

Graham Taylor faces a bleak future

LONDON, Nov 19: England manager Graham Taylor is facing an uncertain future and almost certain dismissal...

pointment for all four countries — but is a major blow to England where the soccer industry fears it will lose out on around 30 million pounds...

1953 and 1970, pointed an accusing finger at the English Football Association and its theories on coaching.

former England international said on Thursday. "Those 20 minutes represent the absolute lowest point of England's soccer history. We were atrocious."



GRAHAM TAYLOR

Under former manager Bobby Robson, England reached the semifinals in 1990 and were only denied a place in the final by losing a penalty shootout to eventual champions Germany.

"They are taught the right way to do things from the world go. But that is not allowed to happen in England. Some of the San Marino players looked better on the ball doing the basics than we did and they are amateurs and our top men earn 8,000 pounds (11,000) a week. It was shameful."

Alan Mullery, who won 35 caps in an eight-year international career, was just one of dozens of voices who joined the chorus calling for Taylor's immediate dismissal on Thursday. It was hard to find any support for Taylor anywhere.

Kelly has said that a new two-man managerial team could be appointed with a younger coach being groomed to take over from a more experienced man — an exact copy of the system used to great success in Germany.

Perhaps there will be major reform in England — but all this has been proposed before. Exactly 20 years ago this month, England failed to reach the 1974 finals when they were held to a draw by Poland at Wembley.

Sampras going great guns

FRANKFURT, Nov 15: It's been a great year for Pete Sampras, and it's looking better and better.

Edberg, ranked fifth, is 1-1 and could still reach the semifinals if he beats Goran Ivanisevic in the last group match Friday.

the world, evened his record at 1-1 in the Arthur Ashe Group, after a three-set loss to Sampras on Wednesday.

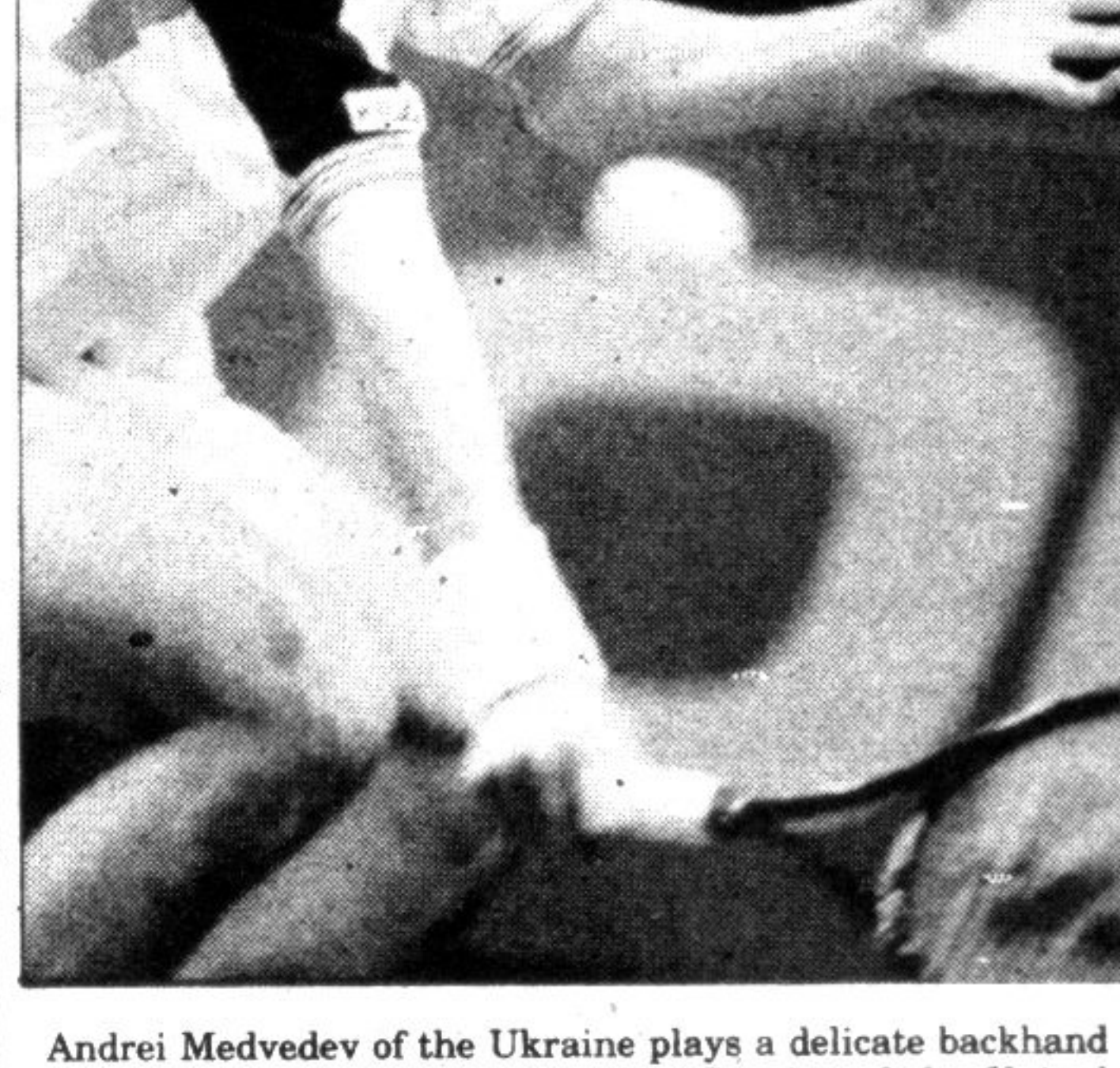
Sampras advanced to the semifinals of the ATP Tour World Championship Thursday by beating Stefan Edberg 6-3, 7-6 (7-3), reports AP.

Some nations, notably in Africa where soccer is developing fast, have complained that Britain has four teams trying to qualify. If there were one, it would mean a better chance for other nations to get through.

Earlier, Ivanisevic overcame breathing problems and beat Sergi Bruguera 6-4, 7-6 (7-4) to keep alive his hopes of advancing.

Ivanisevic only served four aces against Bruguera, a dismal number for one of the biggest servers in the game.

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He broke for a decisive 3-1 lead, but had trouble putting the first set away. He fought off a break point after some erratic play, but finally clinched it with a service winner.

FIFA does not want to rock the boat

LONDON, Nov 19: Soccer's world governing body FIFA dismissed speculation Friday that Britain's four soccer-playing nations should combine into one team for future World Cups, reports AP.

But FIFA spokesman Guido Tognini said that wasn't true. "FIFA doesn't want to take anything away from anybody," he said.

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Lineker goes to hospital again

CHICAGO, Nov 19: Former English national football captain Gary Lineker underwent reconstructive surgery on the big toe of his right foot in hopes of being ready for the coming Japan league season, reports AFP.

Lineker, 32, was a three-time English scoring leader, the top 1986 World Cup scorer and two-time footballer-of-the-year in his homeland.

They don't trust CODA

ATLANTA, Georgia, Nov 19: Residents of impoverished neighborhoods facing renovation for the 1996 Olympics said they do not trust promises from city government officials who want revitalisation at any price, reports AFP.

Russian gold drought ends

MELBOURNE, Nov 19: Viktor Tregubov and Sergei Syrtsov ended Russia's medal drought at the world weightlifting championships by sweeping the gold medals Friday in the 99-kilogram division, reports AP.

French coach vows to fight on

PARIS, Nov 19: French soccer team boss Gerard Houllier, under heavy pressure to resign following France's shock exit from the World Cup, vowed on Thursday to fight on until next year, reports Reuters.

"We will see if they fire me but for the time being, my contract runs until 1994 and I intend to get back to work," Houllier told a packed news conference.

"We keep our trust in him," he said. "He is under contract until June next year and, as from today, there is no question of breaking that contract."

Asian b'ball in semifinal stage

JAKARTA, Nov 19: South Korea will face China while North Korea will play against Iran in the semifinals of the 17th men's Asian Basketball Confederation (ABC) to be held on Saturday, reports AFP.

South Korea obtained its semifinal berth by beating Japan 89-66 earlier Friday.

"It is certain that the team has turned a page and now we must concentrate on the European Championships in 1996 and on the 1998 World Cup," he said.

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first-ever gold at a world championships but missed all three of his jerks — two at 220 kilograms and one at 222.5 kilograms.

Tregubov and Syrtsov, close friends and rivals, are among only six Russians competing in the world championships.

Russia originally was banned from the championships, along with Poland, after three of its competitors failed International Weightlifting Federation drug tests.

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Pierce nips Navratilova

NEW YORK, Nov 19: Martina Navratilova met the future Thursday night. Her name is Mary Pierce.

Navratilova, playing in a tournament she won four times and facing an opponent less than half her age, lost 6-1, 3-6, 6-4 in the quarterfinals of the Virginia Slims Championships, reports AP.

"She hit a couple of forehands as hard as anything that I have seen," Navratilova said.

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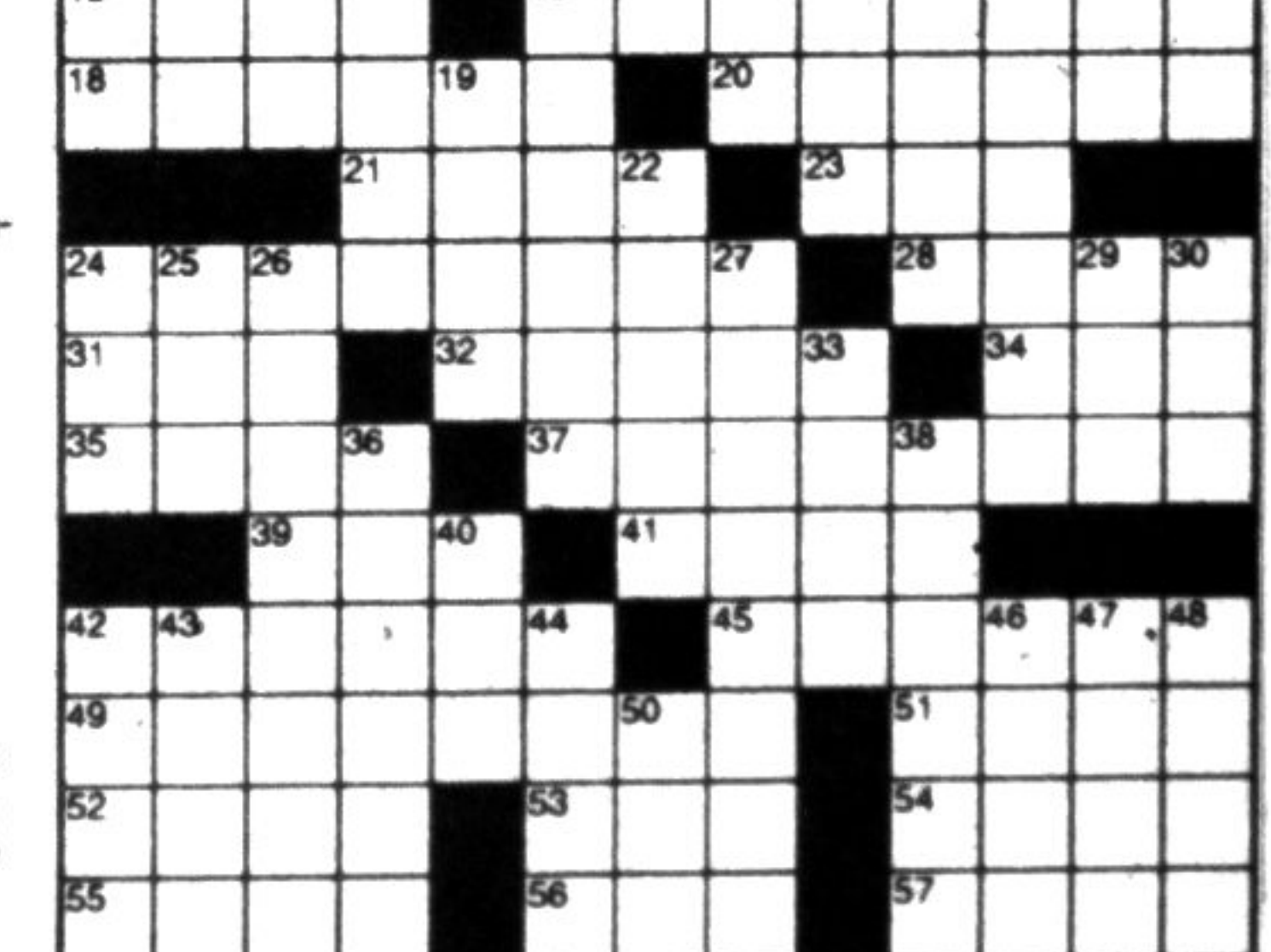
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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Actions at auctions 5 Future phalarope 8 Neeson of "Darkman" 12 Notion 13 "Uialume" poet 14 Madame Bovary 15 Puffed 16 Helen Reddy song 18 Side street 20 House mate? 21 Previously owned 23 Fell for it 24 Games and hobbies 28 Works on the sound-track 31 Ostrich's cousin 32 Skirmish 34 Kangaroo's kid 35 Gladys Knight's backup 37 Chewy treats

DOWN 1 Lettuce variety 2 One way to stand by 3 Antelope's playmate 4 Ushered to the door 5 Wide-spread 6 Tibetan gazelle 7 Lapidary's supply 8 Mr. Brezhnev 9 Green 10 He loves, to Livy 11 Lion's pride 17 Symbol of intricacy 19 So to suggest 22 Impressionist Edgar 24 Vitality 25 "What Kind of Fool —?" 26 Diana Ross's group 27 Smaller now 29 Minute of basketball 30 "Mayday!" 33 Record 36 Dieters' entrees 38 Lea 40 "Bei — Bist Du Schön?" 42 Lindstrom and Zadora 43 Sitarist's rendition 44 Mindy's mister 46 Four-star review 47 Raised 48 Longings 50 "The Color of Money" prop



CRYPTOQUIP D J K E D V U T H C X Z P T W Q K S T E U V U D P K X E C P T Z W U A Q V F X B B M ' 6 0 V S X U A X U V B H D J K F D S Q K . Saturday's Cryptokuip: FOR SOMEONE WHO STARTS A NEW DJET EACH MONDAY, HER CALENDAR IS FULL OF SUNDAES. Today's Cryptokuip clue: K equals R The Cryptokuip 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.