



Kiwi allrounder Dipak Patel (c) mishits a Merv Hughes delivery to be caught by Craig McDermott during the third day's play of the first Test against Australia in Christchurch yesterday. The Kiwis are on the brink of an innings defeat.

Kiwis stare at innings defeat



CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, Feb 27: New Zealand, at 37 for three at the end of the third day today after following on...

Wright was one of the few New Zealand batsmen to defy Australia in the first innings. In a four-and-a-half hour struggle he made 39 before he was given out leg before to Shane Warne.



K RUTHERFORD... 57 man in the second innings on a wicket increasingly taking spin. None of the batsmen looked comfortable against him.

Table with cricket scores for Australia and New Zealand. Columns include player names, runs, and other statistics.

Table with bowling statistics for both teams. Columns include bowler names, overs, maidens, runs, and wickets.

Gavaskar greets Border

BANGALORE, India, Feb 27: Sunil Gavaskar sent a congratulatory telegram to Allan Border on Friday after the Australian captain had broken his record as the highest run scorer in Test history, reports Reuter.

Lineker fined for reckless driving

LONDON, Feb 27: Soccer player Gary Lineker was fined 100 pounds (142 dollars) by a British court on Friday for careless driving after knocking down a motorcyclist, reports Reuter.

Lineker backs Manchester bid

TOKYO, Feb 27: Japan's most famous soccer import, Britain's Gary Lineker, gave his support on Friday to Manchester's bid to host the Olympics in 2000, reports Reuter.



Argentine soccer idol Diego Maradona gets into his car with his daughter in the backseat at Seville airport, arriving from Buenos Aires on February 26 after playing for the Argentine national side on February 24. Maradona was fined 3 million pesetas for playing for Argentina without FC Sevilla's permission.

Opinion split on Maradona's future

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, Feb 27: Diego Maradona's return to Argentina's national team was hailed by sports writers Friday, but several wondered if his physical conditioning is up to the demanding standards of international competition, reports AP.

Argentina eventually prevailed 5-4 on penalties to win the Artemio Franchi Cup. 'Is Maradona still the best?', asked La Nacion in a front page story that shared space with headlines about the political crisis in Italy and a local case of massive poisoning with adulterated wine.

club Sevilla after 18 months of inactivity, including a 15-month suspension for failing a drug test when he played for Napoli in the Italian league. According to a poll conducted by local news agency Diarios Noticias among 39 foreign sportswriters who covered the Argentina-Denmark match, Maradona, midfielder Diego Simeone and forward Gabriel Batistuta should be 'musts' in the Argentine lineup.

Maradona asks for pardon

SEVILLE, Spain, Feb 27: Argentine soccer superstar Diego Maradona asked FC Sevilla's pardon Saturday for recent antics that have led the club to open disciplinary proceedings, the club president said, reports AP.

Maradona and countryman Diego Simeone met with Sevilla managers to discuss the club's investigation into the players' recent trips to Argentina for national team games.

The club ordered the investigation after Maradona and Simeone returned late from the Argentine national team's game against Brazil earlier this month, then returned to Argentina without authorization for a game against Denmark.

Sanchez gets a recall at last

MEXICO CITY, Feb 27: Former soccer hero Hugo Sanchez has been named to Mexico's World Cup team for the first time in seven years, reports AP.

News of the 19-man selection by new coach Miguel Mejia Barón led the front pages of most Mexican sports dailies on Friday. The team enters the next round of playoffs for the 1994 World Cup on April 4 with a game against El Salvador.

Fernandez fends off Davenport

INDIAN WELLS, California, Feb 27: Top seeded Mary Joe Fernandez of the United States used her experience to rally past first-year pro Lindsay Davenport of the United States 7-5, 6-2 in the quarterfinals of the 375,000 Ever Cup on Friday, reports AP.

Provis of Australia 6-4, 6-0, and unseeded Stephanie Rottier of the Netherlands eliminated unseeded Miriam Oremans of the Netherlands 6-2, 6-3, in the other two quarterfinal matches.

Open Junior champion who turned professional at the beginning of the tournament. Davenport, 99th in the world, was serving for a 5-0 lead when Fernandez settled into her game and began mixing up her shots, causing the hard-hitting Davenport to start making unforced errors.

Agassi blasts Sanchez off court

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona, Feb 27: Andre Agassi used punishing ground strokes to roll over Spain's Emilio Sanchez 6-1, 6-1 on Friday to advance to the semifinals of the 3,00,000 Scottsdale tennis championships, reports Reuter.

the Spaniard. 'I played good, as well as I needed to,' Agassi said. 'I never let him into the match. I did everything I needed to do and did it well.'

of those things. 'Technically the match was over, and then I felt the umpire wanted to call a let when he hadn't said anything for the first two hours of the match. It was just one of those things.'

Jarryd ambushes Ivanisevic

ROTTERDAM, Feb 27: Anders Jarryd, who knocked Boris Becker out of last month's Australian Open, claimed another prize scalp on Friday when he beat injury-hit Goran Ivanisevic in the quarterfinals of the World Indoor tournament, reports Reuter.

Algeria win

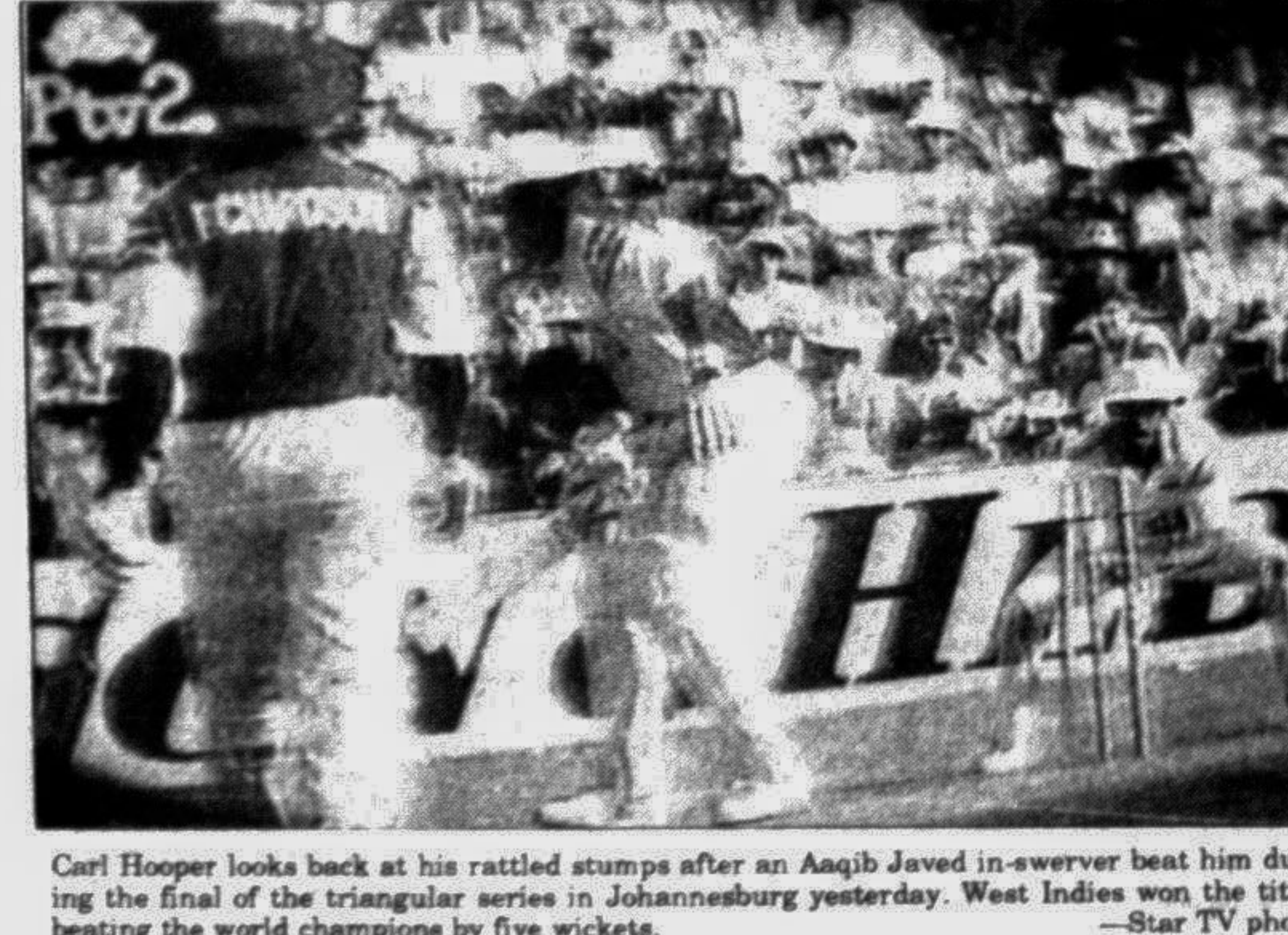
ALGIERS, Feb 27: Algeria beat Ghana 2-1 (halftime 0-1) in a World Cup African Group A qualifying match at Tlemcen in Western Algeria on Friday, reports Reuter.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

A crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Clues include '1 Normandy town', '4 Prayer', '8 Nimbus', etc.

A cryptogram puzzle grid with a grid of letters and numbers. The clue is 'CRYPTOQUIP'.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: F equals L. 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.



Carl Hooper looks back at his rattled stumps after an Aaqib Javed in-swever beat him during the final of the triangular series in Johannesburg yesterday. West Indies won the title beating the world champions by five wickets.