

Ramesh Krishnan signs off

MADRAS, Nov 29: Ramesh Krishnan, a dazzling jewel in the Indian tennis crown, today announced his effective retirement from the game, reports PTI.

He also demanded the resignation of R K Khanna, president, All India Tennis Association (AITA) while announcing his withdrawal from the Davis Cup squad in 'protest' against the recent statement of the AITA.

"I unequivocally hold the AITA president, responsible for all this. I also feel that in the best interests of Indian tennis, Khanna should resign," Ramesh told reporters at the Madras Cricket Club.

According to Ramesh, the attitude of the AITA towards the players has gone from bad to worse.

"Instead of taking advantage of the hard earned momentum following the epic victory over France at Frejus, the AITA with its ridiculous antagonistic attitude towards the players, poisoned the air and let slip a golden opportunity to give a fresh thrust to the game," he said.

Describing the recent charges made against him by Ramesh Desai, secretary general, AITA, as 'most malicious', Ramesh said "I knew full well going into the matches at Chandigarh that AITA would look for every possible excuse not to honour their commitment."

Thirty-two-year-old Ramesh Krishnan, who has announced his retirement from representing India in Davis Cup ties, was the only Indian to remain in the first 100 among ATP ranked players in the world for 11 consecutive years from 1980.

Ramesh Krishnan, whose career was at its brightest during 1986-87, said at a press conference that he had never dreamt of assisting India in a Davis

Cup final. He rated two of his matches as memorable — the first was against Australia in Oct 1987 — on the third and final day of the competition, the teams had tied two-all after John Fitzgerald put away a tired Vijay Amritraj in the first of the two reverse singles and levelled the scores at two-all. So



R KRISHNAN

it was a climatic rubber in which Ramesh Krishnan was playing Wally Masur. Ramesh, with a sound backhand, came back into the game when Masur quickly walloped a 4-1 lead in the first set, and went on to put India in the final.

Another match which was fresh in his memory was the one against Rodolphe Gilbert in France this year.

Ramesh Krishnan, adept in tackling tight situations during matches, became known as the thinking man's player with intellectual game, shorn of unnecessary flourish. At its best, his game was an art of simplicity. After an especially close

contest, Ramesh would mentally go through his performance, evaluate his strategy, re-think his strokes, ponder on what he might have done better and formulate a more efficient games plan next time.

Ramesh, who made his debut for India in Davis Cup's dead rubber against South Korea in 1977, won the national title a week later in Calcutta.

For Ramesh, who improved with age in the game, there was something magical beautiful, natural and simple in his style, with a buoyant rhythm and motion which lent the game a touch of artistry.

Winner of the Junior Wimbledon in 1979 and Junior French title later, Ramesh's other claim to fame was his reaching the quarterfinal in the US Open in 1981 and 1987, and of Wimbledon in 1986.

Later, he brought his best to defeat Wilander, the defending champion, in the Australian Open in 1989.

The world's top player considered him an opponent who can never be taken lightly and acknowledged him as a dangerous floater in the draw, yet he has never been a serious contender for the circuit's top.

In early 1986, Ramesh's game underwent a significant change. He developed a backhand which became the most lethal weapon in his arsenal and tilted the balance of his style towards aggression. With his forehand improving considerably, his classic backhand returns, a shot exclusively attributed to him, became difficult to beat.

Ramesh Krishnan's Davis Cup record was not in keeping with his reputation and ranking in 1986-87, but today it stands at 27 victories and 18 losses. Ramesh, who had represented India in the Olympic nearly came within the grasp of bronze medal in the Seoul Olympics in 1988 when he teamed with Leander Paes in the doubles.

Pakistan world squash champs

KARACHI, Nov 29: Pakistan captured the World Team Squash Championship as Jahangir Khan, Zarak Khan and Jansher Khan all scored victories Monday over their Australian rivals, reports AP.

The legendary Jahangir Khan, who announced his retirement last week from international competition, took the first match over Brett Martin, 6-9, 9-1, 9-5, 9-3, in 63 minutes.

Zarak Khan topped Rodney Eyles in five games, 9-4, 9-2, 4-9, 2-9, 10-9, to assure Pakistan the title in the best-of-three competition. Jansher Khan, who won his fifth World Open title last week, quickly disposed of Rod Martin in the final match, 9-2, 9-0, 9-0.

First time for Germany

SHEFFIELD, England, Nov 29: Barbara Rittner and Claudia Porwik presented Germany with the women's European Team Tennis Championship for the first time by beating Dutch pair Kristie Boogert and Stephanie Rottier 2-0 in Sunday's final, reports Reuter.

Porwik defeated Boogert 7-5, 6-3 while Rittner overcame Rottier 7-5, 6-2, leaving the Dutch runners-up for a second successive year.

Opportunity knocks

LAS VEGAS, Nov 29: A pair of California College track coaches, Erv Hunt and Deanne Vochatzer, were named the US Olympic coaches for the 1996 Atlanta Games, USA Track and Field announced on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Hunt, 46, has coached at the University of California for the last 22 years and served as an assistant coach on the 1992 US Olympic team in Barcelona.

A high school star in football, basketball and track who played two seasons as a defensive back for the national football league Green Bay Packers, Hunt has produced three NCAA champions and more than 50 all-Americans at California.

Hunt is considered one of the nations top hurdled coaches.

Vochatzer, 44, is in her second year at University of California-Davis and served as head coach for the US women's team at last summer's World University Games in Buffalo.

She was a member of the 1973 US national team for the World University Games as a hurdler and the following year competed on the US field hockey squad.

USA Track and Field's international Competition Committee also named a pair of Penn State coaches to head the US team for the World Championships in Gothenburg, Sweden, in 1995.

Hary Groves, a 41-year coaching veteran, was selected as men's coach. Teri Jordan, women's coach at Penn State since 1988 and a former US record holder at 5,000 metres, will coach the women.

They don't want to owe up

HOBBART, Australia, Nov 29: Australian officials are crying foul over a World Series wager between the Metro Toronto Zoo and the Philadelphia Zoo, reports AP.

In a friendly baseball bet, the Toronto zoo promised the zoo in Philadelphia the loan of two Tasmanian devil joeys if the Phillies won the series. Likewise, the Philadelphia Zoo promised to lend Toronto the first pair of white lion cubs born at Philadelphia if the Blue Jays won.

The Blue Jays won the series in October, obliging Philadelphia to make good on the promise of the cubs.

But Australian authorities, upset that the Tasmanian devils were placed at the centre of a sports bet, on Monday cancelled shipment to Toronto of four devils whose offspring were wagered.

The animals, approved for export Oct 12, were to be sent to Toronto late this year. The fierce-looking marsupials are found only on the island of Tasmania.

"We don't export animals to be part of bets or publicity stunts," said Wildlife Protection Authority director Paul Jewell. "The permit for exporting the animals to an overseas zoo states the zoo will not involve the animals in any trade or commercial transaction without our approval."

Authorities in Australia had determined that Toronto had suitable facilities for the devils, "but as far as we know, Philadelphia does not."

Jewell did not rule out Toronto being able to house devils in future, but said the WPA would be "extremely cautious" in its dealings with the zoo.

The Toronto zoo is expected to reapply for the devils at a later date.



Dutch duo Jacco Eltingh (L) and Paul Haarhuis (R) hold the trophy after beating the defending champions Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde of Australia in the final of the ATP World Doubles Championship in Johannesburg. — AFP photo

Ma turns attention to men

MANILA, Nov 29: Chinese coach Ma Junren, whose rigorous high-altitude training for his women runners has shattered middle and long distance world records this year, is set to launch a similar programme for male athletes, reports Reuter.

Ma who is in Manila for the Asian Track and Field Championships which start on Tuesday, said on Monday preparations were well under way for a men's training centre in his Liaoning province.

Ma's runners, 'the Ma family army,' have revolutionised women's athletics and he has attributed their stunning achievements to a strict marathon-style training regime with traditional Chinese tonics, including Tulle essence, caterpillar fungus and Ginseng.

"We are preparing to set up an athletic training centre which will be located near my home town in Liaoning province," he said.

Ma said he had invited another leading coach Liu Qi, to partner him in the project to train men middle and long-distance runners.

"We have also employed six other coaches to work with me, so we will make joint efforts to train top athletes," he added.

But Ma did not set a time frame for similar male success, saying that it took him nearly 24 years to bring the women runners up to world class from early experimentation in 1970.

"It will take a long time, training is like a science," he said.

"I have to start at a very fundamental stage ... men and women have different body shapes."

Ma said last month a key

factor in his runners success was intense conditioning in which athletes copy the running style of Ostriches and Antelope over long distances.

Wang Junxia, still only 20, who destroyed the world 10,000 and 3,000 metres records at last month's National Games in Beijing, is known as the oriental magic deer in China because of her running style.

Ma said he wanted to raise the standard of Asian athletics in the face of what he said was a western view that they would never be able to catch up.

"I want to raise the technical standard of Asian athletics ... some western people say Asian people, especially yellow-race people, cannot catch up with the world for long and middle distance events."

"That made me angry and hurt ... I have therefore worked very hard to study these events," he added.

China, sports great surprise

MANILA, Nov 29: China will be the "great surprise" in international sports because its huge population can provide an enormous pool of world-class talent, an international sports official said Monday, reports AP.

Primo Nebiolo, the president of the International Amateur Athletics Federation, also said he did not believe Chinese athletes are using performance-enhancing drugs, as has been alleged.

"Some results surprise a lot of people, but they are not surprising us. I trust them," Nebiolo told reporters on the eve of the 10th Asian Track and Field Championships.

"I believe the great surprise in the future of sports ... is China," he said. "China surely will be very strong."

He said that if Norway, with a relatively small population, can set a new world record in women's marathon, "why not China with its 1.1 billion people?"

The Asian track and field championships will be held for five days, ending on Saturday.

Some 500 athletes from 39 Asian countries will compete in 41 events. China is expected to dominate the competition.

Nebiolo acknowledged that doping was a serious problem for track and field as well as for all other sports.

Mohammed Hassan, president of the Asian Amateur Athletic Association, said gold medal winners would be tested for illegal drug use. The tests will be conducted in a laboratory in Australia, where urine samples will be flown from Manila.

Go Teng Kok, president of the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association, the host of this year's games, added that record breakers also would be tested for drugs.

Chinese athletes, especially the women distance runners, are expected to go on a record-breaking spree.

Blair confident as ever

BERLIN, Nov 29: Speedskater Bonnie Blair just shakes her head at the thought she could soon find herself draped in more Olympic gold medals than any woman in US history, reports AP.

At the Lillehammer Olympics in February, Blair is a strong candidate to win both the 500 and 1,000-metre sprints. If so, she will have harvested a record five gold medals over three Olympics.

That would be one more trip atop the victory stand at sport's premier spectacle than swimmer Janet Evans, runner Evelyn Ashford or diver Pat McCormick have earned.

"That's stats for media — that's not for me," Blair said. "If

you get caught up in something like that, you'll just be disappointed if it doesn't work out."

Blair, by all accounts, remains unaffected by her success on the ice. A smile crosses her face with her own self-description as a "meat-and-potatoes" kind of person.

She first straddled on skates at age 2, surrounded by a family of speedskating enthusiasts. Four older siblings sprinted their way to US national championships.

Family members remember the little girl as having slipped around the ice hockey rink near their home in the countryside between Champagne and Urbana, Illinois, all smiles and blowing kisses.

"It was definitely a family thing," said Blair of speedskating. "I just followed the family wherever they went. But I always enjoyed it."

Not surprising for an athlete whose first competition was in "the tiny tots category" at age 4, Blair says mastering the technical part of her sport has been easy.

But she is working to regain some lost explosive power in her sprints after a disappointing last season. At age 29, there's a question if this can be regained, although Blair has tackled the problem by refocusing her training.

"I don't know whether I can get it back, but I'm doing what it takes to get it back," she said.

At Albertville in 1992, Blair swept both the 500 and 1,000

metres gold medals, but she has never duplicated the burning speed she flashed in the shorter distance at the Calgary Olympics in 1988.

In earning her first gold medal, along with a bronze in the 1,000-metres, Blair skated a time of 39.10 seconds in the 500 metres. That mark has never really been approached since by the women.

"I hope this year I can do it," she said. "It's definitely in the back of my mind."

Blair swept both her main events at the World Cup held in Berlin in the first meeting this Olympic season of speedskating's elite. Missing, however, was chief rival Qiaobo Ye of China.

Qiaobo, who was suspended after testing positive for a banned substance in 1988, beat Blair to capture the overall World Cup last season.

Although she enjoys warm relationships with numerous other skaters in her events, Blair frowns at the mention of Qiaobo.

"Obviously she has something in her body that I don't. I don't have any respect for that," she said softly. "I don't know anybody that does."

When she resumes her quest for Olympic gold Feb 12-27, Blair will not be alone. At least 45 family members and friends will be in Norway to form an impressive rooting section.

"I couldn't ask for a better support group," she said and laughed.

Sosa steadies Inter

ROME, Nov 29: Ruben Sosa struck a last minute penalty to earn Internazionale a 2-2 draw with Juventus on Sunday night and spare his side from a second successive Italian league defeat, reports Reuter.

The Uruguayan had put Inter ahead in the 33rd minute with a stunning free-kick, but second-half goals from Roberto Baggio and German Andreas Moeller looked like winning the game for Juventus.

The result left Juventus two points adrift of the top three — Parma, Sampdoria and AC Milan.

Earlier, the big clash between Parma and Milan finished 0-0 allowing Sampdoria to join them on 19 points with a 3-1 victory over Cremonese.

Dutchman Raed Gullit continued his rich vein of form with two second-half goals after Cremonese had equalised an earlier effort from England international David Platt.

The league's top scorer, Andrea Silenzi, struck twice in Torino's 3-0 win over bottom club Lecce, taking his tally for the season to 11 goals.

Honours even

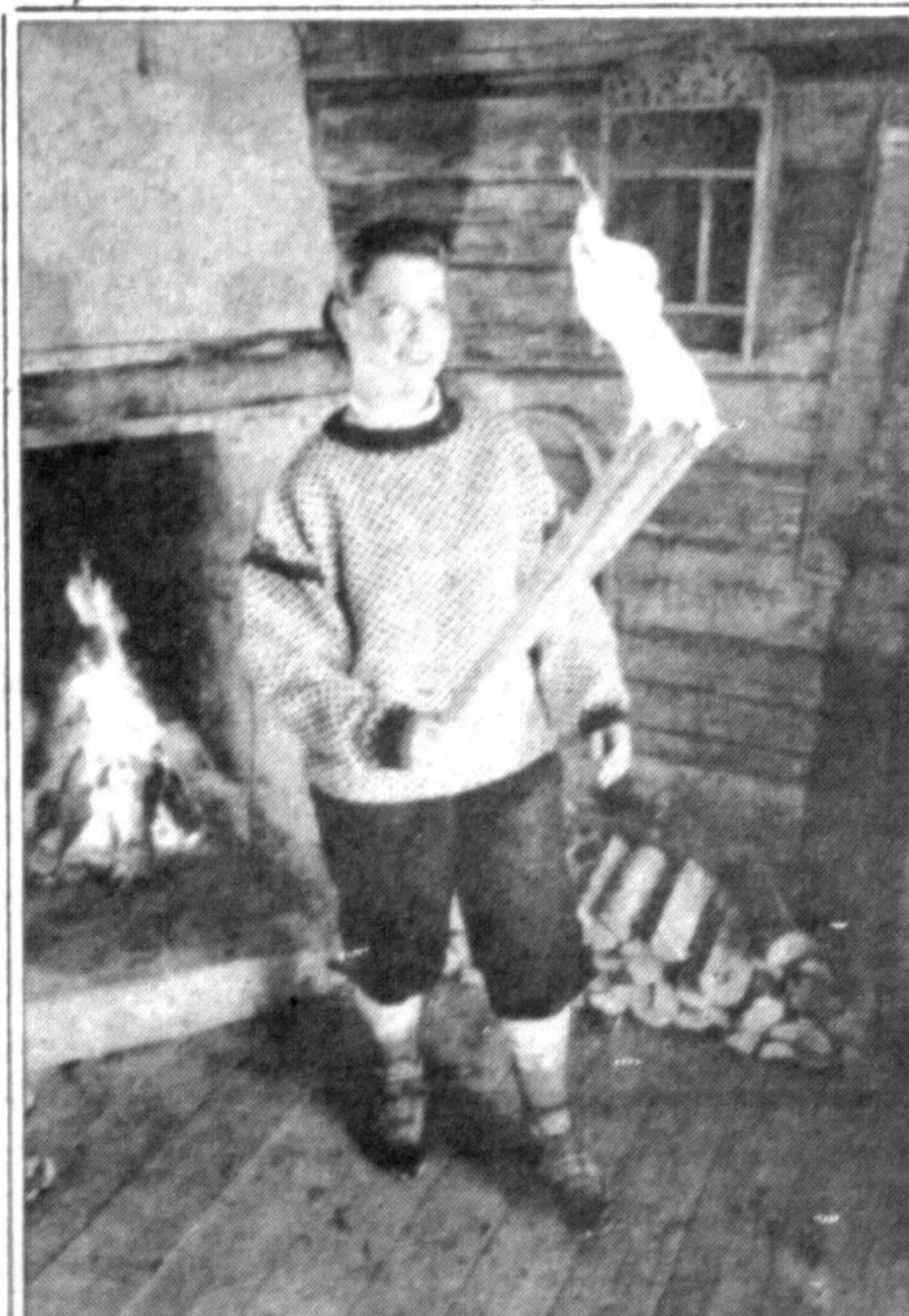
ACCRA, Nov 29: Egypt's Zamaiek held Asante Kotoko of Ghana 0-0 in the first-leg of the African Champions Cup final at a heavily policed stadium in Kumasi on Sunday, reports Reuter.

No incidents were reported as police and soldiers ringed the pitch and the outside of the stadium following crowd violence at Kumasi, 250 kms north of Accra, when Asante Kotoko clashed with Asec of Ivory Coast in the semifinals.

Home fans in the 60,000 capacity crowd were bitterly disappointed with the result after Asante had dominated for long spells with Egyptian goalkeeper Sayed keeping them out with some brilliant saves.

Asante keeper Osei Kwadwo also made two crucial saves from Zamaiek's Nigerian striker Amoriek, one in each half.

Both sides, who meet in the second-leg in Cairo in two weeks' time, are looking for their third Champions Cup title.



Norwegian Princess Martha Louise holds the Winter Olympic Games' torch after it was lit in Morgedal, Norway on Nov 28. The flame will travel across Norway and reach Lillehammer when the Games start in February. — AFP photo

Salt Lake best for 2002 Games

PARK CITY, Utah, Nov 29: Salt Lake City's bid for the 2002 Olympic Winter Games is the world's strongest, says a high-ranking member of the International Olympic Committee, reports AP.

"We all know you have the best bid and we can be optimistic," said Marc Hodler of Switzerland, who also is president of the Association of the International Sports Federations.

The IOC will meet in Budapest, Hungary, in June 1995 to select the host city for the 2002 Games. Competing against Salt Lake City are Quebec and Ostersund, Sweden.

Competing cities for the 2002 Games must declare their candidacy by Feb 1. Olympic insiders are speculating that Sion, in southern Switzerland, may jump into the fray. Salt

Lake lost the 1998 Winter Games to Nagano, Japan.

Ostersund entered the bidding on Friday, renegeing on a year-old unwritten agreement it had with Salt Lake City to support Utah's 2002 efforts. In exchange, Salt Lake had promised to support Ostersund in its bid for the 2006 Winter Games.

Salt Lake Olympic Bid Committee president Tom Welch said Saturday he was not bothered by Ostersund's defection, which he viewed as a political move to make itself better known and enhance its chances for 2006.

To keep Salt Lake City's bid in the forefront, Welch, committee vice president Dave Johnson and executive board president Frank Joklik will travel to Kuwait for the Asian Olympic meetings, to Zimbabwe for the African Olympic meetings and to Switzerland for presentations to the IOC's winter sports federations.

All visits will be wrapped up in time for the Feb 12 opening of the 1994 Winter Games in Lillehammer, Norway. At that time, cities bidding for 2002 will begin heavy-duty campaigning in anticipation of the June 1995 IOC meeting.

Also on Saturday, the bid committee's executive board approved a dollar 99 million deal that would repay Utah taxpayers for building and operating the winter sports facilities to be the crown jewels of the bid.

The deal is contingent on Salt Lake City winning. Money would come from Olympic ticket revenues, corporate sponsorships and television-broadcast rights.

The current owner of the facilities — the Utah Sports Authority — agreed to the plan earlier last week. The Utah Legislature will have the final say.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

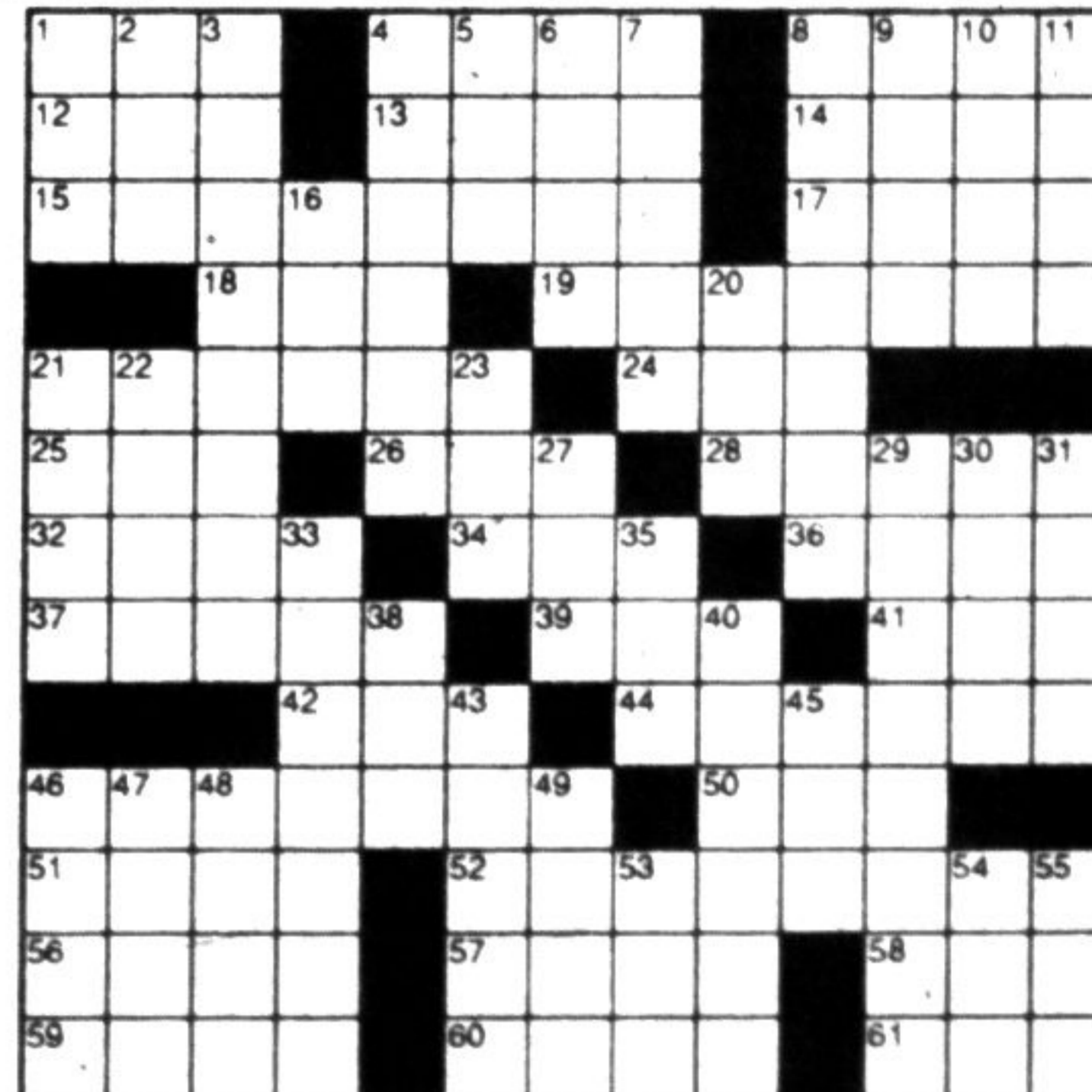
ACROSS

1 Shell-game need
4 "Meet Me — Louis"
8 "Farewell"
12 It's charged
13 Approach
14 Syllable with dust or light
15 Wimpy protagonist
17 Kachina worshiper
18 "— Yankee —"
19 Treated, as some salt
21 Pacifier piece
24 Standard
25 Fuss
26 Future
28 Pancake arrangement
32 Schwarz-enegger's pride
34 One in a row?
36 The stuff some men are made of
37 Insomniac's

hope
39 Ruby, for one
41 La-la lead-in
42 You can't stand to have one
44 "Tiger" singer
46 Lattice-work
50 Tease
51 Long lunch?
52 Poison undoer
56 1934 song, "Baby, Take —"
57 Okinawa port
58 Neighbor of N.J.
59 Soviet news source

60 Admitting clientele
61 Run up the phone bill
DOWN
1 Ms. Zadora
2 Lo-o-o-o-ong time
3 Direct opposite
4 Fill one's lungs
5 Born
6 Rajasthan wrap
7 Cavalry unit
8 Summer-time garb
9 The range
10 Watergate evidence
11 Dry
16 Mischief maker
20 "— Kapital"

21 Apprehends
22 Pedestal occupant
23 Freudian concept
27 Choke
29 Virus thwarting
30 Mrs. Julius Dithers
31 Nancy of movies
33 Turns color, as a page
35 Ump
38 Chum
40 "The Music Man" librarian
43 Victor Borge's place
45 Auction action
46 Just one of those things
47 McEntire of C&W
48 Piccadilly figure
49 Child's play
53 Article in "Life"?



CRYPTOQUIP

A I K S C H Z K S W W
W Z H K Z B Y F V C W S K F K
D N S K S V H K , P I H P I K A V S K K
H F D S N S C Z B B .

Yesterday's Cryptogram: SKILLFUL TREE SURGEON HONORED AT BIG CONFERENCE TOOK A BOUGH.

Today's Cryptogram clue: B equals F
The Cryptogram 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.