

# Similar passage to final for Sampras, Becker



FRANKFURT, Nov 20: Pete Sampras and Boris Becker fought from behind to reach the final of the IBM/ATP Tour World Championship with three-set victories Saturday, reports AP.

Top-ranked Pete Sampras survived a tough challenge from No 2 Andre Agassi to win 4-6, 7-6 (7-5), 6-3.

Becker, No 5 in the world and the 1992 champion here, outlasted third-ranked Sergi Bruguera 6-7 (5-7), 6-4, 6-1.

Sampras, seeking his second title since 1991, overcame some erratic play by himself and an inspired performance by Agassi, who pressured the No 1 into numerous errors early in the match.

But Agassi's game collapsed in frustration after he lost the second set and had a point penalty after several outbursts that could have even earned him a default from umpire Rudi Berger of Germany.

"I let myself down mentally. I should have never let it get the best of me," Agassi said of his dispute with the umpire.

Sampras ended an amazing run by Agassi, who came into the semifinal clash with only one loss in his last 23 matches. After wrist surgery in December, Agassi dropped to No 32. But he surged back, won the US Open and came here ranked No 2. He beat Sampras in the Paris Indoor three weeks ago.

In the second semifinal, Boris Becker played Sergi Bruguera.

Agassi broke Sampras in the very first game to set the tone of the opening set. Sampras, two-time Wimbledon champion, was having problems with his backhand and was rarely able to come to the net, his usually very effective volley game hardly in evidence.

Sampras broke his fellow American for the first time in the fourth game, only to see Agassi return the favor in the next.

Agassi faced three break points in the eighth game, but fought them off with the help of two straight backhand errors by Sampras.

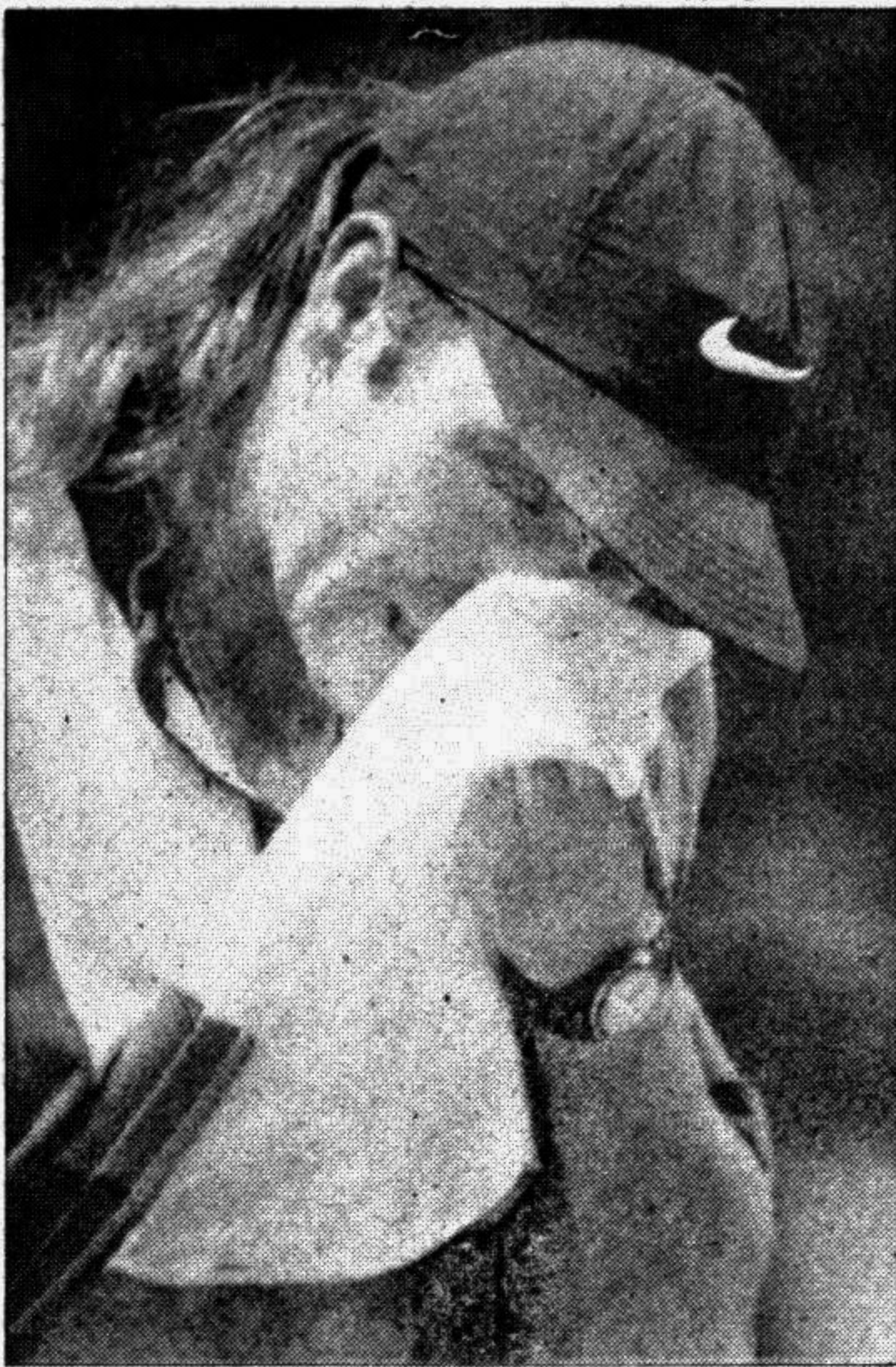
The clash between Agassi and the umpire came in the 12th game, when Berger overruled a linesman and gave the point to Sampras, leaving

Agassi trailing 15-30.

At 15-40, facing three set points, Agassi was given a warning for verbal abuse, but he went on to hold his serve and send the set into a tiebreak.

hand into the net on the third and threw his racket in frustration across the court toward his bench. This time he escaped without further caution from Berger.

But after dropping his serve



US Open champion Andre Agassi of the United States wipes away some perspiration during his ATP Tour World Championship semifinal against world number one Pete Sampras in Frankfurt on Nov 19. Agassi went down 4-6, 7-6, 6-3.

He fell behind and Sampras gained three more set points after one of the most spectacular rallies, with the American lunging backwards and flicking a backhand across the net for an incredible winner.

Sampras jumped up high into the air. "That was a huge point, perhaps the biggest point of the match."

Agassi saved two set points with his serve, but hit a back-

in the first game of the third, Agassi smashed a ball that zipped close to a linesman and Berger penalized him a point.

Agassi never recovered and Sampras won on his second match point when Agassi hit a forehand into the net, ending the match after two hours and five minutes.

"He lost his cool and might have cost him the match," Sampras said.

## Kusuma wins China Open

BEIJING, Nov 20: Indonesia's Alan Budi Kusuma defeated compatriot and world number one Ardy Wiranata today to win the China Open badminton tournament in the northeastern city of Dalian, reports Reuter.

Kusuma won 15-10, 15-12 victory over the top seed.

The women's title went to South Korean Bang Soo-Hyun, the Asian Games champion, who upset China's Ye Zhaoying 11-8, 11-6.

The men's result was the same as in the 1992 Olympic final in Barcelona, when Kusuma won 15-12, 18-13.

"Kusuma played well. I had many mistakes," said Wiranata, a former All-England champion who led Indonesia to win this year's Thomas Cup.

Wiranata began brilliantly by surging to a 5-0 lead, but Kusuma levelled at 5-5 before pulling away from 9-9.

Wiranata also led 5-0 in the second set.

## Ivanisevic suspended

FRANKFURT, Nov 20: Fiery Croat Goran Ivanisevic has been thrown off the ATP Tour for eight weeks because of bad behaviour, the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) said on Saturday, reports Reuter.

"The ATP has fined Goran Ivanisevic and suspended him from all ATP Tour events for eight weeks, effective Monday, November 21," the ATP said in a statement.

The Wimbledon finalist had exceeded the limit of 10,000 dollars worth of fines for the season for the second consecutive year. He got into trouble again in a match at the ATP World Championship on Friday.

The world number four was cautioned for making comments to British umpire Gerry Armstrong at the start of the second set of his 6-3, 6-4 defeat by American Pete Sampras.

The 23-year-old Ivanisevic was then deducted a point for seemingly swearing at a lineswoman in the next game.

Ivanisevic will be free in time to play at the Australian Open, the next Grand Slam event, which takes place in the second half of January, he can also take part in next month's Grand Slam Cup, which is run by the International Tennis Federation.

## Some solace for Argentina

AUCKLAND, Nov 20: Argentina men's hockey team beat New Zealand 3-1 in the third and final Test here today, gaining some consolation after losing the series, reports AFP.

New Zealand won the first two Tests and took the series 2-1.

New Zealand lacked spark and precision in today's third Test, seeming to be complacent after their 4-1 win in the second Test Saturday.

"We couldn't get into it. It was very hard for us to pick ourselves up," said New Zealand coach Murray Corry after the game.

Two New Zealand players were injured today and Connor had to put in substitutes, which he said harmed his team's rhythm.

The first strike of the match came from Argentina's Jorge Querejeta in the sixth minute when he squeezed the ball into the New Zealand net from a penalty corner.

The half time score was 1-1 but just after the interval Argentine forward Gabriel Minaudo scored the best goal of the match after a run into the circle and a reverse stick shot into the net.

Argentine centre half Carlos Reteigal sealed the win when he retrieved a penalty corner and hit it past New Zealand's unslighted goalkeeper.

## Daorung retains crown

BANGKOK, Nov 20: Despite cuts above both eyes that led the doctor to stop the fight, Thailand's Daorung MP Petroleum retained his World Boxing Association bantamweight crown Sunday with a unanimous decision over Sik Koh of South Korea, reports AP.

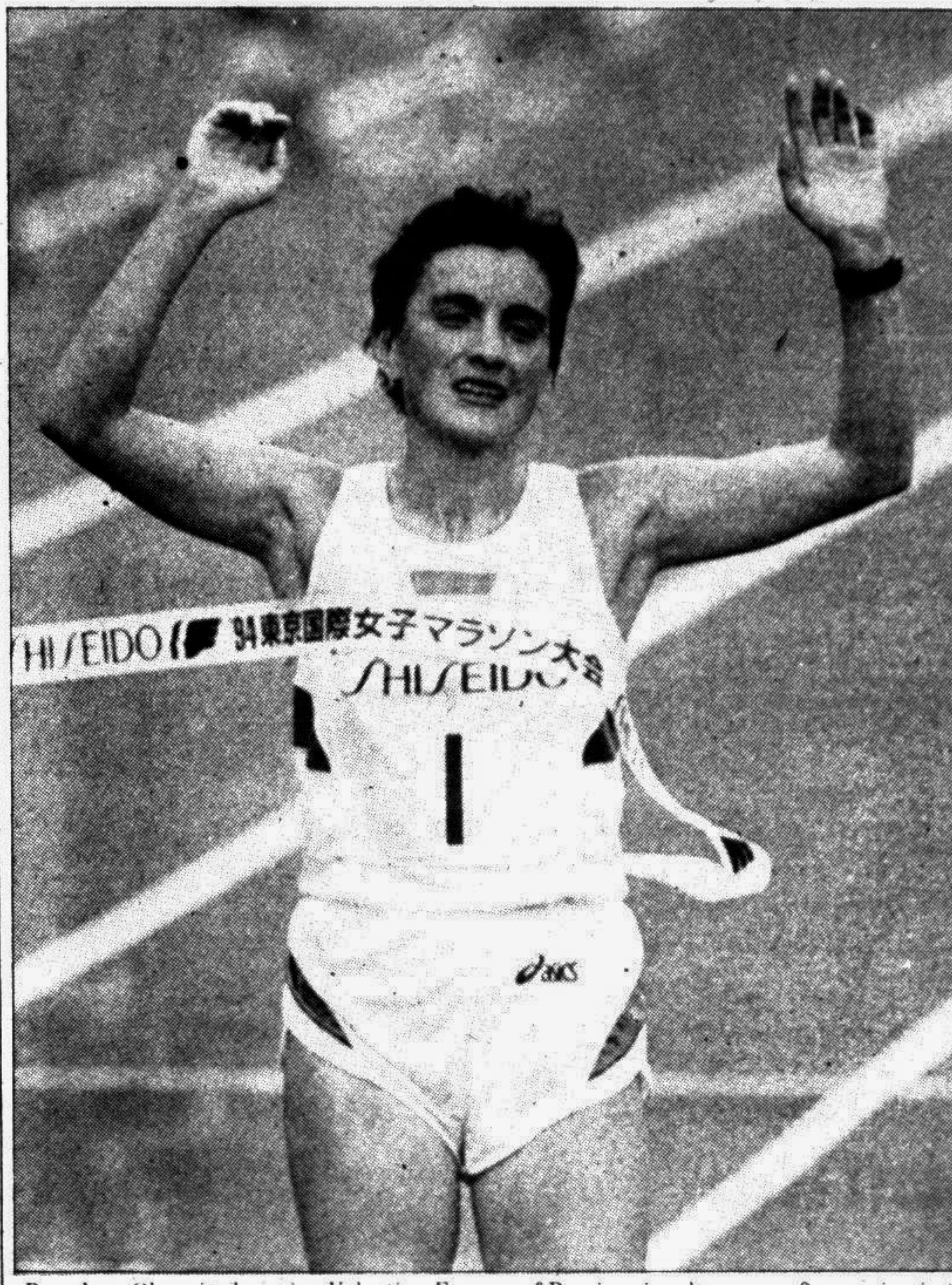
The judges scored it 39-37, 40-36 and 40-37 in favour of the 26-year-old Thai, who has held the title for four months.

The doctor stopped the fight in the fifth of the 12 scheduled rounds after Daorung sustained a cut above his left eye in the second round and one above his right eye later.

Daorung was able to overcome the South Korean's quick fists with powerful hooks to the mid-section that weakened the sixth-ranked contender.

In his 52 previous fights, Daorung had scored 32 knockouts, with just four losses and two draws.

The fight was staged in the so-called "Golden Triangle" town of Chiang Saen where the borders of Thailand, Burma and Laos meet.



Barcelona Olympic champion Valentina Egorova of Russia raises her arms after coming in to win the Tokyo women's marathon for the second time yesterday. She clocked 2:30.09.

—AFP photo

## Egorova's 2nd

TOKYO, Nov 20: Valentina Egorova of Russia spurred ahead of the field on an up-grade with six kilometres (3.7 miles) left Sunday and won the Tokyo International women's marathon for the second straight year, reports AP.

Egorova, the 1992 Olympic gold medalist, finished in 2 hours, 30 minutes, 9 seconds — 21 seconds ahead of Japan's Sachiko Selyama over the 42.195 kilometres (26 miles, 385 yards) through Tokyo streets.

"I did not chase the front-runners as they ran so quickly at the start of the race," said Egorova, who had settled into a group behind Canadian Carole Rouillard and Brazilian Silvana Pereira in the early stages.

Those with her included Australian Lisa Ondieki, the 1992 New York City marathon winner, and Rosa Mota of Portugal, the 1987 world champion and 1988 Olympic gold medalist.

But Mota, running her first full marathon in more than 2 1/2 years after injury problems, dropped out after 25 kilometres (16 miles), as did Rouillard.

Egorova, Ondieki, Lizanne Bussiers of Canada, Selyama and Japan's Mari Tanigawa, the 1994 Paris Marathon winner, then formed the leading group until Egorova made her move. The 22-year-old Selyama desperately chased her, but fell farther behind.

Ondieki finished third in 2:31:01.

A field of 105 runners competed under cloudy skies in 15-degree Celsius (59F) temperatures.

## Dopers should be sent to prison, says Christie

LONDON, Nov 20: Linford Christie, Britain's Olympic and world 100 metres champion, says all drug cheats in athletics should be sent to prison, reports Reuter.

"Because of drugs controversies, athletics is in a sad state. If people want to take the risk they should face the consequences."

"The home secretary says that people who peddle steroids should be sent to prison. It is my view that if you are going to sentence a steroids pusher then why not also give the same sentence to a taker?"

"Little takers become big pushers if they are not killed in between the process."

"They can hang them for all I care. The sentence doesn't affect me because I take drugs."

Speaking on Sky Sports One to One programme today he also attacked athletics authorities for failing to take a firmer stand against drug users.

"To be honest, they are still trying to cut down from a four-year ban to a two-year ban. Where is the moral in that?"

"If you take part in the sport and you take drugs you should be banned for life. They shouldn't wait for a second offence."

"Some people who take drugs are young enough to come back after their bans. They shouldn't be able to because they have broken the rules. Some of the big names who get caught are allowed back in because they bring sponsorship into the sport. It is totally wrong."

## Sabatini stays on course



NEW YORK, Nov 20: Gabriela Sabatini's giant step toward winning the Virginia Slims Championships

got a little help from Kimiko Date's leg, reports AP. Sabatini, seeking her first tournament title in 2 1/2 years, grabbed a spot in Sunday's best-of-5-sets final when she outlasted the eighth-seeded Date 4-6, 6-0, 6-0.

The Argentine right-hander will take on seventh-seeded Lindsay Davenport for the title and 250,000 dollars in this season-ending event. Davenport advanced by defeating No 5 Mary Pierce 6-3, 6-2 in Saturday's first semifinal.

Sabatini was one of the bright hopes on the women's tennis tour. She won this unique 16-player tournament in 1988 and took the US Open two years later.

While she has not won a major tournament since then, she hasn't won a tournament of any kind since the Italian Open in May 1992. This is the 44th tournament she has played since, and will be appearing Sunday in her eighth final.

"I think the mental part has a lot to do with it," Sabatini said of her winless streak. "In 1990, I was mentally very focused and I played a great tournament, you know, at the

Open when I won."

It may be prophetic that her first-round opponent was Martina Navratilova, playing in her final tournament before retiring as a singles player.

Sabatini sent Navratilova, the winningest player of all time, into retirement probably earlier than she expected or wanted. And Sabatini did it by playing her best tennis in years.

She needed to continue



GABRIELA SABATINI

that to get past Date, who ousted third-seeded Conchita Martinez in the quarterfinal round Friday night. But Date strained the quad muscle in her right leg, an injury that bothered the Japanese right-

hander against Sabatini.

It didn't keep her from trading baseline strokes with Sabatini, both running down shots from side to side, sending back what would be winners against almost any other players. For these two, however, at least one more shot was needed to close out a point.

"I was playing all out," Date said. "When you get to the end, that's all there really is to do."

Date won the final three games to take the first set, breaking Sabatini in the eighth and 10th games. But Sabatini, cheered on by the Madison Square Garden crowd of 16,838, roared through the second set.

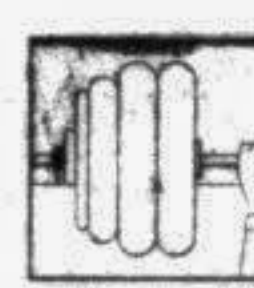
Davenport was aggressive from the baseline, outbitting Pierce in their long-range bombardments.

Keeping Pierce on the run, and consequently negating her power, Davenport stepped up her own power game, ripping the ball deep and near the lines. After Pierce took a 2-1 lead, Davenport pulled even with a love game to begin a five-game run that carried her into the title match.

"It's a real relaxing tournament because it's the best players, so it's not a bad loss," said Davenport, playing in her first Virginia Slims Championships.

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## Peshalov, Byrd run show



ISTANBUL, Nov 20: Bulgarian and American athletes amassed a total of five gold medals Saturday, the second day of the World Weightlifting Championships, reports AP.

Nikolai Peshalov of Bulgaria won all three gold medals in the men's 59 kilo (130 pound) category and also broke a world record.

American Robin Byrd, competing in the women's 50 kilo (110 pound) class, became the first American since 1989 to bag two gold medals and a silver.

## China edge Russians out

DORTMUND, Germany, Nov 20: A brilliant performance by Huang Huadong on the pommel horse Saturday helped China edge Russia to win the men's title at the World Gymnastics team championships, reports AP.

China and Russia turned the meeting of the world's top gymnastic powers into a two-country duel that wasn't decided until the evening's final routines. The Asian power finished at 283.333 points, shading silver-medalist Russia at 282.158.

Ukraine won bronze at 281.086, winning out against Belarus and Germany. Japan, third at the 1992 Olympics, was a distant sixth.

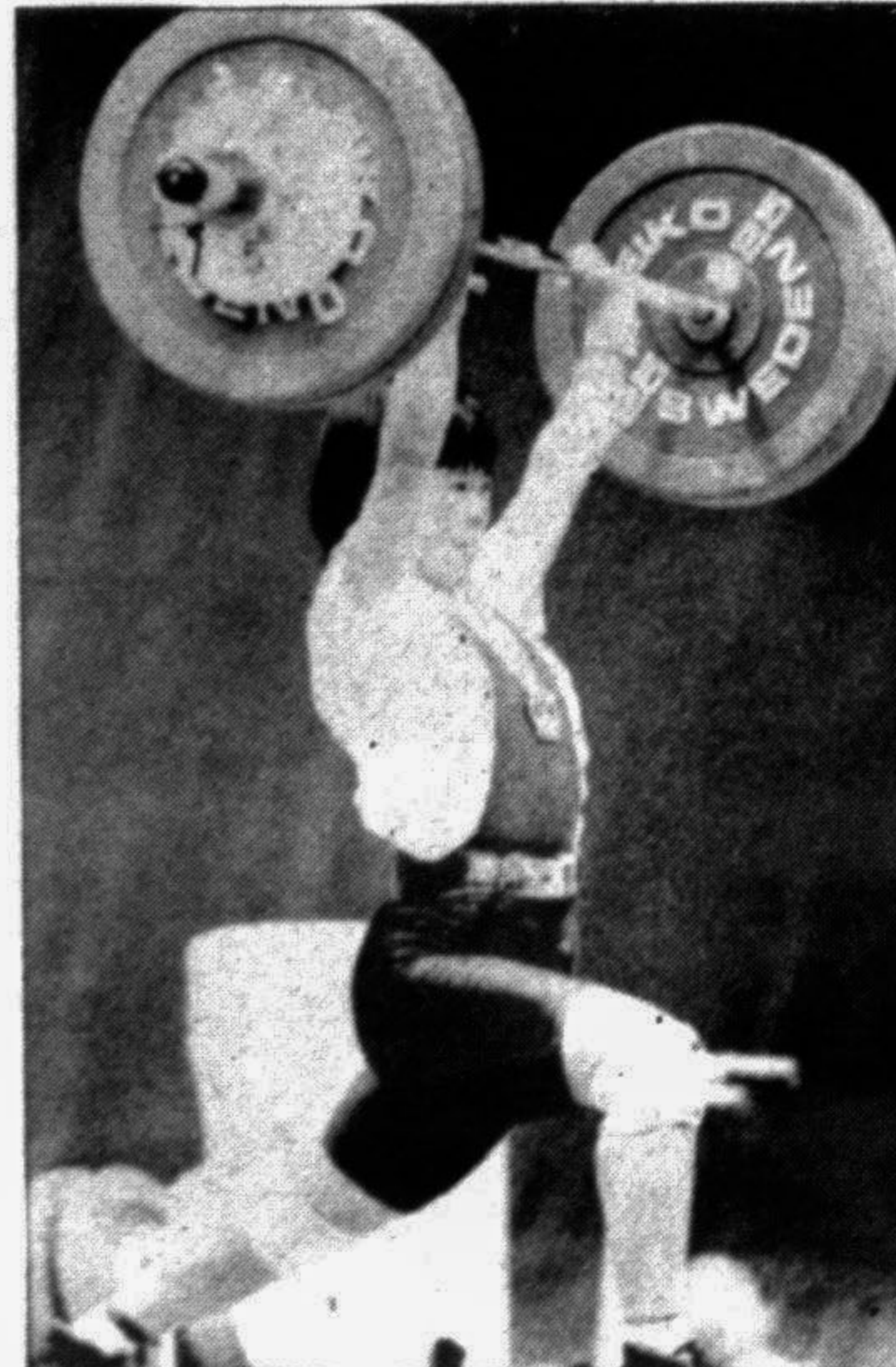
Huadong, one of four Chinese gymnasts on the 1992 Olympic silver medalist team, stepped up to the pommel horse for China's next-to-last routine of the evening.

His dazzling routine, for which he won gold at the recent Asian Games, led to wild cheers from his teammates after he stuck a perfect dismount. The judges awarded him the highest score for any routine of the evening at 9.837.

When Alexei Voropaev, Russia's most experienced gymnast, fell twice on the horizontal bar afterwards, China wrapped up the gold.

The meet, in which 24 nations took part, is the first chance for teams to find out how they rank against each other since the dismantling of the Unified Team which dominated the 1992 Olympics.

The former Soviet Republics that comprised the Unified Team now compete separately, with Russia, Belarus and Ukraine all reaching the finals.

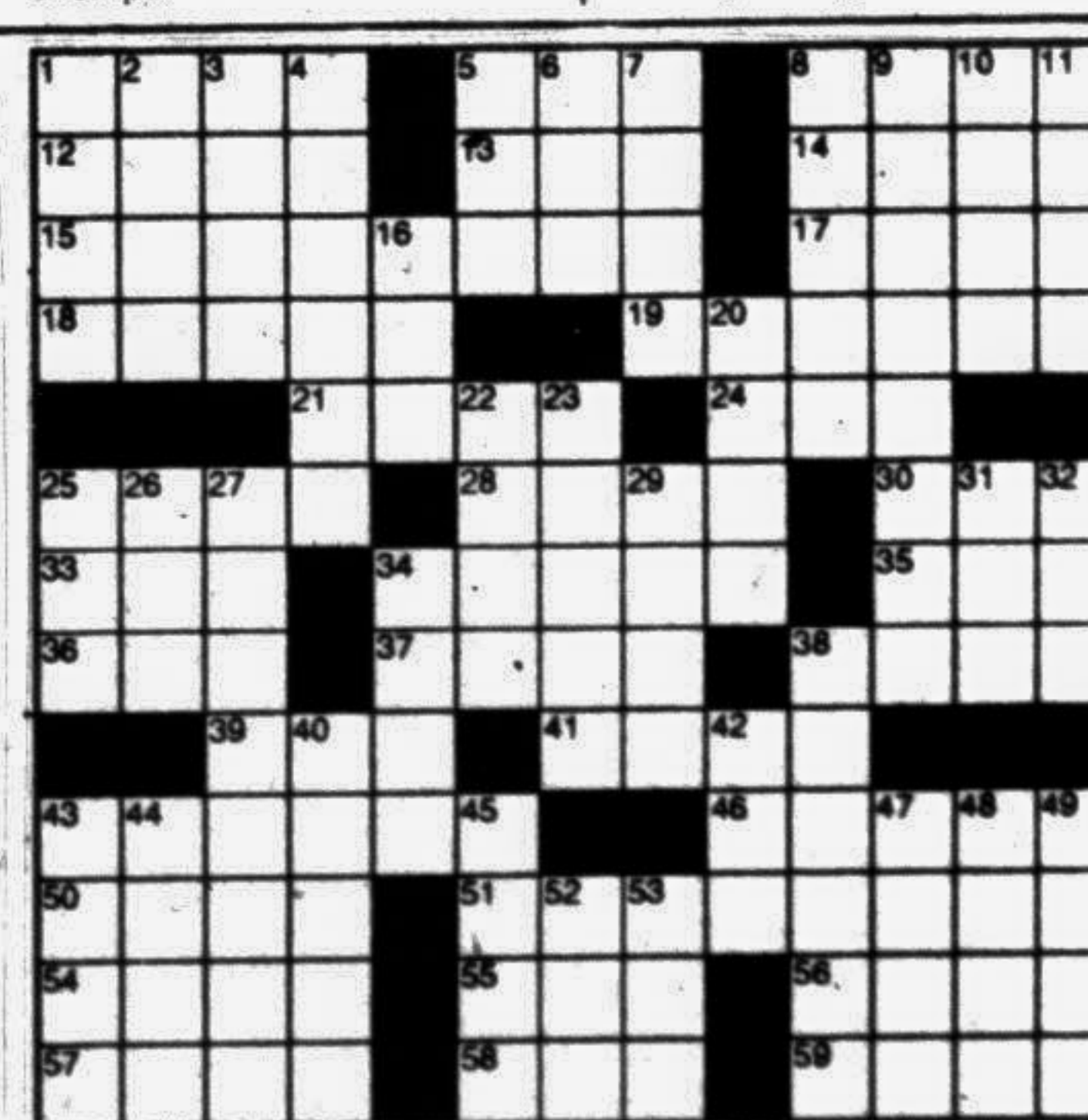


China Yun Yanhong in action at the World Weightlifting Championship in Istanbul on Nov 18. Yun set a new mark in the 80kg snatch class.

—AFP photo

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

1 Ice cream quantity	41 Newsman	Kane"	20 Partner in crime
5 Tucker's partner	43 Posse's guns	allusion	22 Battle cry?
8 "Wheel of Fortune" option	46 Variable stars	1 Theater producer	23 General land survey, for short
12 Inter —	50 EPA concern	2 Rival of Bjorn	25 Scenery chewer
13 Mined find	51 Sam Weller's employer	3 Notch	26 Singer Sumac
14 Beach resort	54 Half a vitamin deficiency?	4 Start liking	27 "America's Sweetheart"
15 Mountain-eers' tools	55 Road map abbr.	5 "Let's Make a Deal" option	29 He just gets by
17 Computer symbol	56 Metallic fabric	6 Dander	31 Parrot
18 Lapdogs, briefly	57 Puts two and two together	7 No. 1	32 Unrefined
19 Equipment	58 Catcher's place?	8 Pizza serving	34 Ballet bend
21 "— she blows!"	59 "Citizen"	9 Restorative	38 Sullen looks
24 Moon vehicle		10 Billy of rock	40 West —, Wis.
25 Injection, informally		11 Christie title end	42 Squid squirt
28 Projection-room item		16 Bat wood	43 McEntire of C&W
30 Corn serving			44 On the rocks
33 "— Blue?"			45 Practice pugilism
34 Fussing over trifles			47 Centrifuge insert
35 "— Lazy River"			48 Pinnacle
36 Singer Davis			49 Timetable, briefly
37 Shoestring			52 Trellis twiner
38 Gush forth			53 Average grade
39 Chiang — shek			



## CRYPTOQUIP

NCJQOT XWBPO'K BWJKG  
XJUPCAGW YFTKAEJB

J E G A U A G T : G F W  
Y J C J B B W B N J C K

Yesterday's Cryptogram: SLOPPY COOK'S DISASTROUS FIRE IN KITCHEN CAUSED A FLASH IN THE PAN.

Today's Cryptogram clue: C equals R

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.