

Krabbe gives up Stuttgart hopes

BONN, Mar 31: Germany's double world sprint champion Katrin Krabbe is very unlikely to appeal against a one-year ban in a bid to run at this year's World Athletics Championships, her lawyer said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Peter Woessner said Krabbe, whose four-year ban for taking the drug Clenbuterol was cut to one by a German arbitration panel on Tuesday, would not be able to win her case in time to defend her 100 and 200 metres titles in Stuttgart this August.

"We are disappointed with the length of the ban. But there is little point in taking the case to a German civil court because by the time it came to court, the ban would have finished," Woessner said.

"It is a different question if you were going to the courts to get damages and restore reputation. But I can't make any decisions on action until I have talked to my clients and seen the actual reason for the ruling which has not been given yet."

Krabbe's ban will run out just in time for the start of the Stuttgart Championships on August 14. But the sprinter will not be able to run because she will not have had the opportunity to record a qualifying time in competition.

Krabbe, who tested positive during random tests in training last July, is still not 100 per cent certain to be free to



KATRIN KRABBE

The IAAF automatically bans first offenders using an anabolic steroid for four years. While two of the three scientific reports ordered by the DLV panel concluded the drug was a permitted stimulant and not an anabolic agent, Gyulai says Clenbuterol was included in the category of banned drugs when Krabbe tested positive.

Legal experts say the IAAF would not be able to intervene under its doping regulations because the DLV only punished

return to the track later in the season, however.

International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) general secretary Istvan Gyulai indicated on Tuesday the sports governing body was unlikely to accept the German Athletics Federation (DLV) panel's findings that there was "no clear doping offence."

Krabbe under its rules regarding "unsportsmanlike behaviour."

The national federation was unable to ban Krabbe under its doping rules because of a legal technicality. It had no clause in its regulations governing bans for out-of-competition tests last July although they have since been amended.

But the IAAF can overrule the decision under its own unsportsmanlike conduct rules where its council has free rein to impose any penalty.

An IAAF-imposed four-year ban, however, would almost certainly provoke Krabbe into taking the case to the civil courts, which the world body could ill afford after the recent much-publicised case with American athlete Butch Reynolds.

Tuesday's decision received little support in the German press on Wednesday.

"The anti-doping movement has lost one of its most important tests and there are more and more doubts whether it could ever win a case of this importance again," the Sueddeutsche Zeitung newspaper said.

The Frankfurter Allgemeine paper added: "The gap between what a sporting organisation wants and what a civil court will put up with, is growing further apart."

Krabbe was scheduled to give her first reaction to the decision at a news conference in her home town of Neubrandenburg later Tuesday.

Mixed reaction to Krabbe' reprieve

BONN, Mar 31: Katrin Krabbe may find it tough to regain the same financial rewards and public acclaim she enjoyed in the past despite avoiding a four-year ban for doping on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Within hours of the German Athletics Federation (DLV) arbitration panel's decision to reduce the ban to one year, the US sportswear firm Nike said it saw no reason to renew its contract with the 1991 double world sprint champion.

"You should never say never but at the moment I see no basis for a new contract," Nike public relations manager Oliver Heieck said.

The glamorous, svelte sprinter was a German heroine and an advertiser's dream when she burst onto the athletics scene in 1990 with three gold medals at the European Championships.

The 23-year-old sprinter was a regular sight on the front page of Germany's numerous glossy magazines and was eagerly hunted for modelling contracts.

But Nike cancelled their contract after Krabbe tested positive for the drug Clenbuterol last July. Krabbe has admitted she fears it will be difficult to get rid of her doping tag in the eyes of the German public.

The immediate reaction across Germany to Tuesday's decision was mixed. While Krabbe's father Klaus-Peter

said it was too harsh, two leading doping experts were quick to criticise the decision.

"It's still a damned hard decision," Klaus-Peter Krabbe said. "She won't be able to run at the World Championships in Stuttgart. There will still be some officials who won't leave her alone and will put more obstacles in her path."

But Heidelberg doping expert Werner Franke said: "They are making up new rules for this decision. I don't understand this one-year ban."

"Calves are protected better than athletes. If (Krabbe coach Thomas) Springstein had given Clenbuterol to calves he would have been punished for it," said Franke, who has carried out research into the doping past of the former East German.

International Olympic Committee (IOC) doping expert Manfred Donike, who tested the urine samples, said he did not believe the scientific doubts which surfaced over the veal-fattening compound Clenbuterol in the case were correct.

One of the reasons behind the reduction of the ban was linked to two scientific reports which suggested that Clenbuterol was a permitted stimulant and not a banned anabolic agent.

"I would not have carried out the analysis of the tests if I had not been convinced of the anabolic nature of Clenbuterol," Donike said.

Springstein, who began coaching Krabbe in her early

years, refused to comment on the case until he had received the official reason for the panel's decision.

But Krabbe will give a news conference in her home town of Neubrandenburg today.

Kenyan athletes keen to expunct bitter memories

NAIROBI, Mar 31: Kenyan chief athletics coach Mike Kosgei promised on Wednesday his team would atone for past disappointments at this year's Stuttgart World Championships, reports Reuter.

"The focus is Stuttgart for this year's World Championships in August. We intend to put back previous drawbacks, we intend to terrorise the world," Kosgei said after returning home with the triumphant Kenyan cross country team.

He said the Kenyans would prepare well "to put back some of the disappointment caused by below-expectation performances at the Olympics and to prove that the east Africans were still the long-distance running power to beat."

Kenya won the team title in all four categories at last Sunday's World Cross Country Championships in Amorebieta, Spain and took individual gold in the junior men's, junior women's and senior men's events.

Torrence's coach calls it unfair

RALEIGH, North Carolina, Mar 31: The coach of outspoken Olympic 200 metres champion Gwen Torrence on Tuesday blasted a German decision to allow world sprint champion Katrin Krabbe to return to the track this year, reports Reuter.

"I think it is unjust for them to reduce her suspension," Manley Waller told Reuters in a telephone interview from Atlanta. "All the others went full term."

"There seem to be two types of standards — Butch Reynolds and Ben Johnson, and her. Butch Reynolds and Ben Johnson served their full terms. I don't think it's fair."

The German Athletics Federation said on Tuesday that its arbitration panel had decided Krabbe, Grit Breuer and Manuela Derr were free to run from August 13.

The three were suspended for four years last September for taking the drug Clenbuterol. But the German federation said its panel decided that there was "no clear doping offence."

It instead punished the athletes for "unsportsmanlike behaviour."

Waller said Krabbe, who earlier had another doping suspension lifted by the German federation on a technicality, was again "testing the system."

The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) considers Clenbuterol to be both a stimulant and an anabolic agent and bans athletes for four years using it.

But two of the three reports ordered by the German panel said the drug was a stimulant only.

Waller said: "There's a fine line between competitors staying clean and those competing and trying everything. If it's an or if drug they ought to leave it alone."

Torrence was unavailable for comment, Waller said.

Torrence strongly criticised Krabbe, who won gold in the 100 and 200 metres at the 1991 World Championships, after the German and two others had four-year bans for identical urine samples lifted last year because of irregularities in testing.

After Krabbe admitted taking Clenbuterol, Torrence said

during last year's Olympic Games: "I always felt she (Krabbe) was on drugs."

"I really believed she was a cheat. Somehow she will find a way of getting back. She is the great white hope."

Malaysia start on winning note

HONG KONG, Mar 31: Reigning Thomas Cup champions Malaysia, fielding a new-look team, began their campaign at the 30,000 US dollars Asian badminton championships on a winning note here Wednesday, reports AFP.

The under-strength Malaysian outfit defeated Japan 5-0 in a preliminary group match in the men's team tournament which features 18 countries from the region.

Despite missing the three Sidek brothers, Malaysia's next generation of players were still able to easily see off a relatively inexperienced Malaysian team stormed past Japan in their first round-robin group game.

Veteran Foo hardly paused in rushing to a 15-1, 15-7 victory over Kazuhiro Shimogami.

His win was matched by up-and-coming Hook King. The 19-year-old left-hander, who playing in his first major tournament scored a 15-11, 15-10 victory in the second singles over Hideaki Motoyama.

But without singles champion Rashid Sidek, and famous doubles pair Razif and Jalani Sidek, Malaysia face a daunting task in trying to overcome arch-rivals Indonesia and China later in the tournament.

"But they will be back in our team for the World Championships in May in Birmingham," added Gunalan.

Kenya has already slapped on the athlete. It will recommend that the IAAF (International Amateur Athletic Federation) free Ngugi to run on the international circuit."

Ngugi, the 1988 Olympic 5,000 metres gold medalist, told reporters he had declined to take the random dope test last month because IAAF doctors who visited his rural home 200 km north of Nairobi failed to identify themselves.

Under IAAF rules anybody refusing to take a drug test is automatically banned for four years.

KAAA Secretary General David Okoy said he was awaiting the tribunal's report and would on pass it to the IAAF "for necessary further action."

The KAAA Banned Ngugi from competing in the national cross country championships used to select the Kenya team

In memoriam

DUBLIN, Mar 31: About 30,000 World Cup soccer fans from both sides of the Irish border on Wednesday observed one minute's silence in memory of all those killed in the Northern Ireland conflict, reports Reuter.

The 22 players from the Irish Republic and British-ruled Northern Ireland gathered in a circle, heads bowed, at Dublin's Lansdowne Road Stadium in a mark of respect for more than 3,000 people killed since 1969.

It was richly symbolic gesture as the World Cup qualifying match was also attended by Irish President Mary Robinson and Britain's Northern Ireland minister Patrick Mayewu, who was in Dublin for talks with foreign minister Dick Spring.

Britain and Ireland have united in a wave of revulsion after Irish Republican Army bombs killed two children on Mother's Day shopping in the central England town of Warrington.

Last Sunday, up to 2,000 demonstrators crying "Enough is enough" attended a peace rally in Dublin.



Czech-born naturalised American Ivan Lendl is about to make a backhand return during his match against Spaniard Marcos Gorriiz in the Estoril Open tennis tournament in Estoril, Portugal on March 30. Lendl won the match 6-1, 6-3.

Ngugi not cleared yet

NAIROBI, Mar 31: A tribunal investigating why five times world cross country champion John Ngugi refused a random dope test has cleared him of any offence, a senior athletics source said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

The source said the tribunal would ask Kenya Amateur Athletic Association (KAAA) to lift an indefinite suspension.

"The tribunal has already listened to Ngugi and interviewed most of those involved with the case and found he has not done anything strictly irregular," the source told Reuters.

"The tribunal shall ask the KAAA to lift the indefinite sus-

tion to the World Championships in Amorebieta, Spain, last Sunday.

Ngugi, 29, says he has never taken drugs and did not know that his failure to cooperate with the IAAF doctors was serious.

Sources close to Ngugi said he had kept up his strict training schedule because he believed he was innocent and would have his ban lifted soon.

"His eyes are set on Stuttgart for the World Championships in August. He fully intends to qualify for the Kenyan team," one source said.

Narozhilenko faces ban

LONDON, Mar 31: World indoor 60m hurdles record-holder Ludmila Narozhilenko is facing a four-year ban from athletics after a positive drugs test, reports AP.

International Amateur Athletic Federation general secretary Istvan Gyulai told Agence France Presse on Tuesday that the Russian star had been called to appear before her federation to explain the drugs shame.

"She has been confirmed as positive," said Gyulai. "Now she is to attend a hearing of the Russian association."

"If you are accused, you have an opportunity to explain. Then the decision will be taken as to whether she is eligible to compete."

Narozhilenko tested positive after a meeting in Lievin in France on February 13, when she equalled her then record of 7.69 sec.

Later on March 4 the Russian hurdler, who did not defend her title at the recent World Indoor Championships in Canada, lowered the figure three times at Seville in Spain to bring it down to 7.63 sec.



JOHN NGUGI

Courier, Chang cruise through

OSAKA, Japan, Mar 31: World number one Jim Courier and number nine Michael Chang posted first-round wins here today but four other seeded players were eliminated at the 500,000 dollar Salem Open men's tennis tournament, reports AFP.

Third-seeded Henrik Holm of Sweden became the first victim when he double-faulted on match point to crash to Jonathan Stark of the United States 1-6, 6-3, 4-6 in the first round.

Seventh-seeded Jan Siemerink of the Netherlands, eighth-seeded Kenneth Carlsen of Denmark and sixth-seeded Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland followed Holm out of the tournament.

Siemerink bowed to qualifier Greg Rusedski of Canada 4-6, 1-6, and Carlsen went down to Guillaume Raoux of

France 6-7 (4/7), 2-6.

Hlasek, who lost two singles and a doubles with Mark Rosset in a 2-3 defeat to India at a Davis Cup meet last weekend, continued struggling to regain his form losing 3-6, 4-6 to Richard Fromberg of Australia.

Meanwhile, Courier needed only 70 minutes on the Stadium Court to beat Stefano Pescosolido of Italy 6-2, 6-2 while Chang had to fight off a tough challenge from David Prinosil of Germany 6-1, 4-6, 6-4.

"My condition is good, I had about ten days off before... so I had time to train and get prepared to come to play here," said Courier, who crashed out of Key Biscayne in the fourth round.

"So I feel really good and today's match was good for me... to get out there and hit some balls and to get confidence in the first match."

Chang, 21, was relieved to

win his first match since a second-round loss at Key Biscayne. "This match is important for me to get a start on a good note, to do well here in Osaka. Whenever you come to a new place to start, the first match is always the most nerve-wracking."

In the second-round, Courier will take on Sandon Toile of Australia, who downed Patrik Kuhnen of Germany 3-6, 7-5, 6-3, while American Chang will play his compatriot Chuck Adams, the winner over Japan's Yasufumi Yamamoto Tuesday.

In other first-round action, fourth-seeded Brad Gilbert of the United States shrugged off his Davis Cup nightmare when overcame a first-set deficit to beat Chris Pridham of Canada 3-6, 6-2, 6-4.

Other winners included fifth-seeded Amos Mansdorf of Israel, Jeremy Bates of Britain, and doubles specialist Jim Grabb of the United States.

Sabatini wins easy, Graf struggles

HILTON HEAD, South Carolina, Mar 31: Top seeded Steffi Graf struggled while third seed Gabriela Sabatini won with ease in the second round of the 750,000 dollar Family Circles Cup women's tennis tournament on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

"Today I had no game plan at all for some reason," said Graf, who showed a lack of patience and committed an inordinate number of unforced errors.

"I'd have her off the court and I didn't come in. I don't want to look back on that match, really. It is over."

Graf had fonder memories to ponder. In 1986, she captured her first professional title on this Stadium Court.

"It was the first tournament that I ever won," said Graf. "I won it against Chris (Evert). A bit unexpected at the time. It's just great to look back, the way the people after I won were really cheering for me."

The top eight seeds received their first round byes.

The extra day of rest did not help Zina Garrison-Jackson. The eighth seed, who is suffering from a cold and sore throat, was ousted by fellow American Angelica

victory over American Beverly Bowes.

"I am here to win this tournament," said Sabatini. "I love this tournament and I had some very good results here."

A last minute decision Saturday night brought Graf here to play her first clay court tournament since the Federation Cup last July.

"I felt very comfortable," said Sabatini, who lost only seven points on serve in the first set and five points in the second.

Gavaldon 3-6, 6-0, 6-2.

Another seed to fall was number 10 Julie Halard of France, who lost 6-3, 7-5 to Argentine Ines Gorrochategui.

Sabatini barely exerted herself in her 53-minute match.

"I felt very comfortable," said Sabatini, who lost only seven points on serve in the first set and five points in the second.

"I have been playing very good tennis these last few weeks. I am hitting the ball very well."

Bowes did not do any better on her own serve, winning six points in the first set and five in the second.



GABRIELA SABATINI



STEFFI GRAF

Tennis in an English garden

LONDON, Mar 31: Wimbledon officials ended talks of a move to an alternative site by unveiling their "master plan" on Wednesday for the future of the world's most famous tennis tournament, reports Reuter.

There had been speculation a lack of space at the 70-year-old site in southwest London might force a move to another less traditional venue.

Instead, subject to planning permission from the local council, an ambitious building programme is planned with the aim of creating an image of "tennis in an English garden."

The multi-million pound project will involve building a new Number One court, slightly extending Centre Court and providing better facilities for spectators.

Work is not expected to start before 1995 and All England Club chairman John

Curry was coy about financial details.

"We never talk money at Wimbledon, it's obviously expensive," Curry said. "This is a great tournament but people have felt it has become very crowded. We're trying to make it less congested."

Chief executive Chris Gorringe admitted there was no guarantee planning permission would be granted but said: "Were confident we'll get that. We've always said we want to stay if possible. We're so excited about this plan that we're no longer looking at any other possibility."

The announcement prevents the alarming prospect of "Basingstoke fortnight", an event stripped of its unique history and charm in the town of Basingstoke or somewhere else outside London, but will still mean several changes for traditionalists.

In Hollywood film industry terms, the new stadium will be

a cross between Howards End and Star Trek.

The design plans to "improve for everyone the environment of Wimbledon" with country-house style brickwork, a gazebo and terraced picnic areas.

But underground tunnels, to provide players access to courts away from the crush of supporters, are a possibility, with standing areas ruled out in the new high-tech stadium.

Number One court will be the first project to be undertaken, an oval stadium which will seat around 11,000 people. The current Centre Court capacity of 13,100 is likely to be increased by only around 800 seats when work is completed on a "facilities" extension.

Curry did reveal discussions had taken place about putting a sliding roof over Centre Court, as at Flinders Park in Melbourne, but the idea was rejected.

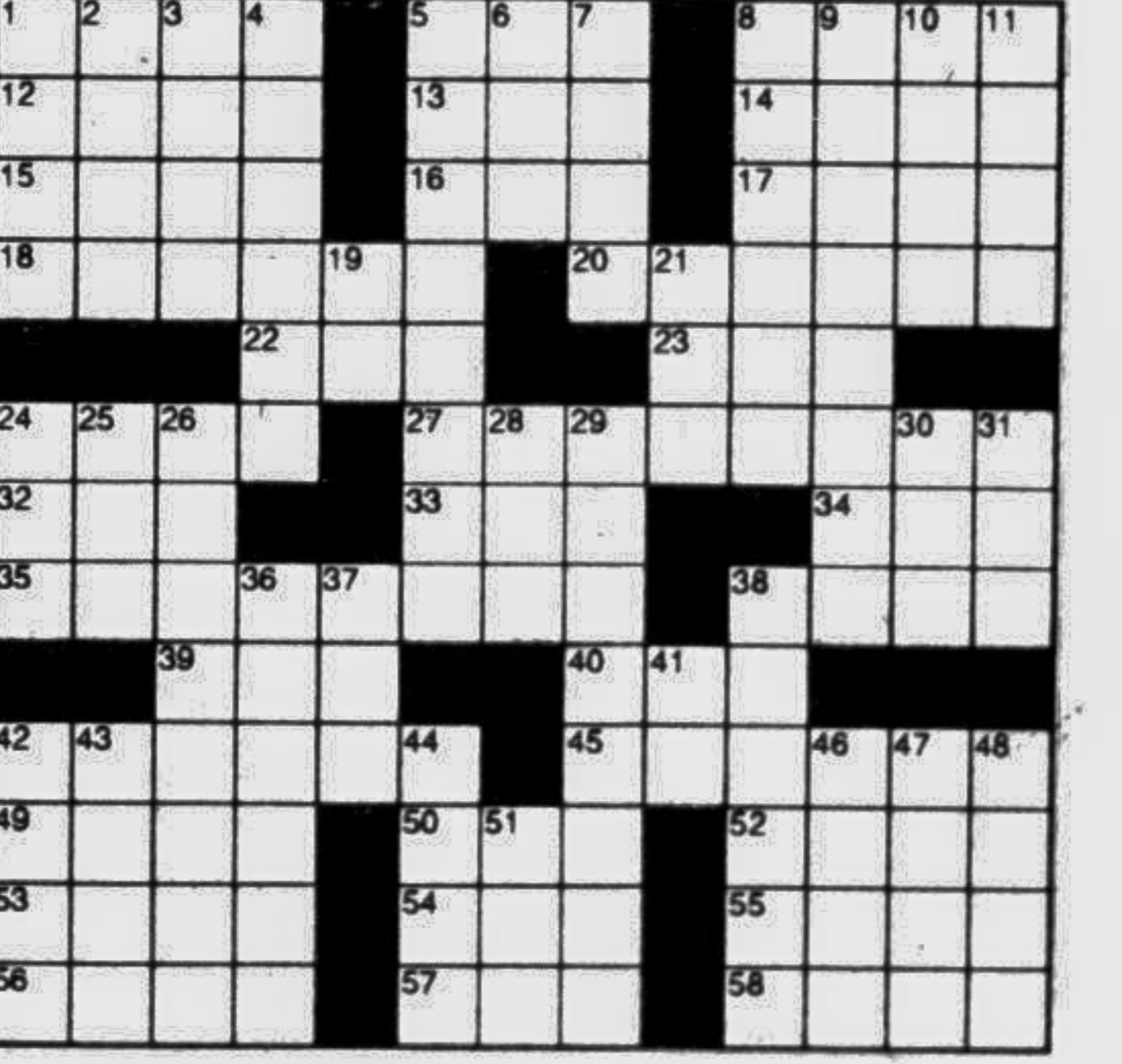
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Does a seamy job?
5 "So that's it!"
8 Do a pre-Christmas chore
12 Complain
13 Agent, for short
14 Satan's domain
15 PC owner
16 Chopper
17 Blue hue
18 Hereditary ruler
20 Newspaper section
22 Abbott's first baseman
23 Mainlander's souvenir
24 Hoosergow
27 Specialist recommended by GP, e.g.32 Coffee-maker
33 "Well, — bel!"
34 Bambi's aunt

35 Show and 2 together
38 Puts 2 together
39 "Ualume" poet
40 Talleyrand's "Affair"
42 Applied an undercoat
45 Visions
49 Take on
50 Suffer a recession?
52 Caron role
53 On the rocks
54 Feel poorly
55 Richard of late-show fame

56 Tramp's companion
57 Enemy
58 Intent's DOWN
1 Gulf War missile
2 Like child's play
3 Small songbird
4 Lie
spread-eagled
5 Handel's "Messiah," e.g.
6 Whammy
7 "Well"-financed org.?
8 The Pequod, for one
9 Essential
10 Astringent
11 Blueprint
19 "Be quiet!"
21 Bullring bravo
24 "Okla-homal" role
25 Jackie's second
26 Gave rise to
28 Urban trains
29 Not stiff
30 Also
31 Vegas opener?
36 Carson's forte
37 Michele of "Knots Landing"
38 Rhododendron's cousin
41 Teen girls' mag.
42 Oprah's rival
43 Costa —
44 Unhearing
46 Caron role
47 Character actor Jack
48 Trans-gressions
51 Story of a lifetime?



Solution time: 23 mins.

GEST TIA EFTS
AMOR ELM VIAL
FIRESALE ERMA
BREAK STREET
TYRE OTT
DEFY OXEN RED
ELI OMERS APE
WAR PERI SPIN
ESE TEAL
CABANA SINAI
ROUT FIREDOGS
INGE ETA ETAL
BESS ROY RARE

CRYPTOQUIP

ORL FUIS UKTNLZ'D
NUAKUZOTSE DFUEIS:
"FTLSUSAL"

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: CAN THE STOCK-BROKER'S FAVORITE OLD MOVIE BE "FATHER'S LITTLE DIVIDEND"?

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. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.