RIO DE JANEIRO, Nov 25: More chaos loomed for the Brazilian soccer championship on Thursday with some of the country's leading clubs threatening to boycott the competition, reports Reuter.

World Club title holders Sao Paulo and defending champions Palmeiras said they would consider walking out if the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) went ahead with a threat to punish them for a brawl during a game between the two sides in October.

Representatives from the Sport Recife club have appealed to the CBF to dock one point from each team after the fight, which involved nearly all the players on the pitch and held up the game for 15 min-

Six players were sent off and the game ended 2-2.

Sport Recife claim that the rules of the competition stipulate deduction of points in the case of "generalised conflict."

The match was in the first phase of the second stage of the competition. Palmeiras won their group in the phase by one point from Sport Recife and were guaranteed a place in the quarterfinals of the compe-

But if they now lose the point, they would finish behind Sport Recife on goal difference.

Sao Paulo Soccer Federation has called on its members to withdraw if the measure, which has to be descided by a CBF tribunal, goes ahead.

Four clubs from the city of Sao Paulo — Palmeiras. Sao Paulo, Corinthians and Portugues - and four from the surrounding region - Bragantino, Santos, Guarani and Uniao Sao Joao — are taking part in the tournament.

Sao Paulo and Palmeiras have already agreed to walk out and the other six clubs have said they will discuss the mat-

The second phase of the second stage of the tourna which critics have said is far too cen plicated, ends on Sunday when the eight quarterfinalists will finally be known.

Petrov steps into men's world

ISTANBUL. Nov 25: Russian Alexey Petrov, winner of the junior world title last year, set two world weightlifting records on his way to the senior crown on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Petrov. 20, upstaged Olympic champion Kakhi Kakhiashvili to win the jerk in the 91 kg category with a recordbreaking 228.0 kg for a total of 412.5 kg, equalling his own combined record.

The Russian champion also set a snatch world record of 186.0. This counted as 185 for the total, which must be divisible by 2.5 kg, so he was un-

able to set a third world best. "My next goal is the Olympic gold in Atlanta," said Petrov, who now holds all senior and junior world records.

His snatch alone carried him 7.5 kg ahead of silver medalist Kakhiashvili, who totalled 397.5 kg.

Kakhiashvili, from Georgia but entered at the last minute for Greece, tried for a record

and gold in the jerk with 230.0 as he had little hope of overtaking Petrov overall. He was forced to go so high from his 220 kg second lift

after Petrov's record. But this weight proved too much and he failed. Kakhiashvili moved to

Greece from Georgia two months ago and struggled until the 11th hour to be allowed to compete for his new country of residence. Bulgarian defending cham-

pion Ivan Chakarov came second in the snatch on 185 with a heavier bodyweight but limped away from the bar without attempting his first

He then withdrew because of an injury sustained in the warm-up.

This let in Viktor Belyatsky of Russia for his first world medal - the bronze, with 380.0 kg.

Meanwhile, relative new-Panagiota comer Antonopoulou hoisted a total 220.0 kg to win the women's

76 kg class. A former Javelin thrower. 27-year-old Antonopoulou took up weightlifting only three

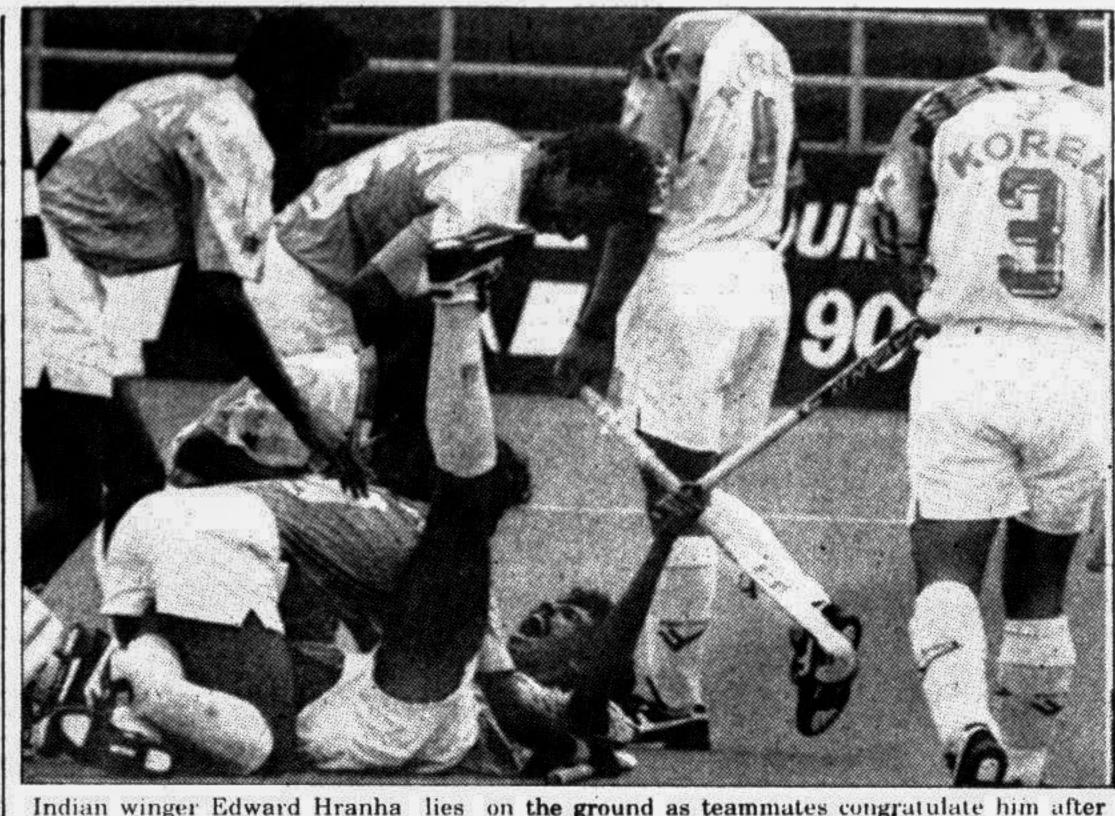
She triumphed in her new · sport in Istanbul with 92.5 in e snatch and a gold medal-

minning 127.5 jerk. Hungarian Maria Takacs. European champion took sil-

ver on 217.5 ahead of Russia's Albina Komich (212.5). The 76 kg category, which had no Chinese entry, became

only the second women's event to go to a non-Chinese competitor. The 50 kg, also with no Chinese entry, was won by American Robin Byrd.

"I would have done the same thing whoever entered." a confident Antonopoulou said after her victory.



Indian winger Edward Hranha lies on the ground as teammates congratulate him after scoring a goal against South Korea in their 8th World Cup hockey match in Sydney on Nov 24. India won 2-0.

Dutch too strong for India



SYDNEY, Nov 25: The Netherlands confirmed their position as lavourites to retain the men's World

Hockey Cup today, beating a highly competitive Indian side 4-2 for their second highscoring win, reports Reuter. The victory following their

8-1 drubbing of Belgium on Thursday, put the Netherlands on top of Group B with maximum points. India dropped to third in

their six-team group, behind Germany.

India, who had beaten Netherlands in their three previous encounters, played intelligently and far above the form they had displayed in beating Korea 2-0 on Thursday. They came from behind to level before the interval and refused to lie down when the Dutch took a 3-1 lead.

The Dutch scored their first three goals from free hits, all taken by the powerful Floris jan Bovelander. Taco van den Honert, Leo Klein Gebbink and 18-year-old Teun de Nooiyer took the chances.

After India had clawed back to 3-2 in the 63rd minute. Van den Honert ensured a Dutch victory by converting a late corner, only their second of the game. Van den Honert. who set a World Cup record by scoring four times against Belgium yesterday, has now taken his tally to six in two

India's goals were scored by Gavin Fereira and Shakeel Ahmed with a penalty.

South Africa picked up their second draw in a goalless game with South Korea, a match between the African and Asian champions and one that was dominated by the goalkeepers, Brian Myburgh for South Africa and Koo Jin-Soo.

GERMANS BLANK BELGIANS

After being held to a draw in their opening match, Germany bounced back to thrash hapless Belgium six-nil - but still failed to impress their coach.

Right winger Sven Meinhardt scored four goals as the Olympic champions recovered their poise following a disappointing one-all draw against South Africa on Wednesday.

But coach Paul Lissek bemoaned his side's inability to inflict further punishments on the Belgians, who crashed eight-one to defending champions the Netherlands in a Group B match on Thursday.

Germany, who led four-nil at half-time, stormed in front after just 90 seconds when Meinhardt converted the first of his three penalty strokes. Belgian coach Allain Geens

was upset at the award of the

penalty corner which led to the first German goal. "It should not have been given. he said afterwards. Meinhardt added a field goal in the eighth minute before Patrick Bellenbaum and

left half Klaus Michler extended the scoreline before the break. PAKISTAN BEAT SPAIN

in the earlier match Pakistan stormed to the top of

Group A with maximum points from two games following a 3-1 win over Spain. A flash of brilliance by captain Shahbaz Ahmed turned a

from his side. Pakistan's victory put them ahead of Australia, the other team with maximum points, on

game that was slipping away

goal difference and a point ahead of third-placed England Two teams from each group qualify for the semifinals.

Pakistan were tied one-one until Shahbaz's speed and ball control took him through the defence to lay on a goal for his centre-forward Kamran Ashraf.

The goal, Ashraf's second, came after 61 minutes. Within a minute left winger Waseem Feroze, recalled to the team after 16 months, added a third with great skill.

It was Pakistan's 14th successive win over Spain and the scoreline was repeat of their last meeting at the Champions' Trophy in Lahore in March. Spanish coach Santi Cortes

paid tribute to Shahbaz after the game. "One star made the difference. He makes things happen, things you do not want to happen. Before their second goal, we were thinking of winning the match."

Spain's equaliser in the 42nd minute was a soft goals, a mishit shot by Juan Garcia Maurino which somehow eluded Pakistan goalkeeper Mansoor Ahmad.

STANDINGS

Standings after the third day of the eighth men's World Hockey Cup today (tabulate under played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

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	Spain	2	0	1	1	1	3	1	
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i i	South Korea	2	0	1	1	0	2	1	
Ĺ	Belgium	2	0	0	2	1	14	0	

Lalas' dream and reality



Nov 25: Flambovant World Cup desender Alexi Lalas dreamed of playing profoot-

ball in his homeland — but he left the United States to improve his skills in the rugged Italian League, reports AFP. Now the defender's price

may be more than the fledgling United States league can afford to bring home one of its World Cup stars. Major League Soccer (MLS).

the US league postponed until 1996, plans to have a 1.3 million-dollar salary limit per team. Lalas said more money might be needed to attract the talent to make MLS a success in the wake of the World Cup.

"It does no good to put out something half-hearted people want to see the names they

saw this summer". Lalas said in a telephone interview. "It has to be done for this league to be successful. (MLS president Alan Rothenberg) said they will be competitive and I believe they will be."

But if Rothenberg sticks to his salary cap, Lalas would think twice about returning home.

"What would it take? That's difficult," he said. "Obviously I have to get paid: There are going to have to be concessions from MLS and the players. I have to make a living."

"I don't know what the hell it'll take. Put 1.25 million dollars in my pocket and the others can split the rest." Lalas, 24, adores Italy and

has adjusted to the rigours of the elite league.

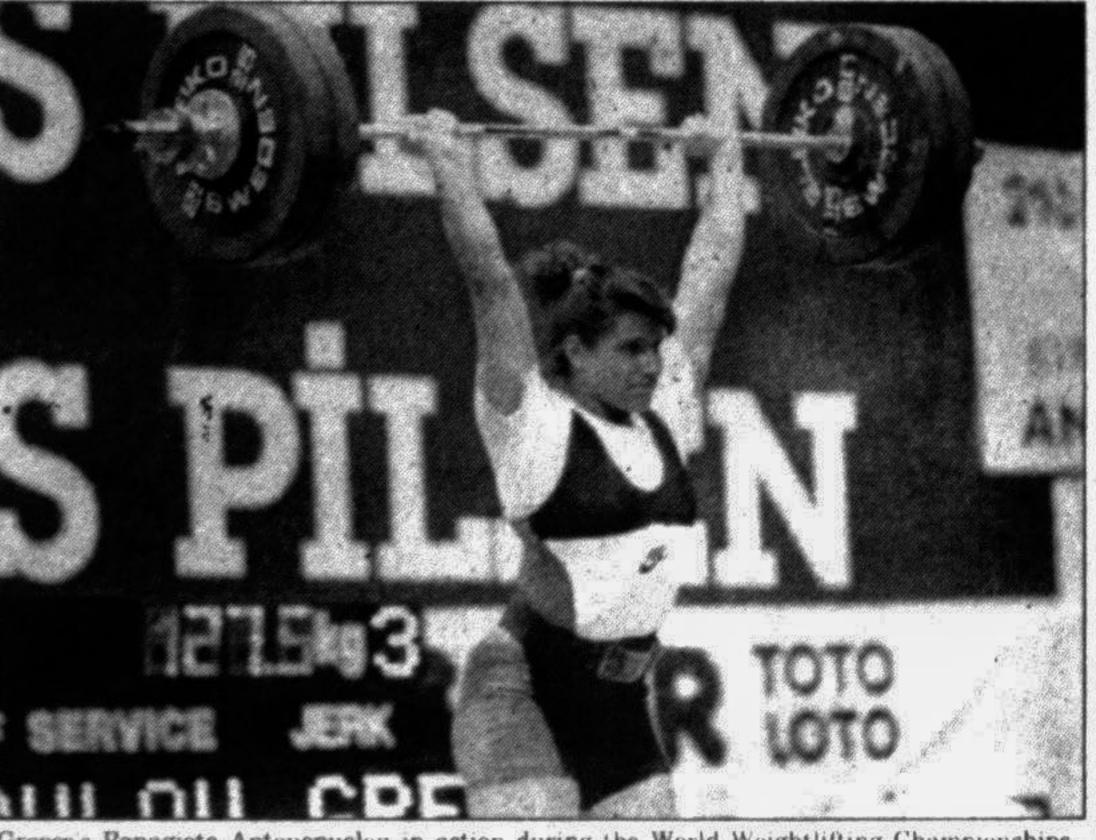
"My life has changed a whole lot since World Cup,"

Lalas said. "The soccer here is incredible. I get to play in the best league in the world against the best players. The team has made me feel wel come here. I'm winging it, try ing not to make any mistakes and playing it cool."

Lalas was named the US college player of the vear in 1991. He played in the 1992 Olympics despite a broken foot and his personality helped make World Cup come alive for US fans.

Lalas becomes well known for his curly red hair, even allowing a popular talk show host to trim his trademark goatee beard before a national television audience.

Another favourite treat before matches was a "slurpee," a US flavoured drink of crushed ice that is imitated, but not matched, in Italy.



Greece's Panagiota Antonopuolou in action during the World Weightlifting Championships in Istanbul on Nov 24. She became the first Greek gold medalist when she won the women's 76 kg class. - AFP photo

Jackson, Gunnell Britain's best

LONDON, Nov 25: Athletes Colin Jackson and Sally Gunnell were named British sports man and woman of the year on Thursday by the country's sports writers' association, re-

ports Reuter. Jackson, the 110 metres hurdler, beat off competition from sprinter Linford Christie, who was second and Formula One Championship contender Damon Hill.

World champion and record holder Jackson completed the season unbeaten, successfully defending his Commonwealth and European titles as well as clocking a world indoor re-

Sally Gunnell pulled off a European Championship and Commonwealth Games double in the 400 metres hurdles.

Golfer Laura Davies, who this year became the first European to top the LPGA money list in America, was second with swimmer Karen Pickering third.

Karpov turns to politicians

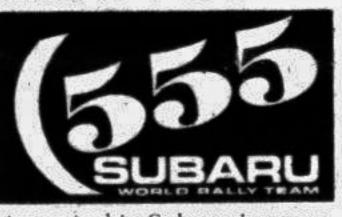
MOSCOW, Nov 25: Chess star Anatoly Karpov met with hard-line leaders in the Russian Parliament to seek their support in a continuing squabble with his rival Garri Kasparov, a newspaper reported Friday, reports AP.

Karpov and some others chess players met hard-line members of the Russian Parliament's lower chamber on Thursday to denounce the establishment of a "parallel" Russian Chess Federation, the daily Segodnya reported.

At the federation congress last April, its members voted no-confidence in their president Yevgeny Bebchuk and elected Andrei Makarov, a well-known lawyer and reformist member of parliament, its new head. They also dismissed Karpov, who was away in Spain at the time, as first vice president.

McRae first Brit to win RAC Rally

Colin McRac made history by winning the RAC Rally, the first Briton to do so for 18 years. The Scotsman dominated the four-day rally through England his native Scotland and Wales. winning 16 of the 29 timed



stages in his Subaru Impreza

555, says a press release. There was drama on the final day of the RAC Rally when his 555 Subaru teammate Carlos Sainz was the victim of a misguided practical joke played by spectators. On Wednesday's first stage in Wales, the Spaniard had to take evasive action after spectators laid logs across a stage where cars were travelling at 160 km/h.

Neither the car before. eventual rally winner Colin McRae, nor the subsequent competitor, Juha Kankkunen, came across the logs. "Some people thought that they could help decide the championship themselves," said a furious Sainz. On the following stage. Sainz (his concentration lost after the log incident) crashed out of the rally and out of the championship-handing the title to France's Didier Auriol. CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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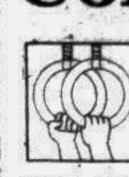
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18 Silverheels 58 Appear-

Comaneci ushers in change



reports Reuter.

BUCHAREST. Nov 25: Nadia Comaneci, the first gymnast to score a perfect 10 in Olympic compe-

tition, jumped from the high beam to the catwalk on Thursday in glitzy fashion show marking her return to Romania from self-imposed exile,

She struck a restrained figure among semi-naked models baring breasts and acres of leg before an audience of postcommunist new rich flaunting furs and shiny suits. Comaneci, who won three gold medals in the 1976 Mon-

treal Olympics, kept herself well hidden in a spectacular white furry winter coat with outsized hood. Not for her the fur and vinyl bikinis and bondage dresses of other models. Her return to Romania five

years after she fled Romania just weeks before the overthrow and execution of former Stalinist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu has become a major national event. It has included talks with

President Ion Iliescu and a made-for-television return to her hometown for the first meeting with her father in half a decade. 'Nadia is unique because

she was the beginning of a new era in gymnastics," said Roma-

nian national gymnastics team coach Octavian Bellu, who watched the fashion show with members of his World Championship team in the audience.

Comaneci was just 14 when she stunned the world at the



NADIA COMANECI

ing seven 10s and hauling home three gold medals. Now 32, she has built a new life in the United States and plans to marry double Olympic gold medal-winning American gymnast Bart Conner.

In the front row of the fashion show a "new Nadia", gymnast Lavinia Milosovici, gushed at the glamour Comaneci had brought to the crumbling Romanian capital where money

and colour are in short supply. "It was the first time I saw live such splendour. It's wonderful. I thank Nadia for this."

she said. Lavinia is the leader of a new generation of Romanian gymnasts still at the top of the World despite the downfall of Ceausescu, who built up the

gymnastics team and feted its

members as a symbol of communism. Trainer Bellu says much may have changed in Romania but in gymnastics the old ways go on - discipline and gov ernment patronage combining to keep Romania at the top.

"We haven't changed anything in our style of work and our rules," said Bellu, who runs the rural Deva Gymnastics Training Centre with almost military precision. "We still have the same discipline, the same seriousness as in the old days."

The Romanian government, many of whose leading figures held senior posts in the communist regime, has not forgot ten the importance of Romanian gymnastics for the national psyche.

A strike by Milosovici and her colleagues last month brought the instant intervention of Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu to promise that big bonuses for good international performances - delayed by bureaucracy - would be paid.

Barcelona in tight corner quarterfinal but after going on paper as they receive



MADRID, Nov 25: Four-year defending Spanish hampions Barlooking to save celona will be some face this weekend when

mated by Turkey's Galatasaray in European competition; reports AP. Barcelona go into the Sevilla game Sunday sharing second place in the 20-team First Division with Real Madrid and Deportivo de La Coruna each a

point behind leaders Zaragoza

they meet Sevilla in the league

after having their morale deci-

who have 17. Sevilla's ninth position with 11 points and the home ground advantage would put the odds in Barcelona's favour But confidence among their players is likely to be depleted following Wednesday's European Champions' League defeat against Galatasaray.

A victory would have guaran teed Barcelona a place in the

Holyfield gets the nod

ATLANTA, Nov 25: Former world heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield, forced to quit because of a heart ondition, has been given clearance to return to boxing by physicians at the Mayo Clinic, the Atlanta Journal reported on Thursday, reports Reuter.

In April doctors at the Crawford Long Hospital in Atlanta diagnosed 32-year-old Holyfield as having a non-compliant left ventricle, or stiff heart, prompting his retire-

Holyfield subsequently sought the aid of faith healer Benny Hinn.

"As best we can assess. Holyfield has no abnormality in his heart," the newspaper quoted the Mayo Clinic's Dr John Scott as saving.

"We don't believe he ever had a serious problem with his heart," said Scott, a pulmonary specialist.

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23 Glutton

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28 Cry loudly

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31 Pinnacle

35 Raw rock

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ahead with a 15th minute goal by Brazilian ace Romario, the side fell apart in the face of the Turks' determination and ended up losing 2-1. "We can't go on like this in

life," an obviously angry coach Johan Cruyff told reporters. "I've been warning about this for some time. It's clear that when you relax these things are likely to happen." One person certain to be banking on the Sevilla game

providing some relief is top striker, Bulgarian Hristo Stoichkov, who had hoped that a sparkling performance against Galatasaray would boost his chances of winning this year's prestigious Golden Ball so ccer award. "He didn't touch the ball once, neither did he do any

didn't take him off because in the counterattack he's always capable of making most of his speed, but yesterday there was nothing speedy about him." A slip by Barcelona on Saturday would not favour the side's chances of winning a

fifth title in a row, a record

work," said a peeved Cruyff. "1

held by Real Madrid. Zaragoza, meanwhile, would appear to have an uphill struggle ahead in maintaining their leadership when they travel Sunday to Athletic de Bilbao, a team likely to be buoyed by their 1-0 win midweek over Italian leader Parma in the UEFA cup.

That win follows Bilbao's victories to knock England's Newcastle out of the cup earlier this month. Bilbao share fifth place in

the league alongside Betis, with 14 points from six wins. two draws and three defeats. Real Madrid, upbeat following their 3-2 win against Denmark's Odense in the

UEFA on Tuesday, take on a

Tenerife who are struggling at

No 12 with 10 points. Deportivo, who also won their UEFA game 1-0 against Germany's Borussia Dortmund, look to have the easiest game Valladolid who lie second last in the league. Elsewhere, aftention will focus on Real Socieded following

the surprise sacking of Welsh coach John Toshack Wed nesday. The club said the decision was made after Socieded lost to Celta 3-2 last round, a result that left the side in the relega-

Socieded travel to Seville to play Betis. The round's only game

tion-danger zone at No 17 with

just seven points from 11

Saturday is between No 7 Celta against No 14 Oviedo. In other 12th-round games Sunday, Logrones receive Valencia. Albacete host Atletico Madrid, Compostela travel to

Sporting de Gijon and Espanol

are at Racing de Santander

One for Germany, one for hosts

CHIBA, Japan, Nov 25 Frank Moller of Germany and Japan's Shigeru Okaizumi each won gold medals on Friday, the opening day of the Jigoro Kano Cup International judo tournament, reports AP.

However, Hungarian Antal Kovacs, the 1992 Barcelona Olympic gold medalist and 1993 world champion, made a quick exit, losing to Japan's Michiaki Kamochi by an osoto gaeshi leg trick in the first round of the 95-kilogram class competition.

In the over-95 kilogram class, Moller, bronze medalist in the 1993 world champt onship, scored an ippon vic tory with an ouchigaeshi leg trick over Japan's Shigeru Kubota, a junior at Tokai University. Kubota received the silver medal.

"He fought too cautiously today. He had chances to win." Japanese head coach Yasuhiro Yamashita, a former world and Olympic champion, said of Kubota.

CRYPTOQUIP

CSCARDE SALWMZRQZE CMTJMT UAZXL XMJTZTDLTYMJU Saturday's Cryptoquip: IT'S POSSIBLE THAT

PAR FOR THE COARSE. Today's Cryptoquip clue: T equals C

UNREFINED CONDUCT AT THE DINNER TABLE IS

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.