

Reiffel ruins S Africa's day

SYDNEY, Dec 14: Medium-pace Paul Reiffel spearheaded Australia a dramatic 103-run victory over South Africa in a World Series cricket match Tuesday night at the Sydney Cricket Ground, reports AP.

Reiffel scored an unbeaten 29 as Australia scrambled to 172 for nine in their innings and then took four wickets for 13 off eight overs, took two catches and made a run out as South Africa were dismissed for a paltry 69 in reply.

It was South Africa's lowest limited-overs total.

Australia now lead the triangular tournament with four points from three games. South Africa has three points from three scheduled games, while New Zealand have one point.

The emphatic victory gave Australia revenge for their seven-wicket loss to South Africa in Melbourne last Thursday.

"Reiffel was unbelievable. Everything he touched turned to gold," said Australian captain Allan Border.

Reiffel's figures were his best in one-day cricket.

Border, though, was critical of the uneven wicket, which made scoring hard for both teams.

"It was a very ordinary wicket for one-day cricket," Border said.

Hansie Cronje top-scored for South Africa with 20. Kepler Wessels made 19 and none of their teammates made it to double figures.

Reiffel was backed-up by Glenn McGrath and Steve Waugh, each of whom took two wickets.

"They exploited a very poor wicket better than we did," said South African captain Wessels after his team was dismissed in just 28 overs.

A late batting rally by wicket-keeper Ian Healy and Reiffel earlier enabled Australia to reach 172.

The pair added 68 runs in even time for the seventh-wicket after Australia looked in deep trouble at 96 for six in the 34th of its scheduled 50 overs.

Healy top-scored with 38 from 60 balls, while Mark Waugh made 36 and Reiffel was unbeaten on 29 as the home side struggled to cope with South Africa's five-pronged pace

attack on a lively wicket. Fanie de Villiers (three for 37) and Craig Matthews (three for 23) made the early breakthroughs, while seamer Hansie Cronje was miserly in snaring one for 14 from his 10 overs.

Cronje also grabbed two catches, while De Villiers took one and ran out Test opener Mark Taylor with a bullet-like throw from deep third man.

Australia hit only nine boundaries in their innings, five of them in the last four overs as Healy and Reiffel threw the bat in a bid to set the visitors a semi-respectable target.

Their endeavours were later handsomely rewarded.

South Africa suffered a ma-



REIFFEL... man-of-match

for blow when star fielder Jonty Rhodes broke a bone connected to the little finger on his left hand.

Rhodes tried to stop a stinging cut shot from Steve Waugh (13) and was taken to hospital for X-rays. He returned to bat and was unbeaten on four at the end.

Waugh and twin brother Mark put on 32 for the fourth-wicket after Australia had slumped to three for 44 in the 13th over.

Australia next plays New Zealand in a day-night match at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Thursday, while South Africa face New Zealand in Hobart on Saturday in the final match of the first bracket of World Series

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the World Series Cup limited overs match between Australia and South Africa today:

AUSTRALIA:

Taylor run out	11
Slater c Rhodes b De Villiers	10
M Waugh c Kirsten b Matthews	36
Boon c Richardson b Matthews	4
S Waugh c Richardson b Cronje	13
Border c De Villiers b Matthews	8
Healy c Cronje b Donald	38
Reiffel not out	29
Warne c Cullinan b De Villiers	0
McDermott c Cronje b De Villiers	3
Extras: (b-1, lb-4, w-7, nb-8)	20
Total: (for nine wickets)	172
Fall of wickets: 1-28; 2-30; 3-44; 4-76; 5-95; 6-96; 7-164; 8-164; 9-172.	

Did not bat: G McGrath.

Bowling:

O	M	R	W	
Donald	10	1	49	1
De Villiers	10	0	37	3
Snell	10	0	44	0
Matthews	10	0	23	3
Cronje	10	4	14	1

SOUTH AFRICA:

Hudson c Reiffel b McDermott	0
Kirsten c Healy b McGrath	4
Wessels lbw b Reiffel	19
Cronje c Healy b Reiffel	20
Cullinan c S Waugh b McGrath	1
D Richardson c Healy b Reiffel	1
Snell b Reiffel	0
Rhodes not out	4
C Matthews c Reiffel b S Waugh	7
De Villiers run out	0
Donald b S Waugh	0
Extras: (lb-3, nb-2, w-8)	13
Total:	69
Fall of wickets: 1-0; 2-23; 3-34; 4-38; 5-47; 6-48; 7-59; 8-65; 9-69.	

Bowling:

O	M	R	W	
McDermott	6	2	8	1
McGrath	8	0	25	2
Reiffel	8	4	13	4
S Waugh	6	0	20	2

Result: Australia won by 103 runs.

STANDINGS

Standings in the World Series triangular limited-overs cricket tournament after Tuesday's match (tabulate under matches played, won, lost, no result, points):

Australia	3	2	1	4
South Africa	3	1	1	3
New Zealand	2	1	1	1

Jonty joins injury club

SYDNEY, Dec 14: Ace South African fielder Jonty Rhodes is likely to miss the first cricket Test against Australia after Tuesday suffering a broken bone in his hand, reports AP.

Rhodes broke a bone connected to the little finger of his left hand playing in the World Series match against Australia at the Sydney Cricket Ground and has been advised by doctors not to play for at least two weeks.

The first Test between Australia and South Africa starts in Melbourne on Dec 26.

Rhodes suffered the injury trying to stop a stinging cut shot from Steve Waugh in the 18th over of the match and was taken to hospital for X-rays. He later returned to the ground and batted despite the injury, scoring four not out as South Africa slumped to a 103-run loss.

The South Africans also are expected to be without fast bowler Brett Schultz for the Test series after news from South Africa that Schultz still is troubled by a knee injury.

Schultz was scheduled to leave South Africa on Thursday and arrive in time for the first-class match against Queensland starting in Brisbane on Monday, but now will miss at least the first two Tests, as well as the second half of the World Series tournament.

Officials hope he might be fit in time for the third Test in Adelaide, which starts on Jan 28.

All-rounder Brian McMillan last week underwent knee surgery after damaging ligaments during a match against Victoria.

He also will miss the first two Tests.

South Africa are making their first Test tour of Australia in 30 years after being banned for 21 years over their apartheid policies.

'96 European Championship draw Jan 22

GENEVA, Dec 14: All 46 countries who want to play in the 1996 European Championship will be included in next month's draw for the qualifying competition, UEFA said on Monday, reports Reuter.

But UEFA expressed grave concern about the situation in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Croatia and Georgia all of whom are involved in military conflicts. They will be ordered to play home matches in neutral countries if visiting teams are endangered.

UEFA said it was also hoping for a market improvement in flight connections, accommodation and social and economic conditions in a number of eastern European countries involved in the tournament. They were not named.

The draw for the championship, to be hosted by automatic qualifiers England, takes place in Manchester on January 22.

Efan ends Leeds' run

LONDON, Dec 14: Efan Ekoku shattered Leeds' 14-game unbeaten English League run with an 81st minute winner for Norwich on Monday, reports Reuter.

Leeds had taken command after Rod Wallace's eighth goal in as many games had cancelled out Chris Sutton's 44th minute opener.

But Norwich proved that they have courage to go with their skill and Nigerian international Ekoku took full advantage of a mistake by goalkeeper Mark Beeny.

Beeny blocked Ekoku's low shot on the saturated turf after he collected Sutton's pass but the ball skidded off the keeper's chest and the falling striker hooked it past him with his outstretched right leg.

It was Ekoku's first goal in nine weeks, much of it spent recovering from a trapped nerve in his knee.

Leeds remained second in the championships one point ahead of Blackburn but a massive 13 behind Manchester United.



South African bowler Hansie Cronje (L) congratulates his teammate wicketkeeper Dave Richardson on taking a smart catch to dismiss Australian batsman Steve Waugh during their one-day World Series match in Sydney yesterday. — AFP photo

Ghana unhappy

ACCRA, Dec 14: The Ghana Football Association (GFA) appealed on Monday against a decision by the Confederation of African Football (CAF) to ban Ghanaian teams from continental competitions in 1994, reports Reuter.

"We have just sent a protest and appeal to CAF to rescind the decision to exclude Ghanaian teams from the three continental football contests next year," GFA chairman Nana Brew Butler said in a telephone interview.

CAF decided in Cairo on Friday to ban Ivorian and Ghanaian teams as the penalty for violence in the two neighbouring countries before and after a Champions Cup semifinal between Asante Kotoko and Asec of Abidjan in Kumasi, Ghana on October 31 when at least 25 people were killed.

Butler said all Ghanaian clubs should not have to suffer for the offences of Asante Kotoko "if even that is the proven case."

He dismissed the decision to ban Ghanaian clubs as "high-handed." CAF did not have all the facts of the case and the GFA was appealing for a hearing to give its side, he said.

The Ivorian Football Federation (FIF) also said it will appeal against the expulsion of Ivorian teams.

Thousands of Asec fans were terrorised by Ghanaian supporters and received almost no protection from security forces. They were unable to watch the match, won by Kotoko who were beaten by Zamalek of Egypt in Friday's final in Cairo.

The tales of returning Asec fans triggered a wave of murder, rape and looting against Ghanaian immigrants in Ivory Coast.

The Ivorian authorities eventually announced a death toll of 25 — not all Ghanaians. But Ghana's Foreign Ministry estimated the number of dead much higher.

CAF said it held both the Ghanaian and Ivorian football associations responsible for the deaths and also condemned partisan press in both the west African neighbours.

Passarella can't control himself

BUENOS AIRES, Dec 14: River Plate coach Daniel Passarella was sent off after just two minutes of his team's Argentine championship match away to San Lorenzo at the weekend, reports Reuter.

Argentina's former World Cup captain was controversially dismissed in a game which saw seven players booked in an explosive first half and San Lorenzo's Galeazzi sent off in the second.

Passarella was shown the red card after refusing to watch the game from the team bench, claiming that a television camera was obstructing his view.

Nestor Gorosito put San Lorenzo ahead with a twice-taken penalty but Walter Silvani equalised to give River Plate a 1-1 draw which left them fourth in the table, two points behind leaders, Racing Club.

Cesar Luis Menotti continued his successful start at Boca Juniors, who have not lost since he took over in November.

Boca outclassed Ferro Carril Oeste 3-0 to move within three points of the leaders.

But Hector Cuper made a disastrous debut as coach of Huracan. His side were thrashed 5-0 by Platense.

World Cup rivalry renewed

MIAMI, Dec 14: Germany and Argentina arrived here with what appeared to be different priorities

as they prepare for Wednesday's international soccer match at the Orange Bowl, reports AP.

The rematch of the past two World Cup finals promises a soccer showcase featuring some of the world's best players. The Germans held up their end by bringing their full roster, including seven starters from 1990 World Cup team that defeated Argentina 1-0 in the final.

Argentina 3-2 winners over Germany in the 1986 final, are without most of their best attacking players, including Diego Maradona, who is out with a pulled hamstring, Gabriel Batistuta, Diego Simeone, Fernando Redondo and Dario Franco couldn't get releases from their European Clubs.

Argentine soccer is still reeling from a pair of losses to Colombia in World Cup qualifying, including a 5-0 loss in Buenos Aires. Argentina barely gained the 24-team World Cup field by edging lightweight Australia on the final day of qualifying.

Those close to the Argentine team give differing reports on the its readiness for Germany. Some say Argentina are taking this very seriously, and others say playing a roster of unknowns relieves coach Alfio Basile of the pressure to win.

Veteran defender Oscar Ruggeri promised Monday that

"You will see the same Argentina mentality, no matter who is playing."

Typically, the Germans are holding nothing back. Coach Berti Vogts brought all his stars, including sweeper Lothar Matthaus, midfield dynamo Thomas Hassler and charismatic forward Jurgen Klinsmann, MVP of the US Cup.

However, German defender Stefan Effenberg, Batistuta's teammate in Italy, was able to get free from his club contract for Germany's 3-game trip that takes them to Stamford to play the United States on Saturday, and to Mexico on December 22.

German players who transfer to foreign leagues are required by contract to be available to the national team when called upon.

Vogts seemed disappointed that he won't be tested by the full Argentina side.

"Somebody from Argentina said this match... was being played at a bad time. They would rather play later, in 1994," Vogts said. "But this was the only agreeable time for the German team."

"We asked the Argentine representative for a lineup, but we only got a 40-player pool. They'll just have to pick their 11."

Sporting win without Robson

LISBON, Dec 14: Sporting, who sacked former England manager Bobby Robson only three days ago, went level on points with Benfica at the top of the Portuguese First Division by beating Beira Mar 1-0 on Monday, reports Reuter.

from those players." While Argentine coach Basile will use Wednesday's game to try new players, Vogts is systematically placing his first team in situations that will prepare them for the 1994 World Cup to be played in the United States. Germany have played 10 teams from five continents since last September.

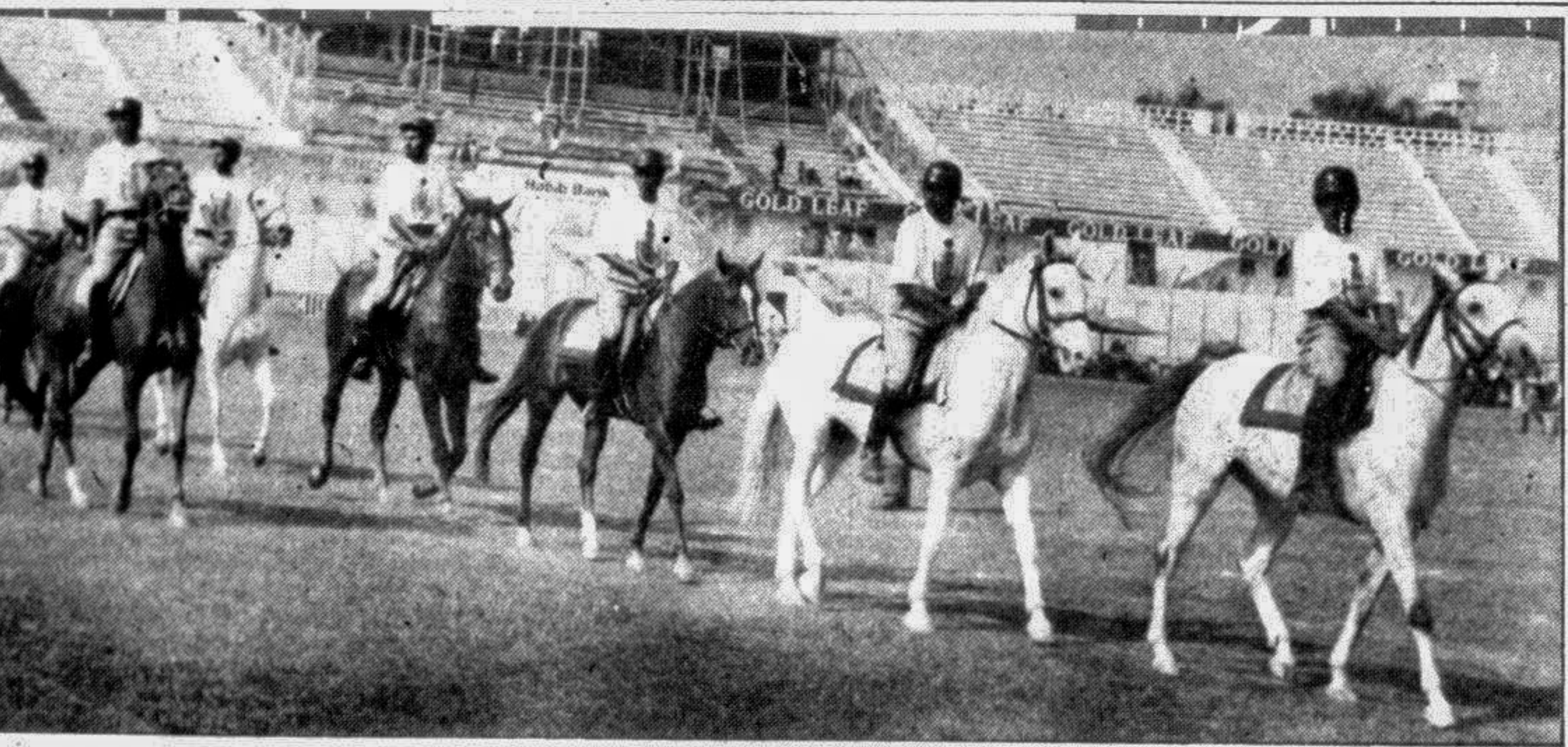
"We know what South American and Latin football is like," Vogts said. "Argentina are a piece of the puzzle. I want to give our players the optimal preparation for the World Cup, and this includes playing football in all parts of the world."

Because they are the defending world champions, Germany received an automatic berth in next summer's World Cup. While Argentina and other countries were struggling to reach the World Cup through qualifying matches this year, Germany have been trying to stay sharp through these pre-World Cup matches.

The Germans are 8-1-4 since losing to Denmark in the final of the 1992 European Championships. That record includes a US Cup title.

"Winning the US Cup was good for our self-confidence," said Klinsmann. "There's a lot of pressure on us. We can't take friendlies in an easy way. We lose one match, and we get in a lot of trouble in Germany from the fans and the media."

Germany have scheduled matches against Italy, England and Ireland in the spring. The Germans will play the World Cup opener in Chicago on June 17, 1994.



Horsemen borrowed from Police to add to the splendour of the opening and closing ceremonies of the sixth SAF Games beginning in the city from December 20 are going through their prep drills regularly. — Star photo

It means everything to them

BUCHAREST, Dec 14: Romania's World Cup qualification has brightened the gloom in one of Europe's poorest countries, reports Reuter.

The jubilation following the crucial triumph over Wales last month anaesthetised the nation of 23 million to the pain of their economic hardships. 300 per cent inflation and growing hunger.

Some 10,000 forgot their troubles by taking to the snowy streets of Bucharest in the middle of a freezing night to welcome their heroes home from the 2-1 win in Cardiff.

Musician Dan Scurtulescu said: "I forgot that in my apartment I was freezing cold and that I saw my last drop of warm water several days ago."

And journalist Vlad Ionescu remarked: "Simple people lived happily for a while, giving the Romanian government a little longer to live."

Romanians have had little to celebrate from economic or political reform since communist rule collapsed four years ago.

But there is a definite belief in the country that their football team is something special — and could even go all the way to

the semifinals at least next year.

And if they went that far, the dream of actually winning the World Cup itself would become a distinct possibility.

National coach Anghel Iordanescu said his team had an advantage that no other Romanian side has ever had.

"Almost everybody in the Romanian national team is playing at a top European club, in Italy, the Netherlands, Germany, Spain and Switzerland, so modern soccer hides no secrets from them."

And Mircea Lucescu, the former national team coach who is now in charge of Italian league club Brescia said the current Romanian team is the best the country has ever produced.

"Romania is one of the best teams in the competition and we could at least reach the semifinals," he said.

"The players in our team now are the best in our entire history and they are at the peak of their form."

Lucescu knows the team well and launched five of them in the 1980s when he was at Dinamo Bucharest and also in charge of the national squad.

"The team will be one of the youngest at the World Cup," he

said, "although almost all the players have played together for five, six or seven years. That's a sure way for good players to become a good team."

The average age of the squad is 25. Hagi, now at Brescia with Lucescu, is the oldest at a still sprightly 29.

Romania's performance in Cardiff also won praise from many of Britain's football experts.

Bobby Charlton, a member of the England team that won the World Cup in 1966, said he was impressed by their skill on the ball and the way they played the game.

Romania have reached the finals five times and the only time they progressed beyond the first round was in Italy in 1990.

No side from eastern Europe has reached the World Cup final since Czechoslovakia in 1962 — and no side from eastern Europe has ever become world champions.

Whether Romania will rewrite history remains to be seen, but at least the presence of the country's footballers in next summer's finals has given 23 million people the chance to share a dream.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	talk	DOWN	scale
1 Mountain flower?	40 Hoover, for one	1 Prunes	20 Sandy's remark
5 Puppeteer Baird	41 Type of race or bunt	2 Acknowledge	23 Predicament
8 Mop	43 Swipe	3 Wind gauge	24 Both
12 Squashed circle	45 Queen of Soul	4 Standish stand-in	25 Had no destination in "mind"
13 Banjo's cousin	47 Smitten	5 "Same Time, Next Year"	27 Follow persistently
14 Study (over)	51 Victor of the late show	6 Eisen-hower	29 Genetic letters
15 Meditated	52 Catered basely	7 Shelf	30 Thanks-giving veggie
17 Actress Magnani	54 State for TV programmers	8 Submissive one	32 Constant sufferers
18 High times	55 Thread receiver	9 Showed curiosity	34 Leather-necks
19 Look: slang	56 Trilled	10 "Rule Britannia" composer	37 "Zip-a-Dee-Doo"
21 — picker	57 Beatty movie	11 Tolerate	
22 Ontario's neighbor	58 — Moines	16 Grand-	
23 Chew the fat	59 Dispatch a dragon		
26 Dancer Charisse			
28 Staten Island transport			
31 Early evacuee			
33 — de plume			
35 Musical Horne			
36 Unit			
38 Talk and talk			

Solution time: 21 mins.

BOAS BRA APSE
LICK RAP COOK
ULTIMATE CLOG
ESS OWE BLOTS
SON POT
ABOUT PAYMENT
CURB AID AMER
EMBLEMS STUDY
ICY GEE
GIZMO GEM FIG
AREA INTIMATI
EAST RAM OVEN
ANTE AWE DAMP

Yesterday's answer 5-19

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15			16					17		
18						19	20			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30			
31		32	33	34	35					
36			37	38	39	40				
			41		42	43	44			
45	46				47		48	49	50	
51					52	53				
54					55		56			
57					58		59			

CRYPTOQUIP

K R X Q G E O C I E Q O S G E
Z K I H Y Z E V G D O S R Z D Y
S Z I Q P E Z Y C P H X V

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: OUR LISTLESS ATTORNEY IS MERELY GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS. Today's Cryptoquip clue: C equals P

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.