

Czech-born American Martina Navratilova stretches to dig up a low return from German Barbara Rittner during their fourth-round match in the US Open on September 5. —AFP photo

## Graf shatters her own image

**NEW YORK, Sept 6:** Steffi Graf and Mary Pierce looked like mirror images across the net: white braces on opposite knees, long blond hair, white skirts, reports AP.

The resemblance ended there. Graf hit winners, Pierce errors, and a match that held the promise of excitement, if not an upset, dissolved quickly.

Graf whacked her left knee with her racket going for a shot during practice in the morning and required ice, painkillers and the brace. But she showed not a trace of discomfort as she thrashed Pierce 6-1, 6-0, in 48 minutes.

"I don't think I could have played much better than that," Graf said. "There weren't any mistakes. You don't play like that every day. You've got to treasure these moments. Sometimes it's there. You don't dominate everyday."

The top-ranked German practiced a little longer after hitting her knee but stopped when she twisted the knee on a forehand. She tested her knee just before playing Pierce.

"The more I practiced, the better it felt," Graf said. "I think that was important to have confidence that I could play on it."

She might have played on crutches and still reached the quarter-finals, considering the way Pierce slapped 20 unforced errors.

"Everybody was expecting a lot from me, not from her," Graf said. "I was surprised she was nervous. She has the shots. She plays everything fast. She could be in better shape, but she knows that herself. She definitely has the talent."

Not this time. Pierce No 13, won only nine points in the first set and eight points in the second.

"I can play as well as any player," Pierce said. "But when I

have to, I can't. It must be mental, because physically I have the game. I didn't I could do worse than I did in my first match here, but I did tonight. There's not much to learn. I didn't do anything well."

Gabriela Sabatini, the 1990 Open champion following Graf's two straight title runs, set up a quarter-final against Graf a little later by outlasting first-year pro Lindsay Davenport 6-7 (7-1), 6-4, 6-4.

Davenport, who beat Sabatini early this year, is a 6-foot-2 (1.90 metres), 17-year-old Californian with a bruising two-flashed backhand and strong serve. She overpowered Sabatini in the first set, but was undone by errors in the second and third sets amid increasing pressure from Sabatini. Davenport saved five matches points in the final set before yielding on the sixth with a wide crosscourt backhand.

"I started to get tired in the second set," Davenport said. "But I hung in there and didn't give up. I just made too many

errors. I thought I lost the match more than she won it."

In the final night match, No 1 Jim Courier beat MaliVai Washington 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 to reach the fourth round against No 15 Cedric Pioline.

In the grandstand earlier, there wasn't so much a tennis match as a 5-hour, 10-minute, mano a mano slugfest.

It was Richard Krajicek surviving two match points in the third set, slamming his racket and getting booed in the fourth, absorbing all the power American Todd Martin could muster in the fifth. It was Martin leaping, lunging, diving for balls from start to finish.

And finally it was Krajicek smashing his 23rd and 24th aces. And just like that it was over.

With those two aces, the first at 117 mph (187 kph), the second at 118 (188.6 kph), Krajicek ended the longest match of the US Open this year and one of the longest in history with a 6-7 (7-4), 4-6, 7-6 (11-9), 6-4, 6-4 victory.

Martin, a rising star in US tennis, reached the quarter-finals at Wimbledon after beating Goran Ivanisevic and David Wheaton. This time Martin came ever so close to beating another top player when he had a pair of match points against the No 10 Krajicek in the third-set tiebreaker.

But Krajicek dug himself out of trouble by going for second serves at nearly full speed and took a 10-9 lead on a forehand crosscourt that Martin lunged at and couldn't handle. Krajicek then closed the set with a 126 mph (201.6 kph) serve that Martin netted.

"I was lucky, very lucky in the third-set tiebreaker," Krajicek said. "I was lucky to come out of there alive."

Krajicek slammed his racket when Martin broke him to make it 2-2 in the fourth set, bringing boos from a crowd rooting for the 23-year-old former All-American from Northwestern. But Krajicek broke right back, relying on his booming serves to the end.

## Macula in Martin's memory

**NEW YORK, Sept 6:** Rising American star Todd Martin has had some memorable wins this year, but the match he may remember the longest is one that got away, reports Reuters.

The 23-year-old from Lansing, Michigan, was inches away from a straight-sets win over big-serving Richard Krajicek in the third round of the US Open on Sunday.

But the 10th-seeded Dutchman saved two match points in a tense third-set tie-break and went on to post a thrilling 6-7, (4-7) 4-6, 7-6, (11-9), 6-4, 6-4 win in an exhausting five hours and 10 minutes.

"One match point I remember well. The first one he hit an

unbelievable second serve. I could barely get my racket on it even though it was right at me," said Martin, who reached the quarter-finals at Wimbledon this year.

"He only lost one point on that serve (in the tie-break) and that was a double fault. That is pretty good tennis."

"He was just too good for me," said Martin, who won his first title this year and reached four tournament finals.

Martin, who just missed being seeded at the Open with a ranking of 17th in the world, said he feels positive about Sunday's experience despite the outcome.

"I had a terrific time. It was a beautiful day and you know, I played two very good sets and five pretty good sets."

"It was a matter of a shot here or there and I could have been doing this (interview) three hours ago."

"I just think that Richard had a little bit more firepower on the serve and came up the good shots at the right time."

Martin has been touted as the next great American player, one who will be mentioned alongside Jim Courier and Pete Sampras in the not too distant future.

In fact, he feels he is already at the top Echelon of the game after posting wins over the likes of Boris Becker, Michael Chang, Andre Agassi and Goran Ivanisevic this year.

The six-foot, six-inch (1.98m) Martin, who was a linguistics major at Northwestern University before turning pro in 1990,

## Karpov, Timman tie on

**ZWOLLE, Netherlands, Sept 6:** Jan Timman and Anatoly Karpov opened play Monday for a world chess crown that lost much of its luster when defending champion Garry Kasparov absconded to play in a rival title match in London, reports AP.

Karpov, a Russian and former world champion playing black, chose the Caro-Kann defence against his Dutch opponent in the match sanctioned by the International Chess Federation FIDE.

Shortly after the start of the match, FIDE's Filipino president Francisco Campomanes condemned the rebel championship match between Kasparov and British challenger Nigel Short, which begins Tuesday.

Kasparov and Short, who qualified for the FIDE title match, broke away to establish their own chess body earlier this year after complaining that the federation did not consult them in organizing the championship. Timman and Karpov were selected to replace them after having lost in the semifinals.

"It's like the body politic — there's been a cancer and this is just an excision," Campomanes said at a press conference, referring to FIDE's having stripped both players of their world ratings.

Campomanes asserted that "the whole structure of FIDE is in place and working," dismissing suggestions that the London championship had irretrievably split the chess world.

## Fans ready to cheer Navratilova on all the way

**NEW YORK, Sept 6:** With old crowd favourites John McEnroe and Jimmy Connors not playing this year, Martina Navratilova says the fans at the US Open are desperate to keep her in the tournament, reports Reuters.

"I guess, you know, will help make it interesting. I think they like the way I play the game and you know they don't want to see me go," she said after struggling through a 6-4, 4-6, 6-2 third-round match with Barbara Rittner of Germany on Sunday to keep alive her quest for a fifth US Open title.

## Australians edge Germans en route to championship

**HAMBURG, Germany, Sept 6:** Australia beat Germany 3-2 here on Sunday to win the four nations field hockey tournament and get revenge for their Olympic defeat, reports AP.

Australia, the Olympic silver medalists, killed off the host nation in a four-minute period in the first half as they reversed the 1992 result in Barcelona.

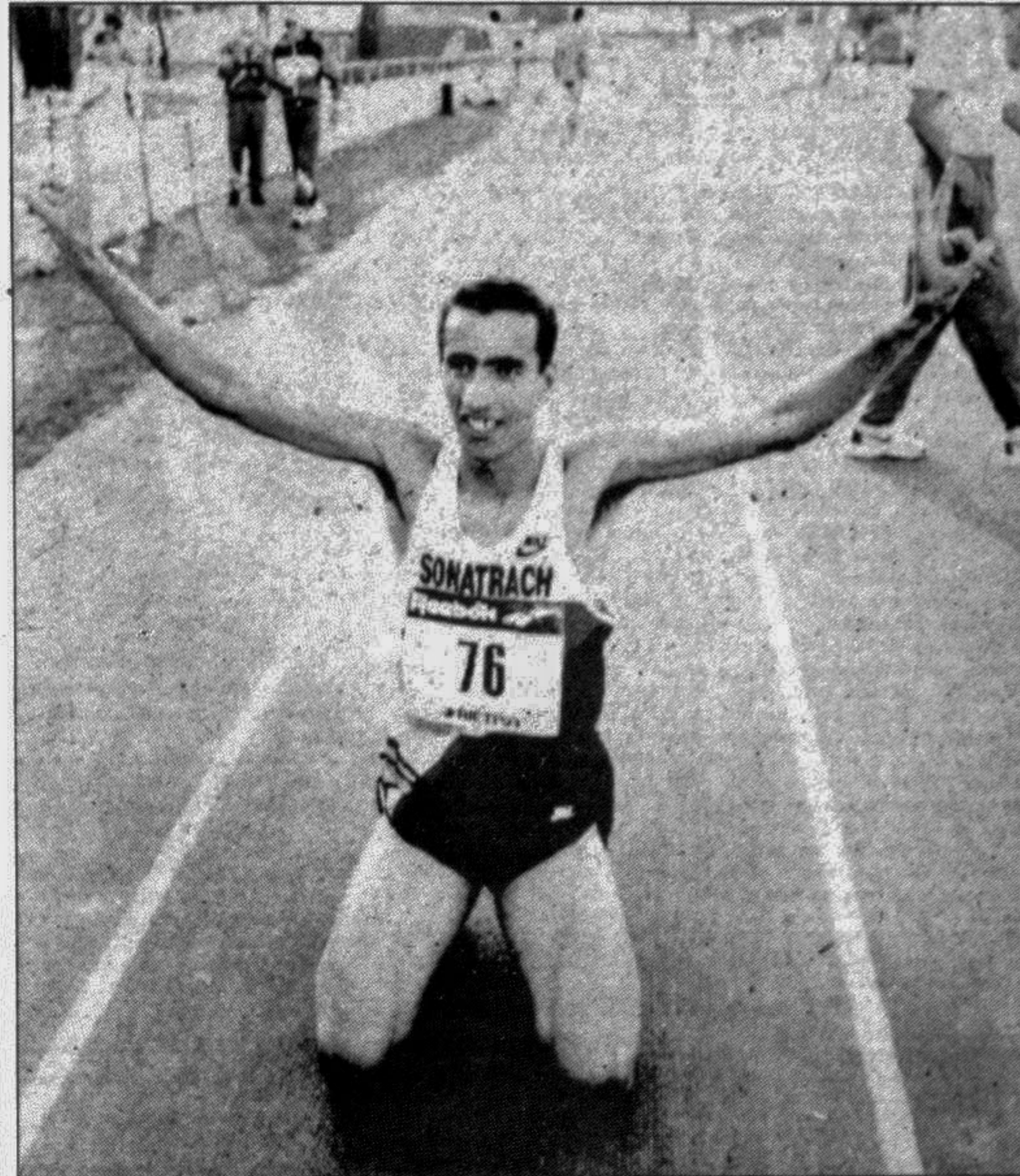
Pakistan grabbed second spot after beating the Netherlands, 2-0, having just lost one match — to Australia.

Australia's Jay Stacy sparked off the scoring in the 23rd minute. Stephen Davies added another two minutes later, before Stacy made it 3-0 in the 27th minute.

Conscious of giving value for money to the paying public, Germany paid for their continuous attacks by leaving gaps at the back.

The Olympic champions pulled goals back in the 50th and 65th minutes for a rousing finish, but they just could not get the leveller.

Germany finished with just one point from their matches, but Australia were unbeaten.



A jubilant Nouredine Morceli of Algeria after setting a new world mile record at the international athletics meeting in Rieth, Italy on Sunday. Morceli erased Briton Steve Cram's 14-year-old mark with a time of 3 minutes and 44.36 seconds. — AFP photo

## Morceli erases Cram's mark

**RIETH, Italy, Sept 6:** Nouredine Morceli, with an assist from the atmosphere, moved into rarified air in track and field, reports AP.

"I'd been close three times this season, but never had good atmospheric conditions," Morceli said after breaking the world mile record by nearly two seconds on Sunday.

The 23-year-old Algerian took advantage of the cool mountain air at the Rieth-Invitational track and field meet to win by more than 11 seconds, with no one close to him after two pacemakers dropped out after 1,000 metres. The crowd cheered loudly as he headed toward the finish line with his long, smooth stride and then swept past it.

Morceli finished in 3 minutes, 44.36 seconds, bettering the mark of 3:46.32 set by

Britain's Steve Cram at Oslo, Norway, in 1985.

In breaking Cram's mark by 1.93 seconds, Morceli produced the biggest drop in the record in 28 years — when Jim Ryun of the United States lowered the mark of France's Michel Jazy from 3:53.6 to 3:51.3 — a difference of 2.3 seconds.

The record highlighted a brilliant season for Morceli. He won the 1,500-meter gold at the World Championships last month and is unbeaten in the 1,500 and mile this year. He has come close to world records in nearly every meet he has run, at distances of 1,000, 1,500 and 3,000 metres, and the mile.

Rieth has been one of Morceli's favourite places to run. Last year, he set the world 1,500-meter record of 3:28.86 at Rieth.

"I hope to come back and break yet another record next year," Morceli said.

Earlier, this year, Morceli made several attempts to break Eamonn Coghlan's 10-year-old world indoor mile record of 3:49.78 while he won every race, he fell short of the record. "He runs with no fear," Coghlan said. "Runners in the Western world have a tendency to create psychological barriers for themselves. He runs at will, with no inhibition."

Morceli's breakthrough came in 1990, shortly after he arrived in the United States to attend Riverside (Calif) Community College.

He began the year an unknown — ranked 49th at 1,500 meters — and he finished it ranked No. 1. He won 10 of 13 international races and ran the world's fastest outdoor 1,500 — 3:33.28.

In 1991 — on his 21st birthday on Feb. 28 — he broke the world indoor record held by Britain's Peter Elliott at Seville, Spain.

## Opposition may be a booster

**SYDNEY, Sept 6:** US Senate opposition to Beijing's bid to host the 2000 Games is mixing politics

with sports and could backfire, a powerful member of the International Olympic Committee said Sunday, reports AP.

Mario Vasquez Rana, a Mexican media magnate who is president of the Association of National Olympic Committees, said the pressure will be ignored by IOC members, and might even swing support behind Beijing, which is bidding against four other cities to stage the 2000 Games.

The Senate has urged the

IOC to reject Beijing's Olympic bid because of China's poor human rights record.

The IOC's 90 members will make their choice in a secret ballot in Monte Carlo on Sept 23.

A bipartisan majority in the Senate last month wrote to individual IOC members asking them to reject Beijing's bid, which is considered to be the rival only by that of Sydney.

"Politics should not interfere with sports," he said through an interpreter at a news conference. Rana was finishing up a four-day visit to Sydney that included talks with Prime Minister Paul Keating.

He said some IOC members

"will not only not pay attention to the United States, but will go against the United States. ... It is an advantage for Beijing."

Sixty senators — including majority leader George Mitchell and minority leader Robert Dole — have said in a letter sent to all IOC members that awarding the 2000 Olympics to Beijing "would confer upon China's leaders a stamp of approval by the international community they do not deserve."

"It said the propaganda value of the Games would be enormous for China's 'authoritarian government.' Chinese democracy activists would be demoralized and the IOC's image would suffer."



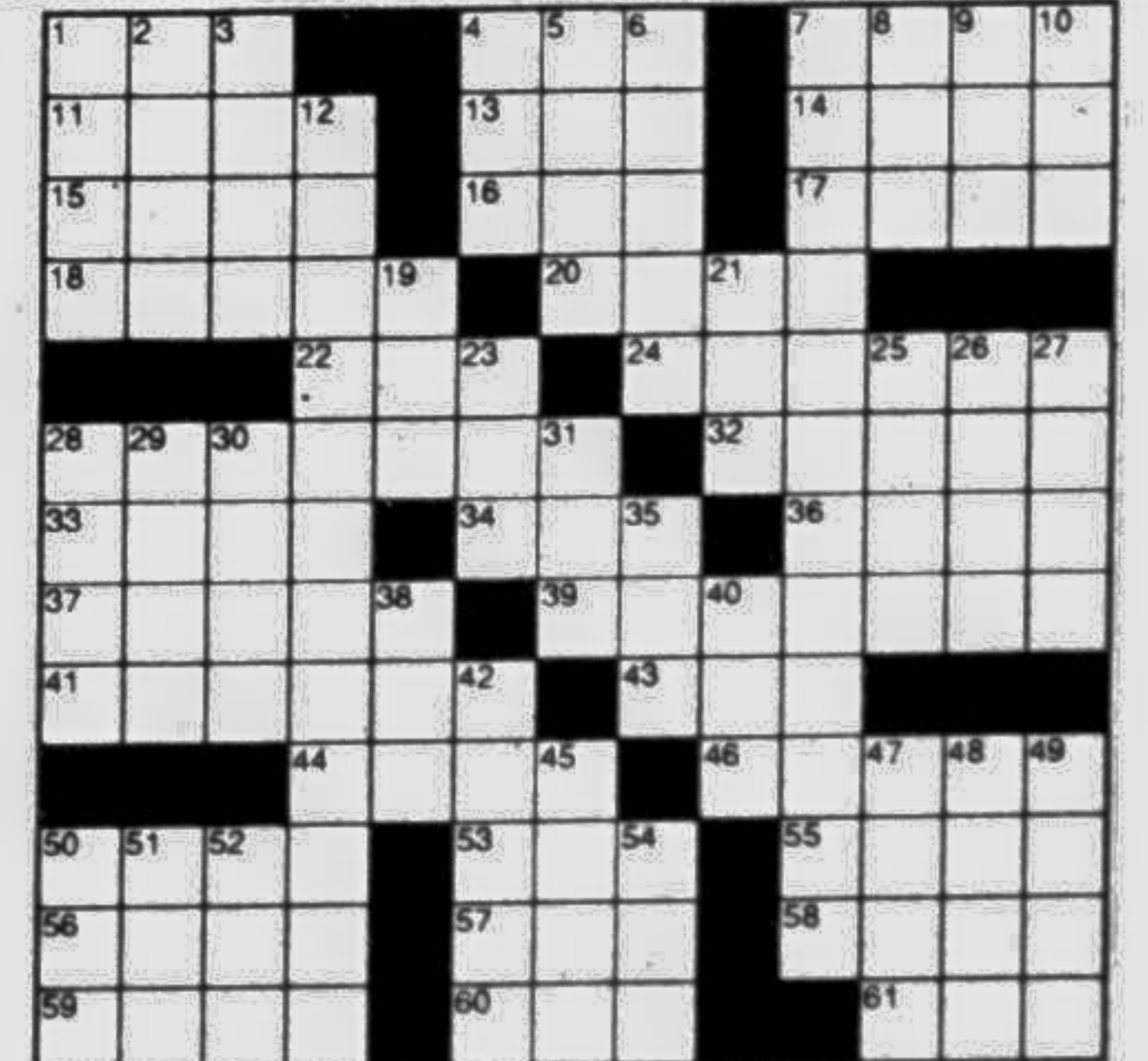
Australian captain Warren Birmingham holds the trophy aloft after his side won the Four Nations hockey tournament with a 2-2 victory over Germany. — AFP photo

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

<b>ACROSS</b>	41 Stun with noise	<b>DOWN</b>	lotte's creation
1 Actor Wass	43 Actress MacGraw	1 "Rikki-Tikki-"	25 — mater
4 Predicament	44 Leading man?	2 Islamic chieftain	26 Put into words
7 Paddock newborn	46 Thigh-bone	3 Curtail	27 Stash
11 Frenzied	50 Spot of wine?	4 Stick out	28 Herring's cousin
13 Spoon-bender Geller	53 "I do," e.g.	5 Composer Khachaturian	29 Whipper
14 "— want for Christmas..."	55 Carson's successor	6 Less important	30 Nick and Nora's pooch
15 Evil habit	56 Show team spirit	7 "A Closer Look" host	31 Pre-arrange the outcome
16 Beach-goer's goal	57 "Stay as Sweet as You —"	8 Former potation	35 Man-mouse link
17 Notion, in Nantes	58 Fill to excess	9 Pub	38 Embarrassed
18 Annoyed	59 Traditional tale	10 Gaffer's concern	40 Polar employee
20 "The — Happy Fella"	60 "Light-Horse Harry"	12 1960s byword	42 Fleet-related
22 Sound of impact	61 Diary	19 Polka follower	45 "Mondo Cane" theme
24 Go over again		21 Red or Black	47 Any of a daily trio
28 Splash in drops		23 Char-	48 "Do —" others...
32 Dwight's opponent			49 Film director
33 "Be quiet!"			Nicolas Branch
34 Life story			50 Sauce source
36 Surround-			51 Young'un
by			54 Infinitesimal
37 Fix, perhaps			
39 Weapon of war			

**Solution time: 24 min.**

ILGWU	MORAL
SMEARS	ATONED
HAMLET	TIBIAE
AGA	NEVUS
KENO	DAR
ESSAY	TEMPLES
KAN	DUE
SCREWED	GAMES
ALAN	MAN
TOM	DENIM
EVANES	COYOTE
DEPONE	EVENED
ROOTS	REWED



## CRYPTOQUIP

Y T B M X . F W C R M B M A X C  
G C M R M B F M H Q F P V Q C I  
B P A X H G W C V . H G F W C  
Y M G F W C M I

Saturday's Cryptoquip: RAINCOAT PRICES WERE SO HIGH I KNEW I'D GET SOAKED ANYWAY.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: Y equals M

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.