

Second Ashes Test begins today

Malcolm Illingworth's man

MELBOURNE, Dec 23: England chairman of selectors Ray Illingworth is counting on Devon Malcolm to rip apart Australia's batting lineup in the second Test starting here Saturday, reports AFP.

Illingworth arrived here Thursday for the Test and declared his first task would be to inspire the 31-year-old Derbyshire strike bowler to wipe out the nightmare of England's 184-run defeat in the first Test last month.

Illingworth was the last England captain to regain the Ashes on Australian soil in 1970-71 and has intends to deliver a team pep talk on match eve Friday.

Malcolm, who took 9-57 against South Africa at the Oval last August, missed the first Test with chickenpox and Illingworth wants the bowler to make an immediate impression.

"He's a quick bowler and I want him to bowl quick," Illingworth said.

Illingworth said it was important for Devon to let them know he's there. "I asked him what he had playing on his headphones and I told him that, land of hope and glory, was what we wanted."

"We want him pumped up a bit when he comes out and to let them know he's about."

Illingworth said he did not have a definite view on the opening pair and the final decision would be the subject of a lengthy discussion.

Meanwhile, AP adds: Malcolm has vowed to lift injury-hit England as they prepare for the second Ashes Test against Australia.

"I feel fit and strong and I want to play my part after missing the first Test," said Malcolm. "I was brought in at the Oval last summer to strike against South Africa — and I managed to do that by taking nine wickets in the second innings."

"I haven't played a Test since, but the memory of that match is pretty clear and I've still got a lot of belief in myself."

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likely to be crucial with all-rounder Craig White to miss the second and third Tests with a rib muscle injury.

White, who has been troubled by the injury for nine days, failed to complete a nets session on Thursday because he was in too much pain.

The 24-year-old Yorkshire player hopes to make a comeback in time to play in the second block of World Series limited-overs matches that begins on Jan 7.

"We'll take him to a specialist here and do everything we can to get him fit for the one-dayers in January," England physiotherapist Dave Roberts said Friday.

"I wouldn't like to speculate on when he might be ready again, because the healing process is different for every individual."

Along with White, seamer Joey Benjamin is out of contention as he still is recovering from a bout of chickenpox. Fast bowler Darren Gough is expected to play despite still struggling to recover from a hamstring injury.

Mike Gatting is set to retain the number six spot ahead of John Crawley and the major decision for the English team management will be the choice of opening batsmen.

Atherton realises England cannot afford a second defeat if they are to retain any hope of regaining the Ashes.

"It is very important we don't lose this Test," he said. "It is not realistic to hope to come from 0-2 down to win a five-Test series. Naturally, we hope we win, but to get at least a draw is of paramount importance."

Malcolm said the morale among the England team still is high.

"I know if I perform well we'll have a great chance," he said. "I realize the responsibility I'm under and it doesn't worry me at all."

TEAMS
AUSTRALIA (from): Mark Taylor (capt), Michael Slater, David Boon, Mark Waugh, Michael Bevan, Steve Waugh, Ian Healy, Shane Warne, Craig McDermott, Tim May, Damien Fleming, Glenn McGrath.

ENGLAND (Likely): Mike Atherton (capt), Alec Stewart, Graeme Hick, Graham Thorpe, Graham Gooch, Mike Gatting, Steve Rhodes, Darren Gough, Phil DeFreitas, Phil Tufnell, Devon Malcolm, 12th man: Shaun Udal.

Christie ran 10.03 this time to lead in Goodwill Games winner Dennis Mitchell and Jon Drummond.

Silence might have been Christie's most dignified response but he could not resist one parting shot before Gonenburg next year: "I've proved to everyone I'm a great champion. Everyone was here. No-one can have any complaints."

Nobody had any complaints about Morceli either, or Haile Gebrselassie and William Sigei. Sergey Bubka, however, the other world record-beater of the year, was another story.

His 35th world record in July in Sestriere of 6.14m won him a massive cash bonus and provided him with the perfect getaway vehicle in the shape of a 120,000-dollar Ferrari.

The Ukrainian's pole vaulting brilliance is unquestioned but the way in which he has edged up the bar by a centimetre at a time, year on year and month by month, suggests Bubka is more interested in his bank account than the limits of human endeavour.

Sigei's Oslo triumph, however, was an extraordinary run. He sliced off more than six seconds from the 10,000m mark, clocking 26min 52.23 secs to eclipse compatriot Yobes Ondieki's record.

The double world cross country champion, barely out of breath, then muttered: "It wasn't difficult when I was alone. I can at my own pace."

Not very surprisingly, nobody else could.

Morceli's best at Monaco in August was equally authoritative, taking nearly four seconds off the 3,000 best time previously held by Moses Kiptanui.

Unbeaten in 1993 and 1994 and already the holder of the 1,500m and mile records, he clocked 7 min 25.11 secs

Of southpaws

LONDON, Dec 23: Left-handed people live as long as right-handers but they suffer more casualties in war, a survey of 6,000 cricket players showed on Friday, reports Reuter.

British researchers set out to check reports which suggested left-handed people were more likely to die early and suffer serious accidents.

They used first-class cricketers because full records of these men extend back more than 200 years. Data was only used if it could be determined which arm a player used to bowl.

The survey published in the British medical journal, "found no overall difference in the survival curves of the left and right-handed cricketers," except in warfare.

"The increased risk of death in younger left-handed cricketers seemed to reflect a higher proportion dying of unnatural causes, mainly during warfare," it said.

The researchers said that 5.4 per cent of left-handers were killed in action against three per cent of right-handers.

They said this suggested that left-handed people faced particular disadvantages during warfare, perhaps, because equipment and training are designed for right-handers.

Ambrose back Windies squad

BRIDGETOWN, Dec 23: Fast bowler Curtly Ambrose, back in action after a shoulder injury, has been named in the 15 member West Indies team to play New Zealand next month, reports Reuter.

Ambrose missed the recent West Indies tour to India after the injury flared up while he was playing for Northamptonshire on the English county circuit earlier this year.

SQUAD

Courtney Walsh (captain), Jimmy Adams, Curtly Ambrose, Keith Arthurton, Winston Benjamin, Kenneth Benjamin, Sherwin Campbell, Shivnarine Chanderparad, Anderson Cummings, Rajendra Dhanraj, Roland Holder, Carl Hooper, Brian Lara, Junior Murray, Stuart Williams, Manager: David Holdford.

An Indo-Pak initiative

MADRAS, Dec 23: The Indian Hockey Federation (IHF) and its Pakistani counterpart are finalising plans to revive Test matches between the two traditional rivals after a six-year gap, to be held in March-April next year in the Gulf.

"Details will be finalised by the end of February or early March, after the Indra Gandhi tournament," the IHF secretary general, K Jothikumar, told a press meet here today, reports PTI.

He said he had discussions with LT Col Mudassar Asghar, his Pakistani counterpart, during the World Cup in Sydney and both federation office-bearers felt it was a must for both to maintain sharpness at international outings and to revive Asian hegemony in the game.

Since holding Tests in both the countries had its problems it was decided to hold them in neutral Gulf countries like Dubai, Oman and Abu Dhabi, which had synthetic pitches. India and Pakistan last played a six-Test series (three in India and three in Pakistan) in 1988 before the Seoul Olympics.

The IHF had submitted the proposal to the government and was awaiting its green signal, he said.

No respite for Lock

PERTH, Dec 23: Former England Test cricketer Tony Lock, who is terminally ill, faces a retrial on sexual assault charges after an Australian jury failed to reach a verdict on allegations that he molested a 10-year-old girl, reports Reuter.

Lock, who has lung cancer and is said by his lawyers to have as little as three months left to live, was accused of sexually assaulting the daughter of a friend in the early 1980s.

The trial judge discharged the jury on Thursday night after more than eight hours of deliberation, then remanded Lock on bail to reappear before the Perth district court next February.

The girl, now a 24-year old mother, told the court that Lock had penetrated her and kissed and touched her during a visit to the former spin bowler's property near Perth.

Lock, now in his mid-60s, played Test cricket in the 1950s and 1960s before taking up a coaching job in Perth.

He denied the charges against his and tried to have this week's trial permanently stayed because of his cancer. But Judge Brian O'Dea ruled that his illness did not outweigh the community's right to try it.



An AFP file photo dated April 1, 1992 shows Pelé posing with two footballs during a promotional tour. Brazilian President-elect Fernando Henrique Cardoso announced his cabinet on Dec 22. Pelé was made a Sports Minister.

Pelé's priorities spelt out

RIO DE JANEIRO, Dec 23: When Pelé scored his historic 1000th goal in 1969 and tearfully dedicated it to his country's poor children, Brazilians sent up a collective groan, reports AP.

Cheap sentimentalism, they said, Demagoguery. A play to the grandstand.

Now, at last, Pelé has a chance to prove the sincerity of his tribute.

On Jan. 1, soccer's greatest player takes office as Brazil's Secretary of Sports, a cabinet-level post created especially for him.

In announcing the surprise appointment on Wednesday, President-elect Fernando Henrique Cardoso called Pelé "a symbol of the Brazil, that succeeded and that started from the bottom."

Pelé, born Edson Arantes do Nascimento in the poor interior town of Tres Coracoes, says Brazil ignored his warning to provide for its children. The result was tragic: hordes of homeless children, rising juvenile crime and "death squad" executions of street kids.

"Those children of 1969 are today the parents of these (street kids) that wander around here," he told reporters at Santos, where he starred from 1957 to 1974.

They will get special attention from his office, he said. "Grass-roots sports, amateur sports were abandoned," he said. "This will be my task, my banner."

Pelé praised the example of the Manguera Olympic Village, a community sports center in Rio's Manguera hillside slum. The key is to link sports, school and health, he said.

"In great countries like Russia and the United States, sports is connected to health," he said. "It's something we will try to implant here."

Pelé, 54, ended his playing career in 1977. But his prestige never dimmed, and he went on to make a fortune as a businessman and goodwill ambassador for Warner Communications.

Now, he plans to use his connections to get businessmen involved in his projects.

"This is an old dream of Pelé. To see the business class participate in the formation of athletes, especially of needy

children," said Helio Vianna, vice president of Pelé Sports Empreendimentos.

Other plans include bringing the 2004 Olympic Games to Rio and the World Cup to Brazil in 2006.

Brazilians cheered the choice of Pelé for the cabinet job. Pelé is an ethical, unpolished man. His appointment signals an option to clean up sports," said journalist Juca Kfour, who broached the cabinet invitation on behalf of Cardoso.

Mario Zagalo, the coach of Brazil's national soccer team and a former teammate of Pelé, said it "put the right man in the right spot. Pelé can do a lot for sports in Brazil. He was always serious and responsible."

But some questioned whether Pelé would have political clout or be merely window dressing.

"Is the power given Pelé symbolic or for real?" asked sportswriter Matias Suzuki of in his column Thursday for the newspaper Folha de Sao Paulo. "Who will formulate projects with him? Who has more political strength: he or the sports cartels?"

Biyaka's treble powers Mariner

Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club recorded their third consecutive victory in the metropolis Green Delta First Division hockey league outfitting Dhaka Ansars 5-0 at the Hockey Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

For the lowly-rated Ansars, it was their third successive defeat in the league.

Mariner Youngs led the first half 1-0.

Biyaka Lusal netted four goals in a row.

Promising Biyaka netted two field goals in the 44th and 46th minute and completed the hattrick in the 59th minute utilising a penalty stroke. He increased the winners' tally in the 61st minute with a field goal.

Earlier, Musa Miah opened the account in the second minute from a field goal.

The day's other match between Wari Club and Bangladesh Railway ended in a goal-less draw.

BEXIMCO football

Sherpur and Kurigram DSA won their respective matches in the BEXIMCO national schools football tournament yesterday, reports UNB.

At Tangail, Sherpur beat Mymensingh DSA by a solitary goal scored by Nurul Islam in the 68th minute.

At Natore Kurigram edged past Naogaon DSA 1-0. Mahbub Alam grabbed the all-important goal in the 45th minute.

Mayor Gold Cup soccer

CHITTAGONG, Dec 23: Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) beat Chittagong Mohammedan Sporting Club Blues by a solitary goal in the Mayor Gold Cup football tournament at the Chittagong Stadium here today, reports BSS.

The first half of the match was goalless. Sangkar sealed the game in the 48th minute off a cross from Soheb.

Jahangir and Mahiuddin of Mohammedans were given marching orders.

BJMC sports

The two-day-long 17th annual sports competition of the Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) ended yesterday at the Karim Jute Mills playground at Demra, reports UNB.

Jute Minister A S M Hannan Shah witnessed the competition as chief guest on the closing day and distributed prizes among the winners.

Khulna zone emerged champions with 212 in athletics and cycling events while Adamjee Zone finished runners-up with 68 points.

Nazrul Islam Babu and Juthi Khanam of Khulna Zone became champion among the male and female competitors securing 15 and 11 points respectively.

Valderrama joins Newell's Old Boys

BUENOS AIRES, Dec 23: Colombian international Carlos Valderrama has signed for Argentinian side Newell's Old Boys, club president Eduardo Lopez announced on Thursday, reports AFP.

Diego Maradona played for Old Boys before this year's World Cup in the United States.

The year of cool Christie

PARIS, Dec 23: Leroy Burrell in 1994 became the fastest human in history. But that still wasn't enough to beat Linford Christie, reports AFP.

Burrell's superb 9.85 sec 100m dash in July in Lausanne was the second time the American had held the world record. His British rival never has.

But old-man Christie proved yet again he is a natural racer and one of the hardest athletes to beat in major events.

The coveted award of athlete-of-the-year, however, went to neither of them in the incomparable Noureddine Morceli, now a triple world-record holder, continued to display his astounding versatility on the track.

Lewis had withdrawn before the Zurich race with a stomach infection and Burrell, beaten into seventh, opted out with a foot problem in Brussels as

American pair to play in Australia

SYDNEY, Dec 23: American golfers John Daly and Tom Watson will play in two events in Australia next February, promoters announced Friday, reports AP.

Daly, the former US PGA champion, and Watson, the five-time British Open champion, will play in Australian Skins game at Laguna Quays on Feb. 11-12 and in the Australian Masters at Huntingdale in Melbourne from Feb. 16-19.

Australians Craig Parry and Peter Senior will be the other competitors in the Skins event.

Daly last played in Australia in 1992 when he was disqualified from the Australian Masters for failing to sign his card after the second round.

Daly, suspended twice in four years on the US PGA Tour, will continue his comeback after taking a break following incidents at the World Series of Golf in August, where players twice complained that he'd hit balls into their group and he was involved in a scuffle with the father of a player.

Watson, 44, returns Down Under for the first time since winning the Australian Open at Royal Melbourne 10 years ago.



LINFORD CHRISTIE

If there was a prize for producing drama, however, Christie would win it.

He had every excuse, after adding the World Championship crown last year to his Olympic success, to jog through '94 with routine European and Commonwealth wins, although he needed to run his second-fastest ever 100m of 9.91 secs in Canada to see off Sierra Leone's Horace Dove-Edwin — Later stripped of his medal after failing a drugs test.

Instead, the evergreen 34-year-old added some spice to his season by winning his World Cup and IAAF Grand Prix final races — and challenging the top Americans at Zurich and Lausanne.

The simmering bitterness between Christie and America's finest provided the perfect backdrop to the Weltklasse showdown in August.

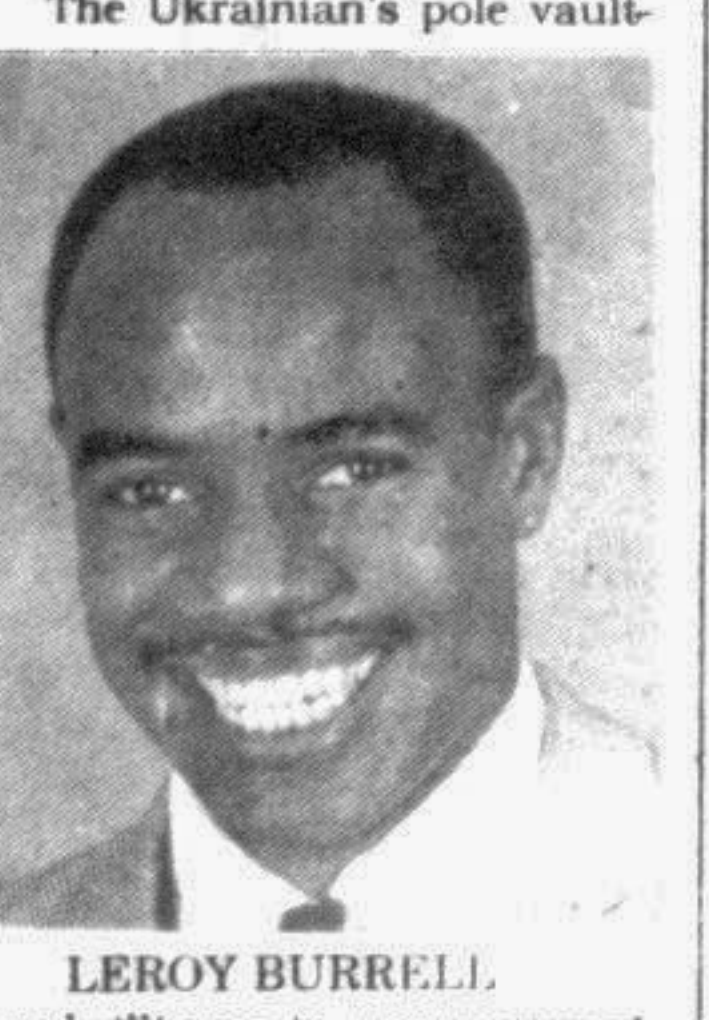
questioned over the rivalry after Christie was forced to miss the Goodwill Games with a hamstring injury, replied with a pre-planned: "Linford who?"

The British athletics captain's retort was equally sniping. "Who cares if I never break the world record? Burrell is chasing money. I'm chasing championships."

And on Lewis he added: "I've kicked Lewis' butt left, right and centre. He's just an empty vessel making a lot of noise."

When the time came to stop talking and start running, Jamaican-born Christie yet again had all the answers, beating one of the best fields ever assembled outside a major event to win in 10.05 secs. "It was harder than the World Championships," he said afterwards.

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LEROY BURRELL

ing brilliance is unquestioned but the way in which he has edged up the bar by a centimetre at a time, year on year and month by month, suggests Bubka is more interested in his bank account than the limits of human endeavour.

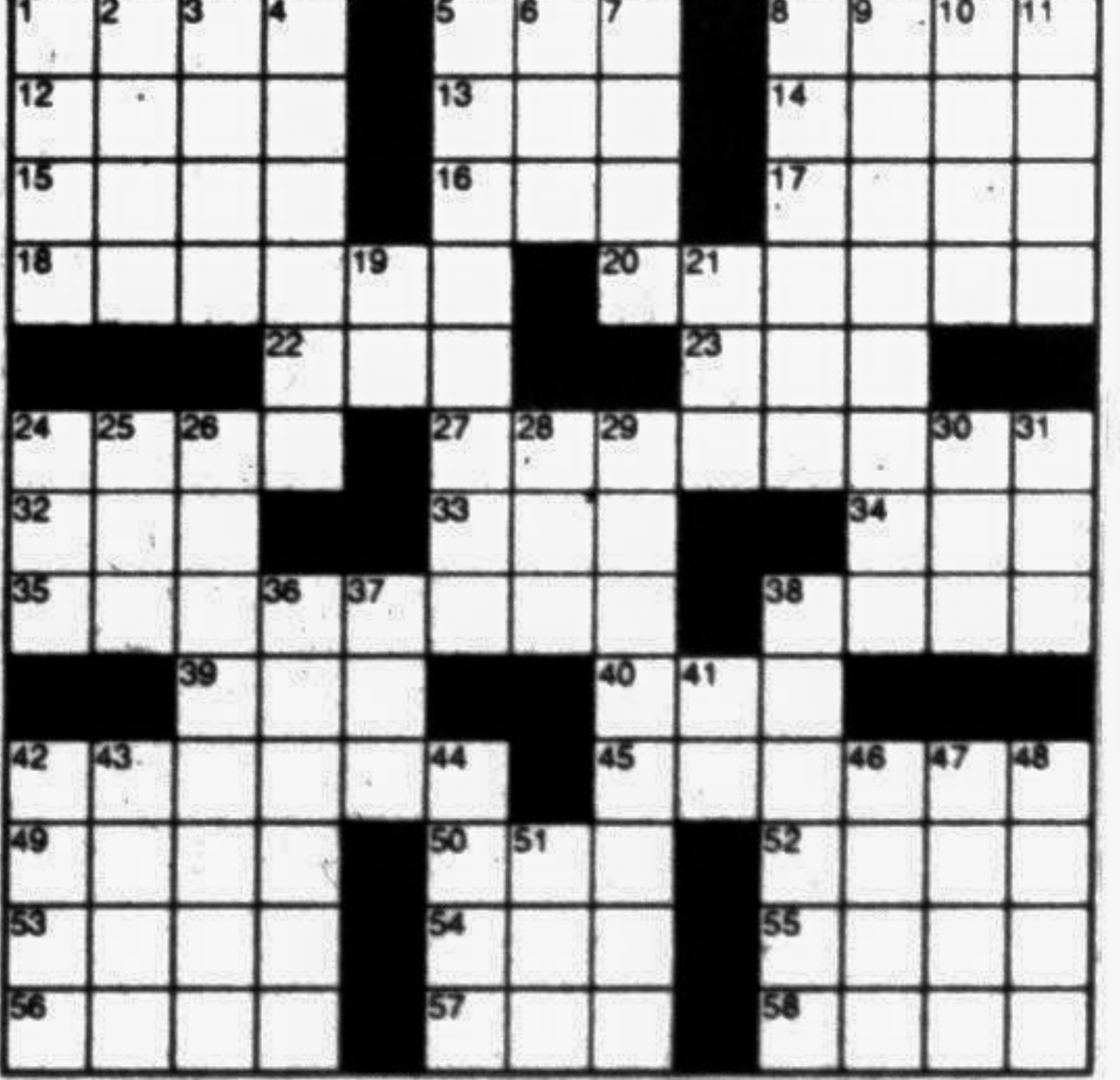
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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

A crossword puzzle grid with clues. Clues include: ACROSS 1 Sales pitches? 5 Witnessed, a la Tweety 8 Track event 12 Kilauwea outflow 13 Caribab's competitor 14 Concerning 15 Aungmy 16 Wery on the lam 17 Tennis term 18 Dentist's target 20 Reacted in horror 22 'The Greatest' 23 Wee, to a Scot 24 Gladys Knight's backup 27 Bug catcher of a sort 32 Pitching stat. 33 'This — recording' 34 Freudian concept 35 Annoying



CRYPTOQUIP puzzle: D J O H Y S N Y W B P A S F P Z Y F W U P P J X Z J Q J N W C O A J Q X W N U : ' O X ' D J F F D W Q S X J C H H N O P H . Yesterday's Cryptiquip: SAID LON CHANEY, THE MAN OF A THOUSAND FACES, 'I'M NOT MYSELF TODAY.' Today's Cryptiquip clue: H equals D. The Cryptiquip 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.