

Zimbabwe-born Englishman Graeme Hick drives Western Australian spinner Jamie Stewart through covers during third day's play of the four-day match at the WACA ground yesterday. Hick blazed with a superb 172.

Hick warms up for Ashes

PERTH, Oct 31: Graeme Hick hit a masterly 172 Monday as England savaged the Western Australia bowling attack on the third day of their four-day cricket match at the WACA, reports AP.

The Zimbabwe-born batsman helped England to a second innings total of 393 for six — a lead of 400. England scored 357 runs during the day.

Hick's innings ended just six runs short of his England best when he edged an attempted drive against Sean Cary into the gloves of wicket-keeper Adam Gilchrist.

He had batted just short of five hours, faced 243 deliveries and struck 28 fours.

Hick recorded his first century of the tour after scores of 7, 27 and 41. It was his 78th first-class century, since moving from Harare to Worcester 11 years ago.

John Crawley was unbeaten on 67 at stumps, along with Philip DeFreitas, who was on four.

Left-arm spinner Jamie Stewart earlier removed England's two veterans as the home team struggled to restrain some lusty hitting by the tourists.

Stewart dismissed opener Graham Gooch for 68 and the out-of-form Mike Gatting for six but ended the day with figures of two for 89.

Hick had no problems with Stewart, lofting several deliveries over the infield. He also survived a duel with former Test paceman Bruce Reid, who did everything except find the edge of the bat in a superb spell after lunch.

Gooch made 36 in the first innings on Saturday, following his 129 in the tour-opener against a Chairman's XI at Lilac Hill, and again looked comfortable during his 170 minutes at the crease.

Left-hander Graham Thorpe was all at sea against Reid, however, and made only 14 before cutting a ball from paceman Cary to substitute fielder Rob Kelly at point after adding 45 with Hick.

Kelly came on after Mike Veletta tore a groin muscle trying to prevent a drive from Hick piercing the off side.

Gatting's footwork has been sluggish in his four innings on tour and he had every reason to show his disgust at cutting a fullish delivery from Stewart to Tom Moody at slip.

Moody had dismissed Mike Atherton for 35 when the England captain drove his second ball to Mark Lavender in the gully after an opening stand of 80 with Gooch.

Rookie Cary finished the day with figures of three for 114 after having Steve Rhodes caught by captain Damien Martyn for 16 late in the final session.

Langer wins Volvo Masters

SOTOGRADE, Spain, Oct 31: Bernhard Langer of Germany struggled to an 1-under-par 70 Sunday but won the Volvo Masters by a shot when Seve Ballesteros of Spain bogeyed the last hole, reports AP.

Ballesteros finished in a second-place tie with Vijay Singh of Fiji with 7-under-par 277 totals.

Colin Montgomerie of Scotland and Miguel Angel Jimenez of Spain shared third another shot back.

Langer, who began the round two shots behind Ballesteros, pulled even with the Spaniard when he knocked in an 8-foot putt for a birdie at the par-65 17th hole.

Langer parred the 18th, but Ballesteros hit his drive behind a double-trunked tree on the hole and was forced to chip onto the fairway. The Spaniard's third shot ran across the green into a bunker and he took a bogey five.



Czech Jana Novotna poses with the trophy after winning the 400,000 dollar WTA Essen international tennis tournament on Oct 30. Novotna beat Croatian Iva Majoli 6-2, 6-4 in the final.

Aussies, beware of Malcolm

PERTH, Oct 31: England's star paceman Devon Malcolm issued a warning to Australia's batsmen on Monday after his latest fiery burst, telling them: "I'd like to think there is a bit more to come."

Malcolm, who took six for 70 against Western Australia at the WACA on Sunday, has arrived in Australia with a reputation as one of the game's most dangerous strike bowlers — based on his demolition of South Africa at the Oval last summer when he took nine for 57 in an innings, reports Reuter.

"It's a question of trying to get old at this stage of the tour but I'd like to think there is a bit more to come," he said after Sunday's performance.

"I'm working on my rhythm in these early stages of the tour because this is the first real bowl I've had since the end of the English season," he added.

"I'm looking to get into the groove and to make sure I'm following through properly and I think I did that on Sunday."

The tourists are hoping he can recapture his Oval form for the Ashes series which starts with the first Test in Brisbane on November 25.

"I'd like to try and hold on to that Oval feeling for as long as possible and try and use it for as long as I can," Malcolm said.

"I've played so many Tests against Australia and not had a lot of glory. We've taken a lot of beatings so my main aim is to give them a good series."

"Three-nil or four-one as it's been in the last two series is not good enough. We want to compete and we've never had a better chance."

Reflecting on his comments earlier in the tour that Australia's batsmen were not good players of quick bowling, Malcolm said: "I spoke honestly about the series in England in 1993 and I did feel they were uncomfortable against pace."

"But I wasn't boasting about them being scared. They've got a great batting line-up but there are very few players who want to get behind the ball if it is genuinely fast."

Team manager Keith Fletcher hinted on Sunday that Malcolm would, within reason, be given the chance to pick and choose his games up to the first Test to try to keep him fresh.

"Obviously we want to win every game but at the end of the day we are here to win the Tests and if I am going to burn out in the state games that doesn't make much sense," Malcolm said.

"Come the Tests, I want to be at full tilt. I'd love to play in all the first-class games but we have to be sensible."

Cuban eyes win world v'ball championship

SAO PAULO, Oct 31: Cuba destroyed Brazil in straight sets to win the women's World Volleyball Championship on Sunday in a bad-tempered final, reports Reuter.

Cuba, who did not drop a single set in the entire competition, gave ample demonstration of their superiority in the sports as they won 15-2, 15-10, 15-5.

Brazil, who copied the country's World Cup soccer team by taking the court holding hands, never managed to get into the game. Most of their attacks were blocked at the net.

Cuba marred their performance by repeatedly provoking their opponents at the net and making gestures to the crowd at the end of the second set. Mireya Luis, their top player, was shown the yellow card for dissent in the third set.

Brazil coach Bernardinho was also given the yellow card after less than one minute's play for dissent.

With Luis and left-handed Regia Bell producing a succession of winning shots, Cuba raced into a 6-0 in the first set, which they finished off in 13 minutes.

Brazil, backed by a noisy crowd, produced sterner resistance in the second set after making changes to their line-up but still went down 15-10.

Germany, Greece get the nod

BONN, Oct 31: Yugoslavia lost out to Greece Sunday as host nation for the 1998 men's basketball World Championship, the FIBA international basketball organising body announced, reports AP.

The Central Board of FIBA, after a meeting in Munich, also said it had chosen Germany over Poland to host the women's 1998 World Championship.

In a telefaxed statement making the announcements, the 15-member board did not mention the bloodshed in the Balkans.

Yugoslavia was supposed to host the men's 1994 World Championships. But when the Balkan wars erupted and international sanctions were slapped on Serbia and Montenegro, which make up the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, FIBA moved this year's championship to Toronto, Canada.

Becker baffles Ivanisevic

STOCKHOLM, Oct 31: A strong and alert Boris Becker outwitted Goran Ivanisevic to win the Stockholm Open on Sunday and also earn himself a place in next month's ATP finals in Frankfurt, reports Reuter.

Becker, a few weeks from his 27th birthday, recovered from a poor start to overpower the mighty Croat with guile and cunning to win 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 7-6 (7-4).

The German's stupendous backhand passing shots and finely judged volleys completed a phenomenal run of games which have seen him beat the top three players in the world in as many days.

"I've been playing a long time in tennis and I can't remember playing so well three days in a row. It has never happened that I've beaten the world top three in three days," a jubilant Becker said.

The win also assures him promotion in the world rankings, possibly up to third place from sixth.

In a punishing final duel, world number two Ivanisevic

Reynolds' bid to make IAAF pay fails

WASHINGTON, Oct 31: Track star Butch Reynolds failed Monday in his Supreme Court bid to collect 27.4 million dollars from the International Amateur Athletic Federation which barred him from the 1992 Olympics, reports AP.

The justices turned down Reynolds' argument that a US court had the authority to order the governing body of international track and field to pay damages for saying he tested positive for steroids.

Monday's action, taken without comment, was a victory for the IAAF, formerly based in London and now in Monaco.

Reynolds, a gold and silver medalist in the 1988 Olympics, was suspended by the IAAF in 1990. The group said he tested positive for steroids after a track meet in Monte Carlo.

Reynolds contended the test was faulty, and the US track and field governing body exonerated him. But an IAAF arbitration panel ruled in 1992 in London that the drug test was valid. The panel upheld Reynolds' suspension, which kept him out of the Barcelona Olympics.

Reynolds, who denies ever taking steroids, sued the IAAF in federal court in Columbus, Ohio. He said its public announcement of the test result defamed him, denied him due process and cost him income from business contracts.

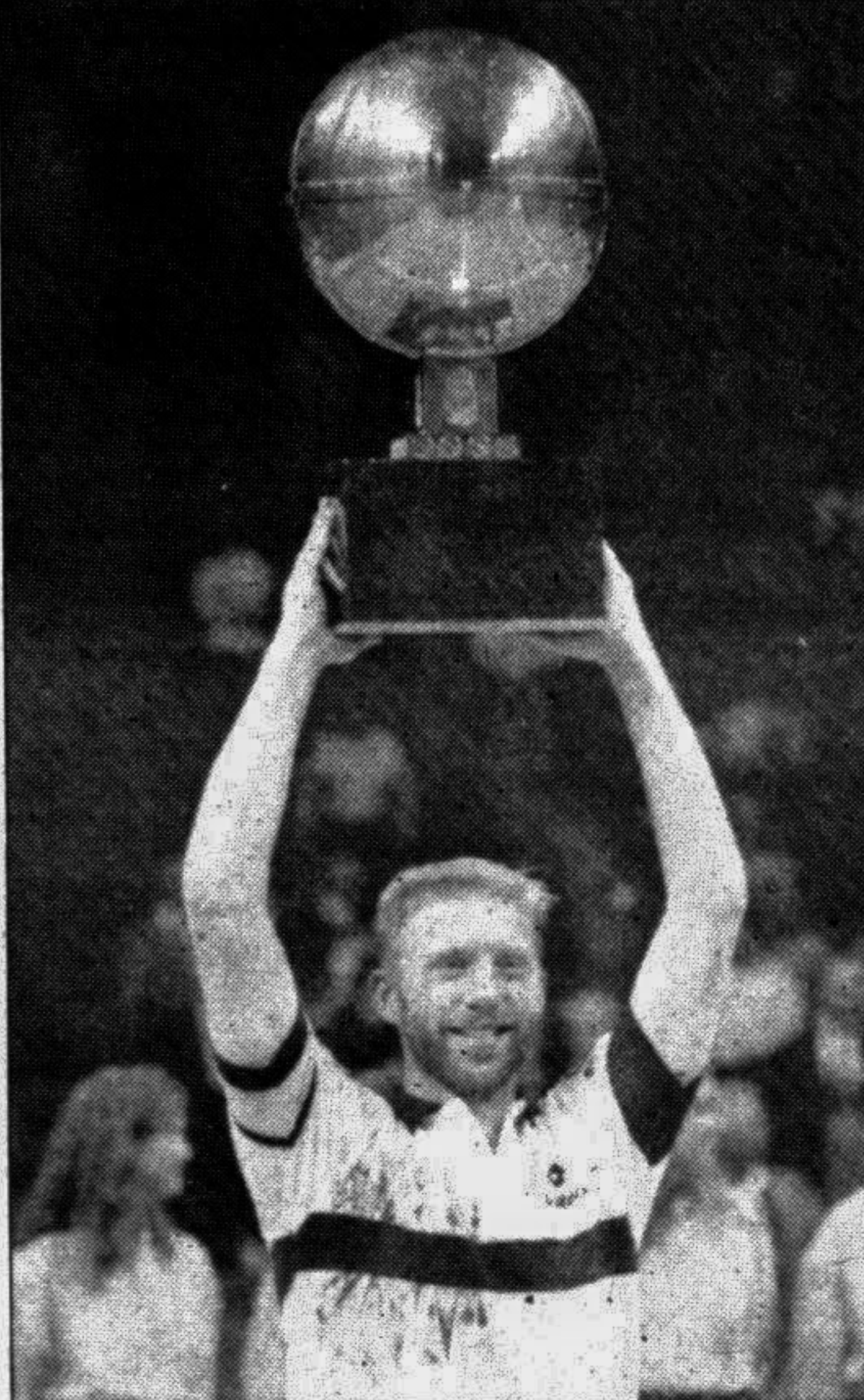
The IAAF presented no defence in the case, saying the court had no jurisdiction.

In ordering the group to pay 27.4 million dollars to Reynolds, the judge said he had jurisdiction because the suspension affected an Ohio citizen and his business relationship with companies in Ohio.

But the 6th US Circuit Court of Appeals threw out the award last May. It said the judge lacked jurisdiction because the case involved events that occurred in Europe and were not aimed at Ohio.

In the appeal acted on today, Reynolds' lawyers argued that international groups may be sued in a state when their acts have harmful effects on a resident of that state.

Lawyers for the IAAF said Reynolds should have sued in England. The international track and field group may enforce uniform rules without interference from courts in other countries, its lawyers said.



Germany's Boris Becker holds aloft the trophy after beating Croatian Goran Ivanisevic in final of the Stockholm Open indoor tennis championship on October 30. Becker won 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 and 7-6.

Star parade at Paris Open

PARIS, Oct 31: After both fell out of the top 10 this year, Boris Becker and Andre Agassi head a late-season charge as the 2.25 million dollar Paris Open Tennis tournament begins Monday, reports AP.

Nine of the top 10 players in the world are entered with the 16 seeds getting a first-round bye in the 48-man field. Pete Sampras is the No. 1 seed and defending champion Goran Ivanisevic is the second seed.

Becker has scratched his way back up to No. 6 in the rankings and will go to third after his victory in the final of the Stockholm Open Sunday over Ivanisevic. Along the way Becker, who was No. 1 in the world briefly in 1991, beat Sampras and Michael Stich, both in the top five of the world.

Becker has won the Paris Open three times and made the final in 1990 but had to

retire with a leg injury against Stefan Edberg.

Last year Becker lost to Frenchman Arnaud Boetsch in the quarterfinals when Becker was concentrating more on his upcoming fatherhood than tennis at the time.

Now Becker is returning to form and Agassi has made a comeback top.

Agassi won the US Open in September and captured the tournament in Vienna last week. He lost to the Croatian in the semifinals in Stockholm that went to a third-set tiebreaker but Agassi has moved up to No. 8 in the world.

Sampras is slowly returning to form too. He was sidelined 45 days in the summer because of tendinitis in his left ankle, then came back for the US Open and was upset by Jaime Yzaga in the round of 16.

Then, playing the next to last singles in the Davis Cup semifinals against five weeks ago, Sampras pulled a ham-

string against Edberg as Sweden won the match 3-2.

Sampras didn't return to competitive tennis until an exhibition in Hong Kong and then was beaten by Becker in the Stockholm semifinals.

Stich is third-seeded and Edberg is fourth in Paris, where the winner will gain 330,000 dollars.

The No. 5 to No. 8 seeds are two-time French Open champion Sergi Bruguera, Becker, Michael Chang and Agassi.

Sampras and Agassi are headed to a quarterfinal meeting if they win their first two matches in Paris.

The other theoretical quarterfinal matchups are Bruguera-Edberg, Becker-Stich and Chang-Ivanisevic.

Jim Courier, who was No 2 in the world last year, has dropped and is seeded 13th while last year's finalist, Andrei Medvedev, is 11th seeded. Both could cause trouble to higher seeds.

Berasategui breezes

SANTIAGO, Oct 31: Top-seed Alberto Berasategui triumphed in the ATP's 213,000 dollar tournament here Sunday when he defeated fellow Spaniard Francisco Clavet 6-3, 6-4 in a one-sided final, reports AP.

Berasategui, ranked ninth and finalist at this year's French Open, is one of only two of the world's top-20 players who will not be appearing in next week's 2.25 million dollar Paris Indoor Open. The other absentee will be the injured Magnus Gustafsson of Sweden.

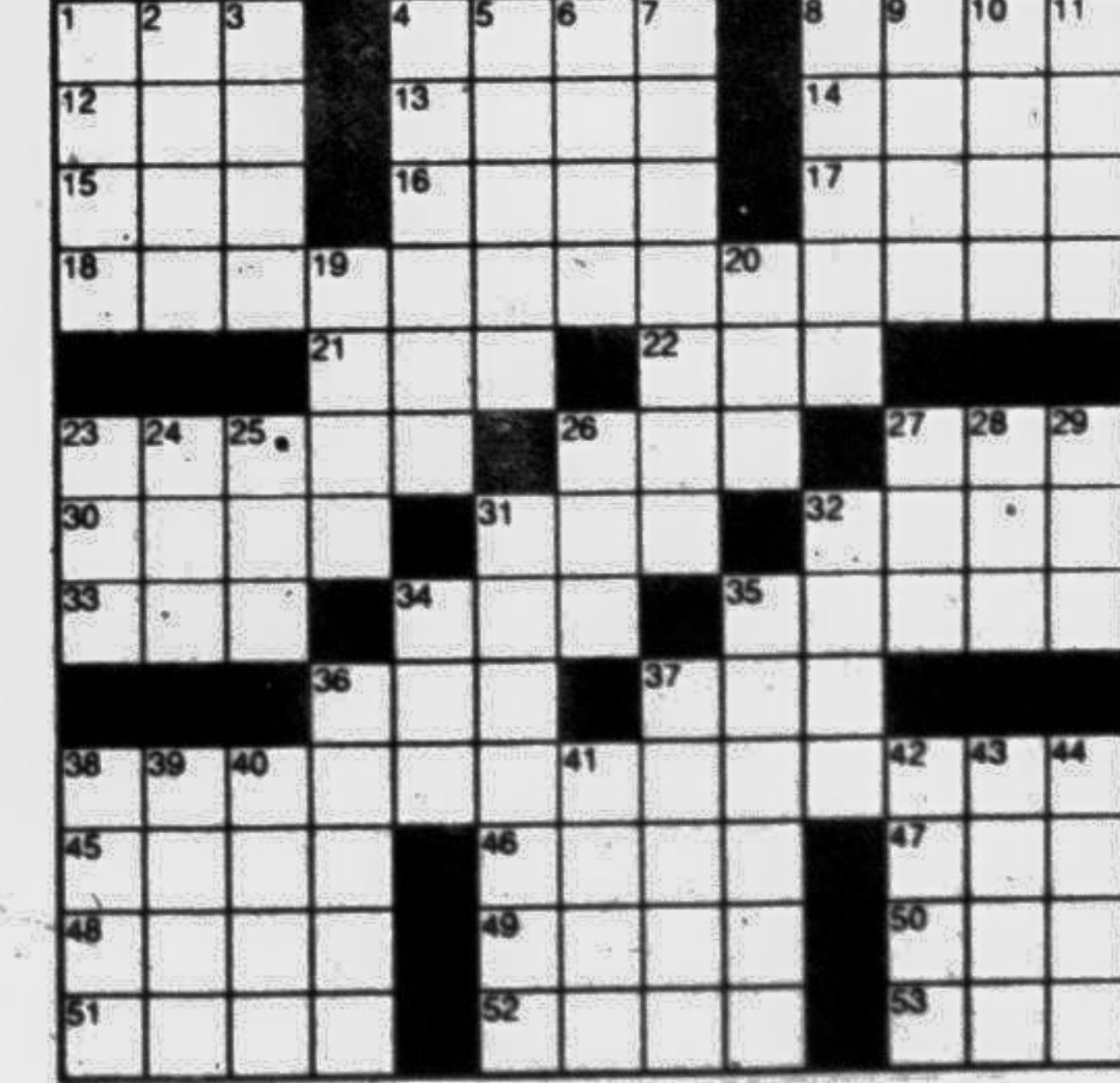
In an exciting doubles final, Sweden's former world number-one Mats Wilander lined up alongside Marel Novacek of the Czech Republic to score a 3-6, 7-6 (7/3), 7-6 (8/6) win over Spaniards Tomas Carbonell and Francisco Roig.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Ill-lit
 - 4 Bankrolls
 - 8 Post-diet
 - 12 Dos
 - 13 Passos
 - 14 Gaffer
 - 15 Ointment
 - 16 Flavoring
 - 17 Nevermore?
 - 18 Puny pugilist?
 - 21 "Yo!"
 - 22 It does the hole job
 - 23 Nicholson
 - 26 Raw rock
 - 27 Tampa
 - 30 Toe the line
 - 31 Launch structure
 - 32 Parks or Bonheur
 - 33 Potent potable
 - 34 Favorite
 - 35 Recording
- DOWN**
- 2 Man, for one
 - 3 Pre-Columbian Indian
 - 4 Round piece of hardware
 - 5 Tomeat's bailiwick
 - 6 Access
 - 7 Flight attendant
 - 8 Turn, in a way
 - 9 "M"
 - 10 Cortisone target
 - 11 Bump into
 - 19 Yon folks
 - 20 Ram's m'am
 - 23 Run for
 - 24 Kyoto cummerbund
 - 25 Barbie's beau
 - 26 Cereal grain
 - 27 Emulate Holyfield
 - 28 Put to work
 - 29 Train component
 - 31 Unimprovable
 - 32 Affluent
 - 34 Chart type
 - 35 Not a kid any more
 - 36 Michaelmas daisy
 - 37 Corday's prey
 - 38 Cut into lumber
 - 39 Garfield's pal
 - 40 Ready for the picking
 - 41 Canyon phenomenon
 - 42 Scratches (out)
 - 43 Anger
 - 44 Charon's milieu

Solution time: 23 mins.

DAN	LSO	WRAPS
ELI	APE	HAGAR
CID	MARCO	POLO
OVA	ACMES	
YELL	EAR	SHAD
	INK	FAMILY
ADANO	LISLE	
CAMERA	SIR	
TWIN	RAW	KNOW
	ACRES	ABU
POLO	SHIRT	SER
ABORT	AVA	ASS
PINTA	SEN	LET



CRYPTOQUIP

PMWX QMPYWRJ-IMVYWRJ
FTAMWFIMR, ZWRXWRJ
DLCP LZ QTC VDLCTYP
"JTC M DLMX LZ CYWP!"
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: OUR GARDENER'S NAME IS GREGORY, BUT WE WOULD ACTUALLY RATHER CALL HIM BUD.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: Z equals F

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.