

Courier remains fresh and fearless

PARIS, May 30: Bad news for the kid from Kiev and the rest of the men still around in the French Open. Jim Courier is feeling fresh and fearless as Week Two approaches, reports AP.

Courier, the defending champion and world-ranked No. 1 player, overpowered Argentina's Alberto Mancini, 6-1, 6-2, 6-0 to reach the round of 16 without the loss of a set.

His fourth-round foe Sunday will be Andrei Medvedev, at 17 the youngest player in the field. Medvedev, from Ukraine, has dropped only one set during his first three Grand Slam matches.

He has played Courier once, an exhibition in Japan which he lost in a third-set tiebreak.

"I'm playing much better than I was then, and I have nothing to lose," Medvedev said. "I'll just play my game."

Courier, winner of 19 straight matches, said he has nothing to fear, either on Sunday or thereafter.

"I'm very pleased to have gotten through relatively fatigue-free. I'm feeling pretty fresh," he said.

"My name on the trophy isn't coming off, and I'm going to try to stencil another one on it. I simply try to do my best — what's there to be afraid of?"

Mancini testified to Courier's prowess.

"Everything was a little difficult for me today," said the Argentine, ranked 18th in the world. "It's easy, when you're No. 1 and you're winning so much, to be mentally tough."

No. 2 men's seed Stefan Edberg and No. 5 Michael Chang, who won rain-suspended second-round matches Friday, also were on Saturday's schedule — Edberg against Russian Andrei Cherkasov and

Chang against Sweden's Nicklas Kulti, the first-round conqueror of John McEnroe.

Though McEnroe says he won't be back here next year, Paris fans haven't seen the last of him. He and Andre Agassi, playing doubles together for only the second time, won their first-round match Friday over Todd Nelson and Jason Stoltenberg.

In addition to the Courier-Medvedev match, Sunday's schedule will include No. 3 Pete Sampras against



JIM COURIER

Germany's Carl-Uwe Steeb, No. 11 Agassi against Spain's Emilio Sanchez, and No. 8 Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia against No. 9 Carlos Costa of Spain.

Four seeds lost Friday, notably No. 10 Ivan Lendl, a

three-time champion here, who fell to Brazil's Jaime Oncins, 21.

Russia's 14th seed Alexander Volkov crashed badly to Carl-Uwe Steeb of Germany in a third-round encounter. Steeb scored a comfortable 6-2, 6-4, 6-0 win and now plays third-seeded Pete Sampras for a place in the semi-finals.

The German beat the world number-three at the Monte Carlo Open but Sampras has been slowly improving his game on clay under new coach Tim Gullikson.

On Friday the 1990 United States Open champion confounded the experts by showing that his flowing "serve-and-volley" tennis can still reap dividends on the deadly slow surface by beating Frenchman

Rudolphe Gilbert 6-3, 6-2, 6-3.

The victory kept alive his hopes of being given another chance by United States Davis Cup captain Tom Gorman.

"It will help. But I don't think I'll get the chance unless I actually win the event here," said Sampras, who lost both his singles in last year's Davis Cup final against France in Lyon.

Other winners included the promising ninth-seed Carlos Costa of Spain who defeated South Africa's Wayne Ferreira in four sets.

Costa now plays big serving Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia for a place in the quarter-finals.

Eighth-seeded Ivanisevic survived a nerve-wracking five-setter against Magnus Larsson of Sweden snatching the fifth set 9-7.

All-action Agassi delights fans

PARIS, May 30: Andre Agassi's all-action tennis show coaxed out the sunshine, delighted the fans, and kept the expected rain away from the Roland Garros stadium here Friday afternoon, reports AP.

The flamboyant American beat Croatia's clay-court specialist Goran Prpic 2-6, 6-4, 6-1, 7-6 (7-4) in just over two-and-a-half hours to earn a fourth-round clash against Emilio Sanchez of Spain at the French Open tennis championships.

Sanchez beat Belgium's Bart Wuyts in straight-sets 6-0, 6-4, 7-6 (7-3).

The 22-year-old eleventh seed took a set to settle, but then he opened his shoulders, went for his strokes and left the crowd gasping with his sizzling groundstrokes.

As the winners rifled home like bullets, Prpic, wearing the enormous protection brace round the right leg which has become his trademark, was slowly worn down by the bombardment.

Agassi appeared poised for immediate victory when he served at 5-3 in the fourth set.

But amazingly the serve which had been so trustworthy, suddenly let him down. He lost the game to love.

There were some anxious moments in the Agassi camp when the stubborn 28-year-old Croatian forced the match into a tie-break. But Agassi's natural talent and reflexes came to the rescue. He did not shrink from danger but thrived on it.

Agassi continued to go for the impossible and sent one ball so close to the baseline that only an on-the-spot investigation by both Prpic and Australian umpire Richard Ings could confirm it good.

After the win, Agassi admitted that it had taken time to adapt to the clammy heat and swirling wind.

"At the beginning he was hitting a lot of high balls and it took me a long time to get used to them," he said.

Asked about future opponents, the beaten finalist here for the last two years, admitted that his main rivals were "playing well."

But he added quickly: "But I'm playing well, too."

"I don't worry about them," he grinned over his new goatee beard, "I let them worry about stopping me."

Fernandez fails to seize her chance

PARIS, May 30: Mary Joe Fernandez, still struggling for respect despite her high ranking, missed another chance to prove she belongs among the elite of women's tennis, reports AP.

The No. 6 seed played lacklustre, error-ridden tennis on Friday, losing 7-6 (7-1), 6-2, to Germany's Sabine Hack in a third-round match at the French Open.

It was another disappointment for Fernandez, a 20-year-old who's generally regarded as a clay-court specialist. She reached the quarterfinals here in 1991 and 1990, but has never topped her semifinal performance in 1989.

"I didn't feel real comfortable out there during the whole match," she said. "My timing wasn't quite right for the way she was hitting the ball and I was making a lot of errors. She seemed to be controlling the points a little bit more than I was."

Fernandez said Hack, whom she beat here last year, was hitting the ball harder than before and kept her pinned at the baseline.

"She never got down on herself and seemed really positive. You have to give her credit," Fernandez said.

Fernandez said she was discouraged by the loss, but would try to look ahead.

There was no solace in doubles. She and fellow American Zina Garrison lost in the first round Friday afternoon.

"I'm very hard on myself. But you just have to try to keep your perspective. It's a tennis match and I have to see the big picture," she said. "You know there are going to be days like today."

Fernandez often has been contrasted to young pros like Jennifer Capriati, whose immense talent has catapulted them to stardom and prevented them from leading normal adolescent lives.

"I was always very, very sheltered, went to a private school and was always with my family," she said. "I grew up like that. It's just the way I am. I never had any desire to be out at a party or doing what the other girls were doing."

Fernandez, who graduated from the Carrollton School in Miami in 1989, is one of relatively few women pros with a high school degree.

"I was always very focused on what I was doing. I enjoyed playing tennis, and would practice everyday. I think family has a lot to do with it," she said.

McNeil can't delay Seles' lunch

PARIS, May 30: Top seed and defending champion Monica Seles of Yugoslavia went briskly about her business at the French Open on Saturday before heading for an early lunch, reports Reuters.

The 18-year-old Seles dispatched American Lori McNeil to the list of third round losers in the space of just 45 minutes, winning 6-0, 6-1 to advance into the last 16.

"It was a good, comfortable match," Seles said. "Lori is a tough player. She has a good serve and I didn't want her to get into the match too well."

The Yugoslav, who appeared for the first time on Centre Court this year, has had the simplest of starts to her title defence, dropping just six games in her first three matches.

Like earlier opponents Catherine Mothes of France and Karin Kshwendt of Germany, McNeil served only as an appetiser to the main course of Seles' tournament.

That will come in the second week when she meets seeded players less liable to cave in quickly to her fierce battery of double-fisted groundstrokes.

Her match with McNeil was her swiftest execution to date but none of her opponents have lasted an hour and she has spent a total of only two hours 29 minutes on court.

That is more than two hours less than men's second seed Stefan Edberg needed to quell the challenge of Gabriel Markus of Argentina in a second round match on Thursday and Friday.

The 28-year-old McNeil, who had not taken a set off Seles in either of their two previous meetings, is ranked 27th in the world and had never gone further than the third round in Paris.

Seles missed Wimbledon



Top seed German Steffi Graf returns a backhand to South African Amanda Coetzer during her third round match in the French Open on May 29. Graf won 6-2, 6-1.

last, but has won the past four Grand Slams she's entered, including the Australian Open this year. Due to the upset of No. 9 seed Anke Huber, the

first seeded player she could meet is No. 5 Jennifer Capriati in the quarterfinals.

Seles' fourth-round opponent will be Japan's Akiko Kijimuta, who beat Britain's Jo Durie, 6-7 (7-5), 6-4, 6-4. No. 13 Mary Pierce, a Montreal-born Frenchwoman, beat Czechoslovak Andrea Strnadova, 7-6 (7-1), 6-4.

The No. 2 and No. 4 seeds, Steffi Graf and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, won their third-round matches Friday in straight sets.

No. 3 seed Gabriela Sabatini ousted France's Julie Halard, 6-1, 6-3; and No. 5 Jennifer Capriati rallied to beat Czechoslovak Katrina Habsudova, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Rain prevents handball final

Sports Reporter

The unpredictable late May weather prevented the final of the eighth national Sunball handball championship being held at the Outer Stadium yesterday afternoon between Bangladesh Rifles and Bangladesh Air Force.

The heavy downpour also led to the abandonment of the third place play-off between Dhaka DSA and Bangladesh Ansars after only 22 minutes of play had been possible yesterday. The remainder period of this match will be held this afternoon.

Firm favourites Bangladesh Rifles and Bangladesh Air Force will have to wait until tomorrow, Monday, to decide the championship. The title deciding match will start at 4:30 pm.

PDB volleyball

The 17th annual inter-office volleyball final of the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) was held yesterday at the Outer Stadium volleyball court.

Fourteen teams from different offices of the PDB participated in the meet which started on May 23, says a press release.

The Khulna Electric Supply team became champions by beating Goalpara Power Station by 15-3, 15-10 and 15-4 sets in the final. It was Khulna Electric Supply's fifth championship triumph.

M. Faizur Razaque, Chairman, BPDB distributed prizes among the winners as chief guest. He urged upon the organisers and players to develop team spirit and pursue excellence in games and sports to bring fame for the organisation and also contribute at the national level.

Obituary

Nizamul Haque Chowdhury, father of Navana league cricket player Shabbir Chowdhury, breathed his last at midnight on Thursday, May 28. He was 66.

He was suffering from cardio-respiratory complications. Chowdhury, a former Branch Manager of Jiban Bima Corporation, left behind his wife, four daughters, only son, and a host of friends and relatives to mourn his demise.

The qul khani will be held tomorrow, June 1, after Aar prayers at House No 29/7, Babar Road, Block-B, Mohammadpur.

NZ draw level

AUCKLAND, May 30: New Zealand beat Argentina 2-1 in the third of five men's hockey internationals played at Auckland's Lloyd Elmore Park today, reports AP.

Leconte sends crowd into frenzy by beating Stich

PARIS, May 30: Henri Leconte of France produced the biggest upset of this year's French Open, beating Wimbledon champion Michael Stich 7-6 (7-3), 6-4, 6-4 Saturday, reports AP.

The victory over the fourth-seeded German put Leconte into the round of 16 and sent

win at Wimbledon. He ousted crowd favourite Jimmy Connors in a first-round match Wednesday.

Cedric Pioline gave French fans double reason to celebrate, winning his third-round match over Sweden's Lars Jonsson 6-2, 6-7 (7-2), 6-2, 6-2.

Also advancing were No. 7 Petr Korda of Czechoslovakia, 6-4, 6-2, 3-6, 6-1 over Michiel



HENRI LECONTE

the partisan crowd into a frenzy.

"I never thought I could feel like that again," said Leconte, and injury-plagued veteran who was as thrilled as when he helped France beat the United States in the Davis Cup final last year.

Leconte, ranked only 200th in the world, is in the tournament as a wild-card entry. He scored repeatedly with aggressive rushes to the net and after key points would pump both fists as the center-court fans chanted, "Henri, Henri."

Stich was a semifinalist last year in Paris, and went on to



MICHAEL STICH

Schapers of the Netherlands, and Brazil's Jaime Oncins, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 over Germany's David Prinosil. Oncins upset 10th-seeded Ivan Lendl on Friday.

For Leconte, the big match and the crowd reaction brought back memories of last December, when he and Guy Forget brought France its first Davis Cup title in 59 years.

"In the last game I felt like I was in the final of the Davis Cup," said Leconte, 28, whose career has been jeopardized by repeated back surgery.

"The doctors said I'm lucky just to be able to play at all."

Scientists slam pussy-footing on drugs

DALLAS, May 30: Sports scientists say the Olympic movement and major corporate sponsors are reluctant to take a tough stand on drug tests for athletes, reports AP.

Panelists at the annual meeting of the American College of Sports Medicine said urine testing for banned substances is inadequate and efforts to strengthen the testing meet with powerful resistance.

Money is the key, said Kenneth Forsythe, exercise physiologist in Palm Desert, Calif., and a former Canadian downhill skier.

He said television rights to the Winter Olympics were sold for less than \$1 million in 1988. BNC paid \$401 million to the IOC for the rights on this Summer's Games.

"And these are only the television rights fees," Forsythe said during a symposium. The sponsorship fees also account for extra hundreds of millions of dollars, all paid to an international agency that is accountable to no one.

"Now, given this marvellous set of political and economic incentives, is it any wonder

that the issue surrounding drugs in sports is considered merely a nuisance?"

He and others suggested random, unannounced tests for anabolic steroids during training and blood doping checks during competition.

An athlete's urine may be tested after Olympics competition for hundreds of banned or restricted substances. There is no blood testing.

Anecdotal evidence from Europe and the United States suggests long-distance runners, cyclists, Nordic skiers and triathletes may be blood doping with recombinant erythropoietin, according to the ACSM.

The anti-anaemia drug stimulates the body's production of red blood cells, thereby improving athletes' ability to transport oxygen and better their performance.

However, changes in drug testing are slow because of negative publicity generated when an elite endurance or power athlete is caught cheating with chemicals, said Dr Gary Wadler of Cornell University Medical College.

With huge contracts involved in international sporting events, Wadler said, "One could cynically say, it's in their

best interests for corporate America, for the corporate world, to say, 'Hey, we don't really want to know.'"

A documentary by Forsythe on drug testing for ABC television years ago was met by resistance by network executives.

"Sponsors aren't really crazy about the idea of discussing the subject either," he said. "They spent a quadrillion dollars to get the rights for these things. And why would the IOC want to tamper with a system that has given them lifelong success?"

Terry Todd, a former national weightlifting champion and professor of kinesiology at the University of Texas, agreed.

A consultant for CBS at the Winter Games in Albertville, France, this year, Todd helped produce features on sports medicine, training and drugs.

A five-minute analysis of drug testing narrated by Morley Safer was one advance that never aired.

"The piece was critical of the drug testing in the sense that it simply pointed out that people are beating the drug tests right and left," said Todd. "In many ways it's sort of a joke..."

"It certainly was not the kind of piece that tended to make athletes at the highest levels look heroic," he said.

"That, however, is the agenda of the big-time media. They want to produce heroes. They want heroic images. That's what makes the turnstiles spin."

Peter Snell, a former middle distance runner and Olympic gold medalist in the 1960s, said without random tests during training, athletes simply know when to quit using drugs so their systems can purge the drugs before competition.

"We just don't know who's really good or who has the best pharmacist," said Snell.

Japanese extend US spikers

OSAKA, May 30: The United States were stretched the distance after squandering three match points in the third set to beat Japan in the volleyball World League series here Saturday, reports AP.

The American spikers missed a 14-12 and 14-13 lead in the third set before finally scoring a 3-2 (15-10, 15-11, 14-16, 9-15, 15-12) victory for their fifth consecutive win.

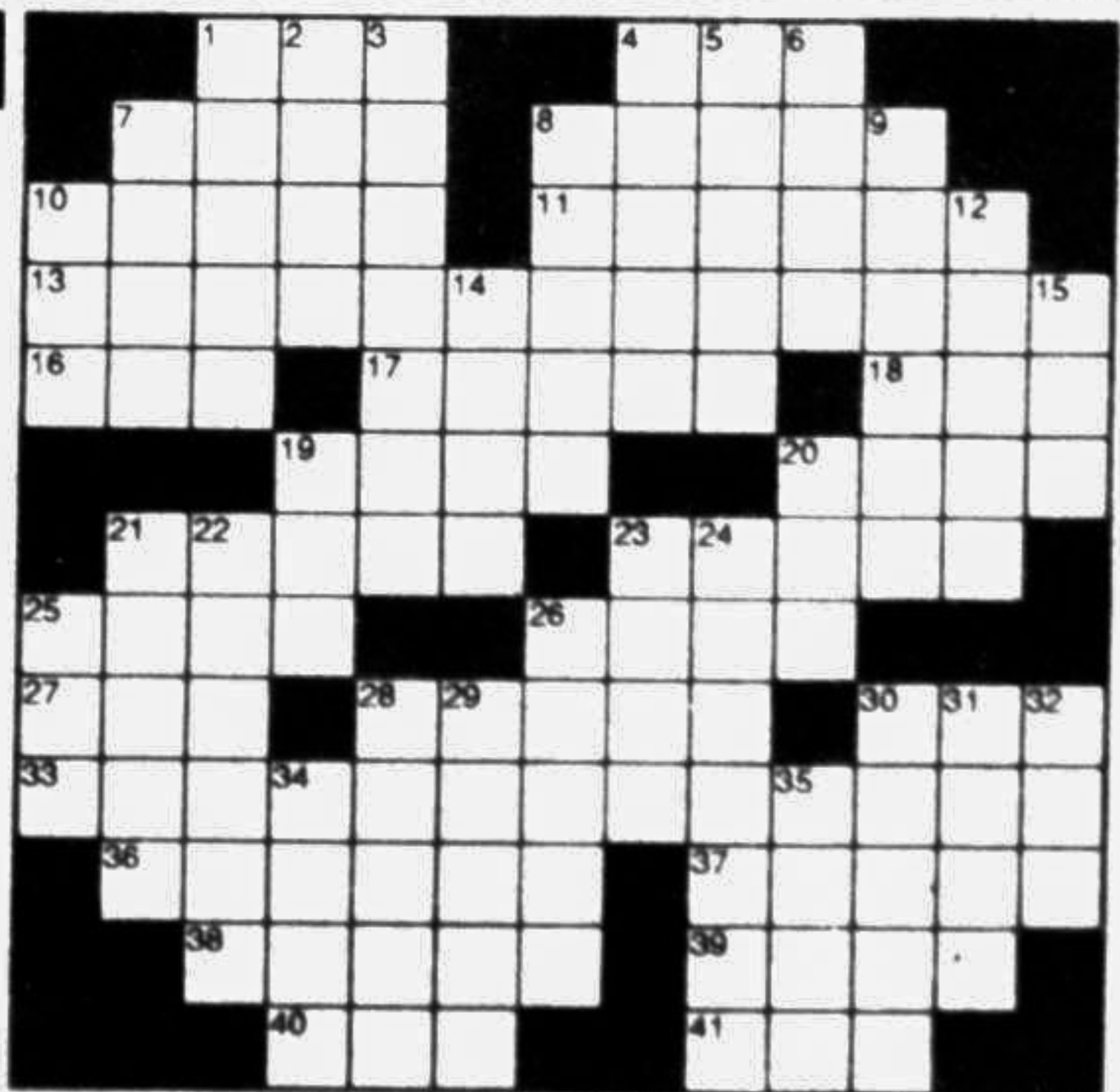
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 On — (ready)
4 Married to the —
7 College in New York
8 Ancient Greek speakers' platforms
10 Firebug's crime
11 Official decrees
13 Cary Grant/Grace Kelly film
16 Alfonso's queen
17 Cures
18 New Guinea town
19 English Quaker leader
20 Cincinnati Rose
21 Jump in fright
23 Mirror, for one
25 Pack
26 Coin of

DOWN
1 Puccini's "La —"
2 Wild ox of films
3 Pink cat of M.H.
5 Leaves out
6 One of the three B's
7 Steam or dry
8 "Borstal Boy" author
9 Fence steps
10 "Pigged out"
12 Installs in office
14 Small coin
15 Charge roughly
20 Youth org.
21 Was upright
22 Makes the salad
23 Overlaid with gold leaf
24 Foams
25 Defeat at bridge
26 Increase the bet
28 Dehydrates
29 Large pitchers
30 Trade-marks
31 Rosary prayers
32 Through
34 Involved with
35 Animal's retreat

Solution time: 22 mins.

HEMP ICA PLAT
ASOR NOG RIME
LENA FLATIRON
FLATBED AVERY
EAR ORE
ROAST FLATTER
AWL TIE AYE
FLATOUT ANDES
EPT ONO
AGREE FLATTEN
FLATCARS IOTA
RULE LEE CROP
OMER PEN EONS



CRYPTOQUIP

OQL RLXGNCNLS'G SLG
OCYSCRO JSMOMJ SLGMDRLZ
GMRJL QL XCG KLZ YN

Today's Cryptoquip clue: S equals R

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.