



Top seed Steffi Graf of Germany about to make a backhand return during her fourth round match against Croatian teenage sensation Iva Majoli in the French Open at Roland Garros on May 30. Graf advanced to the quarter-finals with a hard-earned 6-4, 7-6 victory.

### Katzman, Masur easily through

PARIS, May 31: In the men's doubles, third-seeded Australians Mark Katzman and Wally Masur swept into the quarter-finals losing only four games against Spaniards Tomas Carbonell and Carlos Costa, reports AFP.

### Smooth sail for Susanti

BIRMINGHAM, May 31: Top-seeded Susi Susanti of Indonesia took just 18 minutes Monday to progress to the third round of the women's singles tournament at the World Badminton Championships, reports AP.

But the number two seed, Bang Soo Hyun of South Korea, was even quicker, wrapping up victory in 11 minutes, while seed Pernille Nedergaard was kept on court less than eight minutes.

Monday was the first day of play in the singles tournament, with the top-seeded players given byes to the second round.

Susanti's victim was Monique Hoogland from the Netherlands who managed only six points in losing 11-4, 11-2. Bang overwhelmed Jitka Lacinova of the Czech Republic 11-3, 11-0.

Denmark's Medergaard, seeded in the 9-16 group, took seven minutes 47 seconds to dismiss Natalia Melnikova of the Ukraine 11-0, 11-2.

The only seeded player in the women's event not to advance Monday was Swede Lim Kiao Qing, seeded in the 5-8 group, who pulled out because of an influenza-type illness but is expected to compete in the doubles events later in the week.

Lim's withdrawal was good news for her scheduled opponent, Canada's Robbyn Hermitage, who advanced to the third round in a walkover.

## Sampras, Courier stay on winning trail



PARIS, May 31: Top seeds Pete Sampras and Jim Courier powered their way into the French Open quarter-finals Monday, each overcoming second-set trouble in impressive fourth-round victories, reports AP.

Sampras, the No 1 seed, defeated fellow American MaliVai Washington, the 16th seed, 6-3, 7-6 (8-6), 6-1. Washington battled to 6-6 in the tiebreak, but hit a lob and then a forehand long.

Sampras hit 10 aces in the match and never lost his serve. Courier, the two-time defending champion, outslugged 15th-seeded Thomas Muster of Austria for a 6-3, 2-6, 6-4, 6-2 victory. Though seeded second to Sampras on the basis of computer rankings, Courier is a consensus favourite to win the title again.

Also moving in to the quarter-finals was 11th-seeded Andrei Medvedev of Ukraine, who slammed 14 aces in a 6-4, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 victory over Marc Goellner of Germany. It's the best Grand Slam showing yet for Medvedev, 18, one of the brightest young prospects in tennis.

Medvedev's quarter-final foe will be the winner of Monday's late match between No 3 Stefan Edberg and unseeded Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands. Sampras will play 10th-seeded Sergi Bruguera of Spain, who ousted Fernando Meligeni of Brazil, 6-3, 6-1, 7-5 to remain the only man who has won every set in the tournament. This was the first pro tour event of the year for Meligeni, ranked 167th and usually forced to play satellite events.

Muster, along with Courier one of the hardest hitters on the tour, got hot in the second set, rifling groundstrokes into the corners. But he lost momentum at 3-3 in third set when he blew four game points on his serve, allowing Courier to break for a 4-3 lead.

Courier then held serve at love, ending a string of five straight breaks. "I picked my game up a level when I needed to," Courier said. "That was a big momentum switch, for sure... I kind of turned the corner there."

Muster agreed that was the decisive stretch. "I had many chances to go ahead," he said. "I played the important points too emotionally."

Courier, who now has 18 straight French Open victories, had played Muster five times previously, winning the last three, including a second-round match here a year ago in straight sets. "I played much better than last year... I made him miss some shots," Muster said.

Courier said beforehand that playing against Muster would be like looking in a mirror, because of their similar styles. Asked if he'd broken the mirror, Courier said, "I hope I don't get seven years bad luck."

Sampras, now with a 6-0 career record against Washington, described the second set as pivotal. "After I won the second set, I wanted to stay focused. I got an early break and he lost a little energy there," Sampras said.

"Even at 5-0 (in the third set) I wanted to stay concentrated. I didn't want to fool around."

Washington, serving at 5-0, saved three match points and won the game with an ace to avoid a shutout.

Sampras, seeking to raise his clay-court game to the level of his play on fast courts, said his effort to sweep the last set illustrated a more businesslike attitude on the court.

"I'm not quite as casual," he said. "I'm getting a little more mature with my tennis, with everything."

"Can I win this tournament? I'm going to try," he said. "This is the biggest challenge in my

7 Jana Novotna, No 3 Gabriela Sabatini vs No 5 Mary-Joe Fernandez, No 4 Conchita Martinez vs No 8 Anke Huber.

Graf was impressed Sunday after overcoming 15-year-old Iva Majoli of Croatia, 6-4, 7-6 (7-3).

"She played a great, great match," Graf said. "I played her in February, and she wasn't even close... She played a completely different match today. If she continues to improve like that she can be very, very tough to play."

Majoli, ranked 44th in the world, isn't shy about her hopes of joining the women's elite. "I'm looking forward next

She said burnout can be mental or physical.

"It is a strain on the body, especially if you practice at early ages that hard," she said. "Sometimes mentally, too, because of a lot of pressure."

Majoli, however, said her brief time on the tour had been only a pleasure.

"I'm having lots of fun, no pressure," she said. "I still have my friends and have lots of time for them. Everything is normal."

Was she worried the fun might fade?

"I don't think I'm going to burn out," she said. "I don't know how long I'll play. If I'm not enjoying it at 25 or 23 I'm



Ukrainian Andrei Medvedev awaits German Marc Goellner's serve during their fourth round match of the French Open yesterday. Medvedev slammed 14 aces to win the tie 6-4, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3.

career — winning the French Open. The expectations are probably not very high from a lot of people... I'm going to try to prove those people wrong."

In the quarter-finals, Courier will play unseeded Goran Prpic of Croatia. Another quarterfinal pairing was fixed Sunday — No 12 Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands against No 13 Karel Novacek of the Czech Republic.

All eight top-seeded women won their fourth-round matches Sunday.

In Tuesday's quarterfinals, it will be No 1 Steffi Graf vs No 6 Jennifer Capriati, No 2 Arantxa Sanchez Vicario vs No

year to be in the top five, or the end of this year, top 10," she said. "That's my goal."

Graf expressed concern that women's tennis "seems to get younger and younger."

"I don't know if it's a very good direction," she said. "You don't see that many older players around the tour anymore because they start so early, they get just get burned out, 24, 25, 26 years old."

"Sometimes I do feel old, but thank God that doesn't happen too often. Sometimes I get a feeling because I have been around for more than 10 years now."

going to stop, but I can't tell you that now. For now, I am enjoying it a lot."

Majoli is compared frequently with Monica Seles. Both grunt when they hit the ball, use similar power strokes and come from the former Yugoslavia. Graf sees the resemblance.

"The way she hits the ball, especially her backhand," Graf said. "She does go for her shots, especially for the lines, as much as Monica does."

Said Majoli: "I don't mind too much. But I think it's great to be just yourself, not to copy somebody."

## Acid test for soccer in USA

LONDON, May 31: American soccer faces its greatest test in June, both on and off the field, when it hosts world champions Germany, Brazil and England in the US Cup in a dress rehearsal for next year's World Cup finals, reports Reuter.

On the pitches of New Haven, Foxboro and Chicago's Soldier Field, the United States play three of the World's top sides in the toughest possible assignment to measure their readiness for next year.

The organisers face a similarly arduous test of their preparedness for the World Cup in a nation with little soccer pedigree.

With just one year before the World Cup kicks off in Chicago on June 17, they will be trying to show the world's media that everything is in place and everyone knows their lines.

The Americans, given permission by soccer's governing body FIFA to play World Cup matches indoors for the first time, will also unveil their indoor stadium in Detroit for its international debut.

The Pontiac Silverdome, home of the Detroit Lions American football team, will host the final match of the US Cup between Germany and England.

American scientists have been experimenting with grass that will stand up to the rigours of four World Cup Games under artificial lights.

The two-week tournament from June 6 to June 19 will be played in four World Cup stadiums, plus New Haven's Yale Bowl, where the US kick off against Brazil next Sunday.

The tournament is a key phase in US coach Bora Milutinovic's squad-building and he will be relieved to welcome back eight European-based internationals after a poor run of results this year that have brought only one win and nine draws in 14 matches.

Germany, who regard the US Cup as important preparation for the defence of their world crown next year, have named a full-strength squad.

England will be without three or four first-choice players because of injury and club commitments and the Brazilians have named a makeshift squad, much to the disappointment of the American organisers.

Brazil's coach Carlos Alberto Parreira was hit by club commitments. Those missing include Mauro Silva and Bebeto of Spanish club Deportivo Coruna, the Paris St Germain pair Ricardo Gomes and Valdo, and Real Madrid defender Ricardo Rocha.

Parreira also avoided selecting players from leading Brazilian clubs Palmeiras and Corinthians and picked only one each from Flamengo, Sao Paulo and Vasco da Gama.

"We recognise the situation that exists around the world regarding the release of play-

ers and we are confident the countries will bring the best team they can and you can't ask for more," said World Cup official Jim Trecker.

"Of course, we are a bit disappointed that the US audiences won't be able to marvel at the wizardry of Brazil's Bebeto and Rai. But we can't mandate for a friendly tournament like this."

The tournament could be held at the

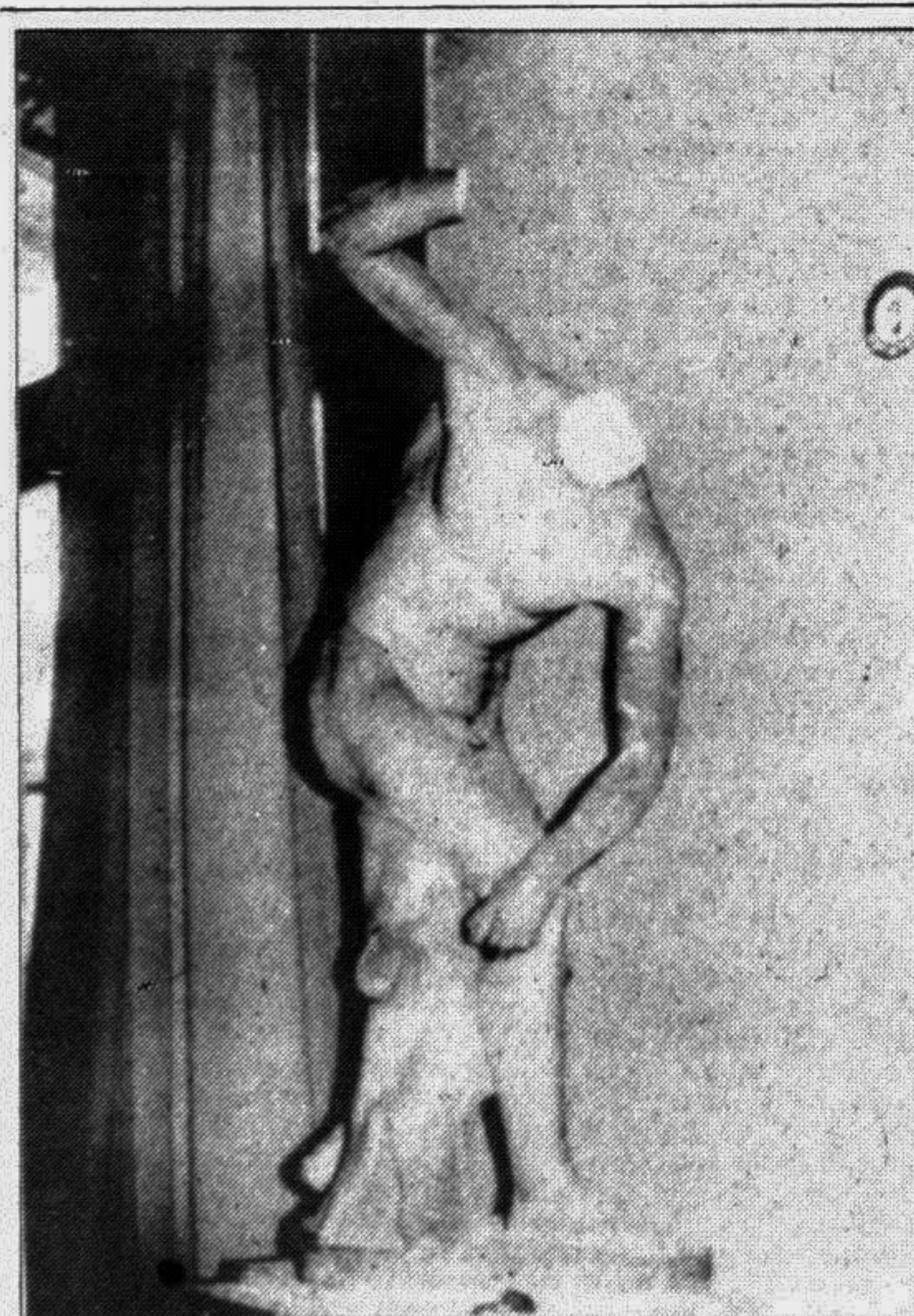
### RFK Stadium to host SuperCup

MILAN, May 31: The Italian SuperCup, featuring the league champions against the winners of the Italian Cup, will be played in Washington's Robert F Kennedy Stadium on Aug 21 in an unprecedented promotional organization overseas, reports AP.

The Italian league, which decided the unusual site over the weekend, made public that the staging of the SuperCup in the United States was aimed at boosting interest of soccer fans prior to the 1994 World Cup finals.

RFK Stadium is one of nine stadiums that will be used for next year's World Cup finals, scheduled for June 17-July 17. It will also be used to stage two games of the US Cup '93, a four-nation exhibition tournament World Cup organizers and US Soccer Federation are using as a test event for the World Cup.

The tournament could be held at the



A copy of the Roman age statue 'Discobolo' by Greek sculptor Miron, placed in the third gallery of the Uffizi, is damaged following the massive car-bomb explosion early on May 27 near the gallery in Florence, Italy. — AFP photo

### Germany to bid for 2006 WC

ZURICH, May 31: The German Football Association will submit a formal bid on Wednesday to host the 2006 World Cup finals, reports Reuter.

Soccer's world governing body said on Monday the bid would be formally presented to FIFA president Joao Havelange at FIFA headquarters.

West Germany hosted the World Cup finals in 1974. The United States will host the 1994 finals, France have been chosen for the 1998 tournament and Japan are favourites to be awarded 2002 when FIFA want the finals to be staged in Asia.

### S Koreans elbow out United States

SEOUL, May 31: South Korea eliminated the United States Monday in the final match of Group B preliminaries here of the one million dollar women's volleyball World Grand Prix, reports AFP.

South Korea defeated the United States 3-0 to rack up a 3-0 record for the three-day preliminaries and pick up 50,000 dollars in prize money.

In the day's other match, Brazil beat China 3-0 to finish with a 2-1 record.

The United States, with a 0-3 record, were eliminated from the qualifiers to be held June 17-20 in Hong Kong.

Both Brazil and China, who have a 1-2 record, will be attending the qualifiers with South Korea.

### World GP F-2 driver killed

MONTERREY, Mexico, May 31: Mexican driver Marco Magana and a spectator were killed when his car flew off the track during the Monterrey Formula 2 Grand Prix race on Sunday, the official news agency Notimex reported, reports Reuter.

Red Cross officials said a rock kicked up by another car hit Magana in the helmet and caused him to lose control of his vehicle.

The car ran off the track and rammed into a van parked nearby. The spectator who died was in the van, officials said.

Magana, 27, died instantly of massive head injuries. Officials suspended the race after the accident.

### Doll shines at Durban

DURBAN, South Africa, May 31: Charley Doll of Germany raced to victory Monday in the 90 kilometre Comrades Marathon ahead of a strong contingent of local talent, reports AP.

Doll, who clocked a time of 5 hours, 39 minutes and 41 seconds, said he was surprised by his victory because the mostly downhill course did not lend itself to his talents.

## ROK deny Indonesia yet again

BIRMINGHAM, May 31: World top women's pair Chung So-young and Gil Young-Ah saved two tournament points on Sunday as South Korea fought back to beat Indonesia 3-2 in Badminton's Sudirman Cup final, reports Reuter.

It was a personal tragedy for Indonesians Lili Tampi and Elnarshi, who had battled their way to 15-6, 14-11 in the fourth match of the five-match rubber with their country leading 2-1.

But Chung, Olympic gold medalist in Barcelona with Hwang Hew-Young, was not to

be denied. The South Koreans saved both match points and swept home 6-15, 17-15, 15-11.

With top men's pairing of Park Joo-Bong and Kim Moon-Soo to follow, the women's result was always going to be the key to the South Koreans retaining the cup they first won in Copenhagen two years ago.

Park and Kim, giants in the men's doubles game for almost a decade, duly obliged with a comfortable 15-10, 15-6 win over Ricky Subagja and Rudy Gunawan.

The 3-2 scoreline was a repeat of two years ago with the Koreans once again win-

ning the three doubles and the Indonesians taking both singles.

The Koreans owed much to Park and Kim who came out of retirement especially for this competition, first contested in 1989.

Both played well all week and on Sunday Park also combined in the mixed with Gil to give their country a 1-0 lead.

Olympic silver medalist Ardy Wiranata made it 1-1 with a laborious 15-11, 15-7 success over Kim Hak-Kyun and Susi Susanti, the world number one, made it 2-1 when she beat old rival Bang Soon-Hyun 11-6, 11-6.

### CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Clues include: 1 Bankroll, 4 Not 'fer', 8 Avon calling?, 12 Dick Button's milieu, 13 Lucy's hubby, 14 Basso Pinza, 15 Most common English word, 16 Syllable before dog or nail, 17 Bananas, 18 31st president, 21 Paycheck-shrinking org., 22 "... a puddytat!", 23 Wheel part, 26 Wapiti, 27 Spy device, 30 Lech Walesa, for one, 31 Johnny's successor, 32 Monologue part, 33 Build on, 34 Drenched, 35 Shirley Booth role, 36 Yon maiden fair, 37 Actress Dawber, 38 'Babes in Toyland' composer, 45 Welsh actor, 46 New Rochelle school, 47 Meadow, 48 Wear a rut in the rug, 49 Straisand/Dreyfuss film, 50 Dict., 51 Part of the 10 Christmas atmosphere, 52 Mardi — sphere, 53 One way to enjoy, 54 Cross word, 1 Accompany, 20 Former, Solution time: 23 mins.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with letters L P C T V L T E Q D G Y, M D O Z P X L P O N I Z Y V G, C D Q D Z V T X N U D X G Z T, M I E E D U T T X V Q P.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BASEBALL OUTFIELDER'S NEW GIRLFRIEND THOUGHT HE WAS A GOOD CATCH. Today's Cryptoquip clue: L equals D. 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.