

Anderlecht's 22nd Belgian title

PARIS, Apr. 12: Anderlecht became the first club to wrap up a major European league championship when they secured their 22nd Belgian title with a 3-0 win over Liège on Saturday, reports AFP.

The two points gave the famous Brussels club an 11 point lead over second place Standard Liège, held to a 1-1 draw by Waregem, with five matches left to play. Reigning champions FC Bruges, who need to at least draw with Olympique Marseille next Wednesday to give Rangers a chance of making the European Cup final, were held to a scoreless draw by Beveren.

They are level with Waregem in third place and still on line for a place in next year's UEFA Cup. In Italy, Ruud Gullit saved AC Milan from defeat for the second time in three weeks in Saturday's Milan derby. Gullit, who headed a spectacular late equaliser against Torino two weeks ago, repeated the trick with a low shot across Walter Zenga six minutes from time after Nicola Berti put Inter ahead on the stroke of half-time.

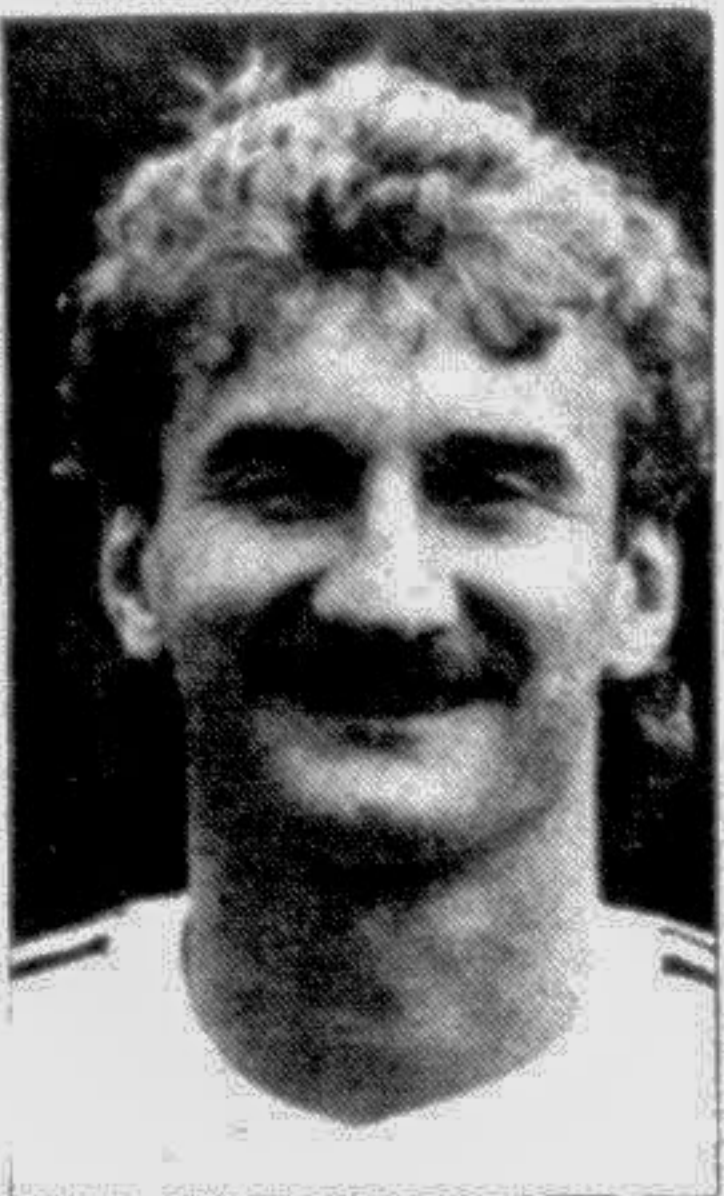
The draw killed off Internazionale's lingering hopes of preventing their neighbours from retaining the championship. Fabio Capello's men, despite taking only three points from their last four games, are seven points clear with only seven games left to play. Gullit still hasn't been offered a new contract for next season but his current form might prompt a change of heart from Milan's owner Silvio Berlusconi.

It will certainly give England manager Graham Taylor plenty to worry about as he prepares for the crucial World Cup qualifier against Holland at the end of the month. A double by Antonio Conte gave Juventus victory over Torino in the Turin derby match and lifted the struggling giants back to fifth place. The young midfielder opened the scoring after nine minutes and then got the winner nine minutes from time after Uruguayan Carlos Aguilera had put Torino on level terms in the 29th minute.

PARMA MARCH ON

Parma's run of blistering form that has seen them end AC Milan's unbeaten run and

get to the verge of a Cup Winners' Cup final appearance continued with a 3-1 home win over Cagliari that put them clear of Lazio in third. The striking duo of Sweden's Thomas Brodin and Colombian Faustino Asprilla did the trick again with a goal apiece after 16 and 57 minutes. Lorenzo Minotti restored Parma's advantage after Jose Herrera had equalised for the Sardinian outfit. Lazio were held in Rome by



RUDI VOELLER

Foggia after German striker Karl Heinz Riedle had put them ahead in the 28th minute. Denmark's Brian Laudrup and Argentinian Gabriel Batistuta put Fiorentina two up and in control against Brescia.

But after Batistuta was given his marching orders for a second bookable offence, the third-from-bottom club staged a fightback and two goals in a minute from the Romanian duo of George Hagi and Florin Raducioiu earned them a point.

In France, Croat striker Alen Boksic boosted his value for an expected close season move to Italy with another goal as Olympique Marseille got back to winning ways in the French league on Saturday.

Marseille, disappointed by a 1-1 European Cup draw with Glasgow Rangers in midweek in which Boksic was anonymous, bounced back to beat Sochaux 2-0. Rudi Voeller got the second after Boksic had opened the scoring with his 14th league goal this season.

The champions, aiming for a fifth title on the trot, stay two points ahead of Monaco who beat Caen 4-2.

Boksic still has another two seasons of his Marseille contract to run, but club officials

are ready to release him to fund the signing of Xavier Gravelaine, the Caen striker who leads the strikers table in France.

Voeller, 33 this week, now has 15 goals. The veteran German striker has played in two World Cup finals but has only an Italian Cup Winners medal, earned at Roma to show for his long club career.

SAD NIGHT FOR HUARD

Bordeaux climbed into third place with a 2-1 victory over Montpellier but it was still a sad night for Bordeaux goalkeeper Gatean Huard who conceded his first goal in a French league record of 1,175 minutes. His side are unbeaten in 14 games.

Paris St Germain beat bottom-of-the-table Nimes 1-0. Nimes coach Michel Mezy was dismissed from the touch line for protesting too much about the referee's decisions. Despite the presence of France centre back Laurent Blanc the southern club now seems destined for relegation.

BAYERN BOUNCE BACK

Bayern Munich bounced back from two straight defeats to beat Borussia Dortmund 2-0 and resume their clear leadership of the German league when the top four teams clashed head-on, on Saturday.

Closest rivals Werder Bremen's 15-match unbeaten run was wrecked by a 3-0 defeat at third-placed Eintracht Frankfurt.

Veteran Dutch midfielder Jan Wouters scored Bayern's first against Dortmund and former international Olaf Thon sealed victory with a late penalty.

Bremen, meanwhile, equal on points with Bayern before Saturday's clashes, never recovered from the shock of conceding an Edgar Schmitt goal right on half-time.

Eintracht are now one point behind Bremen and three behind Bayern.

At the other end of the table, once-mighty Cologne were left anchored in the relegation zone after losing 2-1 at home to Borussia Monchengladbach. Uwe Fuchs' late strike proving no consolation after second-half goals by Martin Schneider and Swedish international Martin Dahlin.

Bayer Urdingen and VfL Bochum, immediately below Cologne, picked up points, Urdingen seeing off visiting Nuremberg 2-1 and Bochum holding Karlsruhe to a 2-2 draw at home.

Milan no more under pressure

MILAN, Apr. 12: AC Milan's 1-1 draw against city rivals Internazionale may not have mathematically wrapped up the Italian soccer championship, but it has effectively removed any remaining pressure on them ahead of the European Cup final, reports Reuter.

Second-placed Inter represented the last, remote challenge to AC Milan retaining their league title, but after Saturday's draw Milan remain seven points clear with seven games left.

With matches against the likes of Udinese, Ancona, Brescia and Genoa, Milan should be able to clinch the championship without undue fuss, leaving themselves with a pressure-free preparation for next month's European Cup final.

Normally cautious coach Fabio Capello said after

Saturday's game: "The only league table that interests me is the final one."

"However, I have to admit that with this situation I can now work calmly until the (European Cup) final and through to the end of the championship."

A well-taken equaliser from Ruud Gullit seven minutes from the end saved the day for Milan and strengthened the Dutchman's hand in ongoing talks about the renewal of his contract.

Milan qualified for the May 26 European Cup final in Munich when they beat Sweden's IFK Gothenburg 1-0 on Wednesday.

Their last semifinal series game at home to Dutch champions PSV Eindhoven next week has become irrelevant and Capello will field a mainly reserve side, avoiding the risk of having a first choice player suspended for the final.

The Turin derby had a dis-

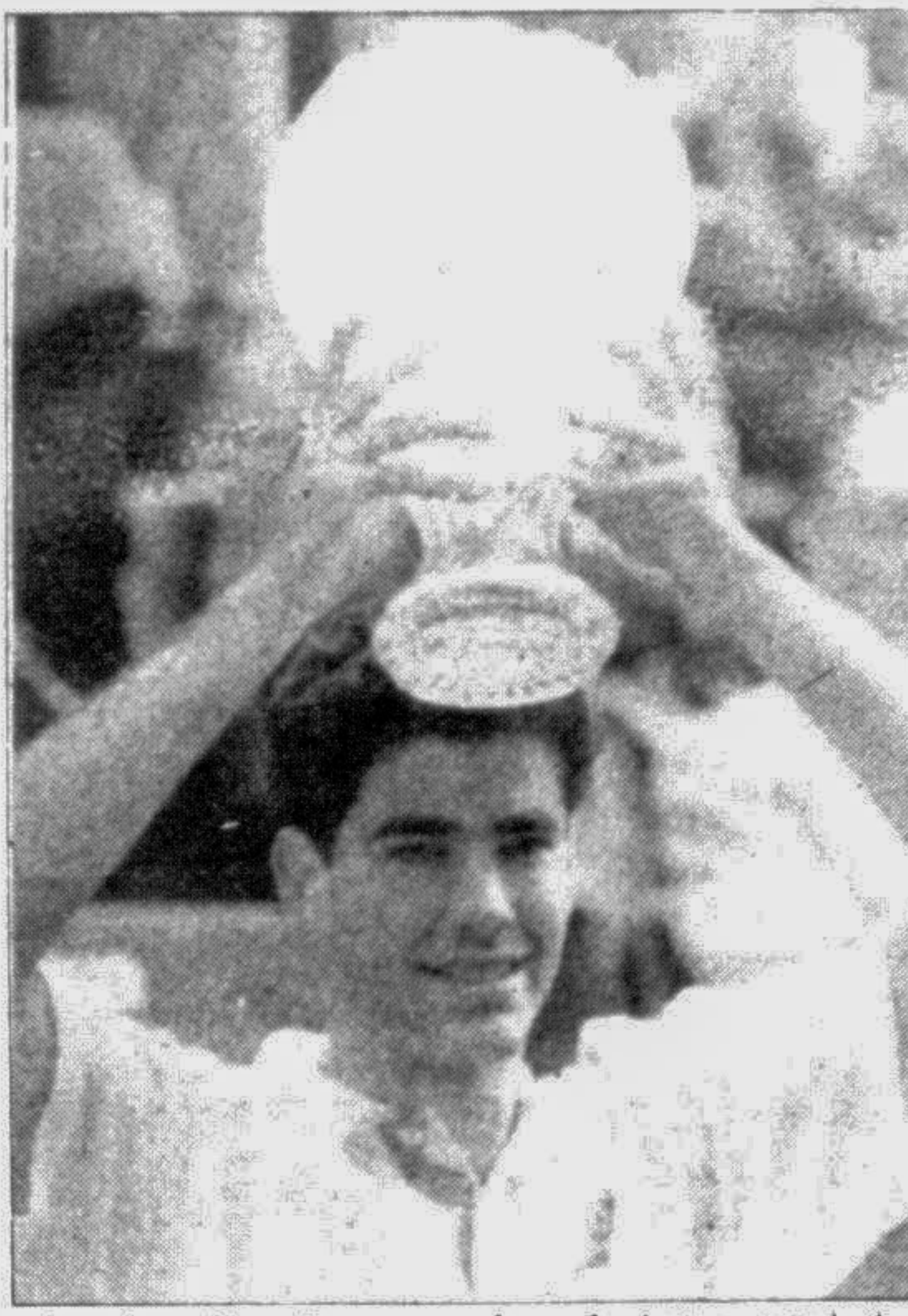
tingly anti-climactic feel about it with Juventus avenging their recent Italian Cup semifinal elimination by Torino with a 2-1 win.

Juventus striker Gianluca Vialli, a second half substitute, proved decisive with a fine cross from which midfielder Antonio Conte scored the winner nine minutes from time.

The victory, four days after a 2-1 UEFA Cup semifinal first leg win over Paris St Germain, would suggest Juventus have found their best form following a bad league run.

Coach Giovanni Trapattoni said: "A lot of superficial television judgements recently have upset me. People forget that for nearly all my players, this derby was the 10th game in little more than a month."

Juventus's form will be thoroughly tested next Saturday when they meet AC Milan in a match brought forward because of their UEFA Cup second leg.



American Pete Sampras, who only just secured the number one slot by leafrogging over fellow countryman Jim Courier, holds his Japan Open crystal trophy aloft after the final where he beat another American, Brad Gilbert in Tokyo Sunday. — AFP photo

Sanchez ends Sabatini's reign

AMELIA ISLAND, Florida, Apr. 12: Top-seeded Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, the hottest player on the women's circuit, beat two-time defending champion Gabriela Sabatini 6-2, 5-7, 6-2 on Sunday in the final of the \$75,000 dollar Bausch and Lomb tennis championships, reports Reuter.

"I know I'm playing very well," said Sanchez-Vicario after picking up her 10th career title.

"For sure, the players know that I'm in my best shape and hitting the ball very well. I'm number three, I'm strong and I'm consistent," the Spaniard added.

Although Sabatini has won 11 of 18 career meetings between the finalists, Sanchez-Vicario has won the last four. Another factor in her favour Sunday was that her coach for the past month, Carlos Kirmayr, spent the last three years working with Sabatini.

Neither player, however, thought information Kirmayr could provide about Sabatini's game was the difference.

"He knew Gaby well, but the last three times I beat her without him," Sanchez-Vicario said. "He can help me, but I've still got to play."

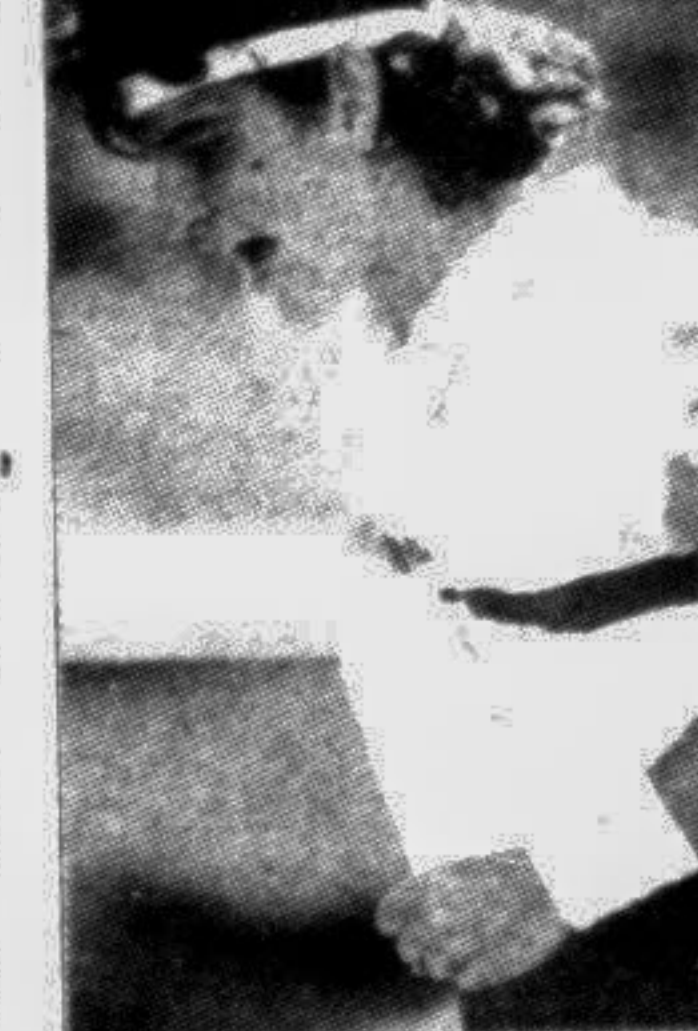
The two-hour 45-minute final was a wonderful display of tennis on both sides of the net.

"I moved the ball very well, changed the pace, hit a lot of drop shots and went to the net," said Sanchez-Vicario. "She didn't know what I was going to do."

After a slow start, Sanchez-Vicario took control of the match. She won eight consecutive games during one stretch—closing out the first

set and taking a 2-0 lead in the second. Just when it appeared Sabatini was headed for a lopsided defeat, the defending champion battled back. She held serve in the third game of the third set and broke Sanchez-Vicario three games later to pull even at 3-3.

"I got more aggressive, going to the net more, taking risks. That's the only way I can



ARANTXA SANCHEZ

beat her," Sabatini said. "I made a lot of mistakes, but I won a lot of points, too."

Sabatini squandered four set points before finally prevailing 7-5. She led 2-1 in the third set before Sanchez-Vicario, who got a second-wind during a three-minute injury timeout, regained control and won the last five games of the match.

"I was tired at the end, not moving the same way," Sabatini

said. "It was hard to attack." Sanchez-Vicario, who has been playing with a sprained ankle, tripped and fell during the first game of the last set. The spill caused an anxious moment, but didn't slow her down.

"It didn't bother me at all," she said. "The way I finished shows I'm in good shape. It feels real good."

"If I was a little bit more strong I could've won the match," said Sabatini. "I was a little tired and it's hard to try and attack when your legs are not the same."

Usually more comfortable at the baseline in a slugfest, Sanchez-Vicario ventured to the net frequently in the final set and broke serve in the fifth and seventh games.

The 75,000 victory was her first at this event and marked her fourth successive appearance in a final.

She successfully defended her Lipton Championships title in Key Biscayne, Florida, last month with a win over second-ranked Steffi Graf.

Graf was responsible for both her recent final losses—at the Virginia Slims of Florida in March and the Family Circle Magazine, Cup last week.

Sabatini was gunning for her first title since winning the 1992 Italian Open last May. She lost to Martina Navratilova in her only other final appearance since Italy at Filderstadt, Germany in October.

She is not concerned she has not visited the winner's circle in almost a year.

"I'm not thinking about that," said Sabatini, who took home \$30,000 dollars. "I'm not worried. I just need to play these kinds of matches and win them."

At least they have tennis

CHENEY, Wash., Apr. 12: The news from Bosnia and Croatia is painful for Sejla Serifovic and Tina Dlouhy, whose homelands have been torn by ethnic war, reports AP.

But at least they have tennis. The two are top doubles partners on Eastern Washington University's tennis team.

The young roommates have drawn strength from one another in dealing with the violence in former Yugoslavia.

"So many times, I think I wouldn't make it if Sejla wasn't here," Dlouhy said. "When I'm down, she always tries to be up and get me happy again."

Sejla comes from a Muslim family, although Sejla said neither she nor Tina, nor their families, actively practice their religions.

They were undefeated in doubles competition until last week. And as of Monday, Dlouhy was 6-5 as the Eagles top singles player, while Serifovic was 10-1 in the No. 2 slot. This week, Serifovic was named the Big Sky Conference's women's tennis player of the week.

As doubles partners, Dlouhy's net-skimming ground strokes provide most of the power, while Serifovic adds finesse.

In the classroom, both freshmen are honours stu-

dents. Dlouhy is considering pre-medical studies, while Serifovic is aiming for a business degree.

Both women came to Washington high schools on exchange programmes. The two had never played each other in Europe, but they quickly meshed in Cheney.

Serifovic, 18, is from Tuzla, Bosnia; Dlouhy, 19, is from Osijek, Croatia.

"They have to be really concerned about what's going on (in former Yugoslavia), but they don't let it interfere with their concentration," tennis coach Sunya Herold said.

Despite their success in this country, they must come to grips with the situation at home.

Bosnian Serbs, backed by Serb-dominated Yugoslavia, have seized 70 percent of Bosnia since majority Muslims and Croats voted for independence from Belgrade in February 1992. More than 134,000 people—some reports say 200,000—are dead or missing. Two million more are homeless.

"Most of the time we feel guilty," Dlouhy said. "It's really hard—especially after we talk to our parents."

"I'm totally glad I'm out of there," Serifovic said. "Not just because of the war, but because of the way it is destroying people's minds. I'd be 18 with no life and no goals there."

Home wins for Canada, Mexico

VANCOUVER, Canada, Apr. 12: Canada and Mexico scored home wins in their World Cup CONCACAF zone qualifying matches Sunday—Canada defeating El Salvador 2-0 in Vancouver and Mexico scoring a 3-0 win over Honduras in Mexico City despite being reduced to ten men of the match, reports AFP.

Canada, who drew their opening away qualifying match 2-2 with Honduras, never looked back against El Salvador after taking the lead through two first-half goals from Bunbury (26) and Catliff (33).

Mexico, by contrast, needed two late goals to seal victory over Honduras.

They had taken the lead through Flores after just nine minutes but lost their momentum after having Herrera sent off after 27 minutes.

The home supporters had to wait until a Sanchez penalty 13 minutes from time to add to their score.

Pioneer soccer

Sports Reporter

Coming from behind Dipali Juba Sangha edged past Swadesh Samaj Kallyan Sangha by two goals to one in the Janata Bank Pioneer football super league at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

Amjad had placed Swadesh in the lead in the 12th minute of the first half when he shot from close (1-0).

Masum drew level for Dipali towards the end of the first session (1-1).

Jalal scored the winner for Dipali two minutes after the breather (2-1).

Kashatuli Samaj Kallyan Parishad shared points with Rayshahab Bazar Tarun Sangha in a scoreless draw in the other match of the day. TODAY'S MATCHES: Mottijheel T&T vs Shatalal Sangha (2:45 pm) MSPSC vs Kawran Bazar PS (4:15 pm)

Finnberg's title

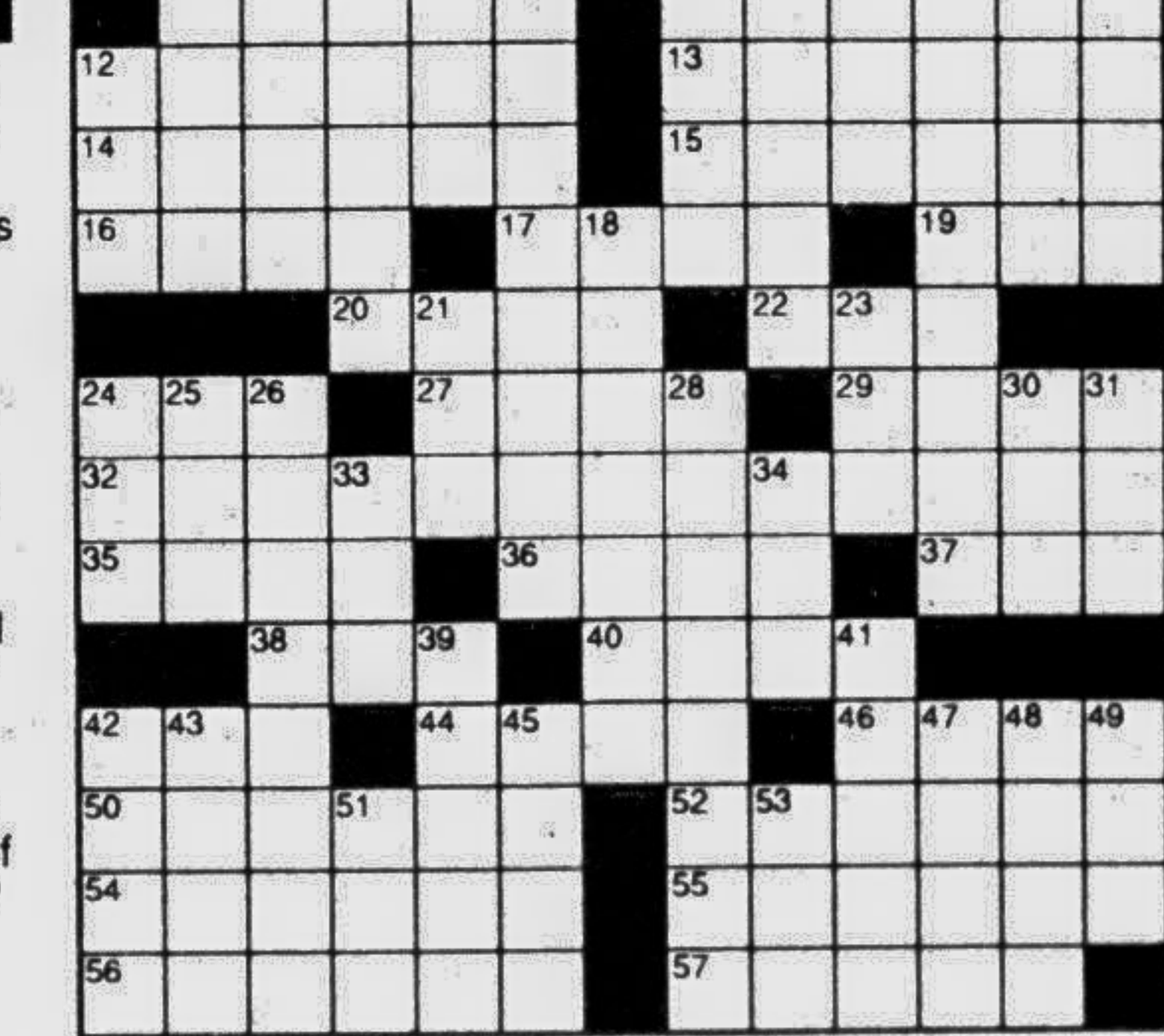
KUALA LUMPUR, Apr. 12: Axel Finnberg of Germany needed just four points in a tiebreak Monday to complete a 7-6 (7-5), 7-6, (7-3) victory over Clementi N'Goran of the Ivory Coast for the singles title of a Malaysia Satellite Circuit tennis tournament, reports AP.

Rain stopped the match Sunday with Finnberg leading 3-1 in the second-set tiebreak.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS 38 — Yankee Doodle... 1 Graduation garb 6 Less sophisticated 12 Curie's find 13 Power failure 14 Awn 15 Classics IV song 16 Kilmer inspiration 17 Danny's Mrs. 19 Museum stuff 20 Android on the new "Star Trek" 22 Salamander 24 Corsiere's offering 27 Pianist Peter 29 Singer Stansfield 32 Eve Arden TV oldie 35 0 36 Bridge score-pad heading 37 Pinch

- 2 Garfield's pal 3 — up (became informed) 4 Eccentric 5 Closest to Einstein? 6 C#, e.g. 7 Emanations 8 Call — day 9 Holiday 10 German-Czech river 11 What-ever's left 12 Scoundrel 18 With roughness 21 Blackbird of puzzle-dom 23 A waitress at Mel's 24 a/k/a Dickens 25 Wish undone 26 Incoming planes 28 Deeply respectful 30 Emulate Killy 31 Venomous viper 33 Symbol of America? 39 Fall bloomer 41 Great apprehension 42 Rendered hog fat 43 — fixer 45 Heiper: abbr. 47 Have an — grind 48 Layer 49 Corn serving 51 Sales pitch? 53 Roman-ian coin



CRYPTOQUIP ASKH DLJZD QXNSKIGYH ALJDK Y HJIKE, DSK HYLLYDXIK AYN NDLKYG JQ TJHNTXJZNHKNN Yesterday's Cryptquip: SAID MY PAL, "I'M GOING TO GIVE UP GAMBLING FOREVER." "YOU'D BETTOR!" Today's Cryptquip clue: A equals W The Cryptquip 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.



A midfield tussle during the Janata Bank Pioneer soccer super league match between Rayshahab Bazar Tarun Sangha and Kashatuli Juba Sangha at the Outer Stadium yesterday. The match ended goalless. — Star photo