

# Aussies unbeaten no more

**NORTHAMPTON, England, May 17:** Australia's unbeaten record on their English cricket tour was washed away here on Sunday when they succumbed to Northamptonshire on faster scoring rate, reports AFP.

## Mark Ramprakash going strong

**LONDON, May 17:** England batsman Mark Ramprakash helped defending Sunday league champions Middlesex to a last-ball-five-run victory over Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge, reports Reuters.

He warmed up for the one-day series against Australia starting at Old Trafford on Wednesday by hitting a fine 88. Ramprakash shared a third-wicket partnership of 165 with John Carr (92) which carried Middlesex to 257 for six off their 50 overs.

Nottinghamshire's Greg Mike needed a six off the last ball of the match to snatch a win for his county but he failed to score.

England captain Graham Gooch scored 65 off only 72 balls for Essex at the Oval but it was not enough to stop Surrey squeezing to victory by two wickets.

183 for two after 39 of their overs, they were 12 shorts of victory.

But if the result blotted their fine tour record, vice-captain Mark Taylor was able to draw considerable consolation with an unbeaten 89.

Australia's senior opener went into the match with only a solitary half-century behind him and a question mark over his right to a place in Wednesday's first Taxaco Trophy one-day international against England.

But after his 115-ball innings, which contained six boundaries, there is now no doubt about Taylor's selection for Old Trafford.

The left-hander, who averaged almost 84 during the 1989 Ashes series, put on 144 for the first wicket with Mark Waugh (74).

Those two opened during Australia's recent one-day series in New Zealand and now look set to continue their alliance when the Texaco Trophy begins.

They were not the only openers to impress watching England manager Keith Fletcher, however, for Northants' Alan Fordham compiled a magnificent 101 off 146 deliveries with the help of nine fours.

The 28-year-old received excellent support from two England discards, Rob Bailey, hitting an unbeaten 82 and

Allan Lamb cracking 37 not out off just 26 deliveries.

### SCOREBOARD

#### NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

A Fordham lbw					
B McDermott				101	
N A Felton c M Waugh					
b Reiffel				32	
R J Bailey not out				82	
A J Lamb not out				37	
Extras: (lb-12, w-5, nb-4)	21				
Total: (2 wks, 55 overs)	273				
Fall of wickets: 1-67; 2-203;					
Did not bat: M B Loye, D J					
Capel, A L Penberthy, D Ripley,					
J P Taylor, A Walker, N B G					
Cook					

<b>Bowling:</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
McDermott	11	1	48	1
Hughes	9	0	52	0
S Waugh	4	0	20	0
Reiffel	10	1	35	1
May	11	0	49	0
Border	7	0	40	0
M Waugh	3	0	17	0

<b>AUSTRALIA</b>					
M A Taylor not out				89	
M E Waugh b Cook				74	
D C Boon st Ripley b Bailey				12	
A R Border not out				3	
Extras: (b=3, lb=1, w=1)	5				
Total: (2 wks, 39 overs)	183				
Fall of wickets: 1=144;					
2=171;					
Did not bat: S R Waugh, D R					
Martyn, I A Healy, T B A May,					
M G Hughes, P R Reiffel, C J					
McDermott					

<b>Bowling:</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Taylor	7	0	26	0
Walker	5	0	17	0
Penberthy	6	0	32	0
Capel	5	0	35	0
Cook	8	0	34	1
Bailey	8	1	35	1



Maria Teresa Samaranch de Graz, daughter of the IOC president, with Tahmina Khan, president of the Bangladesh Women's Sports Federation, during the three-hour river cruise on board the luxury steamer Ostrich yesterday. — Star photo

# Waldner shows strong nerves

**GOTHENBURG, Sweden, May 17:** Olympic champion Jan-Ove Waldner showed he has strong nerves to match his immense talent as Sweden earned a clash with China in the men's team final at the world table tennis championships today, reports Reuters.

Despite losing the opening rubber of the semifinal against North Korea, Waldner came off best in a thrilling fourth rubber with Li Gun-Sang 21-16, 24-26, 21-18 to seal a 3-1 victory for the defending champions.

China were also made to work hard for their place in Monday's final with a 3-1 victory over Germany. The two table tennis super powers have met in the men's team final at four of the five previous championships. China won in 1983, 1985 and 1987 but were defeated by the Swedes at the 1989 championships in Dortmund, Germany.

Sweden retained their crown by beating the former Yugoslavia at the 1991 event in Chiba, Japan.

Waldner, who won the singles title at last year's Barcelona Olympics, was in brilliant form as Sweden's "Dream Team" of Olympic and world champions thumped Belgium 3-0 in the quarter-finals earlier in the day.

But in the opening rubber against North Korea he was forced into errors by a deter-

mined performance from Kim Song-Hui who triumphed 21-16, 18-21, 21-18.

World singles champion Jorgen Persson had to battle back from 6-9 behind in the first game to beat Li Gun Sang 21-18, 21-14 before Peter Karlsson gave the Swedes a 2-1 lead with a 21-18, 21-15 win over Choi Gyong-Sop.

A dramatic fourth rubber between Waldner and defensive expert Li was packed with entertaining rallies.

Waldner, who varied his spin brilliantly, took the first game 21-16.

But after missing a game



JAN-OVE WALDNER

point at 21-20 in the second after a superb rally when both players were well back from

the table. Li saved three match points before taking the game 26-24.

The North Korean threatened to come back into the match several times in the last game but Waldner showed composure under pressure in the final crucial points to clinch it 21-18.

World number three Ma Wang and defence-minded Wang-Hao played the crucial roles in China's victory over Germany who had reached the semifinals after a shock 3-2 defeat of South Korea.

Ma atoned for losing his first rubber 21-12, 21-19 to Steffen Fetzner, which levelled the match at 1-1 after world number eight Wang Tao had put China ahead.

Tao survived a late fightback by Jorg Roskopf to secure the opening rubber 21-13, 21-19.

Hao gave China a 2-1 lead when he subdued Peter Franz 21-14, 21-15 in a clash marked by absorbing rallies which delighted the boisterous Chinese contingent in the crowd.

Ma began the fourth rubber against Roskopf by taking the opening game 21-18.

The German's powers of recovery enabled him to turn a 7-4 deficit in the second game into a 17-10 lead with a run of 13 points out of 16.

Roskopf took the second game 21-17 and the decider fluctuated until 17-17 when Ma seized the initiative with a burst of four points out of five to seal it 21-18.

# Courier downs Ivanisevic

**ROME, May 17:** Goran Ivanisevic fell victim to 43 unforced errors as second seed Jim Courier kept up the pressure for two hours to take the Italian Open 6-1, 6-2, 6-2 here on Sunday, reports AFP.

Courier became only the second man in four decades to defend a title at the Foro Italico — the last man to do so was Jaroslav Drobný in 1950-51.

The victory also put the American in great shape for a run at his third consecutive French Open title, which starts on May 24 in Paris.

"I feel strong both physically and mentally," said the 22-year-old. "I've played a lot of tennis this week and I've gotten better in the later matches."

"I couldn't ask for a better preparation for the French."

A disappointed Ivanisevic hung his head in his hands after the surprisingly quick defeat.

Courier, on the way to his fourth title this year, soon dominated the centre court, which was packed with 8,000 mainly Ivanisevic fans.

He broke the Croatian for 2-0 in the first set and then again in the sixth game for a 5-1 margin. The first set ended with Courier holding serve after just 38 minutes.

Fortunes did not improve for Ivanisevic in the slightest. In the second, the 1992 Wimbledon semifinalist was broken on the fifth break point in the fifth game and thunder rumbled overhead.

The second seed broke again in the seven for 5-2 and aced his way to the set.

The momentum remained one-way third.

Ivanisevic, his game riddled with unforced errors and with no improvement on the horizon, was broken in the third, fifth and seventh games.

Courier claimed the title on his first match point when his opponent netted a forehand.

"It was scary how fast it went," said Courier.

"You never know when Goran is going to explode with some great tennis."

"My game plan was to keep concentrating and be there for every ball."

Courier was determined not to go overboard after his victory.

"I'll have a quiet dinner

with friends, have a little wine and some good food."

"With the French starting so soon, there's not really any time for me to damage my body with any celebrating," he said with a smile after claiming the winner's cheque for 240,000 dollars.

"But I believe that you should savour victories," he added, after claiming yet another win after the Australian Open and the Memphis and Indian wells tournaments in the United States.

But there was bitter disappointment for the Croatian.

"I always play wrong against him," said Ivanisevic, who still holds a 3-3 career record with the American.

"In the first set, things happened so fast that when I looked up it was 5-1 for him. He's all over you with his forehand. It's just not me, he's dominating everybody on clay."

Ivanisevic said that his mental preparation falls apart when he plays Courier.

"I go out there thinking that I cannot win. I stayed 10 metres back today and was late for every ball. I was playing like Gabriela Sabatini — and this is supposed to be men's tennis."

# Reynolds starts GP season with a stylish win

**SAO PAULO, May 17:** World record holder Butch Reynolds opened the athletics Grand Prix season on Sunday with a stylish victory in the 400 metres, reports Reuters.

The American, who returned to international competition earlier this year after a two-year doping ban, clocked 44.68 seconds — the second-fastest time outdoors this year.

Sunday Bada of Nigeria was second in 44.97 and 1991 world champion Antonio Pettigrew third in 45.29.

"Hopefully I will get stronger as the year goes on," said Reynolds whose aim is to go through the year unbeaten.

Double Olympic gold medalist Gwen Torrence is expected to be out of action for three weeks after pulling a muscle in the 100 metres.

She was leading when she pulled up 20 metres from the finish clutching her right leg.

Torrence, who won gold medals in the 200 and 4x100 relay in Barcelona, hobbled over the finishing line and was carried off the track on a stretcher.

Mary Onyiah of Nigeria, who was closing the gap on Torrence at the time, took advantage of the American's mis-

fortune to win the race. Ukrainian Sergei Bubka, making his first outdoor appearance in the Americas, won the pole vault with a best of 5.80 metres, well short of his world record of 6.13.

The Sao Paulo Grand Prix was the opening event of the 17-meeting circuit.

## Chinese girls take world TT title again

**GOTHENBURG, Sweden, May 17:** Olympic doubles champions Deng Yaping and Qiao Hong helped China regain the women's team title with a 3-0 victory over North Korea at the world table tennis championships on Sunday, reports Reuters.

The victory in the best-of-five rubbers final marked China's ninth women's team gold medal at the biennial championships in the last 30 years.

World number two Qiao opened China's account in the final with a 21-17, 21-17 victory over Yu Sun-Bok.

World number one Deng came from behind to beat Li Bun-Hui 18-21, 21-12, 21-10 to give China a 2-0 lead.

The two Chinese stars then teamed up to defeat Yu and Li convincingly 21-18, 21-17 in the doubles and clinch the titles.

China lifted the crown eight consecutive times from 1975 before losing it to United Korea at the last championships in 1991 in Japan.

The two Koreans sent separate teams to this year even because political relations between the two countries have become strained in recent months.

# The Times World Chess Championship Prices of tickets soar high

**LONDON, May 17:** Tickets for the autumn showdown between renege chess masters Garry Kasparov and Nigel Short will start at 45 pounds (dfls 67.50) and go as high as 150 pounds (dfls 225), organisers said Monday, reports AP.

Kasparov, the world chess champion, and Short, his British challenger, will play a 24-game match in London under the auspices of the new Professional Chess Association.

The two players founded the association this year after breaking away from the World Chess Federation, known by its French acronym FIDE.

They refused to play for the world title under its auspices, claiming the federation had not consulted with them as required over arrangements for the title.

Kasparov, of Russia, is the highest-ranking chess master in history and No. 1 in the FIDE rankings. Short is ranked

11th by FIDE.

The Times of London won a bid to stage a showdown Sept 7-Oct 30 in London's Savoy Theater, still under renovation following a 1990 fire.

The event, billed as The Times World Chess Championship, will be played over 24 games with a purse of 1.7 million pounds (dfls 2.5 million), the largest single prize in the history of world chess.

The theatre holds 1,400 people, meaning up to 26,400 tickets could be sold.

Phil Lawlor of The Times, anticipating criticism of the high cost of the tickets, said they "would be absolutely correctly priced" if they were for "a brawn event such as boxing, instead of a brain event such as chess."

Short, asked whether he thought the price would put tickets beyond the reach of many chess fans, said only: "It has nothing to do with me."

At the news conference at Simpson's-in-the-Strand

restaurant, London's unofficial home for chess, Kasparov and Short repeatedly denied reports they had brought the game of chess into disrepute by forming the breakaway Professional Chess Association.

The two have been repeatedly criticized by grandmasters and chess organizations.

Short has come under particular criticism in Britain for refusing to play in his home town of Manchester, England, which bid to be host of the FIDE championship in August.

Short said Monday he was "very glad" to be playing in London.

"There are many chess people around the world who have accused us of bringing the game into disrepute but it does not reflect the situation," added Kasparov.

"What we have is an example of two players working to make it a household game. But to say we have damaged chess or brought it in to disrepute is unfair."

# Graf spoils Sabatini's day

**BERLIN, May 17:** Steffi Graf spoiled Gabriela Sabatini's 23rd birthday celebrations by beating her 7-6 (7/3), 2-6, 6-4 in the final of the German Open, reports AFP.

But she did so without producing anything close to her best tennis, winning by virtue of playing a better tie-break and then exploiting Sabatini's frailty in the final set.

Sabatini, who has now gone more than a year without winning a title, was the steadier player for most of the two hour 18 minutes match, but had to be content with the runner-up cheque of 60,000 dollars. Graf won 150,000.

The Argentinian patrolled the baseline well and topped Graf found it hard to crack her defence as Sabatini made the first break to lead 3-2 when Graf netted a backhand.

Sabatini then led 5-3 and served for the set at 5-4, but she was broken to love and Graf was never in trouble in the tie-break, winning it with a forehand pass.

The set took exactly an hour but Graf felt the second slip away in just 30 minutes. Sabatini quickly took a 3-0 lead and then surged to 5-1.

Once again, though, Sabatini failed to serve out the set, a double-fault giving the German break point and a cross-court forehand winner bringing the score to 5-2.

A superb backhand volley at the net, though, gave Sabatini the set in the next game.

Neither player was able to establish control throughout the contest but Graf had a brief run of success early in the third set when her tiring opponent began to let a few errors creep into her game.

That helped Graf steady and keep the ball in play instead of going for high-risk winners.

Graf broke to lead 2-1 when Sabatini netted a backhand approach and she broke again to love for 5-2 with a backhand volley.

But, in character with the rest of the match, Graf herself

was broken as she served for victory and it took a forehand into the net when Graf tried again at 5-4 to end a far-from-distinguished contest.

Sabatini, perhaps to hide her disappointment, insisted that Graf had not made many errors. Graf saw it differently.

"Again my forehand has not been so precise and I rarely took a chance on her serve as I should have done. My returns were poor as well as my serve," she said.

And with the French Open looming in seven days, Graf wants to take the next few days to unwind after a difficult



Top seed Steffi Graf of Germany smiles while holding the German Open trophy, after beating Argentine Gabriela Sabatini 7-6 (7-3), 2-6 and 6-4, in Berlin on May 16. — AFP photo

## Martin's first ATP title

**CORAL SPRINGS, Florida, May 17:** Third-seeded Todd Martin overpowered number two seed David Wheaton 6-3, 6-4 here on Sunday to win his first ATP tennis title at the 225,000 dollar America's Red Clay championship, reports AFP.

Martin, 22, blasted 10 aces of his own and fended off seven of Wheaton's eight break points against him en route to his fifth straight-set win of the tournament.

At 6-foot-6 (2.01m), Martin said he felt he could rely on his serve to keep him out of trouble.

"Whenever I'm down on break points I feel my serve is a big advantage," he said. "I try to play each point individually because playing them as a group the odds of winning is less."

Wheaton, a 23-year-old who is also known for his serving power, said it was steady play that did the trick for Martin.

"He played consistently well the whole match," said Wheaton. "But I'm not a flash in the pan. I wasn't hitting the ball a bit today."

## First British lady to scale Mt Everest

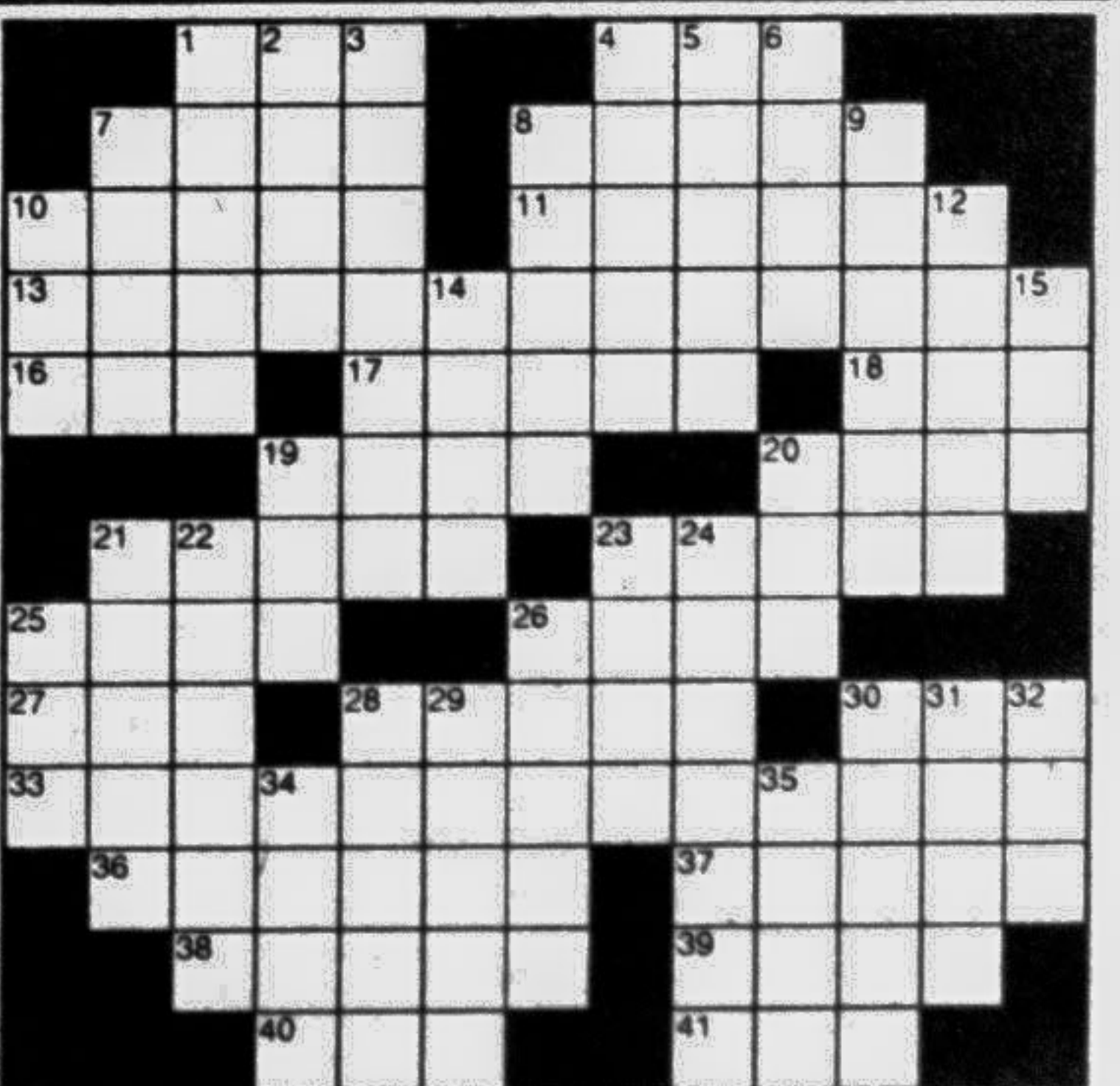
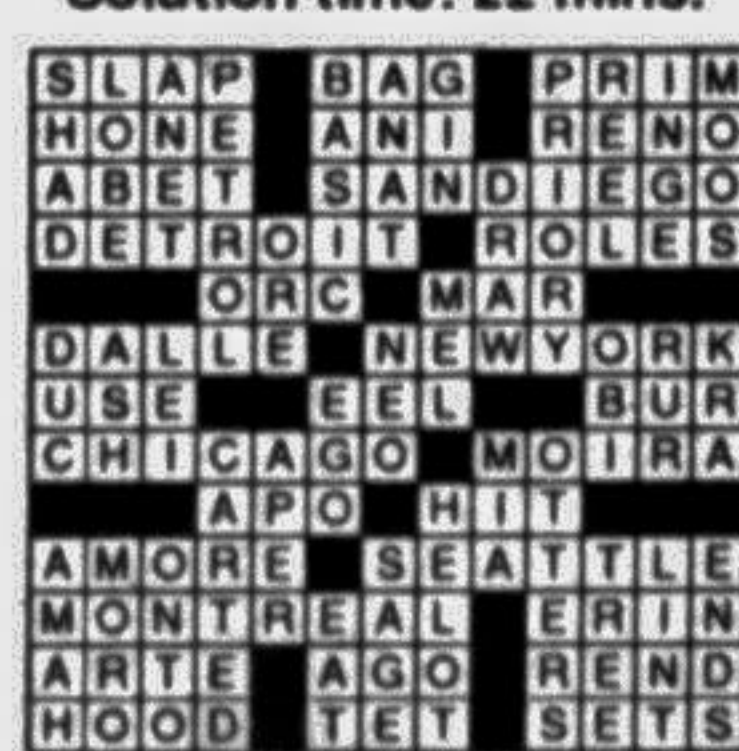
**KATMANDU, May 17:** A British woman climbed Mount Everest Monday, and became the first British lady to summit the world's tallest peak, the Ministry of Tourism said, reports AP.

The ministry, quoting a base camp report, said Rebecca Lucy Stephens, 32, of London reached the summit at 12.30 pm (0645 GMT).

Ms Stephens, a journalist by profession, was accompanied by two Nepalese Sherpa guides during the assault of the 8,848 metre (29,028-ft.) high mountain.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- |                               |  |   |                                      |
|-------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                 | 28 Biblical name                       | <b>DOWN</b>                             | 12 Stone slab                        |
| 1 European crow               | 30 Reverential fear                    | 1 Lynch or Letterman                    | 14 Heroine of "The Good Earth"       |
| 4 "Fat farm"                  | 33 He wrote "Main Street"              | 2 First Arabic letter                   | 15 It's before iron or sack          |
| 7 Large bundle                | 36 10 Across, (Auden)                  | 3 Well-being                            | 19 "— Way the Wind Blows" ('60 song) |
| 8 "And — upon wine-dark seas" | 37 Expunge                             | 4 "I'll — him from the heat..." (Blake) | 20 Kitten's cry                      |
| 10 Wicked one                 | 38 Pop singer                          | 5 Small pine tree                       | 21 Clear-headed                      |
| 11 Narrow, light boats        | 39 Pneumatic or radial                 | 6 Like peas in —                        | 22 Peaceful                          |
| 13 He wrote "Golden Boy"      | 40 Ram's mate                          | 7 Holly-wood's Lugosi                   | 23 God of thunder                    |
| 16 Young boy                  | 41 "— You in September" ('66 song hit) | 8 Theater backdrop                      | 24 Small villages                    |
| 17 E.T., for one              |  | 9 Leaked slowly                         | 25 Incore                            |
| 18 Problem for a princess?    |  | 10 Caesar's 650                         | 26 Musical groups                    |
| 19 Ancient Syria              |  | <b>Solution time: 22 mins.</b>          | 28 Jostle rudely                     |
| 20 Declare for score          |  |   | 29 Mud volcano                       |
| 21 Fine stationary            |  |   | 30 Informed                          |
| 23 Silent star                |  |   | 31 Acre or crack lead-in             |
| 25 Hide treasure?             |  |   | 32 Japan follower                    |
| 26 Melt                       |  |   | 34 Relief org.                       |
| 27 Box or boat lead-in        |  |   | 35 Buffalo's lake                    |



## CRYPTOQUIP

R U L J J H N F K R Q W H Y  
C Z L U R H T X J Y E Z  
H R E Z L W Y C N H R  
C Z T L E Z F R J Z Q T X L Q H Z F