

Edberg picks his way easily



INDIAN WELLS, Calif. Mar 4: Third-seeded Stefan Edberg of Sweden advanced to the quarterfinals of the Champions Cup on Thursday, but No 6 Michael Chang and No 7 Todd Martin were both upset victims, reports AP.

Edberg needed only 68 minutes to eliminate Fabrice Santoro of France 6-2, 6-3. A day earlier, Santoro beat Andre Agassi, who was playing in only his second tournament in the last five months.

Chang lost to No 12 Alexander Volkov of Russia 6-4, 1-6, 6-3. Martin, who reached the finals of the Australian Open in January, was beaten by No 10 Petr Korda of the Czech Republic 6-4, 3-6, 6-2.

In other third-round action, eighth-seeded Thomas Muster of Austria beat Jonathan Stark 6-4, 6-4; Daren Cahill of Australia outlasted No 11 Marc Rosset of Switzerland 6-4, 5-7, 7-6 (7-5); No 16 Carlos Costa of Spain rallied to beat Patrick Rafter of Australia 4-6, 6-4, 7-5, and Aaron Krickstein came back for a 2-6, 6-4, 6-4 victory over Patrick McEnroe.

Top-seeded Pete Sampras was scheduled to face No 15 Mali Vail Washington in a night match to complete the third round.

In Friday's quarterfinals, Edberg will play Cahill; Volkov will meet Krickstein; Korda will face Costa, and Muster will meet the winner of the Sampras-Washington match.

When Korda and Martin took the stadium court to play the first match of the day, the temperature was 106 degrees F (41 C). And it got hotter as

the day went on, reaching a peak of 120 degrees F (48 C) on the court.

"I don't think he (Chang) felt so well because he was so wet," Volkov said after scoring his upset, referring to the fact that Chang was soaked with sweat.

It won't be easy for Sampras

TOKYO, Mar 4: World number one Pete Sampras will return to the Ariake Coliseum in defence of his singles title in the star-studded 1.21 million dollar Japan Open Tennis tournament next month, reports AFP.

The 22-year-old American, winner of three consecutive Grand Slam events — Wimbledon, the US Open and the Australian Open, became world number one after winning the Japan Open here last year.

Fifty-six of the world's leading players will take part in the men's hard court singles competition April 4-10 vying for the top prize of 156,000 dollars and 230 computer points, the organisers said.

Sampras is expected to face threats from Germans Michael Stich and Boris Becker, and compatriots Michael Chang, Brad Gilbert, last year's runner-up, and 1980 champion Ivan Lendl.

Other prominent players include Wally Masur of Australia, Guy Forget of France, Israel's Amos Mansdorf, Americans Janathan Stark and Patrick McEnroe, and Greg Rusedski of Canada.

Volkov had lost his three previous matches with Chang in this tournament.

"I played so well in the first set," Volkov said. "I didn't make any mistakes. Michael did not play very well today. He played defensive, he made too many mistakes. I felt confident. I hit short balls and won a lot of points."

Chang said the two-hour, nine-minute match was "a little strange."

"I was a little bit flat," Chang said. "I made a few unforced errors that really hurt me. I've had success against Alexander in the past. He was not only hitting winners, I was making errors, so it was tough to beat him."

Edberg has been virtually unchallenged in his first two matches at the Hyatt Grand Champions Resort, losing a total of only nine games.

"Overall, I've played solid," he said. "I was not necessarily hitting the ball very hard, but I was coming in. I'm playing well enough to win."

The Cahill-Rosset match, which lasted over two hours, ended on a strange note. Cahill was leading 6-4 in the third-set tiebreaker and was serving for the match when he double-faulted. However, Rosset then double-faulted to end the match. Rosset smashed his racket on the court in frustration after his double-fault.

"I would have been upset if I would have lost, too," Cahill said. "The difference in the match was a point here or there."

The semifinals in the tournament sponsored by Newsweek will be played Saturday with the finals Sunday.

Batting bothers Rutherford

AUCKLAND, Mar 4: New Zealand need to improve their batting if they are to mount a challenge to Pakistan in the four remaining limited-overs cricket internationals, captain Ken Rutherford said Friday, reports AP.

New Zealand trail 1-0 in the five-match series going into Sunday's match at Eden Park. The Kiwis lost a farcical opener in Dunedin on Thursday that was reduced to 30 overs a team by rain.

"I think the series revolves around our batsmen," Rutherford said.

"Our bowlers and fielding are really good and I think we can defend totals. We're very competitive with the Pakistani side."

New Zealand lost eight wickets in 20.4 overs on Thursday, a statistic that did not please Rutherford.

"Not many of us have played in those games where you've only got a limited amount of overs," he said. "Notwithstanding the fact we had a lot of wickets in hand, batting in those circumstances can be very difficult."

New Zealand are expected to recall medium-pacer Richard de Groen, who missed the Dunedin match, probably at the expense of Chris Harris.

That would give the Kiwis a stronger bowling team, but would weaken the fielding and batting departments.

The Pakistanis have a firmly-established first choice team for one-day matches and are not expected to make any changes for a game likely to attract a crowd in excess of 25,000.

TEAMS:

NEW ZEALAND: Ken Rutherford (captain), Mark Gribbatch, Bryan Young, Andrew Jones, Shane Thomson, Chris Cairns, Chris Harris, Tony Blair, Matthew Hart, Gavin Larsen, Danny Morrison, Chris Pringle, Richard de Groen (two to be omitted).

PAKISTAN (probable): Salim Malik (captain), Saeed Anwar, Aamir Sohail, Asif Mujtaba, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Basit Ali, Rashid Latif, Wasim Akram, Akram Raza, Waqar Younis, Aftab Rehman.

Pride becomes Atherton's last refuge

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad, Mar 4: England captain Michael Atherton called on his men to play for pride in the two one-day matches against the West Indies before their humiliating defeat in St Vincent on Wednesday, reports AFP.

Atherton's side went down by 165 runs after the West Indies smashed 313 for six in 50 overs, their largest total against England and the most runs England have ever conceded in the limited over format.

The result put England 2-1 down in the five-match series and Atherton said: "I don't mind losing games like the one we played in Jamaica last weekend (when the West Indies won with seven balls to spare), but this was embarrassing — it was not even a contest."

"Phil Tufnell and Angus Fraser bowled reasonably well, but that was about all. As for the rest, it was unacceptable from international players."

He added: "We now have our pride to play for in Trinidad." Atherton also sounded a note of defiance when he said: "I know cynics will now be talking about a blackwash, but I have no intention of letting that happen."

Team manager Keith Fletcher said he expected the players to keep their spirits up after the massive loss and added: "Everyone's played one-day cricket and some days you play poorly. They have now got to show character and bounce back."

West Indies manager Rohan Kanhai said he was surprised at how easily his side had won on Wednesday, but added there would be no complacency from them this weekend.

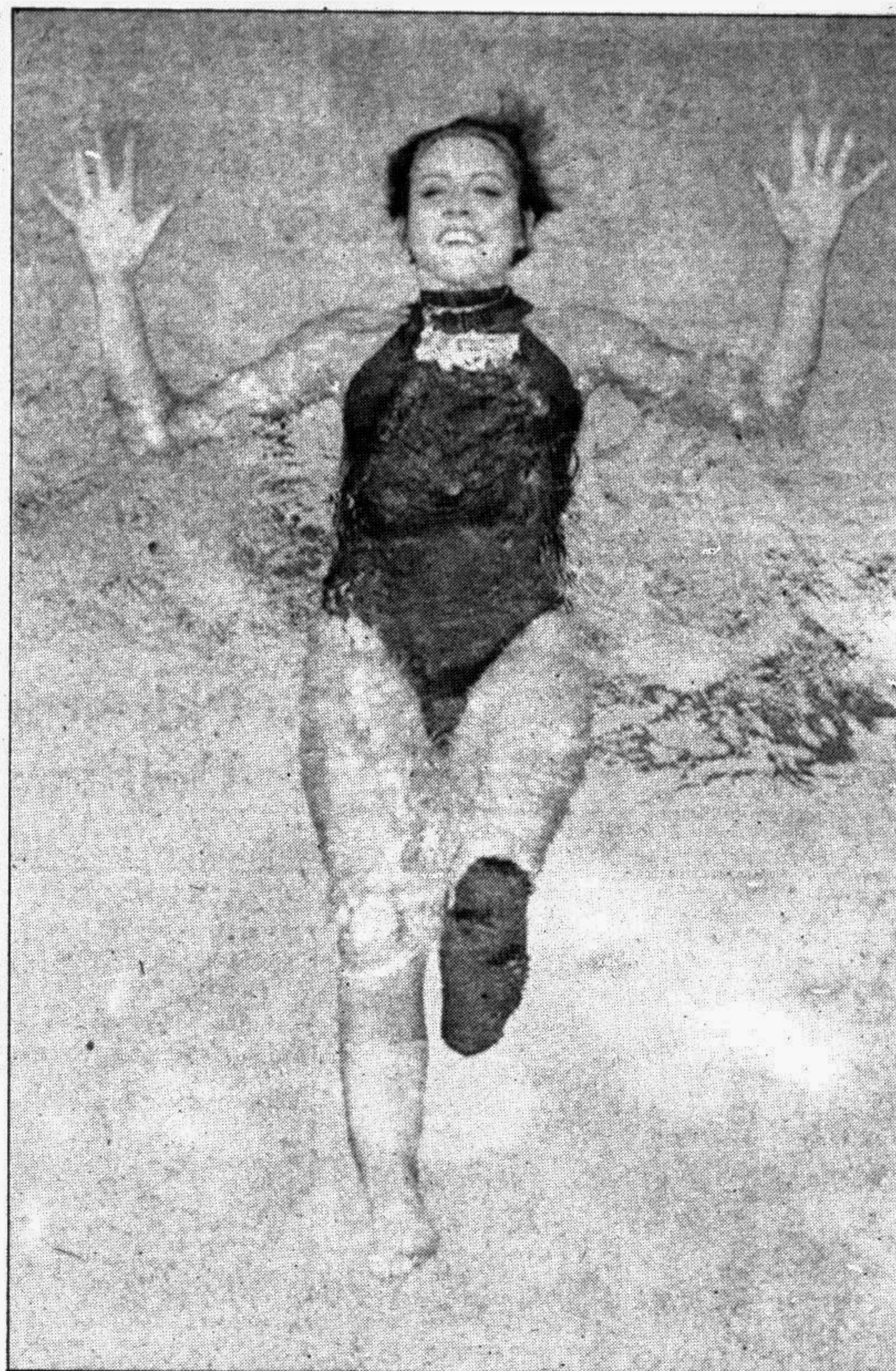
"In one-day cricket, you can't take anything for granted, we have just got to go out there and make sure we play as we did in Jamaica and St Vincent," he said.

Ross Norman's unique feat

LONDON, Mar 4: New Zealander Ross Norman will become the first player ranked in the world's top 10 to play in both the main draw and the over-35 men's event in next month's British Open, reports Reuters.

Norman, who turned 35 on January 7, made history in 1986 when he ended the five-and-a-half year unbeaten run of Pakistan's Jahangir Khan.

"I've won the World Championships and now I want a British Open title," Norman said.



British model Heather Mills, who lost a leg last year when she was knocked down by a police motorcycle, swims a 5,000 metre marathon for the BT National Swimathon '94 in London on Thursday.

NBC wins Games TV rights

ATLANTA, Georgia, Mar 4: NBC will retain full US rights for televising the 1996 Atlanta Olympics after a failed cable experiment from the 1992 Barcelona Games cost 100 million dollars, reports AFP.

The television network plans 165 hours of Olympic coverage, most of it live during prime viewing hours, NBC sports president Dick Ebersol announced here Thursday.

NBC televised 161 hours of Barcelona coverage, but 95 per cent was tape delayed.

Live coverage from Barcelona was offered on a pay-per-view basis, but the "triplecast" failed. More than two million homes were expected to purchase the package for 150 dollars, only 125,000 homes bought the deal.

Australia to follow Japan's suit

MELBOURNE, Mar 4: Australia is poised to follow Japan's lead by introducing penalty shoot outs to decide matches that end in a draw, a leading official said on Thursday, reports Reuters.

The Australian Soccer Federation (ASF) is backing the move as a marketing ploy to attract more spectators to national league games.

ASF chief executive Ian Holmes urged clubs, struggling to compete against the popularity of rugby league and Australian rules, to support the idea "or else the sport will die."

"What I'm trying to do is put a few sacred cows on the altar to slaughter them," Holmes said in a plea to traditionalists who have opposed the proposal.

"If we want to try and broaden the sport's supporter base then we have to ensure the game is as attractive as possible to watch."

Tie-breaking penalty shootouts proved popular in Japan, where the J-League prospered during its first season last year.

Australia's most experienced goalkeeper on Thursday supported the initiative, which could come into effect before the start of next season in October.

"Teams won't be able to sit back and play for a draw because it will be a lottery after that," said Adelaide City's Robert Zabica, who has played 35 games for Australia.

The ASF will canvas the issue with club officials during a two-day seminar in May.

Indian Open golf result

CALCUTTA, Mar 4: South Korea's Kim Young Il, Emlyn Aubrey of United States and local professional Ram Nath shared the lead after the first round of the 200,000-dollar Indian Open, which began here Thursday, reports AFP.

All three returned three-under-par 69 at the sprawling 18-hole Royal Calcutta Golf Club to snatch the initial advantage at the start of the third leg of the Asian circuit.

The trio adjusted better to course than other fancied players, who were lying low after the first round.

Defending champion Ali Sher of India scored a poor four-over-par 76, while Franco Carlos of Paraguay, the winner of the first leg in the Philippines, returned a one-under 71.

Graf, Arantxa move into qtrs

DELRAY BEACH, Fla., Mar 4: With 35 mph (56 kph) winds making for chaotic tennis, Steffi Graf and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario won easily in straight sets Thursday to advance to the quarterfinals of the Virginia Slims of Florida, reports AP.

The No. 3 seed, Amanda Coetzer, was not so fortunate. Chanda Rubin, making the most of a bullet serve, beat the South African 3-6, 6-2, 7-5 in the biggest upset of the tournament.

Graf, the top seed, continued her season-long rampage with a 6-2, 6-4 victory over Elena Likhovtseva of Kazakhstan. Graf has won the three tournaments she has entered this year and has yet to lose a set in winning all 19 matches. Dating to last year, Graf has won 68 of 69 matches.

"It's not fun to be out there with the wind," Graf said. "It's impossible to play good tennis because you can't control the balls. I didn't like it much to say the least."

Graf was able to control play when it counted, converting five of six break-point opportunities.

"The wind can be an equalizer," the world's No. 1 player said. "In this weather, anything can happen. You've got to watch out."

Graf will play German compatriot Sabine Hack, the seventh seed, on Friday. Hack defeated No. 13 seed Brenda Schultz of the Netherlands 7-5, 6-1.

No. 2 Sanchez Vicario plowed through No. 12 Julie Halard of France 6-1, 6-1 in 43 minutes. Sanchez Vicario dropped just 18 points the entire match.

"Sometimes you think the ball is very long and suddenly it's a drop shot," the Spaniard said. "I just have to concentrate more on every point."

Vicario Sanchez will play No. 16 Stephanie Rottier of the Netherlands, who upset No. 6 Judith Wiesner of Austria 1-6, 6-2, 6-4.

No 5 Helena Sukova of the Czech Republic and No. 9 Natalia Medvedeva of Ukraine advanced to the quarters with victories over Florenca Labat of Argentina and Lori McNeil

of Houston.

In the only singles match at night, No. 3 Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina defeated amateur qualifier Sonya Jeyaseelan of Canada 6-2, 6-2.

Rubin dictated play against Coetzer with cannon-like forehands and 100 mph (160 kph) aces, but Coetzer's counter-punching style forced numerous unforced forehand errors in the opening set.

Rubin of Lafayette, La, is 12-3 this year and 3-0 lifetime against Coetzer. She survived a match point at 4-5 of the third set and clawed her way out of a nine-duce service game at 5-5 before prevailing on her second match point when Coetzer netted a backhand.

"It looked like she was fed up with the wind because of her style to loop the ball," said Rubin, whose ranking has risen from a year-ending No. 69 to No. 34. "It wasn't that I was hitting my shot well, I'm just glad I was able to fight it out."

Coetzer, Ranked 14th, was coming off a final appearance at Indian Wells, Calif, last week and had reached the last two semifinals in this event.

Women's domain in doldrums?



INDIAN WELLS, California, Mar 4: With two major stars in limbo, a third on her way out and another so dominant she has made recent tournaments a formality, women's tennis troubles did not end with conclusion of the disastrous 1993 season, reports Reuters.

"Everyone thinks women's tennis is in trouble, but no one will admit it," said one tour official who works for Philip Morris, parent company of the tour's former major sponsors.

The new WTA tour, formed when Kraft general foods ended its sponsorship deal after the 1993 season, is currently searching for a major

Goycochea incurs Passarella's wrath

BUENOS AIRES, Mar 4: Argentina's first choice Goalkeeper Sergio Goycochea has been dropped by club side River Plate following a blunder in a championship match, reports Reuters.

Goycochea palmed an innocuous cross into his own net in a 2-2 draw with Platense on Sunday.

The incident followed a similar mishap in a pre-season match against archrivals Boca Juniors in February when Goycochea let a free kick go under his arm and into the path of Boca forward Alberto Marcio, who scored the game's only goal.

River Plate coach Daniel Passarella announced after a training session Wednesday that Goycochea was dropped for today's crucial championship match with Deportivo Mandiyu. He will be replaced by Javier Soderro.

Passarella, Argentina's 1978 World Cup winning captain, has never had any qualms about dropping top players when they make mistakes.



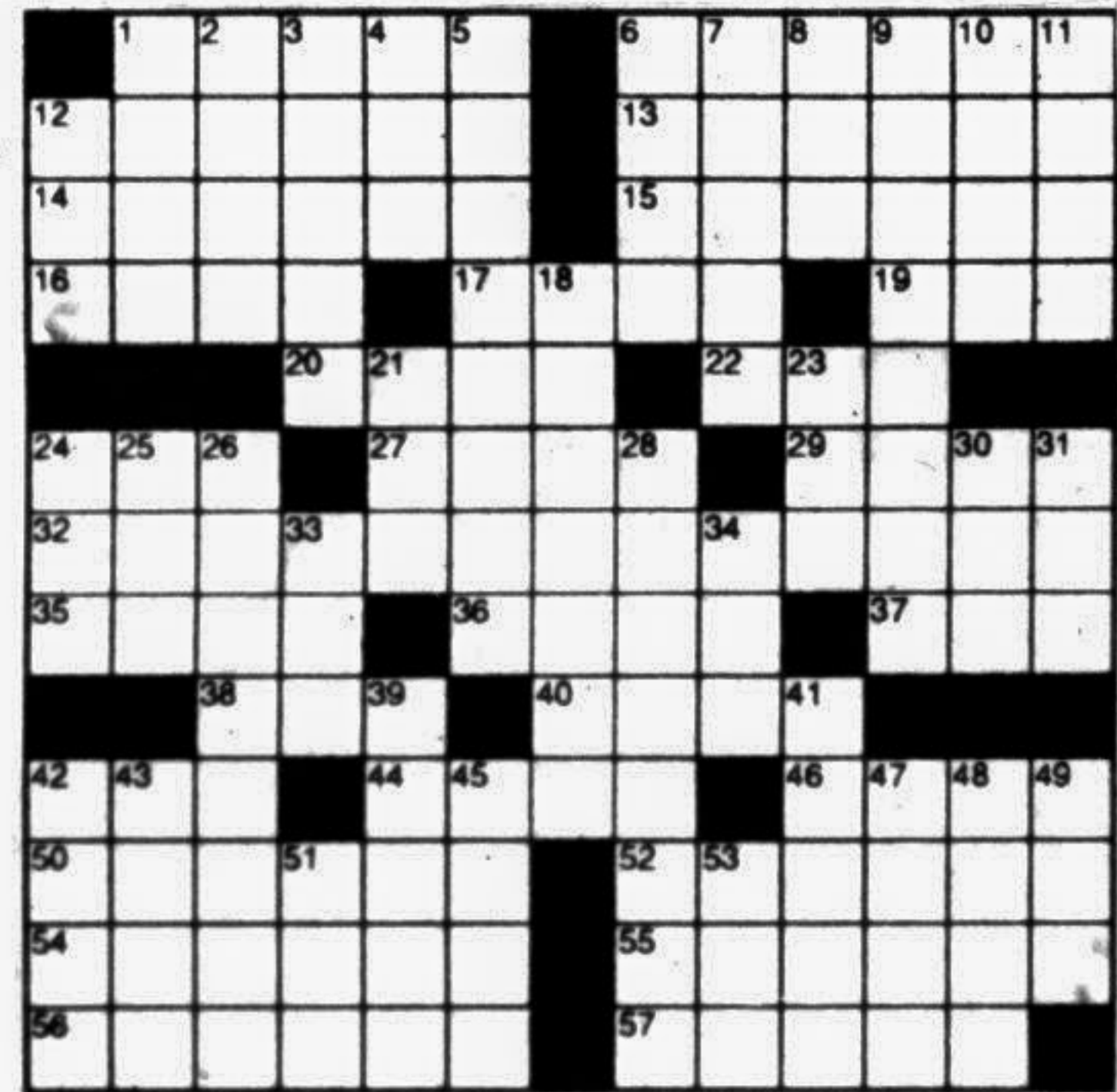
Disabled French coach Jean-Pierre Limborg (L) shows a wounded Sri Lankan soldier how to play wheel-chair tennis at a coaching clinic in Colombo on March 2. Limborg is in the island to promote wheel-chair tennis among injured soldier.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	42 Less than med.	5 Volcanic Indonesian island	23 Ordinal ending
1 Brandy vessel	44 Exceptional	6 Mast	24 Mr. Ziegfeld
6 Least extroverted	46 MPH, e.g.	7 Like San Francisco or Rome	25 "And — the opposite shore..."
12 Longtime FBI head	50 Conductor	8 "— Get By"	26 Grow rapidly
13 Upright monument	52 Musical selection	9 Intense and vivid	28 Sham
14 Eos' a/k/a	54 Skilled craftsman	10 Long, drawn-out story	30 Before
15 State without certainty	55 Hot	11 Unlikely trick taker	31 Seine
16 Waxed	56 Satisfy	12 Crone	34 Japanese honorific suffix
17 Marx or Malden	57 Like an otary	18 Reveille, e.g.	39 Fourth estate
19 Islet	DOWN	21 Scottish river	41 Mail
20 Light source?	1 Teatime		42 Prelude to a duel
22 Still	2 Traditional tales		43 Blackbird of puzzle-dom
24 "A pox upon thee!"	3 Swears		45 Johnson of "Laugh-In"
27 On	4 Sun. speech		47 Competent
29 Bird-house?			48 Prepared to drive
32 Go bankrupt			49 Ending for west or south
35 Formerly			51 24 horas
36 Cruising			53 Actress Hagen
37 Bee follower			
38 Height for Heidi			
40 Sicilian spewer			

JIB BAST TWIT
UNA ITOH HILO
SCRABBLE UGLY
TABULA MOM
DEY BUBBLE
FACES ALL LAY
LEON ORE CURE
ARB AVE PLEAS
BOBBLE LEI
OER ARMOUR
FLUX SCRIBBLE
ROSE ARKS ENE
AWED WISH YAK

Yesterday's answer 7-17



CRYPTOQUIP

R T K B M E S T V F K D H
B M Y T V R F P S M S Z T I F E S H
G W S Z T G T F S Y T
S M S Z T I W P B Z D R P T
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MANICURIST'S TOOLS OF THE TRADE MIGHT BE STORED IN THE FILING CABINET.
Today's Cryptoquip clue: I 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.