

Experience helps Liverpool win a game of two halves



LONDON, May 10: Liverpool beat a spirited Sunderland 2-0 on Saturday to claim their third English FA Cup triumph in seven years with a superb goal from Michael Thomas and a piece of clinical finishing from Ian Rush, reports Reuter.

The Second Division underdogs, who have dreamed of repeating their glorious 1973 victory, had looked capable of producing another Cup final upset in the first 45 minutes but were swept away in a stylish second-half performance from Liverpool.

Watching from the bench by manager Graeme Souness just five weeks after his triple heart bypass operation, Liverpool grabbed a goal two minutes after the break and ended Sunderland's battling efforts with a second after 68 minutes.

Thomas, who as an Arsenal player deprived Liverpool of the League title with a goal in the last game to 1989, scored the first when he picked up Steve McManaman's through ball and fired it into the far top corner on the turn.

McManaman, in for injured international John Barnes and playing only his first senior game since an operation for a flaked bone after the semifinal against Portsmouth, was hurt as he beat two men but grinned through the pain as he was mobbed by celebrating teammates.

McManaman, an England under-21 international, tormented the Sunderland defence in the second half, after having shown his dazzling ball control a minute before half-time when he was denied a penalty after Paul Bracewell appeared to clip his heels.

The second goal, which

ended Sunderland's dreams of repeating their historic 1973 triumph as a Second Division side against mighty Leeds, was a classic piece of Liverpool artistry.

Dean Saunders ran at the defence and passed to Thomas on another of his punishing runs from midfield. Thomas in turn slipped it to Rush and the lethal finisher slotted the ball



MICHAEL THOMAS

into the far corner past the advancing keeper.

In between, Jan Molby had a shot tipped over by Sunderland goalkeeper Tony Norman and Saunders headed against the post.

McManaman, who struggled down the left flank in the first half, overwhelmed the Sunderland defence when he switched to the right in the second, a tactic which paid immediate dividends.

Sunderland, playing with a pride and passion typical of Wembley underdogs, put Liverpool under heavy pressure in the first half, created several promising openings and could have gone into the interval leading.

But nerves and inexperience let them down at crucial moments. Twice England un-

der-21 full-back Gary Owers was put clear on the right with plenty of space ahead but both times lashed his shot early and wide.

England defender Mark Wright saved Liverpool in the 17th minute when he lunged out a foot and managed to deflect a point-blank shot from Anton Rogan.

John Byrne, who had



IAN RUSH

scored in every round and threatened the Liverpool defence with his strong running, fluffed his best chance in the 12th minute when he scuffed a shot wide from a metre out.

Liverpool squandered an early chance when Ray Houghton put Thomas clear in the box in the third minute only for the midfielder to shoot over the bar as he tried to chip over advancing Welsh international goalkeeper Norman.

Pinned back by Sunderland, Liverpool rarely mounted any serious extended pressure in the first half and Norman was not called on to make a difficult save before the interval.

But in the second half Norman was overworked, tipping shots from Molby and Saunders over the bar. He had

little chance of saving the two goals, although he got his fingers to Thomas's shot.

A delighted Thomas said afterwards he hoped his goal had paid back Liverpool fans for his League winner against them three seasons earlier. "I hope that finally shuts them up," he said.

Souness, who said he was allowed to attend under strict orders that he keep calm, was delighted with his first trophy since taking over as manager after Kenny Dalglish left last season and with the prospect of European competition again next season in the Cup Winners' Cup.

"I think we played very well in the second half. They could have had a penalty and so could we," he said.

Rush, who took his goal tally in three finals to five, said: "We were pretty lucky to go in 0-0 at half-time but scoring the goal so early in the second half killed their confidence and we dominated from then on."

Molby, hoping to gain a recall to the Danish national side, gave a superb display of controlled passing in wet conditions and heavy showers but said Liverpool were fortunate not to go behind in the first half.

"The first half was pretty much even. But in the second our experience showed through and we dominated. They got a couple of half-chances in the first but did not score. When we got them in the second we put them away."

Caretaker manager Ronnie Moran, who was rewarded for 43 years' loyal service at Anfield when he led out the team, said: "Sunderland could have had two goals in the first half but that's Cup football. We played very well in the second and I thought we could have got more goals."

Medals mixed up

LONDON, May 10: A medals mix-up left soccer officials with faces as red as the shirts of English F.A. Cup winners Liverpool at Wembley on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Dejected Sunderland players stared in disbelief at their medals after the 2-0 defeat—for each one received in the official presentation was labelled "F.A. Cup winner 1992."

Liverpool players had been handed losers' medals, along with the Cup. Players from both teams got together on the pitch afterwards to swap medals.

"At least I had a winners' medal to hold for about 30 seconds," said Sunderland's Gordon Armstrong.

Rangers lift Scottish Cup

GLASGOW, May 10: Strike pair Mark Hateley and Ally McCoist fired Glasgow Rangers to the Scottish Cup triumph that had eluded them for 11 years when they beat Airdrie 2-1 in the final on Saturday.

The twin marksmen lifted their combined total to 62 goals this season as Rangers completed the coveted league and Cup double at Hampden Park for the first time since 1978.

The final followed the predicted script, with Rangers taking a convincing 2-0 lead, until Andy Smith's last-minute volley for Airdrie set up a blistering finish.

But the underdogs could not force extra time and Rangers added the Cup to their fourth successive League title.

Hateley thrust Rangers on course with a typically clinical finish at the near post after 30 minutes, his 23rd goal of the season.

And when McCoist hammered in his 39th goal on the stroke of half-time, the contest appeared to be truly over.

Sabatini stays Roman queen



ROME, May 10: Gabriela Sabatini rallied from a 5-2 first-set deficit, saved three set points and beat Monica Seles for the second straight year to win the Italian Open, 7-5, 6-4 on Sunday, reports AP.

"I always play well here in Rome, the crowd always helps," the Argentine said as the 10,000 spectators at the Foro Italico broke into loud cheers after the 110-minute match.



GABRIELA SABATINI... darling of the Italian crowd

Seles, who like Sabatini had not lost a set all week, raced to within a game of winning the first set, getting inside the baseline to hit

sharply angled winners past the second-seeded Argentine. But Sabatini then changed her tactics, hitting high bouncing groundstrokes that kept Seles well back of the baseline.

Trailing 5-3 Sabatini saved three set points to earn a break, held service and then broke Seles again to take the set in 62 minutes.

The pace slowed in the second set, but Sabatini picked up the pressure by going to net and scoring repeatedly with volleys hit far from Seles' reach.

the six tournaments she entered before Rome.

"I'll try to do better next year, hopefully I'll have more luck," Seles told the crowd. An earlier report by Reuter said: Defending champion Gabriela Sabatini beat American Mary Joe Fernandez 6-2, 6-3 in the second semifinal on Saturday to set up a repeat of last year's final against Monica Seles.

Sabatini, winner here three times in the past four years, delighted her host of young Roman fans with her comfortable win over fourth seed Fernandez.

But the American, who struggled against German Anke Huber on Friday night, was again below her best and the match was a disappointing spectacle.

The Argentine stormed into a 4-0 lead in the first set before Fernandez had properly settled.

Sabatini quickly broke Fernandez in the second set. The American missed her last chance to get back into the match when she had six breakpoints with Sabatini leading 4-2 but failed to convert any of them.

Yugoslav Seles qualified for today's final earlier with a 6-0, 6-4 win over South African outsider Amanda Coetzer.

Sabatini beat Seles 6-3, 6-2 in the final here last year.

"I'm really looking forward to the match tomorrow," Sabatini said.

Seles is playing well. Last year I played a very good match against her and I must reproduce that," the Argentine added.

Fernandez said her failure to take the seventh game in the second set, when she squandered the six breakpoints, had decided the match. "I'd have been back into it if I'd won that game," she said.

Fernandez, who beat Sabatini in the semifinals of the Australian Open this year, also felt she should have been more aggressive.

COOB, IOC say there's no crisis



SEVILLE, Spain, May 10: The International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the Barcelona Games organisers issued a joint message on Saturday on the threat of chronic overcrowding in the Olympic Village — crisis? What crisis? reports Reuter.

A total of 19,400 athletes and officials from 162 teams have so far registered for the Olympic Village, which can hold a maximum 15,200.

Cries of alarm from the Barcelona Organising Committee (COOB'92) have become increasingly strident in recent

months amid warnings that the Village is not made of elastic.

COOB has blamed the IOC for failing to address the problem but Saturday's meeting between the Games organisers and the IOC Executive Board was described as very friendly and open by IOC information director Michele Verdier.

The only thing lacking was a solution.

It was agreed that no action would be considered until May 25—10 days after next Friday's deadline by which teams must submit the names of the athletes and officials they plan to send to the Games, which Open on July 25.

Officials hope that the numbers will have dropped sufficiently to prevent any need for further measures.

If fresh steps are necessary, they could include faster rotation in the Village, with athletes moving in shortly before their events and departing soon afterwards. A total of 400 athletes competing in demonstration sports would be housed elsewhere.

However, COOB is unenthusiastic about the rotation idea because it would allow teams to dictate how much strain would be imposed on logistical services at any one time.

Nor is anyone sure how many athletes will try to remain in the Village as tourists after their sports have finished.

But Verdier told a news conference: "There is absolutely no crisis. There is a problem but we have the mechanism to resolve it."

The same line came from COOB despite its vehement warnings in recent months.

"There is no crisis today and we're trying to avoid any conflict later on," COOB chief executive Jose Miguel Abad told the news conference.

"We won't speculate on figures any more. Let's wait until we can get down to realities rather than theories."

Abad also dealt with a request by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) for changes in the track and field schedule which would give American Michael Johnson, the world's fastest man over 200 and 400 metres, the chance to tackle both events.

COOB dumped the problem squarely back in the lap of the IAAF by insisting if needed a written undertaking that the IAAF would be responsible for meeting any legal claims resulting from a changed timetable.

Abad stressed that it would not be a technical problem to switch the 200 and 400 metres finals to separate days.

But he said COOB had agreed television schedules with the networks and sold tickets to the public on the basis of the timetable contained in a contract signed with the IAAF two years ago.

He also said COOB had received a copy of a letter sent by American star Carl Lewis to the IAAF opposing any changes. If the timetable were

in hockey series India beat Belgium

BRUSSELS, May 10: India's Jagbir Singh scored his second goal three minutes from time to end a Belgian comeback as the visitors racked up their second victory, 3-2, in a downpour here on Saturday, reports AFP.

India won the first international friendly 4-2 on Friday and a third will be played today.

Given the driving rain that continued throughout the match, it was not surprising that India lacked the stylish passing and finishing which marked the first encounter of their extensive European tour.

Comment costs Krickstein dear

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina, May 10: Jeff Tarango, saying he used a racial comment by Aaron Krickstein to spur him on, upset his fellow-American 5-7, 6-7 (4-6), 6-1 in the quarterfinals of the US men's clay court championships on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Tarango, a Mexican-American, said he overheard Krickstein say to Krickstein's girlfriend, that Tarango was a "grease ball."

Tarango, ranked 68th, said he did not know if Krickstein meant it racially. "I really didn't get fired up in the match at all until he mumbled 'grease ball,' Tarango said, referring to the 10th game of the second set when he saved four match points."

"Even though I don't think (Krickstein) meant it to be, I took it as a racial comment... and it fired me up."

Krickstein had no comment about Tarango's accusation.

Of the top four seeds, only Malvay Washington, the fourth seed, made it through to the quarterfinals of the often rain-delayed tournament.

Washington disposed of sixth-seed Franco Davin 6-3, 7-5 to reach the semifinals.

Edberg in final at Costa's cost



HAMBURG, Germany, May 10: Swedish world number two Stefan Edberg put a stop to Carlos Costa's recent giant-killing run when he beat the Spaniard to reach the final of the rain-hit Hamburg Open today, reports Reuter.

Edberg, the top seed, put on a confident display of his strong serve-and-volley game to win 7-5, 7-6 in a match interrupted for 45 minutes in the second set by rain.

Costa has had a superb year so far on the European clay courts, winning the Estoril and Barcelona Opens and reaching the final of last week's Madrid Open. He beat French Open runner-up Andre Agassi on his way to the semifinals.

But the flamboyant Spaniard could not cope with Edberg, who refuses to abandon his natural game on the slow clay, although it is much better suited to faster courts.

Edberg sealed his place in his first clay-court final since he lost to American Michael Chang in the French Open final in 1989. He has won only one clay-court event in his career, at Gstaad, Switzerland, in 1986.

Edberg made a crucial

break in the 11th game of the first set before serving out for the set 7-5 in 53 minutes. He broke again in the first game of the second.

Although Costa broke back and after the rain stoppage had a set point at 7-6 in the

second set.

STICH IN FINAL
LATEST: Wimbledon champion Michael Stich outplayed his more famous compatriot Boris Becker 6-1, 6-1 in the second semifinal of the German Open tournament at Hamburg Sunday, according to BBC monitored in Dhaka late last night.

Stich played brilliant tennis in his first-ever clash with Becker on clay and set himself up for a final against Sweden's world number two Stefan Edberg.

If Stich wins the title he will be the first German to do so since 1964. For Edberg, it is his first clay final in three years since the 1989 French Open.

tiebreak, Edberg kept his head to take the match 9-7 in the tiebreak.

Boris Becker swiftly finished off his rain-hit quarter-final against Czechoslovak Karel Novacek to earn himself a rematch of last year's Wimbledon final with Michael Stich.

The German second seed took just under a quarter of an hour today to secure a 6-1, 7-6 victory over the eighth seed. Their match was suspended overnight after four interruptions because of rain.

Becker had led 6-1, 5-6 after the two players had completed just under two hours of play in eight and a half hours on Saturday.

But in bright sunshine this morning the three-times Wimbledon champion pushed the second set into a tie-break and kept his nerve to take it 8-6. Stich, who beat Becker to clinch his first Grand Slam title last July, has never met his countryman on clay. The two players have clashed once since Wimbledon when Becker triumphed at the World Championships in Frankfurt last November.

An earlier report said: After his victory over Dutchman Richard Krajcek in one hour 58 minutes, the Wimbledon champion said he hoped his Davis Cup teammate could make it through.

With weather forecasts hinting at more showers today, the final is likely to be put off until Monday — clashing with the start of the men's Italian Open in Rome.



Norris stops Taylor

LAS VEGAS, May 10: Terry Norris overwhelmed welterweight champion Melnick Taylor with some devastating punches Saturday night knocking him down twice before finally stopping him in the fourth round to retain his World Boxing Council super welterweight title, reports AP.

Norris was the stronger fighter from the opening bell and wanted little time in establishing dominance over Taylor in what was a rare battle of two reigning champions. Taylor is the World Boxing Association super welterweight champion.

Norris knocked Taylor down twice in the fourth round and had his helpless on the ropes in a neutral corner before referee Mills Lane moved in to stop the fight at 2:55 of the round.

Taylor, who had to move up in weight to fight for Norris' title, appeared to have little of the hand speed that won him world titles in two lighter divisions and was unable to match the power Norris had in his punches.

Both fighters weighed 140 pounds (67 kilograms) for the fight, which was contested at a weight limit of 150 1/2 pounds (67.7 kilograms) midway between the two divisions.

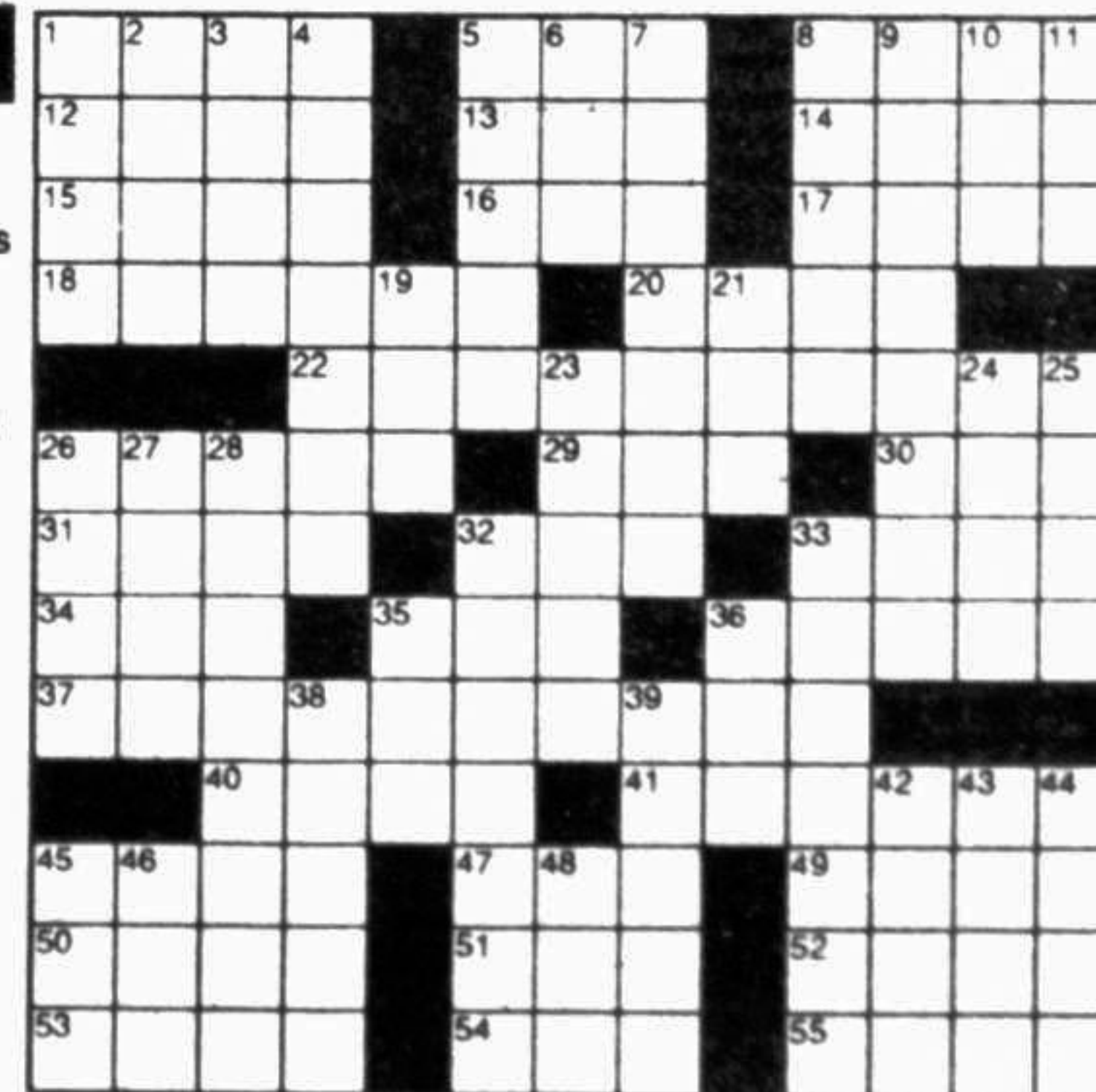
But it was apparent that Taylor, who was fighting at 140 pounds (63 kilograms) only two years ago, had bulked up too much and was not going to be able to keep up with either the speed or power of the champion.

WBC super-welterweight champion Terry Norris (R) watches WBA champion Melnick Taylor (L) falter after delivering a right to his body in the fourth round of a WBC sanctioned super-welterweight title fight in Las Vegas on May 9. The referee stopped the fight in the fourth round after Norris knocked Taylor down twice.

—AFP photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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



CRYPTOQUIP

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

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.