

Gritty Graf's French Open treble

PARIS, June 5: Battling back like a champion, Steffi shook off a slow start to end the upset streak of Mary Joe Fernandez and win her third French Open title Saturday, reports AP.



World number one Steffi Graf of Germany about to serve against Mary Joe Fernandez in women's final of the French Open yesterday at Roland Garros. The German celebrated her return to number one spot in ATP ranking by winning her 3rd French Open title. —Star TV photo.

seeded Sergi Bruguera of Spain.

Since winning here in 1988, Graf has reached the finals three other times, losing once in two sets and twice in three sets. Monica Seles, absent this year while recovering from a stabbing incident April 30, beat her last year, 6-2, 3-6, 10-8 in one of the best French Open finals ever.

"This time I turned it around," Graf said. "I'm very happy."

Throughout the match, many of the key points were decided by errors, rather than outright winning shots. Graf made more mistakes in the first set, 19 to 14, but by the end Fernandez had 52 unforced errors to Graf's 48.

Fernandez's tough route through the field appeared to take its toll. Her first six matches had averaged one hour, 55 minutes, compared to

one hour, seven minutes for Graf.

Fernandez expressed satisfaction at her breakthrough here and said she would try to build up her strength and endurance to play even better.

It was Graf's 73rd top title, compared to only three for Fernandez. Her 12 Grand Slam singles titles tie with Billie Jean King for fifth on the all-time Grand Slam singles list.

Graf went into the final with a lifetime record of 10-0 against Fernandez, who had not taken a set off of the German until two weeks ago in Berlin. Graf won that match 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Fernandez was playing in her third Grand Slam final. She lost twice in the Australian Open final, to Graf in 1990 and Monica Seles in 1992.

Fernandez had revamped her game over the past few months and has been playing

the best tennis of her career. Her quarterfinal victory over Sabatini, rallying from a 1-67, 1-5 deficit, was perhaps the most memorable match of the tournament.

Graf's semifinal victory over Anke Huber allowed her to reclaim the No. 1 ranking from Seles, sidelined indefinitely after being stabbed by an obsessive Graf fan in Hamburg, Germany.

Courier, winner of four Grand Slams, has 4-0 record against Bruguera, including three victories on clay and straight-set victory at this year's Australian Open. But Bruguera has the best record in the French Open this year, losing only one set in six matches.

Bruguera, 22, is the first Spaniard in the men's final here since Manuel Orantes in 1974, and would be the first to win since Andres Gimeno in 1972.

US fight back, China roll on

KUALA LUMPUR, June 5: The United States team lived up to its pledge to make a comeback in the women's world volleyball Grand Prix by whipping Japan 3-0 in the second round Friday while China beat Germany by the same margin, reports AFP.

The Americans, who finished last at the Grand Prix's first round in Seoul last Friday, white-washed the Japanese 15-7, 15-6, 15-13, in slightly more than an hour.

China, meanwhile, had a tougher outing with the gutsy Germans who played with good strategy and technique despite losing 14-16, 17-14, 15-5 after 70 minutes of play.

US coach Taras Liskevych said his players had been right in believing that the Kuala Lumpur round would set the stage for their comeback into the tournament.

"This is really good for our moral and I hope that the way will be clear for us after this," he said.

The Americans, who are waging their second round battle in Kuala Lumpur with China, Germany and Japan, are hoping to outgun their arch-rivals and tournament favourite Cuba who are playing their second round simultaneously in Bangkok with South Korea, Brazil and Russia.

The Grand Prix, which is the richest women's volleyball tournament ever, offers total prize-money of one million US dollars.

Youngest ever to do it

IRBID, Jordan, June 5: Pakistan schoolboy Ferooz Aziz has made his World Cup debut at 15 and could be the youngest footballer ever to have played in the competition, reports Reuter.

In the absence of official records, Aziz must come close after playing at 15 years four months and 28 days in a qualifier against China in this northern Jordanian town last Saturday.

Winger Aziz has played in all three of Pakistan's qualifying matches here in the first round of Asian qualifying Group A.

"I spotted him playing in a school match in Lahore. He's got stamina and skill and he is a bright prospect for the future," Pakistan coach Muhammad Aslam said on Friday.

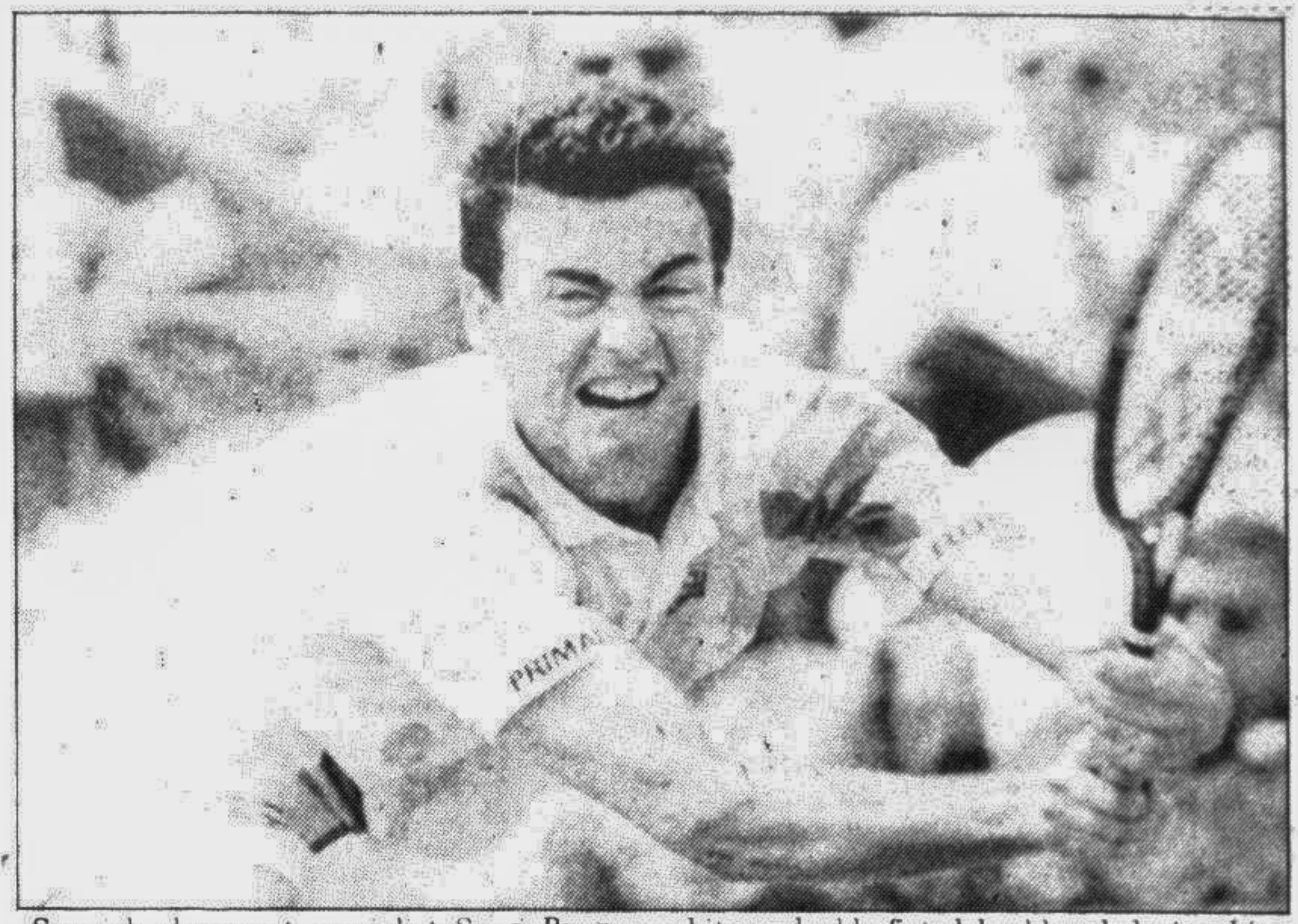
The shy Aziz said he was enjoying competing in the World Cup, especially as it meant missing two weeks at school. He is a form four pupil at Lahore's Pakistan Railways High School.

"I've been playing soccer since the age of 10 and, God willing, I can keep going for a long time yet," he said.

It is unlikely Aziz will break the record of Northern Ireland's Norman Whiteside as the youngest player to have competed in the World Cup finals.

Pakistan have lost all three of their opening qualifiers, conceding 18 goals in the process, and have almost no chance of progressing to the finals in the US next year.

Whiteside was 17 years 42 days old when he played against Yugoslavia in the 1982 finals in Spain, beating the record set by Brazil's Pele in the 1958 finals in Sweden.



Spanish clay-court specialist Sergi Bruguera hits a double-fisted backhand during his French Open men's singles semifinal against Ukrainian Andrei Medvedev at Roland Garros on Friday. Bruguera set up a date with American Jim Courier in the final today beating Medvedev 6-0, 6-4, 6-2. —AFP photo.

Canonization calls Courier

PARIS, June 5: Bjorn Borg, Ivan Lendl, Mats Wilander and two of the Musketeers, Henri Cochet and

Rene Lacoste. Jim Courier hopes to add his name Sunday to that impressive list of players who have won at least three French Open titles. To do that, he will have to defeat Sergi Bruguera, the No 10 seed from Spain, reports AP.

Borg won a total of six French Open titles, including four straight between 1978 and 1981. Cochet won four titles and the others three, but never consecutively.

Another French Open title would give Courier his fifth Grand Slam title before his 23rd birthday. He has also won the Australian Open twice, including this year. Borg had six Grand Slam titles before turning 23.

Courier approaches the game in the same, no-nonsense style as Borg did. Like Borg, Courier plays mostly from the baseline, but he has a more aggressive, hard-hitting style. To hear him describe it, winning matches is just a job.

"It's just kind of like going to work and clocking in," Courier said after beating Richard Krajicek 6-1, 6-7, (2-7), 7-5, 6-2, in the semifinals. Courier goes into the final with a 20-

match victory streak at the French Open. Going back to 1991, Courier has won 32 straight clay-court matches in



JIM COURIER

tournament play, although he lost on clay at the Olympics and in a Davis Cup match against Sweden.

invariant as he was last year when he lost just one set on his way to the title. This year, he has dropped a set in each of his last four matches.

But Courier remains a strong favorite against Bruguera, whom he has beaten in straight sets in their four previous meetings.

Bruguera's victims in the top half of the draw included No 1 seed Pete Sampras and No 11 Andrei Medvedev.

"This is the first time he has really performed up to his level in this tournament," Courier said of Bruguera. "He is obviously very confident. He has beaten Pete Sampras twice in the last couple of weeks and he has got to be feeling very good."

"I definitely know that he has got a game to beat Jim," said Medvedev. "It could be a great match, but pretty much depends on the mental concentration and luck."

Krajicek's serve-and-volley game posed little problems for Courier. Now he faces a baseline specialist in the 22-year-old Bruguera, who won the title in Monte Carlo this spring and reached two other clay-court finals.

Bruguera is the first Spaniard to reach the French Open final since Manuel Orantes in 1974. The last Spaniard to win the title was Andres Gimeno in 1972.

Lauridsen set for world crown

BIRMINGHAM, England, June 5: Denmark's Thomas Stuer-Lauridsen become firm favourite for the men's world badminton title when he brushed aside Olympic gold medalist Allan Budi Kusuma 15-3, 15-9 in the quarter-finals on Friday, reports Reuter.

The 22-year-old Dane took full revenge on the Indonesian for his semifinal defeat at the Barcelona Olympics which consigned him to the bronze medal.

Cuba, Brazil going strong

BANGKOK, June 5: Barcelona gold medalists Cuba overpowered South Korea in three straight sets, while Brazil beat Russia, on the opening day of the second leg of the one million dollar women's world volleyball Grand Prix here Friday, reports AFP.

Cuba ran out 15-3, 15-2, 15-9 winners, while the Brazilians tamed Russia, silver medalists in the Olympics, 3-1, 11-15, 15-5, 15-9, 15-3.

The four teams will play two matches each over the next two days here and three more matches each in Australia from June 11-13.

The other group consisting of the United States, China, Japan and Germany is playing simultaneously in Kuala Lumpur.

The best three teams from each group will play in the grand final from June 17-20 in Hong Kong.

Stuer-Lauridsen played and looked like a world champion on Friday in front of an appreciative audience at Birmingham's national indoor arena.

He swept into a 13-1 lead in the first game with badminton of the highest quality, defending when forced and smashing superbly across court for a series of winners when the chances arose.

Kusuma, without playing badly, had no answer and lost the game in 14 minutes.

The Dane quickly went 10-1 and then 13-2 up in the second game and a swift semifinal slot seemed assured.

Then for the first time self-doubt crept in as Kusuma slowly clawed back to 13-5. Stuer-Lauridsen made four errors in a row and as Kusuma hit his best patch, a fight back looked possible.

But the Dane regained service and claimed the victory that was rightly his on the night after 35 minutes when Kusuma hit the final shuttle just beyond the baseline.

With the departure of top seed Heryanto Arbi of Indonesia on Thursday, it is hard to see who can stop Stuer-Lauridsen winning the title on this form.

Stuer-Lauridsen's semifinal opponent will be Indonesian fifth seed Hermawan Susanto, who disposed of unseeded Swede Jens Olsson 15-9, 15-9. Big-hitting Olsson had beaten Arbi in Thursday's fifth round with one of the finest

displays of his career, but he failed markedly to reproduce that form against Susanto who can trouble the best on his day.

Olympic silver medalist Ardy Wiranata beat Indonesian compatriot Fung Permadi 15-12, 15-12 to claim his semifinal slot.

The top two women, Olympic champion Susi Susanti of Indonesia and defending world title holder Tang Jinhong of China, both survived major scares.

Susanti, Kusuma's fiancée, dropped the first game to South Korean fifth seed Lee Heung-Soon but fought back to reach the semifinals with a 2-11, 11-3, 11-2 victory.

Tang trailed by a game and 8-4 to Indonesian fifth seed Sarwendah Kusumawardhani but pulled herself together to win 2-11, 11-8, 11-1.

Lausanne to host next World Championships

BIRMINGHAM, England, June 5: The Swiss city of Lausanne will stage the next world badminton championships in May 1995, the International Badminton Federation announced on Friday, reports Reuter.

The tournament and the Sudirman Cup team event will be held in the Malley Sports Centre which has previously hosted European figure skating and gymnastics championships.

Marseille in a mess

PARIS, June 5: The French Football League (LNF) decided to take legal proceedings against European Cup winners Olympique Marseille here on Friday in response to last month's bribery allegations, reports AFP.

Marseille, who were crowned French champions for a record fifth time last week, were accused of illegally approaching an opposition player prior to their First Division match against Valenciennes on May 20.

Valenciennes player Jacques Glassman claims he received a phone call from a Marseille general manager Jean-Pierre Bernes before the game, which Valenciennes lost 1-0.

LNF president Noelle Grat said legal proceedings would be necessary in order to shine as much light onto the affair as possible.

UEFA gets tough on Madrid quintet

ZURICH, June 5: Five top Athletic Madrid soccer stars were banned for a total of 20 European Cup matches by UEFA here on Friday after a major bust-up with a referee, reports AFP.

And Spanish club president Jesus Gil was also banned for six games after the incident in the Cup Winners' Cup semifinal against Parma, who went on to win the tournament.

Juan Rodriguez Herrera (six matches), Bernd Schuster (five), Pedro Ronenes (4), Antonio Munoz (3) and Juan Vitceano (2 matches) were all banned after they jostled German referee Aaron Schmidhuber after the end of the second leg match on April 22.

Madrid had three players sent off — two after the final whistle — but still won the match 1-0, only to go out on the away goals rule after Parma had won the first clash at Madrid 2-1.

Italian club Juventus, who won the UEFA Cup by defeating Borussia Dortmund, were also in trouble with the European body's disciplinary committee on Friday.

They were ordered to play their next European match at least 300 km (190 miles) away from their German side on May 19 was held up for six minutes, by fireworks thrown from the crowd.

Charro's 16th

PADUA, Italy, June 5: Charro Mediolanum paced by Australian star David Campese, captured his 16th Italian rugby title defeating Benetton Treviso 41-15 in a decisive playoffs final of the national league, reports AP.

Campese, who made decisive moves in Saturday's match in this northern city, said after victory it was his last game in Italy following ten seasons with Italian clubs.



Mary Joe Fernandez, who gave rise to hopes of an upset in the final with some inspired tennis takes a break against Graf in the women's final of French Open yesterday. Steffi's experience finally prevailed over Mary's exuberance at Roland Garros. —Star TV photo.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Vaudeville units
5 Lamp ornament
8 Tears
12 The — Around the Corner
13 Escape
14 City on the Oka
15 Track-and-field event
17 Unadorned
18 It might be electric
19 Pressed
21 Not long enough
24 Annoying pest
25 Golf course division
26 Pre-arranged signal
30 Simian
31 Goddess of agriculture
32 Caesar's 151
33 Treats snobbishly
35 Painful disorder
36 Hebrew letter
37 Sharpens

DOWN

1 Silent-butler deposit
2 Letter after phi
3 Dress
4 Star or planet
5 Jewish month
6 Actress Dawber
7 Encroaches
8 Automations
9 Oil-rich country
10 French clerical title
11 Coaster
16 Word before set or stream
20 Stadium shouts
21 Former rule of 9 Down
22 Pueblo Indian
23 Cassini, of fashion
24 Circumference
26 Authority of a chief
27 Computer-screen image
28 Sticky stuff
29 What sticklers pick?
31 Thick-coated dog
34 The daughters of Atlas
35 Gomer Pyle's cousin
37 Royal inits.
38 Scandinavian tale
39 Adorn
40 Split
41 S-shaped molding
44 Altar promise
45 Palm leaf
46 Sweet potato
47 Wee, in Dundee

Solution time: 24 mins.

ARK	ORBIT	HAM
SUE	READE	ELI
HEADACHES	AAR	
ETA	STUDIO	
SCHOOL	TELL	
HOE	RIB	REINS
ELAN	BID	SNIT
ADDER	BES	ECU
FOUR	CHOSEN	
PRINCE	TOU	
EAR	HEADDRESS	
ENS	ESSED	LOP
KIT	SEEDY	STY

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16				17		
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42				43	44			45	46	47
48				49				50		
51				52				53		

CRYPTOQUIP

A X Z R B Z T V Z G D E U U Z L
M C R M A A Z L F Y M U A Z V A
E U E M D T X T G
C Z T A M C Y B T F

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE TASK OF DESIGNING A POPULAR BACKPACK BEFORE SUMMER IS ON HIS SHOULDERS.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: D equals W

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.