

Matthews mauled in a melee

PERTH, Dec 12: Former Australian Test cricketer Greg Matthews, in hospital with a severe head injury received in a nightclub scuffle, was much improved on Sunday, reports AFP.

Neil Marks, manager of the New South Wales Sheffield Shield side, of which Matthews is a member, said he had spoken to the 33-year-old veteran early in the day and found him to be in good spirits.

But his condition was still being closely monitored at Royal Perth Hospital, where he was likely to remain for several days, Marks said.

Marks said although he had confirmed the blow to Matthews skull occurred at a Perth suburban nightclub, he still had not established the circumstances in which the injury was received.

Matthews, a talented batsman and off-spin bowler, was found in a distressed condition at the side's hotel by teammate Randal Green early on Thursday the day before a game against Western Australia and taken to hospital.

The head injury was revealed when he was given a cat-scan.

Marks said the Matthews incident would be covered in his post-match report to the New South Wales Cricket Association.

Matthews wife, Jillian, was expected to fly from Sydney to Perth to see her husband early this week, Marks said.

Earlier on Saturday team manager Neil Marks said Matthews had suffered a severe concussion and was vomiting blood following an incident at a trendy Perth nightclub early on



GREG MATTHEWS

Thursday morning. He is listed in stable condition at the Royal Perth Hospital, doctors said light and noise are badly affecting him. The incident had left him with severe bruising of the skull.

Marks said he had spoken with Matthews on Saturday for the first time since the incident and said the last thing Matthews recalls is being man-

handed inside the nightclub and heading towards the nightclub door off his feet.

"Greg was drinking with friends and all he can remember is an arm coming around his throat with a forearm at the back of his head lifting him up," Marks said.

"The last thing he remembers is heading towards the door off his feet, being dragged I suppose," he said. "Greg said he was drinking but that he wasn't drunk."

Matthews was under the care of a neuro-surgeon and would remain in hospital for another three days, Marks said.

However, Marks claimed Matthews would require more time to fully recover from his head injury, which could bring a premature end to a 10-year state-level career.

"I think Greg will be out of cricket for at least a month," he said. He will be on medication for a while.

Maher, owner of the Hip-Club where the basing took place, told the Sunday Telegraph that Matthews was forcibly ejected from the club after an altercation with a woman.

"I have nothing but admiration for the way my staff handled what could have been a nasty situation," Maher said.

Police said they plan to interview staff at the nightclub and Matthews today.

Chinese girls defend Asian soccer title

KUCHING, Malaysia, Dec 12: Defending champion China won the Asian Women's Soccer Championship for the fourth consecutive time Sunday when they defeated North Korea 3-0, reports AP.

Liu Ai Ling netted all three goals, the first coming in the seventh minute.

The Chinese, who went on the offensive from the first whistle, consolidated their lead when Ai Ling netted her second goal from a freekick in the 28th minute.

The Koreans protested vehemently when Malaysian referee Nik Ahmad Yaacob allowed the freekick to be taken inside the penalty box, an incident which led to the expulsion of Ri Gyong Ae.

Ai Ling sealed the Koreans' fate when she scored the third goal in the 40th minute at Stadium Negeri.

Fashanu may play in WC finals

LONDON, Dec 12: Wimbledon's muscular striker John Fashanu, currently under fire for accidentally fracturing an opponent's cheekbone with his elbow, may line up for Nigeria in next summer's World Cup finals in the United States, according to a report Sunday, reports AP.

The People tabloid said the although Fashanu was born in London and has played for England, in exhibition games, he qualifies to play for Nigeria because that's where his father was born.

Nigeria qualified as one of the 24 teams in the finals but England was eliminated.

St Germain keep on soaring

PARIS, Dec 12: Paris St Germain kept up their pulsating pace at the top of the French league on Saturday as they beat Strasbourg 2-0 to move six points clear, reports Reuter.

Captain Paul Le Guen rifled home a 19th minute goal and David Ginola tidied up with a last-minute effort to keep the home side's superb record at the Parc Des Princes.

The Parisians, unbeaten in the league at the park in a year, have conceded only one goal at home all season and Strasbourg rarely looked likely to double the tally.

Nearest rivals Bordeaux threw away a halftime lead to go down 2-1 in Cannes where Franck Priou scored twice in the second period, the winner coming just six minutes from tie.

Bordeaux had started well enough, striker Christopher Dugarry scoring from a pass by promising midfielder Zinedine Zidane in the 33rd minute.

But the side from the Southwest stay on 27 points, six behind PSG, with just one match to play before the mid-winter break of one month.

European champions Marseille joined them winning 3-1 at Le Havre after netting all their goals in the first period. An early strike by defender Bernard Casoni helped them on their way and new Brazilian signing Anderson grabbed the other two.

Monaco surprisingly dropped a point in a 1-1 home draw with St Etienne, despite taking the lead through a Youri Djorkaeff penalty in the 25th minute. The visitors equalised through Slovak Lubomir Moravcik 12 minutes later.

Stich faces Korda in final

MUNICH, Dec 12: With both players staggering around from exhaustion and cramps, Petr Korda upset top-ranked Pete Sampras in a marathon match Saturday to earn a shot at the Grand Slam Cup title against Michael Stich, reports AP.

Korda saved five match points for a 3-6, 7-6 (7-3), 3-6, 7-6 (12-10), 13-11 victory in four hours, 31 minutes, the second longest match in Grand Slam Cup's four-year history.

Stich, on the verge of having his best year ended a day early by a determined Stefan Edberg, rallied from two sets down to beat the Swede in the earlier semifinal.

The No 2-ranked player on the ATP Tour posted a 2-6, 3-6, 6-3, 6-3, 6-1 semifinal victory that kept alive his attempt to defend the title he won last year, and to complete a rare and rich double.

Korda and Stich were assured of earning at least \$1.5 million for making the final of the \$10 million event, the richest tournament in the world. Sunday's champion will collect \$1.625 million.

"Maybe I won't show up tomorrow, maybe I'll go skiing," Korda, thirstily swigging from a beer bottle, said after the dramatic match. "I'll try to sleep and maybe I can wake up, maybe I can play tennis."

"To be honest, it's nice to win the money, but it means more to me to beat the No. 1," said the Czech. "Once in my life I have to take my chance and that's what I did."

Korda had ice applied to his sore left playing arm at the start of the second set, and was hardly able to run in the last few games.

But Sampras was in even worse shape. He was led to the restroom during the changeover at 10-9 in the last set, but couldn't take more than one or two steps and virtually gave up in the last two games.

He missed the news conference, and tournament officials said he was suffering from dehydration and stomach cramps.

Sampras, who had 30 aces and tied the record for a year of 1,066 set by Goran Ivanisevic

last year, wasted three match points in the fourth-set tiebreak.

He had two more on Korda's serve at 8-7 in the fifth, but the Czech saved both, one with a volley winner, one with a service winner.

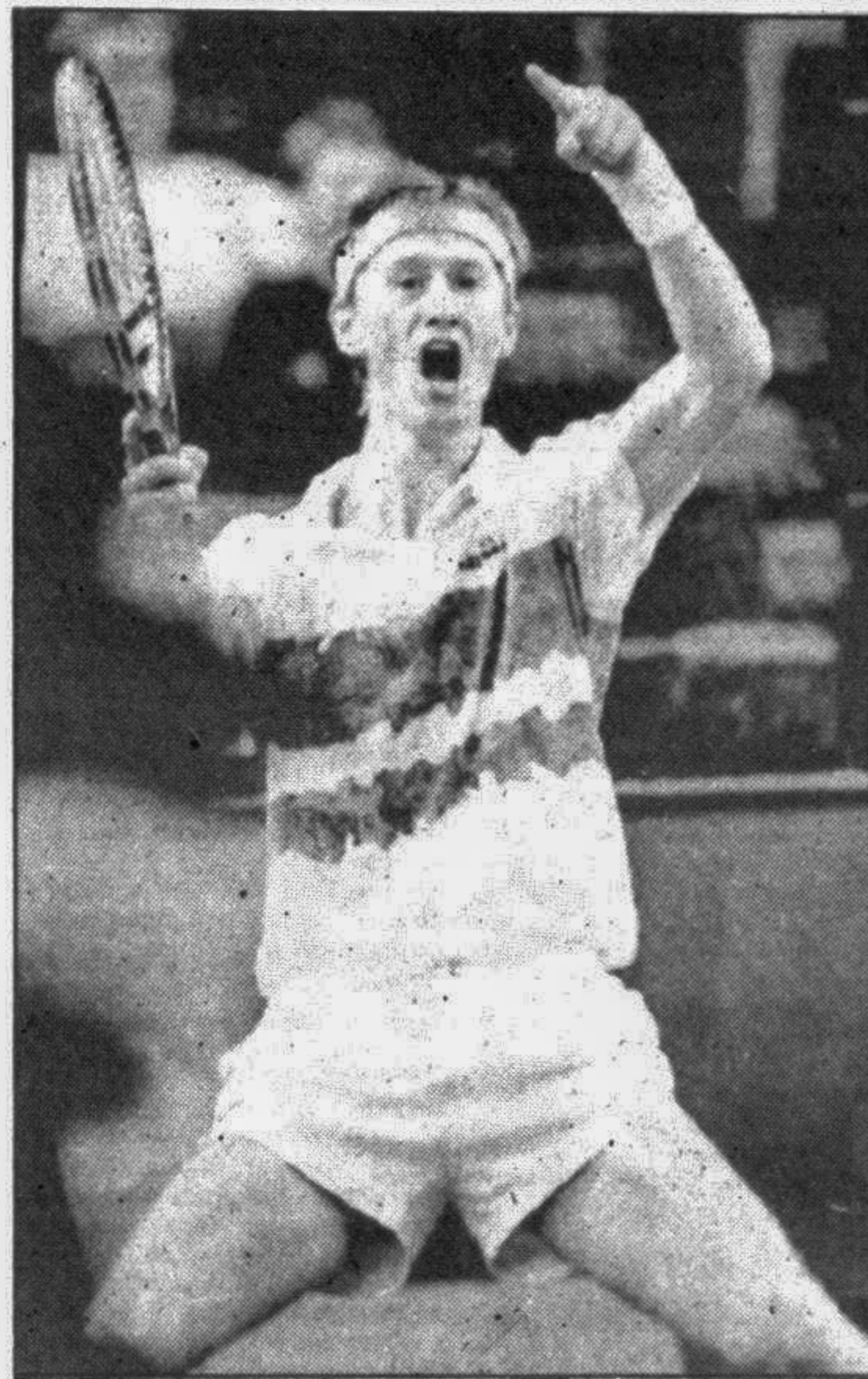
Korda broke for a 9-8 lead, only to see Sampras break right back.

A net cord in his favour gave Korda the vital break for a 12-

hamstrings, managed to serve out the match.

Sampras, winner of a career-best eight titles this year, ended the year with a 85-16 record, the best in a decade.

The American, who won the inaugural 1990 Grand Slam Cup, earned \$1,250,000 this year, plus a \$500,000 bonus for winning two Grand Slam titles, Wimbledon and the US



Czech Petr Korda jubilates after he defeated the world number one Pete Sampras of America in the semifinals of the Grand Slam Cup in Munich on Dec 11. Korda won the match 3-6, 7-6 (7-3), 3-6, 7-6 (12-10), 13-11. — AFP photo

11 lead, and with Sampras hardly able to lift his racket, Korda, clapping his cramping

Open. His total Grand Slam Cup earnings are \$1,250,000.

Petchey's 8-hr wonder

ADELAIDE, Dec 12: Mark Petchey of Britain had to win two matches in eight hours Sunday to capture the \$25,000 South Australian grass court tennis championship, reports AP.

Tall right-hander Petchey, the No 2 seed, beat American Kent Kinnear 6-3, 6-2 in a semifinal that was held over from Saturday, when rain washed out play.

Petchey then beat Australian lucky loser Peter Tramacchi by the same score in the final.

Tramacchi made the final with a 7-6, 7-6 victory over American Todd Nelson.

Former Wimbledon champion Pat Cash, sidelined for more than a year by a knee injury, was eliminated in the semifinals of the doubles.

Australian pair Josh Eagle and Andrew Florent beat Cash and his South African-born partner, David Adams, 7-6, 6-3 and then went on to defeat Ben Ellwood and Mark Philippoussis 6-3, 6-1 in the final.

Cash said he was happy with his progress and hoped to gain a wild card entry into next month's Australian Open.

Meshiaï top PGA money earner

TOKYO, Dec 12: Hajime Meshiaï, who won three tournaments, led the Japan PGA tour in money earnings this season with 148,718,200 yen (dollar 1,364,387), the Japan Professional Golfers Association said Sunday, reports AP.

It was Meshiaï's first No 1 finish on the money earnings list since he became a professional 14 years ago.

Defending champion Masashi "Jumbo" Ozaki, he top money earner in seven seasons in the past, was second this season with 144,597,000 yen (dollar 1,326,578). Ozaki, 46, skipped the Japan PGA season's final event, the Daijyo Open, which ended Sunday.

Tsuneyuki Nakajima of Japan was third with 130,842,771 yen (dollar 1,200,392). He won two tournaments this season.

Chen Tze-chung of Taiwan was fourth with 112,427,166 yen (dollar 1,031,441) and Takasa Watanabe of Japan was fifth with 103,774,100 yen (dollar 952,056).

American Todd Hamilton from Illinois, who won only one tournament on the Japan tour this season, was sixth with 91,494,648 yen (dollar 839,400).

American David Ishii from Hawaii was 10th with 63,720,330 yen (dollar 584,580). Ishii was the top money earner in 1987, becoming the first non-Japanese player to head the Japan PGA tour list.

Cardamone keeps record clean

BERCK, France, Dec 12: Italy's Agostino Cardamone outpointed French challenger Frederic Sellier on Saturday to retain his European middleweight title and an unbeaten record, reports Reuter.

The 28-year-old Cardamone was given a unanimous verdict by the three judges after a grueling fight which left both boxers with barely the strength to trade punches in the closing rounds.

Two judges awarded the bout 117-114 in the Italian's favour and the third gave him the verdict by 115-113.

Cardamone, who took the European title in June, has won all 20 of his professional bouts, with seven inside the distance.

M United barely get away

LONDON, Dec 12: Leaders Manchester United escaped with a point in a 1-1 draw at title-challengers

Newcastle, who dominated the champions for most of Saturday's match of the day in the English Premier league, reports Reuter.

Newcastle, who took a point at Manchester United at Old Trafford in August and had won five of their last six games, were stunned when the champions went ahead in the 60th minute through Paul Ince.

But they continued their storming football and star striker Andy Cole equalised with his 23rd goal of the season 11 minutes later.

Alan Shearer scored both goals as third placed Blackburn Rovers made up ground on the leaders with a 2-1 win at Oldham.

The England striker took his goal tally to 11 in his last eight league games as Blackburn moved to within a point of Leeds United.

Leeds, 13 points behind Manchester United, visit Norwich on Monday night.

Liverpool came from behind twice to snatch a 2-2 draw and avoid the humiliation of a home defeat to bottom side Swindown Town, who have won only once in the league this season.

John Moncur put Swindown ahead after 60 minutes but John Barnes equalised in the 71st. Within two minutes Kieth Scott scored his third goal in six games to give Swindown the lead again.

Defender Mark Wright grabbed Liverpool's second equaliser four minutes from time.

England striker Les Ferdinand, controversially sent off at Liverpool in midweek, earned Queen's Park Rangers a 1-0 win at lowly Southampton with a goal after just two minutes.

Rangers had defender Karl Ready set off for a second bookable offence, the club's third dismissal in a week.

Aston Villa slumped to their third defeat in five league games, going down 1-0 at home

to Wimbledon and a Dean Holdsworth goal late in the second half.

Fourth-placed Newcastle, who believed they could inflict

Sao Paulo win it again

TOKYO, Dec 12: South American football champions Sao Paulo FC regained the Inter-Continental Cup with a last-gasp goal here today to beat European champions AC Milan 3-2, reports AFP.

The Brazilians waited until the 86th minute to seal victory with winger Muller picking up a long through ball from midfielder Toninho Cerezo and rounding goalie Sebastiano Rossi.

The Italian club winners of this European-South American Cup in 1969, 1989 and 1990. Piled on the pressure throughout the first half, opening up eight scoring chances to Sao Paulo's one, but failed to hit the target and went in at the break trailing 1-0.

Brazilian international Palhinha, who turns 26 Tuesday, opened the scoring for Sao Paulo in the 19th minute when he latched on to a Cafu pass and slid the ball home, giving himself a nearly birthday present.

But only three minutes into the second half, AC Milan hit an equaliser with winger Daniele Massaro sliding the ball home after collecting a Marcel Desailly's centre.

Sao Paulo again took the lead in the 59th minute with Cerezo Palhinha while AC Milan brought on Alessandro Orlando and Mauro Tassotti.

The Italian side evened the score to two-all when Massaro lofted a pass to French international Jean-Pierre Papin in front of the goal, who nodded in the ball in the 81st minute.

Muller struck with only four minutes to go to give Sao Paulo their sixth triumph in the 33-year-old Inter-Continental Cup competition and their second win in a row.

Cerezo was chosen as man-of-the-match.



Palhinha (holding trophy) of Sao Paulo FC leads his squad on a victory lap after beating AC Milan of Italy in the European-South American club team championship in Tokyo yesterday. Sao Paulo FC beat AC Milan 3-2. — AFP photo

Leverkusen lead for a while

BONN, Dec 12: Bayer Leverkusen ensured they would remain top of the German Bundesliga for the next two months by drawing 1-1 at home to Wattencheid on Saturday in the last round of fixtures before the winter break, reports Reuter.

On a day when none of the leading sides seemed prepared to risk denting morale with a defeat before the break, long-time league leaders Eintracht Frankfurt drew 1-1 at Kaiserslautern to maintain the side's respective second and fourth places.

Leverkusen lead Eintracht on goal difference with both clubs on 25 points after 20 games.

Bayern Munich had already drawn, also 1-1, at Dynamo Dresden on Friday to remain a point behind in third place and goal difference keeping them ahead of Kaiserslautern.

The results left the championship, which Frankfurt had seemed to be dominating in the first two months of the season, wide open with just two points covering the seven top teams.

Two strikers, Kaiserslautern's uncapped Stefan Kuntz and Leverkusen's Ulf Kirsten, celebrated their inclusion in Germany's squad for a World Cup warm-up tour to the United States and Mexico with a goal apiece.

Kuntz leads the Bundesliga scorers' table but remains uncapped. On his previous call-up in 1991 he ended his chances of playing by twisting his ankle getting off the team bus.

He celebrated his return to favour spectacularly with only two minutes gone, volleying home a cross from eight metres and taking his season's total to 15 — four ahead of his nearest rival.

But the prospect of a fifth successive league defeat stung Frankfurt into action and midfielder Manfred Binz fired the equaliser from 22 metres, giving his side their first goal in almost seven hours of league football.

Frankfurt trainer Klaus Toppmoller was a clearly relieved that his side had ended their bad run.

"This shows we turned the corner when we beat La Coruna (in the UEFA Cup) on Tuesday. We battled to the end and the Bundesliga is wide open," he said.

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Cardamone, who took the European title in June, has won all 20 of his professional bouts, with seven inside the distance.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS
- 1 Dowel
- 4 Poke
- 7 Sullen
- 11 Slip (go nuts)
- 13 Schedule abbr.
- 14 Sunday section
- 15 "Moon-struck" star
- 16 Youngster
- 17 Checkup
- 18 Hawkeye
- 19 Pierce's bailiwick
- 20 Tower city
- 22 Do
- 24 Indulged in
- 28 Less
- 32 "Swell!"
- 33 Bridal shower?
- 34 Pick a target
- 36 Map out
- 37 Photographer
- 39 Feaster in a 1987 movie
- 41 Begin
- 43 Piece of ordnance
- 44 Sleuth
- 46 Muffler
- 50 See 50
- 53 Squirrel's hangout
- 55 Stravinsky
- 56 Chills and fever
- 57 Cry of discovery
- 58 Naught, to
- 59 Befuddled
- 60 A little
- 61 Right-turn command
- 1 Canyon phenom
- 3 No stay-at-home
- 4 Lustrous black
- 5 On
- 6 Wax-and-dye method
- 7 It writes on glossy surfaces
- 8 Bagel
- 9 accessory
- 9 Actress
- 10 Hagen
- 10 Tattooed word
- 12 Mechanic
- 19 Innsbruck expletive
- 21 Sermonizer's subject
- 23 1773 jetsam
- 25 Tar
- 26 Coup d'
- 27 Completed
- 28 Corsetiere's wares
- 29 Carpool
- 30 "— may look on a king"
- 31 Umbrella part
- 35 Periodical, for short
- 38 Take to court
- 40 Clear the tables
- 42 Company
- 45 Pearl Harbor's island
- 47 Enthusiastic, plus
- 48 Peregrinate
- 49 Priceless?
- 50 With 50
- 51 Past
- 52 Half-pint
- 54 Sennett's law enforcer

Solution time: 24 min.

O	F	D	R	T	B	L	A	S	E
E	C	L	A	I	R	L	I	V	E
S	T	A	N	C	E	A	V	E	R
S	A	G	H	A	R	D	Y	G	A
A	N	O	S	D	A	D	Z	E	T
Y	E	N	T	A	H	E	R	O	I
Q	U	E	T	Z	A	L	B	E	A
U	R	N	S	E	Z	S	P	E	W
E	A	T	A	H	V	E	S	O	P
E	N	I	G	M	A	P	A	L	L
G	U	R	N	E	Y	P	I	L	L
S	E	U	S	S	O	L	S	O	N

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11		12		13				14	
15			16					17	
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28	29	30			31		32		
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41			42		43				
		44		45		46		47	48
50	51	52		53		54		55	
56			57					58	
59			60						61

CRYPTOQUIP

X R H X D N E D U W , H W Y U W -
 Q A P R V A X K , N Q P K S
 G V Y U A R I G E I , " Q F E A S
 S K U F H W D G . "

Saturday's Cryptoquip: CROOK WHO RIPPED OFF THE COSMETICS STORE AT THE MALL TOOK A POWDER.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: F equals W

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.