



Namibian Frank Fredericks (L) sprints past Canadian Bruny Surin (236), Jeff Williams, with glasses on and Brian Bronson of the United States on his way to winning the men's 200m at the track and field meet in Linz on August 25. Fredericks clocked 20.37 seconds.

Pele's occult powers

SAO PAULO, Aug 27: Soccer legend Pele told the Brazilian edition of Playboy Magazine that he has faith-healing powers that have helped cure children suffering from cancer, reports AP.

Kudinov signs for New York Rangers

NEW YORK, Aug 27: Andrei Kudinov, a 23-year-old centre who played in the former Soviet Elite League, signed on Thursday with the New York Rangers, reports AP.

OM case hearing on Sept 4



PARIS, Aug 27: French soccer officials, scoring an August 30 UEFA deadline, have reset a Friday hearing for Sept 4 for eight officials and players implicated in a payoff scandal involving European champions Olympique Marseille, reports AP.

The announcement coincided with a police swoop on the business offices of Olympique Marseille owner Bernard Tapie.

Police sources said the six inspectors were sent to Bernard Tapie Finances on orders from Examining Magistrate Bernard Befly, investigating the affair, to take pictures and measurements. They did not elaborate.

The National Soccer League's disciplinary committee on Thursday postponed its Friday hearing after six of the eight people scheduled to appear asked for a delay.

Among those who sought the postponement was former Valenciennes team coach Boro Primorac, who alleges Tapie tried to persuade him to take the blame in the scandal, which came to light May 20 after Marseille defeated Valenciennes in a pre-championship game.

Marseille's former coach Jean-Pierre Bernes and Marseille player Jan-Jacques Eydelie face charges they paid off two Valenciennes players to

throw that match. Marseille clinched France's first European soccer title six days later.

The Sept 4 date surpasses the Aug 30 deadline for the French to say which team could replace Marseille in a European championship.

Failing to meet the deadline would mean France would not be represented in European champions' Cup competition, Andre Viet, spokesman for European soccer's governing body UEFA said in a telephone interview Thursday.

French National Soccer League president Noel Le Graet disputed that Friday.

"No one can pull OM out of Japanese eyes too strong for Aussies

PERTH, Australia, Aug 27: Japan's powerful women's volleyball team, Odakyu, proved too strong for Australia again here on Friday in the second of five clashes between the sides for the Australian Cup, reports AP.

Odakyu cantered home by three sets to nil, despite a significantly improved performance by Australia.

The Japanese women won 15-6, 15-8, 15-10.

A crowd of 1,200 school children saw Friday's clash at Claremont Superdome.

The third meeting takes place here on Saturday.

the Champions' Cup without the accord of the league," he said on French radio.

Le Graet said the postponement falls within rules approved by both UEFA and FIFA, the international soccer federation based in Geneva.

Le Graet's remarks indicated that Marseille would play its first inter-European match against Athens on Sept 14 or 15.

Meanwhile, Valenciennes player Jacques Glassman, who revealed the scandal, ignoring the hearing postponement, made a 20-minute appearance before the league's disciplinary commission to show he has "nothing to hide."

He later told French television that he believes Valenciennes trainer Primorac is telling the truth about a June meeting with Tapie at the latter's Paris offices.

Tapie has denied such a meeting occurred. But an alibi provided by former Maritime Minister Jacques Mellick, who says he was with Tapie on the day in question, has been increasingly riddled with holes.

The secretary general of Bernard-Tapie Finances, Noelle Bellone, said the descent by police Friday morning on the offices was the fifth in a month and amounted to "theater justice" and "persecution."

Ghana through preliminary round

TOKYO, Aug 27: Defending champions Ghana completed their preliminary round with three straight wins Thursday while favoured Argentina and Colombia failed to make the last eight at the under-17 World Football Championships, reports AP.

Latin America also suffered another knock when Mexico lost to Japan 1-2 after a 1-1 half-time tie and failed to qualify from the preliminary Group A. But Chile managed to secure a quarter-final berth from the Group D.

Ghana beat hapless Italy 4-0 after leading 3-0 at half-time in another Group A match at Kobe.

Argentina blanked Canada 5-0 after a half-time lead of 3-0 at Gifu for their first win against one loss and one draw. But they yielded a second Group B quarter-final ticket to Australia who had the same win-loss tally but excelled in goal difference.

Nigeria reigned supreme in the Group B by whipping Australia 2-0 after a scoreless first-half for their third straight win.

In Group C play at Kyoto, Colombia bowed to the combined Czech and Slovakia team 1-3 and gave up their bid for the last eight round.

Judah Cooks pulled a hat-trick, powering the United States to a 5-1 win over Qatar and a quarter-final berth with a 1-1 preliminary slate. Their East European squad ended with two wins and one loss, while Colombia failed to qualify after losing two matches and winning one.

Poland finished at the top of the Group D after battling to a 3-3 (2-1) draw with Chile. Tunisia whipped China 1-0 (1-0) in the other Group D match.

The quarter-final match-ups on Sunday are: Japan vs Nigeria at Gifu; Ghana vs Australia at Kobe; Czech and Slovakia vs Chile at Kyoto; and Poland vs the United States at Hiroshima.

Lethal Laudrups lam Lithuania

COPENHAGEN, Aug 27: Denmark, with brothers Michael and Brian Laudrup back together for the first time in nearly three years, beat Lithuania 4-0 on Wednesday to move into second place in their World Cup qualifying group, reports Reuter.

Midfielder Michael Laudrup returning to the fold after a self-imposed exile sparked by a dispute with the coach, engineered one goal and his brother another as Denmark moved a step closer to the World Cup finals.

Larsolsen slammed home the first goal in the 12th minute after a header from Steen Nielsen, settling Danish nerves early against a Lithuanian side which held them 0-0 in their first Group Three meeting last September.

In the 41st minute striker Frank Pingel volleyed a corner delivered by Brian Laudrup into the Lithuanian goal.

The third goal, in the 62nd minute, was concocted and executed by the Laudrup brothers. Barcelona playmaker Michael flicked a free-kick to Brian, recently moved on loan to AC Milan — who fired past goalkeeper Gintaras Stausas.

Denmark playing with greater co-ordination in the second half after some untidy moments in the first, grabbed a fourth goal in the 71st minute. Pingel heeled the ball to striker Kim Vilfort whose kick ricocheted into the goal off a huddle of defenders.

Laudrup, who quit the Danish squad after a bitter row over tactics and leadership style with coach Richard Moeller Nielsen, said: "I tried to find my natural role in the team and avoided being a one man show."

"I would have liked to have scored but I am really quite satisfied with the game, we could have won 7-0."

Moeller Nielsen said, "Michael Laudrup will get better and better the more he plays in the Danish team."

Denmark are one point behind leaders Ireland and a point ahead of third-placed Spain, all three teams having played nine games.

Austria square up with Finns

VIENNA, Aug 27: Austria comfortably defeated Finland 3-0 on Wednesday in a relatively meaningless Group Six qualifying match for next year's World Cup finals, reports Reuter.

Austria, with only the faintest mathematical chance of qualifying, avenged a 3-1 defeat by the Finns three months ago with goals from Dietmar Kuehbauer (27th), Heimo Pfeiffenberger (41st) and a penalty from Andreas Herzog (90th).

The match had no bearing at the top of the group which is led by Sweden and France on 11 points, followed by Bulgaria on nine points. Austria now have six points followed by Finland with three and Israel with two. All six teams have played seven games.

Kuehbauer scored Austria's first with a powerful shot that gave finish goalkeeper Pakunen little chance. Fourteen minutes later Pfeiffenberger scored on the rebound after Pakunen had saved his first effort. Hertzog scored the third in the last minute from the spot after Peter Stoeger broke away on the left wing and was dragged down in the box by Kinomne.

Japan seen as WC 2002 host



PARIS, Aug 27: World soccer boss Joao Havelange highlighted Japan as a leading contender to stage the first World Cup of the next century here on Thursday.

The president of FIFA said in an interview with a French newspaper that Asia was a growth area for the sport — and Japan was well-placed to stage the tournament in 2002.

He told France Soir: "Football must expand its appeal — that's why, after examining and accepting America's candidacy for the 1994 World Cup, Asia interests US."

"Japan is also a promising area. If the voters agree, we will go to Japan in 2002."

Havelange said Japan and Asian countries like Taiwan, Korea, Singapore, India and China represented an untapped football market of around 400 million people, adding: "In sporting and economic terms, this represents a chance we must seize."

Havelange said the venue for the 2002 World Cup would be chosen in 1996: "We have thought of Asia to show the good health of football on the continent."

Japan's candidacy will be strengthened by the development of its new 20 billion pound (13 billion dollars) pro-

fessional league, the J-League, which boasts former overseas international stars like Gary Lineker of England, Pierre Littbarski of Germany and Zico of Brazil.

And success at international level — and a ticket to the United States next year — would also be a big plus for Japan and its national team, coached by Dutchman Hans Ooft.

Japan currently boasts around 600,000 players. Another key attraction to Japan's advantage is the nation's economic power.

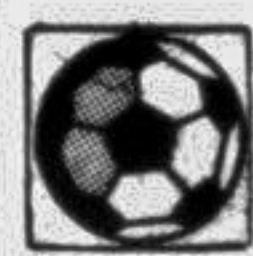
Havelange, noting that 12 Japanese companies were World Cup sponsors, explained that financial considerations were an important part of any bid.

He explained that while Europe's common market was made up of just 12 countries, there were another 25 countries that did not have enough economic power to belong to the elite. Football responds to the same demands.



JOAO HAVELANGE strengthened by the development of its new 20 billion pound (13 billion dollars) pro-

Brazil to exorcise 'El Diablo'



RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, Aug 27: Brazil, still smarting from a 2-0 loss to Bolivia, will give the devil his due when the teams meet again Sunday in a crucial World Cup qualifying game, reports AP.

In fact, the players have promised to exorcise him.

The "devil" in this case is Bolivia's Marco "El Diablo" Etcheverry. And the talented forward will get special attention from the Brazilian defence.

"I'll be all over him," warned defender Branco. "The slightest slip of attention will be fatal. He's skillful, has a rare vision of (the) goal and, above all, is daring."

"We'll exorcise Etcheverry," said fullback Ricardo Gomes. "We can't vacillate."

Etcheverry is a big reason for Bolivia's 5-0-0 performance and four-point lead in South American Group B that has virtually clinched a trip to the United States for next summer's World Cup.

Three teams are battling for the group's second spot. Brazil have six points, while Uruguay and Ecuador have four. Venezuela have zero and already are eliminated.

Bolivia have not only beaten all comers, including powerful Brazil and Uruguay, they have dominated them.

They have outscored opponents 20-2 with a quick, creative and deadly offence in the best South American tradition.

Brazilians were stung in their first meeting July 25 in La Paz, losing their first game ever to Bolivia in World Cup qualifying play. "El Diablo" Etcheverry set up the first goal and, well, bedeviled the defence all afternoon.

"I still remember that play," said Claudio Taffarel, who watched as Etcheverry dribbled the ball to the end line and then hit what looked to be a cross that deflected off the Brazilian keeper's legs into the goal.

"Before I knew it, the ball was in the goal. He's a terror. If you make the slightest mistake he'll score, because he's a killer,

a born shooter."

Brazilian manager Carlos Alberto Parreira said there was no special plan to stop Etcheverry but admitted he was concerned.

"He's a great player and an excellent phase," Parreira said. "We'll be careful."

To stop the Bolivians, Brazil for the first time can count on a healthy defence. Ricardo Gomes has recovered from a strained abdominal muscle, and Ricardo Rocha has completed a one-game suspension. Veterans Jorginho and Branco round out the defence.

In a scrimmage Wednesday, Brazil beat Rio First Division Volta Redonda 3-0 on two goals by Gomes and one by Jorginho.

Team captain Rai strained a leg muscle and did not practice Wednesday or Thursday. The injury was not considered serious, but it was questionable whether Rai would be start in the northeastern city of Recife.

He was replaced by former Sao Paulo teammate Palhinha.

Aussie, Dutch women on target



AMSTERDAM, Aug 27: Australia and the Netherlands made sure on Thursday of meeting in the final of the women's Champions Trophy hockey tournament, reports Reuter.

Australia, the holders, made sure of their place by beating South Korea 4-0 for their fourth successive win in the round-robin section. The Dutch team scored their third victory, a comfortable 3-0 success over Britain.

The two finalists have still to play their final round-robin match against each other on Saturday before meeting for the title on Sunday.

Australia played exceptionally well but few would have predicted such a turn-around after South Korea beat them 3-0 in Osaka in June.

The Koreans were a little below their best, probably suffering a reaction after their epic drawn game with the Netherlands on Wednesday.

Coach Ric Charesworth said after the game: "I am not deceived by the result. The Koreans play very good hockey and try to win. Their reward will come."

Alyson Annan put Australia ahead from a 15th minute penalty stroke placed in a top corner of the goal. Lisa Powell, the tournament's top scorer with four goals, added a second a minute before the interval, cracking in a shot when the Koreans appeared to anticipate a centre.

Sally Carbon met Powell's pass first time for a third Australian goal soon after the interval. South Korea responded with some sparkling attacking play but wasted chances and Juliet Haslam scamped in a fourth goal for Australia near the end, following up after three successive shots by teammates.

Netherlands' win was their biggest over Britain for six years. Suzan van Der Weelen gave them the lead with a weak flick shot from their first corner in the 10th minute.

Despite their domination, it took the Dutch a long time to add a second Hanrick Smabers finally scoring after a fine break by right-half Ingrid Appels.

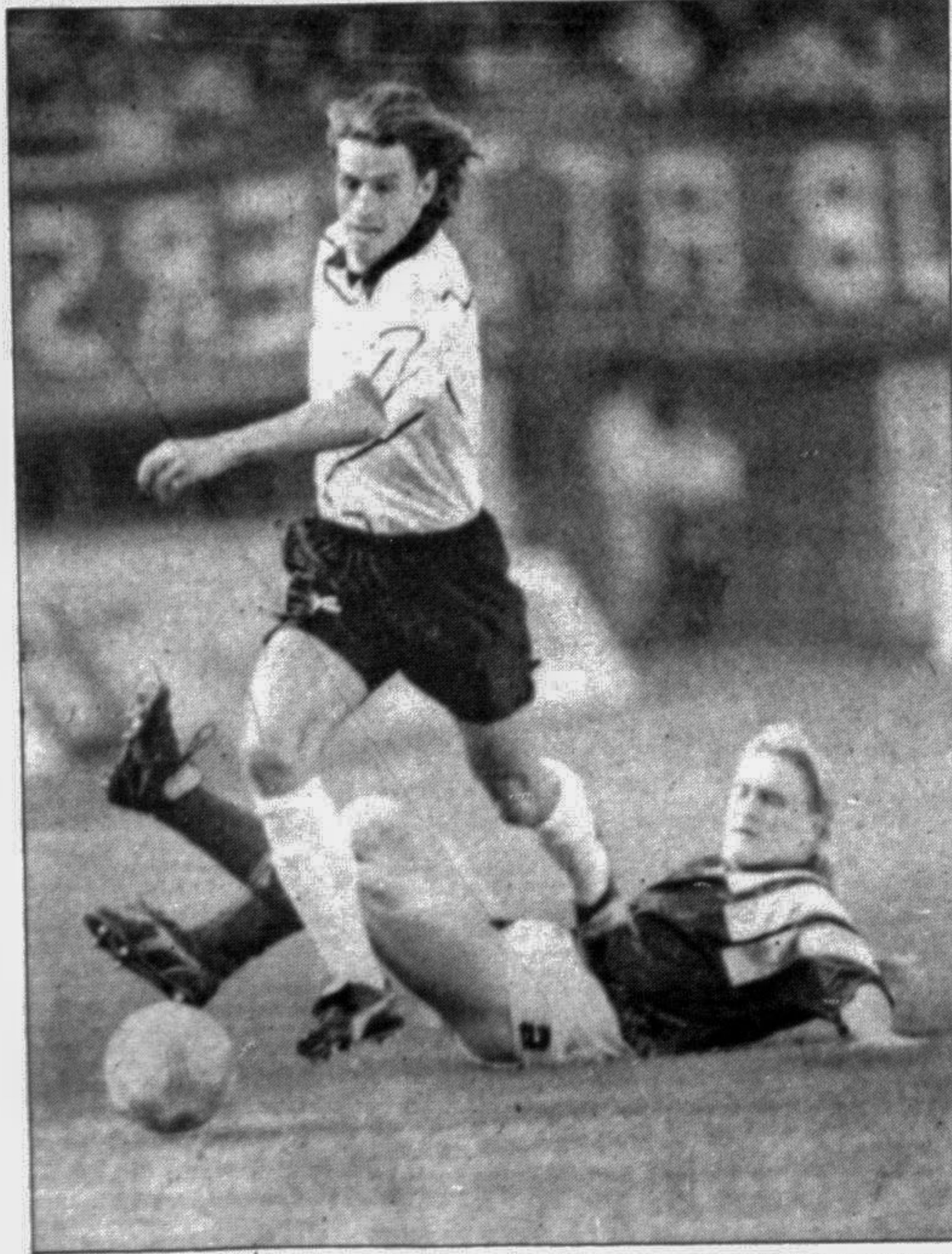
The icing on the Dutch cake was a goal by their fine new sweeper, Fredereck Orjijma, who has a plastic knee ligament and plays with a brace covering the knee.

She scored from the only other penalty corner won by the Dutch.

Earlier, Germany gained their first win with a comfortable 3-0 win over Spain to avenge their 2-1 defeat in last year's Olympic final in a game that lacked the passion of the gold medal match.

Germany effortlessly moved up a place to fourth above Britain in the table. Spain are pointless in last place.

Spain forced their only corner in the first minute but were outplayed for the rest of the match and hardly broke out of their own half after the interval.



Wolfgang Feiersinger of Austria dodges past Finnish Kim Suominen during their World Cup qualifier in Vienna on August 25. Austrians beat the Finns 3-0.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Clues include: 1 Over 60?, 5 Dick and Jane's dog, 9 Average, 12 Nome, 13 "— in the Money" (song), 14 Man-mouse link, 15 Bridge table capacity?, 16 Teheran's land, 17 Mrs. Larry Fortensky, 18 "— a Kick Out of You", 19 Enthusiast, 20 Ruth's husband, 21 Journey segment, 23 Cause of head-swelling, 25 Lapidary's stock-in-trade, 28 Swift's output, 32 "Excavating for —", 33 First pig's building, 53 Brag, 54 Kibosh, 55 Eldritch, 56 Welles portrayal, 1 Name for a poodle, perhaps, 2 Enthusiastic, 3 Pivot, 4 Sweater type, 5 Play-ground set, 6 Lima's land, 7 Takes to the soapbox, 8 Bo's rating, 9 Prince Charles' game, 10 La Scala show-stopper, 11 Give a Bronx cheer to, 20 Confine in a narrow space, 22 Actress Verdugo, 24 Some are inert, 25 Comedian Murray, 26 Ostrich's cousin, 27 Peruke, 29 Wrath, 30 Spill the beans, 31 Ram's ma'am, 35 Irish seaport city, 36 Egg surname, 39 Sign up, 40 Opposing, 41 Wheedle, 43 Circus noise, 45 Pound of poetry, 46 Origin of 43 Down, 47 Edmund of the late show, 49 That girl.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with numbers 1-31 indicating letter positions.

CRYPTOQUIP FEWWXQKTW IRTFX BQKGRQN GRQR IDWWRM TBT DZNW KZR TZKWXRQ. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SOONER OR LATER, A DIFFIDENT FLUTIST PIPES UP. Today's Cryptoquip clue: F equals C. 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.