

Weather may have final say

COLOMBO, Dec 5: The intermittent rainy weather could upset the plans of New Zealand and Sri Lanka when they confront each other in the second and final Test at the Sinhalese Sports Club grounds here Sunday, reports AFP.

Both teams have so far lost the opportunity of playing out a full match because of frequent interruptions from rain and bad light and weather looks likely to spoil the second Test as well.

A total of 116 overs, which constitutes more than a day's play, were lost to the fickle weather in the drawn first Test while the first day-night one-day international between the two sides was abandoned halfway due to rain.

Meanwhile, New Zealand fast bowler Michael Owens declared himself fit after a ball cracked his jaw during a practice session shortly before

Friday's one-day game. The 23-year-old opening bowler was discharged from hospital with eight stitches and minus two teeth. In case he is left out Sunday, all-rounder Chris Pringle is likely to take his place.

Injury also plagued Sri Lanka's strike bowler Champaka Ramanayake who hurt one of his fingers and had to be replaced at the last minute by Pramodya Wickramasinghe in the first one-day international.

Sri Lanka is likely to retain the same team that played in the first Test but if Ramanayake is unable to take the field his place could go either to off-spinner Muttiah Muralidharan or Wickramasinghe.

Sri Lanka once more have the edge although their well-balanced team has yet to produce a consistent performance in the field where they have dropped some easy catches to let New Zealand off the hook

time and again. New Zealand skipper Martin Crowe, who has proved to be a poor performer in the two matches played against Sri Lanka, has promised a better show from both himself and his fledgling team.

Both teams are expected to pick their sides later Saturday.

TEAMS
SRI LANKA: Arjuna Ranatunga (capt), Aravinda de Silva, Roshan Mahanama, Chandika Hathurusinghe, Asanka Gurusinha, Hashan Tillekeratne, Gamini Wickramasinghe, Champaka Ramanayake, Dilip Liyanage, Don Anurasiri, Jayananda Warnawera, Muttiah Muralidharan, Pramodya Wickramasinghe, Ramesh Kaluwithana, Sanath Jayasuriya.

NEW ZEALAND: Martin Crowe (capt), Blair Hartland, John Wright, Andrew Jones, Ken Rutherford, Chris Harris, Justin Vaughan, Adam Parore, Murphy Su'a, Grant Bradburn, Dion Nash, Chris Pringle, Michael Owens, Mark Haslam.

Rowdy crowd spoils Azhar's day

PIETERMARITZBURG, So-uth Africa, Dec 5: Mohammad Azharuddin's return to form was marred by unruly crowd scenes at the end of India's six-wicket victory over South African President's XI on Friday, reports Reuters.

The day-night match ended with both teams fleeing from the dressing rooms after home captain Peter Rawson, by prior arrangement with umpires and batsmen, deliberately bowled four byes which his wicket-keeper made no attempt to prevent.

The ball before had been stopped just short of the boundary with the crowd already engulfing the pitch.

When the playing area was finally cleared, Rawson called in his boundary fielders and bowled wide of the stumps before joining his team, batsmen Azharuddin and Praveen Amre and the umpires in a frantic dash for the main stand.

The Indian skipper finished on 69 not out, his best score of the tour.

The capacity 12,000 crowd had made increasingly regular pitch invasions throughout the match with many spectators clearly affected by alcohol.

Scuffles had broken out on the grassy banks around the boundary and after the match some spectators were bloodied.

An ambulance came on to the outfield after the game to take off a spectator who, according to a witness, had been felled by a beer can.

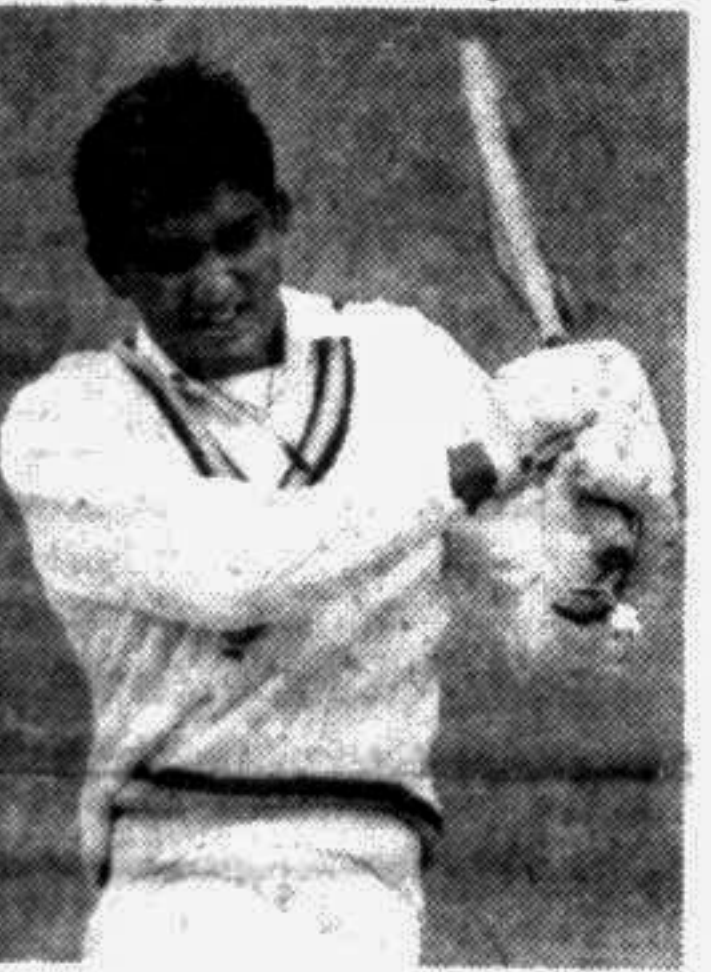
In the closing stages, outnumbered security staff were joined by a contingent of well-armed soldiers but they, too, were powerless to prevent the final pitch invasion.

In a city with a large Indian community it was inevitable that some of the incidents had racial undertones. The parading by some spectators of an African National Congress banner at the interval provoked hostile comments and a few missiles.

With pitch invasions a regular feature of every match so far — this was the first day/night game — the security issue will have to be addressed before the seven-match one-day series between India and South Africa opens in Cape Town on Monday.

Azharuddin's 69, of 95 balls, was his first score past 36 in 10 innings in South Africa. He helped the touring team to 199 for four and victory with 15 balls to spare.

Gary Kirsten, younger



M AZHARUDDIN ... 69 n.o. brother of Test player Peter Kirsten, batted for all but 17 balls of the President's XI's innings of 196 for eight. He made 100 from 135 deliveries.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard in the day/night (50 overs-a-side) tour match between India and the South

African President's XI on Friday:

PRESIDENT'S XI:
G Kirsten c Manjrekar b Kumble 100
M Arthur st Yadav b Tendulkar 12
D Manack c Yadav b Shastris 28
H Cullinan c Srinath b Kumble 1
M Rindel run out 4
F Davids c Sharma b Shastris 0
E Simons not out 29
P Rawson b Srinath 7
S Palfreman run out 0
K Mahuwa not out 0
Extras: (b-2, lb-4, nb-6, w-3) 15
Total: (eight wickets, innings closed) 196

Did not bat: S Abrahams
Fall of wickets: 1-46; 2-130; 3-133; 4-142; 5-144; 6-172 7-184; 8-193.

Bowling:
Banerjee 5 1 20 0
Srinath 9 0 39 1
Sharma 7 1 35 0
Tendulkar 9 0 25 1
Shastris 10 0 46 2
Kumble 10 3 25 2

INDIA:
R Shastris c Palfreman b Mahuwa 11
W Raman run out 47
M Azharuddin not out 69
S Tendulkar c b Rawson 34
S Manjrekar c Palfreman b Mahuwa 6
P Amre not out 18
Extras: (b-4, lb-6, nb-2, w-2) 14
Total: (four wickets, 47.3 overs) 199

Did not bat: V Yadav, C Sharma, A Kumble, S Banerjee, J Srinath.

Fall of wickets: 1-29; 2-78; 3-139; 4-160.

Bowling:
Rawson 9.3 4 18 1
Simons 10 0 38 0
Mahuwa 10 0 44 2
Davids 6 0 32 0
Abrahams 5 0 22 0
Rindel 7 1 350 (w)

Result: Indian won by six wickets.

FIFA side-steps tricky issue

ZURICH, Dec 5: FIFA side-stepped controversial calls for a lifting of restrictions on the number of foreign players in European soccer league, saying on Friday it was an issue for each country, reports Reuters.

But soccer's world governing body will set up a working group to look more closely at the situation after calls from several leading figures, including Germany coach Berti Vogts, to end the Italian situation where highly-paid stars are sitting out matches in the grandstands.

Sergio Campana, head of the Italian Players' Union (AIC), said then that FIFA would not be able to take any decision without prior agreement with European Players' Union.

He said: "If FIFA does not take account of our demands we have decided that we will take joint union action."

In a separate move, FIFA's executive committee also decided to allow video and television evidence to be used in disciplinary hearings and appeals.

Blatter said the move would also allow continental confederations to follow the line of some national associations who are already using television evidence.

The first dollar 1.125 million instalment of the outstanding fee is due on March 31, with the rest payable in six-monthly intervals.

Will said FIFA would intervene if there was any reason for Napoli to protest that the terms were not being met.

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda inaugurated the meet as chief guest. High Commissioner of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka Alfred K David was present as a special guest.

Twenty-one competitors including five Sri Lankans are competing in nine different disciplines. These are table tennis, weight-lifting, wheelchair sprint, wheelchair marathon, javelin, shotput, archery and basketball.

On the opening day Zaheda Begum of Bangladesh won the gold medal in shotput.

Competitions continue throughout the week. The closing and prize-giving ceremony will be held next Friday, December 11 at 4 PM.

The closing function will be preceded by a demonstration event by the participants, says a press release.

The CRP is a project of the Trust for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed, a voluntary non-government organisation. The centre is headed by the noted British social worker Ms Valerie Taylor.



Zaheda Begum of Bangladesh won the shotput gold of the Bangladesh-Sri Lanka Wheelchair Games which began yesterday at Chapin, Savar. — Star photo

Thailand replaces Pakistan as our tennis co-hosts

Sports Reporter

Thailand will replace Pakistan as Bangladesh's co-hosts for the next ITF satellite circuit tennis championships for this part of the region in late 1993, a senior official of the Bangladesh Tennis Federation told The Daily Star yesterday.

This follows a redrawing of the ITF's tennis map for Asia at its congress month.

For the past two years, 1991 and '92, Bangladesh and Pakistan co-hosted the regional satellite circuit.

The first leg of the four-leg championships for the current year was held at the Rajshahi Tennis Complex and the second leg was staged at the National Tennis Complex, Ramna while the third leg was played in Lahore and the fourth — known as the 'Masters' — was held in Karachi.

Pakistan will hold its own satellite circuit in various parts of the country.

According to a recent International Tennis Federation decision, the first two legs of the championships next year will be held in Thailand while the third leg will be played at the Rajshahi Tennis Complex and the Masters in Dhaka next year.

The ITF is likely to finalise the satellite circuit calendar for 1993 by the end of this month.

Napoli fails to convince FIFA

ZURICH, Dec 5: Napoli's call for Diego Maradona to be suspended in a row over transfer guarantees from his new club Sevilla were dismissed by FIFA on Friday, reports Reuters. The International Football Federation said they had no reason to doubt that Sevilla would not pay the outstanding dollar 4.5 million of the dollar 7.5 million transfer deal and that there were no valid grounds to suspend Maradona.

Napoli had asked FIFA, through the Italian Soccer Federation, to ban their former Argentine star from playing until guarantees for the outstanding fee had been deposited with an Italian bank.

Daid Will, head of FIFA's legal committee, said Sevilla had offered guarantees with a leading Spanish bank in Zaragoza, and that was acceptable.

"We are convinced that Sevilla has done everything possible and understandably have found difficulty getting such guarantees with an Italian bank," he said.

"FIFA's Executive Committee decided that with the European Economic Community opening its doors next January to a free movement of finances there would be no problem, with Spain and Italy both being members, of the validity of such guarantees with the Spanish bank."

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Bangla-Lanka Wheel-chair Games begin at Savar

Sports Reporter

The week-long first Wheelchair Games for the physically disabled of Bangladesh and Sri Lanka — two members of the seven-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) — began yesterday at Chapin, Savar under the aegis of the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP).

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda inaugurated the meet as chief guest. High Commissioner of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka Alfred K David was present as a special guest.

Twenty-one competitors including five Sri Lankans are competing in nine different disciplines. These are table tennis, weight-lifting, wheelchair sprint, wheelchair marathon, javelin, shotput, archery and basketball.

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US-Swiss Davis Cup final tied 1-1 as Agassi sizzles, Courier fizzles

FORT WORTH, Texas, Dec 5: Andre Agassi sizzled but Jim Courier fizzled, leaving the heavily favoured United States and Switzerland deadlocked 1-1 in the Davis Cup tennis finals after Friday's singles, reports Reuters.

Agassi opened the best-of-five match tie by overwhelming Jakob Hlasek 6-1, 6-2, 6-2 to extend his 1992 Davis Cup record to 7-0 and career mark to 19-4.

But world number one Courier was left shell shocked by the monster serve of Olympic champion Marc Rosset in a five-set epic battle that kept fans on the edge of their seats for four hours and 23 minutes.

The 35th ranked Rosset, who also beat Courier this summer at the Olympics, unleashed 27 aces and 15 service winners and demonstrated tremendous poise under the pressure of his first Davis Cup final to win 6-3, 6-7 (9-11), 3-6, 6-4, 6-4.

"It was a match I will remember all my life," said the soft-spoken, gangling Rosset. "It was like playing in Switzerland," he said referring to the Swiss fans, who were far louder despite being outnumbered by the home crowd in the 12,000 seat arena.

The victory brought on a wild celebration from the boisterous 1,200-strong Swiss contingent, that sang, clanged cowbells and wildly waved flags throughout the match after having been silenced by Agassi's overpowering display.

Courier, whose Davis Cup record dropped to 2-5, was shaken and upset and groundingly gave brief responses to questions in the post-match interview.

"I wish I played well," said Courier, the first American to end the year as the number one player in the world since John McEnroe in 1984.

The finals now shift to Americans John McEnroe and Andre Agassi cheer on teammate Jim Courier, the world number one, as he battles Swiss Marc Rosset in the second singles of the Davis Cup final at Fort Worth on Friday. But that wasn't enough as Rosset rallied to win the tie. — AFP photo

day's pivotal doubles when McEnroe and Pete Sampras try to recapture American momentum against Rosset and Hlasek.

Courier appeared to have seized momentum in the third set after taking an amazingly tense 11-9 second set tie-break in which both players squandered two set points each.

The Australian and French Open champion won three successive games from 3-3, breaking Rosset's serve twice to take a two sets to one lead.

But the traditional 10-minute breather after the third set apparently gave the Swiss giant a chance to regroup.

The 6-foot-5 (1.96m) Rosset took the fourth set on the strength of a single service break in the fifth game and jumped out to a commanding 4-1 fifth-set lead by breaking serve twice.

Courier then dug down and appeared to be on the verge of



Americans John McEnroe and Andre Agassi cheer on teammate Jim Courier, the world number one, as he battles Swiss Marc Rosset in the second singles of the Davis Cup final at Fort Worth on Friday. But that wasn't enough as Rosset rallied to win the tie. — AFP photo

a pulling off a great comeback. He broke Rosset for 4-2 and held double break point in the eighth game with a chance to level the set at 4-4.

But Rosset would not be denied. He saved both break points and served out the match before falling over flat onto his back in disbelief.

"I fought until the last point and that's why I win," he said. Rosset's teammate and doubles partner Hlasek never had a chance against Agassi.

Agassi, ranked ninth in the world, needed only 1 hour, 28 minutes to defeat the top Swiss player after boldly predicting it would take an opponent's best and luckiest day to beat him.

Instead, Agassi played one of the best matches of his career, delighting the crowd while quickly quieting the loud Swiss contingent.

"I wish I could go play Marc Rosset right now," Agassi said

Games in Atlanta in 1996."

Mimi Dane, an attorney for Reynolds, said the federal court ruling was valid and would be collected despite the IAAF statement.

"The federal court has spoken," Dane said from her office in Columbus, Ohio. "The IAAF comments support the court's decision that the IAAF was acting in a vindictive manner. The judgement is valid and will be collected."

American attorneys and law professors are saying the IAAF is wrong when it says the decision is worthless outside of Ohio. They say the US constitution requires all states to enforce valid court judgements.

Dick Pond, an OIC executive board member from Canada, said "The judgement does great damage to the credibility of the United States."

The end result is there will be no international competition awarded to the United States if we are going to get caught up in this nonsense where everything we do is reviewed by US courts, awarding all sorts of damages, making it possible to seize TV sponsorship money. Hey, we don't need this."

IAAF may sue Butch Reynolds for libel

LONDON, Dec 5: The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) said on Friday it may sue world 400 meters record holder Butch Reynolds for libel, reports Reuters.

Further disciplinary action against Reynolds could also be taken, the IAAF said in the wake of the dollar 27.3 million damages award made to the American by an Ohio court on Thursday.

The IAAF suspended Reynolds for two years in 1990 for what it said was a positive dope test, but the American has continued to protest his innocence.

His US lawyers vowed to pursue the IAAF relentlessly to collect the money after the court found in favour of the athlete.

The IAAF dismissed the award as "worthless" outside Ohio and added: "Furthermore, in continuing this campaign against the IAAF, he has made a number of libellous allegations about the conduct of the IAAF and its officials."

"Initially, the IAAF took no legal action against Mr

Reynolds, regarding these outbursts as representing merely the frustration of justifiably punished athlete.

"However, at the next IAAF council meeting, the IAAF council will consider the possibility of commencing proceedings against Mr Reynolds for libel and taking further disciplinary action against him so that the IAAF may defend the honour of its members, accredited laboratories, arbitration panel members, medical committee and doping commission members and officials."

The council's next meeting is scheduled for Jakarta on January 22-24.

The IAAF insisted that Reynolds' home town courts had no jurisdiction over the Britain-based world governing body.

The award of damages is effective only in Ohio. In IAAF's view, this judgement is worthless as it has been obtained by a court which does not have any jurisdiction to consider the matter.

"The IAAF position remains that Mr Reynolds was tested positive for drugs... nothing Mr Reynolds has done dis-

proves that.

"Mr Reynolds continues to assert his innocence where no reasonable grounds exist for doing so."

The federation added: "The IAAF has in the past stressed the serious problems which can derive from the interference of civil courts, mainly in

Games in Atlanta in 1996."

Mimi Dane, an attorney for Reynolds, said the federal court ruling was valid and would be collected despite the IAAF statement.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Sphere
4 Hero of Spanish literature
7 Civilian garb
12 Gibson or Tullis
13 Start of Montana's motto
14 Easter-time, often in the manner of
16 Range components
18 Possessed
19 Steer breed
20 Lumber mill equipment
22 Resistance unit
23 Pound
27 Beachgoer's desire
29 Captain Bligh's ship
31 Kitchen cover-up
34 Paycheck plus
35 State section
37 Gridlock element

DOWN

1 Nebraska city
2 Take ten
3 Foil feature
4 Robin Cook book
5 Apply, as some patches
6 Pizza maker's need
7 Wilander of tennis
8 "Lazy River"
9 Calendar abbr.
10 Sheriff's star, e.g.
11 "ne passeront pas" without
17 Without

feeling

21 Rock
23 Subatomic cluster
24 Lead-in to cycle or form
25 "De-Lovely"
26 Turn blue?
28 Grasshopper's rebuker
30 Man-mouse link
31 Take steps
32 Luau gunk
33 Piratic potable
36 Luke Skywalker's teacher
37 Construction-site sights
40 Breathing
42 Crucial
43 Hayseed
44 Ryan or Tatum
45 Bit part?
46 Land in the water
48 Hula hoop, e.g.
49 Indivisible
50 Terrorist's tote
51 Serbian city

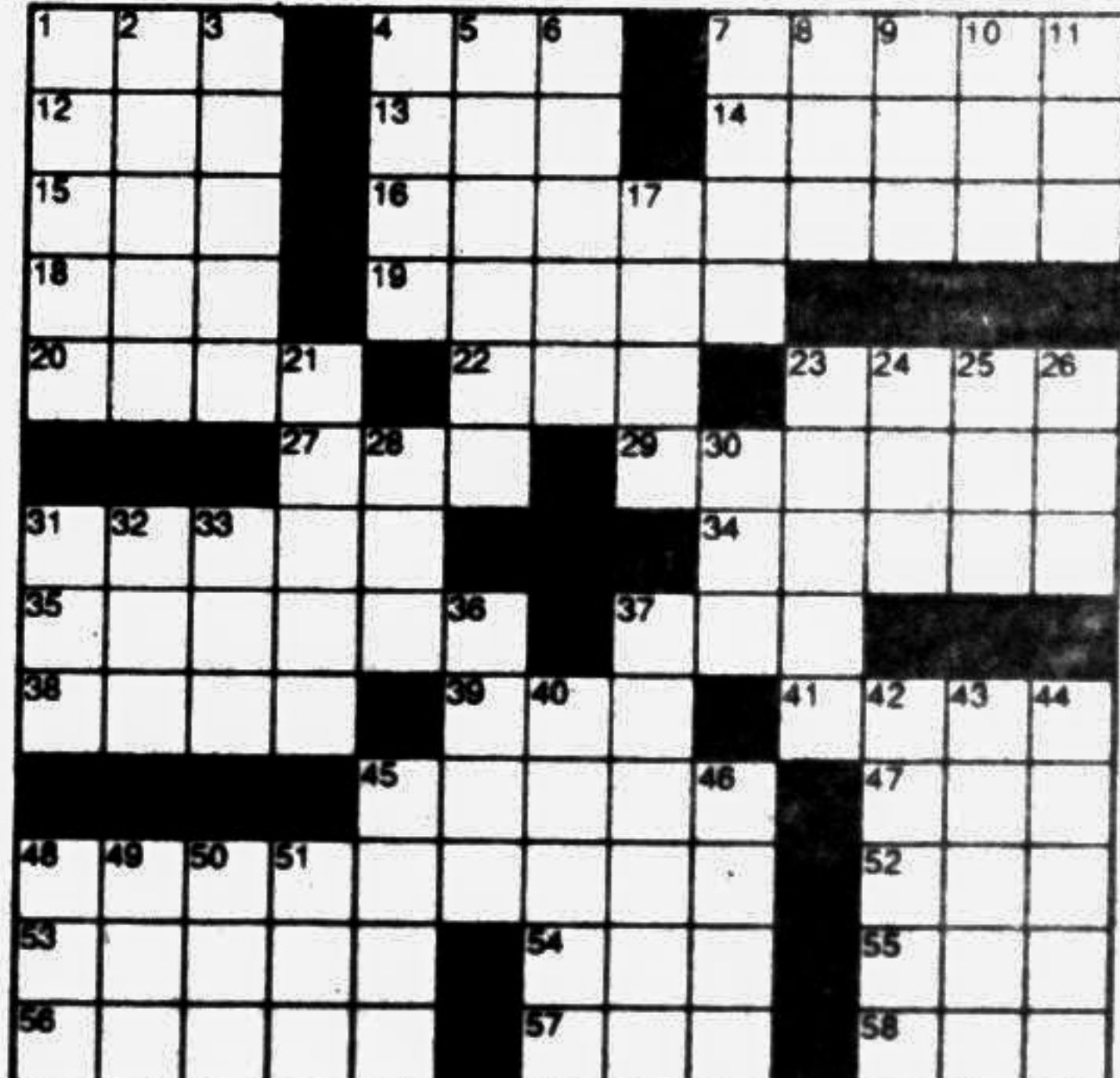
Solution time: 25 mins.

ACROSS
1 SPHERE
4 HERO OF SPANISH LITERATURE
7 CIVILIAN GARB
12 GIBSON OR TULLIS
13 START OF MONTANA'S MOTTO
14 EASTER-TIME, OFTEN IN THE MANNER OF
16 RANGE COMPONENTS
18 POSSESSED
19 STEER BREED
20 LUMBER MILL EQUIPMENT
22 RESISTANCE UNIT
23 POUND
27 BEACHGOER'S DESIRE
29 CAPTAIN BILLY'S SHIP
31 KITCHEN COVER-UP
34 PAYCHECK PLUS
35 STATE SECTION
37 GRIDLOCK ELEMENT

DOWN
1 NEBRASKA CITY
2 TAKE TEN
3 FOIL FEATURE
4 ROBIN COOK BOOK
5 APPLY, AS SOME PATCHES
6 PIZZA MAKER'S NEED
7 WILANDER OF TENNIS
8 "LAZY RIVER"
9 CALENDAR ABBR.
10 SHERIFF'S STAR, E.G.
11 "NE PASSERONT PAS" WITHOUT
17 WITHOUT

feeling
21 ROCK
23 SUBATOMIC CLUSTER
24 LEAD-IN TO CYCLE OR FORM
25 "DE-LOVELY"
26 TURN BLUE?
28 GRASSHOPPER'S REBUKER
30 MAN-MOUSE LINK
31 TAKE STEPS
32 LUAU GUNK
33 PIRATIC POTABLE
36 LUKE SKYWALKER'S TEACHER
37 CONSTRUCTION-SITE SIGHTS
40 BREATHING
42 CRUCIAL
43 HAYSEED
44 RYAN OR TATUM
45 BIT PART?
46 LAND IN THE WATER
48 HULA HOOP, E.G.
49 INDIVISIBLE
50 TERRORIST'S TOTE
51 SERBIAN CITY

Yesterday's answer 1-17



CRYPTOQUIP

I B D Y F Y G B P J G Z U U
H P H Q P W J Z G I Z G P W
Q C G G E F M V X E Z M G B Z O P
J X W F M V U P O P W ?
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: CALENDAR MAKER ON OUR BLOCK SAYS, "MY DAYS ARE NUMBERED."

Today's Cryptoquip clue: H 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.