



Share The Passion



Too high a stake for Vogts

CHICAGO, July 1: Germany coach Bert Vogts knows his job will be on the line when the world champions clash with Belgium in the second round of the World Cup finals on Saturday, reports Reuter.

After a first round full of turmoil and disappointing performances, Vogts is aware his team must lift their form dramatically to ensure their ticket to the quarter-finals in New York on July 10.

"We have drawn a firm line under the first round. We know we must play better and we want to go to New York," said Vogts whose position will be in real danger if the Germans go out of the tournament.

"We can't afford to make the mistakes we have made in the first round. We are capable of beating them. I can see in training that the players are getting ready. We are going to play attacking football," said Vogts whose team have been very below-par despite winning Group C.

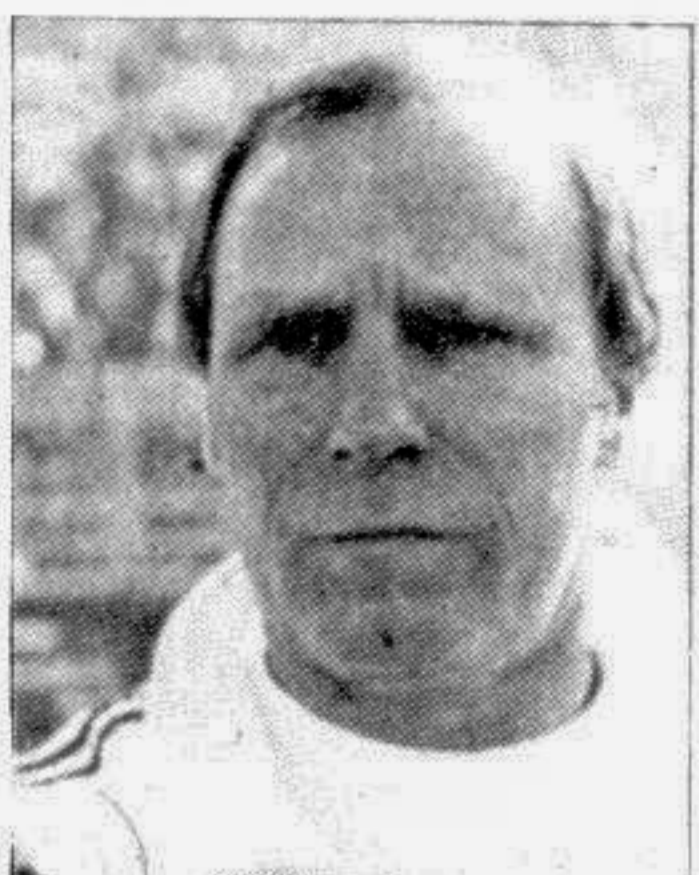
History favours the Germans. They have not lost to the Belgians for 40 years and won their only past meeting at the World Cup 5-2 in Florence at the 1934 finals.

Vogts was quick to make the comparison on Thursday with their last clash in Brussels during the qualifying campaign for the 1992 European Championship. Then, the Germans needed at least a point to move sure of reaching the finals and away with a 1-0 victory.

"We were under pressure

then too," he said. The Germans have often had poor starts to World Cups and lifted their form as the tournament progressed.

Vogts said his players had got over this week's scandal when midfielder Stefan Effenberg was kicked off the



BERTI VOGTS

squad for making an obscene gesture at the crowd during their last first-round match against South Korea.

Vogts is keeping his team selection quiet but he admitted on Thursday that Thomas Berthold would move from his position as a man-to-man marker to replace Effenberg in the defensive role on the right side of midfield.

Thomas Helmer is expected to take his place in defence beside Juergen Kohler as the main stoppers. Captain Lothar Matthaus was unable to take a full part in training on Thursday because of an injured foot but Vogts said we would be fit to play libero.

Vogts is expected to leave

out midfielder Andy Moeller and play veteran Guido Buchwald, who had such a good game against the Koreans.

Vogts has only one real selection decision to ponder — whether to play 34-year-old striker Rudi Voeller up front with Juergen Klinsmann instead of Karlheinz Riedle. Voeller scored the key goal in the victory in Brussels in November 1991 and has a good chance of playing.

Belgium need to bounce back quickly from Wednesday's surprise defeat by Saudi Arabia and have less than two days to fly to Chicago from Florida and get into gear. They are almost certain to be without forward Marc Degryse, who has a groin injury.

Coach Paul van Himst was annoyed that the team did not clinch first place in Group F and stay in Florida.

"I am satisfied that we qualified but we have made the job difficult for ourselves," he said. "But the boys are mentally prepared."

PROBABLE TEAMS

Germany: 1-Bodo Illgner, 10-Lothar Matthaus, 4-Juergen Kohler, 5-Thomas Helmer, 3-Andreas Brehme, 14-Thomas Berthold, 8-Thomas Haessler, 6-Guido Buchwald, 16-Matthias Sammer, 13-Rudi Voeller, 18-Juergen Klinsmann.

Belgium: 1-Michel Preud'homme, 4-Philippe Albert, 14-Michel de Wolf, 13-Georges Grun, 3-Vital Borkelmans, 6-Lorenzo Staelens, 7-Franky van Der Elst, 10-Enzo Scifo, 15-Marc Emers, 8-Luc Nilis, 17-Sosip Weber.

Azzurri envisage revival

MARTINSVILLE, N.J., July 1: Sudden death games may mean revival for Italy's World Cup team.

The Azzurri, who struggled in the preliminary games and needed Russia's help to reach the second round, believe that the nerve-cracking system of win or lose is likely to favour Italy, reports AP.

"Italian players always do their best when they are with the shoulders to the wall. Several of us have great experience with sudden death games, having played decisive Cup matches with their clubs," said Paolo Maldini, a key defender of European champion AC Milan.

"Italy did not show their real potential in the preliminary round. I am certain we will do our best from now on," said Luigi Apolloni, the defender of Parma who is substituting for injured captain-sweeper Franco Baresi.

Italy's chances could be boosted further if the team's No. 1 star Roberto Baggio overcomes frustration for his recent lack luster performances produces a long expected offensive spark.

Baggio said at Italy's training camp Thursday that he's fit and ready to produce, following much criticized showings against Ireland and Mexico. He was removed after 22 minutes during the game with Norway, which Italy won 1-0 playing 10 against 11.

"I have played below my standards, but we faced difficult teams with tight defences," said Baggio, one of Italy's leading scorers and the best world player of 1993.

"I hope to have better chances in the next games, but we will have to play with more creativity close to the (trivial) penalty area. Our play is very predictable right now," added Baggio, in what appeared to be a criticism for coach Arrigo Sacchi.

Miandad, Raja recalled for SL tour

ISLAMABAD, July 1: Ace Pakistan batsman Javed Miandad and stylish opener Rameez Raja have been included in the Pakistan cricket team scheduled to leave for Sri Lanka later this month, reports AFP.

The 16-member squad announced Thursday will also participate in Sri Lanka's August 4-17 four-way series in which India and Australia will also compete.

Paceman Aaqib Javed has been axed from the side which retained Salim Malik as captain while Asif Mujtaba will be vice captain.

Intikhab Alam will be the manager of the tour during which Pakistan will play three Tests and as many one-day internationals against the island side.

Aaqib has been replaced by left-arm pacer Kabir Khan, chief selector Imtiaz Ahmed said in Lahore. Kabir emerged as the highest wicket taker in the recently concluded domestic season to wear the Test cap.

"The choice of the selectors had been unanimous," Imtiaz said, adding that lanky paceman Ashfaq Ahmed and diminutive leg spinner Mushtaq Ahmed had also been recalled for the tour starting July 21.

The team consists of three openers, four pacemen and two spinners but a significant aspect of the team is the return of Miandad who was ousted from the New Zealand and Sharjah tours last year as selectors felt the Pakistani run-getter had lost his form and lacked fitness.

However, the veteran of 124 Tests and scorer of 23 Test centuries, Miandad who has 8,732 runs to his credit, silenced his critics by hitting an unbeaten 100 and another 63 off 44 balls in the first trial match at Karachi.

Former Test opener Rameez Raja edged out other contender Shoib Mohammed by his 100 and 97 runs in another pre-tour trial match in Rawalpindi.

Raja last played for Pakistan 15 months ago when the team toured the West Indies under Wasim Akram and lost the Test series 2-0 and drew the one-day series 2-2.

SQUAD

Salim Malik (captain), Asif Mujtaba (vice captain), Rashid Latif (wicketkeeper), Javed Miandad, Aamir Sohail, Saad Anwar, Basit Ali, Inzamamul Haq, Zahid Fazal, Mushtaq Ahmed, Akram Raza, Waqar Younis, Wasim Akram, Ashfaq Ahmed, Kabir Khan and Rameez Raja.



Greek Savvas Kofidis (L) takes the ball away from Nigerian defender Okechukwu Uche during their final Group D match at the Foxboro Stadium in Boston on Thursday. — AFP photo

After nearly 30 years ...

DALLAS, July 1: Asian soccer has something to cheer for — after about three decades.

With more than 3.2 billion people, or 59 per cent of the world's population, the only Asian team that had advanced to the second stage was North Korea way back in the 1966 World Cup in England.

But things have improved since Wednesday.

Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil producer, also got a second stage berth in the 1994 World Cup, while South Korea, though eliminated from the tournament, has left a good impression, reports AP.

The Koreans scored two goals in the final six minutes against Spain. Two second-half goals and a late blitz had nearly tied world champions Germany. The Germans eventually won 3-2. The Koreans also drew 0-0 with Bolivia.

"This is good news for Asian soccer, real good news," said Peter Velappan, secretary general of the 44-member nation Asian Football Confederation.

Saudi Arabia, a nation where 4.6 million of the 16.9 million population are foreign workers, stunned the soccer world by their 1-0 victory over Belgium on Wednesday — a victory that tied them on points with the Netherlands atop Group F.

Saudi Arabia is the world's major oil producer. Fifty years ago, the country was poverty stricken but oil transformed it.

"It was not stroke of luck that we won," wrote the capital city's Ar-Riyadh newspaper in its editorial. "It is a demonstration of the progress scored by Saudi soccer, doying the portrayal of (our being) an honour guest at the World Cup event that some tried to depict."

Another Riyadh newspaper Al-Jazira wrote "this was an accomplishment that exceeds miracles."

Saudi Arabia meet Sweden in a second round match at Cotton Bowl in Dallas on Sunday.

"We will beat Sweden. It will be a difficult game, but we will play offensive football," Saudi coach Jorge Solari said.

But before the Saudi miracle, Asian soccer teams had faced years of humiliation and frustration.

But with 44 nations, the world's two most populous countries — China and India, stable economies like Japan and oil-rich Arab nations, there has been no end to excuses for its failings soccer's biggest show.

According to some sports experts, the reasons and excuses for the Asian soccer agony range from anatomical peculiarities to lack of funding to need of more international exposure.

"Asian players are shorter than others ... we lag behind in soccer skill," said Cha Bum-kun, 41, a South Korea national player turned coach.

In a region where hunger is still a problem, leisure sports take a low priority. There is no popular sports culture and not much sports history. Sports is still a pastime, not business.

Statistics favour Spain

WASHINGTON, July 1: If history and recent results mean anything in the World Cup finals, Spain will reach the quarter-finals for the first time since 1986 on Saturday with a comfortable victory over Switzerland at the RFK Memorial Stadium, reports Reuter.

They are unbeaten after their three opening round matches in Group C playing with an encouraging blend of strength, flair and teamwork, and will be seeking to equal their previous best by securing a place in the last eight for only the third time in nine appearances in the finals.

Despite the enforced absence of suspended goalscorer Luis Caminero, their form and ambition should be enough, even without the added bonus of an unbeaten record against the Swiss which suggests the fixture will be a formality.

Spain, however, are the greatest under-achievers in World Cup soccer and none of the evidence of recent performances, statistics or records can remove an illogical feeling of discomfort on behalf of their determined coach Javier Clemente and his men.

In a tournament which has so far paid scant respect to tradition, Switzerland's confident belief that they can celebrate a first victory over Spain should not be seen as misplaced, even if the history books show they have escaped defeat only three times in their 17 previous meetings since 1923.

Having exceeded their expectations by qualifying, the Swiss may play with greater freedom and more expression than their opponents to create a win to help erase the memory of their last World Cup finals clash, in England in 1966, when they lost 2-1 in She-

ffield. Englishman Roy Hodgson was an 18-year-old apprentice with Crystal Palace at that time, embarking on an undistinguished playing career now overtaken by his achievements since succeeding Uli Stielicke as Swiss coach in January 1992.

Hodgson, whose careful planning has earned him comparisons with Sir Alf Ramsey, who guided England to success in 1966, knows the size of Saturday's task for his players, but feels they can beat the odds if they play to their full potential as they did in whipping Romania 4-1 last week.

With midfielder Ciriaco

Sforza recovered from an elbow in the face during their 2-0 defeat by Colombia and Bayern Munich-bound playmaker Alain Sutter ready to claim his 50th cap, after pain-killing injections for a broken toe on his left foot, Hodgson is expected to announce an unchanged team playing in a predictable, if classic, 4-4-2 formation.

Clemente, by contrast, is likely to make more of his now habitual team changes by recalling libero Fernando Herro, who was slightly injured in training on Wednesday, and his Real Madrid teammate Rafael Alkorta in a reshaped 4-5-1 team.

These two will be expected to tighten up a defence which has conceded four goals in three games and raised question marks over the future of long-serving Andoni Zubizarreta.

According to rumours within the Spanish party, the 32-year-old Barcelona goalkeeper, who is expected to retire from international soccer after the finals, could be replaced sooner than expected by Santiago Canizares, who played in their 2-2 opener with South Korea on June 17 when Zubizarreta was suspended. If Zubi plays, he will win his 90th cap.

PROBABLE TEAMS

SPAIN: 1—Andoni Zubizarreta, 2—Albert Ferrer, 5—Abelardo Fernandez, 6—Fernando Hierro, 18—Rafael Alkorta, 7—Juan Goikoetxea, 9—Josep Guardiola, 20—Miguel Angel Nadal, 21—Luis Enrique Martinez, 12—Sergi Barjuan, 19—Julio Salinas.

SWITZERLAND: 1—Marco Pascolo, 2—Marc Hottinger, 5—Alain Geiger, 3—Yvan Oudin, 4—Dominique Herr, 10—Ciriaco Sforza, 8—Christophe Ohrel, 6—Georges Bregy, 7—Alain Sutter, 9—Adrian Knup, 11—Stephane Chapuisat.

Kick-off: 2035 GMT.

England tail wags in time

MANCHESTER, England, July 1: Defiant half-centuries by Phillip DeFreitas and new boy Darren Gough sent the pendulum swinging back in England's favour in the third Test against New Zealand here today, reports AFP.

Their magnificent eighth wicket stand helped England to a final first innings total of 382.

In mid-afternoon, when DeFreitas was out for 69, unluckily squeezing a drive onto his own stumps via his boot, England had reached 365 for eight, thanks to a partnership of 130 in 34 overs.

And they did it in style, with both DeFreitas and 23-year-old Yorkshire fast bowler Gough producing a stream of superb strokes to delight the Old Trafford crowd.

It gave England a second chance after their lightbulb on Thursday had looked in danger of floundering in today's first session, as they lost three wickets in the opening hour to slump to 235 for seven.

Mike Atherton and Craig White had rallied England late on Thursday, but their 99-run stand ended in today's third over after England resumed on 199 for four.

White had not added to his overnight 42 when he nicked Michael Owens to Matthew Hart at third slip.

Atherton, on 96 at the start of play, completed his seventh Test hundred in the next over but on 111 was harshly adjudged lbw to a ball from Dion Nash that looked as if it had to go over the top of the stumps.

Steve Rhodes followed for 12, touching a sharply rising Nash delivery to wicketkeeper Adam Parore as he tried to

withdraw his bat at the last second.

Skipper Atherton, just before his dismissal, had also been involved in a lengthy discussion with umpires Barry Lambson and David Shepherd.

Lara to coach in South Africa

BIRMINGHAM, England, July 1: Record-breaking batsman Brian Lara will make a coaching visit to South Africa at the end of the English season to boost the game among non-whites, reports Reuter.

Ali Bacher, head of the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA), said on Thursday the 24-year-old West Indian star would hold township clinics and coach some of South Africa's top young players.

"We will pick our best under-19 players in all the major regions and have Brian available to offer advice on improving their techniques," Lara said.

Lara has expressed a personal desire to meet South African President Nelson Mandela, a meeting which Bacher said "would be simple to arrange, if the president is in the country at that time."

Lara was ruled out of Thursday's English county championship match between Warwickshire and Lancashire with a knee injury.

It was the first competitive fixture that Lara has missed since joining Warwickshire in April.

Lara has broken both the world Test and first class records for the highest individual innings this year and earlier this month struck his eighth century in 11 first class innings.

along with Kiwi captain Ken Rutherford, on why Martin Crowe had left the field.

England were clearly querying whether a substitute fielder should be allowed, because Crowe was still suffering from the flu-like symptoms that had made him doubtful for the Test in the first place.

Crowe shortly afterwards returned to the field and remained, even though he looked in some distress.

Fraser had just square cut Pringle for four to take England's total to 372 when Gough, on 65, overdrove Pringle and lobbed a catch to substitute fielder Heath Davis at point.

England's last pair added a further 10 runs before Fraser skied left-arm spinner Hart to extra cover on the stroke of tea. Fraser made 10, with Peter Such left on five not out.

SCOREBOARD

England first innings final scorecard in third Test match against New Zealand at Old Trafford today:

ENGLAND:			
Atherton lbw b Nash	111		
Stewart c Pringle b Nash	24		
Gooch c Young b Nash	0		
Smith b Owens	13		
Hick c Nash b Owens	20		
White c Hart b Owens	42		
Rhodes c Parore b Nash	42		
DeFreitas b Owens	69		
Gough c sub b Pringle	65		
Fraser c Thomson b Hart	10		
Such not out	5		
Extras: (lb-8, w-1, nb-2)	11		
Total: 10 wkts (146.3 overs)	382		
Fall of wickets: 1-37, 2-37, 3-66, 4-104, 5-203, 6-224, 7-237, 8-365, 9-372			
Bowling:			
Nash	39	9	107
Owens	34	12	99
Pringle	39	12	95
Hart	27.3	9	50
Thomson	7	1	23

Sampras, Ivanisevic in final

LONDON, July 1: Goran Ivanisevic stayed cool to beat Boris Becker in straight-sets at Wimbledon today and reach a showdown with defending champion Pete Sampras in Sunday's men's singles final, reports AFP.

The volatile Croatian kept an iron grip on his usually explosive temperament, hit 22 aces, countless unreturnable serves, and outplayed the three-times champion from Germany 6-2, 7-6 (8/6), 6-4.

It will be Ivanisevic's second Wimbledon final. He lost to Andre Agassi two years ago.

Earlier AP adds: Defending champion Pete Sampras lost his first set of the tournament but still powered his way into the Wimbledon final Friday by outplaying Todd Martin in four sets.

Sampras moved into his fifth Grand Slam final with a 6-

4, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 victory in a 2-hour, 34-minute match dominated by big serves from both players.

Sampras broke Martin once in each set while losing his own serve only once. The match featured few extended rallies, with most points won on either the serve, return or volley.

Both players served 13 aces, with Sampras serving at an average speed of 115 mph — with a top delivery of 127 mph.

Sampras only lapse came in the eighth game of the third set when he double faulted to lose serve for only the second time in six matches. Martin served out the set in the next game.

Sampras may have been shaken up when he tripped and fell while hitting a running forehand pass in the seventh game of the third set. He let out a scream as he tumbled

and got up slowly, favouring his right ankle.

But Sampras looked fine in the fourth set. He got the decisive break for a 3-1 lead when Martij shanked a high forehand volley.

With Sampras serving for the match at 5-3, Martin got to break point five times. But each time, Sampras came up with a big serve — two aces and three service winners. He finally closed out the match with another big serve that set up a backhand winner.

Martin appeared less energetic than Sampras, perhaps because he had won four five-set matches to get to the semis — a record for the Open era. He also was in a testy mood, twice confronting chair umpire Bruno Rebeuh — once for overruling a service call and once for holding up play while a ballgirl got into position.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

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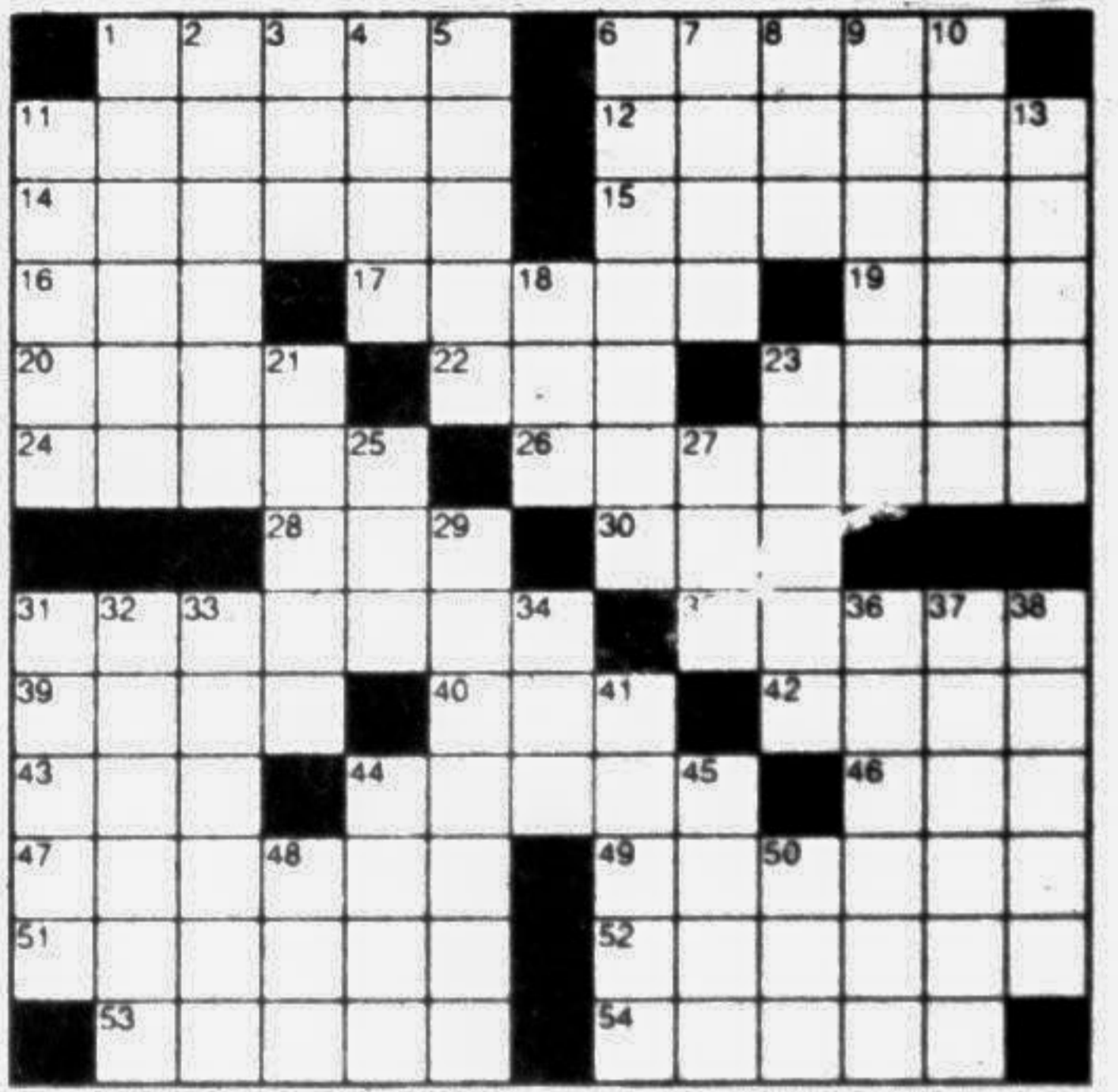
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33 Sent out
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Hurok
36 Money-
back offer
37 "Eight
Men Out"
director
38 Cornered
41 Thin
cookie
44 Bacterium
45 Arizona
river
48 FDR's
"Blue
Eagle"
50 Natalie's
pop

JUMPS BOT BAB
ATALL EKE ELL
BELIE CALORIE
LEEWAY URGE
AGO POM STAND
BORN MEMOS
COVOTE ENIGMA
OWNER TAIL
FALDO XIS LOP
ANIL ACTUAL
VALERIE ELECT
OCT ARP TORAH
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Yesterday's answer 10-30



CRYPTOQUIP

B M I L S M J W X S M O L S I C V
 X L O Q M G X Q M G O B L
 X M O Q C B M I L S M J W L V
 Yesterday's Cryptquip: WATCHING THE CHILDREN'S MANNERS, I SAID, "NO ELBOW MACARONI ON THE TABLE."
 Today's Cryptquip clue: B equals L
 The Cryptquip 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.