

## Graf wins Virginia Slims too



DELRAY BEACH, Florida, Mar 7: The Steffi Graf juggernaut rumbled onward on Sunday as the world number one collected the Virginia Slims of Florida title with her 22nd consecutive straight sets victory of the year, reports Reuter.

Top-seed and defending champion Graf stopped second seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario 6-3, 7-5 to pick up her fourth title of the year and 83rd career singles crown.

On Sunday, Graf faced the first set points by an opponent this year, but the outcome was the same as the German rose to the occasion to keep her remarkable unblemished record going.

Sanchez, looking to avenge a 6-0, 6-2 humiliation in this year's Australian Open final, was on the verge of clinching the second set when she led 5-4, 15-40 on Graf's serve.

"I realised she had two set points and I just wanted to concentrate on my serve, which I did very well," Graf said.

"I wanted to be aggressive at that moment. The first thing I told myself is to play a good first serve."

Graf followed her instructions well, serving herself out of trouble and running off the final three games of the one hour and 25 minute match.

Graf, who has not lost a match since last November and has not dropped a set in 1994, collected 80,000 dollars for her fifth Virginia Slims of Florida title.

"She has confidence now," said the second-ranked Sanchez, who has just five wins against Graf in 28 career meetings.

"She's playing her best and she knows that. But I think you probably can break her, but you have to play your best," added Sanchez said.

the Spaniard, who earned 32,000 dollars.

Graf rolled out to a 5-2 first-set lead before Sanchez played herself into the match and began to give the German a run for her money.

The two exchanged service breaks to open the second set and settled in for a struggle that brought Sanchez to her double set point in the 10th game.

"I was a little bit unlucky. I knew if I wanted to beat her I'd have to go for my shots. At the end, I still lost the match," said Sanchez, who committed 32 unforced errors to 19 for the top seed.

Undaunted, the always confident Spaniard was already rolling forward to a rematch with Graf on the next stop on the tour — the Lipton Championships, where Sanchez beat Graf in the final last year.

"Next week is my week," Sanchez said.

## Candour or anger

DELRAY BEACH, Florida, Mar 7: Steffi Graf effectively agreed here on Sunday that she was only playing a stand-in role for Monica Seles, reports AFP.

"Probably everybody needs her back," Graf said after beating Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain 6-3, 7-5 in a 400,000-dollar WTA tournament.

"That's what everybody needs. So I wouldn't have to answer that question any more," added the German who is losing patience with questions which undermine her own role.

Seles has not played since being stabbed in the back last April at a match in Germany and since then Graf has reclaimed her top spot on the ATP circuit, although she is not an undisputed star.

"I think she can be beaten," Sanchez-Vicario said. "Confidence is the word I have to use right now. I don't think she is dominant."

The chirpy Spaniard is 5-23 against the German who has won all 22 of her 1994 matches to capture four tournaments and 624,065 dollars in prize money.

"It's better than a losing streak," Graf said. "I have been in that situation before. I go out on the court and never think of those things."

Graf's current 26-match winning streak, which goes back to an early November defeat by Spain's Conchita Martinez, is 40 short of her longest.

Graf won 12 of the final 15 points on Sunday for her 83rd career title. She has won five tournaments in a row and 12 in the past 13 events she has entered. Martinez, who beat her for the first time at Philadelphia on November 14, is the blip on the record.

## Champions Trophy itinerary

LAHORE, Mar 7: Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) announced Monday the itinerary of foreign teams which are to participate in the six-nation Champions Trophy hockey tournament here this month, reports AP.

The Netherlands will be the first team to arrive here for the tournament scheduled from March 17 to 25.

The Dutch are to fly into Lahore on March 13 from India after playing a series of exhibition matches in that country.

Australia, the holders, are to arrive here on March 14. Spain and Germany the next day on March 16.

"All arrangements have been completed for the big event," PHF secretary Mudasar Asghar said, looking forward to "excellent hockey."

Draws are: March 17: Netherlands vs Spain 1000 (0500 GMT), Germany vs Australia 1300 (0800 GMT), Britain vs Pakistan 1600 (1100 GMT).

March 18: Australia vs Netherlands 1400 (0900 GMT) Spain vs Pakistan 1600 (1100 GMT).

March 19: Britain vs Germany 1400 (0900 GMT).

March 20: Pakistan vs Netherlands 1100 (0600 GMT), Germany vs Spain 1400 (0900 GMT), and Australia vs Britain 1600 (1100 GMT).

March 21: Pakistan vs Australia 1600 (1100 GMT).

March 22: Spain vs Britain 1200 (0700 GMT), Germany vs Netherlands 1400 (0900 GMT).

March 23: Australia vs Spain 1100 (0600 GMT), Netherlands vs Britain 1300 (0800 GMT), Pakistan vs Germany 1400 (0900 GMT).

March 24: Rest day.

March 25: Match for fifth and sixth positions 0900 (0400 GMT), match for third and fourth positions 1130 (0630 GMT), final at 1500 (1000 GMT).

## Ma gets angry

BEIJING, Mar 7: China's mercurial athletics coach Ma Junren has threatened to pull his celebrated women runners out of the London Marathon if his ongoing row with local sporting authorities is not resolved, the Beijing Evening News said Monday, reports AP.

Ma had tendered and then withdrawn his resignation in January after China's National Sports Ministry had stumped up more than one million yuan in response to Ma's complaints that the local authorities were refusing to provide sufficient funds for his training camp in northeastern Liaoning province.

However, Ma told the newspaper that the money had still not been made available to him personally and unless the problem was resolved soon the "Ma Family Army" would not be making their scheduled appearance in the London Marathon on April 17.

If the Liaoning sporting authorities redress the situation in the next few days, Ma said his team would leave immediately for their high-altitude training camp in southern Yunnan province.

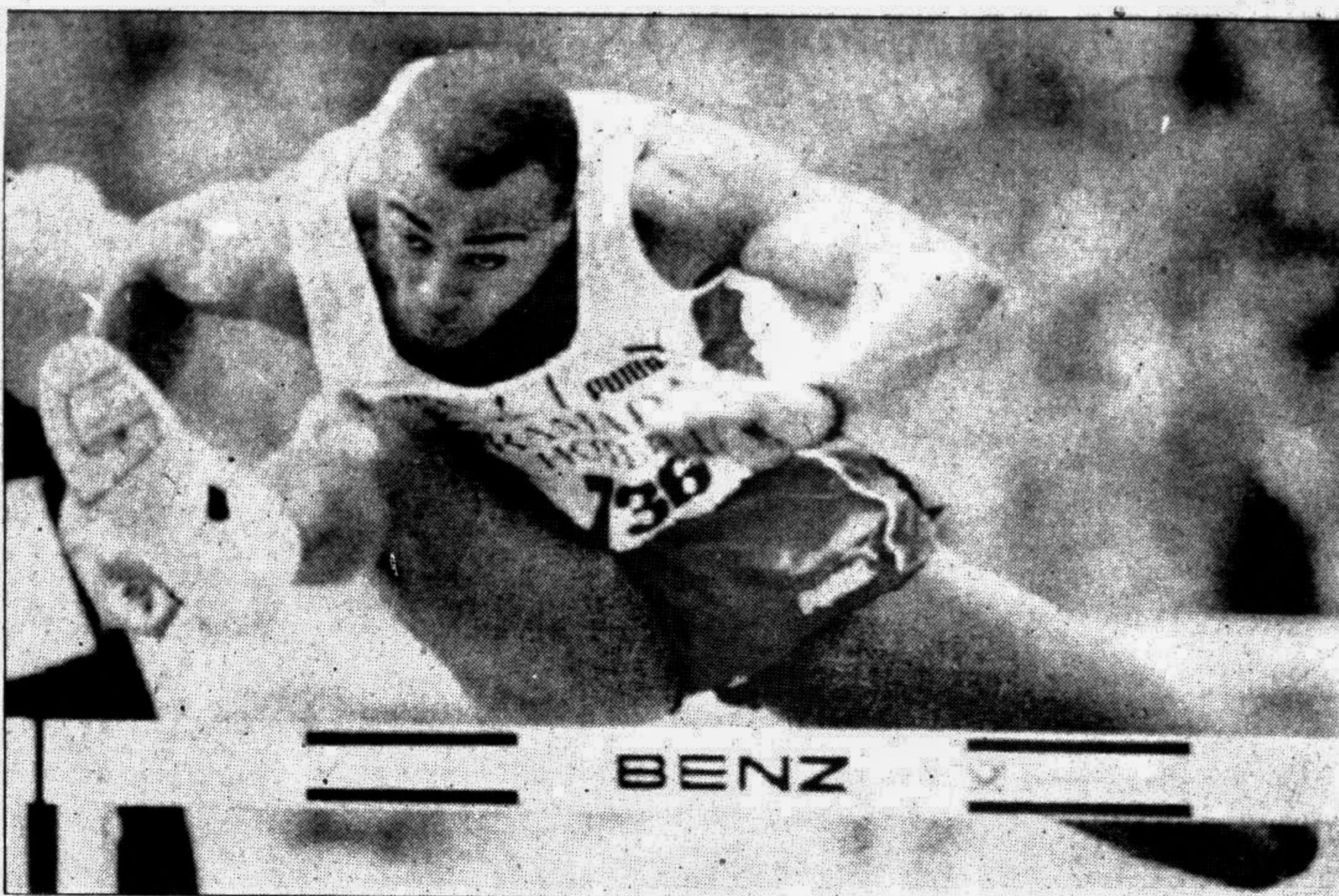
Ma said his team would leave immediately for their high-altitude training camp in southern Yunnan province.

Ma said his team would leave immediately for their high-altitude training camp in southern Yunnan province.

Ma said his team would leave immediately for their high-altitude training camp in southern Yunnan province.

Ma said his team would leave immediately for their high-altitude training camp in southern Yunnan province.

Ma said his team would leave immediately for their high-altitude training camp in southern Yunnan province.



Britain's Colin Jackson takes a hurdle to win the men's 60 metres at the Stuttgart indoor athletics meeting on March 6, Sunday. Jackson set a new world record clocking 7.30 seconds, six hundredths of a second better than his own previous world mark.

## Jackson, atop, alone

SINDELINGEN, Germany, Mar 7: Briton Colin Jackson, disappointed three weeks ago, trimmed 0.06 seconds off the world indoor record in the 60 metres hurdles on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Jackson's time of 7.30 seconds means the Welshman is now the sole holder of the world record he had shared on 7.36 with American Greg Foster.

Last month, at a meeting in Glasgow, Jackson had been awarded the World record with a time given as 7.35 seconds.

But embarrassed officials said later that the photo-finish machine had in fact proved that Jackson's time was 7.36, equalling the previous record set by Foster in Los Angeles in 1987.

At the time, Jackson, who won the world 110 metres hurdles title in Stuttgart last year, was philosophical, promising to better the mark later in the season.

After his storming run at an international indoor meeting on Sunday, Jackson said: "It was finally the way I had imagined a perfect run to be."

## Deep, dark secret

BERLIN, Mar 7: Children in former East Germany were given illegal drugs to boost their performances in sport, a Berlin newspaper said on Monday, reports Reuter.

The Berliner Morgenpost quoted a German government official as saying that recently-discovered documents from the East German Security Police (STASI) showed that child athletes under 14 had been doped in the 1970s and 1980s.

A STASI report quoted in the newspaper said: "Support in the sports medicine area (is) apparently the only possibility currently available to further increase performances."

A 1991 German Sports Federation (DSB) report said that nearly all East German coaches, doctors and officials were strongly suspected of having taken part in doping programmes monitored by the STASI.

## Sweaty success for Sampras



INDIAN WELLS, California, Mar 7: World number one Pete Sampras relied on tenacity to overcome a less than stellar performance as he twice rallied from a set down to win the 1.72 million dollars Champions Cup tennis title on Sunday, reports Reuter.

The top-seeded Sampras turned back 10th seed Petr Korda of the Czech Republic 4-6, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 in three hours and nine minutes to earn 245,000 dollars and his third title of year.

Sampras found himself in a position he is not accustomed to as he had to fight from behind for most of the match. His big serve, which accounted for 23 aces, kept him in the uphill battle when the going got tough.

"I played well all week, but I didn't play great today. Still, I

managed to get through it," said Sampras, the reigning Wimbledon, US Open and Australian Open champion.

"I'm happy because I showed that I could turn a bad day into a good day," said Sampras, who had never been past the third round here before.

Korda's early success in the match came from engaging Sampras in long baseline rallies and successfully avoiding short serve and volley points, which are the American's strength.

The 14th-ranked Korda, who earned 129,000 dollars as runner-up of the 56-player hard court tournament, felt the match hinged on a pair of break points in the first game of the fourth set.

The Czech left hander had won the third set on a lone service break to go up two sets to one. His big chance to get the upper hand in the fourth set came early with two break

points against Sampras' serve in the first game.

When the top-ranked American saved both break points with successful net approaches, fatigue began to take its toll on the dejected Korda.

"I knew if I was going to beat him I had to do it in three or four sets," said Korda, who had upset Sampras in a five-setter at the Grand Slam Cup last year.

"I had longer matches than he did this week and I got tired. It was very important that I make those two break points at the beginning of the fourth set."

Sampras broke the tiring Czech in the first game and captured his serve again for insurance and a 4-1 lead. The top seed then confidently served out the match.

"I knew for him to beat me he would have to play three really good sets, even though I was making more errors than normal," Sampras said.

## Tyson's appeal turned down



WASHINGTON, Mar 7: The Supreme Court on Monday left intact former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson's rape conviction, for which he is serving a six-year prison sentence, reports AP.

The court, without comment, turned away arguments that Tyson was denied a fair trial when convicted of raping Desiree Washington, a beauty pageant contestant, in Indianapolis in July 1991.

Tyson in December won a new hearing in an Indiana appeals court to argue that prosecutors withheld information that could have helped him during his trial — the fact that Washington was considering suing him.

That issue was not raised in the appeal acted on by the high court on Monday.

The appeal contended, among other things, that Indiana law and local custom wrongly allowed prosecutors to select the judge to preside over the famous boxer's trial.

Prosecutors chose Judge Patricia J. Gifford, a former prosecutor in sex crimes cases.

"The hand-picked trial judge proceeded to make a series of idiosyncratic, pro-prosecution rulings that deprived (Tyson) of his rights to

call witnesses in his own defense, to confront the witnesses against him, and to have the jury consider his defense," the appeal said.

An Indiana appeals court upheld Tyson's 1992 conviction by a 2-1 vote last August, but all three judges said the state's judicial-selection system was "totally inappropriate and must be abandoned." It since has been, according to state prosecutors.

The appeals court said the judge-picking system used in Marion County "lacks the appearance of impartiality that is required to maintain the confidence of the public and the accused in the system."

But the state court said Tyson had "failed to show that the fairness of his trial was in any way affected by the method in which Judge Gifford was selected to preside."

The Indiana Supreme Court voted 2-2 last September to reject Tyson's appeal.

In the appeal acted on Monday, Harvard law professor Alan Dershowitz argued for Tyson that the judge's way of running a trial "affected the

outcome of this case, as the prosecutor hoped and expected it would when he picked her."

Allowing a prosecutor to choose, from among all available judges, the judge whose inclination is to rule in the prosecutor's favor undoubtedly tilts the playing field before the game has begun," the appeal argued.

A defendant tried under such a system has been deprived of his rights to due process and to a fair trial even without a showing of personal bias or prejudice," it added.

State prosecutors urged the justices to reject Tyson's appeal, calling his case "largely fact-bound and ... unlikely to have any substantial impact beyond the immediate parties."

Tyson was convicted of raping Miss Washington, a Coventry, RI college student who was competing in the Miss Black America pageant.

He began serving his prison sentence March 26, 1992, and is being held at the Indiana Youth Centre, a state prison 15 miles (24 kilometres) west of Indianapolis.

## Bavarians confident

BONN, Mar 7: The scent of victory is in the air at Bayern Munich where the Bundesliga leaders are confident that Franz Beckenbauer will fulfil his promise to lead them to the league title, reports Reuter.

"We are where we wanted to be, in the number one spot," said coach Beckenbauer after his side's third successive match victory, a 2-0 home win over defending champions Werder Bremen on Saturday.

"If the others are stumbling, so much better... the victory over Bremen was another decisive step," said Beckenbauer, who took over as coach in January.

Manager Uli Hoeness said: "We are on our way to becoming a power again. If we win our two next matches against Wattenscheid and Dortmund then we've probably made it."

Bayern defender Jorginho, a Brazilian international, was full of praise for Beckenbauer, who coached West Germany to World Cup victory in 1990.

"He is the most intelligent coach I know," Jorginho said. "He has achieved what predecessor Erich Ribbeck failed to achieve. He has found the right mix."

Team captain Lothar Matthaeu said: "Nobody prepares a team for a match like he does. Nobody else is capable of motivating in particular young players like he does."



Emlyn Aubrey of the US holds aloft the trophy after winning the 200,000 dollars Indian Open golf championship in Calcutta on Sunday. It is his second Asian Circuit win in five years.

## Atlanta's perfect prelude



ATLANTA, Mar 7: If it was a pre-Olympic showcase, then Atlanta won the gold.

The president of the US Olympic Committee liked what he saw of the city's first venture into major track and field competition.

This was an indoor meet and LeRoy Walker's biggest concern is how Atlanta will handle it outdoors during the 1996 Summer Games, reports AP.

"I think it was a very interesting and very unique begin-

ning," Walker said at the conclusion of the USA-Mobile Indoor Track and Field Championships in the Georgia Dome.

A crowd of 19,080, largest for the event in at least 25 years, attended Saturday's session, drawn by the presence of local star Gwen Torrence, who was named the top female athlete after winning two events — the 60-metre dash in 7.10 seconds and 200 metres in 22.74, breaking the American record she had set at 22.84 in Friday's preliminaries.

"I would think USA Track and Field ought to be very happy about the results for the

first-time entry into Atlanta for track and field," said Walker, a past president of the sport's ruling body in this nation.

Nine more national indoor championships are booked into the Georgia Dome, which replaced New York's Madison Square Garden as the site this year.

"Our indoor situation is much better than our outdoor because there's no place that we have in Atlanta can seat this many people in an outdoor meet," Walker said.

Construction has begun on the Olympic stadium, which will serve as the venue for track and field. It is expected to be completed about a year before the 1996 Games.

Walker had suggestions for improving next year's indoor meet — spreading the competition over two days. All of the finals were held on Saturday and it took just under eight hours to complete.

There were a few preliminary heats run Friday night. Walker says some of the finals should be conducted on the first day, too.

"On a scale of 1 to 10, I would rate this ... between a 7 1/2 and an 8," Walker said.

Torrence, who lives in the suburb of Decatur, was elated. "Winning puts the icing on the cake," Torrence said, adding that it was the first time her family had a chance to see her run in person since her high school days.

She said she had been bothered by a sore right hamstring and hadn't intended to compete until so many friends and fans encouraged her so they could watch her run.

"If fans cared that much, I wanted to come and run just for them," she said.

The events unfolded on a 200-metre track that drew raves from some.

"This is heaven," said Tony Dees, who won the 60-metre hurdles in 6.57 seconds. "We need about four more of these in the US and I'd stay here and run all the time."

He said it was his first victory in Atlanta. "I consider this my countdown for '96."

## Kerrigan wants to catch her breath



BOSTON, Mar 7: Nancy Kerrigan, weary after winning the silver medal in the Olympics, will not compete in this month's figure skating World Championships in Japan, reports AP.

Her coach said Sunday night that Kerrigan decided to forfeit her spot on the team, clearing the way for 14-year-old Michelle Kwan to skate.

She has been pretty exhausted and she just felt that she's had a good Olympics," coach Evi Scottvold said. "And I think we all thought she deserved a rest if she wanted to. And I think it's hard to get up for another competition so soon."

Kerrigan was considered by many to be the United States best chance for winning a medal at the championships. Kwan, an alternate on the US Olympic team, is inexperienced in international competition.

Kwan lives in Torrance, Calif. Her telephone number is not listed and she could not be immediately reached for comment.

The other US competitor in the World Championships is national champion Tonya

Harding. Her participation, however, hinges on a disciplinary hearing scheduled to begin Thursday in Colorado Springs, Colo.

The hearing will determine whether she can retain her US Figure Skating Association membership. Authorities are investigating whether Harding helped plan the attack in which Kerrigan's knee was clubbed as she practiced for the national championships in Detroit on Jan 6.

Harding's husband, Jeff Gillooly, has pleaded guilty to racketeering in the assault, and told prosecutors Harding was in on the plot. She has denied the allegation.

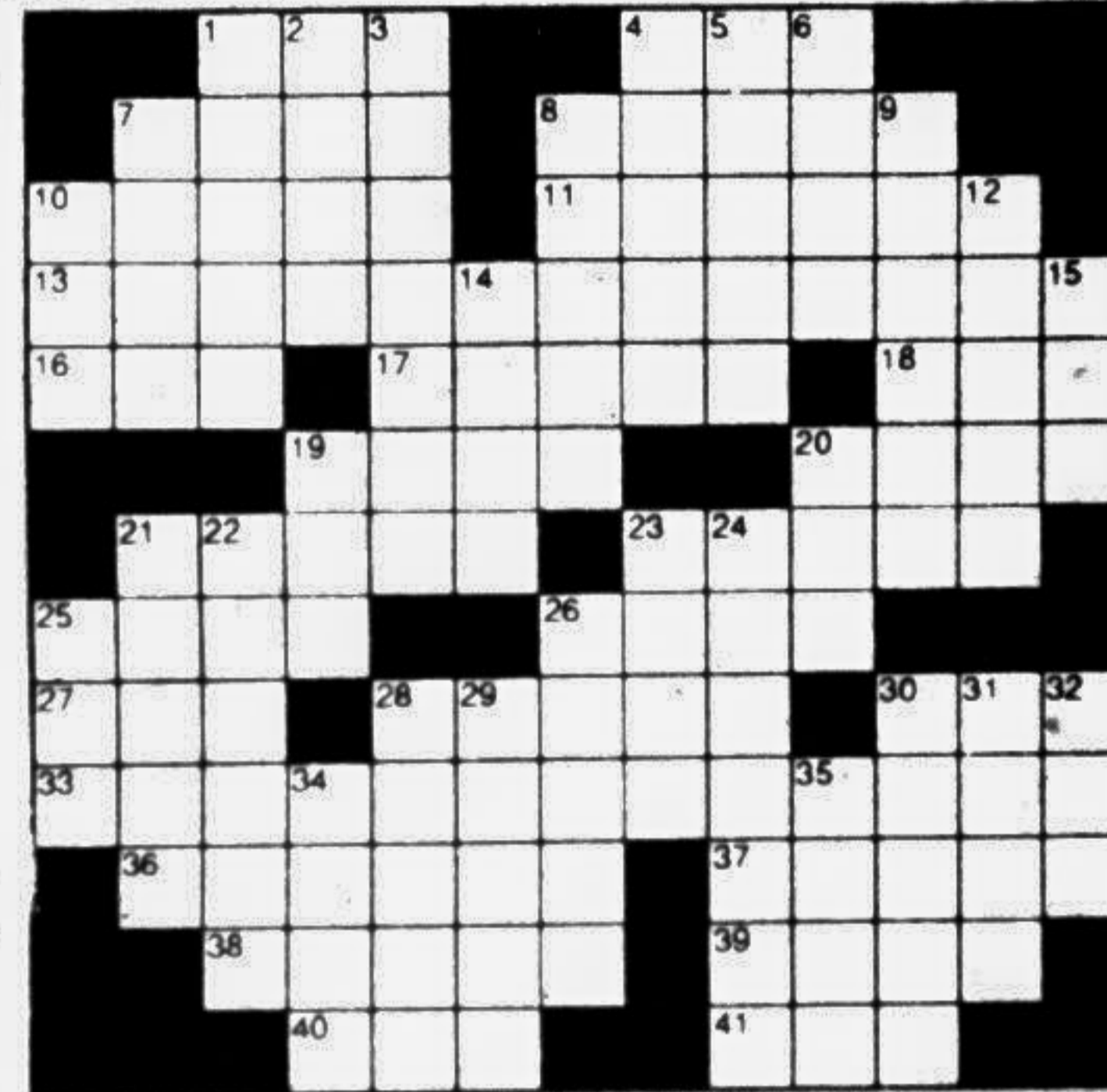
US skating officials were aware during the Olympics that Kerrigan was thinking about skipping the world championships.

Nancy is under no obligation because she has taken no USFSA money this year. USFSA president Claire Ferguson said during the Winter Games.

Scottvold said Kerrigan wanted to give Kwan an opportunity. Kwan would have replaced Kerrigan in Lillehammer had the knee injury prevented Kerrigan from competing.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS									
1 Newhart's newest	28 It sounds like "uh"	2 "Typee" sequel	14 Salver						
4 You can't stand to have one	30 Peninsular St.	3 Beet recipe	15 Inseparable						
7 Wrestling for fat guys	33 13 Across' other half	4 Bolivia's administrative capital	19 "Chances"						
8 Poultry selection	36 "Guys and Dolls" creator	5 Seek work	20 Nay canceler						
10 Plantation house	37 Therefore	6 Prince Charles' pastime	21 Word before scale or suit						
11 Bait for Atlanta	38 Smooth and lustrous	7 Cloy	22 Writer Huxley						
13 Half a Dolly Parton quote	39 Shaving' woe	8 Jose's houses	23 Acknowledges applause						
16 Zodiac roarer	40 Fairway front	9 Irk	24 Whom Athena enspidered						
17 Nuts	41 Before	10 Wire measure	25 "Pup-petoon"						
18 Heavy weight	DOWN	12 Became upright	producer George						
19 Cries of discovery	1 Swindle								
20 Lotion add-in									
21 Borg-nine's Oscar role									
23 Serenaded the moon									
25 Carpet surface									
26 Needing liniment									
27 "A Chorus									



CRYPTOQUIP

X N N Z J S W W P Q S X W N V  
N A J W V O P W Z T N N P W  
T W B A E B E W S

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BEFORE IT BEGINS TO RAIN, PALEONTOLOGIST CAN PRACTICALLY FEEL IT IN HIS BONES.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: T equals L

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