

Short only after impossible

LONDON, Oct 16: British challenger Nigel Short, appearing to be gaining energy and inspiration, will aim to reduce his five-point deficit against champion Garry Kasparov when their world title chess match resumes on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Short trails in the 24-game series 6-11, but his recent form indicates that while saving the match is probably impossible, narrowing the gap is not.

Kasparov, 30, has not been able to outscore Short since Game Nine, and went crashing to his first defeat in Game 16.

Short, 28, has consistently used the advantage of the white pieces and first move to push the Azeri born champion to the brink of defeat, an advantage he will have again in Saturday's 18th game.

Experts say Kasparov is showing clear signs of strain,

while Short is raising the level of his game.

Short told reporters on Friday that Kasparov's fatigue is a minor factor in his revival. He feels that it is mostly due to his own efforts, and that the champion was belittling his improved abilities.

But Kasparov had admitted earlier in the match that he had been impressed with Short's resilience, and tipped the challenger to earn a rematch in two years time.

Both camps were reported to be hard at work preparing opening game surprises for the 18th game.

Match organisers expected a full house in London's Savoy Theatre for Saturday's game, noting that games, where Short had the first move and greater winning chances, attracted the biggest crowds.

Short's first win on Tuesday was cheered by a capacity audi-

ence, and with his form improving, match officials are optimistic that interest in the contest will remain high.

A rival match sanctioned by world chess body FIDE is scheduled to resume in Jakarta, with Russian Anatoly Karpov leading Dutchman Jan Timman 7-5 in that 24-game duel.

That match has been suspended for three weeks due to financial problems and the withdrawal of second half sponsors in Oman.

FIDE disqualified Kasparov and Short after a dispute over match conditions, leading to the players forming the breakaway Professional Chess Association (PCA).

The London match, with a 1.7 million pound (2.5 million dollar) purse provided by the Times of London newspaper, is held under the auspices of the PCA.

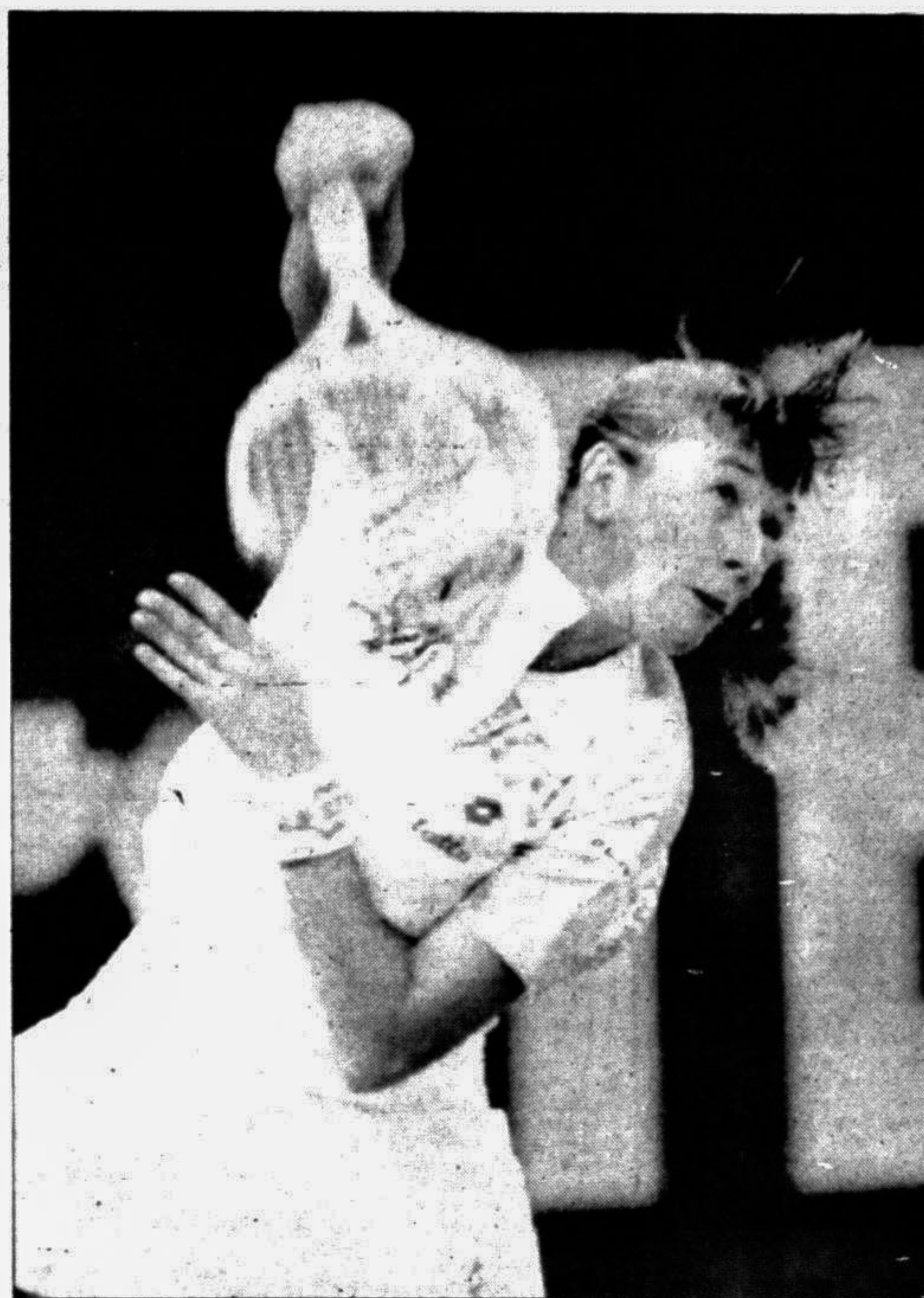
Shahbaz to lead Pakistan for Asia Cup hockey

ISLAMABAD, Oct 16: Pakistan named a 16-member team Friday for the Asia Cup hockey competition to be staged at Hiroshima, Japan next month, the official Associated Press of Pakistan said, reports AFP.

Shahbaz Ahmed has been appointed captain of the team, which is scheduled to leave for Tokyo a day before the November 4 opening of the eight-day tournament.

The team is:
Goalkeepers: Mansoor Ahmed (vice-captain), M Arshad.
Defenders: Rana Mujahid, Naveed Alam, Shamim Paul.
Midfielders: Khawar Javed, Muhammad Khalid, Khawaja Junaid, M Shafaqat.
Forwards: Mussadiq Hussain, Tahir Zaman, Kamran Ashraf, Shahbaz Ahmed, Ehsan Khan, Rahim Khan and Muhammad Shahbaz.

Standbys: Ahmed Alam, Danish Kaleem, M Usman, Irfan Mahmood, Muhammad Ali, M Sarwar, M Naem, Waheed Shahid.



An action study of Natalia Zvereva whose youth and energy was too much for a waning Navratilova. The veteran Czech born American bowed out of the Filderstadt tennis tournament at the quarter-final stage on Oct 15.

Lendl triumphs from behind

TOKYO, Oct 16: Veteran Ivan Lendl on Saturday came from behind to beat Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands. Now he will meet American Todd Martin in the finals of the 1 million dollar Seiko Super tennis tournament, reports Reuter.

Ninth-seeded Czech-born American Lendl, the highest-seeded player remaining in the tournament, scored a 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7-5) victory in the semifinals.

Lendl, who is seeking his fifth title of this tournament, said, "I was luckily in the tie-break. He (Haarhuis) came out very aggressively. I was able to get my shots in and put little pressure on him. He became less aggressive and missed some shots. I was playing well mentally. I played very tough on big points."

Martin, who beat Lendl in three close sets in the first round of the Australian indoor tournament in Sydney last week, earlier downed Greg Rusedski of Canada 7-6 (7-5) 6-3.

"What matters is not who I play, but how I play tomorrow. My main objective is to go out and play well. I expect tomorrow to be the toughest match," said Martin of the finals.

In Saturday's play, he said his strategy "was not to get killed by his serve. He serves extremely well."

Lendl, who has been suffering his worst season in 10 years after stumbling at the first hurdle in nine tournaments so far this year, got off to a sluggish start.

He dropped his first service game and failed to crack the powerful serve of Haarhuis,

conqueror of fourth seed Andrei Medvedev in the quarter-finals.

Two more pull out from Brighton meet
BRIGHTON, England, Oct 16: Mary Joe Fernandez and Magdalena Maleeva on Friday became the latest top players to succumb to injury and illness and pull out of next week's Autoglass Classic at Brighton, reports AFP.

And hopes of a big-name replacement coming in for the already absent Steffi Graf vanished when Martina Navratilova told tournament organisers she was unavailable.

French Open finalist Fernandez, the world number seven, is still not fully recovered from a stomach operation, while number fourteen Maleeva from Bulgaria has flu.

Graf confirmed her withdrawal earlier this week as she is still recovering from surgery on her right foot.

Disappointed tournament director George Hendon said: "Despite efforts by the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) and myself, we have not been successful in replacing Steffi and Mary Joe, the tournament's highest ranked players, owing to an unprecedented list of casualties among the top players."

"Gabriela Sabatini (shoulder), Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario (blisters) and Jennifer Capriati (elbow) are all injured and as yet have not played one event on the European indoor circuit."

"Martina Navratilova has sent a message to say how sorry she was not to be able to come, but she is currently struggling to complete her present commitments in Germany and needed rest."

But using his flashing return, coupled with some lucky line-calls, Lendl managed to break his opponent in the 10th game to secure the second set.

In the final set, Lendl squandered five break points at 4-4, and went down 1-4 in the tie-break on Haarhuis's serve.

But Haarhuis, ranked 62 in the world, was irked by some suspect line-calls and appeared to lose confidence on the big points, eventually allowing the former world number one into the final.

"I was playing well mentally and didn't give any silly points away," Lendl said.

The fast-improving 10th seed Todd Martin maintained the form which helped him oust top seed Stefan Edberg in the quarter-finals, to overcome a spirited challenge from Rusedski in the day's other semifinal.

After winning the first set in a close tie-breaker, Martin took advantage of a lapse in concentration from his 20-year-old opponent, to break serve in the third game.

The 130th ranked Rusedski, enjoying the best tennis of his career this week after pulling off upsets against Michael Chang, Wayne Ferreira and Richard Krajicek, was unable to convert five break points to pull even.

The match was a battle of the booming serves with few long ball exchanges. Rusedski, who has one of the fastest serves in the game, pounded 15 aces to Martin's five.

"My strategy was not to get killed by Greg's serve and to make the most of chances from his second serve," Martin said.

Lendl, a winner here in 1983, 1986, 1990 and 1992 and making his eleventh appearance, will be looking to capture his second title of the year on Sunday.

"It's my opinion that people are once again trying to confuse the situation. Leave us alone and let justice run its course once and for all."

The often talkative state prosecutor in the affair, Eric de Montgolfier, refused to comment on Liberation's report.

However, Tapie's lawyer Francis Sapiner seized on the story, saying it prove that the FFF had been out to get his client.

"That mask has fallen away. For the past five years, the leaders of the FFF have been trying to get rid of Bernard Tapie. Today we have the proof."

Eydelie was charged with corruption in June a month after the Valenciennes v Marseille match, after telling police that he had acted as an intermediary for Bernes.

Last month, he claimed that Tapie had offered him a three-year contract in return for changing his story, prompting a separate judicial enquiry.

Wheels within wheels

PARIS, Oct 16: France's matchrigging scandal took a new twist on Saturday, when an ex-Marseille player reportedly said that the French Football Federation urged him to bring down club president Bernard Tapie, reports AFP.

The affair has centred on Marseille's former general manager Jan Pierre Bernes and defender Jean-Jacques Eydelie, who are accused of offering bribes to three Valenciennes players last season.

But French daily Liberation claims that compromising tapes of telephone conversations last month between Eydelie, then in Argentina and federation chief Jean Fournet-Fayard, have been given to the judge in the case.

The claims about the tapes, which were apparently handed over by Eydelie to judge Bernard Befy during an audition in Valenciennes on Oct 1, were quickly denied by Fournet-Fayard on Saturday.

"What a caricature," he said. "There is absolutely no question of that happening."

Liberation claimed that the tapes reveal the federation chief telling Eydelie that if he changed his testimony to implicate Tapie, he would stand every chance of being allowed to play football in France again.

But Fournet-Fayard hit back at the report, telling RTL Radio: "I cannot promise things that I can't control."

"What's more," it's obvious that if Eydelie comes back, he has a chance of playing football in France again. If he doesn't come, he has no chance. It's as simple as that."

"It's my opinion that people are once again trying to confuse the situation. Leave us alone and let justice run its course once and for all."

Zvereva upsets Navratilova

FILDERSTADT, Germany, Oct 16: Belarus' Natalia Zvereva sent Martina Navratilova on vacation: early by ousting the defending champion, 6-3, 7-6 (7-5) Friday in

the quarter-finals of the Porsche Grand Prix, reports AP.

Second-seeded Conchita Martinez of Spain also was upset, falling to American Zina Garrison-Jackson, 7-6 (7-4), 6-4.

ranked player, at 4-4 in the second set and converted match point in one hour, 48 minutes.

Delaitre, Stark Olhavskiy move into semis

BOLZANO, Oct 16: Oliver Defaitre of France battled back Friday to beat German David Prinosil to move to the semifinals of the Bolzano ATP indoor tennis tournament, reports AP.

Other winners were American Jonathan Stark and Andrei Olhavskiy of Russia.

It took Delaitre more than 2 1/2 hours to defeat Prinosil 6-7 (3-7), 6-4, 7-6 (7-2).

Stark, however, quickly downed Thomas Golwitzer of Germany, 7-6, 6-4. Olhavskiy beat Thomas Johannsson of Sweden 7-6 (7-5), 6-7 (3-7), 6-2.

The other quarter-final match between Tom Nijssen of the Netherlands and second-seeded Cedric Pioline of France was scheduled for later Friday.

Earlier, the world's No 4 player, Michael Stich of Germany, was taken to the hospital with stomach pains and cancelled his doubles match Friday. A doctor said Stich was probably suffering flu symptoms.

Stich lost in the first round of the Bolzano tournament to Martin Damm of the Czech Republic.

Pescosolido provides punch

TEL AVIV, Oct 16: Top-seeded Thomas Muster of Austria and unseeded Stefano Pescosolido of Italy will meet in Saturday's semifinal of the dlr 200,000 Riklis Open championships at the Ramat Hasharon tennis centre in suburban Tel Aviv, reports AP.

Pescosolido upset fourth-seed Javier Sanchez of Spain 7-5, 2-6, 6-0 in 1:48:00 in a four match Friday.

Pescosolido, who knocked out sixth seed David Wheaton in a previous round, picked up steam in the final set, capitalising on a series of unforced errors by Sanchez.

Muster had a much harder time against a gritty Gilad Bloom, who fought for every point in front of a fervent 1,000-strong home crowd on Friday.

Muster finally outlasted his opponent, winning 7-6, 7-5 in 1:56:00 in a match either could have won.

Navratilova, who has won six titles at the event, had trouble with her serve-and-volley game. In the first set against Zvereva, she only held serve once.

The American, ranked second in the world, said she's had a hectic playing schedule since May and plans to take the next week off.

"It's a relief that it's over," said the 36-year-old. "I'm not physically tired. I'm emotionally tired."

In Saturday's semifinals, Garrison-Jackson will face third-seeded Mary Pierce of France, who outlasted Germany's Barbara Rittner 4-6, 6-3, 7-5.

Navratilova did not manage to get her serve on track until the third game of the second set, when she slammed three volleys for winners.

Zvereva, one of the world's best doubles players, hit a forehand passing shot past the American to close out the match in one hour, 30 minutes.

Zvereva, ranked 20th in the world, has won nine Grand Slam titles in doubles with various partners.

Garrison-Jackson broke Martinez, the world's fifth-



Former world number one Ivan Lendl makes a backhand return against Dutch Paul Haarhuis during their semifinal encounter in the Seiko Super tennis tournament yesterday in Tokyo. Lendl, the defending champion came back from behind to beat younger rival. — AFP photo

'Jumbo' Ozaki farther ahead

SUSONO, Japan, Oct 16: Overnight leader Masashi "Jumbo" Ozaki shot the day's best score of 66 Saturday, widening his lead to five strokes after three rounds in the 150 million yen (dls 1.4 million) Asahi Beer Golf Digest tournament, reports AP.

Jumbo, winner of two tournaments this season, started the round one stroke ahead of his youngest brother, Naomichi "Joe" Ozaki, and bogeyed the par-3 fourth hole of the 6,801-yard, par-71 Tomei Country Club course.

But Jumbo came back quickly and scored six birdies, including four of his last six holes, for a 54-hole total of 12-under 201. In the opening round Thursday, Jumbo had shared the lead with five others.

Joe had a 70 and was tied for second at 206 with Satoshi Higashi, who shot a 68.

Tsuneyuki "Tommy" Nakajima shot a 68 for a share of fourth at 207 with Katsunari Takahashi, who had a 70.

Seven strokes off the pace at 208 was Masahiro Kuramoto, who shot a 71.

American Davis Ishi, one of the first-round leaders, carded a 73 to share seventh at 209 with Akiyoshi Omachi, who had a 69.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Easter entree
5 Check-casher's two
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12 Director Kazan
13 Japanese dramatic theater
14 Surrender
15 Troubles
16 Stamps out
18 Deli offering
20 Pop, e.g.
21 Cabin material
23 Bubble maker
24 Cloth samples
28 Infinite time
31 The Sun
32 Pool member
34 Whodunit writer
35 Festoon
37 Prelimi-

DOWN

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2 Ms. Nazi-mova
3 "System of Logic" author
4 Lava ingredient
5 Aperçus
6 Branford's predecessor
7 Patronize the mall
8 Gather
9 Monster
10 Paradise
11 For fear that
17 Play-ground game
18 Soft footwear, for short
22 Has a quest
24 Draft inits.
25 "Holy mackerell"
26 Cheerful willingness
27 Approaches unnoticed
29 Born
30 Meth.
33 Bus driver on "The Simpsons"
36 "Sturm und Drang" dramatist
38 Breakfast choice
40 Calendar abbr.
42 Venomous vipers
43 Summer pest
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47 Surrounded by
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50 Mound stat.

Solution time: 26 min.

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CRYPTOQUIP
F G V C V L F L W J J V F U V L
Z G P A G P A Q V Z Z W P Z Z G P H V
Z U V U B C V F Z H B Q V Z
Saturday's Cryptquip: THOSE SHANCES CONDUCTED BY OUR PAL, THE BUBBLY SEER, ARE SPIRITED
Today's Cryptquip clue: U equals H
The Cryptquip 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.