

Aussies win eves' World Cup

DUBLIN, July 25: Australia, the 1988 Olympic champions, won the women's World Cup for the first time with a 2-0 victory over Argentina on Sunday, reports Reuters.

Australia scored their goals within a minute midway through the second half, through Michelle Andrews, on a penalty, and Jackie Pereira.

The penalty was awarded when Marisa Lopez, the experienced Argentinian vice-captain, kicked the ball away after missing it in the circle. Andrews' conversion made her joint top scorer with Jang Dong-Sook of South Korea with six goals.

Then Pereira, the 29-year-old stalwart of the Australian attack, raced through on her own, went past the goalkeeper and pulled the ball back from a narrow angle for her 96th goal in international hockey.

The match followed a predictable pattern, with Argentina slowing the pace, defending in depth and relying on the occasional break.

Australia were unable to play with their usual flow and had just one good scoring chance wasted by Lisa Powell — and two corners in the first half. Argentina never threatened the Australian goal.

The second half started with the reserve umpire, Renee Chatas of the United States replacing England's Gill Clarke, who tore a calf muscle.

Australia increased the pace and pressure in the second half, coming close to scoring twice at corners before their double strike in the 53rd and 54th minutes.

Argentina forced their first corner after 57 minutes, but it was saved and a late corner proved fruitless.

The 2-0 margin in the final before a capacity 6,500 crowd was a repeat of the margin in the pool match, when they beat Argentina 3-1.

The player-of-the-tournament award was won by Karina Masotta of Argentina. The best goalkeeper award went to Sandra O'Gorman of Ireland.

Ric Charlesworth, coach of the Australian team, said later: "I felt justice was done. We went out to win and they went out not to lose. They're a very good team but I don't think they have the offensive capability we have."

Rodolfo Mendoza, the

Argentinian coach, commented: "We played good defence but we couldn't make contact with the forwards and we couldn't get in Australia's circle."

In the earlier game, the United States took the bronze medal when they beat Germany 2-1 in the play-off for third and fourth place.

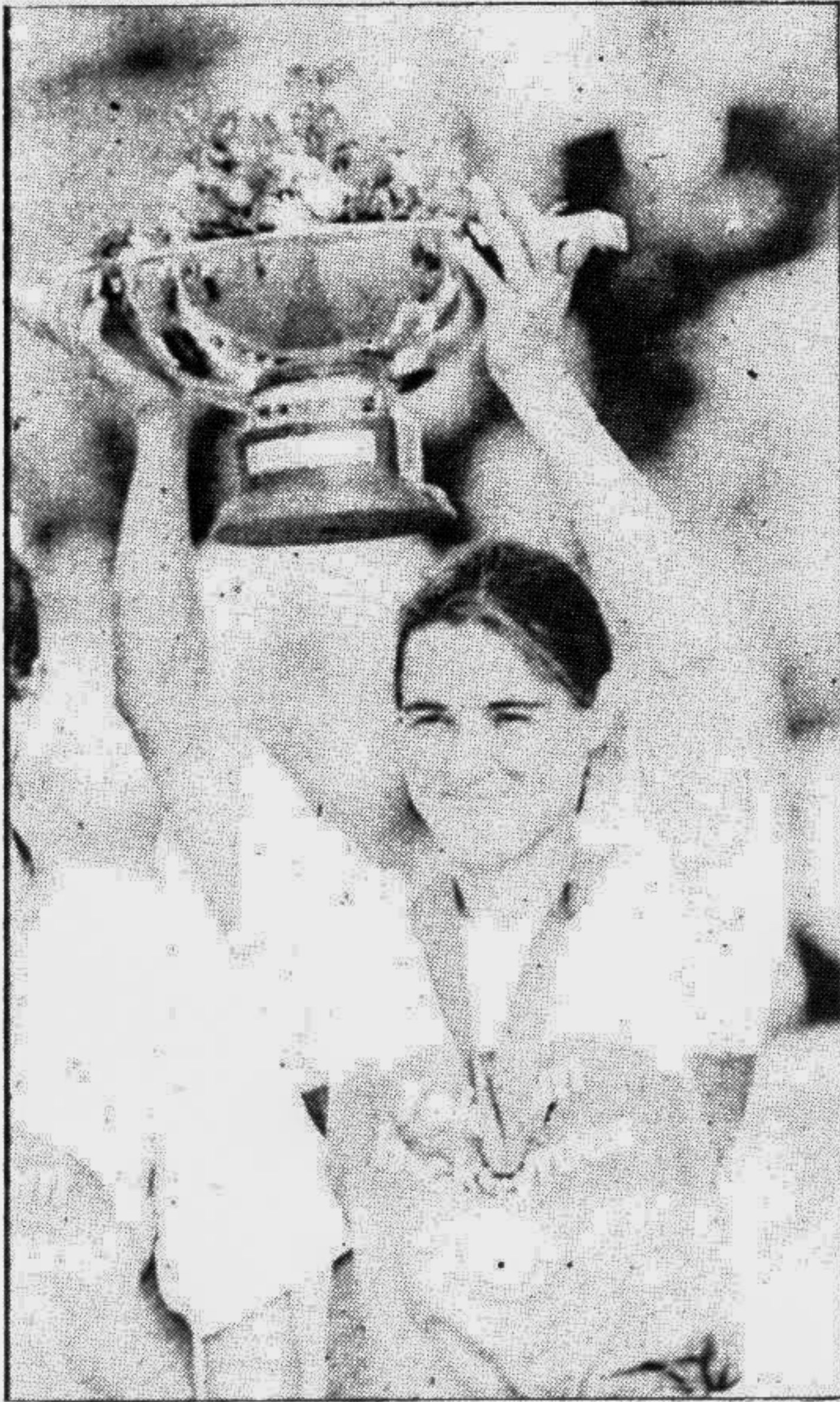
The US came into the tournament ranked 11th in the world and has exceeded marvelously their plans of improving into the top eight, after finishing last at the 1990 World Cup in Sydney and failing to qualify for the 1992 Olympic Games.

Tracey Fuchs opened the

scoring for the US when she converted a penalty corner in the 14th minute, and captain Barbara Marois scored from another penalty corner 13 minutes later.

Minutes after German winger Heike Latzsch returned to the pitch after having her knee strapped she took the ball into an almost empty circle and beat goalkeeper Patty Shea for a half time score of 2-1.

Shea and her defenders were the heroes in the second half when they repelled 11 penalty corners to shut the Germans out and take the surprise bronze with open arms.



Australian captain Rechelle Hawkes lifts the trophy aloft after the final of the eighth women's World Cup hockey tournament in Dublin yesterday. Australia beat Argentina 2-0. — AFP photo

Army move into nat'l b'ball semis

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Army moved into the semifinal of the Pepsi 17th national basketball championship when they romped past Bangladesh Police by 175-49 points in one of the five matches held at the NSC wooden floor gymnasium yesterday.

The soldiers smarting from their one point defeat against Bangladesh Rifles on the previous day, topped the lowly Police in a crucial match to earn a berth in the last four as Group B runners-up.

Army will meet defending champions Bangladesh Navy in the first semifinal tomorrow.

Bangladesh Navy who had earlier confirmed their place in the last four, thrashed Brahmanbaria by 169-34 points sailing to the top of Group A recording their fifth successive win.

Dhaka and Bangladesh Air Force who had won their matches against Chandpur and Rajshahi respectively will meet each other in their last robin league encounter today to decide the final semifinalists.

Five more Bangladeshis in FIDE list

Five more Bangladeshi chess players have been included in the latest FIDE rating with this their number rose to 31 in the country, reports UNB.

The country's only Grandmaster Niaz Morshed remained at the top among the Bangladeshis with his previous 2520. International Master Ziaur Rahman is in the second position with 2445 while IM Rifat bin Sattar holds the third spot with 2405, said a press release issued yesterday.

The rest are — IM Zillur Rahman with 2315, FIDE Master Sayed Tahmidur Rahman 2310, Sayed Iqbal Raquib 2300, Kalimullah Khan 2285, Hasibul Hasan 2265, Eunus Hasan 2260, Ziaul Kader Tuhin 2235, Jamilur Rahman 2225, Rezaul Haq 2215, Neamul Haq 2190, Khandakar Kayes Hasan 2185, Anisur Rahman 2180, Shaikh Nasir Ahmed 2170, Rani Hamid 2150, Mahbub Ali Ferdous 2160, Raquul Islam 2145, Sayed Uddin Lavloo 2140, Omar Khaled 2140, Abdullah Al Raquib 2130, Sayed Ruhul Kabir Shiploo 2125, Sayada Shabana Parvin 2115, Ali Amzad Mintoo 2100, A N M Ruhul Kuddus 2075, Tanima Parvin 2065, Nahid Mizid 2050, Amir Hossain 2045, Zakia Sultana 2025 and Afroza Khanam Babli with 2010.

School chess on

The ninth school chess tournament began in the city yesterday with 272 students included five girls competing from 67 schools, reports UNB.

On the inaugural day of the nine round meet held at the NSC chess room, 68 matches were held of which 67 were decided and one drawn.

Anand, Kamsky draw

HYDERABAD, India, July 25: American Grandmaster Gata Kamsky on Monday failed to hold on to his advantage in the quarterfinals of the Sanghi World Chess Championship and settled for a draw with Indian Grandmaster Vishwanathan Anand, reports AP.

Kamsky, with the disadvantage of playing with black pieces, replied to Anand's favourite Spanish opening with his aggressive Marshall gambit.

The game followed the pattern of their previous encounter in France earlier this year, until the 21st move.

In the 22nd move Anand came out with a novelty with a Bishop to Queen, enjoying a slight advantage. But Anand, known for his aggressive game, committed mistakes in the 26 and 27th moves which gave Kamsky advantage.

The bespectacled 20-year-old American played a brilliant rook in his 25th move and looked threatening white king off its defences.

But Anand's patient defense forced Kamsky to commit mistake.

Kamsky missed a probable advantage chance when he could have taken Anand's rook, but he played differently and the game ended in a draw when a stalemate situation developed.

In the other game of the day, Vladimir Kramnik of Russia and Boris Gelfand of Belarus also ended in a draw on the 14th move.

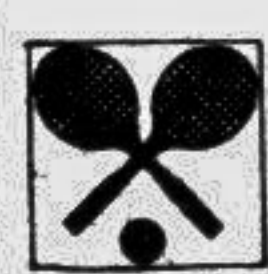
Both the players started off slowly without taking any chances. They pondered over the seemingly obvious moves for long and when Gelfand offered truce on 14th move, it was accepted to the surprise of the spectators.

However, unfought drawn are common at this stage of such a tournament.



The victorious Spanish Federation Cup team from (L to R) Nieves 'Neus' Avila, Maria Angeles Mantolio, Conchita Martinez, Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario and coach Miguel Margats pose together after defeating the United States in the final in Frankfurt on July 24. — AFP photo

Graf gets back into groove



MAHWAH, New Jersey, July 25: Steffi Graf received sterner opposition than she expected but rallied to overtake American Lisa Raymond 4-6, 6-4, 6-1 in a 100-minute final on Sunday to win the 150,000 dollars Pathmark tennis Classic, reports Reuters.

Graf, who received a reported guarantee of 350,000 dollars to spruce up the field, won the tournament for a fifth time. Raymond, a semifinalist last year, collected the second-place purse of 14,000 dollars.

It was the first meeting between world number one Graf, loser in the French Open semifinals and in the opening round of Wimbledon in her last two starts, and the 54th-

ranked Raymond, US collegiate champion in 1992 and 1993.

"She took me by surprise," said Graf. "She served incredibly well until late in the second set."

Graf found herself in deep trouble as Raymond, a second-year professional, combined an excellent serving game with accurate ground strokes to take the first set and break in the seventh game of the second set for a 4-3 lead.

Graf was not satisfied with her returns, but her serves were on target in the final set and a half. She finished with 11 aces to seven for Raymond, who had none in the final set.

After Raymond's service break in the second set, Graf went to work and the American's game wilted under the assault.

Edberg brushes Stoltenberg aside



WASHINGTON, July 25: Second-seeded Stefan Edberg of Sweden saved his best tennis for

the last and crushed 14th seed Jason Stoltenberg of Australia 6-4, 6-2 in 71 minutes to win the 625,000 dollar DC tennis Classic on Sunday, reports Reuters.

Edberg, who won his fourth tournament of the year and increased his career record to 6-0 against Stoltenberg, did not drop a set this week, despite struggling with his normally reliable serve in his matches leading up to the final.

In the final Edberg lifted his first serve percentage to 69 per cent, from his week average of 49 per cent.

Instead, it was Stoltenberg's serve that was suspect throughout the final, as the Australian double-faulted five times, all on crucial points.

Edberg, seventh in the world, broke the 47th-ranked Stoltenberg for a 2-0 first set lead on a double-fault, and again in the same game of the second set on two double-faults from the Australian.

Although Edberg lost his serve twice in the first set, he

eventually won it by breaking Stoltenberg in the 10th game with two backhand passing shots.

Edberg raced to a 3-0 lead in the second set and reached 5-2 by playing aggressively on his serve, which he did not lose in the second set.

In the final game of the match, Stoltenberg reached 40-0 with an ace, but Edberg attacked on every point and pushed the score to deuce. Four points later, Stoltenberg double-faulted on match point.

Edberg said that he hoped to use this success as a momentum builder for the US Open, as he lost in the first round at the French Open and the second round at Wimbledon.

"I'd be very happy to go into the US Open playing like this," Edberg said. "Once I got my serve going, I felt I was playing as good as I have since April. My confidence is back. It will make me want to go out and practice during the next two weeks."

He played a lot of finals, and it shows," Stoltenberg said. "He stepped up the level of his game and kept the pressure on me. I served a few bad doubles, but I'm not unhappy with way I played."

The 25-year-old German star cracked three deep returns to force errors and got the other point on a backhand approach that drew another miscue to break back at love and Graf swept five more games to claim the set and lead 3-0 in the third.

Raymond admitted that the chance to beat Graf in straight sets brought on intense pressure and she cracked.

"I was in a kind of a shock when I had a chance to serve for 5-3," said the 20-year-old Raymond, who had an 11-11 record on the tour for the first half of the year.

"My mind got ahead of itself. What I should have done was pretend that I was behind and served it out."

Raymond attacked frequently in the closing games, but constantly missed from the net. "She forces you to think



STEFFI GRAF

you have to hit to the lines and I went for too much," said Raymond in explaining why she constantly overshot on her volleys. "I was trying for perfection and I shouldn't have."

"Her forehand comes at you like a gun," Raymond said.

Graf had only compliments for Raymond.

"Lisa has a lot of skills and a very good forehand," Graf said. "She tries to come in and sometimes makes mistakes. It's just a matter of time before that changes."

In the doubles final, Amanda Coetzer of South Africa and American Sandy Collins defeated Jessica Emmons of the United States and Nino Louarsabishvili of Georgia, 6-1, 6-1.

AFC to press for four slots

KUALA LUMPUR, July 25: Asia, seeking two more World Cup slots, said on Monday an independent panel should decide on the allocation of the eight extra places in the 1998 finals in France, reports Reuters.

"It is important that there should be logic and rationale to this that all countries in the world can see," Asian Football Confederation (AFC) general secretary Peter Velappan said.

World soccer's governing body FIFA announced before the World Cup in the United States that the finalists will be increased from 24 to 32 teams in France.

An AFC proposal put forward by their newly-elected president Sultan Ahmad Shah of Malaysia calls for "an independent panel of experts" to look at primarily non-footballing factors like population and economic growth rates to decide which confederations deserve the extra place.

The 44-member AFC's initiative is seen as an attempt to swing FIFA's political focus away from traditional soccer heavyweights in Europe and South America to developing regions like Asia and Africa.

FIFA has indicated the division of the extra places will be decided at an executive committee meeting in September. But fierce lobbying has already begun.

The South American Confederation is demanding a fifth place, which with Brazil qualifying automatically in 1998 as defending champions would mean six finalists from the 10 member CSF.

"There is no doubt that Asia's two teams proved at the World Cup that we cannot be kept in the backwater of world football," Velappan said.

Saudi Arabia became the second Asian side to go through to the second round, while South Korea failed only on goal difference to qualify from a tough group that included Germany and Spain.

Asia has been offered an extra place, but Velappan insists the continent needs two more places for a total of four.

Both Asian teams achieved a critical breakthrough at the World Cup in that they proved our faith and trust in the development of Asian football which few people outside the region believed in," he said.

Noble gesture

PARIS, July 25: The fifth-place finisher in the Tour de France has pledged to turn over his 250,000 francs (dfrs 47,000) in winnings to a relief agency helping Rwandan refugees, reports AP.

Richard Virenque of France also announced Sunday that he will auction his bicycle and polka-dotted jersey signifying the race's best climber, and give the proceeds to relief for Rwanda.

Virenque finished 10 minutes, 10 seconds behind winner Miguel Indurain on Sunday as the prestigious three-week cycling race came to an end. He had held second place for several days.

His earnings will go to Medecins Sans Frontiers, or Doctors Without Borders, which has appealed for doctors and money to help cope with the Rwandan refugee situation.

Rwandans have fled to Zaire in perhaps the fastest, biggest exodus in history. Thousands are dying of cholera, lack of food and water, and exhaustion.

Cubans suffer minor setback



ST PETERSBURG, July 25: The mighty Cuban boxer suffered its first defeat of the

Goodwill Games on Sunday when national lightweight champion Diosvelis Hurtado lost to Russia's Paata Gvasalia in an enthralling fight, reports Reuters.

Olympic heavyweight champion Felix Savon almost joined the also-rans later on when he struggled for two rounds against France's Christophe Mendy before finally scraping through.

But despite the setback, the Cubans, who won seven golds at the 1992 Olympics, again look the best-prepared side and nothing should prevent them amassing a rich haul of medals.

Hurtado's only consolation was that he helped to put on the best bout of the tournament so far with Gvasalia, the Russian national lightweight champion.

The boxers went at each other from the first bell and the match was even until Gvasalia, who has fought twice as many international bouts as

Hurtado, sent the Cuban staggering into the ropes in the second round.

Early in the third round the 21-year-old Russian landed a fierce punch to Hurtado's head, forcing his opponent to take a standing count.

Savon, world champion for the last four years, was well on the way to wiping the floor with Mendy in the first round as he overwhelmed the Frenchman in a flurry of flashing fists.

But Mendy struck back in the second and sent Savon's head snapping back with a surprise right-hand punch. He remained on the offensive for

the rest of the match, with Savon happy to keep his distance and weave round the ring.

Mendy pressed forward in the third round and caught Savon with several good punches to the head but the judges still gave the Cuban an 8-6 victory, prompting whistles from spectators.

Savon, who declined to speak to journalists afterwards, looks set to retain the Goodwill Games title he won four years ago.

The only other boxer who could have given him a run for his money World Championship silver medalist Georgy Kandelaki of Georgia, has withdrawn.

The best Cuban performance came from Olympic light middleweight champion Juan Lemus who restored some honour with a three-round pounding of Finnish champion Anssi Perajoki in a bout which he won 16-3.

Orhan Delibas of the Netherlands, who lost to Lemus in the 1992 Olympic final, knocked down three-times Turkish champion Malik Beyleroglu in the first round on his way to an easy win.

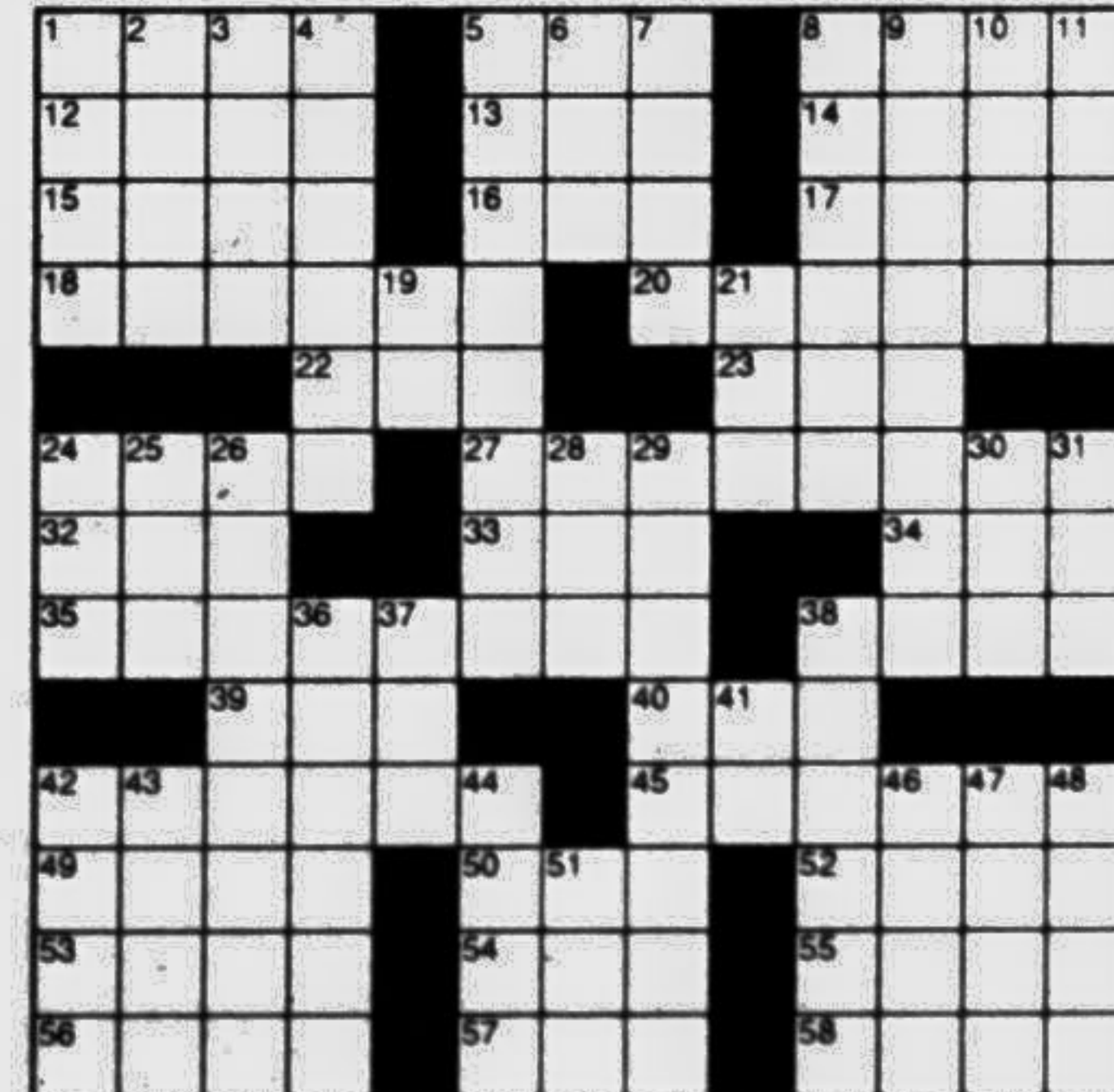


Brazilian World Cup stars Bebeto (L), Ricardo Rocha (C) and Romario (R) pose with their momentous award to acknowledge appreciation for their achievement during a public ceremony at the Maracana Stadium in Rio on July 24. — AFP photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|------------------------|---------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN | DOWN | DOWN |
| 1 Queens field | 38 Wield a blue pencil | 1 Masher's turnaround | 24 Matter-horn, e.g. |
| 5 Surprise cries | 39 Ump | 2 Hawaiian harbor | 25 "Bei-Bist du Schon" |
| 8 Area of London | 40 Lamb's pop | 3 Geological periods | 26 Proposal |
| 12 Three coins in the fountain | 42 "A Midsummer Night's Dream" character | 4 Virgilian hero | 28 Mrs. Al Bundy |
| 13 Swear | 45 Verifies | 5 Tennis stroke | 29 Cloudy |
| 14 Enthusiastic | 49 Be tangential to | 6 Fashionable | 30 Forty-one, to Cicero |
| 15 Playwright | 50 Coach | 7 Exchange | 31 Nevertheless |
| 16 Greek H | 52 Part | 8 Beach-comber's shoe | 36 Went by plane |
| 17 Square | 53 Exhaust | 9 Business expense | 37 E.T.'s craft |
| 18 Charlatan of a sort | 54 U.S. soldiers | 10 Take on | 38 Poke your head out |
| 20 Jack | 55 Merriment | 11 Probability | 41 "Wilder-ness!" |
| 21 Murphy Stadium squad | 56 Attention | 19 "People" competitor | 42 Dog owner's chore |
| 22 Bat wood | 57 Drunkard | 21 Rock concert need | 43 Theater award |
| 23 Jongg lead-in | 58 Unimprovable location | | 44 Periodicals, for short |
| 24 Biblical prophet | | | 46 There's no cure for it |
| 27 Blood-to-brain problem | | | 47 "Fish Magic" painter |
| 32 Ms. Ullmann | | | 48 Wines |
| 33 Neighbor of Ariz. | | | 51 Carnival city |
| 34 Pub | | | |
| 35 Determine without all the facts | | | |

LEIS JAB ASIS
ACRE OSO ZULU
SHOELESS UGLI
TONTON SPRAYS
HYPE HER
WISE ANTI RIB
ASH VIDAL AMO
GOO OREL TYPO
OWL DEER
FATHER MIDAS
ARIA SCHUBERT
REST VEE ANNA
MATS PEW LYON



CRYPTOQUIP

LGTA RKVNGM: KJJHIA

TUCLGM RKUNGE VGGMGM

IBC N WG KWTG NH

MUCL UNHBN

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WELL-PAID OWNER OF THRIVING HEALTH SPA IS LIVING OFF THE FATS OF THE LAND.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: A 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.