

# Sampras blazes with aces

**ANTWERP, Belgium, Nov 11:** Pete Sampras beat fellow American Richey Reneberg 6-3, 6-3 Thursday to reach the quarterfinals of the European Community Championship and remained the only star player in the 1.1 million dollars event, reports AP.

The world's No 1 showed no ill-effects from a throat infection that almost forced him out of the ECC early this week, and with his easy win, he was left as the only top-five seed in the tournament.

"I feel a lot better now. I gave the virus to Stefan (Edberg)," said Sampras after his textbook victory over Reneberg.

Edberg, the No. 3 seed, pulled out of tournament because of tonsillitis, giving American Jared Palmer a free ride into the quarterfinals.

It was uncertain whether Edberg would recover in time for next week's IBM-ATP Tour World Championship in Frankfurt. "I hope to be in good shape for next week," he said.

Patrick Rafter and Magnus Larsson, seeded sixth and seventh here and Sampras' main challengers now, both survived final set tiebreakers before getting that far.

Rafter won two tiebreaks to edge fellow Australian Richard Fromberg 7-6 (7-5), 2-6, 7-6 (7-3) and will meet Palmer in Friday's quarterfinal.

Larsson saved a half dozen match points before prevailing

over Frante's Cedric Pioline 6-4, 5-7, 7-6 (14-12). Another seed, No. 8 Jaime Yzaga, was less lucky, as Byron Black of Zimbabwe, ranked 76th in the world, beat him in three sets 6-3, 5-7, 6-3.

Canadian Sebastien Lareau, fresh from a win against second-seeded Michael Stich, beat Amos Mansdorf 7-6 (8-6), 6-1. It was the Israeli's last professional tennis match. He is retiring at 29 because he



PETE SAMPRAS

suffers from chronic fatigue syndrome, which saps his energy.

In Friday's quarterfinals Sampras faces Black and Rafter plays Palmer. Swede Jonas Bjorkman meets France's Olivier Delaite and Larsson faces Lareau.

Sampras played solid throughout the match. The defending champion broke early and served himself out of trouble in the ninth game to win the set 6-3 in 30 minutes.

The serve is still my biggest shot. I live and die by it," he said after firing 13 aces past the luckless Reneberg.

He opened the second set with two love-games on his service before turning the heat on Reneberg. With lightning returns and cat-quick reactions at the net he broke serve in the fifth game.

Reneberg, ranked 33rd in the world, earned a breakpoint the next game, but his last chance for making it a match died, when a Sampras return hit the net cord and bobbed onto Reneberg's side.

"Better lucky than good," Sampras said.

Rafter, ranked 20th in the world, need 2 1/4 hours to squeeze past his compatriot, ranked 33 places below him. "Playing another Aussie was half the battle," he said.

His win stopped a rout of seeded players here. Five of eight are already gone, including Stich and No. 4 Richard Krajicek, ahead of the quarterfinals.

It took something unlikely to keep Larsson in the tournament. Down 6-3 in the final set tiebreak "I thought I was finished," he said.

He saved two matchpoints and Pioline squandered a third when he netted an easy, high volley.

What followed was a comedy of errors of missed volleys, wayward drives and sloppy serves. Pioline doublefaulted on matchpoint to give Larsson yet another chance. The Swede finally won 14-12.

## Navratilova to face Sabatini in NY Slims

PHILADELPHIA, Nov 11: Martina Navratilova will open the last tournament of her career against Gabriela Sabatini in the \$3.5 million Virginia Slims Championship in New York, reports AP.

Navratilova, the most successful tennis player in history, is retiring after the tournament, which marks the final stop on the 1994 women's tour. The 38-year-old has won 167 singles titles and earned more than \$20.5 million since turning pro in 1973.

Sabatini, who reached the quarterfinals of the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia on Thursday, said she is looking forward to playing against Navratilova in the round-robin tournament.

"I'm excited," Sabatini said. "I love to play against Martina, and it's going to be very special because it's her last tournament. I want to win, too. I hope we can play our best and make it a good match."

Navratilova won 18 Grand Slam titles, including nine Wimbledon, in singles, 31 in doubles and six in mixed doubles. Navratilova decided earlier this season that this would be her last on tour.

She is seeded sixth in the Virginia Slims Championships, which runs from Monday to Nov. 20. The tournament includes the top 16 players in the world.

The other first-round matches include Steffi Graf vs. Brenda Schultz; Amanda Coetzer vs. Mary Pierce; Jana Novotna vs. Iva Majoli; Anke Huber vs. Lindsay Davenport; Kimiko Date vs. Magdalena Maleeva; Natalia Zvereva vs. Conchita Martinez; Julie Halard vs. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario.

## Kafelnikov prevails

MOSCOW, Nov 11: Yevgeny Kafelnikov, Russia's rising tennis star, got off to a slowstart Thursday in his second-round match with Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands in the Kremlin Cup, but went on to win, 4-6, 7-5, 6-1, reports AP.

Kafelnikov regained his confidence and got a standing ovation from about 5,000 spectators at Moscow's Olympic Stadium.

If Kafelnikov wins the 1.1 million dollars tournament, which ends Sunday, he could make it into the top ten of the Association of Tennis Players.

In other second-round play, Jacco Eltingh of the Netherlands defeated Karl Kucera of Slovakia, 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (7-2).

Kucera looked tired after beating top-seeded Sergi Bruguera of Spain a day earlier and made several unforced mistakes in the tie-break in the third set.

Seventh-seeded Petr Korda of the Czech Republic wasn't at his best at the start of his match against Alexander Mronz of Germany, but took the initiative in the second set and won 4-6, 7-5, 6-3.

## Four Indonesian in HK Open qtrs

HONG KONG, Nov 11: Indonesia underlined their superiority in world badminton at the Hong Kong Open on Thursday with four players qualifying for the quarterfinals, reports Reuters.

The Indonesian squad was represented in all eight third round matches with top seed Heryanto Arbi, number two Ardy Wiranata, Olympic champion Allan Budi Kusuma and Hermawan Susanto all progressing.

"The Indonesians are so strong at the moment, it's amazing," said third-seeded Dane Thomas Stuer-Lauridsen after his hard-fought 12-15, 15-8, 15-4 victory over Marleve Mainaky.

"You can beat their top guys and lose to their number eight. It was a tough game for me today."

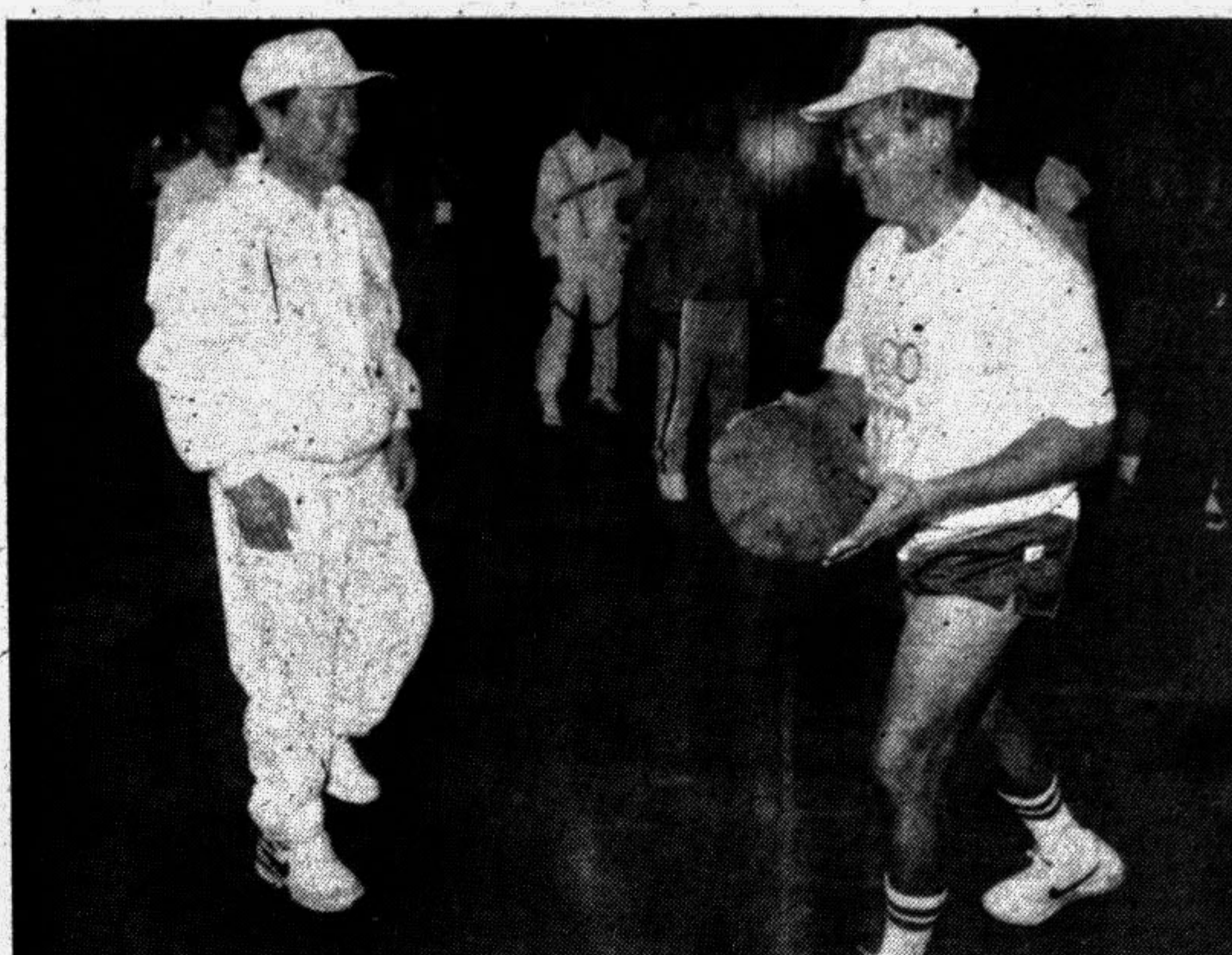
China's Sun Jun, who beat Arbi in the quarterfinals of the Thailand Open last week before going down in the final to another Indonesian Joko Suprianto, moved into the quarterfinals with a strength-sapping 15-12, 17-18, 18-15 victory over Hendrawan of Indonesia.

Sun looked down and out when he trailed 9-12 in the final game but fought back well to book a last eight match with Stuer-Lauridsen.

## OTB Open over

SCHENECTADY, NY, Nov 11: The OTB International tennis tournament, used by some of the top players as a tune-up for the US Open, has been cancelled after losing its sponsor, reports AP.

The sponsor, the Capital District Regional Off-Track Betting Corp., will instead back a new World Team Tennis franchise in Schenectady. Capital District OTB president Davis T. Etkin said the cost of the 12-year-old tournament was becoming too high.



South Korean President Kim Young Sam (L) looks on as his Filipino counterpart Fidel Ramos takes the ball during a brief one-on-one basketball game between the two leaders at the Malacanang Palace in Manila yesterday. The game was tied at one apiece. — AFP photo

## Foreman's twin fixation

HOUSTON, Nov 11: George Foreman, a newly re-crowned heavyweight champion at 45, might climb back into the ring, but it looks like it could take ex-champ Mike Tyson and big George's mother to make it happen, report agencies.

Tyson would be the only guy that would make me feel the spice to fight again," Foreman said Thursday. "I'd fight him instantly."

Tyson is in prison in Indiana serving a sentence for rape. He is eligible to be released next May.

Foreman, though, added he would fight again only if he received permission from his mother, Nancy. And she's not saying.

"Oh! No comment!" Nancy Foreman said, laughing. "I'll let him know first and we'll sit down in the next couple of days and talk it over."

Foreman, who turns 46 in January, called a news conference at his Houston gym to reveal in his renewed status as heavyweight title-holder. He warned everyone not to question his age, whatever it is.

"I'm not going to allow any-

one to look down on me because of my age," he said. "If you say my knees are gone, then I'll retire, or that I can't punch, then I'll retire. But I can fight at this age."

"Get hold of my coat and let's fly into the next century!" Foreman's improbable se-

knockouts, he became the oldest heavyweight champion, surpassing Jersey Joe Walcott, who was champion at age 37.

Foreman laughed Thursday when he was asked if people might think the Moorer fight was fixed because he won.

"I fixed it, you can believe that," Foreman said. "I fixed it with a right hand."

Foreman won the title the first time in 1973 with a knockout of Joe Frazier. This time is more special, he said.

"Twenty-one years ago it was just a personal thing to make a lot of money," he said. "This time I had to win it for a lot of people."

"They were saying, 'If George does this, then I can do my thing.' So the satisfaction is much greater. We won it, all of us did."

Boxing promoter Don King, who is allied with the impetuous Tyson, has called Foreman to retire now that he's back on top of the boxing world.

However, King, talking like a man trying to match one of his fighters in a big money bout against Foreman, said boxing's newest and oldest champion should retire before he gets hurt.

Nowadays, Zuba and the kids are safe, working, going to school and playing hoops in the Chicago area. It was a long, dangerous trip, starting when Zupcevic was appointed his nation's head basketball coach in June 1992 and ending with a dash through a hail of bullets at the Sarajevo airport last year.

"When we went to the airport, the only way was to run," he said. "People were shooting, others were trying to catch and return you. You needed to be lucky and maybe fast."

"If you asked me again, I wouldn't do it. I did it that night."

The group went first to Croatia, but was still scared because it was close to the front. Zupcevic contacted an uncle in Chicago, who put him in touch with a lawyer, Jimmy Minnihan. With the help of a donation of 21 tickets from

United Airlines, the group landed at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport and started a new — and vastly different — life.

"All the boys had different backgrounds — Muslims, Serbs, Croats, Catholics, some from cities, some from small villages," the coach said. "We heard from one of the player's mothers. She said, 'Don't ever send my son home. He will die.' Like the baby Moses, they put their babies in a raft and sent them out into the world."

"The most important thing is that we saved 19 young lives."

When they arrived in the United States, only about half the kids spoke English. But they learned quickly, with seven taking college entrance exams, and at least three of those have college plans, according to Zuba.

The doctors who operated on Zvetan Todorov found evidence of an earlier brain injury sustained two or three weeks ago.

Stucki said the Bulgarian had passed a full physical, including brain scan, before Saturday's fight.

Todorov's previous fight, which he had won, had been in June. He later passed a routine medical check-up including the brain scan conducted by the Bulgarian boxing authorities in August. Stucki said.

The 28-year-old Bulgarian collapsed unconscious at the end of the third round of a six-round middleweight bout against Swiss Marco Piccinelli.

He was taken to St Gallen Hospital where a blood clot was removed from his brain.

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## Schultz outguns Davenport

PHILADELPHIA, Nov 11: Brenda Schultz, rattling serves of more than 105 mph (168 kph), defeated Lindsay Davenport 2-6, 6-2, 6-4, Thursday in the second round of the 750,000 dollars Virginia Slims of Philadelphia, reports AP.

Schultz powered her way past the third seed, among the hardest baseline hitters on the women's tour.

"I knew the only way to beat Lindsay was to hit harder than she does," Schultz said. "If she starts hitting hard and cranking it up, she'll hit winners all over the place."

Jennifer Capriati pulled out of doubles competition after sustaining a sore right shoulder during her first singles match in more than a year.

Capriati was to play with Mercedes Paz against Pam Shriver and Elizabeth Smylie in a first-round match. On Wednesday, Capriati lost 6-4, 3-6, 6-1 to Anke Huber.

Huber came back from a 4-1 deficit in the third set to defeat Lisa Raymond 5-7, 6-3, 7-6 to reach the quarterfinals. Huber, who overcame 13 dou-

ble-faults and 10 Raymond aces, won the first six points of the tiebreaker before winning 7-1.

In other second-round singles matches, No. 2 seed Mary Pierce struggled early before winning 10 of the last 11 games en route to a 6-3, 6-1 victory over Patty Fendick.

Pierce will next play 16-year-old newcomer Meilen Tu, who defeated Katerina Maleeva 6-4, 6-3, Tu, a wild-card entry from California, won for the second time on the tour to advance to the quarterfinals.

No. 4 Gabriela Sabatini got off to a slow start before beating Joannette Kruger, 6-4, 6-0. Sabatini will play Chanda Rubin in the quarters.

Schultz, clocked with the hardest serve at 113 mph (181 kph) earlier this year, hit two aces in the final game of the third set to win the match. She won the last three games in the last two sets after Davenport showed effective groundstrokes in winning the first set.

Schultz hit consecutive aces early in the third set, prompting a frustrated Davenport to scream, "Get me out of here."

The 18-year-old American took a 3-2 lead in the third but was broken at 4-4 before the 23-year-old Dutchwoman served for the match.

"You try to weather the storm," Davenport said. "You just try to get balls back in. I

couldn't do that."

Schultz also got easy points when Davenport made returns. Schultz used her powerful forehand down the line after being set up by Davenport's weak lobs.

"It was hurting my wrist when I touched it," Davenport said. "The ball would bounce off my racket, and my hand would just bend back."

Schultz will play fifth-seeded Natalia Zvereva in the next round. Zvereva defeated Julie Halard 6-1, 6-4 on Thursday.

Fendick had a 3-2 lead in the first set before Pierce won four straight games. Pierce then attacked Fendick's serve in the second set and won the final point with a powerful backhand down the line.

Pierce, ranked fifth in the world, remains the highest seed in the tournament after top-seeded Conchita Martinez was knocked out in the first round.

Nathalie Tauziat, who beat Martinez in her first match, was eliminated by Kimberly Po 6-3, 2-6, 7-5 less than 18 hours after her upset victory. Po won the final two games and beat Tauziat with a backhand lob at match point.

"I wasn't expecting her to have a letdown, but I was hoping she would," Po said. "It's hard when you beat Conchita, and then you have to play ... me."

## Grobbelaar in Harare

BARARE, Nov 11: British-based Zimbabwean goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar, who is facing British media charges of accepting bribes to fix key matches there, arrived in Harare from London this morning, reports Reuters.

Grobbelaar, who appeared tense and was grilled by waiting reporters over the charges that he has strenuously denied, will play for Zimbabwe in an African Nations' Cup qualifier against Zaire in Harare on Sunday.

## Sino paddlers to play in Taiwan

HONG KONG, Nov 11: Top Chinese table tennis players will play in Taiwan for the first time in the World Cup next month, the organisers announced on Thursday, reports Reuters.

The December 15-18 World Cup will also be the first time an official World Championship in any Olympic sport has been staged in Taiwan, they said.

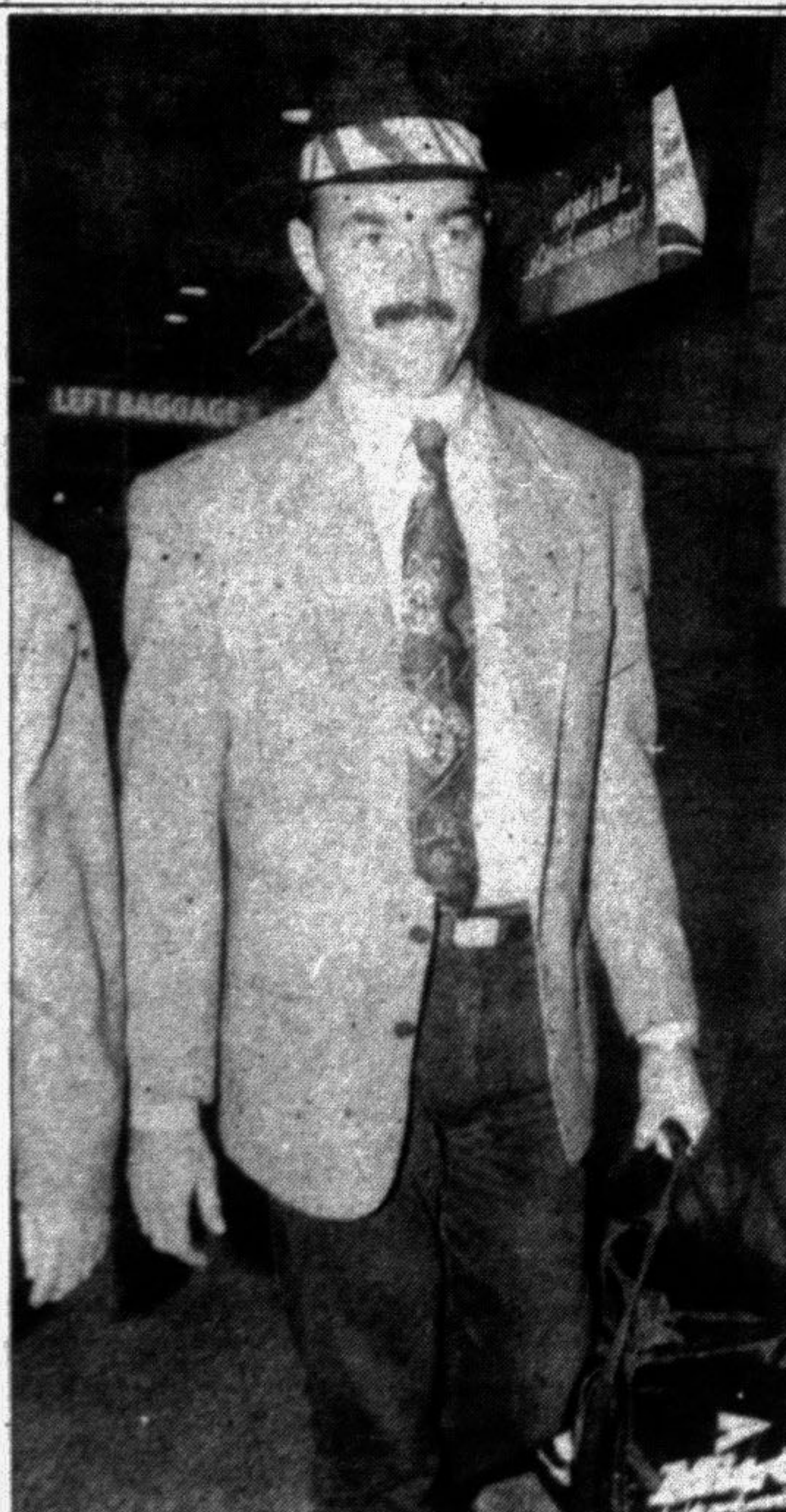
World number three Wang Tao and the fourth ranked Ma Wenge will be joined by compatriot Kang Linghui, the Asian champion, in a move reminiscent of the ping-pong diplomacy which marked China's re-emergence into the outside world after the trauma of the cultural revolution.

Beijing has regarded Taipei as a renegade province since the defeated nationalists fled there in 1949 at the end of the Chinese civil war, and has pressured other countries not to have ties with the island.

The organisers said the involvement of Chinese players in the World Cup would help Taiwan's bid to stage more international tournaments.

"This could not have come at a better time as Taiwan seeks to host more world-class sporting events in the future," they said in a statement.

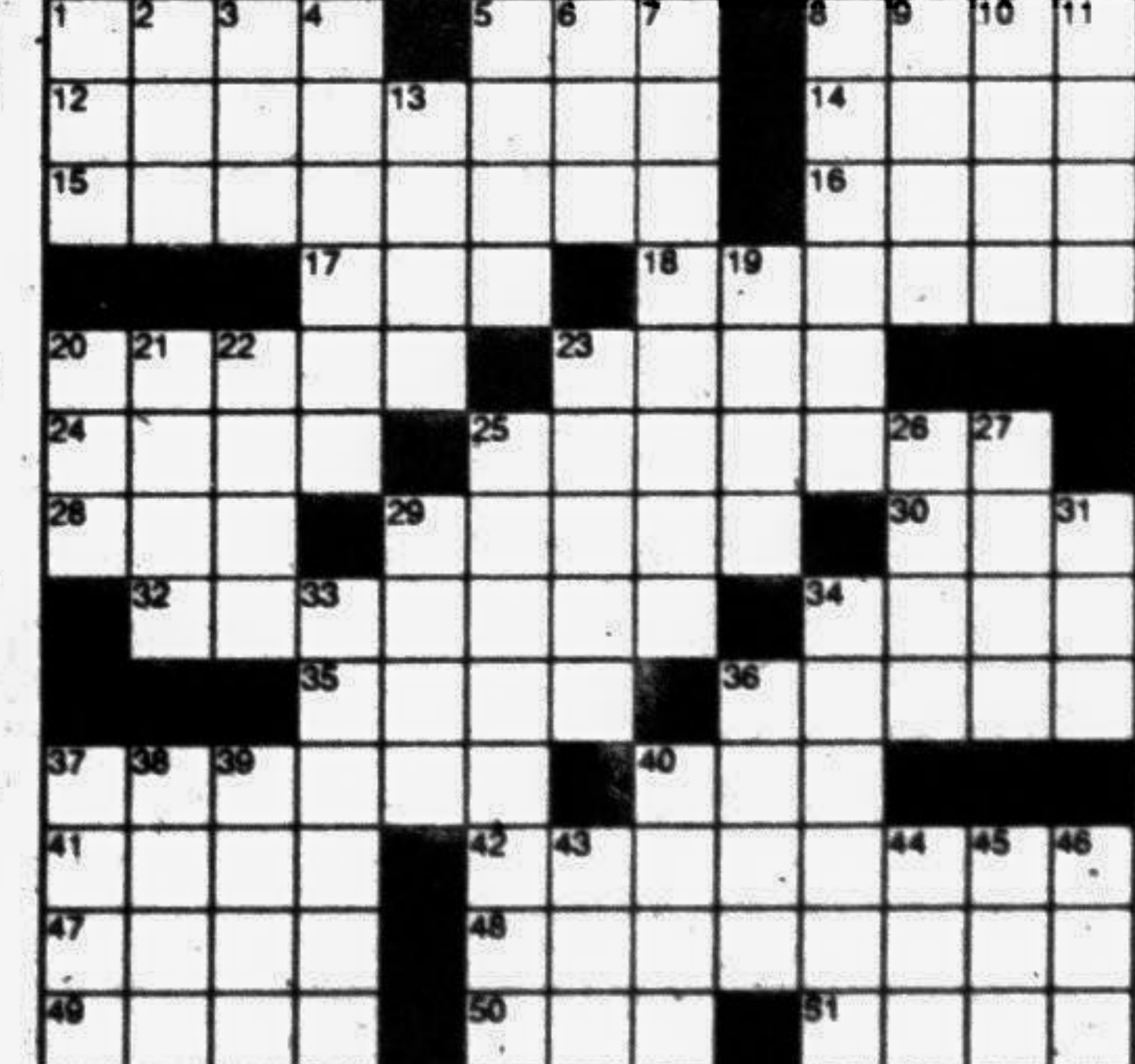
World number one Jean-Michel Saive of Belgium, Sweden's Jan Ove Waldner and holder Zoran Primorac of Croatia are eligible to participate in the 16-player World Cup.



Southampton Zimbabwean international goalie Bruce Grobbelaar arrives at Gatwick Airport in London on Nov 10 to board a plane for Harare. Grobbelaar, who is facing bribery charges will don on the national colours against Zaire in an African Nations' Cup qualifier on Nov 13. — AFP photo

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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## CRYPTOQUIP

BUGX QD NCYNIG BJX  
NUG YRFG, QD CXHYR-  
FZJCM YZORI BRM HYGGX  
BZNU GXOD

Saturday's Cryptoquip: MOBSTER FOUND DIG-NITY AS A METEOROLOGIST BUT IT WAS ONLY A FRONT.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: H equals G

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.