

Baudone sends Appelmans' packing

BRISBANE, Australia, Jan 3: Italian Natalia Baudone upset 10th-seeded Sabine Appelmans of Belgium 7-5, 6-3 in searing heat Monday in the first round of the \$150,000 Australian women's hardcourt tennis championship, reports AP.

Baudone, who was born in Belgium, coped better with the blazing sun than did her opponent and gave credit to the six days she spent preparing in Brisbane prior to the event.

Appelmans' compatriot, Sandra Wasserman, enjoyed better fortune when her Austrian opponent, Barbara Schett, withdrew because of heat exhaustion.

Schett won the first set 6-3, lost the second 5-7 and was down 0-3 in the third when she was overcome by the oppressive heat and could not continue.

The temperature on the Milton Tennis Centre's Rebound Ace courts was later measured at around 50 degrees Celsius (122 Fahrenheit).

Australian Michelle Jaggard-Lai, a semifinalist last year, advanced with a 6-4, 6-0 victory over American Jolene Watanabe, while Petra Begerow of Germany had to save four match points before defeating Australian Lisa McShea 2-6, 7-6 (6-3), 6-2.

In other matches, 12th-seeded Linda Ferrando of Italy beat American Caroline Kuhlman 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, No. 13 Irena Spirela of Romania defeated compatriot Catalina Cristea 6-4, 6-1, and 14th-seeded Mexican Angelica Gavaldon swept past German Karin Kachwendt 6-4, 6-2.

Teen-age stars Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria and Lindsay Davenport of the United States are the top two seeds, but both had first-round byes.

Audra Keller of the United States earned a second-round meeting with Maleeva by defeating Petra Ritter of Austria 7-5, 6-1. Lea Ghirardi of France will play Davenport after ousting Ruxandra Dragomir of Romania 6-4, 2-6, 6-4.

The 56-woman tournament continues through Sunday. It is one of a series of events before the Australian Open, which starts Jan 17 at the National Tennis Centre in Melbourne.

Deportivo stretches lead

MADRID, Jan 3: Deportivo Coruna extended their Spanish First Division lead to two points after Barcelona crashed 2-0 on Sunday at Sporting Gijon, who move up to third place, reports Reuters.

Barcelona were pushed back by a sparkling Sporting side that created more chances than the champions, who once again were also let down by poor finishing.

Dutch coach Johan Cruyff gambled on attack after going 1-0 down to a 33rd minute header by Abelardo Fernandez, taking off defender Ronald Koeman in the 64th minute for Bulgarian striker Hristo Stoichkov. He also switched two strikers, Quisque Estebaranz for Aitor Beguiristain.

But the changes failed to pay off and Barcelona were frequently caught out by Sporting counterattacks that exposed jittery goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta, playing his 450th First Division game in 14 seasons.

Barcelona pressed hard up front but Sporting made it safe with a well-deserved 75th minute goal by Ivan Miner.

Deportivo drew 0-0 away to Rayo Vallecano in a scrappy game on Saturday, with only a brilliant performance from home team keeper Wilfried Denning Coruna a deserved victory.

The Nigerian saved at least three certain goals, two of them from Deportivo's Brazilian striker Bebeto, and was easily his side's best player.

Leaders Deportivo now have 25 points, two ahead of Barcelona and three ahead of Sporting, Athletic Bilbao and Real Madrid follow on 21 points.

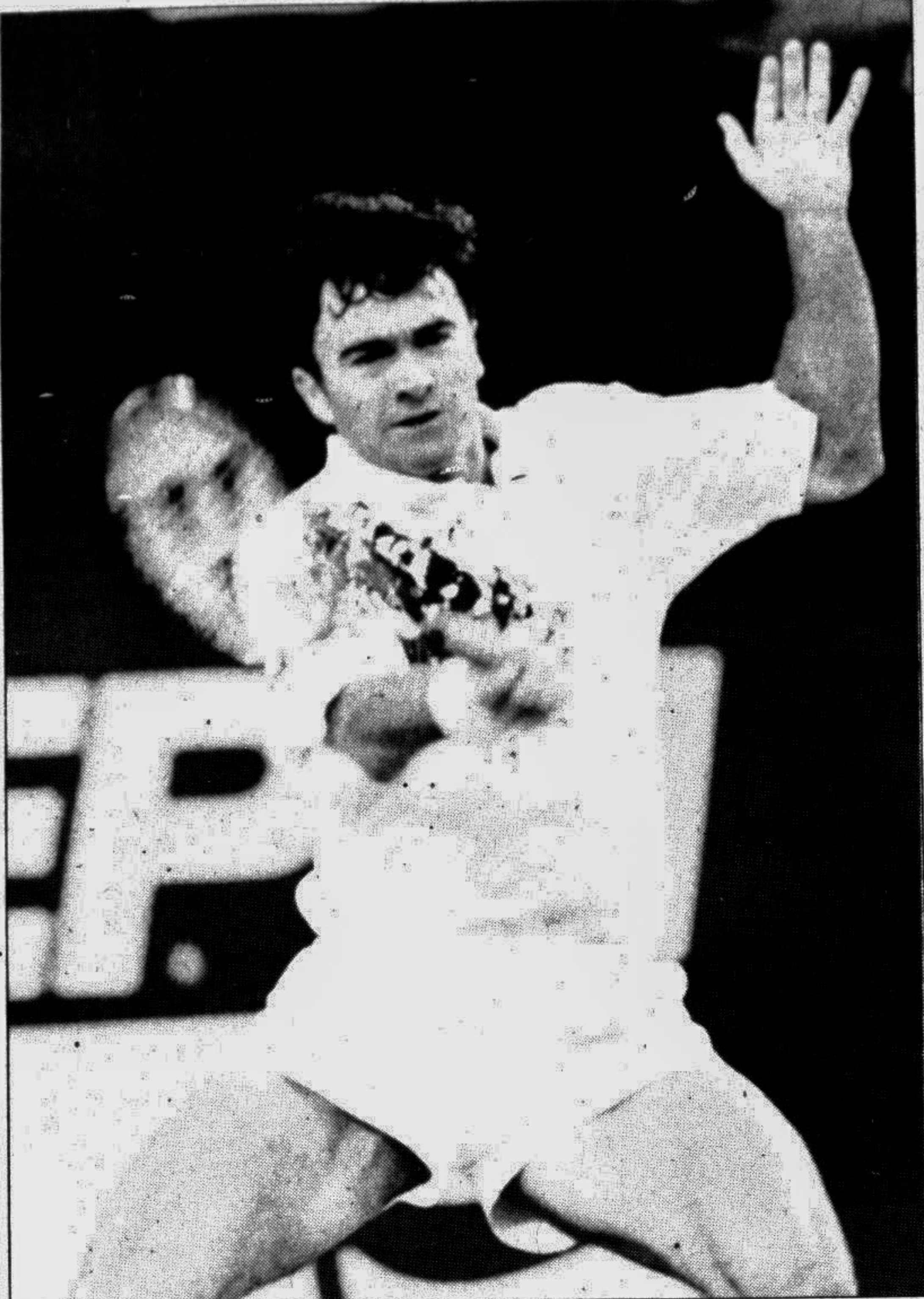
Real Madrid struggled to beat an improving Albacete 2-0 at home, with a 51st minute goal from Emilio Butragueno and an own goal by defender Santiago Denia.

Butragueno's goal was virtually the only bright spot in Madrid's victory, the striker beating two defenders in the area and blasting home a powerful shot.

First division newcomers Racing Santander shocked third-placed Athletic Bilbao with a 2-1 away win, after trailing 1-0 to a 54th minute goal from Jose Ziganda.

The goal forced a change of strategy that paid dividends as the Santander team dominated totally in the last 20 minutes.

They equalised with a 77th minute goal from Michel Pineda and grabbed victory after 88 minutes when new Russian signing Radchenko jinked through the Bilbao defence to lob the ball over keeper Juan Valencia.



Australia's Wally Masur returns the ball during his 7-5, 6-4 win over France's Cedric Pioline in the quarter-finals of the Hopman cup in Perth yesterday. — AFP photo

Aussies wipe France out



PERTH, Australia, Jan 3: Wally Masur downed Cedric Pioline in straight sets Monday, leading Australia to a 3-0 Hopman Cup quarterfinal victory over France, but then denounced the new electronic line-calling system being used at the tournament, reports AP.

Masur beat US Open finalist Pioline 7-5, 6-4 in the men's singles after Nicole Provis defeated France's Nathalie Tauziat 4-6, 7-6, (7-4), 6-2.

Masur and Provis won the mixed doubles 8-4 in one pro set.

But Masur's revenge for losses to Pioline at the US Open and Wimbledon last year came in a singles match that saw the Tennis Electronic Lines system fail four times.

On each occasion, the machine made a loud bleeping noise in the middle of a point. Masur asked for the system to be turned off, but tournament referee Peter Bellenger refused.

"If there are any further problems with TEL we will close it down," said Bellenger. In the evening quarter-final, unseeded Austria upset third-seeded former champion Spain.

Judith Wiesner opened by defeating Conchita Martinez 6-2, 6-4, and Alex Antonitsch grew in confidence as his match progressed and downed Emilio Sanchez 3-6, 6-4, 6-3.

"I'm more happy with the result than the way I played," said Antonitsch. "I got myself out of trouble."

Wiesner completely dominated a below-par Martinez, who never lived up to her No. 4 world ranking.

"A lot of things came to-

gether for me today," Wiesner said. "She made a lot of mistakes early and that gave me confidence."

Earlier, both members of the Australian team surprised higher-ranked opponents. Provis is ranked 26th to Tauziat's 18th, while Masur is 21st to Pioline's 10th and was beaten by the Frenchman in last year's US Open semifinals.

French love Morceli

PARIS, Jan 3: Noureddine Morceli of Algeria, who broke the world record in the mile this year, was named Monday as the top athlete for 1993 by the French sports daily L'Equipe, reports AP.

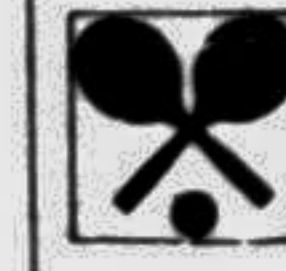
Morceli won the world 1,500-metre title for the second time this year in Stuttgart, Germany. He broke the world record for the mile in September with a performance of 3 minutes, 44.39 seconds, nearly two seconds better than the previous mark.

He also had the second-best times in the 1,500 and 3,000 metres and was unbeaten throughout the year.

Morceli had 169 points to beat Linford Christie, the Briton, who won the 100 metres at the World Championships in 9.87 seconds, just .01 off of the world record.

Third was American basketball player Michael Jordan, who was L'Equipe's 1992 winner. Jordan led the Chicago Bulls to their third consecutive pro basketball title in the United States, then abruptly retired just before the start of the season. He had 147 points.

Lendl's twilight bravura



PERTH, Jan 3: Ivan Lendl is taking a positive attitude into what may be his final year as a tennis player, reports AP.

Now 33, Lendl finished 1993 ranked 19th in the world. It was the first time since 1979 he finished with a ranking outside the top 10.

Late last year Lendl clearly was fed-up with tennis. He looked grim on court and snapped at questioners off it.

A break of seven weeks, however, has allowed Lendl to charge his batteries and he said Monday that he was looking forward to the new season.

"I still enjoy hitting the ball," he said. "I have no immediate thoughts of retirement. I'll give myself the whole year and then see how I feel about it."

Czech-born Lendl, who recently took US citizenship, will represent his new nation for the first time when he partners Mary Joe Fernandez in the Hopman Cup teams event.

Lendl and Fernandez play the German combination of

Bernard Karbacher and Anke Huber in their opening match Tuesday.

Lendl is using the mixed event as part of his preparation for the Australian Open, which begins Jan 17 at the National Tennis Centre in Melbourne.

"I've seen plenty of tennis balls by the end of last year," said Lendl, who was knocked out in the first round of three of the year's four Grand Slam tournaments.

At Wimbledon, the only Grand Slam he has never won, he made it to the second round. In a career that has spawned 94 singles titles, Lendl won only two events in 1993 — at Munich and Tokyo.

The lack of success left perfectionist Lendl disillusioned and sparked media talk of imminent retirement. But the Lendl who met the press Monday was cheerful and keyed up, clearly looking forward to the new season.

He said he was enthusiastic about the Hopman Cup which features an unusual format of women's singles, men's singles and mixed doubles.

"Hopefully it won't come down to the mixed doubles," he said. "But this is different to a regular tournament and that is a good thing. Because it is different, it should be fun."

Lendl also is looking forward to playing under the Tennis Electronic Lines (TEL) line-calling system which is being tested at the Hopman Cup.

The new electromagnetic invention uses antenna rays in stilled beneath the court surface, which react to iron filings in the ball — the flight of which is tracked by a computer to its precise landing position.

"As long as it works properly I'm all for it," Lendl said. "We are the only sport that has two people playing and 11 people judging. If the number of errors can be cut down, that's certainly a good thing."

Lendl is the only player to have won at least one singles title each year since 1980 but rarely plays doubles.

"Hopefully we can both win our singles matches so the doubles doesn't matter," said Fernandez.

Korda not a satisfied customer

PERTH, Australia, Jan 3: Petr Korda ended last year by winning the richest prize tennis has to offer, reports AFP.

But despite collecting US \$2 million for his victory at the Grand Slam cup in Munich last month, Korda has labeled 1993 as the year he wants to forget.

The aggressive Czech left-hander beat the world's two top-ranked players Pete Sampras and Michael Stich — as well as a No. 4 Stefan Edberg on his way to a memorable triumph in Munich, but it was the only bright spot in a year that saw him plagued by injury, including a heart ailment that came close to ending his career.

"I had a bad year with a lot of health problems so winning the Grand Slam Cup gave me a lot of satisfaction," he said Monday, adding that "the most important thing, more important than the money, was beating No. 1, No. 2 and No. 4 in the world."

Korda, 24, has so far won only six career titles despite once being ranked as high as fifth in the world. He is currently ranked 12th after a year in which the Grand Slam Cup provided his only victory.

That win alone almost doubled his career prize money, but Korda looks back with disdain.

"It was a year I really want to put behind me and forget," he said. "I've put all the thoughts of injury into a box and thrown it away."

Korda opens his 1994 campaign on Tuesday when he partners Jana Novotna on the Czech Republic team to face former champion Switzerland in the Hopman Cup teams championship.

The pair is using the tournament to prepare for the Australian Open, which begins Jan 17 at the National Tennis Centre in Melbourne.

Korda traditionally plays well in Australia. He made the quarterfinals of the 1993 Australian Open and enjoyed one of his rare IBM/ATP Tour successes when he reached the final of the Australian Indoor championship in Sydney in October.

"It took me 30 hours to get here, so I'm taking a relaxed approach," Korda said.

Novotna, meanwhile, said she has turned the disappointment of throwing away a likely victory over Steffi Graf in last year's Wimbledon final into a learning experience.

Novotna led 4-1, 40-30 in the last set of the Wimbledon final before crumbling.

"I've tried to turn the whole thing around in a positive way and to learn from it," she said.

BSJA reception

Bangladesh Sports Journalists Association (BSJA) will accord a reception to the best sportsman and woman of Bangladesh in the sixth SAF Games on January 6 (Thursday) at the conference room of the National Sports Council at 4 pm, reports BSS.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain will attend the function as the chief guest.

BSJA, earlier, adjudged the fastest man of South Asia Bimal Chandra Tarafdar and shooter Kazi Shahana Parveen as the best sportsman and sportswoman of the country in the seven-nation Games respectively.

AC can win even without Papin



ROME, Jan 3: The first-half dismissal of French striker Jean-Pierre Papin failed to stop champions

AC Milan defeating Reggiana 1-0 on Sunday and increasing their lead in the Italian First Division to two points, reports Reuters.

Marcel Desailly's 28th minute goal, his first since joining Milan from Olympic Marseille last November, proved sufficient for the champions to end Reggiana's unbeaten home record while Papin was sent off after appearing to elbow an opponent in the 37th minute.

Milan lead the table with 25 points from 16 matches, two clear of Juventus and Sampdoria, who have both played a game more.

They travel to struggling Udinese next Thursday but are already assured of finishing the first half of the 34-match campaign on top of the table — as they have done in the previous two championship-winning seasons.

Newly-crowned European footballer-of-the-year Roberto Baggio started 1994 impressively, leading Juventus to their first away win of the season with two goals in a 3-0 win at Udinese.

Sampdoria's Ruud Gullit claimed the first goal of the new year with a sixth minute header against Lazio but Giuseppe Signori equalised from the penalty spot in the 38th minute.

Parma dropped to fourth place in the table with a 1-1 draw at Piacenza while an 87th minute goal from Pierluigi Orlandini earned Atalanta a shock 2-1 win over Internazionale, joint fifth with Lazio at the start of the day, at the San Siro Stadium.

Although stuck in the lower reaches of the table, newly-promoted Reggiana started the day with an unbeaten home record to match that of the league leaders.

Milan's determination to put the record straight was ev-

ident as early as the seventh minute when a long-range drive from Alessandro Orlando hit the post.

The champions only had to wait until the 28th minute before taking the lead. Reggiana's defence failed to clear a corner from Roberto Donadoni and Frenchman Desailly seized on the loose ball to fire his side in front.

Reggiana's hopes of saving the match were boosted by the sending-off of Papin but the ef-



PAPIN

ficient Milan maintained their grip on the match by closing down the midfield and starving the Reggiana defenders of the ball.

Against Udinese, Baggio began World Cup year at his brilliant best.

In the 11th minute, it was his perfectly weighted pass which gave teammate Giancarlo Marocchi time and space to open the Juventus account with a finely-angled shot.

Three minutes into the second half, goal-maker turned goal-scorer as Baggio's cheeky backheel from a cross by Angelo Di Livio found the net via deflection.

The prolific playmaker took his total for the season to 11 in the 61st minute, slaloming through the Udinese defence and sliding the ball past goalkeeper Graziano Battistini.

Gullit's goal for Sampdoria against Lazio means the

Dutchman has now scored 10 goals in his first season with the Genoa club — one more than in his best season at Milan.

The early goal forced Lazio onto the offensive as the Rome side struggled to maintain a run of form which has brought 15 points in the last 10 matches.

Croatia Alen Boksic was a constant thorn in the side of the Sampdoria defence and in the 10th minute forced Italy's international goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca into a spectacular diving save with a fierce snapshot on the run.

The home team finally drew level when Roberto Mancini pulled down Roberto Di Matteo in the penalty area. Signori made no mistake with the penalty — his seventh goal of the season.

Gullit spurned a match-winning chance soon after the interval when Luca Marchegiani — Pagliuca's international deputy — smothered his goal-bound shot.

England midfielder Paul Gascoigne, struggling with a groin injury this week, was substituted in the 48th minute.

Dutchman Dennis Bergkamp appeared to have spared Inter's blushes against Atalanta when his 2nd penalty kick equalised a first-half effort from Oscar Magoni.

But with three minutes remaining, Pierluigi Orlandini struck a late winner for the visitors, who started the day third from the bottom.

Napoli, enjoying a good season with an inexperienced team, missed the chance to move level on points with sixth-placed Inter when they were held 1-1 at home by mid-table Foggia.

Dutch winger Bryan Roy put Foggia ahead in the 28th minute with his ninth — and simplest — goal of the season, applying a touch on the line to a goal-bound shot from Pierpaolo Bresciani.

Napoli grabbed a deserved equaliser in the 50th minute when Libero Giovanni Bia lobbed home.

Higueta unbound, unallayed



BOGOTA, Jan 3: Colombia's mad-cap goalkeeper Rene Higuita was released from jail last week but his future is far from clear, reports Reuters.

There are doubts over whether he will be allowed into the United States to play in the 1994 World Cup because of the accusations against him.

There are doubts over his ability to displace Oscar Cordoba as Colombia's first-choice goalkeeper.

Higuita was ordered by prosecutors on Thursday to be released from jail, where he has been held since June on charges of breaking Colombia's tough anti-kidnapping laws. He was accused of receiving money for helping negotiate the release of a kidnapped girl.

But prosecutors said he had only been freed because no formal accusation had been made within the 120-day limit set by the law and that he could still face criminal proceedings. He had to pay a bail of around 10,000 dollars.

In the meantime, he faces a battle to get fit and convince Colombia trainer Francisco Maturana that he and not the 22-year-old Cordoba, is the country's top goalkeeper.

Cordoba has played solidly for his country and many Colombian fans feel more at ease with his relatively orthodox style than the more eccentric tactics which have made Higuita famous but which have cost his teams dear in the past.

In a written interview with Reuters shortly before his release, Higuita was evasive about his chances of regaining his place.

"I respect the work of the coach and will respect the team which he picks," was his reply to a question about the performances of Cordoba. Higuita, who suffered a broken leg two months before his arrest, said that physically he was in good shape and had been well treated by other inmates.

"I feel fine. The only thing that affects me is the way some of the media has used its power to destroy the fame, glory and sacrifice of other people."

"I have received thousands of cards from all over the country and that makes me realise that the most humble people are also the most sincere."

"The other prisoners have made the atmosphere like that of a family."

But he was bitter at his treatment by the authorities. "They have separated me from half of my life," he said. "This

country's new laws are not understood by the people who made them and this makes the cases complicated, as happened with me."

"I feel a pain in my soul for missing all the moments, good and difficult, which Colombian football has been through."

His girlfriend Magnolia Etcheverry, who claimed that the two would marry in a ceremony held in the stadium of Higuita's club Atletico Nacional in Medellin on his release, was equally upset.

"All he did was help to get the girl released and make a family happy. In return they gave him some money," she said. "For that, he was put in jail."

She added: "They are using him as a scapegoat. He is famous and because of that they are making an example out of him."

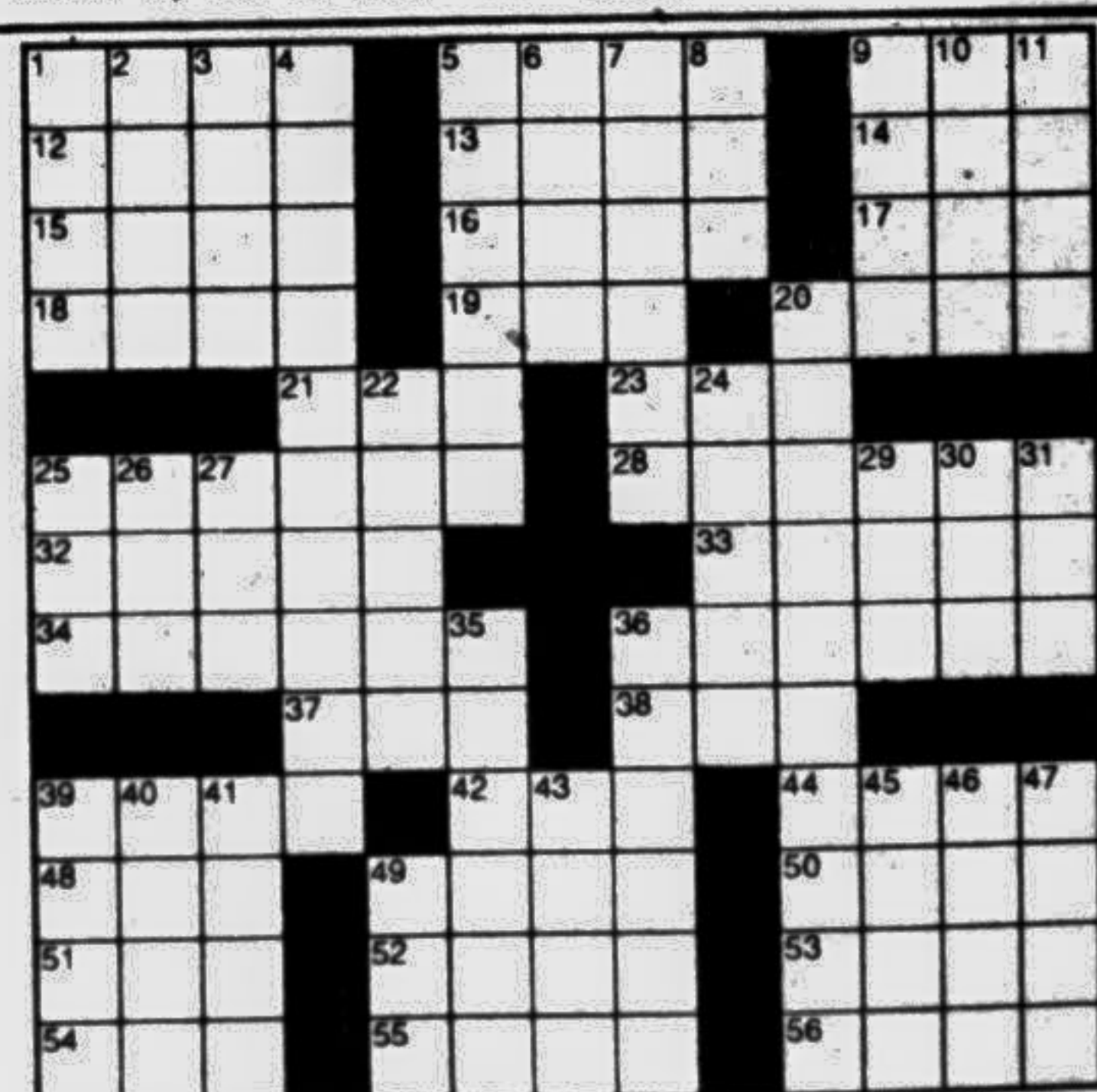
Higuita has never appeared to be satisfied with the role of a mere goalkeeper.

He has always described himself as a "goalkeeper-sweeper" and justifies the term by dribbling and juggling with the ball in front of opposing strikers or rushing up to the halfway line to clear the ball.

For much of his career he has also been Colombia's and Atletico Nacional's penalty-taker.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	37 Quite wide, to Al Bundy	56 Be overfond	20 Combs game
1 Dandy, in old slang	38 Carter or Tan	DOWN	22 Cheer up
5 Cabin makeup	39 Binges	1 Word before pilot or paper	24 Start of a famous palindrome
9 Twitch	42 Once around	2 Earthen pot	25 "Butterflies — Free"
12 Big name in scat	44 Go bankrupt	3 Source of linseed oil	26 Canine forename
13 Hautboy	48 Barn denizen	4 Fox sitcom	27 Group of whales
14 — pro nobis	49 Wilson of comedy	5 Spot	29 Faux follower
15 Bang the door	50 Fiery saint?	7 Medieval	30 Article in "Paris Match"
16 Quote	51 Dander	8 Spot	
17 Supporting	52 Fashion	9 Ersatz cheese	31 Opinion
18 DeVito sitcom	53 Previously owned	10 Press agent?	35 Chicken
19 Erstwhile firewood	54 Loony Louis	11 Magician's	36 Take place
20 Back financially	55 Ugly	Solution time: 27 mins.	39 Connect
21 Permit			40 Completely wrong
23 —			41 Joy
25 Yankee...			43 Verdi opus
26 Diamond pattern			45 Additionally
28 College grounds			46 — a man with seven wives
32 Lasso			47 It's all in vein
33 Prince Harry's mum			49 Some radios: abbr.
34 Hatred			
36 Famed WWII admiral			



CRYPTOQUIP

E A R I A R V N D J E M W J M
M W Z I J F Y H Z M F R Y V N Z L D
H Z G V E W Y L Z N W Z V S Z L
Y D M A S N L J G Z L
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DON'T EAT CANDY WHILE HUNTING, OR ELSE YOU'LL STICK TO YOUR GUNS.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: S 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.