

# Pioline, Masur complete quorum



**NEW YORK, Sept. 10:** There's a French twist to the US Open semifinals.

There's also a splash of Switzerland and a dash of Spain, along with players from the Czech Republic, Australia, Russia and Germany.

And yes, America, too.

For the first time in history, the eight men's and women's US Open semifinalists will represent eight different countries.

Cedric Pioline of France was the last entry to the party, eliminating Andrei Medvedev of the Ukraine 6-3, 6-1, 3-6, 6-2 Thursday night. Earlier in the day, Australian Wally Masur became the 26th unseeded man to reach the semifinals since seeding began in 1927 when he defeated Sweden's Magnus Larsson 6-2, 7-5, 7-5.

"I was believing all the time I can win, I can win, I can win," said Pioline, the first Frenchman to reach the semifinals since Henri Cochet did it in 1932.

Friday, the women took the stage for their semifinals, with second-seeded Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain meeting No. 12 Helena Sukova of the Czech Republic, followed by No. 1 Steffi Graf of Germany against No. 11 Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere of Switzerland.

Sukova on Thursday teamed with Todd Woodbridge to win the mixed doubles, defeating Martina Navratilova and Mark Woodforde 6-3, 7-6 (8-6).

The men's doubles final Friday pits Ken Flach and Rick Leach against Martin Damm and Karel Novacek.

Pioline, a 24-year-old right-hander from Paris, has yet to

win a professional tournament. If he were to win Sunday's men's final on the hardcourts of the National Tennis Center, he would become the first man to have a Grand Slam title in his first pro victory since Mats Wilander captured the French Open in 1982.

Pioline played brilliantly in upsetting top-seeded Jim Courier in the fourth round. Against Medvedev, his game never reached that level. But it

didn't have to.

"The problem was with my game," admitted Medvedev, who only once or twice in the match showed flashes of the game that had made him the No. 8 seed.

Pioline, who came in seeded No. 15, took advantage of Medvedev's errors in the first two sets and double-faults on crucial points. Medvedev recovered in the third set, finding the angles and lines with his groundstrokes and briefly look-

ing as if he was ready to take charge.

That lasted only briefly, however, and he soon reverted to the form he showed in the first two sets, missing easy "sitters," double-faulting or plowing shots into the net.

"To beat him I have to show my best tennis," Medvedev said, "and I was far away from that."

Pioline felt his 19-year-old opponent was nervous at the start of his first match on the stadium court. But Pioline, 24, also acknowledged his own problems.

"I was very up and down," he said. "Sometimes I played very well, sometimes I play bad. I was more consistent than him."

Asked what worked best for him, Pioline responded, "My mind. Not really my game."

"It's fun," Pioline said of his semifinals Saturday against Masur. "He was not expecting me, and I wasn't expecting him. So it may be strange."

Masur indeed wasn't expected to reach this far. The 30-year-old from Sydney reached the Australian Open semifinals in 1987 and has won three tournaments in his career — the last one coming in 1988.

He trailed 5-0 in the fifth set before defeating fellow Aussie Jamie Morgan in the fourth round, winning seven straight games.

He didn't need that kind of heroics against Larsson, who, like the hard-working Masur, was unseeded.

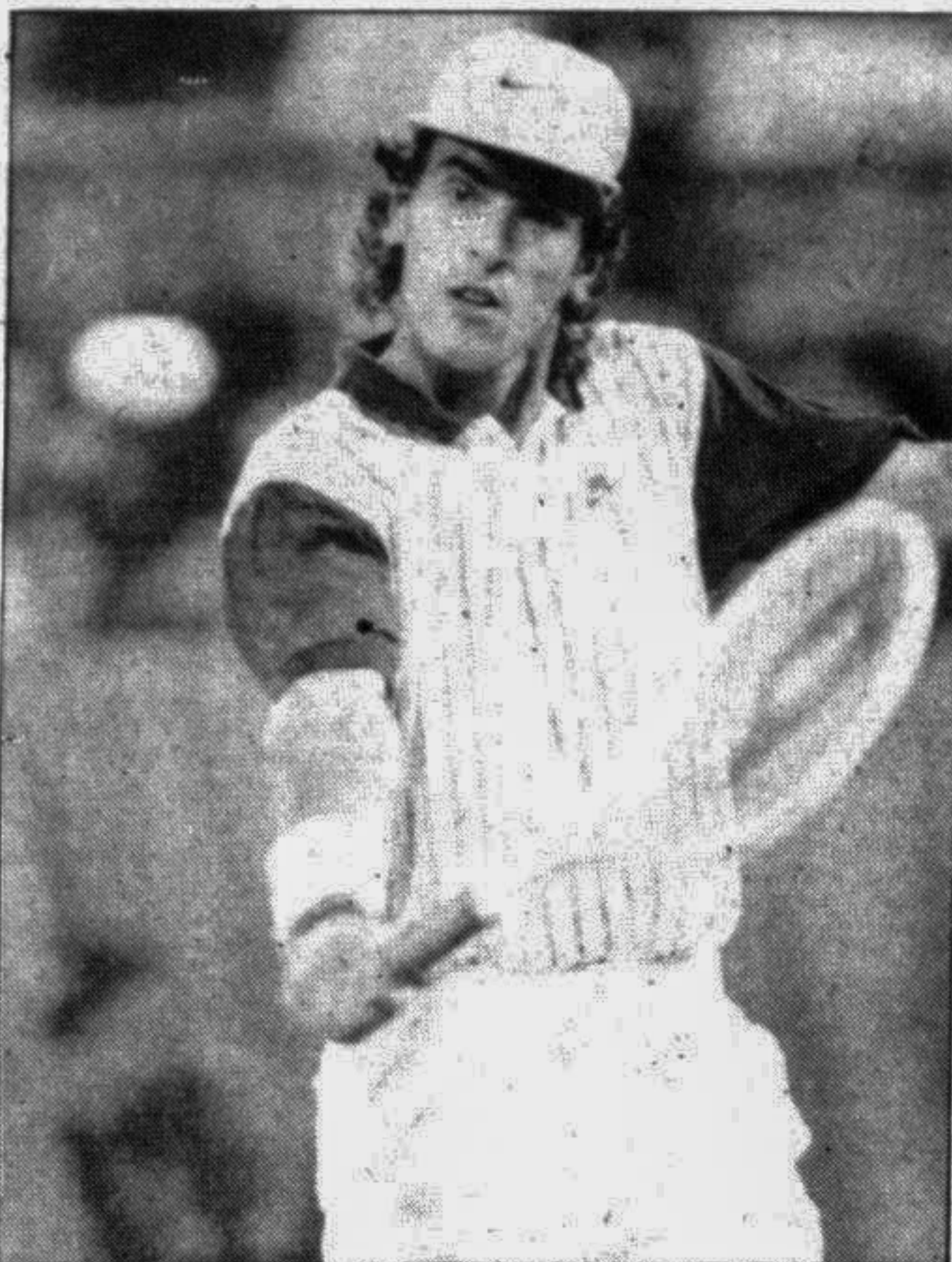
"What keeps me going is the fact that I am still improving," Masur said. "If I wasn't still improving, I would have quit this game. I am getting better and that is only through hard work. No secrets."

Masur never lost a service game and took Larsson apart at the net, winning 59 of 82 approaches. Larsson ventured to the net only 26 times, winning just half those points.

Larsson's 15 aces kept him close, but when it came to the final point, he double-faulted for the match.

"I am happy to have made the semis, but I don't want to stop there," Masur said.

Masur, the oldest man left in the US Open, became the first unseeded man to reach the US Open semis since Jimmy Connors two years ago. Only one other man, Gene Scott in 1967, got as far as the semis without having to beat a seeded player on the way.



Frenchman Cedric Pioline makes a backhand return during his quarterfinal match in the US Open tennis against eighth seeded Ukrainian Andrei Medvedev at the National Tennis Centre on September 9. Pioline became the first French player to advance to the semifinal since Henri Cochet when he beat Medvedev.

— AFP photo

## US Open at a glance

**NEW YORK, Sept. 10 (AP):** Highlights and key information Thursday from the US Open:

**WEATHER:** Cloudy with showers. High 79 degrees (26 degrees Celsius).

**ATTENDANCE:** 21, 039 day session, 20,820 night session, 41,859 total.

**RESULTS:** Wally Masur, good as dead before a fifth-set comeback in the fourth round, became the first Australian in five years to reach the men's semifinals when he beat Magnus Larsson 6-2, 7-5, 7-5. He will play 15th-seeded Cedric Pioline, who beat eighth-seeded Andrei Medvedev 6-3, 6-1, 3-6, 6-2.

The first championship of the tournament went to Helena Sukova and Todd Woodbridge, who beat Martina Navratilova and Mark Woodforde 6-3, 7-6 (8-6) for the mixed doubles title. Sukova is aiming for the triple crown of women's singles and women's and mixed doubles.

**OFF THE COURT:** Tom Gorman resigned after eight years as US Davis Cup captain, and John McEnroe — who has lobbied for the job for several years — said he is interested in taking over. Gorman directed the US team to two cup titles but was criticized after losses to France in the 1991 final and in the first round to Australia this year.

**STAT OF THE DAY:** Masur won 72 per cent of his net approaches (59 of 82) against Larsson, and saved the only two break points against his serve.

**QUOTE:** "At least I lost to her in the final in this. She beat me in this tournament." — Martina Navratilova, after Sukova helped end her quest for a 55th Grand Slam title. Sukova eliminated Navratilova from the fourth round of singles.

**FRIDAY'S HIGHLIGHTS:** Sukova plays No. 2 Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and No. 1 Steffi Graf plays No. 11 Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere in women's singles semifinals. Sukova and Sanchez Vicario then team for a women's doubles semifinal against top-seeded Gigi Fernandez and Natalia Zvereva.

## US Open Notebook



**NEW YORK, Sept. 10:** There may be some bad blood brewing in Saturday's US Open semifinal between Pete Sampras and Alexander Volkov over a victory by the American a year ago, reports AP.

Sampras, the second-seeded men's player, said Volkov might not have given him all in a 6-4, 6-1, 6-0 defeat in the Open quarterfinals last year.

"What I remember of it, it was four, tank and tank," Sampras said after beating Michael Chang 6-7(0-7), 7-6(7-2), 6-1, 6-1 Wednesday night.

Volkov, who beat Thomas Muster 7-6(8-6), 6-3, 3-6, 2-6, 7-5 to set up the rematch, bristled when Sampras comments were related to him.

"No, I didn't tank," Volkov said. "He played very well. If you remember the match, he just destroyed me, because if you serve bad against him, you can just go away, just wait and see and then shake his hand. I mean no serve, no return, forget it."

A year ago, Sampras was a 21-year-old with a US Open championship to his credit. Volkov was four years older but playing in his first Grand Slam quarterfinal. Since then, Sampras has added Wimbledon to his championship credits, but Volkov has improved tremendously, winning his first tournament in Auckland and jumping to 15th place on the men's rankings.

"I respected him too much at that time," Volkov said. "May be now I am more experienced and I can play much better, I hope."

**MOLODYETS, ALEXANDER:** The American national championships have their first Russian semifinalist.

Volkov snapped an 0-for-3 streak for quarterfinalists from republics that made up the old Soviet Union when he beat Muster about 1:45 am (0545 GMT) Thursday.

Besides his own quarterfinal appearance last year, Volkov had shared the honour with Andrei Cherkasov (1990) and Alex Metreveli (1974).

Volkov is from Kaliningrad.

**THIS PLACE SAVED FACE:** Sampras' victory over Chang did more than give him a berth in his second straight Open semifinal. It prevented the starcrossed tournament from making some more negative history.

If Chang, seeded seventh, had beaten Sampras, seeded second, it would have produced men's semifinals without a single one of the top four seeds for the first time in Open history.

No. 1 Jim Courier, No. 3 Stefan Edberg and No. 4 Boris Becker all lost earlier, Edberg in the first round.

As it is, this will be the first Open men's semis since 1972 — and only the third time overall — with only one of the top four players. In '72, the semifinalists were No. 4 Ilie Nastase, No. 6 Arthur Ashe, No. 12 Cliff Richey and unseeded Tom Gorman and in 1965 the semifinalists were No. 4 Manuel Santana, No. 5 Ashe, No. 6 Rafael Osuna and No. 8 Cliff Drysdale.

## Herrera's son kidnapped

**MEDELLIN, Colombia, Sept. 10:** Kidnappers put a damper on Thursday Colombia's jubilation at qualifying for the soccer World Cup by abducting the four-year-old son of one of the national team players, reports Reuter.

Police said four men riding motorcycles intercepted a school bus carrying Fernando Herrera, son of striker Luis Fernando "Chonto" Herrera, as it brought the young boy home after class. They forced him out of the bus and bundled him off on the back of one of the motorcycles.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the abduction, the police said.

The boy's father, who plays for Colombia's Atletico Nacional, received a substantial bonus payment this week along with other national team players for their outstanding performance in beating Argentina 5-0 last Sunday. The victory gave Colombia an undisputed ticket to next year's World Cup competition in the United States.

Colombia's radio and television stations voiced shock and outrage at the kidnapping and police in Medellin mounted a series of operations in various parts of the crime-ridden city to try to find the kidnappers.

## Li Lanqing to represent China in IOC council

**BEIJING, Sept. 10:** Beijing will be represented by Vice Premier Li Lanqing at a September 23 meeting of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) that will choose a host for the 2,000 Games, it was reported Thursday, reports AFP.

Beijing is a leading contender for hosting the Games, but behind Sydney. Li one of five vice premiers, would lead a varied delegation to Monte Carlo that also includes the Beijing city leadership, nine Olympic gold medalists and a children's chorus, the Xinhua news agency reported.

The delegation was to leave here September 16 on a chartered flight.

China will also dispatch 74 journalists to cover the event, Xinhua said.

Separately, a visiting Australian minister said here Thursday that if Sydney lost its bid, he hoped Beijing would win.

"My loyalty of course is to Sydney," Trade Minister Peter Cook said. "I think Beijing is an excellent city for an Olympic Games. But I hope that we can win the games. If we don't I hope Beijing does."



Briton Nigel Short makes his opening move against world champion Garri Kasparov of Russia during the second game of their world championship chess challenge at the Savoy Hotel in London on Thursday. The game was drawn after the 49th move.

— AFP photo

## Short drives home a point

**LONDON, Sept. 10:** British challenger Nigel Short drew the second game of his world title chess challenge on Thursday, convincing experts that he can truly threaten reigning champion Garri Kasparov, reports Reuter.

Short, 28, fulfilled predictions of an aggressive assault and clearly wanted revenge for his unnecessary loss on time in the first game of the match.

As in Game One, Short offered to play a razor-sharp opening variation and again Kasparov backed down, choosing an unusual sideline, presumably to avoid any prepared surprises.

Again the strain of finding accurate moves left both players with very little time to reach the time check on move 40 and avoid forfeit, but now it was Kasparov who was on the brink of defeat.

With only seven minutes left for 16 complex moves, the champion sacrificed a rook for a bishop in order to stem white's

growing threats.

This time both players managed to reach move 40 on time and after further vigilant defence from the 30-year-old champion, Short agreed to split the point.

The challenger's gritty performance began to convince Grandmasters that he can pose a serious threat to Kasparov, even if he has not beaten him in over six years.

"I think Short has a realistic chance to win. I thought Short had 25-30 per cent chances to win the match before and I stick to that. It's just too bad he lost the first game," English Grandmaster James Plaskett said.

At a news conference after the game, both players agreed about the course it had taken. Kasparov looked cheerful and relaxed, while Short seemed more guarded.

Asked if he had missed a win, Short replied: "No, I don't think so. We both could have played better but I don't think any moves were missed."

Kasparov's only additional comment was: "Nigel's chances

(in the game) were better."

Short did not admit to being depressed by his opening game loss, but added: "I'd rather be a point ahead. I played better today, my mind was working quite well. I think we'll see some more interesting chess."

Kasparov leads the 24-game duel 1-1/2 to 1/2 and has the advantage of only needing a 12-12 tie to retain the crown. The third game, with Kasparov having the advantage of the white pieces and first move, will be on Saturday.

The two are playing for a total of 1.7 million pounds (2.6 million dollars) in prize money after arranging the contest themselves and breaking with the world chess body FIDE in a dispute over the venue and purse for the final, which followed three years of elimination matches.

FIDE retaliated by staging its own championships between former world champion Anatoly Karpov and Dutch Grandmaster Jan Timman, both beaten by Short while winning the right to challenge Kasparov.

## Timman-Karpov Game 3 drawn

**ZWOLLE, Netherlands, Sept. 10:** Dutch Grandmaster Jan Timman drew the third game of his world title chess challenge on Thursday in their third FIDE World Championships chess game, but had to settle for a draw in a complex endgame, reports Reuter.

The score is now level at a 1/2 points each, with a rest day today before Saturday's fourth game in Arnhem.

Timman, with the white pieces, amazed watching Grandmasters by returning to the strategy which failed him in the first game on Monday.

But experts said that, by again challenging the Russian's favourite Caro-Kann defence, Timman was trying a psychological ploy and probably caught the ex-world champion off guard.

Karpov would not have expected to play this position again," said Australian Grandmaster Ian Rogers.

"It was a principled decision and surprised Karpov, I am sure," said Russian International Master Oleg Yevdokimov.

In such matches it is vital to prove theoretical point because this defence will come up again and again."

But three moves later the Dutchman veered away from the variation which went so badly wrong in the first game. He tucked his king away behind the queen's side pawns and slid his rook to the third rank in front of the pawns.

"It's very unusual. It certainly is strange to see the rook up there," Rogers said.

After a queen swap Timman's rooks advanced up the board leading to a complex rook and minor piece endgame. But as time dragged on it was unclear whether he could force a win against a player of the power and precision of Karpov.

"He (Timman) is simply very tired," said Yevdokimov.

The players agreed a draw after Move 49.

## Bowe visits Tyson

**PLAINFIELD, Ind., Sept. 10:** Heavyweight champion Riddick Bowe visited Mike Tyson at the prison where the former champion is serving a six-year term for rape and says the ex-champ is "doing pretty good," reports AP.

The two met privately Thursday for about an hour, said Karen Grau, spokeswoman for the Indiana Department of Correction.

"Mike looked excellent and I think he's taking all this in stride. Mike is doing pretty good," Bowe told television station WRTV of Indianapolis.

Bowe, who won the title last November from Evander Holyfield, is the latest in a line of celebrities who have visited Tyson since his sentencing in March 1992. Others include film producer Spike Lee, singer Whitney Houston, NBA All-Star Shaquille O'Neal, American news personality Ed Bradley and rap singer Hammer. Tyson wants to study rather than return to the ring, Bowe said. "Mike really doesn't want to fight; he wants to go to college. I guess he'll deal with it when he gets out."

Tyson, whose bid for a new trial was struck down by the Indiana Court of Appeals last month, received support from the 25-year-old boxer.

"I thought Mike was railroaded and what have you. They should give him another trial or just let him go," he said.

Bowe said Tyson didn't appear bitter. "He's taking it much better than I could."

Tyson was convicted in February 1992 of raping beauty pageant contestant Desiree Washington of Rhode Island, while she was in Indianapolis for a beauty competition. Tyson's lawyers are appealing his conviction to the Indiana Supreme Court, although the high court is not obligated to hear Tyson's case.

Tyson is imprisoned in the Indiana Youth Centre, about 20 miles (32 kilometres) west of Indianapolis.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

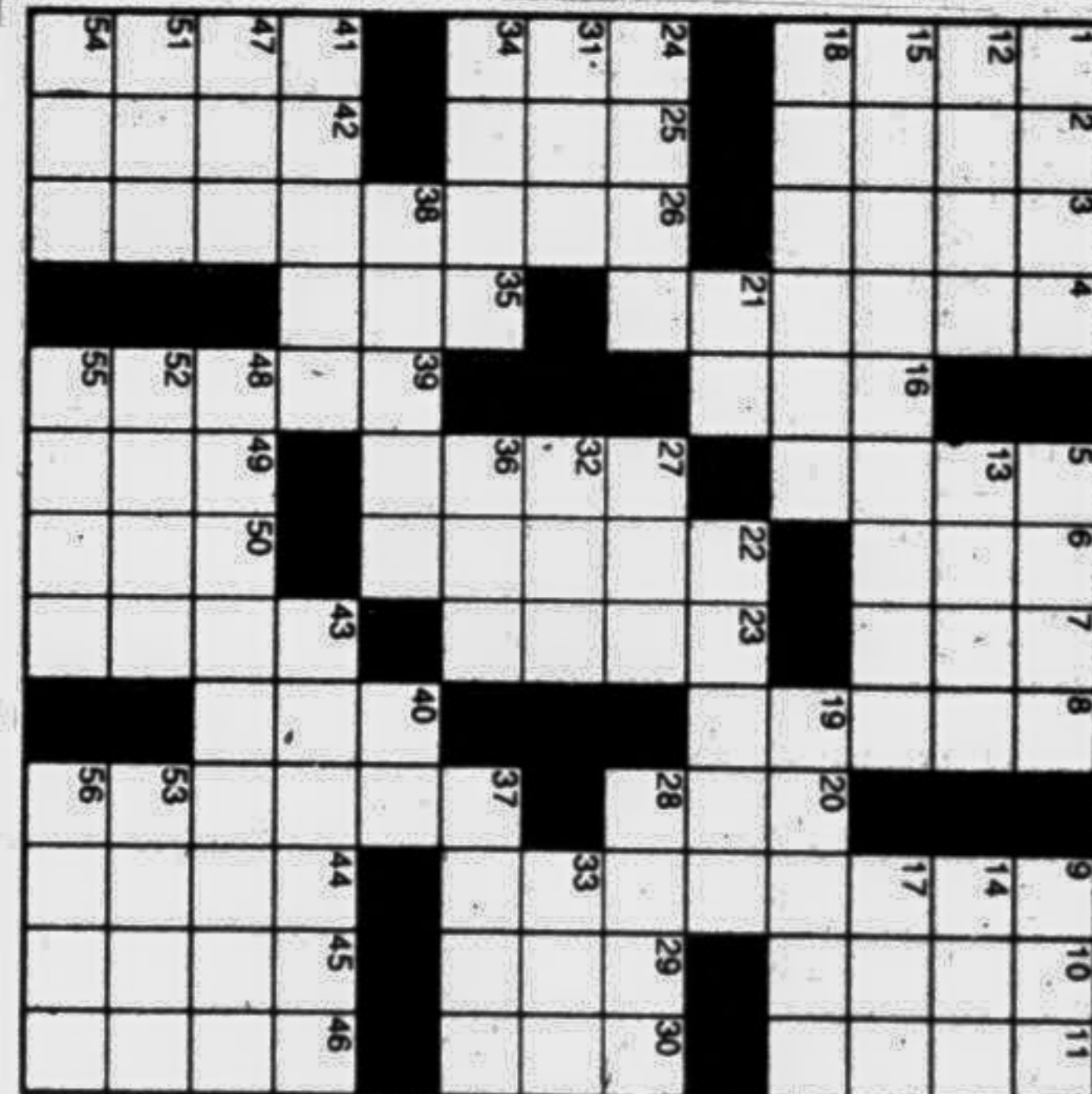
1 Dogs' dogs?  
5 Morning, to Walter Winchell  
9 French sea  
12 Theater award  
13 Heart  
14 Conductor de Waart  
15 Chaps, across the Channel  
17 "—boom bah"  
18 Begs  
19 Palatable  
21 "—Better Blues"  
22 Test-dummy's situation  
24 Smoke  
27 "Ualume" poet  
28 Tropical tree  
31 Mamie's man  
32 Quaff for Andy Capp  
33 Main-lander's souvenir  
34 Big Bird's resting place  
36 Tree maker?  
37 Linseed

**source**  
38 Farmer, at first  
40 Egg, in combinations  
41 Crockett's last stand  
43 Rub  
47 Gear  
48 Re Jesus  
51 "—Got a Secret"  
52 Frenzied  
53 Lillian or Dorothy  
54 —Plaines, Ill.  
55 "Sister Act" extras  
56 Nevada city

**cious**  
4 Bagel type  
5 Trick takers, often  
6 Whom Uncle Sam wanted  
7 Foul up  
8 Hostess  
9 Base restaurant  
10 Fix the copy  
11 Opti-mistic  
16 "—not choose to run"

**23 Oboist's need**  
24 Half a sawbuck  
25 Luau music maker  
26 "While you were out" stack  
27 Use a beeper  
29 Actress Thompson  
30 Blend  
35 A  
Smothers Brother  
37 Search for food  
39 19th Amend-ment beneficiary  
40 Sapporo sash  
41 Low-ph  
42 Mid-February byword  
43 Sends out invitations  
44 Indigo dye source  
45 Frisbee  
46 Singer's comeback?  
49 Aussie avian  
50 Junior

**Solution time: 22 mins.**



## CRYPTOQUIP

B J C X S G S B U Z I G F C N N Z X H  
B J J S , N U G F R Y W G X N G Y  
F R I I G S U Z M U C Y N  
E Z X H G Y U Z M Y Z W M J Y G

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: HOLDING HIS HEAD IN DISCOMFORT, DEJECTED JEWELER COMPLAINED OF AN EAR RING.

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.

## Pair parts for time being



**NEW YORK, Sept. 10:** Doubles teammates Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario and Helena Sukova set aside their partnership temporarily for more pressing matters when they meet in the women's singles semifinals at the US Open, reports AP.

Sanchez-Vicario, seeded No. 2, was seeking a return to the finals, where she lost a year ago to Monica Seles.

Sukova, seeded 12th, reached a Grand Slam semifinal for the first time since 1987, when she lost here. She has enjoyed a brilliant two weeks on the hardcourts of the National Tennis Center, reaching the singles semis against Sanchez-Vicario, Saturday's doubles semis with her and winning the mixed doubles with partner Todd Woodbridge on Thursday.

In Friday's other semi, No. 1 seed Steffi Graf, seeking her first Open title since 1989, played No. 11 Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere. Both also made it to the Open semis a year ago when Graf lost to Seles and

Maleeva-Fragniere was defeated by Sanchez-Vicario.

Both Sukova and Maleeva-Fragniere have enjoyed unexpected success at the Open.

Sukova missed three months this season with a broken foot, but made a strong comeback at Wimbledon, where she reached the quarterfinals, beating Sanchez-Vicario in the round of 16.

Maleeva-Fragniere was forced to withdraw from the doubles competition in the first round at the Open when she suffered a torn tendon in her left pinky, but remained in the singles competition and swept through to the semis.

Both Graf and Sanchez-Vicario hold impressive edges in head-to-head competition against Friday's semifinal opponents.

Graf has won all 17 previous meetings against Maleeva-Fragniere and is 34-6 in sets against her.

Sanchez-Vicario has won four of five previous meetings against Sukova, the lone loss coming at Wimbledon. She has won eight of 12 sets against her doubles partner.

Sukova also did Sanchez-Vicario a favour when she knocked off Martina Navratilova at the Open. That guaranteed Sanchez-Vicario the No. 2 spot, her highest ever, when the new rankings are released next Monday. Navratilova moves to No. 3 and the idle Seles, still recovering from an April stabbing attack, will be No. 4. No. 1 will belong to Graf, winner of both the French and Wimbledon and pursuing her first Open title since 1989.

If Graf is No. 1 in the rankings, Sanchez-Vicario holds that spot in schedule. She has been the busiest player on the women's tour since Jan. 1, 1991, playing 48 events and reaching at least the semifinals in 40 of those tournaments.

At Hamburg, the tournament where Seles was stabbed, Sanchez-Vicario surpassed dlr\$ 4 million in career prize money, the eighth woman to pass that mark.

With all those accomplishments, she still has won just a single Grand Slam event, the 1989 French Open. Graf owns 13 Slam victories.