

Germany in Hopman Cup semis

PERTH, Jan 4: Unheralded Bernd Karbacher and Anke Huber scored upset singles victories Tuesday night, giving defending champion Germany a shock quarterfinal victory over the United States in the Hopman Cup tennis championship, reports AP.

Huber downed French Open finalist Mary Joe Fernandez 6-2, 7-6 (7-4) and Karbacher then stunned veteran Ivan Lendl, who was making his debut on an American team, 6-3, 6-1.

Karbacher and Huber replaced Michael Stich and Steffi Graf on this year's German team and the unseeded pair completely outplayed their second-seeded rivals.

Huber practiced for three hours during the day with close friend Andrei Medvedev and had an edge in power and accuracy over Fernandez in their baseline rallies.

Huber's victory over the world No. 5 took just 71 minutes.

"If you practice with the male players, it gives you an advantage because the men hit the ball faster than the women," the 19-year-old Huber said.

Karbacher, a 25-year-old from Munich who is eight years the Czech born Lendl's junior, took plenty of risks against the veteran former US Open champion, but was rewarded.

Under pressure from Karbacher's deep forehands and fierce double-handed backhand, Lendl made almost twice as many unforced errors.

"I always thought I had a chance to beat him but I was surprised everything went so well," said Karbacher.

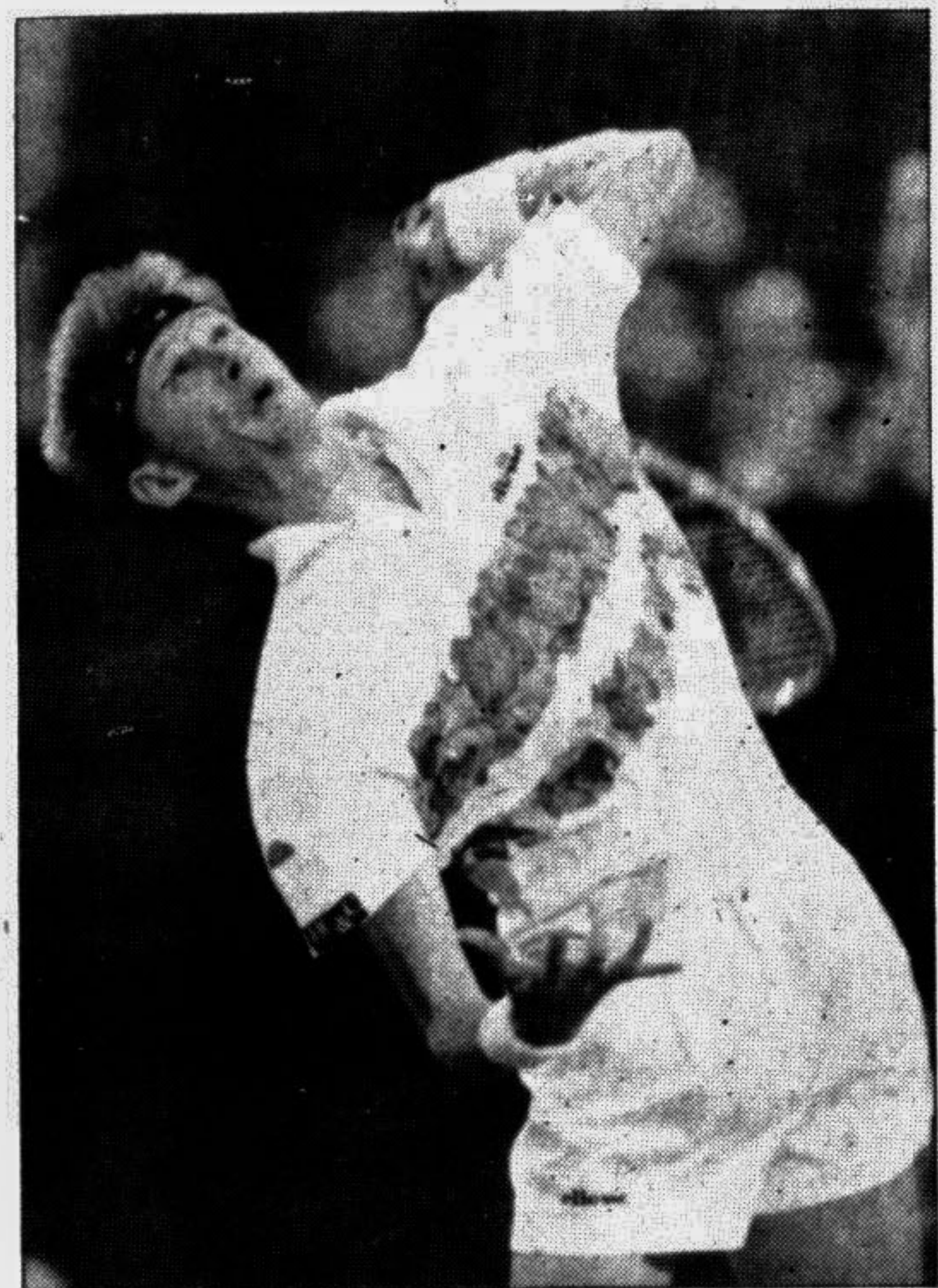
"You have to go flat out when you play a top player so I tried to dictate the pace and dominate the game. If I do that, I believe that I can beat just about any player."

In desperation, Lendl tried to serve-and-volley, but even that tactic failed against an opponent who was as accurate as he was composed.

Karbacher, who is ranked 54th to Lendl's 19th, won the last five games, clinching victory with a ripping forehand. Lendl, who may be playing his last season after winning 94 singles titles, looked a forlorn figure by the end.

Germany now will face Austria on Thursday in a semifinal between unseeded nations.

Petr Korda earlier scored an impressive pair of back-to-back victories, leading the top-seeded



Petr Korda of the Czech Republic serves against Jacob Hlasek of Switzerland in the quarterfinal of the Hopman Cup tennis tournament in Perth yesterday. Korda won the match 6-0, 6-2.

Easy wins for Stich, Edberg

DOHA, Jan 4: World No 2 Michael Stich and fifth-ranked Stefan Edberg eased into the second round of the \$1.5 million Qatar Open tennis tournament Monday, reports AP.

Stich needed just 59 minutes to defeat unseeded Frenchman Stephane Simian 6-2, 6-1, while Edberg took 70 minutes to beat South African wild card entry Gary Muller 6-1, 6-4.

Several of the top players are using the tournament as a warm-up for the first Grand Slam event of the season, the Australian Open in Melbourne later this month.

Edberg will carry a back injury into the second round where he will meet fellow Swede Anders Jarryd, who ousted Henrik Holm, also of Sweden 6-4, 7-6 (7-5).

Stich, who won the ATP Championship final in Frankfurt and led Germany to the Davis Cup at the end of last year, said his victory over Simian went according to plan.

"There is nothing to learn at this stage of the season. You have to make sure that the timing and rhythm are just right," said the German star.

In other first round matches, Austria's Gilbert Schaller defeated qualifier Lars Rehmann of Germany 7-6 (7-4), 6-1.

Top seed Pete Sampras, the current world No. 1 and reigning Wimbledon and US Open champion, plays his first match Tuesday against Moroccan qualifier Karim Alami.

Sampras arrived Sunday and became the second tennis star to lash out at Boris Becker, who is not here to defend his title because his wife is expecting a baby. The stars are irked by Becker's suggestions that some of them use drugs to get through the grueling tour.

"It's not an accurate comment and I was very surprised to hear Boris say it," said Sampras. "As far as I know, nobody takes steroids or any sort of enhancer. I certainly do not."

Sampras noted that the Association of Tennis Professionals, the sport's world governing body, "has made it a point to reveal if anyone was caught" taking drugs.

"What Boris said doesn't make any sense," he added.

Stich hit back at Becker when he arrived Thursday.

"It was a stupid comment to make," said Stich. "I don't know why he comes out with such things or from where he gets his ideas."

Becker had claimed in a



The Progoti Insurance Third Division football super league got underway at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday. AKM Rafiqul Islam, managing director of Progoti Insurance Limited inaugurated the league as chief guest.

Lendl begins on wrong foot

PERTH, Jan 4: Ivan Lendl's long-awaited debut on a United States tennis team turned into a nightmare at the Hopman Cup Tuesday night, reports AP.

The Czech-born veteran, who became a US citizen in July 1992 after moving to Greenwich, Conn., 10 years ago, crashed to a 6-3, 6-1 loss to German journeyman Bernd Karbacher as the United States was eliminated in the quarterfinals of the teams event.

The Americans rebounded to win the mixed doubles 8-5 in a pro set.

"It is always disappointing to lose any match and once you are on court you don't look up at the scoreboard to see what is written next your name," Lendl said when asked if he was disappointed to lose his first match on any US team.

Lendl finished last year ranked 19th in the world. It was the first time since 1979 that he had finished with a ranking below the top 10, and his form Tuesday indicated he still is far from his best.

"I have to play a lot better than I did today, but it is always difficult in your first match of the year," Lendl said.

"Karbacher hits the ball well and if you don't put enough pressure on him he'll run you around."

In a career that has produced 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. It was talk that Lendl immediately denied.

Lendl had hoped to use the Hopman Cup as part of his preparation for the Australian Open, which begins Jan 17 at the National Tennis Centre in Melbourne.

He now will practice in Sydney before playing in next week's New South Wales Open.

Edberg still feels young

DOHA, Jan 4: Swedish tennis star Stefan Edberg, who has won Wimbledon, the US and Australian Opens twice each in his successful career, may be the third oldest player competing in the Qatar Open, reports AP.

But, despite his veteran status, he said Tuesday he still sees another two golden years ahead before he starts to feel his age.

"I'm not afraid of facing age," said Edberg, who turns 28 in two weeks.

"I think I can probably have another two good years. After that I think it will be tough to keep the consistency but you can still play some good tennis," he said in an interview.

"I have got the experience so if I can stay healthy, I don't think I will have any problems for a while," said Edberg, the day after he defeated South Africa's Gary Muller to book a second round place in the \$1.5 million Qatar Open.

Of the players taking part, only fellow Swede, Anders Jarryd, who is 32, and Haiti's Ronald Agenor, 29, are older. Jarryd meets Edberg in the second round here.

"I think it's a matter of keeping your determination because you can keep yourself fit for a long time just like Ivan Lendl and Jimmy Connors," added Edberg. "You can push yourself in your thirties."

In other games, number four seed Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia takes on Shuzo Matsuoka of Japan. The latter defeated Ivanisevic in their only previous meeting on grass at Queen's Club in London in 1992.

Bruguera to skip Aussie Open

ADELAIDE, Jan 4: French Open tennis champion Sergi Bruguera has pulled out of this month's Australian Open because of injury, a tennis official said on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

Spaniard Bruguera, the world's number four ranked player, joins former Wimbledon champion Andre Agassi as a notable absentee from the Melbourne Grand Slam event.

Div III soccer

Sports Reporter

The first day of the Progoti Insurance Third Division football super league marked Sunrise Sporting Club with a white stone as they won day's only match by the odd goal in three.

At the Mirpur Stadium they beat former the Senior Division outfit BG Press 2-1.

The winners led the first half one nil. Chand Tripura opened the account for Sunrise in the 26th minute. Nidhu Ghosh doubled the margin with another goal in the 47th minute.

Muraduddin pulled one back for the pressmen in the 51st minute.

Eight teams are fighting for two berths in next year's Second Division league.



Chelsea's Craig Burley (R) and Everton's Barry Horne battle for the ball as an unidentified Everton player looks during an English Premiership match on Jan 3. Chelsea defeated Everton 4-2.

Everton edge nearer deep end

LONDON, Jan 4: Everton's headlong drop towards the relegation zone of the English Premier League continued on Monday when they lost 4-2 at Chelsea for their fifth successive defeat, reports Reuters.

The only comfort caretaker-manager Jimmy Gabriel could take from his side's latest setback was seeing them score for the first time since December 4.

It was revitalised Chelsea's third successive win after their own 11 match run without a victory ended last Tuesday.

Two goals from Mark Stein and one from Craig Burley and Neil Shipperley gave the West London club all three points.

There was no change at the top with leaders Manchester United not playing until tonight and second-placed Blackburn Rovers' match with Wimbledon postponed just five minutes before kick-off after a four-hour deluge in Lancashire left Blackburn's Ewood Park pitch waterlogged.

Third-placed Arsenal failed to make much headway on the leading pair when they were held to a 0-0 draw at home by Queen's Park Rangers.

Arsenal's arch-rivals Tottenham lost for the third time in their four match holiday programme when they went down 1-0 at Sheffield Wednesday. Mark Bright scored the only goal after five minutes.

In another Sheffield — London encounter, West Ham drew 0-0 with relegation-threatened Sheffield United, who have now failed to score in seven of their last eight matches.

Manchester City's match with Ipswich was another victim of the heavy rain in the north-west and was abandoned after 39 minutes with the Maine Road pitch unplayable and City leading 2-0.

The relentless holiday schedule was continuing on Monday night with Coventry at home to bottom-placed Swindon.

The match between fourth-placed Leeds and Aston Villa was called off because of the rain, meaning that Blackburn would stay second on 45 points — 12 behind Manchester United, who face Liverpool at Anfield today.

Norwich face Newcastle also today before the players have a short break from the League with the third round of the FA Cup scheduled for this coming weekend.

For Everton, a break from the nightmares of the League cannot come soon enough. They are 16th in the 22-team table with 25 points from 23 matches — just 10 points more than Swindon.

The Merseyside club are in turmoil both on and off the pitch with rival consortiums bidding for control in the boardroom and the manager's job still vacant a month after Howard Kendall resigned.

Everton are reported to want Norwich manager Mike Walker to succeed Kenadall and it is clear they need to act fast to preserve the top-flight status they have held since 1954.

The defeat at Chelsea means they have won just two of their last 17 league matches and Tony Cottee's 46th minute goal was their first in 10 hours 41 minutes playing time.

Burley, with his first goal for Chelsea, and Stein, with a 40th minute penalty, had given Chelsea a 2-0 lead but goals from Cottee and Stuart Barlow hauled Everton back into the match after 55 minutes.

But Chelsea replied with goals from Neil Shipperley and Stein — his fifth in four games — as Glenn Hoddle's side romped to their third win in six days.

Nothing going to stop Medvedev

PERTH, Jan 4: Rising star Andrei Medvedev is defying doctors' advice by continuing to play despite a painful knee injury and said Tuesday that he still hopes to play in the Australian Open tennis championship, reports AP.

The 19-year-old from the Ukraine withdrew from a mixed doubles match at the Hopman Cup teams event five days ago, citing an inflammation of his right knee.

He plans to undergo medical tests later Tuesday in a bid to establish that there is no serious structural damage to the knee.

Medvedev, who is ranked sixth in the world, practiced for two hours on Tuesday morning with close friend Anke Huber.

"At the moment I can't play with full power or move around the court properly," Medvedev said.

"The doctor has told me that normal people would rest for two weeks, but I don't have that much time."

Medvedev said he was hoping anti-inflammatory medication, physiotherapy and ice treatment would help him recover.

"I'm not comfortable, I'm still far from healthy," he said. "But even I'm only 50 per cent fit I want to play in Sydney."

Medvedev is next scheduled to play in the New South Wales Open in Sydney, which starts on Monday. That event is his final warm-up for the Australian Open, which starts Jan 17 in Melbourne.

Medvedev has been suffering from knee pains for the past three weeks and underwent treatment in Miami, Fla. over the Christmas holiday.

The injury flared again during his Hopman Cup singles match against Alex Antonitsch of Austria.

Medvedev had an outstanding year in 1993, winning three titles and reaching the semifinals of the French Open and the IBM/ATP Tour finals.

His injury is a concern to Australian Open organizers, who already are without a number of leading players.

Boris Becker is awaiting the birth of his first child and is unavailable. Americans Andre Agassi and John McEnroe and Dutchman Richard Krajicek are injured and the event does not fit in with Michael Chang's schedule.

Three-time women's champion Monica Seles has not yet decided whether she will be able to defend her title and has not played since being stabbed in the shoulder by a crazed fan in Hamburg in April.

Martina Navratilova and Jennifer Capriati already are absent from the women's draw. Navratilova does not play in the first month of the year, while Capriati is taking a sabbatical.

US want to be prepared

BUENOS AIRES, Jan 4: American authorities are hoping to prevent Argentina's football hooligans from going to next year's World Cup by studying video evidence of fighting in grounds, the US embassy here said, reports AFP.

Cameras at stadiums have identified about 200 hardcore hooligans among supporters of First Division sides and the pictures have been passed to the embassy.

The embassy will also carefully scrutinise visa applications to weed out potential trouble-makers.

"People who can show they complete the requirements for an entry visa will not be prejudged. But if they have a political or criminal past, it depends," an embassy spokesman said.

Lord Porritt dead

LONDON, Jan 4: Lord Porritt, a 1924 Olympic medal winner, retired governor-general of New Zealand and surgeon to the royal family for more than 20 years, has died at the age of 93, his family announced, reports AP.

He died at his London home Jan 1. No cause of death was given.

A surgeon's son, Arthur Espie Porritt was born in New Zealand Aug 10, 1900 and came to Britain as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University's Magdalen College. He stayed to get his medical training.

While at Oxford he made records in the 100 yards and 220 yards hurdles, and represented Oxford in track and field events from 1923 to 1926.

Porritt won a bronze medal for New Zealand in the 100 meters at the 1924 Olympics in Paris. Those games were the subject of the film "Chariots of Fire," which told the stories of the Scottish runner Eric Liddell, who would not compete on Sundays, and England's Harold Abrahams, who won the gold medal in the 100 meters race in which Porritt won his bronze.

Until Abraham's death, in 1978, he and Porritt and their wives had dinner every year at 7 pm on July 7, the day and hour of the 1924 100-meter final in Paris.

Porritt went on to become one of the leading surgeons of his day.

During World War II he served in the Royal Army Medical Service as a surgical consultant, with the rank of Brigadier.

He was surgeon to King George VI from 1946 until the 1952, when the king died and was succeeded by his daughter Queen Elizabeth II. Porritt was surgeon to the queen from her accession until 1967, when he was appointed governor-general of his native country. He retired in 1973.

Porritt was knighted in 1950 created a baronet in 1963 and a life peer 10 years later.

The Arthritis and Rheumatism Council said Monday that Lord Porritt had made an enormous contribution to the development of arthritis research in Britain.

He was an honorary fellow of Magdalen College, of the American, Australian and South African Colleges of Surgeons and of the French Academy of Surgery.

He became chairman of the council in 1974 and president in 1976, a position from which he retired in 1988. Porritt was president of the British Medical Association from 1960 to 1961.

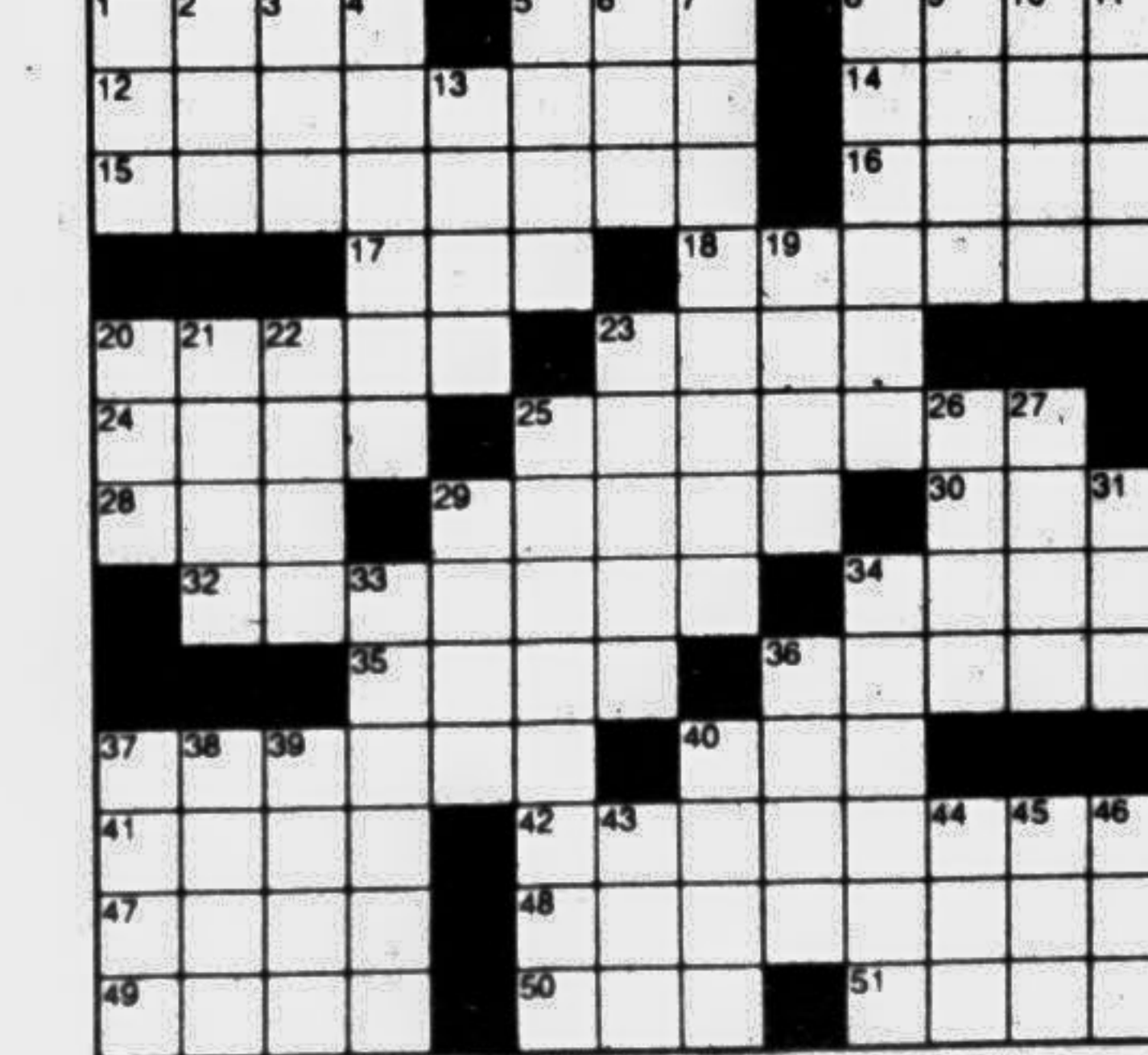
He was married twice, first in 1926 to Mary Frances Wynne, and second in 1946 to Kathleen Peck.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	35 Horse of another color?	counter-part	21 One of an Olympic quintet
1 Where Anna taught	36 Wheeled platform	4 Lea	22 Diner's card
5 Jackson 5 hit	37 Dormant	5 Persisting	23 Bleach target
8 Goof up	40 However	6 Ponderosa patriarch	25 Cornmeal creation
12 Pangolin, for one	41 Sandwich type	7 Beast	26 Year-end refrain
14 Norse trickster god	42 Build	8 Torched, at "21"	27 Lofty
15 Rash remedy	47 Rent	9 Wild and crazy	29 Old
16 Dogfight participants	48 Watchful ones	10 Guitars' kin	woman's home
17 Speck	49 Quest	11 "Bei Mir — Du Schön"	31 Indispensable
18 Not quite	50 Undergo a recession	13 Cupid's forte	33 "Jeopardy!" emcee
20 Knight-gown?	51 Undiluted DOWN	19 Tramp's girlfriend	34 Cauldron recipe
23 Attempt	1 Cul-de-sac	20 Ms. Gardner	36 Twilight
24 Panorama	2 One-million link		37 Gospels' follower
25 A classy sort?	3 Pac.		38 — gin fizz
28 Abby's twin			39 Tackle-box item
29 Stephen King-esque			40 Party invitation abbr.
30 Erstwhile acorn			43 Mischief
32 "Alice's Restaurant" singer			44 — "Será Será"
34 Soccer legend			45 Actress Hagen
			46 Part of être

Solution time: 25 min.

TOFF	LOGS	TIC
ELLA	OBOE	ORA
SLAM	CITE	FOR
TAXI	ASH	FUND
LET	IMA	
ARGYLE	GAMPUS	
RIATA	DIANA	
ENMITY	HALSEY	
EEE	AMY	
JAGS	LAP	FAIL
OWL	FLIP	ELMO
TRE	MODE	USED
NYE	SWAN	DOTS



CRYPTOQUIP

IXOKVLAK QKZ BZBBZW - VSY QIUQZH EIH, NZ UQIMZH NYQK YQ LSQYX QKZ EYQQZW ZSH.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: YOU COULD SAY THAT THE CABINET BUILDER'S NEWLY HIRED HELPER IS TOP DRAWER.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: B 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.