

Davis Cup goes to Germany

DUESSELDORF, Germany, Dec 5: Germany won its third Davis Cup title Sunday when Michael Stich beat Richard Fromberg in the final against Australia, reports AP.

Stich's 6-4, 6-2, 6-2 victory gave Germany an unbeatable 3-1 lead before the last reverse singles match in the best-of-five series.

Germany's previous two victories came in 1988 and 1989, when the team was led by Boris Becker.

Stich, the No. 2 in the world who won the ATP Tour World Championship title two weeks ago in Frankfurt, led Germany this year, after Becker refused to play.

Adjusting well to the red clay surface picked by his team for the final, Stich won both his singles against Australia and played a major role in Germany's key victory in the doubles Saturday.

Stich broke for a 3-2 lead against Fromberg and easily cruised through the first set.

Fromberg, ranked 40th and Australia's top clay-court player, dropped his serve in the opening game of the second set to fall further behind.

His first break opportunity came in the fourth game, but he hit a forehand passing shot wide. Fromberg had another chance, but Stich then fired two aces in a row to get out of trouble and take a 3-1 lead.

With 13,000 fans in an exhibition hall of the Duesseeldorf Fair grounds stomping their feet in Stich's support, the German gained another break to lead 5-2 and closed out the second set in the next game with a drop shot.

Playing with superb confidence, Stich again broke Fromberg at the start of the third set and won his fifth game in a row for a 2-0 lead.

Stich showed no ill effects from playing more than seven hours of tennis on Friday and Saturday. He needed five sets to beat Jason Stoltenberg in the opening singles Friday and played four sets in the doubles Saturday, when he and Patrick Kuehnen beat Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde.

Fromberg had been suffering from a muscle strain in his ribs, but he had a day off Saturday.

But there were no comebacks this time for Fromberg, who saved five match points in beating Marc-Kevin Goellner in the second singles Friday.

Stich, who had said he wanted the Davis Cup title badly, broke again for a 5-2 lead and served out the match at love.

He then jumped into the arms of his teammates and Germany's captain, Niki Piliic.

Earlier on Saturday, Germany moved to within one victory

of clinching its third Davis Cup title when Michael Stich and Patrick Kuehnen beat Australia's Mark Woodforde and Todd Woodbridge in doubles.

The Germans won 7-6 (7-4), 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7-4) to lead Australia 2-1 in the best-of-five series, and Stich can deliver the title to Germany when he meets Richard Fromberg in the first of Sunday's reverse singles.

The two nations had split the opening singles Friday.

Stich and Kuehnen, two close friends who are now 4-0 in the Davis Cup this season, beat one of the strongest doubles teams in the world.

That victory could prove decisive in Germany's drive to win its first title since consecutive triumphs in 1988 and 1989, with Boris Becker on the team.

The Australian "Woodies" won the Wimbledon doubles title this year and were runners-up at the ATP Tour Doubles World Championships last week in South Africa.

"We had to play 110 per cent on some points to beat them," Stich said. "They were very consistent, while we had our highs and lows. But we were consistent in the fourth."

The Australians said they

were still in the contest. "We are pretty down because we lost the doubles which we knew could be the key for the tie," Woodforde said.

"But we still have a chance and we mean business."

Much will depend on the condition of Fromberg, who had a tough five-set battle before beating Marc-Kevin Goellner on Friday.

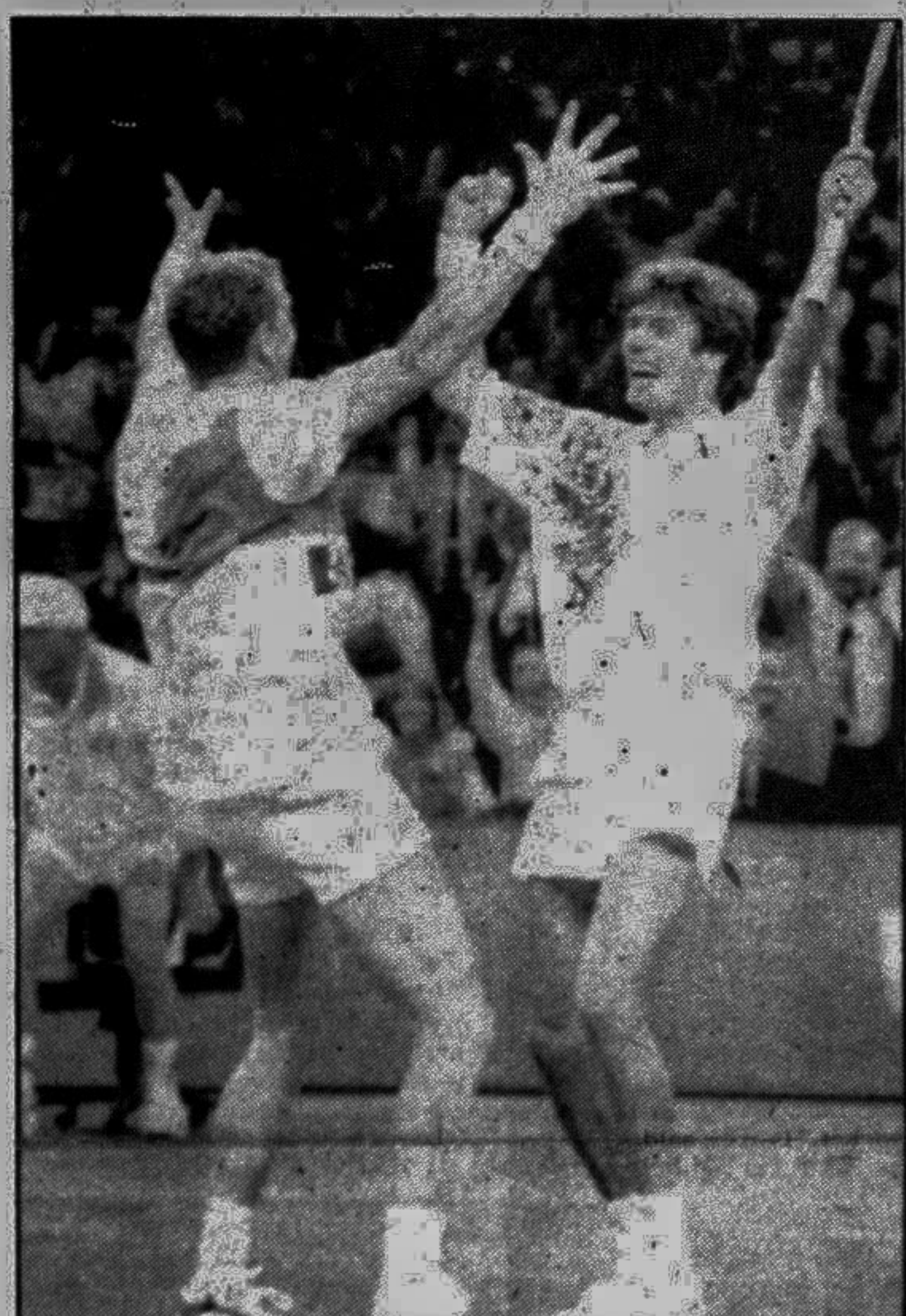
Fromberg, who had been suffering from rib muscle strain, was treated for exhaustion after Friday's match. But he practiced Saturday, and Woodbridge said he was "ready to give them everything he's got."

If Fromberg upsets Stich, the No. 2 player in the world, the decision will come in the last match between Goellner and Jason Stoltenberg, who lost in five sets to Stich Friday.

The match is being played on red clay and Fromberg is Australia's top clay-court player. The Germans picked clay because it's Australia's worst surface.

Australia, with 26 titles, is second on the all-time list behind the United States with 30. Its last title came in 1986.

German doubles pair Michael Stich (R) and Patrick Kuehnen about to embrace each other after defeating the Australian pair of Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde in their Davis Cup match on Dec 4.



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Brothers a few steps away

Sports Reporter

Grandmaster Niaz Murshed, Pakistani International Master Mahmood Ahmed Khan Lodhi, Indian IM Shekhar Chandra Sahu and Amir Hussain won their respective matches to help Brothers Union post a 4-0 victory over Dhaka University Chess Club in the fifteenth round of the First Division chess league at the National Sports Council chess room yesterday.

The win takes the defending champions, who have a collection of 50 points, another step closer to retaining the league crown.

Bangladesh Ansars, who defeated Golden Chess Club 4-0 in their fifteenth round engagements, stayed 4.5 points adrift of the leaders while Bangladesh Biman maintained a distant third position with 39 points.

Biman, who started quite impressively and followed Brothers by two points halfway through the league, beat Protibha Chess Club 3-1.

Dhaka University with 38.5 points are currently fourth.

In the other matches of the day, Narayananj Chess Club beat BTMC 3-1, Mahakhali Prodip Sangha beat Chalantika KC 2.5-1.5 points, Farashgonj SC beat Patuakhali DSA 2.5-1.5, Genius Chess Club beat Parijat Chess Club 3-1 while the match between Pony Electronics and Noor-e-Alam Khan Dhaka Sangsad were tied.

Sports Reporter

Old Ideals beat Progoti Boys by 12-7 on the opening day of the Phoenix insurance handball championship that got underway at the handball court yesterday.

The winners led a keenly-contested first half 4-3.

Suman and Yusuf of Ideals scored four goals each while Saiful of the same team found the target thrice.

Hamim with three and Vishnu and Kajal with two each completed the scoring break-up of the losers.

Earlier, State Minister of Textiles Major (ret'd) Abdul Mannan inaugurated the meet.

Phoenix h'ball on

Sports Reporter

The Department of Finance beat the Department of Library Science 61-57 in the Dhaka University inter-department basketball competition at the DU Basketball Court yesterday.

Mahfuz, Razu and Suman top-scored for Finance with sixteen, ten and eight points respectively.

DU basketball

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Giants vs minnows

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 5: Eight soccer clubs from the mighty Japanese to the little-known Maldives islands leagues will contest the Asian Club Championship in Bangkok next year, the Asian Football Confederation said on Saturday, reports Reuter.

The top side of Japan's J-League, Yomiuri Verdy, will take part, alongside Victory from the Maldives and the Thai Farmers side.

Other teams in the competition from January 28 to February 7 are Al Ansar (Lebanon), Al Shabab (Saudi Arabia), Oman Club (Oman), Al-Muhurraq (Bahrain) and Liaoning (China).

The eight teams qualified for the finals after playing a three-month preliminary competition.

Juvenile soccer training ends

Sports Reporter

A certificate-giving ceremony of the "Jadukar Samad" juvenile football training programme was held at the conference room of the National Sports Council yesterday.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain gave away the certificates among the 36 participants who took part in the six-week long course.

Barkley in different court

MONTGOMERY, Ala, Dec 5: Can Sir Charles become Congressman Barkley? Or maybe even governor Barkley?

Phoenix Suns basketball star Charles Barkley said he may enter politics in his home state of Alabama when he retires, a move that score points Thursday among some veteran political observers, reports AP.

"It would be good for young people to see sports figures entering the arena of politics," said black political organizer Jerome Gray. "For people in the underclass, he said, the candidacy of a Charles Barkley or Bo Jackson could send a positive message that politics is not bad, it's not dirty."

"We need to encourage more," said Gray, field director for the Alabama Democratic Conference.

A figure like Barkley on Alabama's political scene "could give voice to some issues that otherwise would not see the light of day," said Birmingham pollster and political scientist Natalie Davis.

"People are cynical enough to think that you have to have a sports background to change politics," she said. "He'd shake up the system for sure."

Barkley has been shaking up Phoenix Suns fans with talks of retiring after this season. He said Wednesday he may enter Alabama politics. "Successful people should help the less fortunate," he said.

Could Barkley make the leap from basketball hoops to ballot boxes?

Others such as US Sen Bill Bradley of New Jersey have used their success in sports as a springboard to electoral victory. But state Rep. Alvin Holmes, a black who has been active in black political causes, said prominence alone won't get someone elected.

"People are not going to elect anyone, black or white, unless they think that candidate is

going to do something constructive to improve his or her life," said Holmes.

As for Barkley's potential, Holmes commented: "I hope he doesn't move into my district."

Barkley, while a basketball star, was not a scholar like Bradley, who graduated from Princeton.

"He was a terrible student. He didn't make much effort," said Wayne Flynt, a prominent Auburn history professor and author who has followed Barkley's career. "But he's extremely bright. Some people see him as just a wide body who has a quick temper... But he's a bright person with a lot of common sense and a lot of savvy."

"I would not underestimate Charles Barkley, or Bo Jackson either for that matter," said Flynt.

Flynt, an expert on Southern history, said Barkley as politician would offer more than just name recognition. "He's very much in the black Alabama political tradition... someone who has a lot of community respect and can mobilize a constituency," he said.

Div III soccer

Sports Reporter

Both Pragoti Insurance Third Division football league matches held at the Outer Stadium ended in draws yesterday.

Dhaka Sporting Club drew with Rahmatganj SC 0-0 in the first match.

Government Printing Press shared points with Fire Service in the other game. It ended in a one-all draw.



Participants of the 'Jadukar Samad' juvenile soccer training programme seen with the State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain in the certificate-giving ceremony at the conference room of the NSC yesterday.



Briton Nick Gillingham sets a European record winning the men's 200 metres breaststroke in a time of 2-min 7.91 secs at the World Short-Course Swimming Championship in Palma de Mallorca, Spain on Dec 4. Gillingham broke his previous record of 2-min 7.93 secs set in Birmingham in October 1991.

Gillingham's golden gloss

PALMA DE MALLORCA, Spain, Dec 5: China's women hoisted their tally of short-course records to nine at the World Championships on Saturday as Britain's Nick Gillingham set a European mark with a rousing 200 metres breaststroke victory, reports Reuter.

American Janet Evans completed a classy distance freestyle double, Fernando Scherer and Gustavo Broges gave Brazil a superb one-two in the men's 100 metres freestyle and there were wins for Australian Susan O'Neill and Franck Esposito of France.

But the world records fell once again to the relentless Chinese women, whose awesome feats mirror those of their countrywomen of the athletics track this year.

Dai Guohong notched her fourth world short-course record and claimed her third title of the four-day championships in the women's 100 metres breaststroke.

Compatriot Le Jingyi closed the day with another Chinese take-away, anchoring the women's 4x100 metres freestyle relay to another world record.

Le, 18, has played a part in five world records in Palma — the 50 metres freestyle, which she broke in both heats and final, the 100 metres freestyle and two relays.

Sixteen-year-old Dai, who had already broken the 400 metres individual medley mark and lowered the 200 metres breaststroke record in both heats and final, continued her remorseless passage in Saturday's 100 breaststroke.

Dai, third behind Australians Samantha Riley and Lintley Frame at the halfway mark, forged away from her rivals in the second 50 to win by over a second in one minute

6.58 seconds.

The time eclipsed the 1:07.05 world short-course mark set by East German Silke Hoerner in Bonn in February 1986.

World long-course champion Frame, the fastest qualifier, had to settle for silver ahead of Riley.

Gillingham, three-times European long-course champion, produced a barnstorming finish to overhaul American pace-setter Eric Wunderlich and clinch the 200 metres breaststroke gold in 2:07.91 two-hundredths of a second inside the European mark he set in Birmingham, England, in October 1992.

Gillingham's final began inauspiciously as he toppled into the water and forced a restart.

Wunderlich, the fastest qualifier, rated away from the outset, with Australian Phil Rogers, the Pan-Pacific champion, his closest pursuer in an outside lane.

But the experienced Gillingham, twice an Olympic medalist at the distance, bided his time, reeled in the leaders and stormed away on the final length to win by nearly half a second.

Rogers, winner of Friday's 100 breaststroke and world short course record holder over both 100 and 200, took the silver and Wunderlich the bronze.

"I think I swam the best race of my life in terms of racing the guys and coming out the winner," Gillingham said.

"At long last I've proved I'm the best in the world."

O'Neill gave Australia a great start to the session by defeating China's Liu Liminto win her first global title after two near-misses.

O'Neill, silver medalist in both the 200 butterfly and 200 freestyle here after leading for most of both races, finally held on for gold.

Twice a silver medalist at

August's Pan-Pacific Championships, she withstood the challenge of 200 butterfly victor Liu to win by just five-hundredths of a second.

Evans, triple Olympic champion in 1988, splashed away from her rivals to win the 400 metres freestyle by nearly two seconds from fellow American Trina Jackson and claim her second gold following her victory in Friday's 800 freestyle.

Scherer won the men's 100 freestyle in an exciting blanket finish, with world short-course record holder Borges a mere four hundredths of a second behind and American Jon Olsen, the Pan Pacific champion, just seven-hundredths of a second back in third place.

Olympic bronze medalist Esposito finished strongly to win the men's 200 metres butterfly for the first French gold of the championships.

MEDALS TABLE

Medals table after the third day of the World Short-Course Swimming Championships on Saturday (tabulate under gold, silver, bronze):

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze
China	8	2	1
United States	5	5	7
Australia	3	6	6
Britain	2	0	3
Finland	1	1	1
Sweden	1	1	1
Brazil	1	1	0
Canada	1	0	0
Croatia	1	0	0
France	1	0	0
Germany	0	2	1
Poland	0	1	1
Italy	0	1	0
Japan	0	1	0
Moldova	0	1	0
Netherlands	0	1	0
New Zealand	0	1	0
Spain	0	1	0
Belgium	0	0	1
Brazil	0	0	1

(Two silvers and no bronze were awarded for a dead-heat for second place in the men's 200 metres freestyle)

Kelley's record intact

RENO, Nev, Dec 5: Kevin Kelley survived the first knockdown of his career to take the World Boxing Federation featherweight championship from Gregorio Vargas by a unanimous decision Saturday night, reports AP.

Kelley, of New York, went down in the ninth when Vargas connected with a straight right, but he got up to record his 37th victory without a loss. He has 26 knockouts.

In another bout, a lethargic Michael Moorer of Detroit, the No. 1 ranked heavyweight by the International Boxing Federation and the World Boxing Association, outpointed Mike Evans of Chicago in a 10-round bout.

Moorer, 34-0 with 30 knockouts, dominated Evans (28-7-1 with 20 knockouts) but never had him in serious trouble. Evans entered the fight at 244 pounds (110 kgs), while Moorer weighed 216 (98 kgs).

The three judges gave Moorer all 10 rounds, scoring it 100-90.

Kelley explained his knockdown, saying "my machones got the better of me. I proved that I could take a great shot," Kelley said. "I had him going backward and bleeding."

Vargas, whose right eye was puffed shut by the left-handed Kelley in the eighth round, dropped to 29-4-1. The Mexican fighter weighed in at 126 pounds, one less than Kelley.

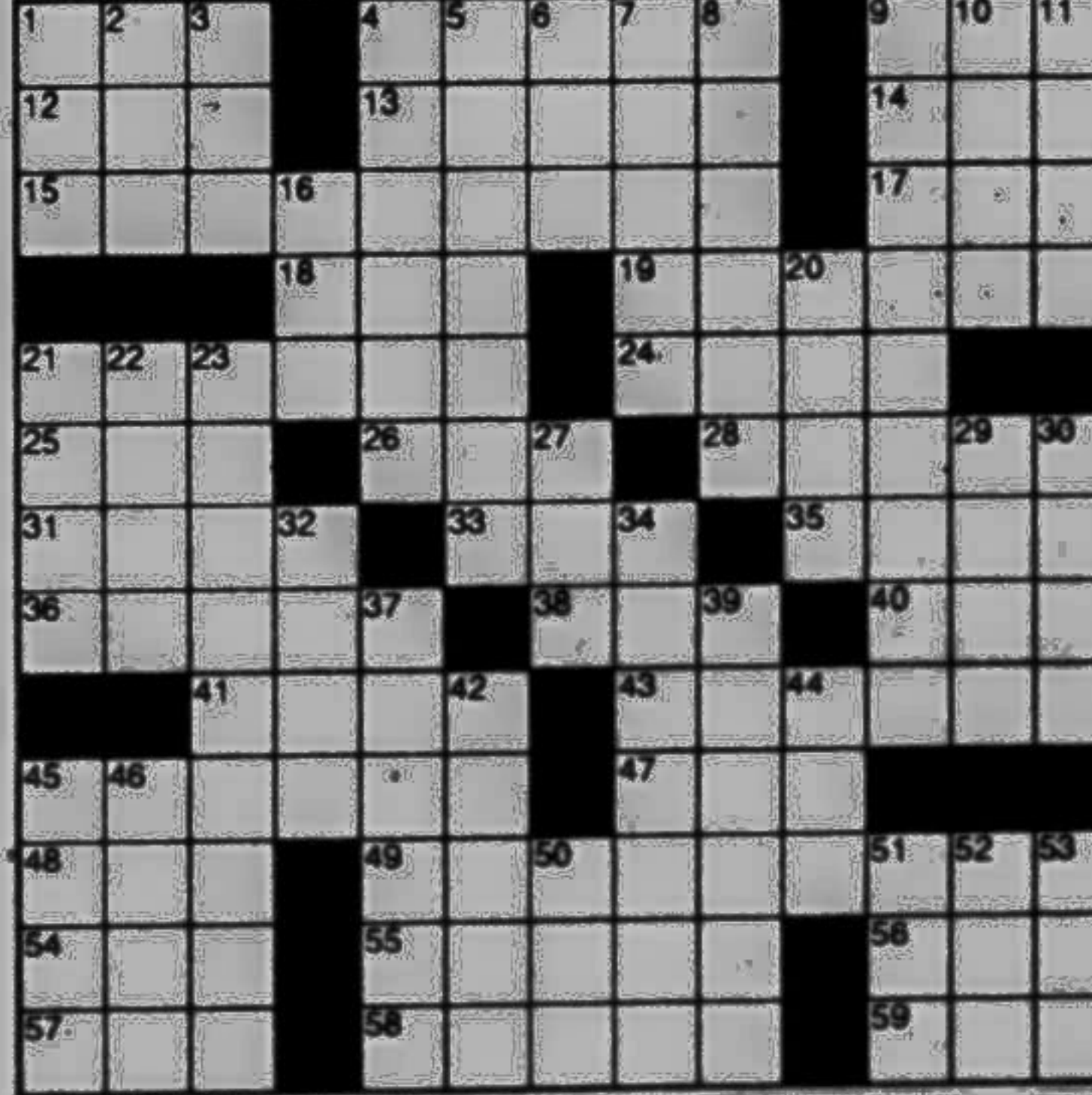
"I felt it should have been a draw. I thought I won every round after the sixth," Vargas said. "After he went down, he was not the same."

Judges Doug Tucker and David Chung each scored the fight 115-112 and Omar Mintus had it 116-111, all for Kelley.

On the undercard, Ramon "Yory Boy" Campas of Mexico stopped Floyd Williams of Mobile, Ala., with a left hook to the body 1:43 into the fourth round of a scheduled 10-round welterweight match.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Dickens' nom de plume
 - 4 House-coat?
 - 9 Ulna's locale
 - 12 Bulling bravo
 - 13 Hypnotized
 - 14 "Cock-a-doodle—"
 - 15 Edge
 - 17 Promise
 - 18 Actress Hagen
 - 19 Brooklyn's historic field
 - 21 Practical joker
 - 24 Lode
 - 25 Get it together?
 - 26 She's on her way out
 - 28 1965 movie, "The Sons of — Elder"
 - 31 Smoked salmon
 - 33 Emulate Johnny Applesseed
 - 35 Totals
 - 36 Fraternal
- DOWN**
- 28 Cher's first author
 - 29 Cookbook author Bracken
 - 30 "La Cage — Folles"
 - 31 Feathery accessory
 - 32 In need of repair
 - 33 1923 Derby-winning horse
 - 34 Dropped-kicked
 - 35 Major star in Scorpio
 - 36 Ms. Lupino
 - 37 Desert of Israel
 - 38 "Jeopardy" emcee
 - 39 Exciting experi-
 - 40 Source
 - 41 Does lawn work
 - 42 "La Cage — Folles"
 - 43 Prejudice
 - 44 Pend Skunk's weapon
 - 45 Recommended
 - 46 Cranberries' home
 - 47 Counterfeit: abbr.
 - 48 Agri-culture Secretary Mike
 - 49 So be it
 - 50 Oater
 - 51 Sirs' counter-parts
 - 52 Gavin MacLeod role
 - 53 Beverly Hills' — Drive
 - 54 Tattletale
 - 55 Neighbor's kid?
 - 56 Incense
 - 57 It'll get you moving
 - 58 Devilkin
 - 59 Spot
 - 60 Potential pelican
- Solution time: 27 min.**



CRYPTOQUIP

NGGY DVPYGD FUJRVFUF
N RAU JFGIJUOKVAU
RIIVIKRPKI IOFUUP KUIKI.
Saturday's Cryptoquip: ADEPT WINDOW WASHER TOOK PANES WITH HIS WORK.
Today's Cryptoquip clue: F equals R

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.