led the table after the completion of the sixth round of the preliminary qualifying competition of the 18th national chess championship at the National Sports Council chess room yesterday.

Niro who had won his last five encounters, drew his sixth match with Anisur Rahman, who has five points.

Others who have collected five points each to jointly hold the second position were Khandaker Kayes Hassan, national women's champion Rani Hamid, Kalam, Iqbal Rakib, Omar Hyder and Nahid.

Kayes beat Jahangir, Nahid outwitted Rezaul, Rani Hamid outplayed Amir Hossain and Hyder beat Anwar in their respective sixth round encounters.

Ziaur Rahman, Zamfir Rahman, Ruhul Kabir Shipu, Khorshed Alam, Mainuddin and Shahabuddin Ahmed with four points each jointly held the third position.

One hundred and eight players are competing in the prelims for the 14 spots in the final round of the national championship.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 37 Motley | DOWN | mance |
| 1 Harry's Mrs. | 40 Apiece | 1 Spring-steen | 23 Oriental metropolis |
| 5 Conrad's "Lord —" | 41 Stretch out | sobriquet | 24 Chip in a chip |
| 8 Rue — | 45 Corsetiere's wares | 2 Satan's specialty | 25 Cross |
| 12 Elliptical Paix | 47 Farm femme | 3 "Smooth Operator" singer | 26 Point of a crescent moon |
| 13 Man-mouse link | 49 Sub in a tub? | 4 Surprise hit | 27 Location of 23 |
| 14 Bakery employee | 50 Into the sunrise | 5 Nicholson role | 28 Lessen |
| 15 "West — Story" | 51 Mann's "Der — in Venedig" | 6 Anger | 32 Potpourri pouches |
| 16 Beer container | 52 Sapient | 7 Blow up | 33 Wilder play |
| 17 Mr. Huntley | 53 The bad guys | 8 Mirabile follower | 35 Snap |
| 18 Record protector | 54 Cry for help | 9 Rankings | 36 "Back to the Future" star |
| 20 Cager Archibald | 55 Meadowlands five | 10 Gypsy Rose — | 38 Delicious |
| 22 Detail | | 11 Jackie's pal | 39 City near Birmingham |
| 26 West Pointer | | 19 Cistern | 42 Author Wiesel |
| 29 Frequently | | 21 Performer | 43 Tree house? |
| 30 Lennon's lady | | | 44 Serves the purpose |
| 31 Computer operator | | | 45 \$2.00 transaction |
| 32 Big-spender's limit? | | | 46 Cheer-leader's cry |
| 33 Aware of | | | 48 Court |
| 34 Attack command | | | |
| 35 Shell out | | | |
| 36 Welded | | | |

Solution time: 23 mins.

B	A	M	S	E	A
I	O	L	E	T	A
A	D	L	E	R	T
B	L	U	E	M	O
A	E	S	A	M	I
R	I	O	S	A	N
C	R	E	D	O	C
C	O	E	D	S	H
O	A	S	A	S	P
B	L	U	E	S	T
S	L	A	T	E	D
T	R	O	P	E	S
S	R	S	R	A	S

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
15				16			17			
18			19			20	21			
			22			23			24	25
26	27	28				29			30	
31						32			33	
34						35			36	
37						38			39	
						40			41	
						42			43	44
45	46					47	48		49	
50						51			52	
53						54			55	

CRYPTOQUIP

BR NXZE BR'N CBZJYZJO
XWDMC GRJEZJO QR CBR
QDJRH, WMC Z'Q JDC
WXJYZJO DJZC.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: J equals N

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.