Barcelona blitz

continues

slipped from second to fourth

with a humiliating 2-0 defeat

at neighbours Rayo Vallecano,

striker Hristo Stoichkov, the

league's leading scorer with 15

goals, was on the mark in the

13th and 40th minute. Juan

Goekoetchea made it three

after 78 minutes and Danish

striker Michael Laudrup net-

ted the fourth nine minutes

Barcelona are on 21 points

two points clear of Deportivo

Coruna and Atletico Madrid

and three ahead of Real

an early double blow against

Rayo Vallecano. Pedro Riesko

scored with only six minutes

gone and Austrian interna-

tional Anton Polster made it

Deportivo Coruna kept in con-

tention with a 3-0 win at bot-

tom-placed Logrones, who

Early season league leaders

two after 23 minutes.

Real never recovered from

Barcelona's flery Bulgarian

reports Reuter.

from time.

Madrid.

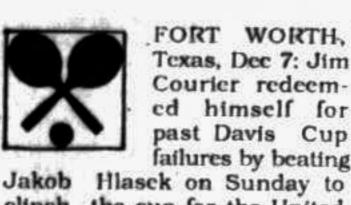
MADRID, Dec 7: Barcelona



The Swiss Davis Cup squad, who lost to United States in the final on Sunday, poses with the championship trophy after the awards ceremony. Jim Courier, the world number one, beat Jakob Hlasek in the reverse singles to make it an unbeatable 3-1 in his country's favour.

- AFP photo

Courier clinches US victory



Texas, Dec 7: Jim Courier redeemed himself for past Davis Cup failures by beating clinch the cup for the United

1900, reports Reuter. The number one player in the wc ld, who was left shaken his five-set loss to Marc

sset on Friday, posted an 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory over Hlasek to give the United States an unbeatable 3-1 lead over a surprisingly competitive Switzerland in the Davis Cup final.

Courier, who was severely down on himself after Friday's disappointment, was rushed by his teammates who engaged in a celebratory group hug. Andre Agassi, Pete Sampras and John McEnroe then lifted the overjoyed victor onto their shoulders and carried him to the sidelines.

Each team members then took a victory lap around the indoor hard court waving a huge American flag.

This is an amazing feeling. You can't buy it," said Courier. "Nothing means more to me than to be here with this bunch of guys and bring the

cup back where it should be." Courier who took undistinguished 2-5 Davis Cup record into Sunday's climatic match, explained his past disappointments by saying perhaps he wanted it too much

when playing for his country." But Sunday's win should erase those ghosts for Courier as well as make up for last year's devastating loss to France in the Davis Cup final

in Lyon. "It wasn't the most stylish win but the great thing is that everybody on this team won a point," said Tom Gorman, celchristing his second Davis Cup

triumph in his seventh year as

their 3-1 loss, the Swiss team

spoke fondly of their experi-

They have more players in

the top 20 than we have on the

whole computer," said the 36-

ranked Jakob Hlasek after

falling in four sets to world

number one Jim Courier in the

Davids," he said casting the

powerful U.S team in the role

of Goliath. What we did was

fantastic and I'm so proud of

this team. I hope a lot of other

Davids remember this to give

Sturdza was quick to point out

that his two-man team of un-

derdogs - Marc Rosset and

Hlasek- could very well have

beaten the mighty Americans if

"We could have won the

a few key points had gone the

cup," he said. " In the doubles

we were one point away from

6-all in the third set coming

up to the tie-break. If we win

Switzerland) and it's a com-

point in the doubles when

Serrano shines

Spain's Antonio Serrano won

the Jean Bouin 10km road-

race here on Sunday, finishing

in 28 minutes dead, four sec-

Buckner, reports Reuter.

Results:

onds ahead of Britain's Jack

I. Antonio Serrano (Spain)

8min 00 sec; 2. Jack Buckner

(GB) 28.04; 3. Juan Antonio

Crespo (Spain) 28.16; 4

Mathew Birir (Kenya) 28.23; 5.

oao Junqueira (Portugal)

BARCELONA, Spain, Dec 7:

Sturdza was referring to the

pletely different thing."

one its 2-1 [for

Swiss captain Dimitri

them a boost for the future."

"We were such small

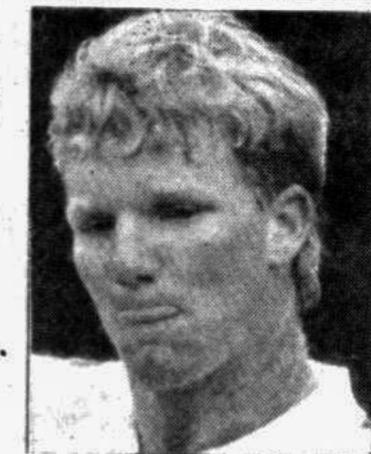
final match of the tie.

US captain. For the 33 year old McEn-

roe, it was his fifth time as a member of a Davis Cup winning team and the second for Agassi, who opened the tie with a staight set win over

Were it not for the remarkable comeback from two sets States for the 30th time since down by Sampras and McEnroe for a thrilling doubles win on Saturday, Courier would have faced the burden of keeping the heavily favoured Americans alive for a fifth and deciding match.

"If those guys hadn't won the doubles the momentum would have been with Switzerland," the relieved Courier



JIM COURIER

said. "I slept a lot better last

Even with the pressure of a must-win match off his shoulders, Courier was tight and had trouble against Hlasek.

However, although he never approached his top form, Courier had enough fight to hold off the mentally tough but physically drained Hlasek.

Hlasek, who nearly carried Switzerland to a doubles win in Saturday's four-hour plus match played amazingly well considering he was coming off that five set, emotional roller-

But in the end Courier had enough determination and killer instinct to carry the day. Courier, who had not played well in splitting the first two sets, said he received a pep talk from Agassi that really picked up his spirits.

Despite losing his first service game to open the third set, Courier began playing better. His serve settled down and he began scoring with his passing shots.

Hlasek double faulted his serve away in the fourth game to put the set back on serve and give Courier a lift.

The French and Australian Open champion lost just one point off his serve in the rest of the third set and broke Hlaesek in the eight game before serving out the set at love.

Hlasek continued to pay tough in the final set but courier got his big forehand going and broke through with a critical break in the seventh game for 4-3.

Both payers then held serve eastly, leaving Courier to serve for the Davis Cup.

After sailing a backhand long for 0-15, Courier swept the next four points. He reached match point with a big forehand deep in to the backcourt corner. Courier than unleashed a big serve that Hlasek returned wide and the celebration began.

Swiss captain Dimitri Sturdza, whose team was playing in their first Davis Cup final, said: " I think these three days have been absolutely fantastic."

"I especially want to thank the Swiss supporters. You were great," he said to the thousand-strong contingent who created a European Davis Cup atmosphere in Texas with their cowbells, painted faces, chanting and flag-waving.

During the victory ceremony Gorman congratulated the Swiss. "You guys put up a hell of a

Then, with tears welling in his eyes and emotion in his voice, he turned to his players. "Guys, I can't thank you

When we met Americans in

"In other countries they

would take a hammer and

drop it on your head," he said

bringing another rousing laugh

the early rounds of next

year's Davis Cup, he hopes to

meet the Americans again and

return the favour.

He said if his team survives

" If the U.S comes home to

from his team and reporters.

The final score in a lifeless game kept both teams in the First Division with one point to spare and condemned Campo Grande, Goytacaz, Itaperuna enough," Gorman said. and M Adureira to the drop.

Flamengo veteran Junior was sent off for the first time in 10 years in the 1-1 'draw with champions Vasco Da Gama, who finished the competi on unbeaten.

Junior was sent off for dissent, while Vasco striker Edmundo was shown the red card for a scything tackle on Uidemar.

Brazil international Rai scored a hat-trick as Sao Paulo beat Palmeiras 4-2 in a thrilling first leg of the Sao Paulo final.

The match was marred by two sendings off and the behaviour of the Palmeiras players who surrounded the referee to complain about nearly every decision.

Palmeiras' ex-Fiorentina defender Mazinho and Sao Paulo centre back Ronaldo were the two sent for an early shower, both for professional fouls.

Negere's victory

FUKUOKA, Japan, Dec 7: A final sport by Tena Negere brought the unheralded Ethiopian victory in the 46th Fukuoka International Marathon here Sunday, with a

4sec, reports AFP. He was followed by Lawrence Peu of South Africa who covered the distance in 2:10:29, while Spain's Diego Garcia took third spot in 2:10:30.

winning time of 2hr 9min

A field of 115 runners, including 13 from nine foreign countries, started the race under cloudy skies in southwestern Japan and had to battle drizzles later in the day.

Dionicio Ceron of Mexico, the winner of Japan's Beppu-Otta Marathon in February, was fourth with a time of 2:10:42, while Poland's Jan Huruk finished fifth in 2:11:25.

The race got off to a fast start, with some 20 runners leading in a group for the first five kilometers (3.1 miles).

Negere was lagging one minute behind Ceron at the 30 kilometre (18.6 mile) mark, but took the lead with a powerful surge that kept him in front for the remainder of the race.

Pre-race favourite Ibrahim Hussein of Kenya, two-time Boston Marathon winner, finished 13th.

Cantona's Premier AC Milan widen their lead League debut for M United

LONDON, Dec 7: Fren-

made his English Premier

League debut for Manchester

latest new club to a 2-1 win

over local rivals Manchester

The much-discussed

Hughes, one of the players

home a left-foot volley 16 min-

utes from time to seal United's

success, although City scored

an immediate consolation

approval from an expectant

Old Trafford crowd, and pro-

vided one perfect cross which

Hughes should have converted.

fifth place, nine points behind

The result took United into

Fixed match

infuriates fans

Furious fans accused Brazilian

soccer teams Bangu and

American Rio de Janeiro of

match fixing at the weekend

after the kicked off late and

then played a 1-1 draw which

saved both from relegation,

second half of the Rio de

Janeiro championship match

chanting "It's a fix, it's a fix"

while newspapers denounced

the match as a farce and a dis-

commented: "I had nothing to

do with any of this. The team

American coach Educ

Bangu coach Moises said:

The match had been due to

'The game was played within

the rules of the champi-

start at the same time as the

other games involving relega-

tion threatened sides but even-

tually began 73 minutes late

following a series of delays.
The preliminary match in-

volving the club's junior sides

was delayed when the Bangu

coach broke down on the way

was further held up when

American supporters invaded

the pitch and tore a net. They

two teams then took the field

wearing identical all-white

strips, meaning more wasted

time as Bangu had to return to

der way, other matches were

By the time game got un-

the dressing room to change.

well into the second half.

The start of the main match

The fans spent most of the

RIO DE JANEIRO, Dec 7:

Cantona came on to roars of

through Niall Quinn.

leaders Norwich.

reports Reuter.

did what it could."

to the stadium.

onship."

Champions AC Milan were held 1-1 at home by lowly Udinese on Sunday but still stretched their lead at the top

of the table to four points as closest rivals Internazionale and Juventus both slumped to descat, reports Reuter. Milan, who suffered a rare off-day to drop only their third point of the season, took the

lead in the 33rd minute with a shot from Italian midfielder Demetrio Albertini. But Argentine Abel Balbo levelled the scores shortly before halftime with his 10th

goal of the season. Internazionale, second at the start of play, crashed 3-0 at second-from-bottom Ancona and had former Italy goalkeeper Walter Zenga sent off in the first half.

Juventus went down 2-0 at Fiorentina, also having to play more than half the game with 10 men. German defender Juergen Kohler was sent off in the 36th minute after collecting his second yellow card.

Milan lead the table with 19 points from 11 matches while Internazionale are four points

behind and have played a game more. Juventus are now one of four clubs in joint third position with 14 points from 12 matches.

The draw took Milan's record unbeaten league record to 46 matches.

The champions fielded French striker Jean-Pierre Papin, Montenegrin midfielder Dejan Savicevic and Dutchman Marco van Basten as their three foreign players.

Both Savicevic and Papin were taken off during the second half and Dutchmen Ruud Gullit and Frank Rijkaard are likely to return for the European Cup semifinal Group B tie with PSV Eindhoven in the Netherlands on Wednes-

Ancona, playing their first game in their newly-built stadium, surprisingly brushed aside Internazionale with two goals from Hungarian international Lajos Detari putting them on the road to victory. Internazionale goalkeeper

Zenga was sent off in the 38th minute after bringing down Ancona striker Massimo Agostini outside the penalty

Juventus went down at bit-

ter rivals Fiorentina. Danish international Brian Laudrup consolidated their Spanish opened the scoring in the league leadership with a comeighth minute while debutant fortable 4-0 win at lowly Cadiz defender Luigi Sartor deon Sunday while Real Madrid

flected the second into the own net early in the second Fiorentina join Juventus on 14 points along with Torino and Cagliari. Torino were held 1-1 at home by Foggia despite

taking the lead after just 15 seconds through Andrea Silenzi. Cagliari move up after defeating Napoli 1-0 at home with a goal by Uruguayan in-

ternational Enzo Francescoli. Napoli, champions in 1987 and 1990, remain third from bottom and finished the game with just nine men.

Their Uruguayan striker Daniel Fonseca was sent off on his return to his former club while Careca, his Brazilian striking partner, was dismissed for an off-the-ball inci-

Roma striker Ruggiero Rizzitelli scored in the 89th minute to give his club a 1-0 win over Parma. Roma had goalkeeper Giuseppe Zinetti sent off for dissent in the first

fired their coach David Vidal this weekend. Spanish international for-

ward Claudio Barragan scored the first after 51 minutes, followed by Brazilian Jose Bebeto in the 75th and Barragan again in the last minute.

Deportivo lead Atletico Madrid on goal difference. Atletico disappointed with a

1-1 home draw with Valencia on Saturday. Manolo Sanchez scored first

for the home team after 19 minutes but Fernando Gomez equalised in the 32nd.

Mexico humble St Vincent 11-0 MEXICO CITY, Dec 7: Me-

xico overwhelmed St Vincent 11-0 on Sunday to celebrate their successful completion of the second round of CONCACAF World Cup qualifying for the 1994 tournament, reports Reuter. The victory gave Mexico a

total of eight points from six games and propelled them to the third round along with Honduras, who defeated Costa Rica 2-1 on Saturday.

Francisco Uribe scored the first goal in the fifth minute of the match and added two more goals to the cheers of 20,000 at Azulgrana Stadium. Carlos Hermosillo scored four goals; two in each half, and Marcelino Bernal added three more. Luis Alves also scored for Mexico.

The Caribbean team, unaccustomed to the pollution in Mexico City, appeared exhausted after the first 20 minutes of the match.

Canada move up

HAMILTON, Bermuda, Dec 7: Canada made certain of advancing to the third round when they held Bermuda to a goalless draw in their final CONCACAF second round Group B World Cup soccer qualifying match at the National Stadium on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Bermuda 4-2 in their earlier game in Vancouver, Canada were never allowed to dominate a match played in chilly conditions which made ball control difficult.

Despite easily beating

Frost pockets golf's richest prize SUN CITY, South straight round above par to finbirdie against Cook's par to go Africa, Dec 7: Daish at eight-over, one stroke. up by three. Another Frost vid Frost fired a ahead of Australian Craig Parry, birdie on No 14 gained him three-under 69 who made par Sunday for the another stroke and ended the



hn Cook and become the first man to win the Million Dollar

Only Langer and Spain's



Dollar golf challenge at Sun City, South Africa on December 6. Frost scored three under par 69 in the final round to seal his victory. - AFP photo Challenge golf tournament Nick Price were disqualified yard Gary Player Country Club

three times, reports AP. Frost, of South Africa, finished 12 strokes under par at 276, four shots ahead of the

American challenger, to win golf's richest top prize - dlrs l million.

ish with a 69 to grab second place, four shots ahead of compatriot Fred Couples, the Masters champion, who blazed in with a 67 the lowest round of the tournament, and South African Ernie Els, who shot a

Bernhard Langer finished fifth at two-under-par with a 70. His total of 286 was 14 strokes higher than his record 16-under winning total the previous

Spain's Jose Maria Olazabal Woosnam shot his fourth

for separate violations

Saturday. Price shared the lead with Frost at nine-under after three rounds, while Faldo was in third place at three-under.

round leading Cook by four strokes. Playing with Cook, Frost

birdied the first two holes and played par the rest of the front nine to maintain his fourstroke lead. Cook had three birdies and a bogey at the turn, and lipped two other birdie

Both players birdied No 10 then Frost scored his first bogey since the second round while Cook sank a twisting 18foot birdie putt to pull within two shots.

Two holes later, Frost fired a trademark approach five fect

course. Price, of Zimbabwe, was

kicked out for refusing to sign his scorecard in a dispute over a two-stroke penalty. Faldo, the British Open

champion from Great Britain, signed an incorrect scorecard, bringing his immediate disqualification. It was the third time Price

has lost the chance to compete in the tournament. He missed two previous appearances due to illness and injury. There were other contro-

versies at this year's tournament, the twelfth one held. On Friday, Langer, the defending champion, complained he hit an improperly placed advertising board and the ensuing ricochet cost him two strokes.

Faldo and Els had a dispute over Els using his putter to clear debris from his putting

55 56 58 **CRYPTOQUIP**

TVHFAFNI WVOIME HNJMHTNI

HVAAMHHLVJ

HFIAM ZM ZNE DMOLMAW DFWAZ.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: OUR INSTRUCTOR TRIED TO TEACH US TO FIELD A SOFTBALL, BUT IT WENT OVER OUR HEADS.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: A equals C

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

John McEnroe and Pete Sa-The food has been fantastic, Texas, Dec 7: The mpras broke Rosset at 6-5 to the waitresses who were tak-Swiss Davis Cup ing care of us were great," he team were losers

to the heavily favoured United States on Sunday in their first Davis Cup final but had every right to hold their heads high with pride after a valiant effort, reports Reuter. In a loose and light-hearted news conference following

better, "Sturdza said.

warm welcome here in Texas.

team had already won the first two sets in tie-breaks, said if the third had gone to a tiebreak he felt Switzerland would have won in straight

match around.

have won it would have felt

of Fort Wort and the warm Texas hospitality accorded a team that had come to town hoping to defeat the United

take the third set and turn the

The Swiss captain, whose

ahead of Sunday's singles.

much better, only if we would

"I think we had a fantastic,

said, bringing a huge laugh

from his players. the streets, they said, "Well done boys and fantastic what you have been doing, and you

"I don't think it can be

know that makes you fell very welcome."

Sturdza praised the people

sets and seized momentum



Led by former Japanese Olympic runner Takeshi Soh (L) Frenchman Collet Paul crosses the finish line in the first international marathon for the visually impaired in Miyazaki, Japan on Monday. Paul won with a time of 2 hrs 36 mins and 26 secs. - AFP photo

Saturday to hold first time at Sun City. off a charging Jo-

tournament when world No 1

Controversy marred the Nick Faldo and US PGA winner

Seve Ballesteros also have won more than once on the 7.729-

Because of the disqualifica-Cook also had a strong fin- tions, Frost began the final

final-round 68. Defending champion

shot a final 74 to end up four over, while Welshman Ian

from the cup and made the

ACROSS 38 Capitol 1 Choose 4 Amulet or 40 It's before talisman green or 9 Fall soup behind 41 Recipe

43 Dog-show actress Charlotte designa tions 45 Univ. at 14 Lawyers' New Orleans

47 Trouble

shaped

48 Slender man's domain? finial 17 Court 49 Prairie or barrier pasture 18 Sleep 54 Woeful 55 Crescent study

24 Takes to court 25 Mauna — 58 Ledger 26 Envelope abbr. 28 Choice

grade of

Ameche

33 Repair the

coffee

31 Rickles

and

abbr

19 Set on fire

21 Power to

entice

12 TV

13 High

15 Sand

home

lawn 35 Tenpenny, for 36 Mountains of Peru

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer admission item 59 Board or take note lead-16 South Seas DOWN island 1 California 20 Broad-

> direction fort way 2 Common illuminant 21 "Betsy's value 3 Golf gadget star 22 Diving bird 4 Prop for 23 Mountain-Edward Steichen eer's 5 Protective hazard 27 "High --" headgear

6 Brazilian

7 Skating

arenas

8 Part of S-

bird

figures M-L 56 Vast 9 Corot amount painting 57 Compass 10 First reading shepherd 11 Total

Solution time: 27 min. MIK MOTH SLAW ASH OKRA HEMI ITA RAIL OVEN MONDAYMORNING ASS GEE
CLAMS PEP JIG
HARP RAN MUSE
ICE FEZ TIGHT QUAMEN SATURDAYNIGHT

Wedding" 29 Hastened 30 Woe is me! 32 precedent 34 One who corrupts 37 Unmarried 39 Very prim or prudish 42 Summer FH TV fare 44 House

45 Hardy heroine 50 Hillbuilder 51 Inquire 52 Society-

46 Javanese

song)

page word 53 "One Fine —" (old

locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.