

Medvedev's march continues

MONTE CARLO, Apr 20: Rising star Andrei Medvedev continued his hot clay-court play Tuesday with a 6-4, 6-0, victory over Tom Nijssen of the Netherlands at the dlr's 1.65 million Monte Carlo Open, reports AP.

Medvedev, the No 7 seed from Ukraine, won the last seven games of the second-round match as his powerful ground strokes forced Nijssen into errors.

In a first-round match, American Aaron Krickstein, who lost in the final last year to Austrian Thomas Muster, beat No 13 seed Henrik Holm of Sweden, 6-1, 6-2. Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands defeated Swede Thomas Enqvist, 7-5, 6-1.

Medvedev, 18, won his first two tournaments of the year on clay at Estoril, Portugal and Barcelona, Spain. That raised his career titles to five, all on clay, and boosted his ranking to No 11 in the world. A year ago he was not in the top 200 in the rankings.

With five titles before his 19th birthday in August, he joined an elite list of teenage winners. Only Boris Becker, Bjorn Borg, Mats Wilander (9 each) and Andre Agassi (7) had more as 18-year-olds.

Becker, now 25, is the second seed at Monte Carlo, where he has a home. He lost in the second round of the Nice tennis tournament last week on his return to the circuit after being out almost two months because of viral infections.

Stefan Edberg, who lost in the semifinals at Nice to Marc Gocliner, a German qualifier, is the top seed of the Monte

Carlo event, one of the nine "Super Series" tournament of the ATP Tour in addition to the Grand Slams. On Monday, Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands, the No 9 seed, and two former champions, Andrei Chesnokov of Russia and Sergi Bruguera of Spain, advanced to the second round.

Krajicek ousted German Bernd Karbacher, 6-1, 6-2. Russian Chesnokov, tour-



ANDREI MEDVEDEV named winner three years ago but unseeded this time, made short work of Brazilian baseliner Luiz Mattar 6-0, 6-4.

The unpredictable Chesnokov demolished his opponent in the opening set, which he wrapped up in just 24 minutes, though Mattar put up stiffer resistance in the second.

Bruguera, who beat Monaco resident Boris Becker in the 1991 final, came through a tough first round match with Italian clay court specialist Renzo Furlan, unscathed with a

useful 6-4, 6-4 win.

The 11th seed's victory came on a great day for the Spanish clay court contingent.

Bruguera was the fifth Spaniard in action and the fifth to go through to the second round after wins by 14th seed Carlos Costa, Emilio Sanchez, Francisco Clavet and qualifier Alex Corretja.

By contrast, it was a far less enjoyable day for the home nation.

Despite its name, the Monte Carlo Open is played on French territory just across the border from the principality but France suffered more than its fair share of disappointments.

Number 15 Arnaud Boetsch became the first seed to go out when he lost 3-6, 6-4, 6-1 to Uruguayan Marcelo Filippini and his compatriots were quick to follow his example.

Rodolphe Gilbert and Olivier Delatre went down the same road, winning their first sets against Russian Andrei Cherkasov and Tom Nijssen of the Netherlands respectively, before losing in three.

But Davis Cup stalwart Guy Forget stopped the rot with an excellent 6-4, 6-4 win over Goran Prpic of Croatia, semifinalist in Monaco for the past two years but a qualifier this time.

"He was the toughest of all the qualifiers," Forget said. "He beat me 6-2, 6-1 two years ago but I knew I could turn it round."

"I was extremely pleased, not just by my win but by the way I played."

The top eight seeds in the tournament, including Stefan Edberg, Boris Becker and Ivan Lendl, have byes into the second round.

Matete's ban overturned

LUSAKA, Apr 20: Zambia's sports council Tuesday overturned a ban on world 400-metre hurdles champion Samuel Matete for allegedly receiving illegal payments overseas, reports AP.

The ban had been ordered Sunday by Zambian Amateur Athletic Association secretary General Godfrey Mwanza. He said Matete had been illegally paid for competing in international Amateur Athletic Federation fixtures while on a scholarship to the United States.

"There is no way we will allow Mr Mwanza to proceed with the ban," National Sports Council of Zambia chairman Tom Mtine said Tuesday. "He acted without consulting other members of his association."

Mtine called it "a unilateral decision that will not stand."

Mwanza was not immediately available for comment. Fellow members of the Zambian association said they had not been approached by Mwanza on the issue.

Matete, supported by American coach Steve Stively, earlier threatened to renounce his Zambian citizenship and compete for any other country that would have him if the ban was upheld.

But Matete had strong support against the ban from home and abroad.

Mwanza's ban threatened to keep Matete away from the season's opening Grand Prix meet in Sao Paulo, Brazil on May 16. But Mtine said that since the ban was invalid Matete would compete as scheduled.

Matete won the world title with a time of 47.64 at the 1991 World Championships in Tokyo. The next championships are in August in Stuttgart, Germany.



Cosmas N'Deti of Kenya receives flowers and a laurel wreath after winning the men's event at the Boston Marathon on April 19 with a time of 2:09:32. Kim Jae-Young of South Korea finished second clocking 2:09:43. — AFP photo

N'Deti wins Boston Marathon

BOSTON, Apr 20: Unheralded Cosmas N'Deti of Kenya exceeded his own expectations and surprised the strongest field in many years to win the 97th Boston Marathon on Monday, while Russian Olga Markova defended her women's title in a runaway, reports Reuter.

While the women's race was devoid of drama with Markova leading from start to finish and winning by more than 4-1/2 minutes, for the men it was a battle to the end by a three-some of relative unknowns who rose to the occasion against a world class field.

N'Deti, who makes his home in Liverpool, England, won his first Boston Marathon in a respectable, but far from blistering two hours nine minutes 33 seconds.

The finish, however, was perhaps the most dramatic in Boston since 1988, when the margin of victory was a single second; as the top three places changed hands three times with less than three miles (4.8 km) to go and N'Deti held on to win by just 10 seconds.

But rather than outpacing the favourites, who included three time and defending champion Ibrahim Hussein of Kenya, David Isebe of South Africa, who ran the fastest marathon last year, and Hiromi Taniguchi of Japan, ranked number one in the world in 1992, N'Deti outdured Kim Jae-Young of South Korea, took second, and Lucketz

Swartboot of Namibia, who was third.

Hussein dropped out of the hunt for his fourth Boston victory at mile 18 (29 km) suffering from a pain in his side, and of the pre-race favourites only Taniguchi finished in the top-10. He was fourth, nearly a 1-1/2 minutes off the pace.

"I was derailed by that side stitch," said Hussein. Uncomfortably warm temperatures for a marathon — around 70 degrees (21 C) by the end of the race — also took its toll on some of the favourites.

"I think we underestimated the weather," added Hussein. N'Deti, 30, made his move at mile 24 to pass Kim. One mile (1.6 km) later, he passed Swartboot, who had held what

seemed a comfortable lead from about the halfway point.

Then Kim, who looked to be struggling as he came off the notorious "Heartbreak Hill" at mile 21 (33.6 km), found a third wind to overtake Swartboot in the last mile.

"My expectation was only to try to run to qualify for the World Championships," said a delighted N'Deti.

"My friend Benson Masya helped me very much," he said of his compatriot who assisted with N'Deti's pacing.

"When we were around four miles to go, I just pushed," he said.

N'Deti said one look at his chief rival told him that victory was within reach.

"When I came up beside him (Swartboot), I looked in his face to know if I could beat him," he said. "I knew I could."

Swartboot, asked if he was surprised at his performance in his first Boston Marathon, replied, "Yes, of course. I wanted to be in a good position only."

Markova, who won with a time of 2:25:27, said through a translator that the victory took away the pain of not winning in the Olympics.

Markova skipped her nation's Olympic trials for the Barcelona Games to compete here in 1992 and went on to record the fastest time of the year.

American Kim Jones was second in the women's race in 2:30:00 and Carmen de Oliveira of Brazil was third in 2:31:18.

The winners each received 65,000 dollars.

Benn bout June 5

LONDON, Apr 20: Nigel Benn will put his WBC super-middleweight crown on the line against fellow Briton Lou Cent at Olympia Hall in London on June 5, organizers announced Thursday, reports AP.

It will be Benn's third defense of the title. In his most recent defense, he outpointed Italy's Mauro Galvano in Glasgow, Scotland, last month.

When the Devils are haunted

PITTSBURGH, Apr 20: No matter where they turn these days, the New Jersey Devils can't get away from Mario Lemieux, reports AP.

Turn on TV, and he's on news and sports programmes. Turn to the local newspaper, and there's another feature story about Lemieux's dramatic comeback from cancer. Pick up Sports Illustrated, and he's on the cover.

Most of all, the one place the Devils don't want to see hockey's greatest scorer is in their zone, pouring pucks past goaltender Chris Terreri or making highlight-film passes to his linemates for easy goals.

In the first game of the Patrick Division semifinals Sunday, that's exactly where the Devils saw Lemieux — with the puck, bearing down on Terreri, that familiar look of can't-stop-me determination in his eyes. The Devils know all too well what that means: red lights flashing and sirens screaming.

Devils coach Herb Brooks hinted before the series started of a secret game plan to harness — and, perhaps, harass — hockey's greatest scorer, but that strategy wasn't

visible in Game 1.

And, unless it materializes Tuesday in Game 2, unless they somehow contain a player who has been next to unstoppable for six weeks, the Devils face going home with a 2-0 deficit against the two-time defending Stanley Cup champions.

"We've got some things when we can do, yeah, but I won't get into that," Brooks said.

He probably doesn't even want to think about getting into that.

The Penguins think Brooks' strategy might be to aggravate Lemieux with a poke here or a loose stick there, to cause minor flareups that might prompt retaliations from Ulf Samuelsson or Rick Tocchet or Kevin Stevens or Jaromir Jagr.

The tactic has been tried before, but it doesn't work unless the Penguins retaliate in kind. And, when it doesn't work, it allows the NHL's second-best power-play unit to score three goals, as it did in Game 1.

"Teams can't play as aggressive as they want against us, because we have that great power play," said Tocchet, who scored 1:40 into the game after Dave Barr's stick infraction against Lemieux. "They

can't take the stupid or aggressive penalties."

Brooks, considered one of hockey's premier strategists, said he will make adjustments to his penalty-killing unit before Game 2. He has no choice.

"We just have to play our game and make them adjust to us," Tocchet said. "We don't have to adjust to them. We were 32 points better than them during the regular season."

Those aren't the only points that concern the Devils. Lemieux had two goals and two assists, giving him 45 goals and 100 points in 50 career NHL playoff games. Only 39 other NHL players have second in triple-digits, none in fewer than 84 games. He also has 32 goals and 28 assists in his 21 games since returning from his Hodgkin's disease radiation treatments.

Lemieux's appetite is back and the fatigue he felt for weeks is slowly fading away. Due to his layoff, Lemieux has played in about one-third fewer games than most of his teammates, and his legs feel strong and his back feels good.

"I feel good right now," he said. "I'm getting my strength back and I'm not as sore after games as I was before. I'm close to 100 per cent."

WTA's leading money winners

ST PETERSBURG, Florida, Apr 20: Top 20 women's tennis players, according to rankings issued by the Women's Tennis Association on Monday:

1. Monica Seles (Yugoslavia)
2. Steffi Graf (Germany)
3. Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario (Spain)
4. Martina Navratilova (US)
5. Gabriela Sabatini (Argentina)
6. Mary Joe Fernandez (US)
7. Jennifer Capriati (US)
8. Conchita Martinez (Spain)
9. Jana Novotna (Czech Republic)
10. Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere (Switzerland)
11. Anke Huber (Germany)
12. Amanda Coetzer (South Africa)
13. Nathalie Tauziat (France)
14. Magdalena Maleeva (Bulgaria)
15. Helena Sukova (Czech Republic)
16. Mary Pierce (France)
17. Katerina Maleeva (Bulgaria)
18. Kimiko Date (Japan)
19. Lori McNeil (US)
20. Zina Garrison-Jackson (US)

Palacio is HIV positive

BOGOTA, Apr 20: Former featherweight boxing champion Ruben Dario Palacio tested HIV positive in Colombia on Monday, confirming a British blood test that lost the boxer his title last week, reports AP.

The specialists have informed the boxer that his tests were positive, validating the results in Great Britain, said a communiqué from Palacio's agent, The Boxing Company of the Americas.

The World Boxing Organization stripped Palacio of his featherweight title last week after he tested positive for the virus.

After returning to Bogota from London on Friday, the boxer told reporters that he didn't trust the British tests and that a mistake had been made.

Honeyghan out of hospital

LONDON, Apr 20: Former world welterweight champion Lloyd Honeyghan was released from a hospital Thursday after being struck in the head with a hammer by a former sparring partner, reports AP.

Darren Dyer, 26, was charged with attacking Honeyghan and will appear in court next month, Scotland Yard said.

Honeyghan, the current Commonwealth light-middleweight champion, was attacked Wednesday at the Thomas A'Becket gym in south London. He was there to watch the weigh-in for a British light-middleweight fight.

Honeyghan, 32, spent the night at Guy's hospital, where he was treated for head injuries. X-rays showed there was no skull fracture, and he was released Thursday morning.

Weightlifting enters new era

SOFIA, Apr 20: Weightlifting enters a new era at the European Championships this week with top officials hoping to streamline the sport and bury its drug-ridden past, reports Reuter.

New weight categories will be in use at a major event for the first time, with the stress-shifting to lower and middle divisions at the expenses of heavyweights.

Fewer world records have been broken in the drugs crackdown since the Seoul Olympics, where five weightlifters were disqualified after dope tests, making for less excitement.

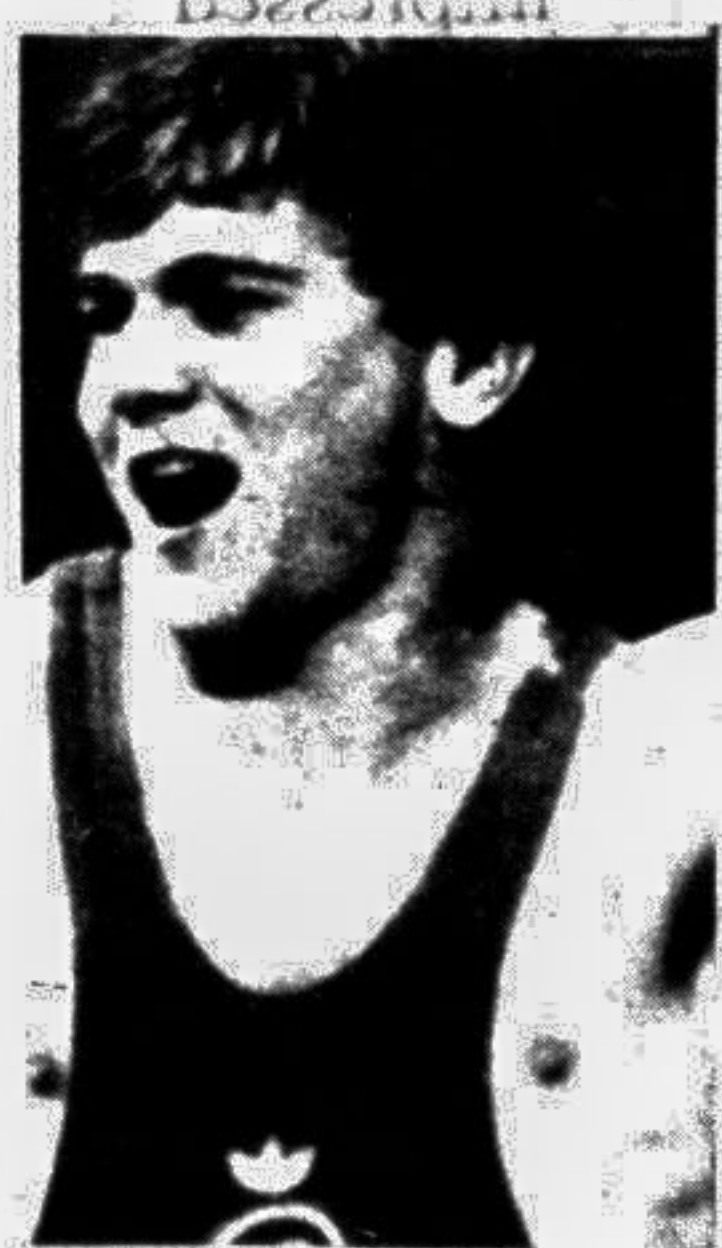
The new categories, agreed by the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) last November after seven years of study, provide a fresh field for records.

They should also have a useful psychological effect, offering the chance for a new start in a sport which has had more than its fair share of scandals.

"One of the main reasons for the changes was that the old categories did not corre-

spond to modern times," IWF president Gottfried Schoedel said.

"Over the past 70 years, the human body has physically de-



NAIM SULEYMANOGLU

veloped and altered and this had to be taken into consideration.

"Of course, the question of doping was also a factor for the changes and a new beginning, but it was certainly not the main reason," he added.

When the championships get under way on Wednesday, one familiar face will be absent, that of Bulgarian defector Naim Suleymanoglu, and Olympic gold medalist in Seoul and Barcelona.

Suleymanoglu, who is not currently in active competition, wanted to return to his homeland for the first time since he defected to Turkey in 1986 and had planned to come as a spectator, but Turkish federation officials feared for his life.

Local organisers feel that with the ousting of the communist regime in 1989, special security measures are unnecessary.

In the absence of Suleymanoglu, Ivan Ivanov may prove to be the major attraction. The tiny Bulgaria, who caught the imagination of the Barcelona public, hopes to add the European title to his world and Olympic crowns.

Ivanov is one of five 1992 Olympic champions on view.

Around the world with IOC

ATLANTA, Apr 20: With pins, stickers, T-shirts and an endless capacity for hand-shaking, lobbyists for cities seeking the Olympic Games follow the International Olympic Committee around the world, reports AP.

Last month's IOC meetings in Atlanta, site of the 1996 Summer Games, have an added lure because the city achieved a somewhat legendary status among Olympic lobbyists with its underdog quest to play host to the Games.

Representatives of the six cities seeking to be host of the Summer Games in the year 2000 freely handed out paraphernalia from booths strategically placed just outside the IOC's meeting rooms: they hung colourful banners from the balconies at the hotel where the IOC members were staying.

"Atlanta has some invaluable lessons for all of us," said Alan Hoskins, a member of the Sydney 2000 committee.

In addition to lobbying the IOC members who will pick the site of the 2000 Games in September, the bid cities also sought guidance from the Atlantans.

"One of the things that happens when you win is you become an expert," said Bob Brennan, spokesman for the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games. "I know how they feel because they're asking the same questions we asked three years ago."

Besides Sydney, the contenders for the 2000 Games are Beijing, Peoples Republic of China; Manchester, England; Istanbul, Turkey; Berlin, Germany; and Brasilia, Brazil.

It's difficult for a visitor to walk a few feet in the IOC meeting area of the Hyatt

Regency Hotel without being handed a glossy brochure touting a city's readiness for the world's ultimate sporting event or having a shiny pin a fixed to a lapel.

Though the bid cities, pursuing the prestige and economic gain that comes with being host of an Olympics, will make officials presentations to the IOC before the decision is made, the selling here is mostly informal.

It's mingling with the crowd, said IOC spokeswoman Michele Verdier.

The cities will get just one more mass lobbying opportunity when the IOC meets in June for the opening of the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Atlanta's experience has been studied closely, both by darkhorse candidates seeking inspiration and by front-runners anxious about another upstart lurking in the pack.

"Atlanta was an underdog

Beyer no more

MAYENCE, Germany, Apr 20: Former West German hammer world record holder Uwe Beyer died Thursday while playing tennis, reports AP.

Beyer, aged 45, had a heart attack while on a holiday in Belek, Turkey.

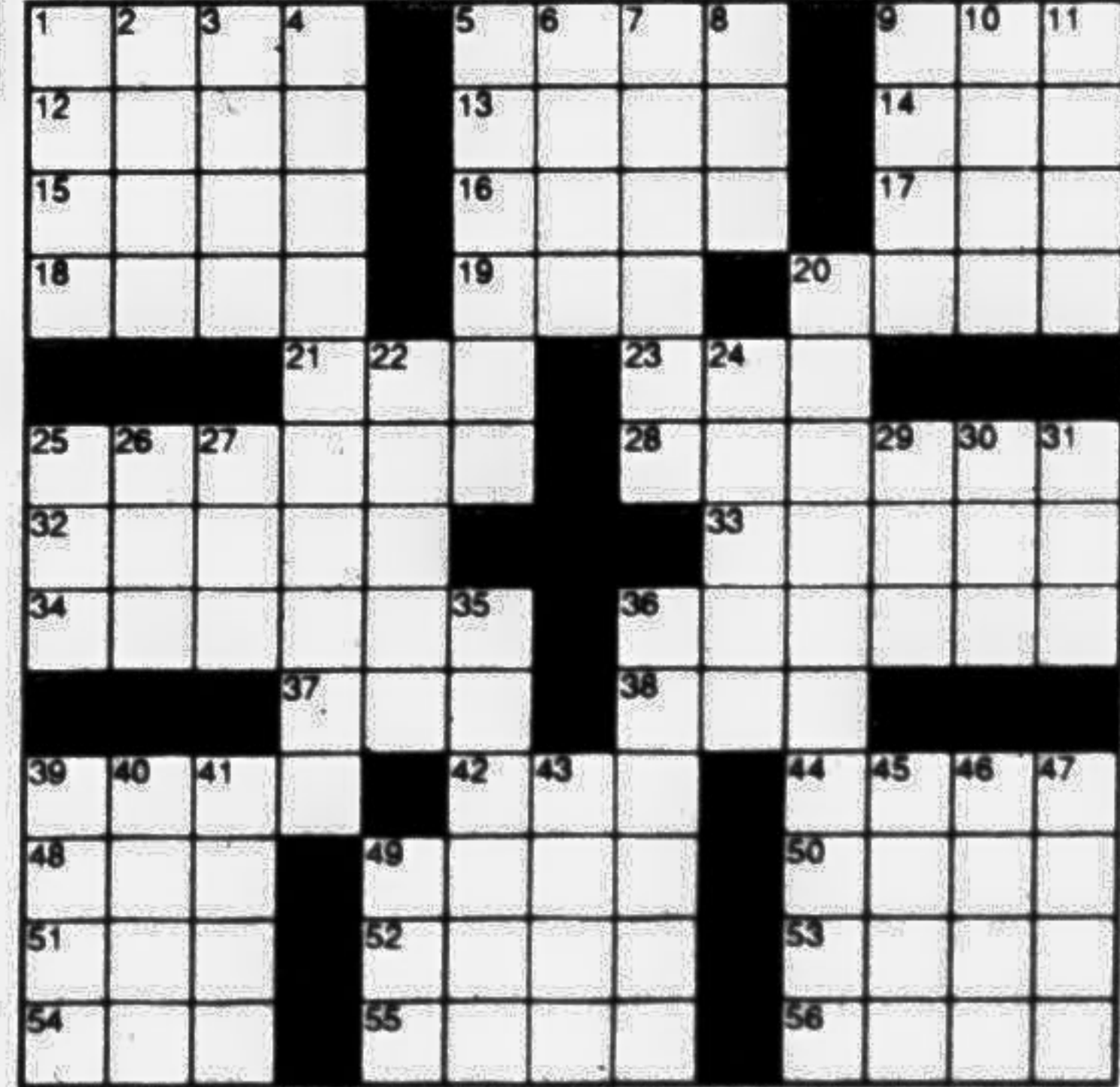
Born in Timmendorf, near Lubeck, he became European champion in 1971 with a throw of 72.36 metres and broke the world record in the same year, throwing 74.30 metres.

Between 1964-1971 he won the German title eight times.

He first came to prominence in 1964, when he won the bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympic Games at the age of 19.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| ACROSS | 44 Clumsy craft | 3 Admitting a draft | 24 Moved in a curve |
| 1 Alumnus, for short | 48 Spring-steen's birthplace? | 4 Pongo, Perdita, and clan | 25 Ain't no more |
| 5 Runs up the phone bill | 49 Garfield's pal | 5 Overly ornate | 26 See 1 Down |
| 9 Song from "Pal Joey" | 50 Apprehend red-handed | 6 Cain's victim | 27 Dutch commune |
| 12 Hindu prince | 51 Blend | 7 "Cautionary Tales" author | 29 Museum fill |
| 13 Help a hood | 52 Dread | 8 Pigs' digs | 30 — Aviv |
| 14 Indivisible | 53 This, in Havana | 9 Track star | 31 Farm femme |
| 15 Racetrack | 54 Worker's compensation? | 10 Budd | 35 Bergman's home |
| 16 Trust | 55 Picnic intruders | 11 Fountain of music | 36 Manufacturers |
| 17 Act the landlord | 56 Son of Noah | 20 Andersen, Borge and Hamlet? | 39 Word before seat or shot |
| 18 Micro-scope view | DOWN | 22 Ballpark datum | 40 One side of the Urals |
| 19 Needing a nurse | 1 Pirate's potato | 41 Ceraceous | 43 "South Pacific" role |
| 20 Stare | 2 **** re-view | 45 Impetuous | 46 Charlie Brown's sometime "nemesis" |
| 21 Fool | Solution time: 27 mins. | 47 Bridge coup | 49 "Son — gun" |
| 23 Crew prop | 28 Put together | | |
| 25 Miserable one | 32 Sound | | |
| | 33 Slugger | | |
| | 34 Applies fingerpaint | | |
| | 36 Courage and fortitude | | |
| | 37 Just out | | |
| | 38 Build on | | |
| | 39 Fish story? | | |
| | 42 Wapiti | | |



CRYPTOQUIP

T Q G P L M H G X I W Y C Q U
G W K H G J W M W T J Q X X H T
P H P W T Y H H M I K H H U Q M V
X P H Y L G G

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WILL THE COWBOY, BEFORE FRESHENING UP HIS HOUSE, SAY, "GOODBYE, OLD PAINT"?

Today's Cryptoquip clue: Y equals B

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.