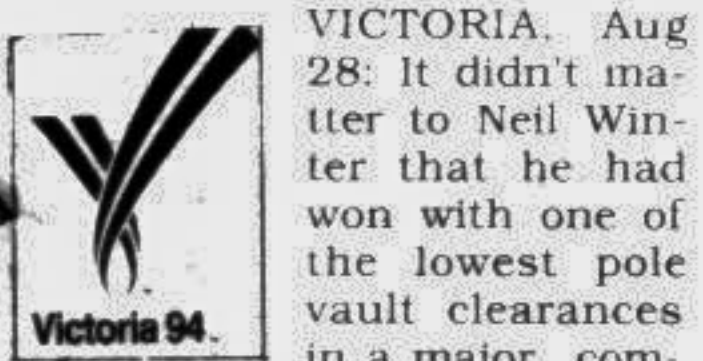


Michelle Freeman of Jamaica glides over the hurdles during the women's 100m hurdles at the Commonwealth Games in Victoria. Freeman won the event clocking 13.12 seconds.

—AFP photo

## Winter's low flight to gold



VICTORIA, Aug. 28: It didn't matter to Neil Winter that he had won with one of the lowest pole vault clearances in a major competition. The fact that he had become the first vaulter from Wales to earn a gold medal in the event at an international meet was far more important, reports AP.

"I would have been very happy with the bronze or the silver," Winter said Saturday, after clearing 5.40 metres at the Commonwealth Games and beating heavily favoured Okkert Brits of South Africa. "I didn't expect to win. I'm very surprised, very pleased, very happy."

Brits, who had soared a South African record 5.85 metres three times this year and beaten world record-holder Sergei Bubka of Ukraine, didn't enter the competition until the bar reached 5.50. He missed all three attempts at that height.

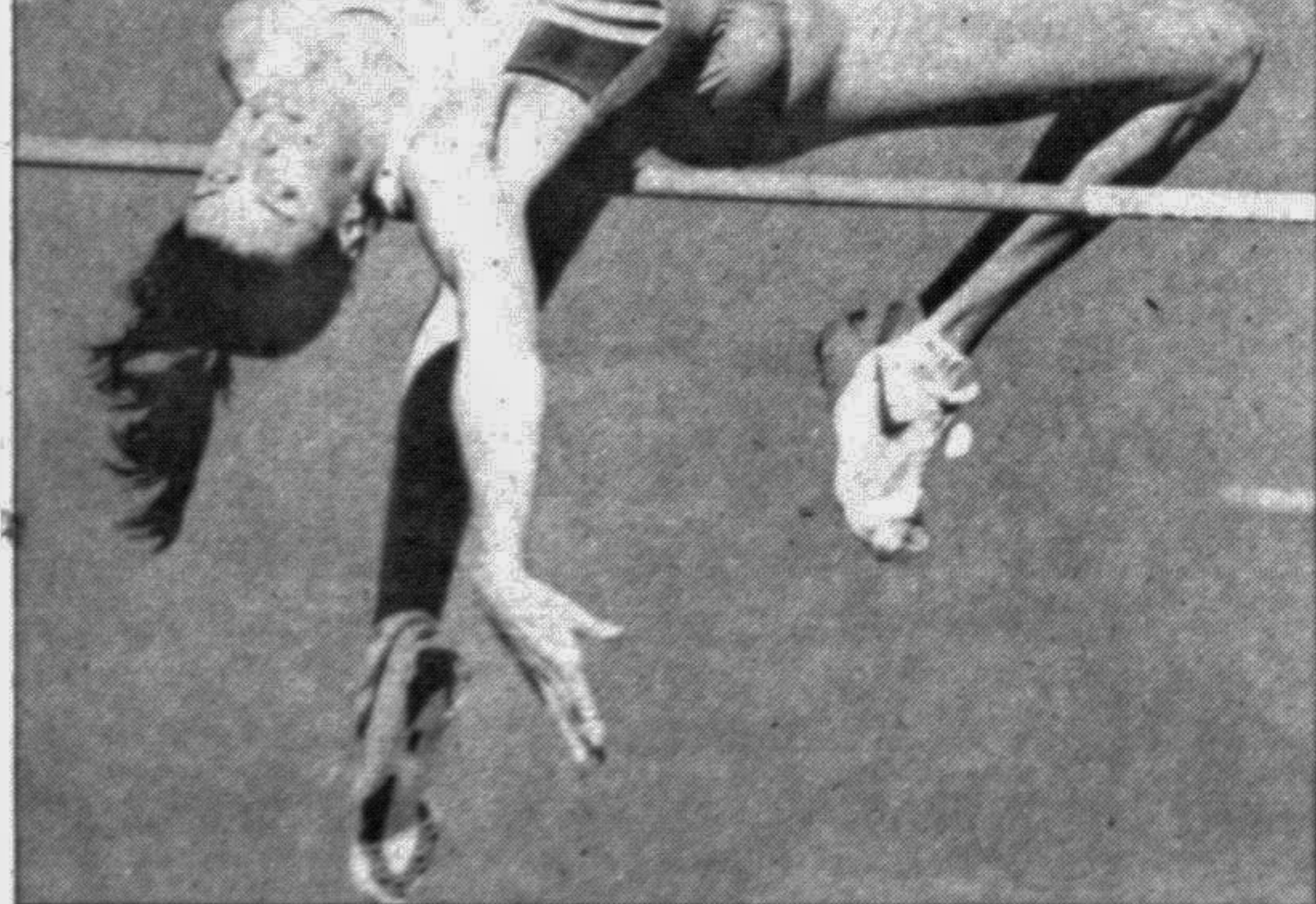
"I feel very bad," the downcast Brits said. "There was not a lot of pressure, but I really wanted to win the gold for South Africa. The Commonwealth Games was the most important meet of the year for me."

"I feel so negative now, that I just want to swat something," Asked what he thought the South African reaction would be to his stunning failure, Brits said, "If I was looking at it myself, I would say, 'can you believe this?'"

Brits' loss was one of two mishaps for the South Africans on a track and field programmes that also proved disastrous for several other athletes.

The other came in the semifinals of the men's 1,500 metres, where Johan Landsman was accidentally tripped and required oxygen as he was carried off the track on a stretcher. Landsman, whose time of 3 minutes, 33.56 seconds, was the fastest among all the 1,500 entrants, later was reported in, satisfactory condition.

Pat Scammell of Australia fell in the same 1,500 heat as Landsman, then got up and finished the race. But he would up last and failed to qualify for Sunday's final.



Australia's Alison Inverarity soars over the bar to create a Commonwealth Games record in the high jump final on August 27. Inverarity took the gold medal with her first attempt of 1.94 metres.

England's Clova Court stumbled over a hurdle in the women's 100-metre hurdles final and sustained a wrist injury, and Nigeria, among the favourites in the men's 400 relay, failed to advance through the semifinals because of a dropped baton on the first exchange.

In addition to winter, Saturday's gold medalists included Jamaica's Michelle Freeman in the women's hurdles at 13.12, Australia's Alison Inverarity in the women's high jump with a Games record 1.94 metres, Australia's Nicole Boegman in the women's long jump with a wind-aided 6.82 metres, Kenya's Lameck Agutu in the men's 10,000 at 28:38.22, and Canada's Carole Rouillard in the women's marathon at 2:30:41.

In a semifinal heat of the men's 400 relay, the Canadian team of Donovan Bailey, Glenroy Gilbert, Carleton Chambers and Bruny Surin set a Games record of 38.63.

Freeman, whose past includes falls at the 1992 Olympics and 1993 World Indoor Championships, stayed on her feet this time, outleaving England's Jacqueline Agyepong for the gold.

"I wanted to win so badly, because this was a major championship," Freeman said, after becoming the first Jamaican to win the event at the Commonwealth Games. "I wanted to win a major title."

Agyepong was second at 13.14 in a race run into a strong headwind.

Inverarity and South African Charmaine Weavers each cleared 1.94 metres, but the Aussie got the gold because she cleared on her first attempt and Weaver on her second.

Ed Moses may make comeback

PARIS, Aug. 28: Ed Moses, the most successful one-lap hurdler ever, said on Saturday he was tempted to make a comeback at the age of 39, reports Reuters.

Moses, the former world record holder and twice winner of both the world and Olympic 400 metres hurdles titles, retired six years ago following a back injury, but said he now felt fully fit after undergoing an operation.

For Weavers, finishing second was vindication after having flopped in previous big meets.

"I was a darkhorse in South Africa," said Weavers, competing only three days after spraining her left ankle during a fall down the dining room steps at the Athletes' Village.

"They were saying, 'will Charmaine fall again at the big meet?' I didn't. Before, I'd get intimidated by all these great athletes. Now, I don't. I can handle the pressure."

In the 10,000, Kenya's Dan Komen, apparently acting as a pacesetter for Agutu, burst to a 100-metre lead after the first 800 metres. He maintained first place until just before the 6,000 mark, when Agutu assumed command. Agutu went on to finish about 60 metres ahead of runner-up Tendal Chimusa of Zimbabwe.

Rouillard, a three-time winner of the Toronto Marathon, won her first major international marathon title with a career-best time in leading a 1-2 Canadian sweep.

The 34-year-old Rouillard, running a smart, conservative race, swept past teammate Lizanne Bussieres just before the 40-kilometre mark in the 42.2k race through the scenic downtown and bay areas of Victoria.

A two-time Olympian and second-place finisher in the 1993 Los Angeles Marathon, Rouillard beat Bussieres by 26 seconds with a time nearly a minute below her previous best of 2:31:33.

When Rouillard passed Bussieres, she knew she was on the way to victory.

"She told me, 'Let's go, Carole,'" Rouillard said. "I knew then I had the gold. I just had to bring it on in."

"This was the best race of my life. I didn't expect to run a personal best. I was just going for a medal. The time just came."

Bussieres finished second at 2:31:07, only 10 seconds off her career best, and Yvonne Danson of England was third at 2:32:24, her fastest ever.

Angeline Kanana of Kenya, who set the pace through the first 35 kilometres, tired and wound up sixth at 2:35:02. She was the favourite, having been the only marathoner in the 16-woman field to have broken 2:30:00, with a time of 2:29:59.

1000

## Sidek retains C'wealth crown

VICTORIA, Aug. 28: Rashid Sidek retained his Commonwealth Games men's singles badminton crown with a decisive, 15-6, 15-4 win over fellow Malaysian Ewe Hock Ong in Saturday's final, reports Reuters.

"There was a lot of pressure on me to retain my title," said the former world number one, whose victory sealed a 30,000 dollar (US) grant from the Malaysian government.

Sidek refused to speculate on whether he would make it a hat-trick on home territory when the Games are held in Kuala Lumpur in four years' time. "I will be 30 then," he said. But he did say he hoped to play in more big tournaments again in the near future.

He was out of action for three months last year because of an eye operation but now believes he has recovered his best form in time for the Asian Games in Japan in October.

Unseeded Australian Lisa Campbell kept up her giant-killing feats to take the women's singles gold medal with an 11-2, 11-5 win over Canada's Si-An Deng, who was seeded in the five to eight category.

It was a disappointing one-sided final, especially for the home fans whose hopes rose briefly when Deng led 5-0 in the second set.

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## Drug controversy lingers



VICTORIA, Aug. 28: A fifth competitor was banished from the Commonwealth Games for a drug offence on Saturday as controversy continued to overshadow sporting achievement, reports Reuters.

Jamaican high hurdler Robert Foster, sixth in Tuesday's final, left town in a hurry before Games officials announced that he had tested positive for the banned stimulant ephedrine.

He followed Ghanaian boxer Godson Sawah, English athletes Paul Edwards and Diane Modahl and Nigerian relay runner Udem Ekpeyong on to the roll of dishonour.

For once, controversy took a back seat in the boxing arena. After days of rows about the judging and accusations of cheating and racism, the competition ended in sporting fashion with four golds for the host country and two apiece for Northern Ireland and Kenya.

The penultimate day of the Games also saw Australia's first boxing gold for 16 years, thanks to bantamweight Robert Peden.

It was doping that attracted the most attention. Games federation officials

said Foster, a university student in California, had failed to offer any satisfactory explanation for the presence of ephedrine in his urine sample. The federation will pass on the results of the random test on Foster to the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) which can suspend him from the sport for at least three months.

The IAAF has already had a busy week with news from Victoria that shot putter Edwards and 800 metres runner Modahl had tested positive for banned drugs at meetings earlier in the season. Both flew home from Victoria without competing.

Sawah was stripped of his bantamweight boxing bronze medal on Friday for using furosemide, a banned diuretic, while Ekpeyong did not even make it as far as the Athletes' Village after being caught with drugs in his suitcase at Victoria Airport last week and sent home.

Sawah's Ghanaian team were still searching on Saturday for six members of their athletics squad who went missing on Wednesday. A Nigerian gymnast, Augustine Idahosa, disappeared on Saturday and police admitted they had no idea of the whereabouts of the absentees, including a Sri Lankan boxer

who vanished on Thursday. In the cycling, Australian Gary Neiwand overcame injury to become the first rider to win three Games sprint titles in succession while England's Yvonne McGregor lapped the field to win the women's 25 km points race in her debut in the event.

Brett Aitken led an Australian medal sweep in the closing men's 40 km points race.

Two competitors bowed out of the Games on stretchers. South Africa's Johan Landman, the fastest man coming into the men's 1,500 metres, fell heavily in the semifinals and was given oxygen as he was carried out of the Centennial Stadium.

Australian Ian Ruckle, silver medalist in the last Games in Auckland, went into Saturday's women's marathon suffering from a viral complaint.

Despite nausea and leg cramps, she made it to the finish where her parents were waiting but collapsed and had to be put on a drip.

Her time was more than 35 minutes behind that of winner Carole Rouillard of Canada who clocked two hours 30.41 seconds.

Australia will finish the Games as undisputed overall champions, having boosted their gold total to 83. Canada trail second on 37.

## Seles still unsure

MONTE CARLO, Monaco, Aug. 28: Monica Seles, absent from the pro tennis circuit for nearly 16 months, says she is still thinking about tennis but is reluctant to say when she will return, reports AP.

"I don't like to put a date on it," Seles said in a phone interview from Monte Carlo. "It's the game I love and I just hope for my sake, soon."

"I am getting stronger every day and doing all the things I should."

Seles was in the small principality on the French Riviera to accept an award from Prince Albert and the royal family for outstanding courage in the face of adversity. Seles said she came to receive the award during the Weight Watchers Celebrity Sports Festival, but emphasised she was not competing.

The 20-year-old Seles has not played since she was stabbed in the back April 30, 1993, during a tournament in Hamburg, Germany, by a deranged fan obsessed with Steffi Graf.

## Kafelnikov storms into final

CAMMACK, NY, Aug. 28: Fifth-seeded Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia and sixth-seeded Cedric Pioline of France both rallied on Saturday to reach today's final of the 313,750 dollar Wimbledon Hamlet Cup tennis tournament, reports Reuters.

The 20-year-old Kafelnikov, who climbed 90 points in the world rankings to No. 14 since January, rallied to beat unseeded Richie Reneberg of the US 4-6, 6-2, 6-4. Kafelnikov won the last four games and the last 10 points of the match.

Pioline also came from behind to eliminate unseeded Renzo Furlan of Italy 4-6, 7-6(7-4), 6-0.

Pioline, runner-up at last year's US Open, took a 4-0 lead in the second set tiebreaker and then won the third set with the loss of eight points.

Kafelnikov, who has a 50-1 match record going into Sunday's final, is the third player to win 50 or more matches this year. American Pete Sampras, No. 1 in ranking, is 57-6 and Spain's Sergi Bruguera, ranked third, is 55-16.

"This is good for me going into my first US Open," Kafelnikov said.

If he wins the Hamlet final, his ranking will reach No. 11, according to an Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) spokesman.

Kafelnikov took some of the power off his first serve, which he used to beat third seeded Michael Chang Friday. "I wanted to get the ball in play and keep Richie (Reneberg) on the baseline," Kafelnikov said. "If I had to depend on my second serve, it would be trouble."

The strategy worked. Kafelnikov had a 70 per cent of first serves to 35 per cent for Reneberg.

Reneberg also committed seven double faults, three in a crucial 18-point eighth game of the third set to lose a service-break advantage.

"When he broke me twice to lead 4-2 in the third set I didn't expect to break him again," Kafelnikov said. "I didn't expect him to make three double faults."

## Sabatini's familiar move



NEW HAVEN, Conn., Aug. 28: Gabriela Sabatini doesn't have to be reminded that it's been a long time since she's won a tournament. Perhaps she can change her fortune with a new coach, reports AP.

Sabatini, 25, hasn't won a singles title in her past 39 appearances, and this year some of her losses have come early and to little-known players. Her last victory came at the 1992 Italian Open.

"Last year, I had a tough year. I got sick and it took me a while to recover," Sabatini said Saturday after a consolation match at the SNET classic exhibition tournament. "I also switched a lot of coaches."

A big blow to Sabatini's confidence came during last year's French Open, when she was leading Mary Joe Fernandez 6-1, 5-1, in the quarterfinals before losing her mental edge — and eventually the match.

"Losing at the French Open — that's one of the toughest losses I ever had," said Sabatini, whose ranking has

slipped to No. 10 after six years in the top five.

This year, she's lost to Silvia Farina in the first round of the French Open, Marketa Kochta in the fourth round of the Pan Pacific and Irina Spirlea in the first round of the Italian Open.

"I've been losing to players I shouldn't be," she said.

For the last three weeks, however, Sabatini's been improving her game with coach



GABRIELA SABATINI

Juan Nunez of Chile, who worked with her for a week last year and has coached No. 2 Arantxa Sanchez Vicario.

Sabatini said she feels confident about all aspects of her serve and volley game going into next week's US Open, a Grand Slam event she won in 1990, defeating Steffi Graf in the finals.

"We're working on being more aggressive, on my groundstrokes, and moving quicker and stepping into the ball," she said.

"Everything is getting much better. I already feel a difference."

Sabatini is seeded eighth at next week's Open, and will meet Larisa Neiland, her doubles partner.

"She can be really aggressive, and she serves well."

## Navratilova puts on style

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Aug. 28: Martina Navratilova wowed another record crowd at the SNET Classic exhibition tournament Saturday, beating Jana Novotna 7-5, 7-5 in the title match, reports AP.

Navratilova and Novotna, both of whom are ranked in the top 10 on the WTA Tour, battled before 12,964 at the Connecticut Tennis Center.

Saturday's crowd was bigger than the 12,711 fans who turned out a day earlier for the tournament semifinals, which set a record for a women's tournament played outdoors.

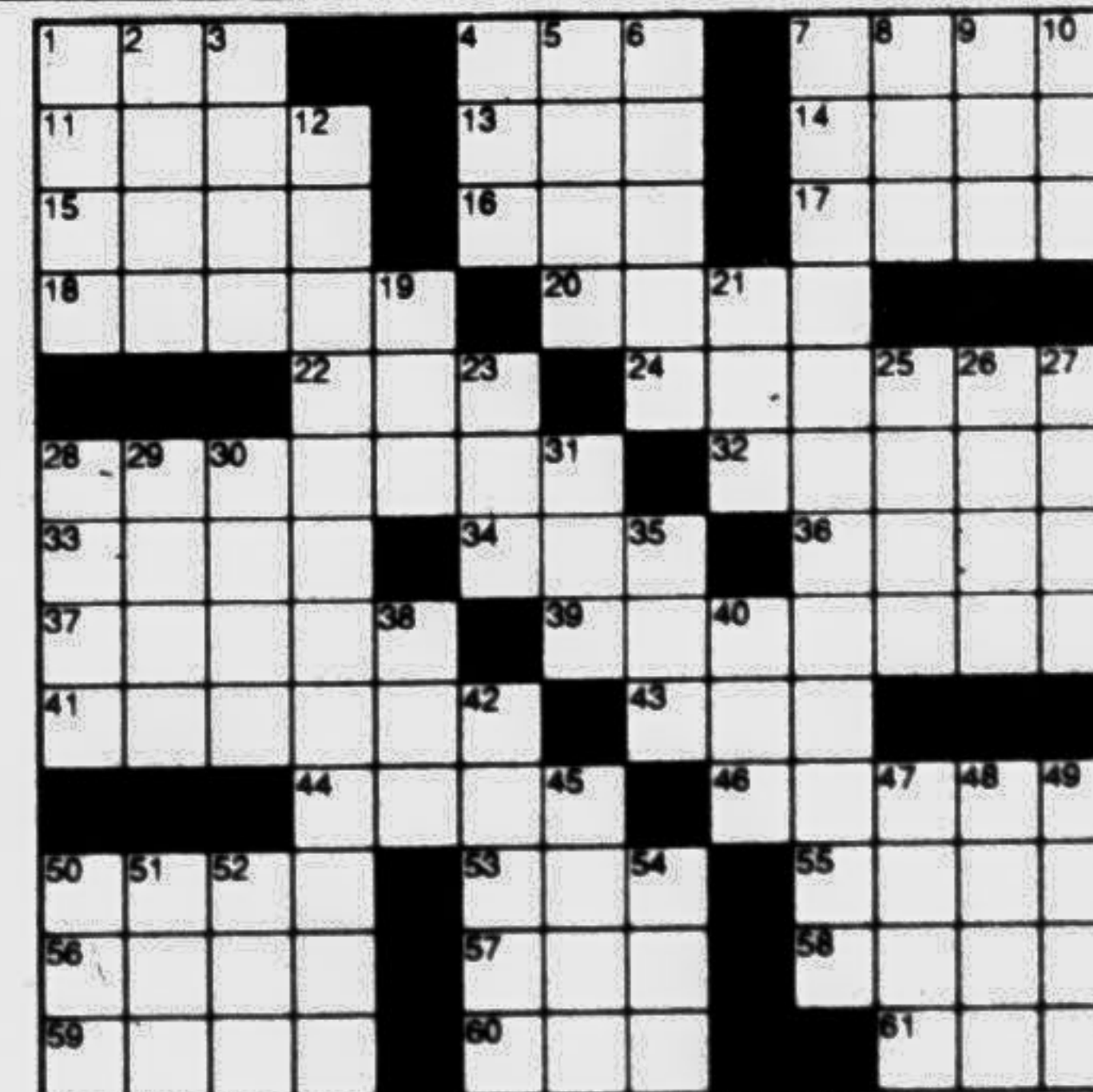
The crowd for Saturday's final also was larger than any that turned out at the same site for the Volvo International men's tournament.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	39 Sonics' home	DOWN	1 Spring-cleaning targets	12 Multiple mailings
1 Spitball, e.g.	41 Gymnastic Mary Lou	2 Saroyan autobio name	19 Pole	21 Sch. org.
4 Triangular sail	43 Clear the tables	3 Mono-poly needs	23 Just out	25 Shed
7 High peaks	44 Taunt eater	4 Predicament	26 Influence	27 Eye ailment
11 Left's father	50 Lab rat's challenge	5 Thought	28 Hoosgow	29 Corn concoction
13 Shake-speare title word	53 Tree maker	6 Emulates	30 Common solecism	31 Greek letters
14 "Star Wars" princess	55 "QB VII" author	7 It makes your words	35 Neighbor of Kans.	38 Argument
15 "Goldberg Variations" composer	56 Stench bacon, e.g.	8 Main-lander's souvenir	40 Diving bird	42 Dark before the dawn
16 Kitten's comment	59 Bovine remarks	9 Snaps	45 Go sight-seeing	47 Queued up
17 Elf	60 Have a go at	10 Utter	48 Piece of Italian bread?	49 Poses a few queries
18 Finger-paint	61 Existed		50 Ot-tattooed word	51 Bother
20 "Xanadu" river			52 Wildlife park	54 Old Tunisian ruler

Solution time: 24 min.

EGYPT	SYRIA
CAROLE	POUNCE
IRONER	ARETHA
RNA	AMORE
CENT	SAT
ARSON	TAKINGS
POD	NIKI
BALONEY	DEFER
EVIL	PAM
TIN	TOKAY
HAGGIS	MOMENT
STEELE	AGENTS
ERNES	SALTS



CRYPTOQUIP

Y B Z R I R N G J B Y C E S N  
U C I U L U X I S U S N G X R C R  
O N N P Y O R P U W N C I U J I R J  
Z N G C X I N E R C  
Saturday's Cryptogram: PLUMBER WAS FRANKLY ABRUPT WHEN WORD OF HIS RETIREMENT LEAKED OUT.

Today's Cryptogram clue: Z equals B

The Cryptogram 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.