

Toothless, hopeless Englishmen



GEORGETOWN, Guyana, Mar 9: England's seam bowling jinx has struck again with the news that both Andrew Caddick and Alan Igglesden are likely to miss Thursday's four-day game with the West Indies Board President's XI through injury, reports AFP.

Caddick has had a recurrence of the toe infection which kept him out of two one-day internationals, while Igglesden has had an injection in his left shoulder to ease inflammation.

The duo's likely absence from England's last match before back-to-back Tests in Guyana and Trinidad makes their depleted seam attack — already without Devon Malcolm, who flew home for surgery on a knee injury — look even more threadbare.

It once again raises the

question of whether a replacement should be sent for. But the England management are likely to delay any announcement on that subject until after they hear a progress report on Malcolm, who is due to see a specialist about his injury at the end of this week.

Caddick picked up the infection to his left little toe during the first Test, and it quickly spread to his foot, then his groin. The management clearly felt it had settled down following a course of antibiotics, but as it remains a problem they are unlikely to risk him on Thursday.

Igglesden's problem comes just as he is recovering from a stomach upset which left him dehydrated during Saturday's one-day international in Port-of-Spain.

The injury is not thought to be serious, but physio Dave Roberts has recommended three to four days rest.

The double-blow has left England with just three fit seamers — Chris Lewis, Angus Fraser and Steve Watkins.

But even that trio have not been immune from injury of illness on the tour. Fraser missed the first Test after fracturing his left hand, Watkins suffered a back spasm during the opening game in Antigua, while Lewis missed that match with sun-stroke.

The bowling injuries may well force England to play both spinners against the President's side, although Atherton admitted the possibility was on his mind in any case.

England will not finalise their team until they look at the Georgetown pitch after arriving on Wednesday afternoon, but Atherton and possibly Alec Stewart will stand down, to give the other batsmen a chance to stake their claims.

England prove a point

(A round-up of the England-West Indies one-day series)

by Asrarul Islam Chowdhury

Contrary to the media hype over England's real and imagined plight in the current tour of the West Indies, the young, inexperienced English team has fared fairly well in the recently concluded one-day series. Quite in line with my conviction as expressed in the article under "English lambs up against" title on February 20, 1994 issue of The Daily Star, Atherton's boys have proved that with determination in oodles, one can keep going, albeit tardily when chips are down.

England certainly did show that they had the will to win, by subduing the Windies in the first one-day at Bridgetown by 61 runs. However, they let the initiative go, by losing the next three, but managed to salvage some pride by winning the 5th one-day on a better run-rate. The Windies thus clinched the series 3-2.

The present English side did better than the previous one to the Caribbean in 1989-90 under Graham Gooch. 6 one-dayers were played, with the Windies winning 4, while

the 2 matches at Trinidad were abandoned due to rain.

West Indies' 313/6 (50 overs) in the 3rd one-day at St Vincent is their highest in one-dayers against England anywhere, surpassing their previous best of 286/9 (60 overs) at Lord's, England in the 1979 World Cup final, culminated by Richards' 138 No. which is also the highest individual knock in the World Cup finals. England's best batting performance so far against the Windies, 269/5 (50 overs) was recorded at Jaipur in the 1987 World Cup. The 1st wicket stand of 145 runs between Haynes 83 & Simmons (63) in the 3rd one-day is the highest stand in one-dayers between the two teams for any wicket anywhere. The previous highest 1st wicket stand for the Windies was 113 by Haynes (50) & Best (100) at Bourda, 1989-90. The previous record best for any wicket for the two teams was the 5th wicket stand of the Windies of 139 runs between Richards (138 No) & Collis King (86) in the 1979 World Cup final.

In the 4th one-day at Queen's Park Oval, Desmond Haynes registered his 17th

one-day ton (115). Haynes holds the world record for both the highest one-day tons & runs. His nearest rivals regarding the number of one-day centuries are his two teammates, Gordon Greenidge & Viv Richards, each with 11 tons, while Pakistan master batsman Javed Miandad is the person who tails the genial Haynes in the field of aggregate in one day games.

England's Chris Lewis' 4/35 in the 5th one-day at Trinidad is the best figures in one-dayers for an English bowler in the Caribbean, while Steve Watkins' 4/49, in the 2nd one-day at St Vincent, is the 1st, 4-wicket haul for England in one-dayers in the Caribbean. The best one-day bowling for the two teams anywhere is Windies' Collin Croft's 6/15 at St Vincent, 1980-81, while that for England is Graham Dilley's 4/23 at Brisbane, 1986-87.

The two teams have so far played 48 international matches. The Windies have won 26 (success 56.25%), while England have won 20 (success 43.75%), with two being abandoned at Trinidad in the 1989-90 series.

Following is the table of averages in the recently concluded one-day series between West Indies and England.

BATTING (M=Matches, Inn=Innings, NO=Not out, C= Catches St=Stumps, Ave=Average)

WEST INDIES	M	Inn	NO	Runs	50s	100s	Best	C/st	Ave
Desmond Haynes	4	4	0	268	2	1	115	0	67.00
Phil Simmons	5	5	0	202	2	0	84	2	40.40
Jimmy Adams	5	5	1	127	1	0	52NO	4/1	31.75
Richie Richardson	5	5	1	124	1	0	52NO	2	31.00
Roland Holder	1	1	0	26	0	0	26	0	26.00
Brian Lara	5	5	0	112	1	0	60	3	22.40
Andy Cummins	5	5	2	61	0	0	24	2	20.33
Roger Harper	5	5	0	86	0	0	37	4	17.20
Keith Arthurton	5	5	0	63	0	0	28	1	12.60
Curtly Ambrose	3	1	0	10	0	0	10	1	10.00
W Benjamin	4	3	2	9	0	0	9NO	0	9.00
Courtenay Walsh	3	1	1	1	0	0	1NO	1	1.00
K Benjamin	5	2	1	0	0	0	0NO	0	0.00

ENGLAND	M	Inn	NO	Runs	50s	100s	Best	C/st	Ave
Mike Atherton	5	5	1	243	2	0	86	1	60.75
Graeme Hick	5	5	1	167	0	0	47NO	1	41.75
Alec Stewart	5	5	0	145	2	0	66	3/1	29.00
Robin Smith	5	5	0	135	1	0	56	4	27.00
Ian Igglesden	3	3	1	20	0	0	18	1	20.00
Andy Caddick	2	1	1	21	0	0	21NO	1	21.00
Mark Ramprakash	2	2	0	41	0	0	31NO	2	20.50
Matthew Maynard	5	5	1	59	0	0	22NO	1	14.75
Nasser Hussain	2	2	0	26	0	0	16	1	13.00
Chris Lewis	5	5	2	28	0	0	16NO	4	9.33
Angus Fraser	2	2	1	5	0	0	4NO	1	5.00
Ian Salisbury	2	1	0	5	0	0	5	0	5.00
Graham Thorpe	1	1	0	4	0	0	4	3	4.00
Phil Tufnell	4	2	2	2	0	0	2NO	0	2.00
Devon Malcolm	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00

Bowling (O=Overs, M=Maidens, R=Runs, W=Wickets)

WEST INDIES	O	M	R	W	Best	Ave
Brian Lara	2	0	5	2	2/5	2.50
Andy Cummins	39.4	3	162	9	2/22	18.00
K Benjamin	43	3	195	10	3/44	19.50
Roger Harper	37	0	170	8	4/40	21.25
Keith Arthurton	10	1	34	1	1/34	34.00
Curtly Ambrose	24	4	83	2	1/13	41.50
Courtenay Walsh	25	1	126	1	1/58	126.00
W Benjamin	28	2	119	0		
Phil Simmons	14	1	50	0		

ENGLAND	O	M	R	W	Best	Ave
Devon Malcolm	8.4	1	41	3	3/41	13.67
Angus Fraser	29	1	127	5	3/31	25.40
Steve Watkins	36.5	2	193	7	4/49	27.57
Chris Lewis	45.4	3	257	9	4/35	28.56
Ian Salisbury	19	0	99	3	4/41	33.00
Phil Tufnell	31	2	147	3	2/52	49.67
Graeme Hick	24	2	149	3	2/32	49.67
Andy Caddick	10	0	61	1	1/61	60.00
Ian Igglesden	28	4	122	2	2/12	61.00

'Milangate' sans sensation



MILAN, Mar 9: AC Milan managing director Adriano Galliani, who is the subject of a legal probe over the multi-million dollar signing of Gianluigi Lentini, flatly denied any wrongdoing on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Gian Mauro Borsano, the former president of Torino, has alleged that Galliani advanced him an undecoded 6.5 billion lire (3.8 million US dollar) to secure the 1992 transfer of winger Lentini and later accepted full control of Torino's stock as a guarantee of Borsano's goodwill.

"Milan only control their own shares and I have already

told this to the magistrates," Galliani told reporters on Tuesday.

The investigation, led by Turin magistrates, has been dubbed "clean feet" in the spirit of the two-year-old political corruption probe "clean hands."

While Italian soccer rules stipulate fines for teams involved in under-the-table payments, clubs found guilty of owning shares in another team could be relegated.

But AC Milan, who are heading for their third straight league title and are favourites for the European Cup, may not have to face such a harsh punishment over a matter which sports daily Corriere Dello

Sports has christened "Milangate."

"Even if Milan were actually proven guilty of such grave charges, the soccer federation would then have to make a decision on what to do," said Luigi Neri, a spokesman for Italy's soccer federation.

"Each member of the rules committee would be free to interpret the matter in his own way," Neri added. "We will have to wait and see how the investigation proceeds."

The 24-year-old Lentini, who has played for the Italian national side 12 times, has been limited to a series of brief appearances this season following a near-fatal car crash last August.

Jansher, Martin struggle to move up

VALE DO LOBO, Portugal, Mar 9: Top seeds Jansher Khan and Australian Brett Martin moved into the second round of the Portuguese Open squash tournament on Tuesday with straight games victories, reports Reuter.

But both found it far from plain-sailing against unrated opponents.

Jansher, playing his first match since a dramatic second round defeat at the hands of Scotland's Peter Nicol two weeks ago in the Welsh Classic in Cardiff, was made to struggle by another Briton.

Qualifier Clive Leach, 21, from Birmingham and ranked world number 59, came within one point and a dreadful refereeing decision of taking the third game before the Pakistani came through 15-8, 15-9, 17-14 in 53 minutes.

Leach led 12-6 in the final game and had game point at 14-13, but was then refused what appeared an obvious 'let' decision.

But Jansher, looking to have a shed some weight since Cardiff, was not worried by his below-part performance.

"I needed to play a fairly long match. I am fit and I am happy about my chances," he said.

Martin, elevated last week to world number two, trailed in all three games against Hong Kong's Pakistan-born Abdul Faheem Khan.

But he managed to put on the pressure at the vital stages to win 15-11, 15-13, 15-13 in 42 minutes in his bid to follow up his title success in Cardiff.

Wiranata warming up well

BIRMINGHAM, England, Mar 9: Indonesian badminton superstar Ardy Wiranata will need to maintain his recent run of excellent form to regain his all-England men's singles title here next week, reports AFP.

The top seed was back to his best with victories in the Japan and Korean Opens, but the favourite faces a severe test if he is to recapture the trophy he won in London three years ago.

He is scheduled to take on compatriot Fung Permadi in the quarter-finals and world bronze medalist Thomas Stuer-Lauridsen of Denmark in the semifinals.

Should Wiranata get past that pair, he has the prospect of a return with defending champion Heryanto Arbi, who will be itching for revenge over his Indonesian teammate after a final defeat by him in Japan.

The second seed plays a qualifier in the first round, but will have plenty on his plate afterwards.

He is due to encounter wily South Korean Kim Hak-Kyun in the last 16. Commonwealth champion Rashid Sidek of Malaysia in the quarter-finals and world number two Poul-Erik Hoyer-Larsen of Denmark in the semis.

Women's singles favourite Susi Susanti will have her work out as well to retain her all-England crown on the tournament's first appearance at the national indoor arena after 95 years in London.

Tuesday's draw was harsh on the world and Olympic champion. After a first-round bye she faces experienced Dane Pernille Nedergaard in round two, and is expected to meet tricky Swede Liam Xiaoping in the last eight and old rival Bang Soo-Hyun of South Korea in the semifinals.

Second seed Ye Zhaoying appears to have a much easier passage to the final, with South Korean Kim Ji-Hyun her projected quarter-final opponent and Young Dane Camilla Martin her probable semifinal rival.

Testing time for Ma's army

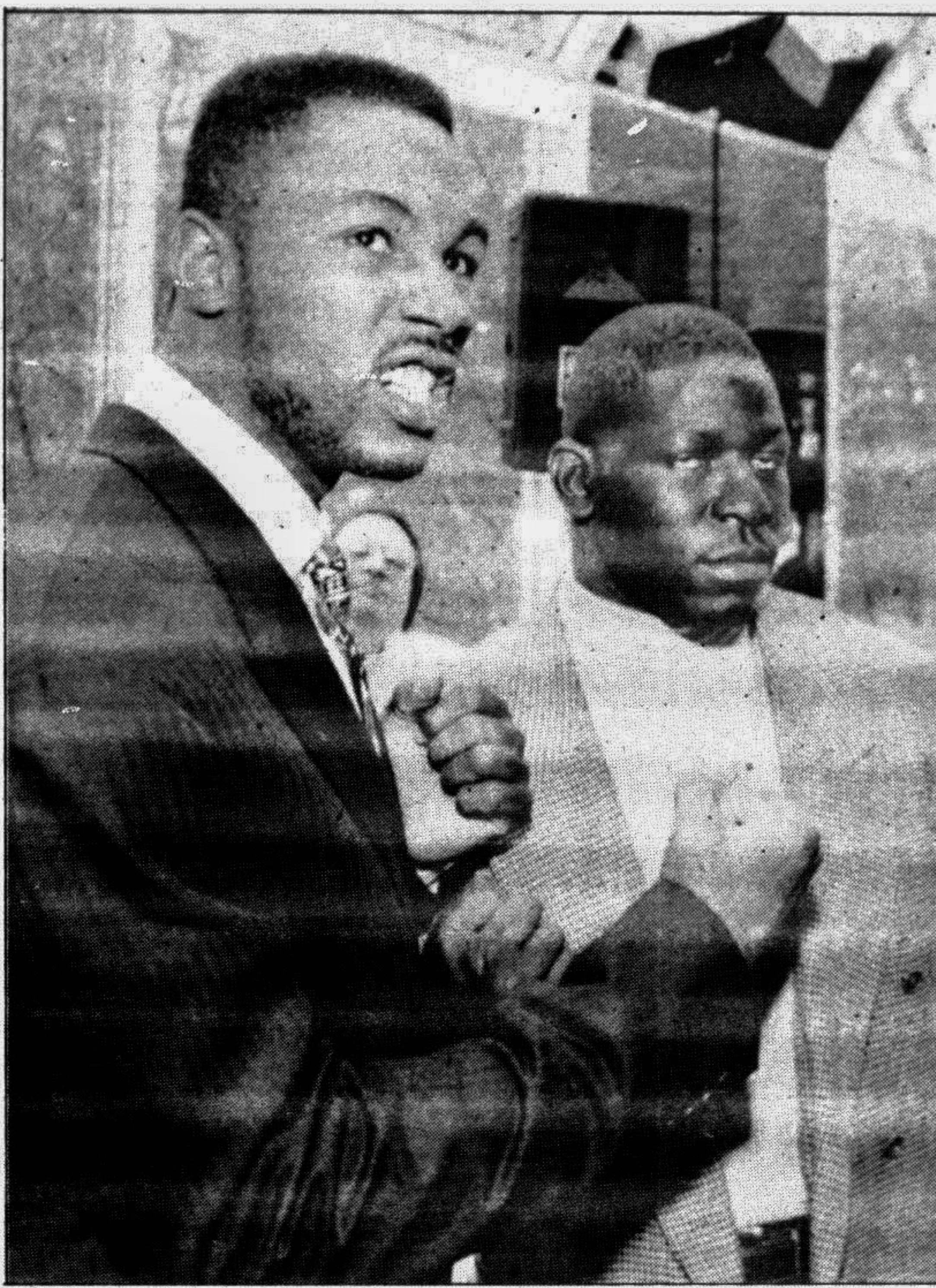
BEIJING, Mar 9: World 10,000 and 3,000 metres record holder Wang Junxia was one of 10 Chinese runners tested for drugs by an International Amateur Athletic Federation official on Tuesday. The China Sports Daily reported today, reports Reuter.

The newspaper said the official flew from Hong Kong to China's northeast Liaoning province to conduct the tests at the training camp run by Ma Junren.

Chinese women won gold medals over 1,500, 3,000 and 10,000 metres in last year's Stuttgart World Championships then set three world records at China's National Games.

The astonishing Chinese performances sparked a controversy with some leading athletes openly accusing them of using drugs.

Ma and his athletes have consistently denied the charges and The China Sports Daily quoted Ma on Wednesday as saying: "We welcome doping tests from the federation at any time, we resolutely oppose using banned substances."



WBC heavyweight champ Lennox Lewis of England (L) poses with challenger Phil Jackson of USA during a press conference in New York on Tuesday to announce a WBC championship fight to be held on May 6 in Atlantic City. — AFP photo

Hope Indians' only hope

NEW DELHI, Mar 9: India Wednesday won four satellite-circuit players for the privilege of, presumably, being obliterated by Jim Courier & Co in the first round of the Davis Cup later this month, reports AP.

After a dream run last year in which India reached the semifinals, the squad will face a powerful US team without its veteran Davis Cup player, Ramesh Krishnan, and with a new non-playing captain, Jaideep Mukherjee.

India's new No 1 is Leander Paes, a 20-year-old with a world

ranking of 289 in singles and 95 in doubles, said the All India Tennis Association. The matches will be on grass in New Delhi March 25-27.

Zeeshan Ali, 24, Gaurav Natekar, 21 and Asif Ismail, 23, were selected for the squad after competing against eight qualifiers. None have played in major seniors tournaments.

"This is the best team we have," said Ali, who is 492 in the ATP ratings. "We can always hope for a miracle."

The US team will likely be Courier, ranked No 3, Todd Martin, who is 9th, and the doubles combination of Patrick McEnroe and Richey Reneberg.

Facing a seemingly impossible lineup, Tennis Association president R K Khanna said the selection committee considered asking Vijay Amritraj, India's star of the early 1970s, to come out of retirement.

Instead, the committee decided to build a Davis Cup team for the future, Khanna said. It will recommend sponsoring four young Indian players on the international circuit next year.

Last year, Krishnan and Paes defied the odds to make it to the semifinals before losing to Australia, reinforcing India's contention that Davis

Cup is always unpredictable. "No one believed we would beat the Swiss in Switzerland or the French in France," said Khanna. "The world is full of hope."

LEDYARD, Conn, Mar 9: Former heavyweight champion Larry Holmes won a unanimous decision over Garing Lane Tuesday night in a 10-round bout at the Foxwoods Resort and Casino, reports AP.

All three judges had Holmes winning easily by scores of 99-91, 99-91 and 98-92. Holmes has won six straight fights since losing to Evander Holyfield in June 1992.

Holmes, 44, used his jab to consistently fend off the 30-year-old Lane. Holmes was in command throughout the fight, often taking time out to mock Lane. His best round was the ninth, when he connected with several combinations.

There were no knock-downs.

Holmes, who began fighting professionally in 1973 and was the heavyweight champion from 1978-1985, improved his record to 60-4 (40 knockouts).

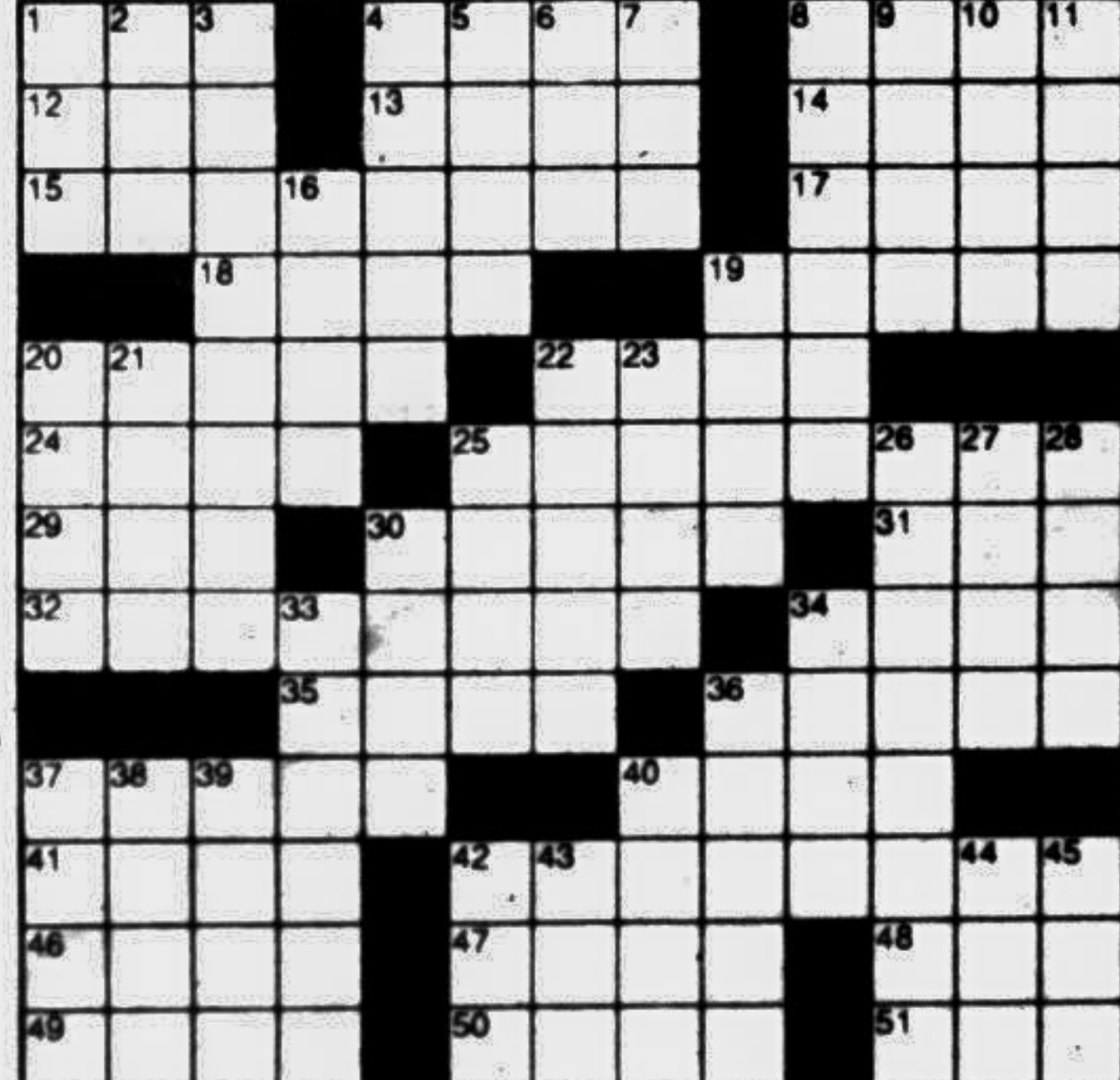
Lane's record drops to 11-11.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	Bring Me Flowers, e.g.	3 Tennis tactic	21 Fiddle holder?
1 Suffer a recession	36 Equine now	4 Dahomey, now	22 Beginning
4 Ring event	37 What father does best	5 Kiln work	23 "Amores" author
8 Diastemata	40 Emulates B. Ross	7 Actor Shackelford	25 "Must've been something"
12 Salonga of "Miss Saigon"	41 Stromboli spill-over	8 "The Prophet" author	26 Thanks-giving, e.g.
13 Facility	42 Fiancee	9 Served flawlessly	27 Billions of years
14 Controversial rap singer	46 State	10 Fountain of jazz	28 Say it ain't so
15 Angry	47 Literate	11 Luminary	30 Responsibility
17 Gamma precursor	48 Past	16 Adam's grandson	33 The abductor
18 Make booties	49 Dweeb	19 Halves of eleven?	34 Grad's garment
19 Sequence	50 Piano array	20 Rani's wrap-around	36 Pays attention
20 "Bei Mir Bist du"	51 There DOWN		37 "Birth of a Nation" group
22 Charlie's widow	1 Samuel's teacher		38 Church section
24 Cries of discovery	2 Ponderosa patriarch		39 Finished
25 Made			40 Command to Fido
29 Canine forename?			42 Annoy
30 Refuge			43 Society-page word
31 Prop for Markham's man			44 "I" strain?
32 Started a paragraph			45 Adams or Johnson
34 TV tec			
35 "You Don't			

YAKS	BIG	ATAD
ABOO	ROI	RULE
MENU	ANN	ISLE
STAFFS	SACK	
FAHRENHEIT		
CHILD	ONT	GOO
HIRE	EGG	PEWS
IDO	RAE	AREAS
CENTIGRADE		
SHOE	BOTHER	
HAIR	RAY	ZERO
AIDE	LPS	EMIT
GREW	YES	LIES

Yesterday's answer 7-23



CRYPTOQUIP

ARXV, NTVBEXKPV
EGCGFLNJAWJ LKEVW
WKBVJLATZ KEVTW
NE CVGXXP WKKKT
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ALMOST-BALD MAN IS GLAD TO GET FRINGE BENEFITS.
Today's Cryptoquip clue: E 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.