

Tendulkar keeps the Tykes waiting



LEEDS, England, June 17: After nearly seven weeks with their first overseas import in their side Yorkshire are still waiting for the real Sachin Tendulkar to emerge, reports Reuter.

Then in Yorkshire's final group match he was bowled by a good delivery from Nottinghamshire pacesman Andy Pick as Yorkshire crashed out of the competition with only one win in four matches.



SACHIN TENDULKAR...yet to hit a century

The 19-year-old from Bombay has yet to score a century and as a result the county have failed to make an impact on any competition so far this season.

When he was given his debut against Kent on April 30, the hope was that his arrival would inspire Yorkshire to reach the quarter-finals of the Benson and Hedges Cup.

But it was not to be. For the first time in his career Tendulkar suffered the anguish of being run out at the bowler's end when backing up.

His first match in the competition with a ton against Hampshire at Headingley, falling 14 runs short to Jon Ayling, who trapped him low.

The diminutive Indian did even better in the next match against Gloucestershire, reaching 92 before stepping back to cut a ball from left-arm spinner Mark Davies and being bowled.

"If I had made those extra 14 runs on my championship debut, it would have been different, because there's a big psychological difference between being out in the 80s and scoring a century," Tendulkar said.

"I said when I arrived that I did not feel under any great pressure and that is still the

case, but the fact is that I'm not in great nick for some reason.

"I've enjoyed the experience of playing seven days a week in various competitions, but the one problem has been adjusting to the different type of pitches in England.

"I started at Headingley, then found myself on a very different track at Canterbury and it was different again when we played Hampshire at Basingstoke."

Tendulkar managed only 15 and eight against Kent at Canterbury, and his eighth in the first innings at Basingstoke was only the second of his first-class career.

He followed that with 34 in the second innings and there was more disappointment when Yorkshire played Somerset at Middlesbrough on a pitch which should have suited his stroke-making. He totalled just 13 before being bowled off his body.

However, his fielding has been highly impressive and he took three outstanding catches at silly point in that match of slow left-armer Phil Carrick.

Tendulkar also played a key role in Yorkshire's first championship win of the season over Derbyshire on a turning pitch at Harrogate this week.

Although his 89 occupied four hours and was hardly the sort of innings he would ideally like to play, it was precious to Yorkshire, as it gave them a first-innings lead of 78.

Yorkshire captain Martyn Moxon is certainly happy with his charge, although he has only just returned from injury.

He said: "Of course we would have liked Sachin to have made more runs, but I'm not worried in the slightest. It is only a matter of time before he makes someone suffer with a very big 100."

Booters off to Bangkok

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh soccer team left Dhaka for Bangkok yesterday afternoon to participate in the Group Five qualifying competition of the 10th Asian Cup championship to be held from tomorrow, Friday to June 23 in the Thai capital.

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) officials saw the squad off at the Zia International Airport.

Rizvi Karim Rumi and Syed Rumman-bin-Wali Shabbir are the captain and vice-captain respectively while Dr Musa Qadri, a vice-president of the BFF, is the manager.

Bangladesh will take on the favourites South Korea tomorrow and play Thailand on June 23.

The group champions of this three-nation meet will qualify for the finals, to be held in Hiroshima, Japan from October 28 to November 8.

The 25-man team is expected to return on June 25.

More injury woes for Germany

ADVIDABERG, June 17: German defenders Guido Buchwald and Stefan Reuter are out of Thursday's clash with Holland following injuries incurred in Monday's bruising encounter with Scotland, reports AFP.

And striker Kai-Iness Riedle, scorer of the first goal in the 2-0 victory over the Scots, is also uncertain after taking a heavy blow on his nose, team doctor Heinrich Hess said.

Buchwald, who lost consciousness for 30 seconds, needed stitches in his left ear but should recover with a few days of rest out of the sun, he added.

ATP Tour trainer Bill Norris said Zecce came down hard on his left foot and strained his achilles tendon. He described Zecce's condition as day-by-day.

Looming as a potential third-round opponent for Courier is another German, Davis Cup veteran Carl Uwe Steeb.

In the fourth round, Courier could face either 16th seeded David Wheaton, John McEnroe or Pat Cash.

The most intriguing early-round match could be a second-round encounter between McEnroe and Cash, two former Wimbledon champions who are both near the end of their careers but are always dangerous on grass. They also are good friends who like to play rock guitar together.

First, McEnroe will have to get past Luiz Mattar of Brazil. Cash, a wild-card entry, has a tougher first-round assignment in Jacco Elthoff of the Netherlands, who reached the round of 16 at Wimbledon last year.

Should Courier advance to the quarterfinals, his potential

Tough draws for Courier, Seles

WIMBLEDON, England, June 17: Jim Courier and Monica Seles, both halfway to the Grand Slam, face potentially tough roads to their first Wimbledon titles, reports AP.

The No. 1 seeds have firmly established themselves as the world's top players with victories this year at the Australian Open and French Open. But they have yet to prove themselves on the grass at Wimbledon.

Tuesday's draw left both, especially Courier, with a tricky course to reach the finals. The tournament begins next Monday.

Courier's first-round opponent is Marcus Zecce, a 6-foot-5 German whose huge serve could pose problems on grass. But Zecce's status became uncertain when he suffered an injury Tuesday during a match at a Wimbledon Warmup tournament in Manchester.

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Should Courier advance to the quarterfinals, his potential

opponents include seventh-seeded Michael Chang, whose weakest surface is grass, and French all-court player Guy Forget and Henri Leconte.

The other half of Courier's draw is headed by fourth-seeded Boris Becker, a three-time Wimbledon Champion.

Agassi opens against Andrei Chesnokov of Russia. In the round of 16, he could meet Korda, runner-up in the French Open this month.

Connors, who will be playing his 20th Wimbledon, faces Luis Herrera of Mexico in the first round.

Seles is seeded to face No. 8 Goran Ivanisevic, should he get past Ivan Lendl in the fourth round.

Defending champion Michael Stich, the No. 3 seed who opens against Stefano Pescosolido of Italy, is slated to meet No. 5 Pete Sampras in another quarterfinal.

Should the seedings hold, the four men's quarterfinal matchups would be: Courier vs Chang, Becker vs Korda, Stich vs Sampras, and Edberg vs Ivanisevic. The projected semifinals are Courier-Becker and Edberg-Sampras.

The women's field is headed by Seles, who has won the last five Grand Slam tournaments in which she competed. She withdrew from Wimbledon at the last minute last year with what she later described as shin splints and a stress fracture.

Seles' first plays Jenny Byrne of Australia, a grass-court specialist who lost in the finals of a Wimbledon warmup in Birmingham last week.

"Obviously it's not Monica's favourite surface and it is mine," Byrne said. "I'm playing well and I've had a lot of matches on grass. Things have been going my way lately, so maybe I can give her a scare."

Seles' potential quarterfinal opponent is seventh-seeded Mary Joe Fernandez, with No. 4 Martina Navratilova and No. 5 Arantxa Sanchez Vicario expected to reach the other quarterfinal in her of the draw.

The 35-year-old Navratilova, winner of a record nine Wimbledon singles titles, has an interesting first-round matchup against 17-year-old Magdalena Maleeva.

"I've played her once in Tokyo and beat her," Navratilova said. "It's not the kind of first round you would want, but it's on grass."

The other half of the women's draw features No. 2 Steffi Graf, a three-time champion, and No. 3 Gabriela Sabatini. Both have easy starts. Graf against Noelle van Lottum of France and Sabatini against Christelle Fauche of Switzerland.



MONICA SELES



JIM COURIER

Heavyweight title bout against Holyfield on Friday Holmes knows he has nothing to lose

LAS VEGAS, June 17: Larry Holmes, a 42-year-old grandfather, knows that he will have nothing to lose and everything to gain when he climbs into the ring at Caesars Palace here Friday night to try to take away the world heavyweight title from unbeaten champion Evander Holyfield, reports AFP.

Holmes, who has won 19 world fights in his career, reigned over the category from 1978 when he outpointed fellow-American Ken Norton. He was dethroned seven years later by Michael Spinks.

Never the most popular of champions — perhaps because he ended the career of the legendary Muhammad Ali in 1980 by a humiliating eleventh-round knock-out — Holmes will almost certainly be the crowd's favourite on Friday.

Holyfield, 29, who shattered the dreams of another ageing former champion George Foreman with a points win last year, started out as the world light-heavyweight champion back in 1988.

He moved up to take the full heavyweight crown by defeating compatriot James Buster Douglas in October 1990.

Winner of all his 27 professional contests and having stopped 22 of them inside the distance, Holyfield owes much of his success to his scientific approach to fitness.

He has sculpted his body with special diet and weightlifting under the guidance of a large team of advisers — among them a woman dance teacher — and, unless there is a major upset, Holyfield should prove too fast and too accurate for the challenger.

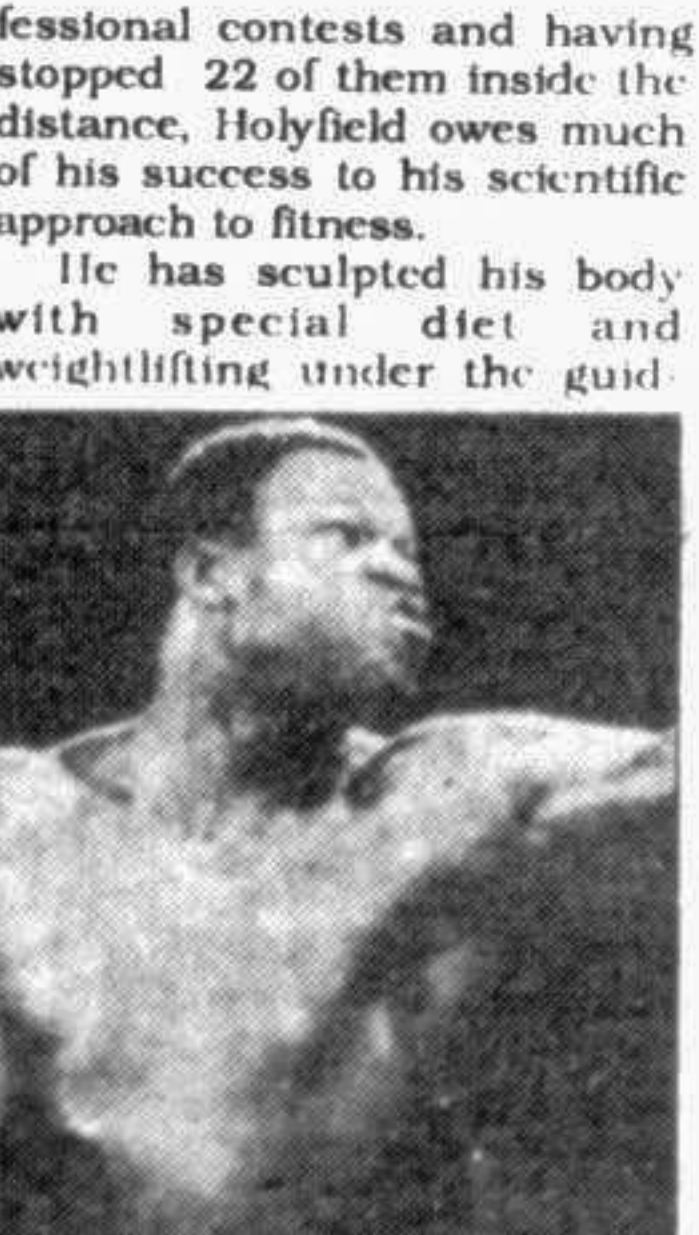
The former champion, however, remains supremely confident.

"Just because a guy turns forty-something, it doesn't mean he's over the hill," said Holmes — a 6-1 underdog against Holyfield.

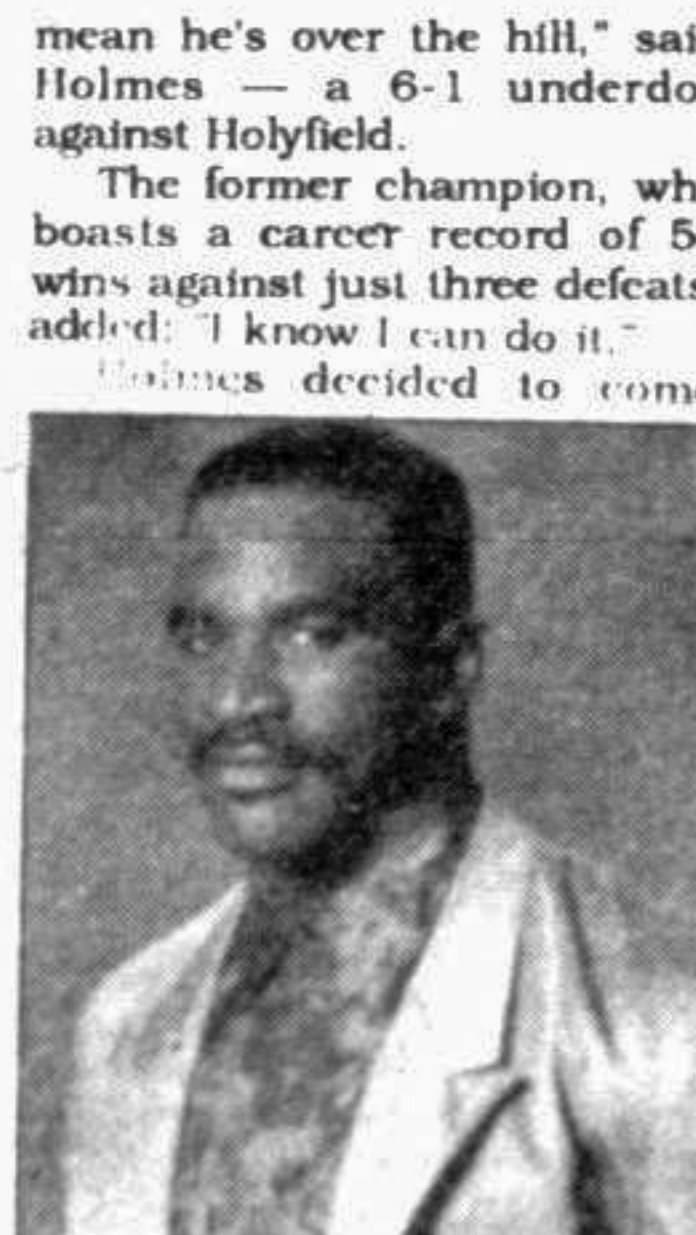
The former champion, who boasts a career record of 54 wins against just three defeats, added: "I know I can do it."

Holmes decided to come out of a first retirement in order to face the awesome Mike Tyson — now in prison after being found guilty of rape charges. That title bid failed dismally, however, when Holmes was knocked out after four punishing rounds.

The Georgia-born former titleholder came out of retirement for a second comeback



LARRY HOLMES



EVANDER HOLYFIELD

in 1991, mostly because of "boredom".

"All I had to do was sit in the office and wait for the damn cheques to come in," said Holmes, who owns a five-story office building in Easton.

But he was also upset that many of the still top-ranked fighters were men he had beaten — among them fellow-Americans Tim Witherspoon and Carl The Truth Williams.

Holmes has since lined up six consecutive victories — his last win came in February when he survived a slow start to outpoint the 1988 Olympic champion Ray Mercer.

Although he appears to be carrying some unwanted extra weight around the midriff, Holmes can still rely on his famous left jab.

Although not as effective as it once was, it is still a punch which can frustrate opponents.

Holmes expects Holyfield to make a fast start.

"He is going to come out throwing bombs and hoping to find the old man sleeping again like he was against Mercer."

"But that will not happen this time."

The oldest boxer ever to win the title was Jersey Joe Walcott who was 37 when he knocked out Ezzard Charles in 1956.

As far as this year's Olympic goals go, Biondi said he is setting his sights on enjoying the Games.

He may have less pressure on him to succeed but, in one way at least, he wants to do more.

"I'm basically a shy person and it's hard for me to relate to people," Biondi said. "This time around I want to be connected with everyone on the team. I like being involved with the team. I'm not so isolated as I was in 1988."

It'll be a more relaxed Biondi at Barcelona

CASTRO VALLEY, California, June 17: Matt Biondi is hoping less means more in Barcelona, reports Reuter.

The theory is that less pressure from the team, less training and fewer races will help him become the first American male swimmer to win gold at three Olympic Games.

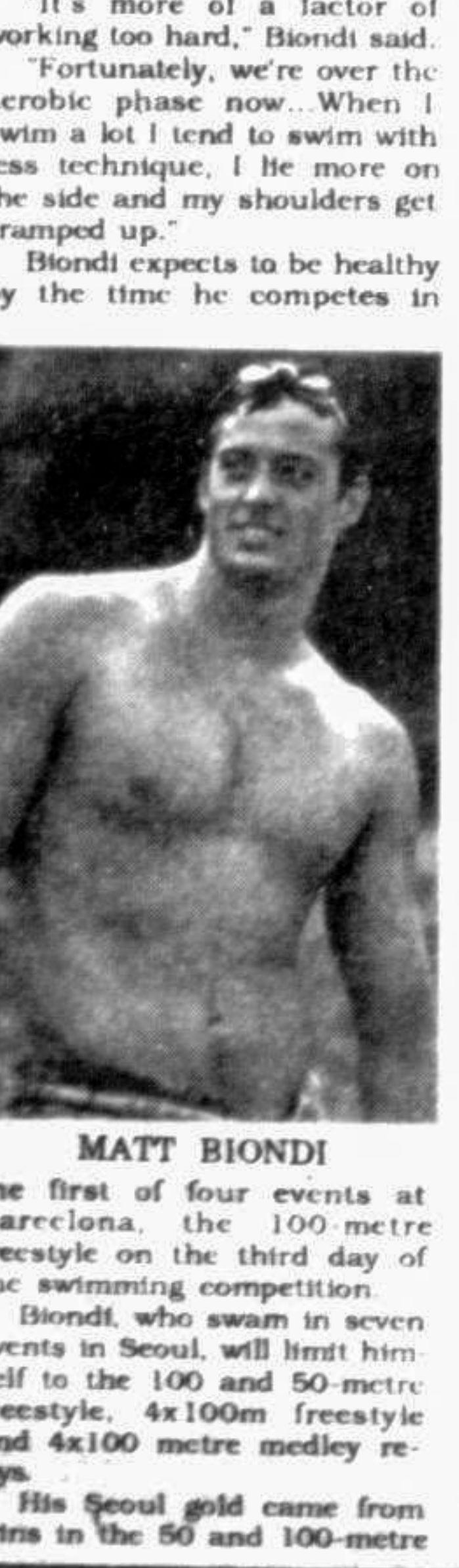
"We are in a position where all the dependency shouldn't rest on one person's shoulders as much as it did in 1988," said Olympic men's team coach Eddie Reese.

"And that's probably a good thing. Matt faced a lot of pressure people don't think about or probably even realise exists."

Ironically, sore shoulders are a continuing bother for the 26-year-old, who is cutting his training back to ensure his health for the Barcelona Games.

Pressure will be sure to follow Biondi to Barcelona but nobody expects him to match his stunning performance at Seoul in 1988 where he won five gold medals after claiming a single gold in the 1984 Los Angeles Games.

A world record holder in the 100-metre freestyle, Biondi missed a week of practice with shoulder problems before competing recently in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in a mandatory team meet. He finished a disappointing third in the 50-metre freestyle because of a bad start.



MATT BIONDI

"It's more of a factor of working too hard," Biondi said. "Fortunately, we're over the aerobic phase now...When I swim a lot I tend to swim with less technique, I lie more on the side and my shoulders get cramped up."

Biondi expects to be healthy by the time he competes in freestyles, and all three relays (4x100 and 4x200 freestyle and medley). He also earned a silver in the 100 butterfly and a bronze in the 200 freestyle and swam 11 times in eight days.

After Seoul, Biondi retired to go across country backpacking, bought himself a house in Castro Valley and settled down to pursue a spot on the 1992 US men's water polo team.

The Olympic exposure earned him a six-figure salary in endorsements, prize-money races and speaking engagements. He was paid \$4,970 US dollar in stipends by US Swimming based on past performance, world and American records.

But in the middle of a water polo practice session, Biondi realised how much he missed the competition and decided to resume his swimming career.

"After 1988, swimming opened a lot of opportunities," Biondi said. "I was able to earn a living at it. As my friends were entering the workforce wearing coats and ties, I could continue swimming."

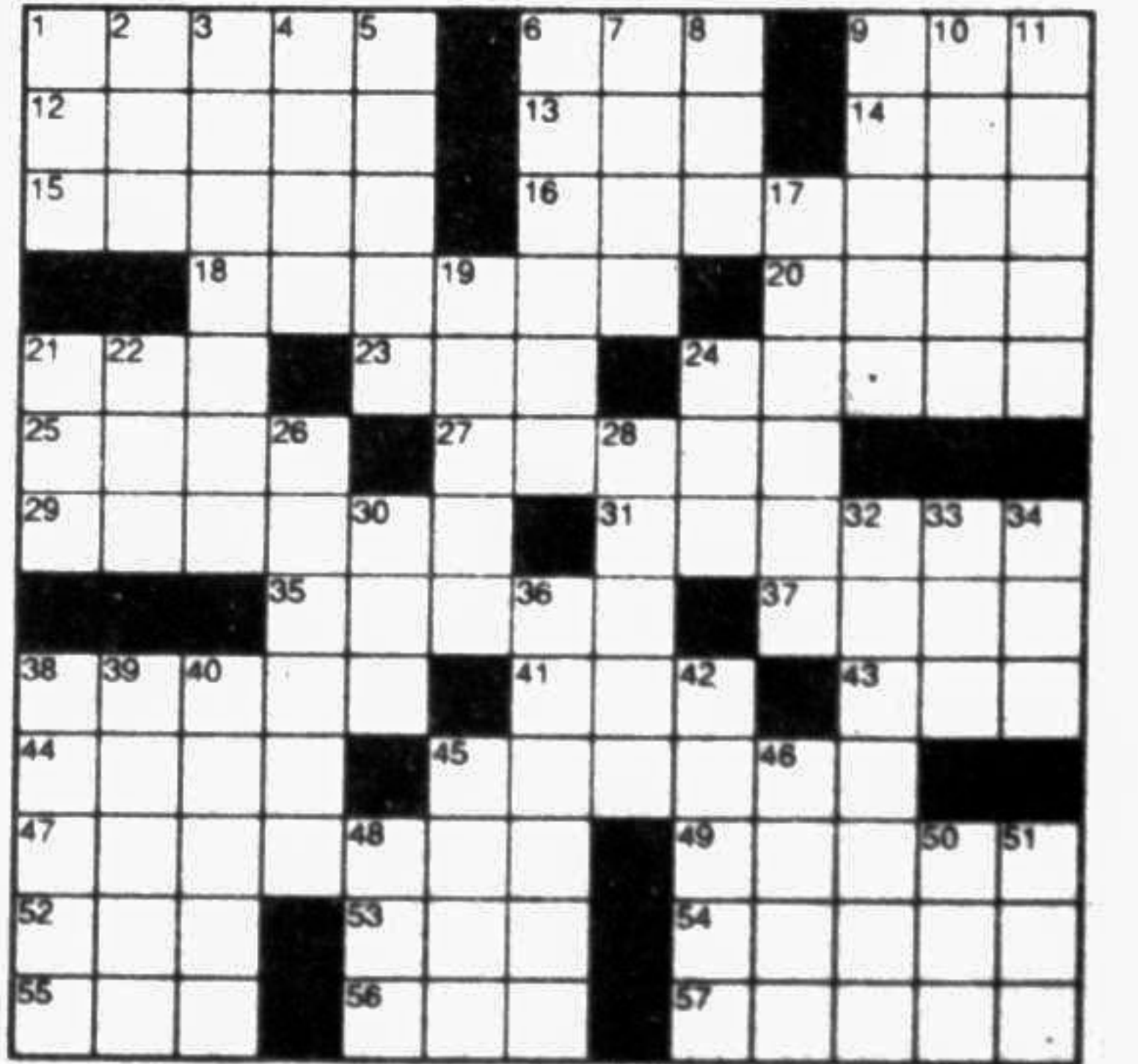
Biondi said he is enjoying his abbreviated training regimen. He swims once a day and runs in the morning with his dog, a black Labrador named Maya.

"We go up a big hill right behind my house," Biondi said. "It's not really running, it's walking but it's still a great workout."

OLDER TEAM
The US Olympic 25-man

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS
- 1 Chandler's strings
 - 6 Part of RSVP
 - 9 Fashion pub.
 - 12 Dwight's opponent
 - 13 Both-
 - 14 "So that's it"
 - 15 Healthy swimmer's kick
 - 18 Home on the range
 - 20 Farm fraction
 - 21 Sternward
 - 23 No teetotaler
 - 24 Former firewood
 - 25 Dis-patched a dragon
 - 27 Jane of "Father Knows Best"
 - 29 Fool's gold, e.g.
 - 31 Takes care of
 - 35 Sander-
- DOWN
- 1 Lived
 - 2 Bachelor's last words
 - 3 Mess pal
 - 4 Welles' "citizen"
 - 5 Polygonal bounds
 - 6 OSHA concern
 - 7 Eric of "Monty Python"
 - 8 Bud's buddy
 - 9 Keep an eye on
 - 10 Tourist's query
 - 11 Has the chutzpah
 - 17 Samples
 - 19 Might
 - 21 Cleo's killer
 - 22 Do the Wright thing
 - 24 Devoured
 - 26 Like EEEE shoes
 - 28 Invited
 - 30 Cartoonist Key
 - 32 Window piece
 - 33 Faucet
 - 34 Ahs
- Special words:
- 55 Anti-quated
 - 56 Jackson and Diddle
 - 57 Bowler
 - 58 On the payroll
 - 41 Deleted
 - 43 High times
 - 44 Andy's pal
 - 45 Edit
 - 47 Make explosive popping sounds
 - 49 Dorothy's dog, et al.
 - 52 X rating?
 - 53 Pismire
 - 54 Chris of tennis
 - 55 Solution time: 26 mins.
- 36 Put forth
- 38 Must
- 39 Push
- 40 Circular
- 42 Saw, in a sense
- 45 Nevada city
- 46 Inlet
- 48 Bar bill
- 50 Ball
- 51 Eyesore?



11-1 CRYPTOQUIP

K U A V G Y B G O E N O A F G Y B J A S
K C D U B H D V B D C G A N Y Y
B Q H J K A F A D C G O A S B Q Q

Today's Cryptquip clue: G equals C

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.



- PRIME SPORTS Thursday
- 00:00 Major Indoor Soccer League
 - 00:20 Prime Bodies
 - 02:30 Best of 1992 Winter Olympics
 - 05:00 TBA
 - 08:00 Grand Prix Sailing
 - 08:30 Lure of the Wild
 - 09:00 Trans World Sports
 - 10:00 Prime Bodies
 - 10:30 Best of 1992 World Cup Cricket
 - 13:00 Motorcycling Grand Prix 1992
 - 16:00 On Pit Road
 - 16:30 Talking Baseball
 - 17:00 This Week in NASCAR
 - 18:00 Prime Bodies
 - 19:00 Adventures
 - 19:30 Sports Over the Edge
 - 20:00 Australian Touring Cars
 - 22:00 Cloughie: The Brian Clough Story
- (Please deduct 2 hours from above timings for Bangladesh Standard Time)