



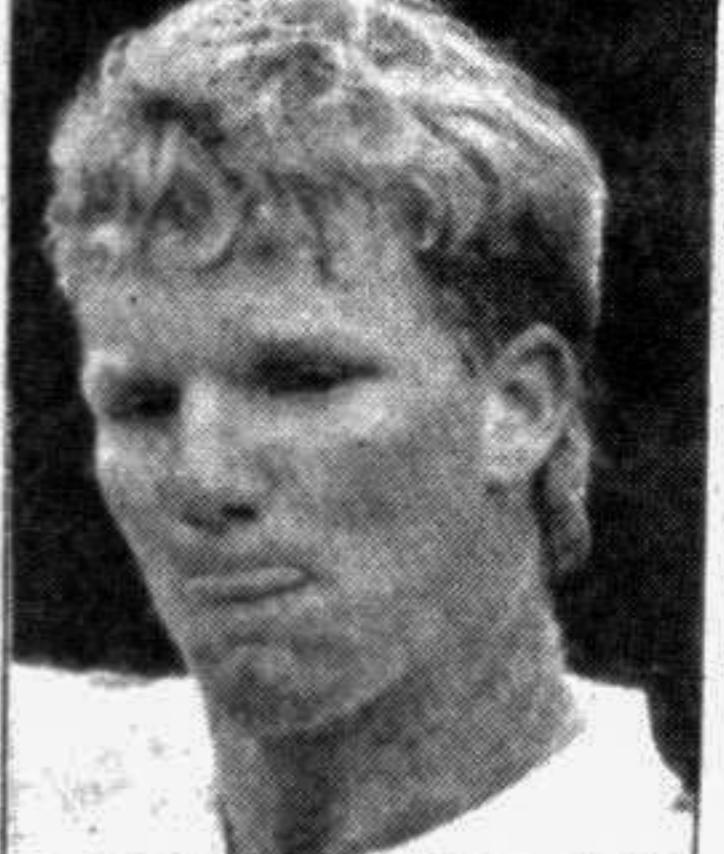
The Swiss Davis Cup squad, who lost to United States in the final on Sunday, poses with the championship trophy after the awards ceremony. Jim Courier, the world number one, beat Jakob Hlasek in the reverse singles to make it an unbeatable 3-1 in his country's favour. — AFP photo

Courier clinches US victory

FORT WORTH, Texas, Dec 7: Jim Courier redeemed himself for past Davis Cup failures by beating Jakob Hlasek on Sunday to clinch the cup for the United States for the 30th time since 1900, reports Reuter.

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 straight set win over Hlasek.

yed well in splitting the first two sets, said he received a pep talk from Agassi that really picked up his spirits.



JIM COURIER

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

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

Swiss Davids still satisfied

FORT WORTH, Texas, Dec 7: The Swiss Davis Cup 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.

The food has been fantastic, the waitresses who were taking care of us were great," he said, bringing a huge laugh from his players.

When we met Americans in the streets, they said, "Well done boys and fantastic what you have been doing, and you know that makes you feel very welcome."

"We could have won the cup," he said. "In the doubles we were one point away from 6-4 in the third set coming up to the tie-break. If we win that one its 2-1 (for Switzerland) and it's a completely different thing."

Sturza was referring to the point in the doubles when

Sturza praised the people of Fort Worth and the warm Texas hospitality accorded a team that had come to town hoping to defeat the United States.

Serrano shines

BARCELONA, Spain, Dec 7: Spain's Antonio Serrano won the Jean Bouin 10km road race here on Sunday, finishing in 28 minutes dead, four seconds ahead of Britain's Jack Buckner, reports Reuter.

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

Cantona's Premier League debut for M United

LONDON, Dec 7: Frenchman Eric Cantona finally made his English Premier League debut for Manchester United on Sunday, helping his latest new club to a 2-1 win over local rivals Manchester City, reports Reuter.

The much-discussed Cantona, signed from Leeds last month, appeared as a half-time substitute but had his thunder stolen by Mark Hughes and Paul Ince who both scored spectacular United goals from long-range.

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.

Both payers then held serve easily, 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.

The match had been due to start at the same time as the other games involving relegation threatened sides but eventually began 73 minutes late following a series of delays.

The preliminary match involving the club's junior sides was delayed when the Bangu coach broke down on the way to the stadium.

The start of the main match 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 the dressing room to change.

By the time game got underway, other matches were well into the second half.

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 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 competition unbeaten.

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

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-Florentina 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 winning time of 2hr 9min 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.

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-Ota 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).

AC Milan widen their lead

ROME, Dec 7: 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 defeat, 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.

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

But Argentine Abel Balbo levelled the scores shortly before halftime with his 10th goal of the season.

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 area.

Juventus went down 2-0 at Fiorentina, also having to play more than half the game with 10 men. German defender Jurgen 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.

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Juventus went down at bit-

Frost pockets golf's richest prize

SUN CITY, South Africa, Dec 7: David Frost fired a three-under 69 Saturday to hold off a charging John Cook and become the first man to win the Million Dollar

straight round above par to finish at eight-over, one stroke ahead of Australian Craig Parry, who made par Sunday for the first time at Sun City.

Controversy marred the tournament when world No 1 Nick Faldo and US PGA winner



South African David Frost (L) kisses Miss World Minibeth Neal after winning the Million 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.

Nick Price were disqualified for separate violations Saturday.

Price, of Zimbabwe, was kicked out for refusing to sign his scorecard in a dispute over a two-stroke penalty.

Frost, of South Africa, finished 12 strokes under par at 276, 12 strokes ahead of the American challenger, to win golf's richest prize — \$1 million.

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

Faldo, the British Open champion from Great Britain, signed an incorrect scorecard, bringing his immediate disqualification.

Cook also had a strong finish 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 final-round 68.

Playing with Cook, Frost birdied the first two holes and played par the rest of the front nine to maintain his four-stroke lead. Cook had three birdies and a bogey at the turn, and lipped two other birdie putts.

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.

Defending champion 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 year.

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

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

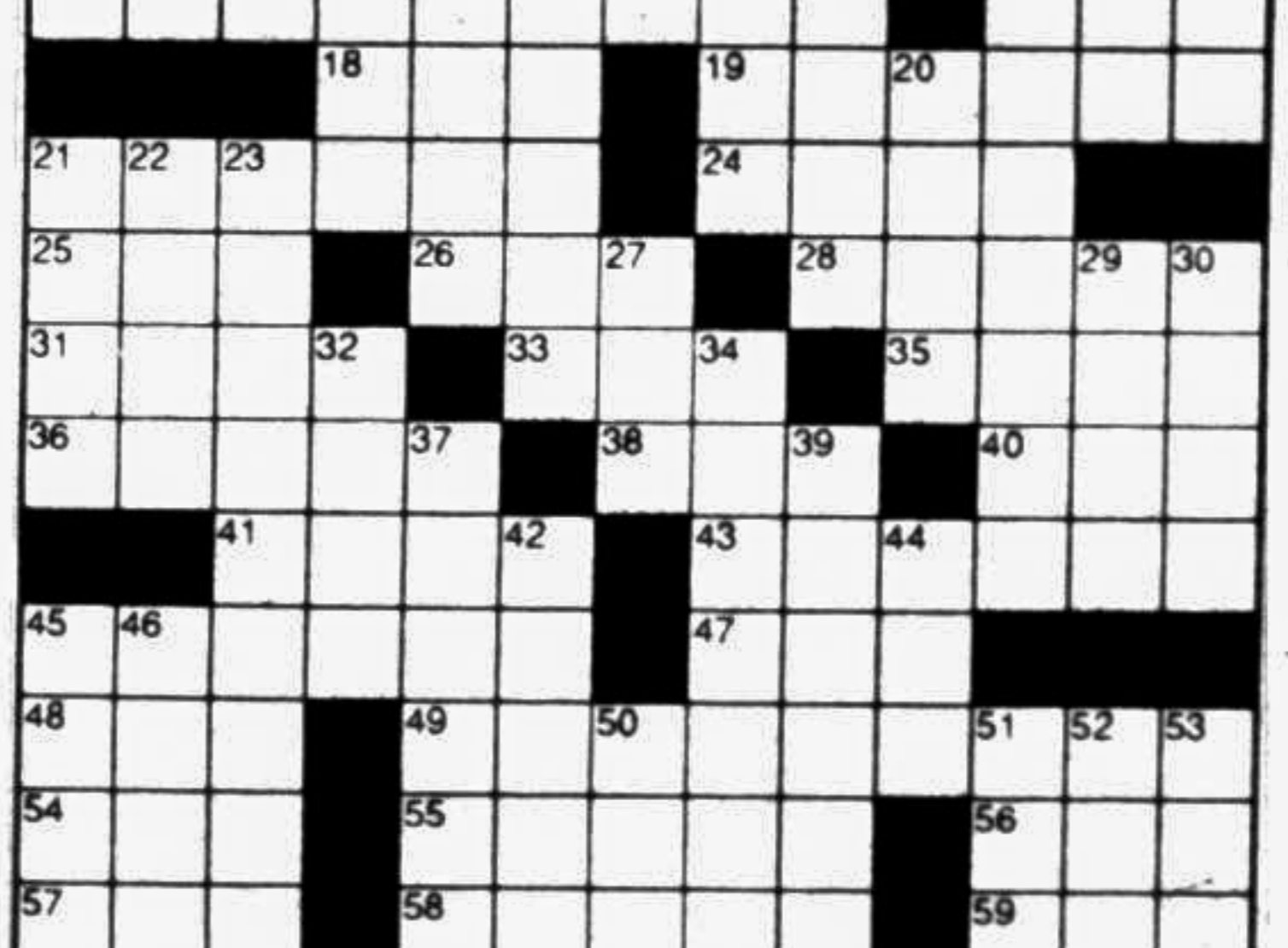
Spain's Jose Maria Olazabal shot a final 74 to end up four over, while Welshman Ian Woosnam shot his fourth

yard Gary Player Country Club course.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Choose 4 Amulet or talisman 9 Fall behind 12 TV actress 13 High home 14 Lawyers org 15 Sandman's domain? 17 Court barrier 18 Sleep study abbr. 19 Set on fire 21 Power to entice 24 Takes to court 25 Mauna 26 Envelope abbr. 28 Choice grade of coffee 31 Rickles and Ameche 33 Repair the lawn 35 Ten-penny, for one 36 Mountains of Peru



DOWN 16 South Seas island 20 Broadway illuminant 21 "Betsy's Wedding" star 22 Diving bird 23 Mountaineer's hazard 27 "High —" 29 Hastened 30 Woe is me! 32 — precedent 34 One who corrupts 37 Unmarried 39 Very prim or prudish 42 Summer TV fare 44 House wing 45 Hardy heroine 46 Javanese tree 50 Hill-builder 51 Inquire 52 Society-page word 53 "One Fine —" (old song)

CRYPTOQUIP TVHF AFNI WVOIME HNJMHTNI F H HVAAMHHLVJ HFIAM Z M 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 locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.