

Hosts march relentlessly forward

SHANGHAI, May 12: China's athletic machine marched relentlessly forward at the East Asian Games here Tuesday, with the country's high-octane swimmers once again providing the fuel, reports AFP.

China won all five swimming golds to add to the three they won Monday, while Chinese women gymnasts matched the previous day's victory of the men in the team competition.

Earlier in the day, the home weightlifters snatched and jerked their way to a further two golds.

China's haul of eight golds on Tuesday took their overall gold medal tally to 13 after two days of competition.

In the most keenly awaited race in the pool—the women's 200 meter breaststroke—Japan's 14-year-old wunderkind and Olympic champion, Kyoko Iwasaki, failed to provide the expected obstacle to China's gold rush.

Iwasaki placed third behind China's Asian Games champion Huang Xiaoming and surprise winner Dai Guohong, also from China.

Iwasaki and Huang had been expected to fight it out for gold after the withdrawal of China's Lin Li, who took a silver behind the Japanese girl at Barcelona.

But the little-known Dai, with a physique that belied her 15 years, took the lead from her teammate at the halfway stage and, gliding powerfully, never let it go.

Dai was clearly as surprised as everyone else by her victory.

"Miura is the Olympic champion and Huang is known as the 'Queen of Breaststroke' so I was not very confident of defeating them," she admitted.

Earlier, China's Shen Jianqiang signalled the start of the evening's trend when he cruised to the gold in the men's 100 m butterfly.

The Asian record holder gained a metre on his dive

alone, dolphin kicking underwater for 15 metres before moving smoothly into his stroke.

Compatriot Jiang Chenji had a tight battle with Japan's Hiroshi Miura for the silver, but finally made it a one-two for China.

In the women's 200m

freestyle, Le Jingyi of China went one better than her silver medal in Monday's 100 m, winning in 2:00.45.

Xiong Guoming won China's third swimming gold of the evening in the 400m individual medley, which he led from start to finish, touching home in 4:27.66. Japan, seemingly

doomed to be the eternal runners-up here, took yet another silver through Hiroki Kikkida.

The final swimming gold was won by China's 4x200 m freestyle relay team, who held off Japan to finish in 7:33.05.

China won the women's gymnastic team title without the help of injured Olympic uneven bar champion Lu Li.

Lu Li, a 18-year-old member of the Olympic team, led China's high-scoring campaign with an individual total of 39.05 including a near-perfect 9.9 on the balance beam. Chinese women dominated the top six spots.

Kim, who finished only fourth in the uneven bars at Barcelona, collected the highest points with 9.875 in the same discipline here. But she was in eighth spot in the individual points standings with 37.600. Her teammate Kim Gwan-Sim was seventh on 37.675.

The double victory paid off for China's special programme in which they sent only inexperienced gymnasts to the world Championships and let top stars peak for the regional games on home turf.

"We feel more confident in three apparatus — uneven bars, vault and balance beam," said Chinese women's Coach Bao Xianqing, looking ahead to individual title clashes in the next two days.

"We have innovated our moves," she said. "As for the uneven bars, it will all depend on how Kim Gwan-Suk performs and it is unpredictable."

MEDALS TABLE

Medals table at the end of the second day of competition at the East Asian Games here Tuesday:

	G	S	B	T
China	13	7	—	20
Japan	4	5	11	20
S.Korea	1	3	4	8
Chinese Taipei	1	1	1	3
N.Korea	—	3	3	6
Guam	—	—	—	—
Hong Kong	—	—	—	—
Macau	—	—	—	—
Mongolia	—	—	—	—



China's Dai Guohong waves from the winners' podium after she won the gold in the women's 200m breaststroke at the first East Asian Games in Shanghai on May 11. Dai finished with a time of 2 min 28.41 sec, defeating Japan's Barcelona gold medalist and Asian record holder Kyoko Iwasaki. — AFP photo

Chinese shuttlers win women's team title

SHANGHAI, May 12: China ran out easy winners of the women's team badminton final at the East Asian Games here Wednesday, although the gold was slightly tarnished by the competition's lack of first-string players, reports AFP.

China downed South Korea 4-1 in the final which, like all the badminton events here, suffered from the timing conflict between the Games and the World Championships later this month in Birmingham, England.

The region's only regional badminton powers, China and South Korea both sent second-string squads to Shanghai, allowing their top flight shuttlers to prepare for the more important event on May 24.

South Korea drew first blood in the five-leg final when Kim Ji-Hyun downed Wang Chen 8-11, 11-6, 12-10. But China's Hu Ning hit back in the second singles leg, destroying Lee Joo-Hyun 11-2, 11-1.

Both doubles titles went the same way, although the Korean pairing of Kim Mee-Hyang and Jang Hye-Ock fought bravely to take Qin Yongchun and Guo Jing to three-sets in the fourth leg.

Zhang Ning won the final singles tie, 12-9, 3-11, 11-6, over Park Jin-Hyun.

In a bizarre twist, Hong Kong picked up their first medal of the Games, winning the bronze despite closing the only game they played.

With only five entrants for the team competition, Hong Kong won a bye into the semi-finals where they were soundly beaten by China 5-0. However, as beaten semifinalists they were still guaranteed the bronze together with Japan who lost to South Korea in the other semifinal.

The only other team in the competition, North Korea, were beaten 5-0 by the South in the only "quarter-final" to be held.

Connors bows to other McEnroe

CORAL SPRINGS, Fla. May 12: Jimmy Connors, unable to summon his magic from 1991, lost 7-5, 7-5 to Patrick McEnroe on Tuesday night in the first round of the America's Red Clay Championship, reports AP.

This was the first time the two played since their stirring match at the US Open two years ago. At that time, Connors rebounded from a two-set, 0-3 deficit to win in a five-set marathon in 4 hours, 18 minutes. Connors then made a theatrical march to the semi-finals.

But Connors, 40, of the United States, is now concentrating on business ventures and start of his 35-and-over tour. He has played in only five tournaments this year, going out in the first round in four.

On Tuesday night, he was betrayed by an erratic serve, particularly the 11th game of the first set when he served three of his six double-faults, virtually handing the opening set to McEnroe, also American.

"I don't think I served five double-faults in a year, let alone three in a game," said

Connors, whose 1993 record is 3-5, thus accounting for his No 172 ranking. "My greatest strength was once I had you down I'd bury you. If I don't play enough, I can't do that."

A young American on the rise, Todd Martin, the third seed, downed Spain's Alejo Mancisidor 6-3, 6-4.

McEnroe, 26, is enjoying



JIMMY CONNORS

his best season since reaching a ranking of No 36 in 1991. The less famous McEnroe brother reached the semi-finals at Tampa, Fla, last week and the quarterfinals at Hong Kong to boost his ranking from

No 110 to No 88.

Still, playing a legend is never easy. McEnroe got off to a tenuous 2-4 start before striking his groundstrokes with confidence.

"I was a little nervous," said McEnroe, who had never beaten Connors before. "If I was in the crowd, I'd cheer him, too. I was battling him and myself."

McEnroe has never gotten that US Open loss completely out of his mind.

"It was a tough loss and tough experience," he said.

"Hopefully, this is a step in

making it ancient history."

Connors had opportunities to force a third set after breaking to go up 4-3 in the second set. But another double-fault gave McEnroe the break back and the momentum to attack Connors' mistake-prone forehand.

"I had Patrick McEnroe down a break in both sets, what does that say?" Connors said. "But on clay, youth is the winner."

Connors said he may take a wild card into Wimbledon, if offered one, and then play Team Tennis in preparation for the US Open.

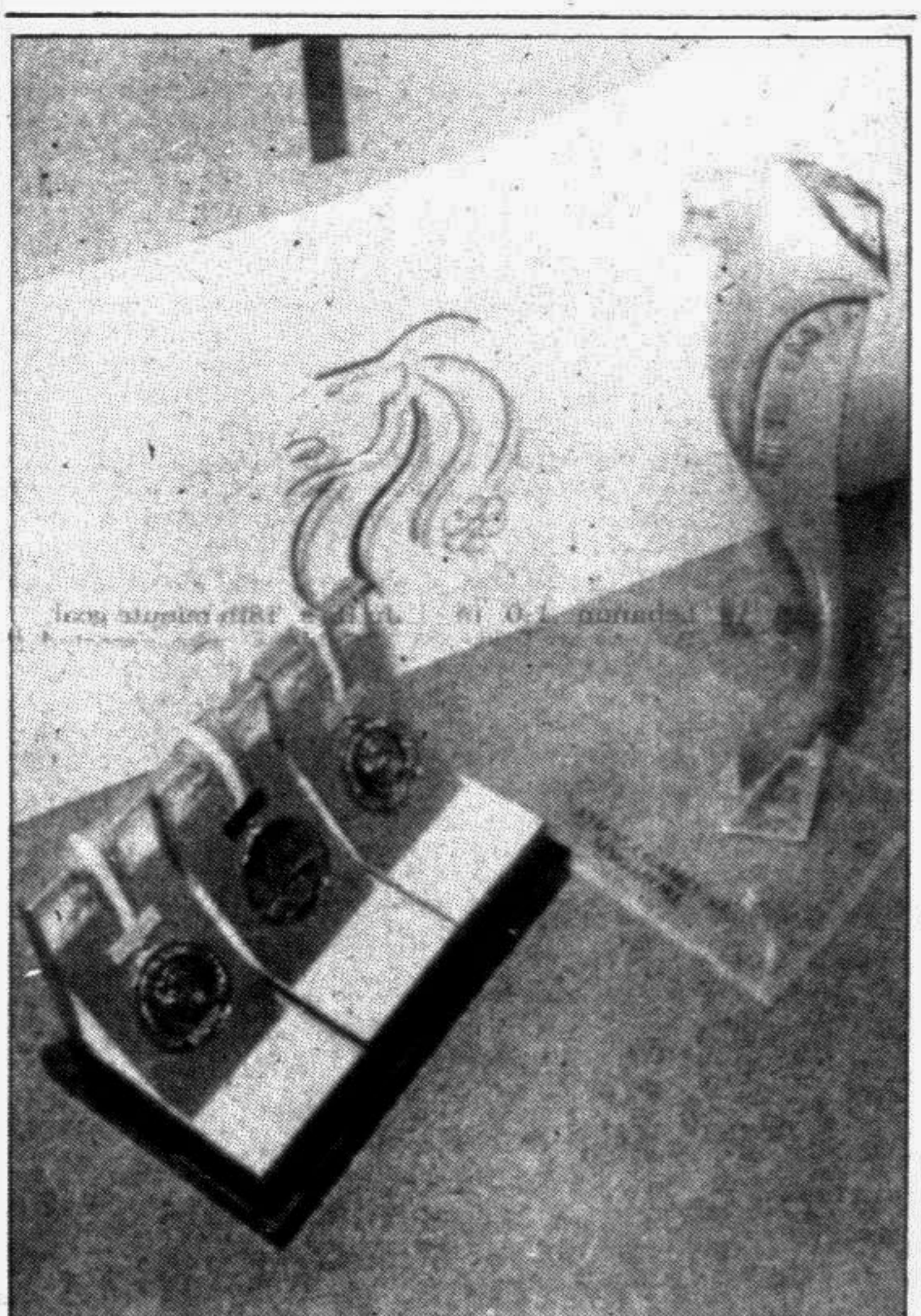
Graf makes it look so easy

BERLIN, May 12: Steffi Graf took just 43 minutes to overwhelm Florentina Labat 6-2, 6-2 and reach the third round of the German Open on Tuesday, reports AFP.

"Was that a match?" she asked afterwards. "It went so quickly. Whatever I tried was so easy and she made a lot of mistakes."

The Argentinian left-hander, ranked 45 in the world, barely raised a challenge. Her normally strong forehand was not in evidence and she often put little weight behind the ball.

Her serve was too weak and she rarely ran for the ball. Graf even held break points for the games Labat managed to win, largely because of Graf's carelessness.



Picture taken on May 10 showing the medals which will be awarded to the competitors during the XVII South East Asian Games (SEA), produced by Singapore Mint and featuring the Singapore skyline, along with the torch and the SEA logo showing a lion head. The XVII SEA Games will be held on June 10. — AFP photo

"When you are leading like that and try a few drop shots and they don't work, it doesn't matter," said Graf, who spent a large part of the match at the net.

Graf now faces fellow-German Sabine Hack, who dismissed Katrina Adams 6-0, 6-0 in 49 minutes. Hack has lost two games in her two matches and Adams managed only three points against the German's serve in each set.

Ninth seed Kimiko Date fell to the big serving of Brenda Schultz, losing 6-4, 6-2.

The Japanese won the first two games but Schultz took the next four and that was enough to earn the 22-year-old from Holland the first set.

In the second, Date held her serve for 1-0 but Schultz then gave up only three points in the next three games, and finished the match by winning the last ten points, ending with an ace.

Schultz was coached by Juan Nunez until earlier this year. He now coaches 11th seed Lori McNeil, who was defeated 6-4, 6-3 by fellow American Giner Helgeson.

Natalia Zvereva, seeded 12, was beaten by American Ann Grossman. The Belarussian led 5-2 but then lost the next 11 games in a remarkable collapse to lose 7-5, 6-0.

Qualifier Petra Ritter of Austria beat Australian Rachel McQuillan 6-2, 4-6, 6-2 and another qualifier, Elena Pampoulova-Wagner of Bulgaria, won a tense battle with American Carrie Cunningham, 7-5, 4-6, 6-1.

China, HK on course GOTHENBURG, Sweden, May 12: The success of Hong Kong and China's women's teams on the opening day of the world table tennis championships here on Tuesday has kept them on course for medals, reports AFP.

Hong Kong's Chai Po-Wa and Chan Tan-Lui squeezed out Japan 3-2 in their first match. Before thrashing France 3-0 in their second.

Windies walk away with the rubber

By A M Chowdhury

West Indies, as expected, maintained their supremacy over Pakistan, the world champions — in one-day cricket, and walked away with the 'rubber' in the recently concluded Test series. They could now very well consider themselves the unofficial leaders in Test Cricket. The rejuvenated West Indian team under Richie Richardson, who earlier led his side to a deserving 2-1 victory over the Australians last winter, practically thrashed Pakistan to earn a 2-0 victory. They won the first Test by 204 runs, the second by 10 wickets and the third ended in a draw when rain had the final say on the proceedings of the final day.

The West Indian batsmen flourished, at times they were brilliant; the bowlers kept constant pressure on the visitors' batting, which failed to live up to the expectations; and the fielding was far better than the opponents. Of course, the fielders had blemishes but their opponents far outnumbered them in fielding lapses. Wasim Akram, Pakistan's new skipper, shall have to wait for sometime before galvanising his talented bunch into a winning combination.

Pakistan appeared to be a team not believing in their ability and the players often looked like not putting in their best. Pakistan's main weakness in the Test series was their batting. Though the batting line-up looked to have picked up their rhythm in the last three one-dayers, it could not keep up the momentum in the Tests, an altogether different game. But for the 326 scored in the first innings of the third Test, they failed to reach a respectable total throughout the series. They made 140 & 165 in the first and 221 & 262 in the second.

Inzamamul Haq's fine effort of 123, which came too late and could only save his team from the ignominy of following on in the final Test, was the only three-figure innings for the tourists. In the Test arena Inzamamul appeared rather tentative and only in the final Test he could establish some sort of solidity in his batting. He must have felt grateful to Winston Benjamin, who spilled rather an easy catch at long leg when he was on 53.

Pakistan's only batting success was Basit Ali, who made his Test debut with a golden duck, shook off early shakiness and went on to compile 222, the highest among the tourists, at a respectable average of 55.5. This young man of 22 on his first tour with the national side showed guts and courage and proved to be the only point of consolation for Pakistan.

34.4), Asif Mujtaba (143, av 28.6) and Javed Miandad (120, av 24.00) were the other three batsmen whose compilation reached three figures.

Javed Miandad, one of the leading batsmen in world cricket, started the series with an aggregate of 8569 (av 54.23) and could add only 120 and his average has come down to 53.30. In all the three Tests he did the initial hard work, but when he was supposed to take charge, he gave in. From the way he went for Hooper in the penultimate ball of the second day or the way he touched an out-going ball from Winston Benjamin on the fourth day of the second Test, it appeared he was not in the determined frame of mind for which he is so well known. Maybe the loss of captaincy had affected his concentration and determination.

Asif Mujtaba and Amir



WAQAR YOUNIS

Sohail (84, av 21.00) showed flashes of determined batting passing the half-century mark in the third and second Tests respectively. Rameez Raja was highly disappointing as was also skipper Wasim Akram, who reached double figures only once in five innings.

Pakistan's poor batting performance was largely due to the persistently hostile bowling by the West Indian pacemen, who claimed all but 10 of the 50 wickets to have fallen to the bowlers. The best among them was Courtney Walsh (12 for 207, av 17.25), followed by Winston Benjamin (8 for 138, av 17.25), Ian Bishop (7 for 127, av 18.14) and Curtly Ambrose (9 for 208, av 23.11). Ambrose's figures, however, do not reflect the quality of his bowling—he was the real tormentor. It is clear from the above figures that the West Indian bowlers shared the wickets among themselves and this only shows that the Pakistani batsmen did not really get any respite and all the time they were up against bowlers who were equally effective and hostile. Even the only spinner in the team, Carl Hooper, returned figures of 10 for 281 (av 28.1) and on an worn-out wicket in the first Test he

took 5 for 40, his career best. Very few batsmen could take liberty with his gentle but tantalising off-spin and Javed Miandad's attempt proved suicidal when he went to repeat his on-driven six off the penultimate ball of the second day of the second Test.

West Indian top order batsmen performed well against Pakistan's pace attack, which is believed to be among the best, if not the best. Pakistan's wonderful W-pair did not prove to be as menacing on the Caribbean wickets as they were in the swinging English condition. Desmond Haynes, the veteran campaigner, silenced his critics by scoring 402 runs, in six innings, averaging an enviable figure of 134.00 (he remained not out on three occasions). Haynes' Test aggregate now stands at 7250 and his average



DESMOND HAYNES

has improved to 42.64 from 41.00.

Brian Lara batted fluently to compile 216 (av 43.20) but his skipper Richie Richardson could compile only 158 (av 31.60). However, his 68 in the second innings of the first Test and his 31 and 52 in the next two set the pace for his teammates. At times he was audacious and ruthless; and never troubled even against very hostile bowling of Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis. Carl Hooper, whose average before the series stood at 27.00, ran into very good form in the last Test. Hooper carried his bat with 178 in the first innings and remained 29 not out in the second, thereby averaging 77.00 in the series.

Waqar Younis, Pakistan's main wicket-taker, bagged 19 wickets, the highest by any bowler in the series, at 20.26 apiece. He was at his best in the West Indian second innings of the last Test when he took all the 4 wickets that had fallen before rain intervened. It is indeed sad that he did not get able support at the other end. Wasim Akram was much below his own self (7 for 340, av 48.57) and never looked the match-winner he is known to be. Aaur Rahman, though young and promising,

could hardly be effective (6 for 303, av 50.5).

It was sheer bad luck that Aaqib Javed had to withdraw with injury even before the series started. Further set back came when Mushtaq Ahmed, possibly their trump card, could only bowl in the first Test, that too with a waist band and his back trouble forced him out of rest of the series.

At the end of the current series Waqar Younis have taken his total tally to 121 in his 23 Tests at 19.63 apiece, a remarkable return by any standard.

Pakistan's fielding left a lot to be desired at the highest level of the game. Phil Simmons was let off twice in one over by Mon Khan, the keeper, in the first innings of the second Test when the batsman was on 6 and 8 respectively, and went on to score 87 dashing runs. The sufferer was Waqar Younis. I am sure an early breakthrough would have put life and venom in Waqar's bowling. The lapses put him off and the West Indian innings took a commanding position thereafter.

On the other hand, the West Indians brought off a few brilliant catches to put their bowlers right on top.

A string in the tail of this series will be hanging for long due to the sheer number of lbw decisions—33 among the 94 wickets that fell during the three Tests; 17 against Pakistan and 16 against West Indies. These figures may speak of the accuracy of the bowling, low bounce of the wickets as well as the proficiency to move the ball in the air by the fast bowlers on both sides. A few of the decisions may have been due to bat umpiring. Asif Mujtaba's dismissal on 41 in the second innings of the second Test was one of the glaring bad decisions when he was wrapped visibly outside his leg stump. Inzamamul Haq may also be considered to have been a victim. The lbws tend to become always controversial and it is always the sore point with the losers. This series was no exception. Even Dickie Bird proved that he is prone to errors.

Pakistan returned from the Caribbean islands empty-handed. The team, currently in the process of rebuilding under a new leader will take a few more years to mature. They have the talents and materials for making a very good combination and once their youngsters gain experience in the international arena, where life is never easy, days are not far away when they will be reckoned as tough challengers for the top honours of Test cricket. What they need is cohesion and dedicated efforts under an inspiring leader. The void created by Imran Khan's departure have to be filled up, the sooner the better.

N Korean lifters dominate

SHANGHAI, May 12: Kim Myong-Nam smashed the Asian 76kg weightlifting record here Wednesday, North Korean lifters shut hosts China out of the gold medal positions at the East Asian Games, reports AFP.

Teammate Chon Chol-Ho also broke the regional record in the 83kg division.

Kim, the Olympic bronze medalist, set Asian records in both the snatch and the clean and jerk lifts to post a new regional mark of 355kg, outclassing China's Shan Baoquan who took silver with a combined lift of 342.5kg.

The bronze went to South Korea's Chai Byung-Chang who lifted 325kg.

The supremely confident Kim equalled the Asian snatch record of 155kg on his very first lift. Before extending it to 160kg on his second.

In the 83-kg division, Asian Games champion Chon clean and jerked a record 200kg, for a total 360kg, outstripping the old Asian mark set by China's Wang Yuanfeng of 357.5kg.

Wang picked up the silver medal with a combined lift of 350kg, following a poor performance in the snatch when he failed on his first two attempts.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Male swan

4 Commo- tion

8 Ump's call

12 E.T.'s vessel

13 Malay boat

14 U.S.

15 Articulate

17 Judy's daughter

18 Consort of Ops

19 Article in Time

21 Addition- ally

22 Bicycling champ Greg

26 Every- thing, in a pizzeria

29 John Ritter's dad

30 Chesapeake, e.g.

31 Rose's lover

32 Legume holder

33 Be phian- thropic

34 Charles Dutton sitcom

35 Audience

36 Kentucky

Derby wreath

37 Without boldness

39 Drunkard

40 Succor

41 Couch

45 So bad

48 Having that O. Henry twist

50 Cairo's river

51 Libertine

52 Central

53 Street- corner sign

54 Bridge score-pad heading

55 Tracks up?

16 Tremor

20 Whammy

23 Kyoto cumber- bunds

2 Man —

Solution time: 28 mins.

Mancha

3 Italy's silhouette

4 Rejects disdain- fully

5 Prevailing course

6 "And — the opposite shore..."

7 Discon- certing

8 Oregon city

9 Parisian pal

10 Casa- blanca cap

11 NOW goal

16 Fearful

20 Whammy

23 Kyoto cumber- bunds

2 Man —

24 Hub

25 Goes blonde

26 Near the treasure, maybe

27 Double- reed instrument

28 He wrote "Street Scene"

29 Craggy hill

32 Source of wealth

33 Jailed crime bigwig John

35 Yalie

36 "60 Minutes" curmudg- eon

38 Insulation material

39 Put one's two cents in

42 Height

43 End

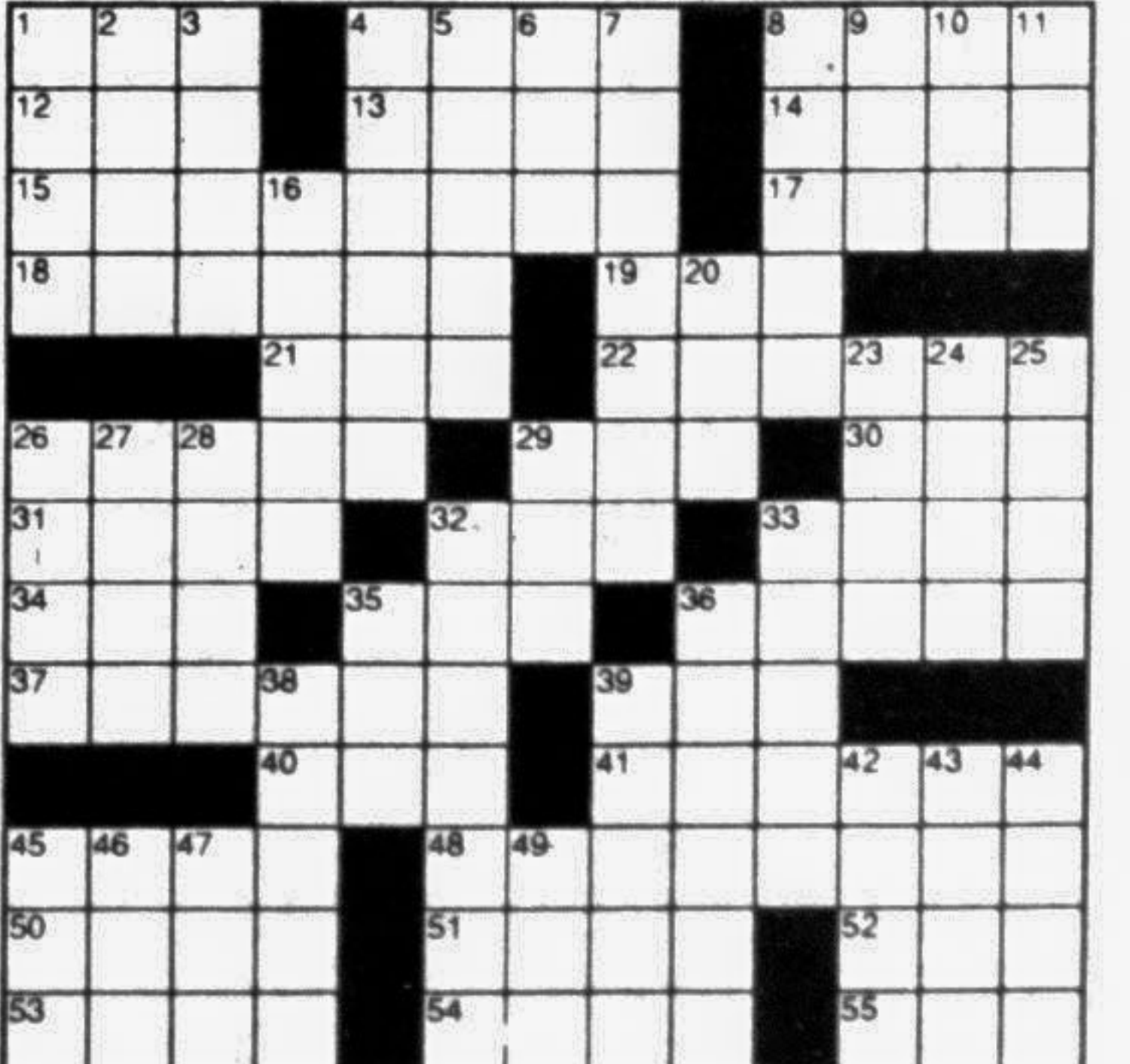
44 Car-maker Ransom

45 "Don't have a — man!"

46 "So that's it!"

47 Wire measure

49 "Go, team!"



CRYPTOQUIP

R M B N Y S K G T J K T F R

B C B R B F N N A Q K C X K Q

J O R T O Q V Y N F M V X J V G

K C F Y V X V R S F N

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN UNION PRESIDENT SPEAKS TO SHIRT-FACTORY WORKERS, IT'S OFF THE CUFF.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: M 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.