

Martinez mauls Maleeva

STRATTON MOUNTAIN, Vt. Aug 1: Top-seeded Conchita Martinez swept into the finals of the US women's hard court championships with a dominating straight set victory over fourth-seeded Manuella Maleeva-Fragiere on Saturday, reports AP.

In the other semifinal, fifth-seeded Zina Garrison-Jackson benefitted from some questionable line calls to beat Beatrice Reinstadler 2-6, 7-5, 6-4.

Martinez, the world's sixth-ranked player, overpowered Maleeva-Fragiere in every aspect and won 6-1, 6-2. In the first set, the Spaniard lost one point in three service games.

"I played better than I played all week," said Martinez-Fragiere, who had beaten Martinez in four of six previous matches. "She just played too well."

Martinez, seeking her fourth singles title this year, said she played her best match of the week. "I was feeling very confident today."

Martinez dropped the first game, but won nine consecutive games to go up 3-0 in the second. Maleeva-Fragiere then won two straight games, and led 30-15 on her serve in the sixth game when she came unglued.

After reaching deuce, Maleeva-Fragiere double-faulted and Martinez hit a backhand winner to take the game and a 4-2 lead.

Martinez then held easily and broke at love to win the match, which lasted just 63 minutes.

Maleeva-Fragiere said if she held serve in the sixth game it

"could have changed everything."

"I knew I had to play incredibly well to win," she said. "Overall, she just played very well."

In the other semifinal of the tournament, the 162nd-ranked Reinstadler nearly pulled off her third upset of the week. She routed Garrison-Jackson in the first set and led 4-2 in the second.

She had two break points in the seventh game, but ended up



CONCHITA MARTINEZ losing it. On one break point, a Garrison-Jackson forehand appeared long but was called in.

After the match, Reinstadler criticized the linesmen, calling the match the worst-officiated she has seen all year.

"The line calls were bad, it should have been 5-2," said Reinstadler, who earlier upset seventh-seeded Lisa Raymond and third-seeded Helena Sukova.

"Maybe it's America," the Austrian said.

Garrison-Jackson acknowledged benefitting from some questionable decisions.

"The line calls were pretty mixed up on both sides," she said. "I got some critical ones at key times."

Garrison-Jackson went ahead 6-5 in the second set after holding serve at love, then broke Reinstadler to take the set. Garrison-Jackson struggled with her forehand early, and had trouble with her serve all day. She said the turning point came in the second set, when she relaxed and Reinstadler began tiring.

"I saw she was getting tired and I started drop-shooting her," Garrison-Jackson said. "That made a difference."

Reinstadler acknowledged tiring and making "stupid mistakes."

"I'm really upset," she said. "I should have won that match."

Garrison-Jackson looked ready to run away in the third set after opening a 3-0 lead. But, as she did all week, Reinstadler fought back and won the next three games.

After Garrison-Jackson held serve, she broke to go ahead 5-3. Again, Reinstadler battled back, saving three match points before breaking to cut the lead to 5-4. In the next game, Reinstadler held off three more match points on her serve before hitting what appeared to be a forehand winner. But the ball was called long and Garrison-Jackson won the match.

Garrison-Jackson has lost all four matches against Martinez. Their last match, in Philadelphia last year, went three sets with Martinez prevailing 6-4 in the final set.

Costa clinches Dutch Open

HILVERSUM, Netherlands. Aug 1: Carlos Costa dropped just six games against Magnus Gustafsson Sunday to win the \$278,000 Dutch Open tennis championship, reports AP.

Costa, ranked 42nd in the world, won 6-1, 6-2, 6-3 in an 85-minute match against 26th-ranked Swede Gustafsson, who was suffering a recurrence of an arm injury. Neither finalist was seeded.

Costa made few unforced errors and sent a tired Gustafsson running all around the clay court with delicate drop shots and lobs.

Gustafsson won his first service game, but the Spanish clay court specialist then won six games in a row to clinch the first set.

Costa's serve was impregnable throughout. He served six aces without facing a single break point, and broke Gustafsson twice in the second set and once in the third.

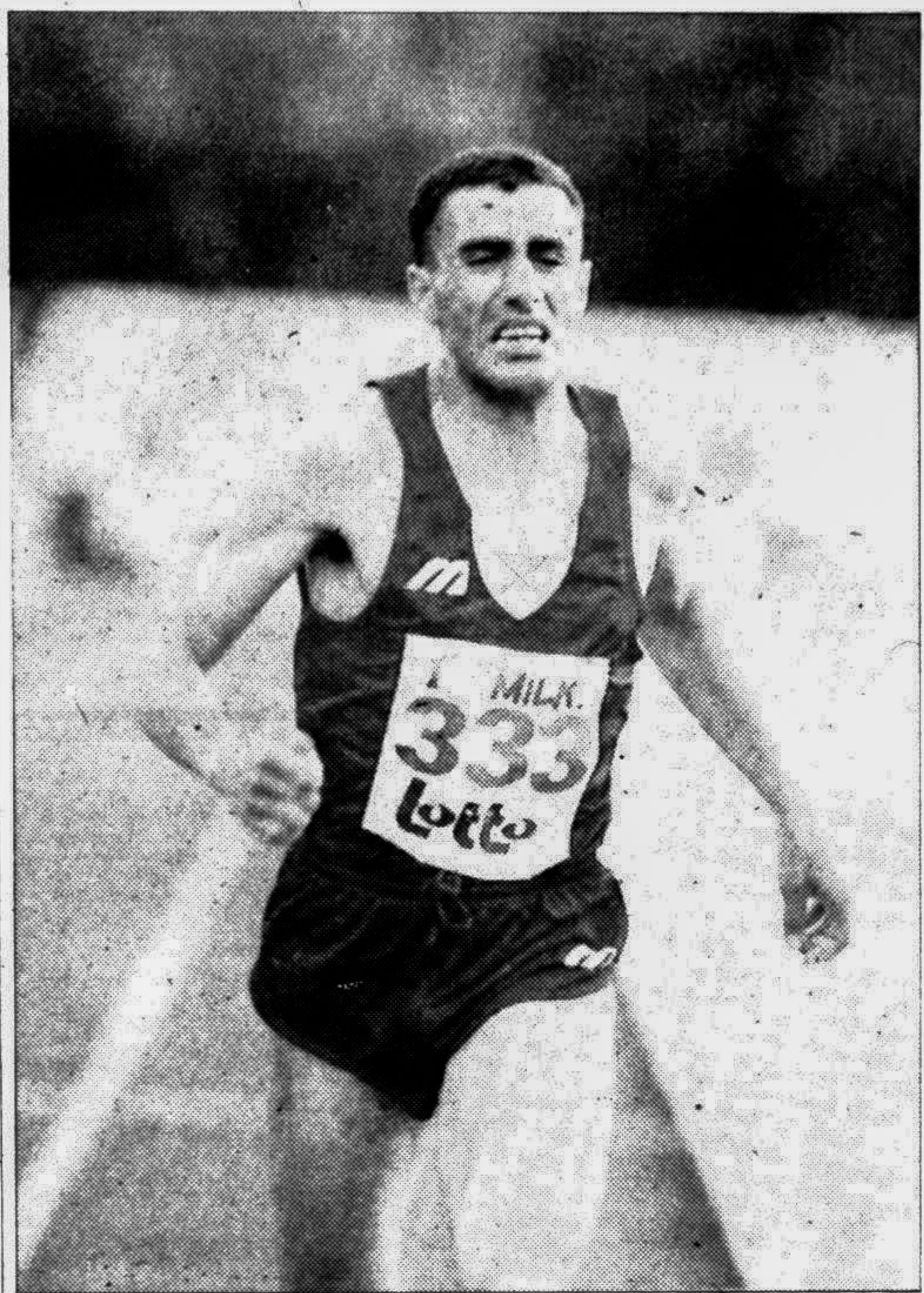
"You can't take Gustafsson's injury into account, because he's always had problems with his arm," said Costa. "Sometimes he loses with ice cubes, sometimes he wins with ice cubes."

Despite his easy win, Costa maintained that the difference in skill between himself and Gustafsson "was not that great."

Costa walked away with \$171,380 in prize-money and 171 ATP points.

Gustafsson said the pain went away after a few games.

"But I was mentally tired and my legs were tired," said the Swede, who threw himself flat on his face on the court at one point in frustration at his play.



Moroccan Khalid Skah on his way to setting a new world record in the two-mile race at the Duinenstadion international meeting in Hechtel, Belgium yesterday. Skah clocked 8 min 12.17 seconds, shaving 1.28 seconds off the previous mark set by fellow countryman Said Aouita way back in 1987.

Skah sets a new world mark

HECHTEL, Belgium. Aug 1: Moroccan Khalid Skah set a world best for two miles with a time of eight minutes 12.17 seconds at the night of the athletics meeting in Hechtel on Saturday, reports Reuters.

Skah unleashed a brilliant solo run in the last kilometre to better the six-year-old mark of 8:13.45 by compatriot Said Aouita and clinch his first world record.

"I knew at the start I could beat this record," Skah said. "This is a record I could beat during practice if I had to."

Skah, the Olympic 10,000 metres champion, was assisted for two-thirds of the race by fellow Moroccan Rashid el Basir, 1,500 metres silver medalist at the Barcelona Olympics.

Skah, 26, said the record whetted his appetite for more world marks.

"Until now I didn't have the experience for this kind of race," he said. "Now I'll try and beat the world records in 5,000 and 10,000 metres, and why not the 3,000?" he said.

"But now I want to save some energy for the World Championships in Stuttgart," he said.

He said he had not yet decided whether to run the 5,000 or 10,000 metres in Stuttgart in August but might run both.

In the women's 5,000 metres, Olympic 10,000 metres silver medalist Elana Meyer of South Africa recorded the third-fastest time ever when she clocked 14:46.41 after a long solo run.

Meyer had her sights set on Ingrid Kristiansen's world record of 14:37.33 but ran the opening laps too slowly to stand

Christie pulls out of Cologne meeting

LONDON, Aug 1: British Olympic 100 metres champion Linford Christie has pulled out of the Cologne athletics meeting today, feeling it would be an anti-climax after Friday's emotional and lucrative win over Carl Lewis, reports Reuter.

"Linford's just a little sore and felt running there would be an anti-climax after Friday," Andy Norman, Christie's race programme organiser, said on Saturday.

Christie, who produced a time of 10.08 seconds, beat world record holder Lewis into third place in Friday's highly publicised duel, which earned the pair some 150,000 dollars each. Lewis' American compatriot Jon Drummond was second.

In Cologne Christie was due to meet America's in-form Andre Cason, who ran a wind-assisted 9.85 at the US Championships in June.

Norman said he would be discussing the possibility of a rematch between Christie and Lewis at Zurich's Weltklasse meeting on Wednesday.

Lewis is already contracted to run the 100 metres in Zurich. If no deal emerges for a second showdown less than two weeks before the World Championships in Stuttgart, Christie may opt to run in the 200 metres.

First ever NFL game in Spain

BARCELONA, Aug 1: American Bowl officials are expecting about 35,000 for Sunday's exhibition pre-season game between the San Francisco 49ers and Pittsburgh Steelers, the first ever NFL game in Spain, reports AP.

The two teams held light workouts Saturday near the 54,000-seat Montjuic Olympic Stadium, focal point of the 1992 Summer Games. Steve Young will start at quarterback for the 49ers and Neil O'Donnell will start for Pittsburgh.

"The first game is for evaluating talent, for seeing people under the gun," said Steelers Coach Bill Cowher. "But we also want to win the game and get off on the right foot."

Cowher and three Steelers players — linebacker Greg Lloyd, O'Donnell and fullback Merril Hoge — attended a Saturday reception on the USS Belknap, a guided missile frigate and the flag ship of the 6th Fleet.

Fleet commander, vice admiral T Joseph Lopez, welcomed the players and another 100 people in the Steelers and 49ers travel party. Lopez handed Cowher his navy cap — with his three-star insignia on the bill — and promised him success.

"I guarantee you when you hand in the plays they'll hand-salute you," Lopez told Cowher.

Cowher, addressing the sailors said, "You people exemplify commitment. We give it to our job. You give it to our country."

NFL president Neil Armstrong got the biggest applause from the crew on the warship when he promised to send them films from every NFL game — even louder than the applause for eight members of the 49ers cheerleaders, the "Gold Rush."

The NFL also gave the sailors about 300 tickets for Sunday's game.

Pernfors plays Martin in final

MONTREAL, Aug 1: Unseeded Mikael Pernfors of Sweden and 13th-seeded Todd Martin of the US won their semifinal matches at the 1.65 million dollars Player's Ltd International on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Pernfors, ranked 95th in the world, upset sixth-seeded Petr Korda of the Czech Republic 7-6 (7-4), 7-5. Martin, ranked 20th, cruised to a 6-3, 6-4 victory for his first career win in three attempts against fellow-American Richey Reneberg.

Today's final was meant to feature a more famous line-up. Almost everybody who is anybody — Pete Sampras, Jim Courier, Boris Becker, Ivan Lendl and Andre Agassi — was here.

But they all failed to read the script.

Martin will be playing in his second straight tour final, after losing to Israeli Amos Mansdorf in last week's event in Washington, DC.

Martin won his first career tournament at Coral Springs, Florida, in May. After the match

he displayed his placid demeanor that is almost unnerving.

"A couple of years ago I would have been jumping for joy and doing all the first pumping," said Martin. "I've accomplished quite a bit this week but not as much as I want. So, there's no need to revel in what I've done so far."

Martin, who posted his first double-fault of the week in the

South Korea win singles crown

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 1: South Korean Kim Jae-Sik won the singles title Sunday in the second leg of the Malaysia International Tennis Satellite Circuit 11, defeating Australian Peter Tramacchi 6-4, 6-4 in 80 minutes, reports AP.

It was Tramacchi's second disappointment in the series. He was in the finals in the first leg in Seremban last week, but lost to South Korean Lee Jin-Ho 6-4, 6-2.

Kim, ranked 519th in international tennis, received US \$1,625, the national news agency Bernama reported from Ipoh, 200 kilometers (120 miles) north of Kuala Lumpur.

In the semifinals Kim defeated Filipino Roland So 6-4, 6-4, while Tramacchi defeated Yasufumi Yamamoto of Japan 6-3, 6-3.

Thirty-two players from China, Pakistan, South Korea, Japan, India, Philippines, the United States, Germany, Belgium and Australia participated in the singles competition at Ipoh's City Council tennis complex.

The doubles final Saturday was won by South Koreans Chang Eu-Jong and Kim Chi-Wan, who defeated Gerald Mandl of Germany and Richard Nicholle of the United States 6-4, 6-3.

The third leg will be in Johore later this week.

The best of the 24 singles and 16 doubles players in the three legs will compete in the final leg at the National Tennis Center here Aug 10-14.

Chinese girls win Asian v'ball

SHANGHAI, Aug 1: Five-time world, Olympic and World Cup winners China retained the Asian women's volleyball championship title here Saturday, reports AP.

China used their taller players to mount an effective blocking defence, beating the Japanese spikers 15-5, 15-9, 15-9.

China whitewashed Taiwan, while Japan beat South Korea on Friday to reach the grand final.

Meanwhile, South Korea scored a winning set against Taiwan, 15-3, 15-6, 15-6, to take the bronze medal in the tournament.

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Brazilian girls beat France in world jr b'ball

SEOUL, Aug 1: Brazil beat France 74-53 after leading 35-25 at half-time in the opener of the third world basketball championship for junior women (under 22) here Sunday, reports AP.

In the second match of the opening day, South Korea crushed Zaire 111-30 after a half-time score of 57-13.

Participants are divided into two groups for a preliminary round, with Australia, Brazil, China, France, Poland and Taiwan in Group A, and Bulgaria, Japan, South Korea, Russia, the United States and Zaire in Group B.

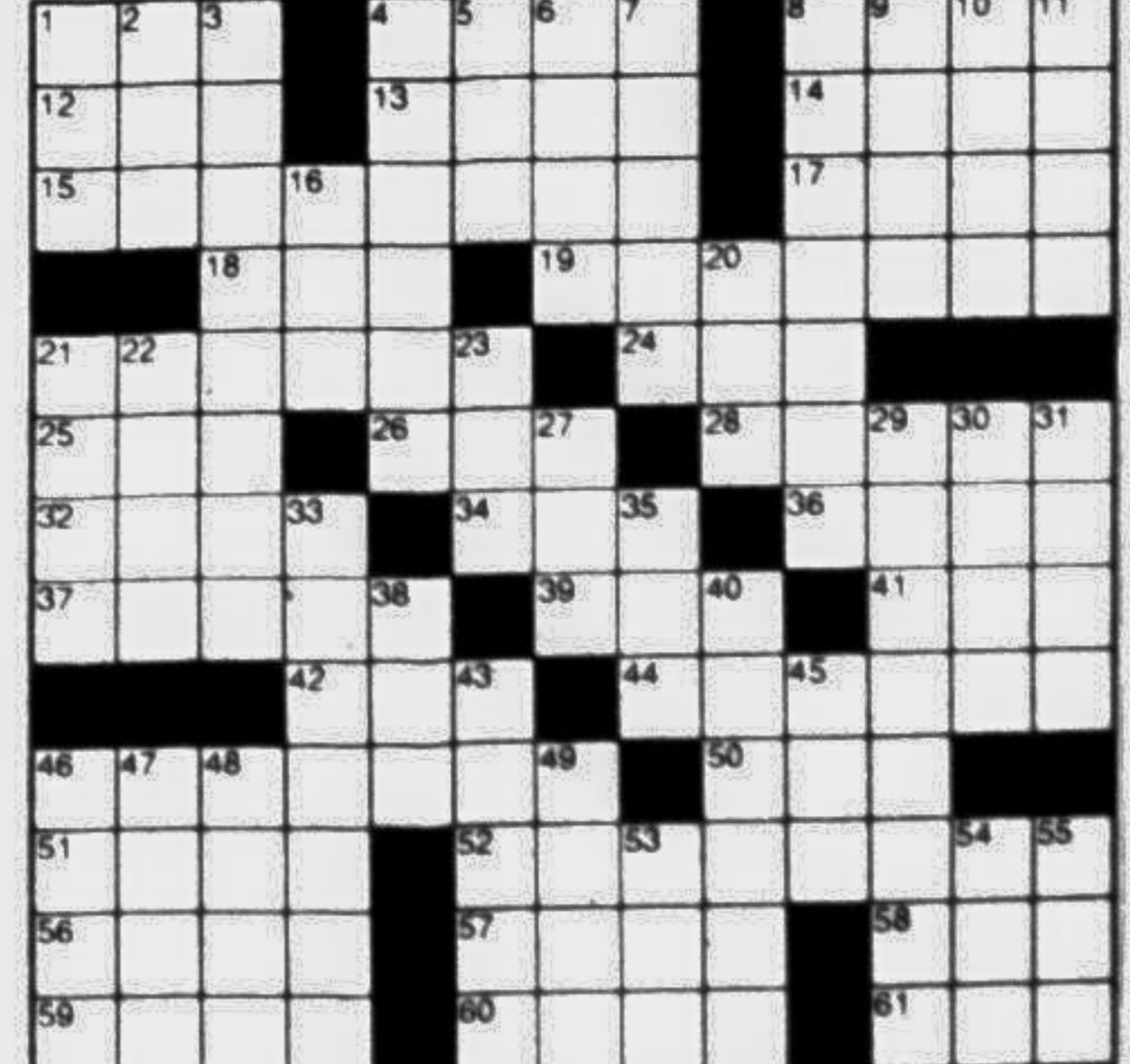
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 42 "Oh, yeah? — who?"
 1 Pugnacious play
 4 Crow's nest cry
 8 Burn some
 12 Past
 13 Bewildered
 14 American Beauty, e.g.
 15 Become trite
 17 Reed instrument
 18 Posed
 19 Dismisses, as passengers
 21 Santa had a hand in it
 24 "Mayday!"
 25 Sandy's comment
 26 Sartorial woe
 28 Kennel cries
 32 Forte
 34 Quilters' get-together
 36 Roy's missus
 37 Creek
 39 Height for Heidi
 41 Take top honors

DOWN 21 French Sudan, today
 22 Unyielding
 23 Pen point
 27 Shell-game need
 29 Legislator
 30 Ballet bend
 31 Dismiss
 33 Lot
 35 North Pole employee
 38 Asian holiday
 40 Worse off
 43 Football ref, colloquially
 45 Newspaper revenue source
 46 Goblet part
 47 Stromboli spillover
 48 The yoke's on them
 49 Unhearing
 53 Ms. Gardner
 54 Freeze
 55 Agree silently

Solution time: 23 mins.

COP GINA FAIR
AMOS URDU
MANHATTAN
PLUMB ELI
ALIVE FLOOR
SHEDEVIL ECHO
LAX REBUS TIA
OVER SILKWOOD
BESET ALIE
POI NEIGH
HEARTBURN TIE
AMMY ISEE EVE
PUPS SEND MEL



CRYPTOQUIP

S F B E M , E V D D H E U
 U A O M D V E M Y O T U E R Y E L U ,
 T E F T , " S F Y O B R U E U P D L
 P T E U T U O E H ! "

Yesterday's Cryptiquip: CARPET MANUFACTURER FINDS HE IS ABLE TO RETIRE BECAUSE HE MADE A NICE PILE.

Today's Cryptiquip clue: F equals Y

The Cryptiquip 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.



Players in a wrangle over the control of the ball during second rugby Test between world champions Australia and South Africa in Sydney on July 31. The Springboks stunned the Aussies with a 19-12 win. —Star TV photo