



Brazilian soccer legend Pele kicks the ball around with members of the US national team during a promotional meeting in New York on Tuesday. — AFP photo

Honours easy in rehearsal

LAHORE, Mar. 23: Pakistan and Germany played out a 1-1 draw in the last match of the round-robin series in the 16th Champions Trophy hockey tournament here Wednesday, reports AFP.

The teams will meet in the final on Friday.

Wednesday's match was watched by a crowd of approximately 66,000 and although it never rose to great heights, the result was satisfactory to both sides.

Pakistan, who were without their regular captain Shahbaz Ahmed, seemed lost in the first half and sprang to life only after the change of ends when Rahim Khan was brought in as a substitute.

Germany dominated terms in the early minutes of play and put goalkeeper Mansoor Ahmed under pressure. They made successive moves of Uli Meissel and Stephan Saliger.

Germany made a substitution in the 18th minute by removing Christian Stengler and calling on Florian Kunz who put them ahead two minutes later from a short corner.

In the 24th minute Andreas Becker had a great chance of increasing Germany's lead but

once again Mansoor Ahmed saved.

Pakistan began the second half with a strong attack through the middle of the field and continued to tax the German defence. In the ninth minute of this period a centre by Kamran Ashraf led to a scramble inside the circle where the Germans were punished for obstruction.

English umpire A. McQuater awarded Pakistan a penalty stroke, although the Germans objected, and Tahir Zaman scored to level the match.

Play struck an even keel after that but in the closing minutes the Germans failed to convert two successive short corners.

Meanwhile, Australia made sure of a bronze medal play-off with a 5-1 victory over Spain.

The Australians rested their captain Warren Birmingham and the inside forward David Wansbrough but still had enough firepower to overwhelm the Spaniards.

Spain put up a tough fight and it was only in the latter stages of the game that their defence caved in.

In fact they were in with a chance when they cut the lead to 2-1.

Both teams set of at a fast

Foster delights home fans

SHEFFIELD, England, Mar. 23: Britain's Mark Foster beat his own short-course 50 metres butterfly world best time at a World Cup meeting on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

Foster stormed home in 23.68 seconds to slice 0.04 of a second from the 23.62 mark he set in Gelsenkirchen, Germany, in February 1993, and equalled — again in Gelsenkirchen last Saturday.

It was Foster's fifth win in five World Cup events he has entered this year and brought the first day of the two-day meeting at the Ponds Forge pool to a rousing conclusion.

Foster, who set a 50 metres freestyle short course world record here last February, utterly dominated the 50 butterfly.

Fastest in the morning's heats in 25.06 when he eased up on the second length of the 25-metre pool, Foster hurtled away in the final and left the rest way behind.

Alberto Luis Laera of Italy took second place in 24.36 with Milos Milosevic, Croatia's European long-course 100 butterfly bronze medalist here last August, third in 24.77.

Foster felt over-eagerness might have cost him his world-beating time, which is not designated as a world record because 50 butterfly is not an event swum at the major championships.

"I didn't actually think I'd done it. I was conscious of the Italian next to me. The second length was just hanging on really, Foster said after a performance which earned him a 2,000 dollars bonus for the world best time.

"On the second length it's just aggression more than anything else."

Foster, who said he had been feeling tired, did not hit the turn ideally and felt his stroke was slipping in the water and he was "over-revving."

But it was a barnstorming

Magic may return as Lakers' coach

LOS ANGELES, Mar. 23: Earvin "Magic" Johnson, who retired from professional basketball in 1991 after testing positive for the virus that causes AIDS, is returning to coach the Los Angeles Lakers, according to broadcast news reports, reports Reuters.

Los Angeles television station KCAL and radio station KMPC reported on Tuesday that Johnson was being named to replace Laker coach Randy Pfund.



Frenchman Jean Pierre Papin runs the guard, Chile's Fuenfuentes in a friendly soccer match in Lyon on Tuesday. France won the match 3-1. — AFP photo.

Atherton sure his men would fight back

GEORGETOWN, Guyana. Mar. 23: England captain Mike Atherton says he is confident his team are not heading for a Test series whitewash despite going 2-0 down against West Indies on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

With Atherton's side losing the second Test by an innings and 44 runs at the Bourda Ground, the prospect loomed of England suffering their third 5-0 series thrashing by West Indies in 10 years.

But before England left for Trinidad, where the third Test starts in Port of Spain on Friday, Atherton refused even to discuss the possibility of defeat in all five Tests.

"I'm confident it won't happen," he insisted within minutes of his team being beaten here.

"Hopefully Trinidad will give us the conditions we need to bowl them out twice," said Atherton. "Our mood is pretty low after losing this Test but it's important that we keep thinking positively."

England have fast bowler Devon Malcolm returning to the squad after knee surgery at home but, although due to start bowling in the nets again later this week, he cannot realistically be considered for the third Test.

England's attack simply lacks an authentic cutting edge, while the technical shortcomings of some of the batsmen compound their problems.

Atherton's side are being hammered by a West Indies team whose unheralded players are proving as influential as the established performers.

All-rounder Jimmy Adams and paceman Kenny Benjamin, who before the series had played six Tests between them, have significantly raised their game.

Adams, in his two innings, has batted for more than 12 hours to score 95 not out and 137, while Benjamin is the leading West Indies' wicket taker in the series with 15.

Graf on course for yet another landmark

ST PETERSBURG, Florida, Mar. 23: World number one Steffi Graf is on target for a record three million dollar season after winning her first five tournaments this year, reports AFP.

The German, who lost her only set of the year in the Lipton Championships final on Saturday, has netted 774,065 dollars in prize money already.

Her season earnings are more than double those of Natalia Zvereva of Belarus, and more than three times the total of Spain's Arantxa Sanchez Vicario. In third on the 1994 earnings list.

Japan's Kimiko Date is fifth with 168,000 dollars.

Graf won 2,821,337 dollars last year, but missed out on the three million record when she forfeited 500,000 dollars in bonus money because she did not appear in enough tournaments.

Graf, 24, boasts career tournament earnings of 13,928,075 dollars in 13 professional seasons, compared to Martina Navratilova's 19,606,995 dollars.

Sauzee returns to France

BERGAMO, Italy, Mar. 23: French midfielder Franck Sauzee returned home this week citing family reasons. Officials of his Italian club, Atalanta of Bergamo, said his departure would be permanent, reports Reuters.

A spokesman for Atalanta, who are struggling in the relegation zone of the Italian First Division, said Sauzee will miss the remaining seven league rounds.

Papin back with a bang

LYON, France, Mar. 23: Jean-Pierre Papin celebrated his 50th international appearance with the opening goal in France's 3-1 win over Chile in a friendly on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

Papin, whom English Premier league club Tottenham are keen to sign from AC Milan, picked up a pass from David Ginola to score after just seven minutes.

But France's lead was short-lived, Chile, playing a weakened side because of Libertadores Cup commitments, were level inside three minutes.

Real Madrid striker Ivan Zamorano cut through a static defence to score.

Zamorano came close to adding a second before Ginola, France's outstanding player, set up Youri Djorkaeff to make it 2-1 in the 35th minute.

Auxerre striker Corentin Martins, who substituted for Djorkaeff in the second half, scored France's third after 50 minutes.

India have nothing to lose

NEW DELHI, Mar. 23: India's Davis Cup squad are counting on home court advantage and luck to help them spring a surprise against a US team led by Jim Courier in their first round tie beginning here Friday, reports AFP.

And the top-seeded Americans, despite being the prohibitive favourites, say they are not taking the Indians lightly.

"We will be playing at 100 per cent for every single point," Tom Gullikson, the non-playing captain of the US squad, said during practice at the Delhi Lawn Tennis Association grass courts.

"There is no question of taking this tie lightly," said Gullikson, who is making his debut as captain and has gone so far as to ensure that food and water were flown in for his players rather than have them risk "Delhi belly."

"We are here to win," he said as world number three Courier and Australian open finalist Todd Martin traded strokes on grass for the first time in nine months, since Wimbledon.

Two-time French and Australian Open champion Courier and Martin, ranked number nine in the world, will fill the singles slots for the United States with Patrick McEnroe and Richey Reneberg playing the doubles.

The Indian challenge will be led by Leander Paes, who teamed up with veteran Ramesh Krishnan to lead India into the semifinals last year but is ranked only 330th in the world.

India's non-playing captain Jaideep Mukherjee has picked journeyman Zeehan Ali for the other singles berth since the 32-year-old Krishnan, India's Davis Cup stalwart since making his debut at the age of 16, is not available.

Krishnan announced his retirement from the Davis Cup following the semifinal loss to Australia in Chandigarh last year. Untested Asif Iqbal and Gaurav Natekar round out the Indian team.

Mukherjee realises India's chances of an upset fall somewhere between slim and none but he is hoping for a surprise from the 20-year-old Paes and nervous play from Martin, playing for his country for the first time.

"Leander is quite capable of causing an upset on the first day," Mukherjee said of Paes, a former junior Wimbledon and junior US Open champion who has proved to be a disappointment in the senior ranks.

"Time and again he has risen to the occasion and has delivered the goods," Mukherjee said. "We have the advantage of home conditions and with a bit of luck we could do anything."

Courier, who clinched the Davis Cup title for the United States in 1992, is expected to breeze through his two matches, and Mukherjee can only hope Martin succumbs to the pressure of playing in front of hostile fans.

India notched up stunning upsets of Switzerland and France to reach last year's semifinals, where they lost 5-0 to Australia, 4-1 winners over the United States in the first round.

The United States has won all five previous Davis Cup encounters against India, beating them for the last time 4-1 in Carlsbad, California, in 1982.

Ariel's rocky ride to success

CHIBA, Japan, Mar. 23: From the moment he nailed his first big jump, Ariel Nielsen knew he could skate his best on Wednesday. And he did.

The 25-year-old from Kansas City turned in a surprisingly strong sixth-place performance in the men's technical programme at the World Figure Skating Championships, reports AP.

Not bad — considering he had only a week's notice he was coming to the championships, the most prestigious competition of his career.

Nielsen had not been considered to be among the top contenders, and was shaky in the qualifying round.

What's more, he had been having a bad time in practice, with plenty of hard falls and missed jumps — "It's been rocky," he said.

Still, he said he knew he could skate a clean programme.

"I just happened to hold it together when it counted," he said, beaming.

On the ice, Nielsen looked thrilled when he nailed the first triple axel, and that appeared to power him through the rest of his routine. His coach hugged him delightedly afterward.

Nielsen's marks ranged from 5.0 to 5.4 on technical merit and 5.3 to 5.6 for artistry.

His teammate, national champion Scott Davis of Great Falls, Mont, did not fare as well. Davis, who placed eighth at the Olympics, had been expected to do better than his eighth-place showing in the technical programme.

Davis displayed his trademark spectacular spins, but pulled out of a triple lutz. His marks ranged from 5.0 to 5.2 on technique and 5.5 to 5.7 on artistry.

His showing left him out of contention for a top-three finish. The men's free programme finals are Thursday.

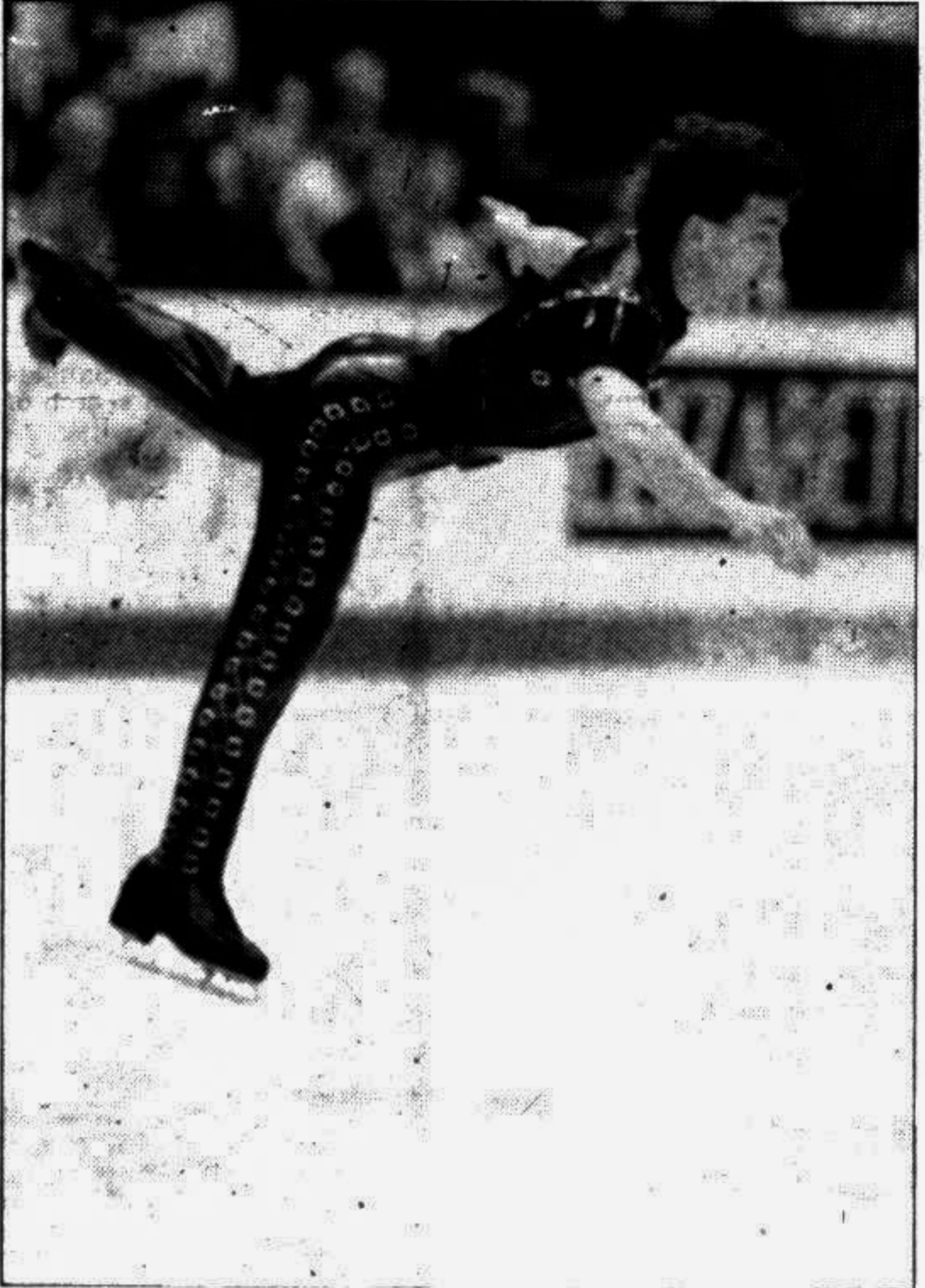
"It's upsetting" Davis said, looking crestfallen. "I was feeling pretty confident, but weird things happen."

Nielsen cites 1988 Olympic gold medalist Brian Boitano as a major influence.

Boitano, whose comeback try netted him a disappointing sixth place in Lillehammer, called Nielsen himself to let him know he had decided not to come to the championships in Japan, opening a spot on the US team.

Nielsen, not expecting to be tapped, had eased off on training. When he got the news, "It was a panic feeling," he said.

"I told Brian, 'I better get off the phone and get to the rink — now,'" he said, laughing. "I'm still surprised to be here. It's kind of a blur. I'm just trying as hard as I can."



Elvis Stojko of Canada performs his technical programme in the Men's event at the World Figure Skating Championships in Chiba, Japan yesterday. — AFP photo.

Martinez begins on a winning high

HOUSTON, Mar. 23: A rejuvenated Conchita Martinez kicked off her clay court season by soundly beating Canadian Helen Kessel 6-3, 6-2 in the second round of the Virginia Slims of Houston tennis tournament on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

Martinez, the top seed and defending champion, received a first-round bye and was playing her first match since the Australian Open quarterfinals.

Sixth-seeded Houston native Zina Garrison-Jackson disappointed her hometown fans by falling 6-2, 6-4 to German Meike Babel in a first round match.

With the score even at 2-2 in the first set, the 19-year-old German shocked the sixth seeded by reefing off the next eight games to take a 4-0 lead in the second set.

Garrison-Jackson has been slowed by achilles tendon problems and her mobility was clearly hampered on Tuesday.

"It's hard to move around, said the 15th-ranked Garrison-Jackson.

"It's hard because I always want to play well here. Haven't played this bad in a while."

After an exhausting 1993 in which Martinez played 115 matches, including doubles, the Spaniard decided to take some time off before returning to defend her title here in just her third tournament of 1994.

"Since it was my first match in nearly two months I can say I really played solid," said the third-ranked Martinez.

"I lost concentration some times but I was quite happy with the way it went," added Martinez, whose last title came at the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia last November.

Martinez beat Steffi Graf in that final. No player has defeated the German star since.

Kessel opened the match by breaking Martinez, but the Canadian failed to convert her next eight break opportunities.

Sanfrecce, Antlers find going easy

TOKYO, Mar. 23: Sanfrecce Hiroshima and the Kashima Antlers each scored their fourth straight victories against no defeats in the Japanese Professional Soccer League Wednesday, reports AP.

South Korea's Noh Jung-Youn scored the game's only goal 27 minutes into the first half, giving the Sanfrecce a 1-0 victory over the Urawa Red Diamonds at Urawa, northeast of Tokyo.

Yoshiyuki Hasegawa scored a winning shot six minutes into the second sudden-death extra period as the Antlers beat the Shimizu S-Pulse 3-2 in the rain at Kashima, northeast of Tokyo.

Argentine striker Diaz scored the winning goal on a penalty shot in the 34th of the second half as the Yokohama Marinos edged the 1993 league champion Verdy Kawasaki 2-1 before 54,405 spectators in the rain at Tokyo's National Stadium.

Brazilian Edu struck a free kick directly into the goal 14 minutes into the second half, giving the Yokohama Flugels a 1-0 triumph over the Nagoya Grampus Eight in the rain at Yokohama.

Rookie Shoji Jo scored a pair of goals in the first half, leading the JEF United Ichihara to a 3-2 victory over the Bellmare Hiratsuka at Hiratsuka, southwest of Tokyo.

Bez jailed

BORDEAUX, France, Mar. 23: Claude Bez, former owner of the Bordeaux soccer team, was sentenced Monday to one year in jail and fined 2 million francs (dfrs 350,000) for fraud, reports AP.

Bez, whose team dominated the French League for much of the 1980s, also was ordered to pay 2.5 million francs in damages and interest to the governing council of Gironde, the district surrounding Bordeaux.

Bez was accused of fraudulently overbilling local authorities by more than 10 million francs for the 1987 renovation of facilities at his team's training center outside Bordeaux.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Wet, spongy ground
4 Accumulate
9 Emulate
12 Pub
13 Annual visitor
14 Performing pair
15 Ticket price
17 LBJ pooch
18 USSR, subsequently
19 Least typical
21 Reclining seat
24 Poker holding
25 Boy
26 Vat
28 Welsh veggie
31 Part of TAE
33 Edge
35 Wield the scissors
36 Handed out hands
38 Michael Jackson

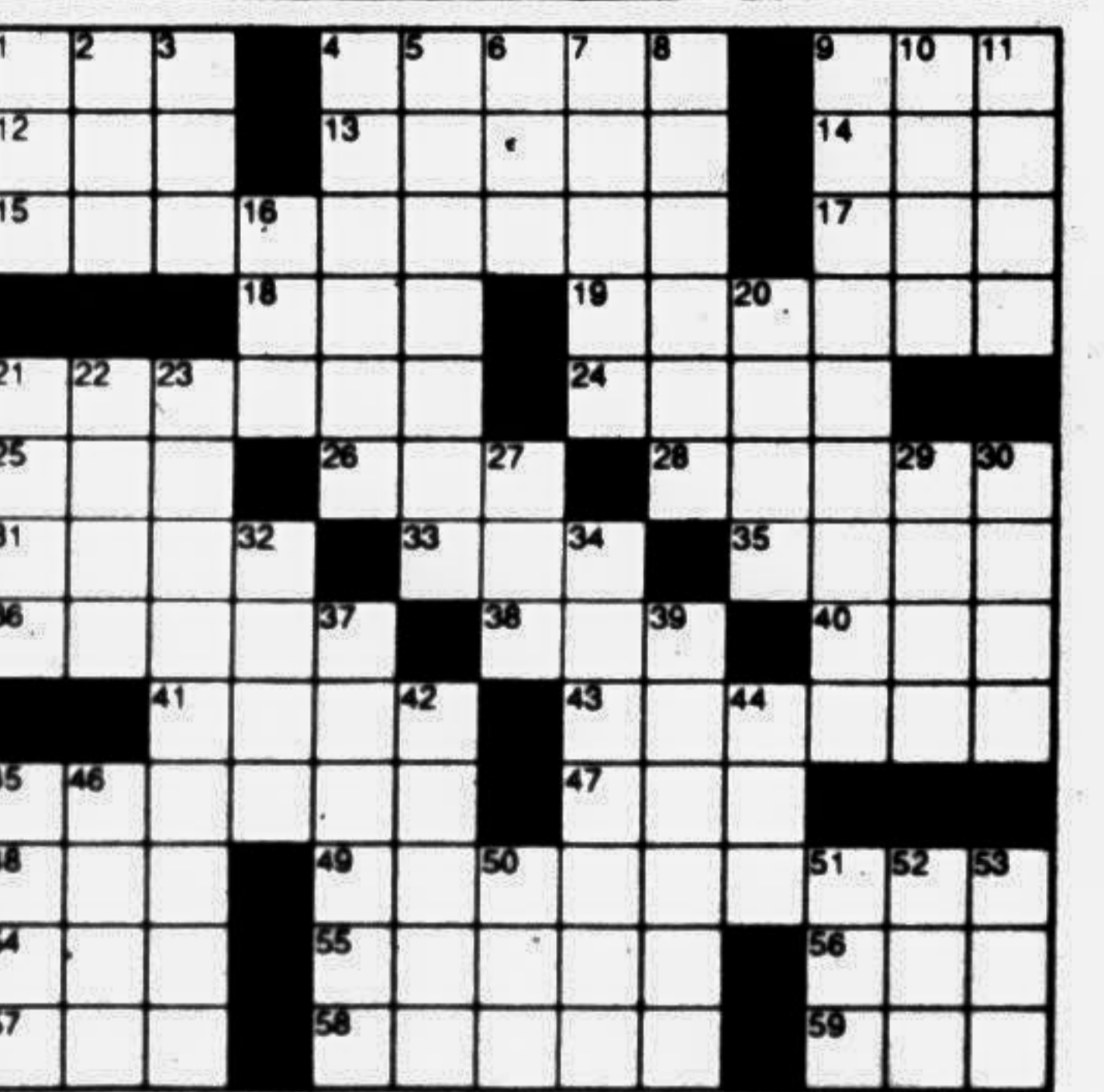
album
40 Angular prefix?
41 Mrs. Nick Charles
43 Former grape
45 Prepare for the slaughter
47 B&B
48 "— Little Teapot"
49 Noun
54 Exercise a la Clinton
55 Famed circumnavigator
56 Morning moisture
57 Mamie's man
58 Norton's workplace
59 Borden weapon
DOWN

1 Ovine line
2 In need of repair
3 Prized possession
4 Lend a hand
5 Rubber? word bird
7 Condescend
8 Summer-time shoe
9 Followers
10 Poolroom array
11 Legal

wrong
16 Here, to Henri
20 Conks out
21 Dressed
22 "Gilligan's Island"
cast member
23 Edge
27 Lobster eater's need
29 Soprano
Te Kanawa
30 Test drive
32 Plenty
34 Jacques
Brel song of 1968
37 Tire tracks
39 One of 13 Across' stable
42 Late Giant of wrestling
44 Passbook abbr.
45 Suva is its capital
46 Frenzied
50 Chew the rag
51 Mrs. Eddie Cantor
52 Irritate
53 Farm female

Solution time: 27 min.

TWO JADA GOLD
HOS IMAN AVER
ALL GARY LANA
I FOUGHT THE LAW
TEL ION
SHEAR AMY GEM
OUCH LIE YOGA
LEO RAM JUDGE
PER LEM
LAW OF AVERAGES
ISAK MOVE ORO
MIRE ITEM OIL
BAND EELY FED



CRYPTOQUIP

P N G P K H J V N G P P N O

S O I G P O L X ' V K H I X W A O N W D

S U S J ' P G R L O O D U P N A O .

Saturday's Cryptoquip: SAID THE CORN FARMER, "IF YOU TELL ME HOW TO INCREASE MY YIELD, I'M ALL EARS."

Today's Cryptoquip clue: V 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.