

Aussies in Hopman Cup qtrs

PERTH, Jan 1: Former Wimbledon champion Pat Cash won his singles and then teamed with Kristine Radford to take out the mixed doubles as Australia rallied to defeat South Africa 2-1 Sunday in a first-round match at the Hopman Cup tennis tournament, reports AP.

Cash downed Christo van Rensburg 7-5, 6-2 in the men's singles and he and Radford then beat Van Rensburg and Amanda Coetzer 7-6 (7-2), 7-6 (11-9) in a tense decisive mixed doubles.

Coetzer earlier had beaten Radford 6-1, 6-1 in the opening women's singles.

Cash, 29, is making a comeback after a succession of knee and back injuries. He underwent back surgery 11 months ago.

"I've been working really hard and it's been a long hard slog," he said. "I felt like I was ready to play this summer and this was a good start."

Unseeded Australia will now face the defending champions Czech Republic team of Petr Korda and Jana Novotna in the quarterfinals on Tuesday.

Coetzer was far more consistent and "mobile than Radford in the women's singles, taking a 5-0 lead in the first set and then streaking through the last five games. The victory took her just 57 minutes.

Cash won eight of the last 10 games against van Rensburg, serving and volleying impressively—and he then lifted Radford in the doubles.

"I was nervous in the singles, but in the mixed I just went for my shots and it came off," Radford said. "It was awesome playing with Pat."

Cash, a longtime critic of women's tennis, said he had been surprised by the caliber of play in the doubles.

"Both girls had great reflexes," he said. "It seemed the harder Christo and I hit it, the more it came back."

Van Rensburg said he was

disappointed the seventh-seeded South Africans had not taken advantage when they had a service break in the second set of the doubles.

"I was depressed, because I thought we played well enough to win the second set, but we didn't play well enough on the right points," he said.

The South Africans served nine double faults in the doubles, including three by van Rensburg in the game that allowed the Australian pair to break back in the second set.

Radford caught the bug—double-faulting when the Australians had their second match point at 7-6 in the tiebreaker—but she quickly regained her composure. "I choked," she giggled afterwards.

The four-top-seeded teams: the Czech Republic, Germany, Spain and the United States, all received first round byes in the 12-nation tournament, which continues through Jan 7 and offers a first prize of US \$154,000 to the winning pair.

Burrell, Di Centa picked as best athletes of 1994

MILAN, Jan 1: Italy's largest sports daily on Saturday picked US sprinter Leroy Burrell and ski cross country ace Manuela Di Centa of Italy as best world athletes of 1994, reports AP.

Brazil's soccer team led the US basketball quintet in the standings for squads published by Gazzetta dello Sport of Milan.

In the traditional year end survey by the Italian sports daily Burrell, who set a world record of 9.85 seconds in the 100-meter dash, led the men's lists with 504 points.

Russian swimmer Alexander Popov edged Spanish cyclist Miguel Indurain for second place, with 498 points.

Hristo Stoichkov, the Bulgarian striker of Barcelona, was the only soccer figure in the men's lists ninth with 217 points.

Di Centa, who won five medals in the women's cross country in the Olympic games at Lillehammer, received 607 points.

Another cross country skier, Russian Lyubov Yegorova, placed second with 588 points, ahead of German swimmer Franziska Van Almsick.

Brazil, who defeated Italy in the World Cup soccer finals, dominated the teams standings with 288 points.

The US basketball team, which also won the world title in 1994, got 219 points.

Three-time Olympic ski champion Alberto Tomba led the lists of the best Italian athletes of 1994 and that of the most popular sport figure.

Tomba beat Italian soccer star Roberto Baggio and German tennis player Boris Becker in the survey of popularity, carried out among Gazzetta readers.

About 100 Gazzetta dello Sport reporters, who voted in the yearly survey of their newspaper, expressed a special thought for one of the best athletes ever, Brazilian Formula one driver Ayrton Senna who was killed in a crash during the Grand Prix of San Marino at Imola last May.



Derartu Tulu from Ethiopia crosses the finishline in the 70th San Silvestre New Year's eve road race through the streets of Sao Paulo, Brazil on Dec 31. It is the first time Ethiopia wins this race in women's category. — AFP photo

Ballet behind Cash magic?

PERTH, Jan 1: Former Wimbledon champion Pat Cash hopes a new service action and ballet exercises will prove the key to success as he attempts another tennis comeback, reports AP.

The 29-year-old Australian has been plagued by injuries since his Wimbledon triumph in 1987 and underwent back surgery 11 months ago.

He underlined he is serious about his latest return to the courts with a pair of impressive victories Sunday at the Hopman Cup tennis event at the Burswood Superdome.

Cash downed Christo van Rensburg 7-5, 6-2 in the men's singles and he and Kristine Radford then beat Van Rensburg and Amanda Coetzer 7-6 (7-2), 7-6 (11-9) as Australia defeated seventh-seeded South Africa 2-1 in a first-round match.

Cash said the ballet exercises helped him strengthen his back, while the new service action aims at putting less pressure on the problem area.

"It's not actually dancing or anything like that," he said. "It's an exercise routine that the ballet dancers do. It is basically keeping up the strength

work and the stretching exercises to get me mobile again."

Cash said his serve now involves less twisting.

"To say that I hadn't been through some inconsistent periods with my other serve would be lying," he said. "I think every player has prob-

"I've done a lot of studying and video analysis of my serve, and the serves of other players, to help me visualize the right way to serve."

"It might not look that obvious to most people, but it's a quite significant change."

Cash, who led Australia to two Davis Cup titles, said he still is a long way from his best.

"I've been working like a slave to get back and things are going well so far," he said.

"The object is to start playing these (top) guys, so it's obviously very exciting for me to start playing them again—at least being in the tournaments with them."

"Maybe you lose the first round a few times, but it doesn't matter as long as you are in there."

"The goal is to keep improving and stay injury-free, and if you do that you'll play good tennis."

Cash's current comeback is his third since his Wimbledon triumph—and he says he is more determined than ever.

"With my back they wrote me off and I came back, and after my Achilles injury they wrote me off and I came back."

"I think people are going to run out of ink before I disappear."



PAT CASH lems with their serve, but as far as power goes, I think it's now as powerful, if not more powerful.

Costa came, saw, conquered

SAO PAULO, Jan 1: Ronaldo Costa held off fast-closing Ecuadoran Silvio Guerra by three seconds Saturday to become the first Brazilian since 1985 to win the annual year-end St Silvestre 15-kilometer race, reports AP.

The 24-year-old Costa hugged everyone around him, wept, pranced around the podium and kissed the Brazilian flag.

"Only as I approached the finish line did I realize that I had won the race," Costa said. He repeatedly dedicated his victory to the Brazilian people and kept shouting "happy new year."

Costa completed the distance through the streets of South America's largest city in 44 minutes, 11 seconds, beating a field of 8,000 from 19 countries and claiming a winner's purse of \$10,000.

Earlier, Derartu Tulu of Ethiopia beat defending champion Helen Kimaiyo of Kenya by 22 seconds Saturday to win women's division. The 28-year-old Tulu completed the distance in 51:17 to best a field of about 2,000 and earn \$10,000.

Guerra finished eight seconds ahead of Mexico's German Silva, who ran the race in 44:22. Fourth place went to Brazil's Vanderlei Cordeiro de Lima in 44:24.

with Ethiopia's Addis Abebe in fifth in 44:52.

A pack of unknown amateurs took the early lead, apparently seeking to earn a few moments of glory before the television cameras.

At about the sixth kilometer, Lima came from fourth to move to the front and stayed there for several minutes before Costa and Abebe caught him.

The three quickly separated themselves from the rest of the pack and shared the lead through the 11th kilometer.

Lima soon fell behind, abandoning the lead to Costa and Abebe.

As they approached the final 3-kilometer uphill stretch, Costa pulled ahead and quickly opened a 60-meter gap.

With less than a kilometer to go, Guerra quickly closed on Costa and appeared ready to take the lead. But Costa, who finished seventh last year, found a late kick to claim victory.

The race is named after St. Silvester, the Roman Catholic saint whose feast day is celebrated Dec. 31. It was first run in 1924 and was the brainchild of Casper Libero, founder of the Gazzeta Sportiva newspaper—the event's main sponsor.

Thousands of spectators lined the race's course cheering and applauding. Some broke through police lines to

run alongside the athletes but were quickly chased away by police.

In the women's race, Tulu and Kimaiyo broke away with about 4 kilometers remaining. In the final 3 kilometer, uphill stretch, Tulu overtook Kimaiyo and quickly opened a gap of about 30 meters, easily maintaining it across the finish line.

"Although this was the first time I ran the St. Silvester race, I really expected to win because I was in excellent shape after training in high altitudes," Tulu said. "I am extremely happy and I'll be back next year."

Solange Cordeiro de Souza took the early lead as the race began under a heavy but brief thunderstorm.

The relatively unknown 25-year-old Brazilian surprisingly kept the lead through the first 7 kilometers, but tired and gave way to a quartet including Tulu.

With Tulu, Kimaiyo, Dias Mancilla and Munerotto led the pack for about 2 kilometers until Tulu and Kimaiyo shot ahead and shared the lead.

"Kimaiyo finished in 51:39, 12 seconds ahead of three-time winner Maria del Carmen Dias Mancilla of Mexico."

Catherine Kirui of Kenya was fourth in 52:24 with Rosa Munerotto of Italy next in 52:46.

A new look Granada-Dakar rally begins

GRANADA, Spain, Jan 1: Participants in the revamped auto rally to Dakar, Senegal warmed up Sunday in a 170-kilometer (105-mile) time trial around this southern city before heading off to the Mediterranean port of Motril, reports AP.

Some 449 entrants in cars, trucks and motorcycles hope to reach Dakar Jan. 15 after driving 10,000 kilometers (6,200 miles) through Spain, Morocco, Mauritania, Guinea and Senegal.

The aim of the new organizers of the event—formerly known as the Paris-Dakar—is to revive interest in what was once auto-racing's premier desert rally, according to Hubert Auriol, the new manager. Auriol is the only driver to have won the Paris-Dakar in both the motorcycle and automobile categories.

The race is divided into 14 legs, each testing both navigational skills and speed. The one rest day is Jan. 8.

"It's a very varied and carefully chosen course that's going to make us sweat a lot. The important thing is to know when to attack to get an advantage," Spaniard Jordi Arcarons, one of the favorites in motorcycles, told Madrid's daily El Mundo.

Race organizers TSO responded favourably to a bid from Granada to stage the rally this year as part of a promotional effort for the Jan. 29-Feb. 12 World Alpine Ski Championships in nearby Sierra Nevada.

In the past several years interest in the rally had lagged, in part because the course was thought to be too long.

French drivers are favored to win, although the Spanish press has been touting strong Spanish prospects in motorcycles. Mitsubishi and Citroen-sponsored teams are favoured in cars. Participants come from 17 countries, including Japan, Russia, Italy, Brazil and Finland.

Politics and war have also affected the course of the desert rally. Civil conflict in Algeria, Mali and Niger have made those countries, formerly on the route, too dangerous.

Parcells named coach-of-the-year

NEW YORK, Jan 1: The one thing Bill Parcells discourages is rampant optimism: Yet how could any team be anything but positive with Parcells as its coach?

In his second season with the New England Patriots, Parcells guided the team to a 10-6 record, a wild-card playoff berth and earned himself the 1994 Associated Press coach of the year award, reports AP.

Parcells also won the honour in 1986, when he led the New York Giants to the US National Football League championship. He received 29 votes from a nationwide panel of 98 sports writers and broadcasters, beating out Bill Cowher of Pittsburgh, who got 25 votes, and Dave Wannstedt of Chicago with 22.

"I'm gratified by any selection," Parcells said. "But I know deep in my heart it's always just a reflection of the whole organization's work and some good players and a dedicated coaching staff. I'm the beneficiary of those results."

Parcells left the Giants after winning the Super Bowl for the second time following the 1990 season. He cited concerns about his health—he had heart problems—but also sought more input in personnel decisions.

"Physically, I know something would have happened to me," he said. "I wasn't doing well and I knew I wasn't doing well, so I needed to do what I did."

He went into sportscasting for two years, then was lured back to coaching by the Patriots owner James Orthwein.

The Patriots were 1-11 last season, then ran off a four-game winning streak to end 1993. They were 3-6 this year and down 20-0 to Minnesota.

when everything suddenly jelled. New England came back to win that game and took its next six to qualify for the playoffs for the first time in eight years.

And nobody is hotter than the Patriots, who play at Cleveland on Sunday.

"We're in a good position because we're in the tournament," Parcells said. "Let's go back to the beginning of the year. Who were the consensus picks for the Super Bowl from the AFC (American Football Conference)?"

"They (Buffalo and the Los Angeles Raiders) are not in the tournament. No one knows what's going to happen now."

How is he different as a coach than in 1986?

"Much different, much smarter, much more experienced, don't waste my time chasing phantoms or doing things that aren't pertinent," he said. "In 1986, I had four years of experience, so I was well on my way to being developed as a coach, but I had to undergo the transition of a team after '86."

Cowher's Steelers had the best record in the AFC this year (12-4) and have made the playoffs in all three of his seasons in charge. He won the honour in 1992, when he also led Pittsburgh to the conference's top seeding.

Spiker killed in car crash

CHIETI, Italy, Jan 1: Andrei Kuznetsov, Russian international volleyball player with Italian side Les Copains, died in a road crash on Friday night, the club said on Saturday, reports Reuter.

A car being driven by Ukraine-born Kuznetsov, 28, hit a guard rail alongside a central Italian highway, police said. No other vehicle was involved.

Kuznetsov's wife was lightly injured in the accident but his two children escaped unhurt.

"This is an irreplaceable human and technical loss for us," said Les Copains president Vanus Monari.

That's business

TOKYO, Jan 1: The Japanese construction companies who have donated some 330 million yen (3.3 million dollars) to the Nagano Winter Olympics have won most of the orders from Games-related projects, it was reported today, reports AP.

The bidding committee for the 1998 Games received 1.08 billion yen in corporate donations, out of the 2.17 billion yen collected in revenue which also included subsidies from local administrations. Mainichi newspaper said.

General contractors, which have won orders for venues of the Olympic figure skating, speedskating, ice hockey, bobsleigh, luge, ski-jumping and opening and closing ceremonies, made contributions of several million yen to 10 million yen, the newspaper said.

Nagano, a mountain resort in the Japanese Alps northwest of Tokyo, outbid Salt Lake City in the United States and three other contenders in 1991 to stage the last Olympics of the century.

Its lavish spending on entertaining international Olympic Committee (IOC) members drew adverse comments from the other candidate cities.

The bidding committee disbanded in October 1991 and an organizing committee for the 1998 Games was set up later with mostly the same lineup of personnel.

Around 60 citizens filed a suit to get the return of taxpayers' money spent on the bidding committee. But a year ago, a local court found that all the account books on bidding expenses, totalling 1.96 billion yen, were missing.

The US government is investigating whether American lumber suppliers were discriminated against Japanese in bids to supply wood for the Olympic speed skating rink.

Kulti squeezes into main draw

ADELAIDE, Jan 1: Nicklas Kulti of Sweden, a two-time winner of the Australian Hard-court tennis championship, had to struggle through the qualifying rounds to take his place in this year's main draw, reports AP.

Kulti, 23, winner in Adelaide in 1991 and 1993, earned a meeting with sixth-seeded Australian Jason Stoltenberg in the first round of the 32-draw event, which starts Monday on the Rebound Ace courts at the Memorial Drive arena.

Defending champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia is the top seed and he faces South African Marcos Ondruska in his first round match.

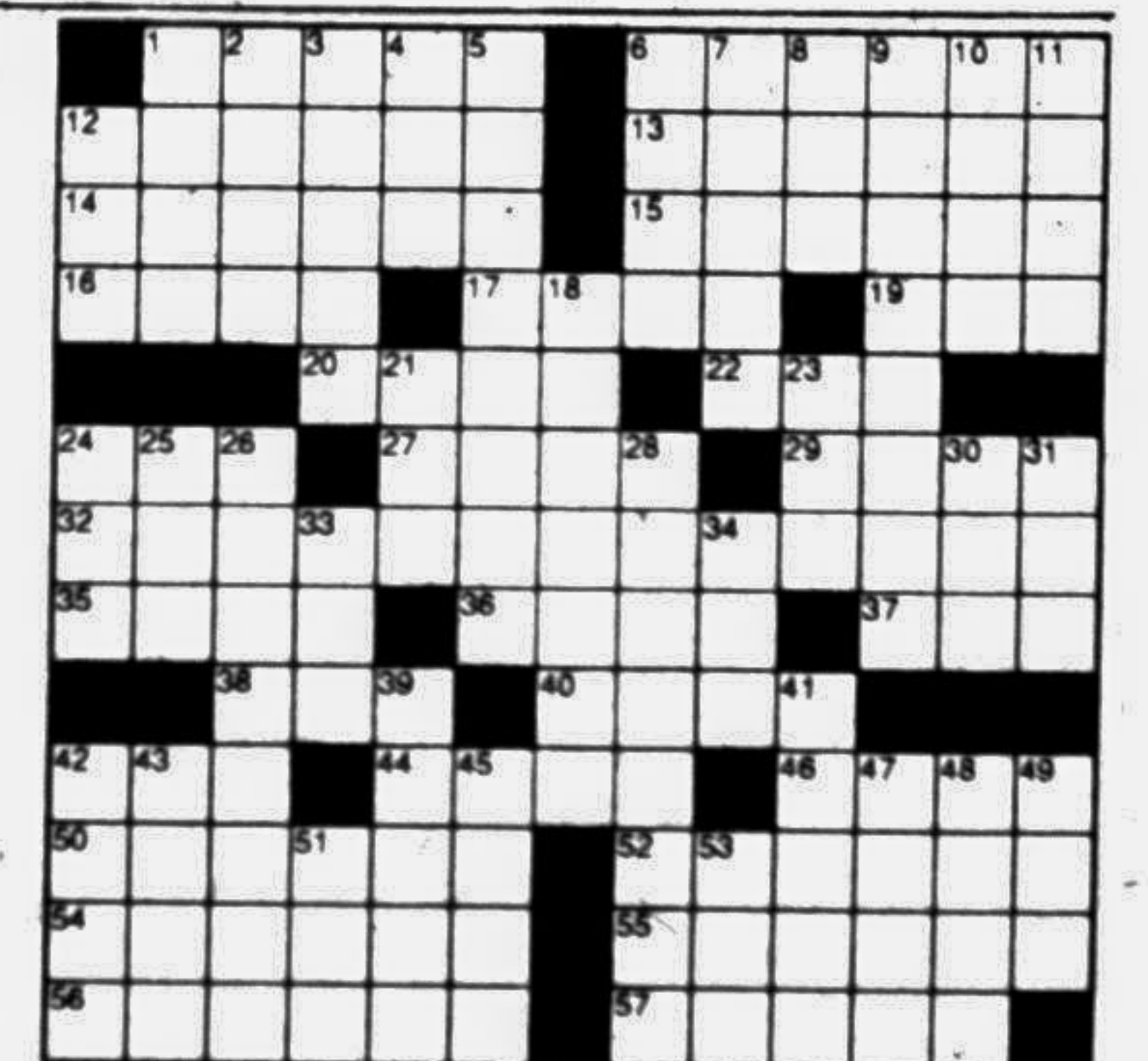
South African Wayne Ferreira, the No. 2 seed, will play Hendrik Dreekman of Germany in his opener, with third-seeded Jim Courier of the United States set to face Swiss qualifier Jakob Hlasek.



Slovenian skier Urka Hrovat(C), flanked by Swiss Vreni Schneider (L), who came second, and French Leila Picard (R), third, wave to the crowd after winning the women's World Cup slalom held in Meribel, French Alps on Dec 30. — AFP photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Journeys through time?
 - 6 T. Williams title start
 - 12 Pastureland
 - 13 Boz-based musical
 - 14 It can be a cinch
 - 15 Hollywood industry
 - 16 Stamina
 - 17 Moby's pursuer
 - 19 Laura Petrie's hubby
 - 20 Info
 - 22 Pronoun for JFK
 - 24 Sternward
 - 27 Towel designation
 - 29 Summit
 - 32 Vegas casino
 - 35 Mouth, in slang
 - 36 Yentl's desire
 - 37 "Partridge Family" actress
 - 38 Deli bread
 - 40 Leif's dad
- DOWN**
- 42 City council mem.
 - 44 "Hee Haw" humor
 - 46 Chinese seaport
 - 50 Taylor's ex, twice
 - 52 Adulterated Star (Fr.)
 - 55 Rope loops
 - 56 Native American abodes
 - 57 Heredity factors
 - 1 "Star Wars" princess
 - 2 Count's counter-part
 - 3 Threw
 - 4 Office-holder, e.g.
 - 5 Winter-wear
 - 6 Comedienne
 - 7 Excuse (colloq.)
 - 8 Stannum
 - 9 Up
 - 10 "20,000 Leagues..." captain
 - 11 Kuwait, e.g.
 - 12 Studio letters
 - 18 Less lenient
 - 21 "So that's
 - 23 Sgt.'s subordinate
 - 24 Play part
 - 25 Way out there
 - 26 Earring shape
 - 28 Contemptuous treatment
 - 30 Dogfight participant
 - 31 Indispensable
 - 33 007, for one
 - 34 Legend in the ring
 - 39 Le Sorbonne, e.g.
 - 41 Poultry choice
 - 42 Help hoods
 - 43 Guitar's ancestor
 - 45 Wallet fill
 - 47 Erato is one
 - 48 Galena and cinnabar
 - 49 Undeniably
 - 51 Reason for overtime?
 - 53 Larry's pal
- Solution time: 24 mins.**
- MOB DIAM ABBA**
LIVE ODDIE REAL
CALDWELL REAP
ALLENS LEO
BET ORWELL
HOARD OWN DUE
ANNA BUS BALE
UTE POT FEMUR
LOWELL OIL
RYE SCORES
CZAR ROCKWELL
OOZE ORAL DIE
WOOD SURE SAW
- Yesterday's answer 4-23**



CRYPTOQUIP

B P W A W J V C G T R A

R G J V J L V W G B V V X V F J C A F A G T A Z N V W W L V W G X J V C T G J A T Z F N C C V T J X P

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: TOP GOLF PLAYER'S HANDICAP WAS HIS WIFE AND EIGHT CHILDREN.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: F equals C

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.



Brazilian President-elect Fernando Henrique Cardoso (R) embraces Edson Arantes do Nascimento "Pele," during a meeting in Brasilia on Dec 29. Pele has been nominated to Special Minister of Sports in Cardoso's cabinet. — AFP photo