

Uneasy still Gooch's head

BIRMINGHAM, Aug 7: Former captain Graham Gooch hit back for England with a defiant 44 not out Saturday as his team chased Australia's first innings lead of 132 in the fifth Test at Edgbaston, reports AP.

England moved to 89 for one at the close of the third day with the loss of new captain Michael Atherton, who was caught by Australia's captain, Alan Border, of Shane Warne for 28.

Earlier, Australia had totalled 408 in reply to England's 276 thanks to a century partnership by Ian Healy and Merv Hughes.

Wicket-keeper Healy, who scored a century in the opening Test at Old Trafford, was out for 80. Hughes, a fast bowler who also scored 71 against Glamorgan last Sunday, scored 38 in a seventh wicket stand of 107.

Martin Bicknell took two wickets the lunch break and one afterwards but the English bowlers generally were bettered around the Edgbaston ground.

In his first over Bicknell produced a ball that shaved the edge of Steve Waugh's bat and wicketkeeper Alec Stewart took a low catch.

Umpire John Hampshire took a few seconds to consider the dismissal before raising his finger and Waugh, who added only two runs to his overnight score, was out for 59.

Healy hit 11 fours and Hughes smashed a six and two more boundaries to defy the

English bowlers as runs flowed at the rate of one a minute. In the final over of the session, Healy flashed at a wildish delivery from Bicknell and Stewart moved to his right to hold the catch and end the partnership.

Hughes batted slowly after the interval and had moved on to 38 when Bicknell struck again by striking his stumps.

Paul Reffel added 20 before he was bowled by off-spinner Peter Such and Shane Warne was last man out for 10, caught by Stewart off Emburey. It was Waugh's fifth wicket



IAN HEALY... 80

partnership of 153 with his twin brother, Mark, on Friday that rescued Australia from a shaky 80 for four. Mark Waugh scored 137.

Australia already is 3-0 ahead in the six-match series with only one more to come and has retained the Ashes. England have not won a Test

match for a year, losing eight out of nine against Pakistan, India (three times), Sri Lanka and Australia (three times).

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the third day of the fifth cricket Test between England and Australia at Edgbaston on Saturday:

ENGLAND: First innings 276 (M Atherton 72, J Emburey 55 not out, P Reffel 6-7)

AUSTRALIA: First innings (overnight 258-5)

M Taylor run out	19
M Slater c Smith b Such	22
D Boon lbw b Emburey	0
M Waugh c Thorpe b Ilott	137
A Border c Hussain b Such	3
S Waugh c Stewart b Bicknell	59
I Healy c Stewart b Bicknell	80
M Hughes b Bicknell	38
P Reffel b Such	20
S Warne c Stewart b Emburey	10
T May not out	-3
Extras: (b-7, lb-8, nb-2)	17
Total:	408

Fall of wickets: 1-34; 2-39; 3-69; 4-80; 5-233; 6-263; 7-370; 8-379; 9-398.

Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Bicknell	34	9	99	3
Ilott	24	4	85	1
Such	52.5	18	9	3
Emburey	39	9	119	2

ENGLAND: Second innings

G Gooch not out	44
M Atherton c Border b Warne	28
R Smith not out	7
Extras: (b-5, lb-4, nb-1)	10
Total: (for one wicket)	89

Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Hughes	8	1	15	0
Reffel	6	1	18	0
May	12	2	23	0
Warne	10	4	24	1

Richardson to play for Yorkshire again

LEEDS, England, Aug 7: West Indies captain Richie Richardson has been re-engaged as Yorkshire's overseas player for next season, the County Cricket Club announced on Friday, reports Reuter.

Richardson replaced Indian batsman Sachin Tendulkar this season and has scored 609 championship runs with an average of 40.60.

Fraser prime for Test Arena

LONDON, Aug 7: Medium pacer Angus Fraser sent a powerful message to the England selectors by taking a career-best seven for 40 to put the skids under Leicestershire at Lord's on Friday, reports Reuter.

Leicestershire, replying to Middlesex's 551 for five declared, were skittled for 114 in 34.2 overs as Fraser ripped through their batting on the second day of the four-day match.

Fraser showed he has fully recovered from a career-threatening hip problem that has dogged him since he last played for England in 1990.

Following on 437 runs behind, Leicestershire were 44 for one at the close.

Earlier, championship leaders Middlesex battled on from their overnight 352 for two with Mike Roseberry (185), Mark Ramprakash (83) and John Carr (74 not out) piling on the agony for Leicestershire.

Title contenders Glamorgan need to score just 138 in their second innings on Saturday to beat Warwickshire in their clash at Cardiff.

Warwickshire skipper Dermot Reeve and Jason Ratcliffe shared a 95-run fourth-wicket partnership to give their team a glimmer of hope on a tricky pitch.

But Glamorgan pacemen Steve Watkin and Darren Thomas took three wickets each to help dismiss Warwickshire for 248 and put the home team within sight of victory.

Opener Alan Fordham staged a superb rearguard action as Northamptonshire took a first innings lead of 84 over Essex at Northampton.

Fordham hit his third century of the season — 160 with a six and 20 fours in 400 minutes — in his side's 370.

Essex were 18 for one at the close, still 66 behind.

Muster, Sanchez sail to final

KITZBUHEL, Austria, Aug 7: Third seed Thomas Muster of Austria and No 6 Javier Sanchez of Spain took easy straight-set victories Saturday to advance to the finals of the dlr 400,000 Philips Head Cup tournament, reports AP.

Muster upset No. 2 seed Andrei Medvedev 6-3, 6-4 in an hour and 19 minutes to become the first Austrian to reach the finals in Kitzbuehel. Muster broke out, in front early against Medvedev and stayed there. He broke Medvedev's serve to go up 2-0 in the first set. Medvedev broke back, but Muster countered for a 3-1 advantage, and then stayed ahead.

Sanchez disposed of No 8 Bernd Karbacher 6-2, 6-2. Karbacher had little left after upsetting No. 1-ranked Goran Ivanisevic on Friday.

Aussie, Russian girls in world b'ball final

SEOUL, Aug 7: Australia beat South Korea 78-63 and defending champions Russia downed Poland 78-54 in the semifinals of the third world junior women's basketball championship in Seoul Saturday, reports AFP.

Australia and Russia will meet in the finals of the 12-nation championship Sunday, while South Korea and Poland will clash for third and fourth places.

Bulgaria beat Taiwan 72-58, while Zaire came from behind to beat China 74-70.

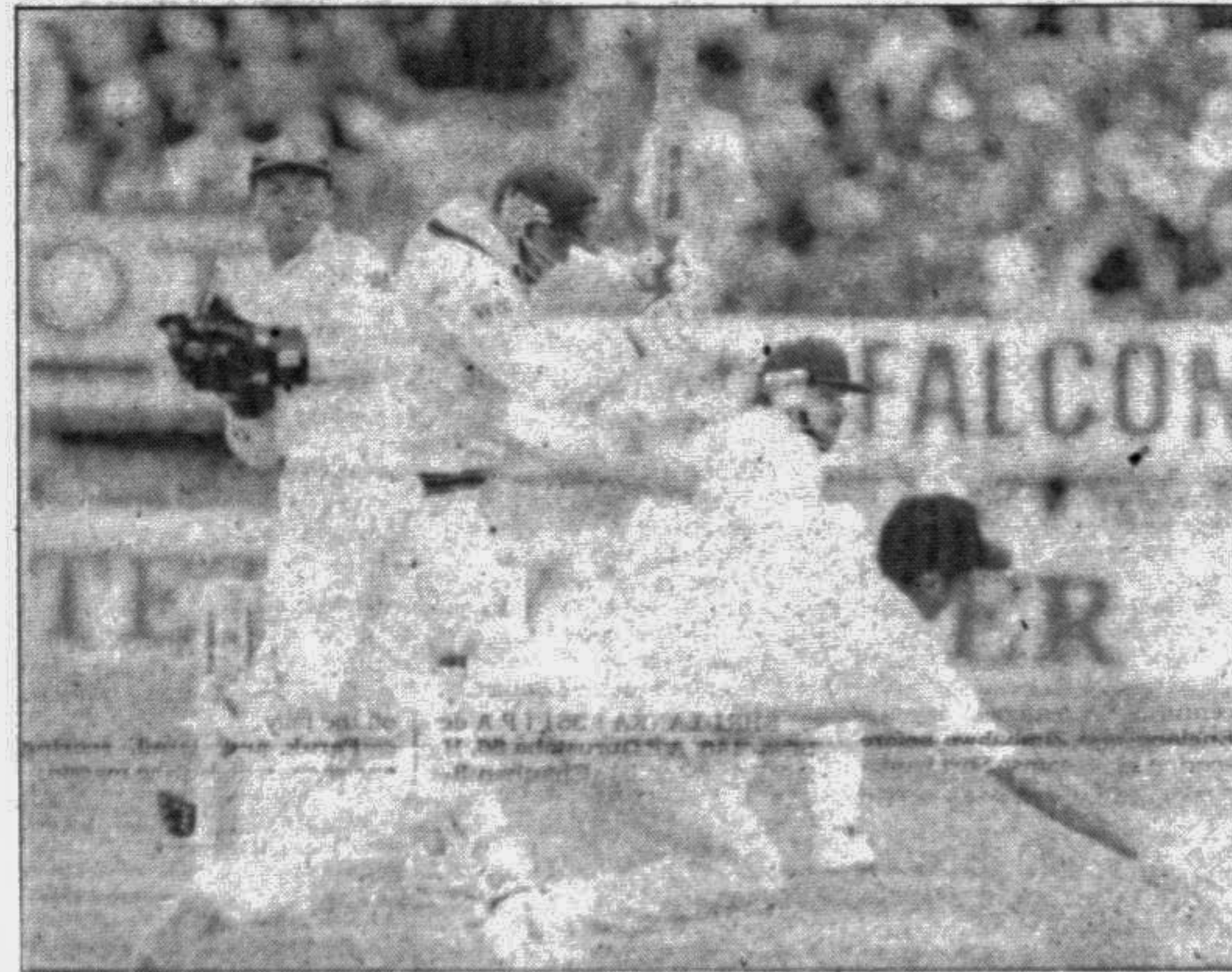
Bulgaria will play Zaire for the 9th and 10th place of the championship, while China will face Taiwan for the 11th and bottom 12th place on Sunday.

In other matches, France narrowly beat the United States 75-74 after leading 40-39 at half time, while Brazil whipped Japan 103-70 after a half-time of 59-30.

France fight Brazil for 5th and 6th places on Sunday, while the United States meet Japan for 7th and 8th places.

Results:

Australia beat South Korea 78-63 (half-time 39-29)
Russia beat Poland 78-54 (39-28)
Bulgaria beat Taiwan 72-58 (42-28)
Zaire beat China 74-70 (32-35)
France beat United States 75-74 (40-39)
Brazil beat Japan 103-70 (59-30)



Australian batsman Mark Taylor hops on his back foot to turn a shortish ball on the leg side during the second day of the fifth Test of the Ashes series between England and Australia at Edgbaston on August 6.

Dexter, Stewart lashed out at

BIRMINGHAM, England, Aug 7: Win or lose, the arguments over England's selection policy look certain to rumble on after the current fifth Test at Edgbaston is over, reports Reuter.

Chairman of selectors Ted Dexter and wicketkeeper Alec Stewart are both in the firing line, even though England are still in with a chance of securing their first win of a hapless Ashes summer.

Dexter is the subject of a letter circulated to all 18 county chairmen by Derbyshire's Chris Middleton, who believes the former England captain should resign in advance of the Test and County Cricket Board meeting on August 17.

Dexter's position as chairman of the England committee comes up for renewal in March. He cannot be sacked before then, but may resign if he feels county chairmen have lost faith in him.

Stewart, whose father Micky attracted similar public condemnation during his time as England team manager, has

meanwhile reopened the debate over whether he should be wearing the wicketkeeping gloves in Test cricket.

A missed stumping by Stewart on Friday, which gave Steve Waugh a reprieve on nought and allowed him to share a stand of 153 with twin Mark, could yet prove the decisive moment in a match where every run is proving vital.

By close of play on the second day, the tourists were just 18 runs behind on 258 for five, and current England manager Keith Fletcher found himself protecting Stewart against claims that specialist Jack Russell should have been picked instead.

Back in May, before England had picked their first Ashes side, Graham Gooch announced Stewart would be used solely as a batsman.

But the then captain was overruled by his fellow selectors and their policy has remained unchanged throughout the series.

Fletcher hinted on Friday that nothing would change for the final Test. "Don't give me that old rubbish about Alec not

being a good keeper," he said.

"Alec knows it was a chance, but everyone misses the odd one, like that now and then. Alec is as good a keeper as Australia's Ian Healy, for example, but he missed a similar opportunity during the last Test at Headingley."

As so often in the series, the Australians took full advantage of English generosity and Mark Waugh's innings of 137 swung a tight match in the tourists' favour.

"It was particularly pleasing for me because we were under pressure and the situation was tense," said Waugh, who struck 18 boundaries.

England, 3-0 down in the series, felt Waugh, like his brother, might have gone for nought when a ball from Peter Such deflected to slip. Neither umpire or batsman agreed.

"I definitely didn't hit it. The ball went off the middle of my pad," said Waugh. "The odd word was spoken but it didn't get out of hand. Perhaps I should have told them I did hit it...then they'd have been even more upset."

Sampras strikes McEnroe down

LOS ANGELES, Aug 7: Pete Sampras blasted 10 aces past Patrick McEnroe in a 7-5, 6-2 victory Friday that advanced him to the semifinals of the Volvo-Los Angeles tournament, reports AP.

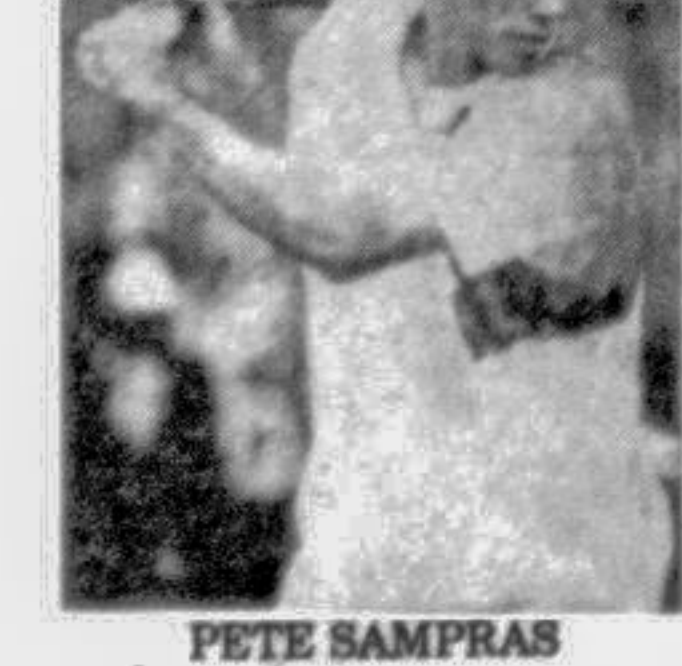
Sampras, the top seed and world's No. 1 player, will meet fourth-seeded Richard Krajicek, a 6-1, 6-4 winner over No. 5 seed Alexander Volkov of Russia, in Saturday's semifinals.

Michael Chang needed 2 hours and 21 minutes for his first career victory over Aaron Krickstein, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2. Krickstein won all four of their previous matches.

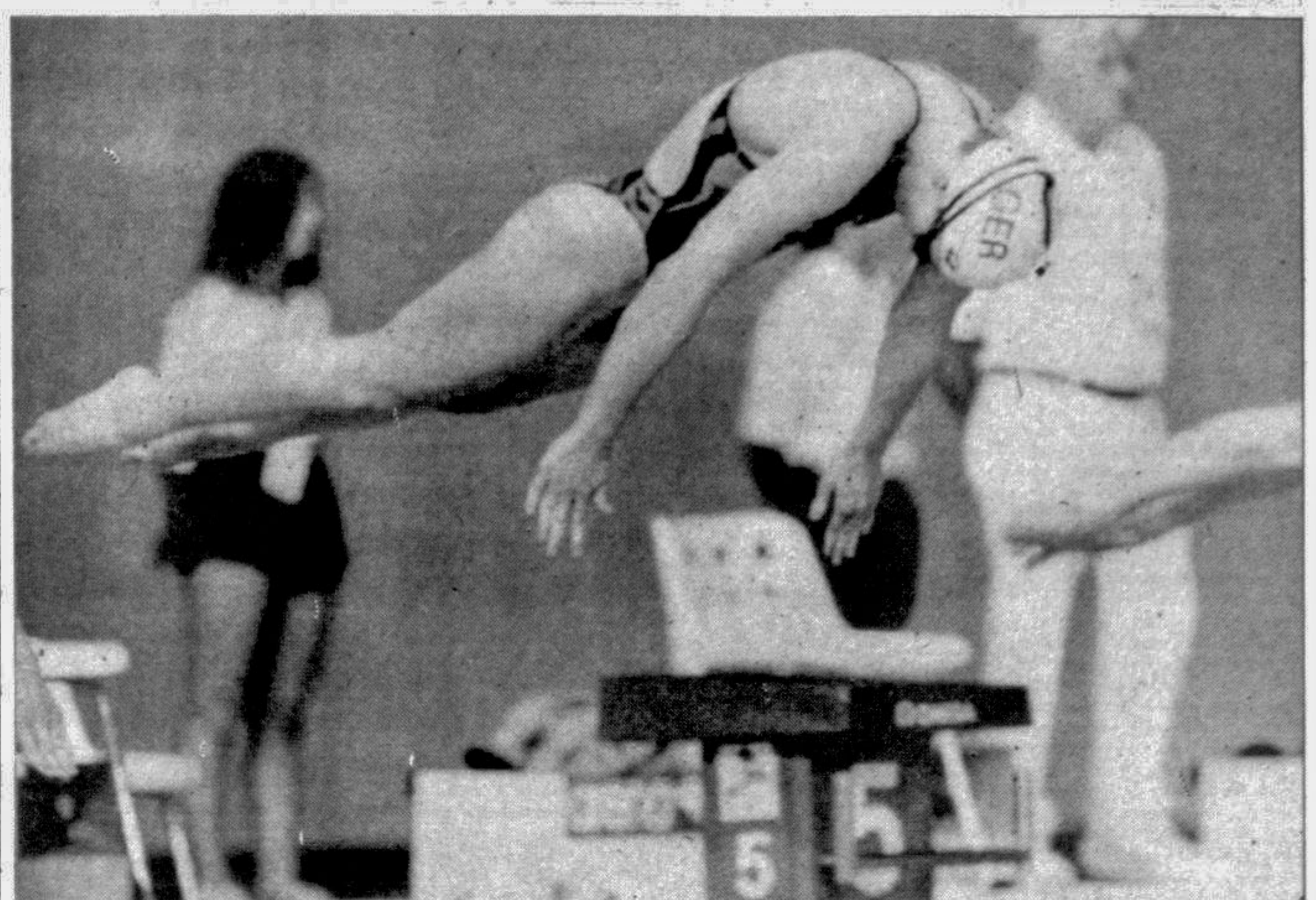
"It's nice whenever you break a string like that," Chang said. "He's been a very tough player for me. He was up a set and up

a break and I just tried to move him around."

Chuck Adams staged the tournament's biggest upset with a 5-7, 6-4, 6-4 victory over No. 2 seed Michael Stich of Germany.



PETE SAMPRAS



An airborne snap of Silvia Gersch moments before her dive into the pool. The German swimmer took the gold medal in women's 100m breaststroke on August 6 in the European Swimming Championships in Sheffield, England. — AFP photo

Plewinski upstages Van Almsick

SHEFFIELD, England, Aug 7: Nick Gillingham extracted revenge and Catherine Plewinski upstaged teenage prodigy Franzisk van Almsick as Britain and France celebrated rare golden trebles at the European Swimming Championships on Friday, reports Reuter.

Gillingham slew the demons of defeat with a stirring victory in the 200 metres breast-stroke over Hungarian Kroly Guttler, his world record breaking conqueror in the 100 on Tuesday.

Flewinski, a small packet of determination, succeeded where all others had failed and beat the long and lean German van Almsick in the women's 100 metres butterfly.

Gillingham and Plewinski joined a select band who have won an event at three successive European Championships, including the likes of Vladimir Salnikiv, Michael Gross, Adrin Moorhouse and Tamas Drmyl.

Former East German Sylvia Gersch, world champion at 17 back in 1986, struck another blow for the older swimmer with victory in the women's 100 metres breast-stroke eight years after she first won the event.

But the first final gave youth its fling as 19-year-old Finn Antti Kasvici and 18-year-old Briton Paul Palmer elbowed their elders aside in a thrilling men's 400 metres freestyle.

Gillingham earned the biggest cheers from the home crowd, banishing Hungarian nightmares just as he had at the last European Championships in Athens in 1991.

Two years ago, world champion Norbert Rozb romped away with the 100 breast-stroke but succumbed to Gillingham in the 200.

This year, with Rozsa seeking a new life in Australia, Guttler broke his compatriot's world record in the 100 heats, won his first major championship title ahead of Gillingham in the final but bowed to the Briton in the 200.

Guttler stormed through the first half of the 200 with Gillingham behind but both inside world record pace.

Gillingham, at 26 the oldest finalist, gradually closed the gap and hit the front on the last length, forging ahead to win by nearly a second.

He won in two minutes 12.49 seconds, well outside American Mike Barrowman's 2:10.16 world record, but it was victory that mattered.

"The pace was very quick ... (but) I know my pace so well that I knew I had to come back," Gillingham, who won Olympic silver in 1988 and bronze in 1992, said.

"I knew I was challenging Karoly. It was all about winning and telling myself to go for the gold. I can't stop shaking. I've never been shaking so much after a race."

"It's sheer pleasure swimming in front of your home crowd. The sound coming down on the last 50 metres was just incredible."

Graf tames Pierce easily

CARLSBAD, Calif., Aug 7: Steffi Graf played toughest on crucial points to defeat seventh-seeded Mary Pierce 6-3, 6-4 Friday and advance to the semifinals of the Mazda Classic, reports AP.

Pierce, an 18-year-old facing Graf for the first time, had powerful shots to challenge Graf but couldn't match her consistency. Although she had nine break points, Pierce converted only once.

"When it was important, I played very well," Graf said. "I'm happy I won those break points. But I would have liked to win more points when it was 30-0 or so."

Graf will play Saturday in the dlr 375,000 event against third-seeded Conchita Martinez, who advanced with a 6-3, 6-2 victory over No. 5 Magdalena Maleeva. It will be a rematch of their Wimbledon semifinal, won by Graf 7-6 (7-0), 6-3 on her

way to the championship. Second-seeded Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario defeated No. 11 Ann Grossman 6-0, 6-0 and will play Germany's Marketa Kochia, who defeated Yelena Likhovtseva 6-1, 6-2. Kochia is the first qualifier to reach the semifinals in the 10-year history of the event.

Grossman and Sanchez-Vicario duelled from the baseline with long rallies. In the second set, a frustrated Grossman yelled, "When are you going to miss it?"

"I heard her that one time, but mostly, I was concentrating on every shot," said Sanchez-Vicario. "I hit the ball strong. She could get frustrated because she didn't have many chances."

Sanchez-Vicario made only 12 unforced errors and won 50 of 71 points.

Pierce, ranked 14th in the world, took a 3-2 lead with her only successful break in the second set. She benefited when

the chair umpire overruled on a Graf forehand that was called long.

"I was very, very upset by that call. Everyone around there agreed it was out," Graf said. "Still, it was my mistake not to concentrate on the next few points."

Pierce called for a trainer to retape her strained right leg during the following break, and although she later said there was no pain, she lost the next three games.

"I have mixed feeling about today's match," Pierce said. "It was great to play the No. 1 player and I had some great shots. But I need to improve on the big points. It's disappointing to come close and end up losing."

This was Pierce's first tournament since dropping her controversial father as her coach two weeks ago. Jim Pierce has been banned from court events for two years because of disruptive behaviour.

Fischer on his way to meet FIDE chief

BUDAPEST, Aug 7: Bobby Fischer was reported to have left on a trip Friday that suggests the publicity-shy American chess genius may be seeking a meeting with the head of the International Chess Federation, reports AP.

Fischer, 50, who made world headlines last year when he beat Boris Spassky in a rematch not officially recognized, could be seeking to mend fences with the federation, known by its French acronym FIDE. FIDE stripped Fischer of his 1972 world champion title when he refused to defend it in a dispute over rules.

Peter Rajszanyi, father of Fischer's Hungarian girl friend, Zita, told The Associated Press that Fischer left Hungary on Friday for Switzerland and Manila. That suggested he may be seeking a meeting with federation chief Florencio Campomanes either in Zurich, FIDE's headquarters, or in Manila, the Philippine capital. Campomanes is from the Philippines.

Earlier Friday, state TV reported Fischer's arrival in Hungary, possibly in preparation for a match with Hungarian chess whiz Judit Polgar, 17, the world's top woman player.

"There is talk of a match between Fischer and Judit," Laszlo Polgar, Judit's father and manager, told the Budapest sports daily "Sport plus foci" Friday.

"It could take place in a matter of days, at least this is what Fischer referred to in our personal meetings, which he initiated."

Fischer had reportedly remained in Yugoslavia after beating Russian-born Spassky last November in their highly publicized match, played in defiance of UN sanctions. He defeated Spassky for the 1972 title.

Fischer could face prosecution in the United States for defying the sanctions, imposed on Yugoslavia for provoking warfare in neighboring Bosnia-Herzegovina.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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CRYPTOQUIP

Z X J D C V W G L R D D L U
D C O D X R I D O O Z Y E
A G A K S , O Q K J ' V R K
W D S K G R U D S ' R Z Y E .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WE OPENED OUR OWN RESTAURANT; SORRY TO SAY IT DIDN'T PAN OUT.
Today's Cryptoquip clue: R equals B
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.