

Hosts, Germany to fight it out

LAHORE, Mar 22: Olympic champions Germany dropped a point in a 1-1 draw against the Netherlands today but still qualified for the Champions' Trophy men's hockey final against Pakistan on Friday, reports Reuter.

Britain held Spain 1-1 in the other round-robin match to secure their first point in the sixth day of the six-nation event.

The Dutch broke the stalemate in a colourless encounter after 52 minutes through Taco van Den Honert, who deflected a place hit from Remco van Wijk after being left unmarked inside the German circle.

Germany grabbed the equaliser three minutes later through Frederick Ness, who smartly converted a penalty stroke after Dutch goalkeeper Bart Looije was penalised when Floris Jan Bovelandt took his side's third short corner.

The result was Germany's first draw of the tournament after three wins but it still left the Netherlands without a victory from four matches.

German coach Paul Lissek was disappointed at the outcome. "We should have come out clear winners by at least two goals but lost numerous scoring chances."

Dutch coach Roelant Oltmans said: "The competition has shown us our shortcomings but we would be definitely a different side in Sydney's World Cup (in November)."

The first match of the day between two bottom-placed teams saw a barren first half before Spain went ahead in the 41st minute through Javier Arnau, who scooped home his fifth goal of the event on a pass from David Freiza.

Britain levelled in the 47th minute when Don Williams scored from a Russel Garcia pass.

British goalkeeper Simon Mason saved his side by blocking a penalty stroke by Arnau in the 61st minute after he had been checked at a short corner.

Mason palmed the ball over the crossbar — one of many saves he made in the game.

Britain were at one stage reduced to eight players after Williams, Robert Thompson and Chris Mayer were temporarily suspended for dangerous play.

"We wanted to win very much," British coach David Whittaker said. "The game stalemated midway through because of the respect of each other. British players defended very well even when they were reduced to eight."

On Monday Pakistan beat holders Australia 2-0 to make sure of a place in the final.

Pakistan's victory in front of nearly 50,000 spectators was their fourth in a row, making them favourites to regain the trophy they last won in 1980.

They have to play another match on Wednesday, against Germany, before the final.

Skipper Shahbaz Ahmad, playing his last Champion's Trophy, gave Pakistan the lead in the 31st minute after a move initiated by right-winger Rahim Khan.

Pakistan sealed Australia's fate with the second goal in the 49th minute by Tahir Zaman from a penalty corner.

Australia, who have won the competition six times, were unable to secure any advantage from six short corners against a strong home side defence.

On one occasion Jay Stacy had the ball in but Dutch umpire Peter von Reth disallowed the goal as the ball landed above the board.

Australian coach Frank Murray said: "We had plenty of opportunities to score but blew up all. I guess the boys were a bit tired from yesterday's game against Britain."



Australian player Lachlan Elmer (R) and Pakistani forward Rahim Khan (C) are caught in tangle while two other Aussie players look on during their Champions Trophy hockey tournament match in Lahore on Monday. Pakistan won 2-0. — AFP photo

Davis aims to bounce back

CHIBA, Japan, Mar 22: Figure skater Scott Davis figures he has something to prove after his eighth place finish in the Olympics — but only when the time is right, reports AP.

Davis bobbed two triple lutz Sunday night but still qualified easily for the main men's competition of the World Championships, placing third in his group.

"In the back of my mind, I wanted to save the best performance for Thursday night," said the 22-year-old from Great Falls, Mont., whose trademark is his stunning spins.

The men's competition begins Wednesday with the technical programme winds up Thursday night with the free skating.

The men's battle also is the only one in these dropout-plagued championships with all the Olympic medalists present.

Olympic champion Alexei Urmanov of Russia won his qualifying group despite a botched landing on one triple axel and a fall on another.

Davis was third in that group, behind Viacheslav Zagorodniuk of Ukraine, the European runner-up to 1992 world and Olympic champion Viktor Petrenko. Petrenko took Ukraine's Olympic position this year instead of Zagorodniuk, but did not win a medal.

Olympic silver medalist Elvis Stojko of Canada won the other qualifying group, with fan favourite Philippe Candeloro, the Olympic bronze medalist, second and fellow Frenchman Eric Millot third.

Davis said he came away from the Olympics with the lesson that "you just have to go out there and enjoy it — whether it's the Olympics, worlds or nationals."

As for Lillehammer, he said, "my main goal was just to be there. I would have liked to have skated better."

Davis touched down on one triple lutz and turned another into a single.

But he wasn't the only top skater having problems. Urmanov botched his landing on one triple axel and fell on another.

Candeloro also fell on a triple axel, but was showered with bouquets by shrieking women fans after his performance.

The top 12 men in each of two groups qualified for the main competition. Aren Nielsen of Kansas City, Mo. made it as the ninth qualifier in Stojko's group.

On Monday, the women qualify. Nicole Bobek, 16, of Chicago, the replacement for Tonya Harding, is in the first group, along with Chen Lu of China, the Olympic bronze medalist.

Baiul's moment of truth

ODESSA, Ukraine, Mar 22: Olympic figure skating champion Oksana Baiul said on Monday she would leave to train abroad unless conditions in her native Ukraine improved sharply, reports Reuter.

"I'd like to train here but if we don't have the right conditions I shall be forced to train elsewhere," Baiul told a news conference.

Baiul, 16, has become a national heroine since capturing the Olympic crown in Norway last month, a day after suffering back and leg injuries in a collision with another competitor during practice.

She defeated American Nancy Kerrigan for the title, giving her homeland its first gold medal as an independent state.

She told reporters she decided to miss this week's World Championships in Japan because her back still hurt.

Baiul has received several offers to train abroad since her Olympic triumph, prompting President Leonid Kravchuk to issue orders to upgrade her facilities in Odessa. Kravchuk took Baiul with him on an official visit to the United States.

"She has never wanted to stay in another country and compete under another flag and this probably will never happen," she said.

"But I do not rule out the possibility of training overseas. Our sports palace is in a dreadful state. There has been no refurbishment for 19 years. We have to clear the ice and lay it down ourselves. The cooling plant breaks down, the ice melts. But Oksana is, was and will be a Ukrainian athlete."

She said Baiul had received offers to train from countries as distant as Brazil.

Zmiyevskaya expressed disappointment that the government and Ukrainian business people had done little to help.

"Right after the Olympics, Nancy Kerrigan earned 3.5 million dollars for going to Disneyland and waving from a BMW," she said.

"Then she got another 50,000 for selling the rights to her story for a film. And all because she got hit on the leg. We're ready to wave to our fans from a BMW for free."



OKSANA BAIUL

Jansher takes home another one

ZURICH, Mar 22: World champion Jansher Khan wrote another sidebar to his illustrious squash record when he won the Grasshopper Cup on Monday night — the first tournament to be played under the tennis scoring system, reports Reuter.

But despite his 5-1, 5-1 success over British champion Peter Marshall, the Pakistani has serious doubts about whether the experimental scoring should be adopted for squash.

"I thought we were going to play for ever," said Jansher after his 85-minute victory. "You play that long and he only wins two games. If we had gone into a third set it could easily have been three hours or even more."

One game in the first set lasted 35 minutes and included 10 deuces. Marshall finally won it — but in winning that battle he lost the war.

He had to stay on court for another two games after that before getting a rest and in that time Jansher's superior strength was the deciding factor.

As the Englishman tired, Jansher turned the screw and increased the pace to complete his victory.

Kirui misses the bus

NAIROBI, Mar 22: World 5,000 metres champion Ismael Kirui of Kenya has been barred from the World Cross Country Championships in Budapest on Saturday after his entry missed the deadline, reports Reuter.

Kenyan athletics chief Isalah Kiplagat said on Tuesday the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) had rejected the late individual entry for Kirui, saying it was submitted after the March 16 deadline.

"Kirui is definitely out now," said Kiplagat, chairman of the Kenya Amateur Athletics Association (KAAA).

The Kenyan contingent, defending all four titles at the World Championships, will fly out of Nairobi later on Tuesday.

Athletic coaches dropped Kirui from the Kenyan team and track chiefs asked the IAAF to enter him in the Budapest event after he apologised to the KAAA for arriving home a week after than scheduled after running in San Vitore, Italy.

Kiplagat said Tecla Lorupe, fourth in the 10,000 metres at last year's Stuttgart World Championships and earlier dropped for leaving camp without permission, was also barred.

Kirui, Lorupe and world cross country champion William Sigei were given permission by the KAAA to go to the San Vitore meeting. Only Sigei, leader of the IAAF cross challenge with 98 points, returned home in the allotted time.

In his apology letter to the KAAA, Kirui accused his British agent, John Bicourt, of misleading him so he competed in the 5,000 metres at an indoor meet in Stockholm after San Vitore and could not return to high altitude training camp in time.

IBF rankings

LONDON, Mar 22: Leading World Grand Prix singles rankings issued by the International Badminton Federation (IBF) on Monday after the All-England Championships, reports Reuter.

MEN

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Ardy B. Wiranata (Indonesia) | 900 |
| 2. Heryanto Arbi (Indonesia) | 860 |
| 3. Thomas Stuer-Lauridsen (Denmark) | 835 |
| 4. Jens Olsson (Sweden) | 800 |
| 5. Fumpei Permatid (Indonesia) | 510 |
| 6. Poul-Erik Hoyer-Larsen (Denmark) | 485 |
| 7. Hermawan Susanto (Indonesia) | 475 |
| 8. Park Sung-Woo (South Korea) | 425 |
| 9. Equal Ahn Jae-Chang (South Korea) | 300 |
| 10. Equal. Peter Espersen (Denmark) | 300 |

WOMEN

| | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Susi Susanti (Indonesia) | 960 |
| 2. Bang Soo-Hyun (South Korea) | 655 |
| 3. Camilla Martin (Denmark) | 630 |
| 4. Kim Ji-Hyun (South Korea) | 580 |
| 5. Ye Zhaoying (China) | 560 |
| 6. Christine Magnusson (Sweden) | 385 |
| 7. Ra Kyung-Min (South Korea) | 350 |
| 8. Lu Yuhong (China) | 340 |
| 9. Pernille Nedergaard-Jessen (Denmark) | 325 |
| 10. Han Jingna (China) | 300 |

ATP's top 20

MONTE-CARLO, Mar 22: Leading men's rankings issued by the Association of Tennis Players (ATP) on Monday, reports Reuter.

1. Pete Sampras (US) 4,949 points

2. Michael Stich (Germany) 3,094

3. Stefan Edberg (Sweden) 3,070

4. Jim Courier (US) 2,830

5. Sergi Bruguera (Spain) 2,707

6. Goran Ivanisevic (Croatia) 2,662

7. Andrei Medvedev (Ukraine) 2,392

8. Michael Chang (US) 2,246

9. Todd Martin (US) 2,231

10. Magnus Gustafsson (Sweden) 2,141

11. Thomas Muster (Austria) 2,059

12. Cedric Pioline (France) 2,008

13. Petr Korda (Czech Republic) 1,843

14. Boris Becker (Germany) 1,808

15. Marc Rosset (Switzerland) 1,463

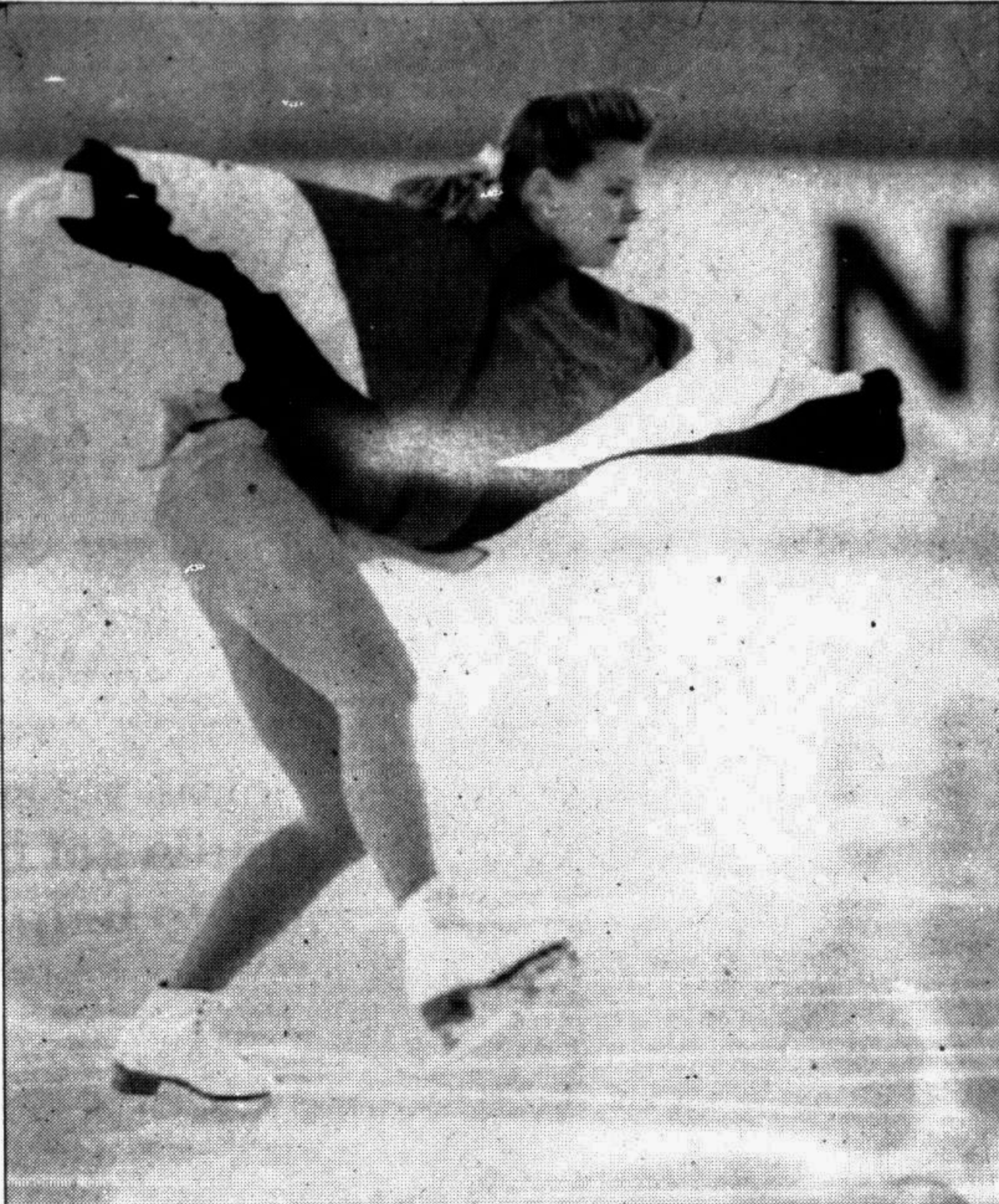
16. Arnaud Boetsch (France) 1,432

17. Ivan Lendl (US) 1,412

18. Wayne Ferreira (South Africa) 1,363

19. Andre Agassi (US) 1,310

20. Alexander Volkov (Russia) 1,239



Josee Chouinard of Canada practises her technical programme during the World Figure Skating Championships in Chiba, Japan yesterday. Chouinard, who was placed ninth during the Lillehammer Games, ranked first in the qualifying round for the ladies single event. — AFP photo

World Championships in a mess

CHIBA, Japan, Mar 22: The favoured Canadian ice skating pair is hurting. A high-ranking German pair has a chance to bounce back from pain at the Olympics.

And for the hometown fans, Japan's Yuka Sato won in her group in qualifying for the women's competition at the World Figure Skating Championships Monday.

Canada's Josee Chouinard, only ninth at the Olympics, won in the other, reports AP.

The main competition starts Tuesday with a compulsory waltz and tango for the ice dancers and the technical programme in the pairs event.

Isabelle Brasseur and Lloyd Eisler of Canada, the 1993 world champions, were to decide Tuesday morning whether they could compete despite a re-injury to Brasseur's cracked rib.

After they drew their starting number Monday night, 25th of 28 pairs, Eisler said they were sure they could do their technical programme, but were uncertain about the longer free-skating programme scheduled Wednesday night.

After a hard landing in practice last Friday, "Isabelle is in considerable pain and the doctor has advised her not to skate," said Brenda Gorman, the spokeswoman for the Canadian team. But she said Brasseur wants to skate.

Brasseur first hurt the rib at the Olympics, where the Canadian pair finished third, behind two Russian pairs who did not come to the championships here.

Germany's Mandy Wotzel and Iggo Steurer, the 1993 world runners-up, did not even finish their Olympic final. Wotzel fell hard on her face and Steurer had to carry her off the ice for treatment of a cut chin.

The German pair were to skate last in Tuesday night's technical programme.

Brasseur and Eisler were the only defending world champions in this year's field, but the Olympic gold medalists in ice dancing — Russians Oksana Gritschuk and Evgeni Platov — were to be in action Tuesday.

One other Olympic champion is here — men's winner Alexei Urmanov, also from Russia.

In the women's field, gold medalist Oksana Baiul of Ukraine still is recovering from injuries suffered in practice at the Olympics and silver medalist Nancy Kerrigan of the United States is resting.

The Olympic bronze medalist, Chen Lu of China, placed second in her qualifying group behind Chouinard. Marins Kielman of Germany was third.

In the other group, Sato edged France's Surya Bonaly, the 1993 world runner-up, with Tanja Szewczenko of Germany third. Bonaly was fourth at the Olympics and Sato fifth.

Kerrigan's replacement, 13-year-old American Michelle Kwan, was fifth in that group.

American Nicole Bobek, a last-minute replacement for Tonya Harding, finished 13th in the Chouinard's group — one place too low to qualify for the main competition.

"My feet just didn't feel under me," said Bobek.

Kwan, the 1994 junior world champion, conceded that in her senior championship debut she was tentative throughout her programme.

"I just didn't pull in everything — had no guts," she added.

Sato, just over a cold she caught after the Olympics, missed two jumps but won mostly 5.7s out of a possible 6.0 for her technique and 5.8s for artistic interpretation.

A deluge of bouquets showered the ice from the audience of about 3,200.

Chouinard, who fell in both her long and short programmes at the Olympics, said after winning in her group: "I felt like I had to prove something to myself out there after the Olympics. I'm pushing myself harder to do well here."

Chen, bothered by a foot injury, fell on a triple lutz and skated tentatively during parts of the programme.

In Monday night's drawing, Sato drew starting position No 15 in the 24-woman field for Friday's technical programme. Chen is 14th, Kwan 18th, Bonaly 19th and Chouinard 20th.

For the men's technical programme Wednesday, Urmanov will skate 19th, Olympic silver medalist Elvis Stojko of Canada 23rd, bronze medalist Philippe Candeloro of France 14th and European runner-up Viacheslav Zagorodniuk of Ukraine 17th.

IAAF agrees to shift World Cup athletics date

MONTE CARLO, Mar 22: The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) said on Monday it had agreed to move the date of the World Cup scheduled for September in London by one day, reports Reuter.

The IAAF said in a statement the World Cup would be staged from Friday, September 9 to Sunday, September 11, instead of September 8-10 as originally scheduled, following a request by the British Athletics Federation.

The change would produce better crowds, improved television coverage and ultimately increased promotion of athletics, the statement said.

Bentt leaves hospital

LONDON, Mar 22: American heavyweight Michael Bentt left hospital on Monday with a warning never to box again after suffering a concussive brain injury during a world title fight, reports Reuter.

The London-born American collapsed in his dressing room after he was knocked out in the seventh round, losing his World Boxing Organisation title to Britain's Herbie Hde at the New London Stadium on Saturday night.

John Sutcliffe, consultant neurosurgeon at the Royal London Hospital where 28-year-old Bentt was treated, warned him not to fight again because of the cumulative damage to his brain from years of punches.

But Jonathan Barnett, a member of Bentt's London management team, said the boxer would seek a second opinion from his own doctor when he returns to New York today.

"He's fine now though obviously he doesn't have any recognition of the fight," Barnett said.

"He's going to have another check-up in America and he will listen to his doctor's advice."

Eckardt and his mates indicted

PORTLAND, Ore, Mar 22: A grand jury Monday indicted figure skater Tonya Harding's former bodyguard and two other men on charges stemming from the January 6 attack on her rival Nancy Kerrigan, reports Reuter.

The indictment contends that Harding and her former husband Jeff Gillooly, who have pleaded guilty in plea bargains, also were involved in the plot to injure Kerrigan and knock her out of the US figure skating championships.

Shawn Eckardt, 26, Harding's former bodyguard, and Eckardt's associates Shane Stant, 22, and Derrick Smith, 29, were indicted on Oregon state charges including racketeering, assault and conspiracy to commit assault.

Among the charges in the indictment is that Harding and Gillooly, who cannot face further prosecution because of their plea bargains, agreed with the three defendants on December 28 "to unlawfully and knowingly cause physical injury to Nancy Kerrigan."

Harding pleaded guilty to helping arrange a cover-up of the plot against Kerrigan but steadfastly has denied any prior knowledge of it.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Seesaw
4 Silly song of 1918
8 Olympian's quest
12 Bk. after Daniel
13 Somalian supermodel
14 State
15 The whole shootin' match
16 Cartoonist
17 Ms. Turner
18 Song hit of 1966
21 — Aviv
22 "And — the opposite shore..."
23 Cut
26 Novelist
27 Jewel
30 "That hurts!"
31 Falsification
32 Meditative exercises
33 Durocher
34 Battering device
35 Joseph

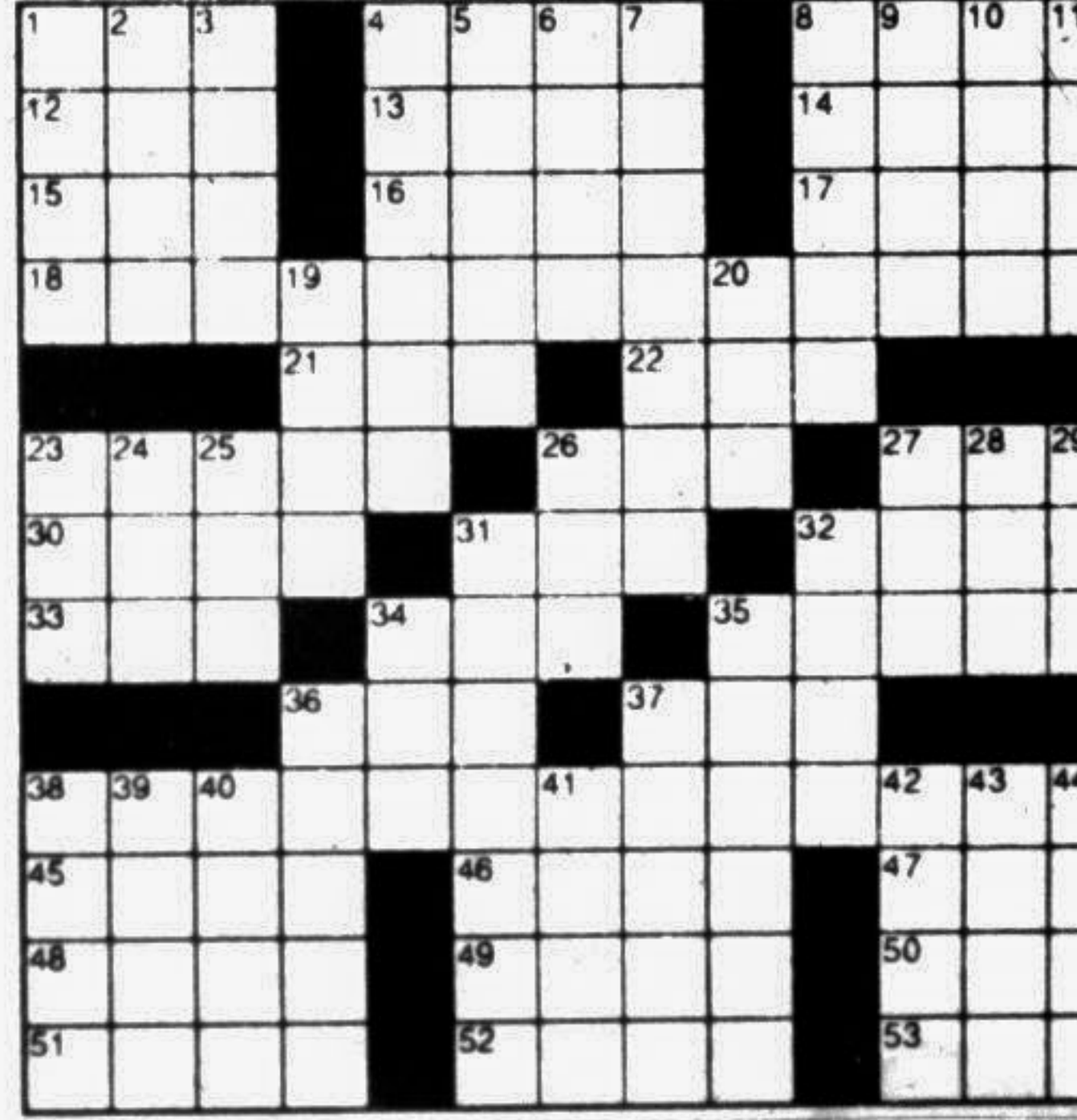
DOWN

3 Chris-tiana, now
4 1 1/2 ounces, to a mixologist
5 Menotti
6 Pub
7 Whenever
8 Greek physician
9 Office shape?
10 Musical
11 Play "Pic-tionary"
19 Hexagonal state
20 Today
23 Impresario
24 Cry's partner
25 Author Umberto
26 Pick a target
27 George Burns role
28 Future phalarope
29 West of Hollywood
31 Wyoming city
32 Arizona city
34 Ump
35 Actor Irons
36 Prodded
37 Flat
38 Pre-carious perch
39 Largest of the seven
40 Notify of impending danger
41 November responsibility
42 Err
43 One of the Greats
44 Auctioneer's cry

Solution time: 23 mins.

WET ARA VIRUS
AXE COO ERASE
VIP HORSESHOE
ELI ENTER
REDS EAR COMB
AMY FLOWER
KOALA OPERA
ALWAYS SUE
NEED HOP DAZE
DAVID DEL
HORSESHOE EBB
AVIAN NEE PRO
DADDY ERR TAW

Yesterday's answer 7-31



CRYPTOQUIP

PRVW AQU TJGB SRGLUG,
"V S F J I A U X X L U
Q J E A J V B T G U R P U L F
F V U X W, V L R X X U R G P."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A MARATHONER FALLS INTO A RUT, IS IT THE RUN OF THE MILE?

Today's Cryptoquip clue: T equals C

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.