

Just for Maradona

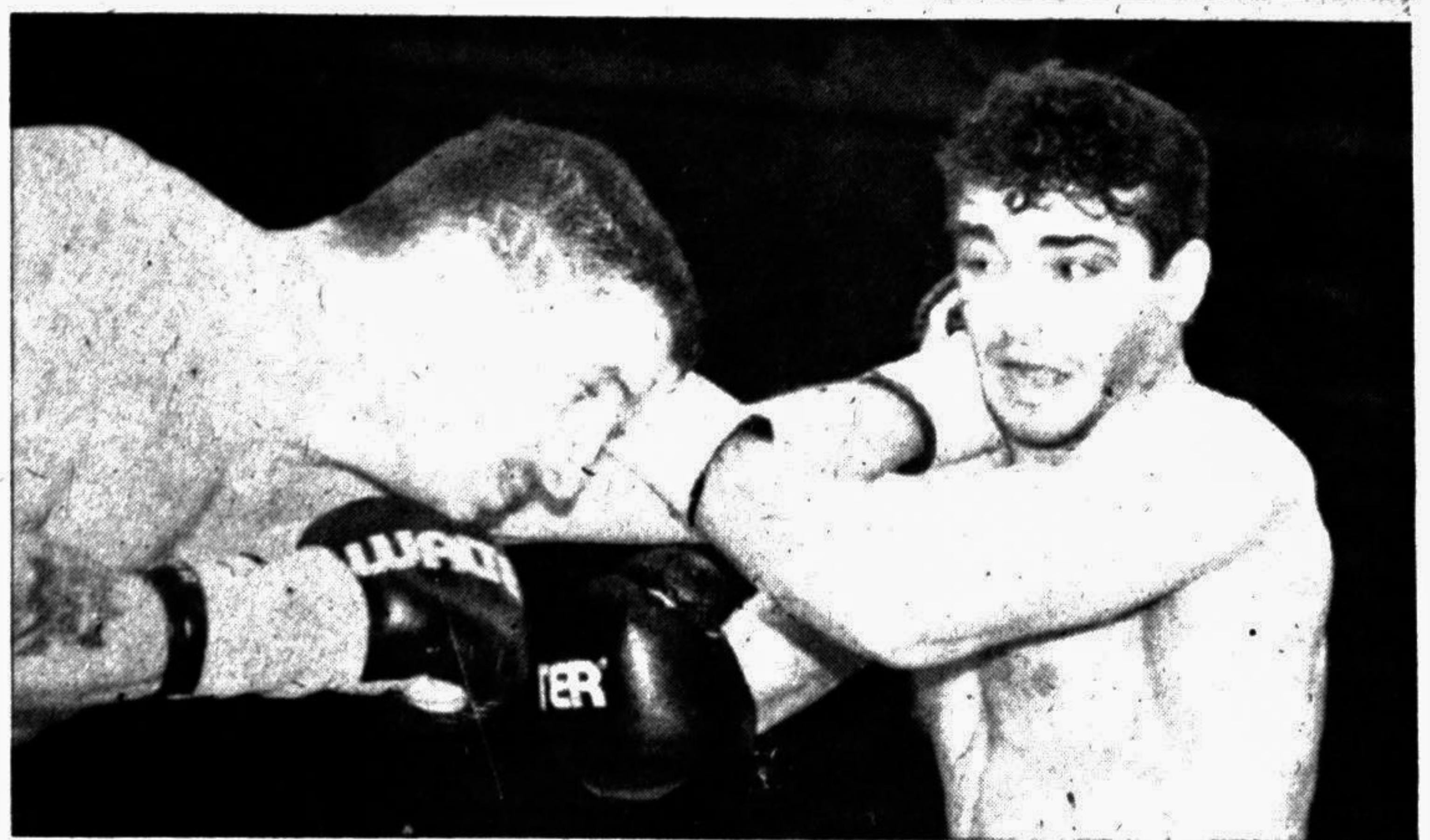
PARIS, Jan 4: Diego Maradona's career was posthumously honoured here Tuesday with a special award from France Football magazine...



Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona standing in front of a poster of himself holds the honorary 'Ballon D'Or' (Golden Ball) awarded by French Soccer Magazine in Issy-Les Moulineaux on Jan 3.

Pele takes office

BRASILIA, Jan 4: Former Brazilian soccer star Pele was sworn in on Tuesday as his country's new Sports Minister...



Frenchman Laurent Boudouani (R) fights and Spaniard Javier Castillo have a go at each other during their European, light middleweight championship bout in Epernay, eastern France on Jan 3.

Germany gun Austria down

PERTH, Jan 4: Boris Becker and Anke Huber powered to impressive singles victories Wednesday as Germany defeated Austria 2-1 and clinched a place in the semifinals of the Hopman Cup...

Benn-McClellan bout on Feb 25

LONDON, Jan 4: World Boxing Council super-middleweight champion Nigel Benn will defend his title against big-punching American Gerald McClellan at the London Arena on Feb 25...

Asprilla at receiving end

PARMA, Jan 4: Colombian soccer star Faustino Asprilla on Tuesday denied reports that police found him drunk in a bar carrying two guns and provoking other customers during a recent trip home...



FAUSTINO ASPRILLA

up, but an official for the Colombian immigration authorities confirmed he had left the country on Monday. After talking to Asprilla, Pedraneschi told the Italian news agency Ansa that the player's bodyguard and his brother had both pulled out guns when a drunk demanded money from the player in a bar...

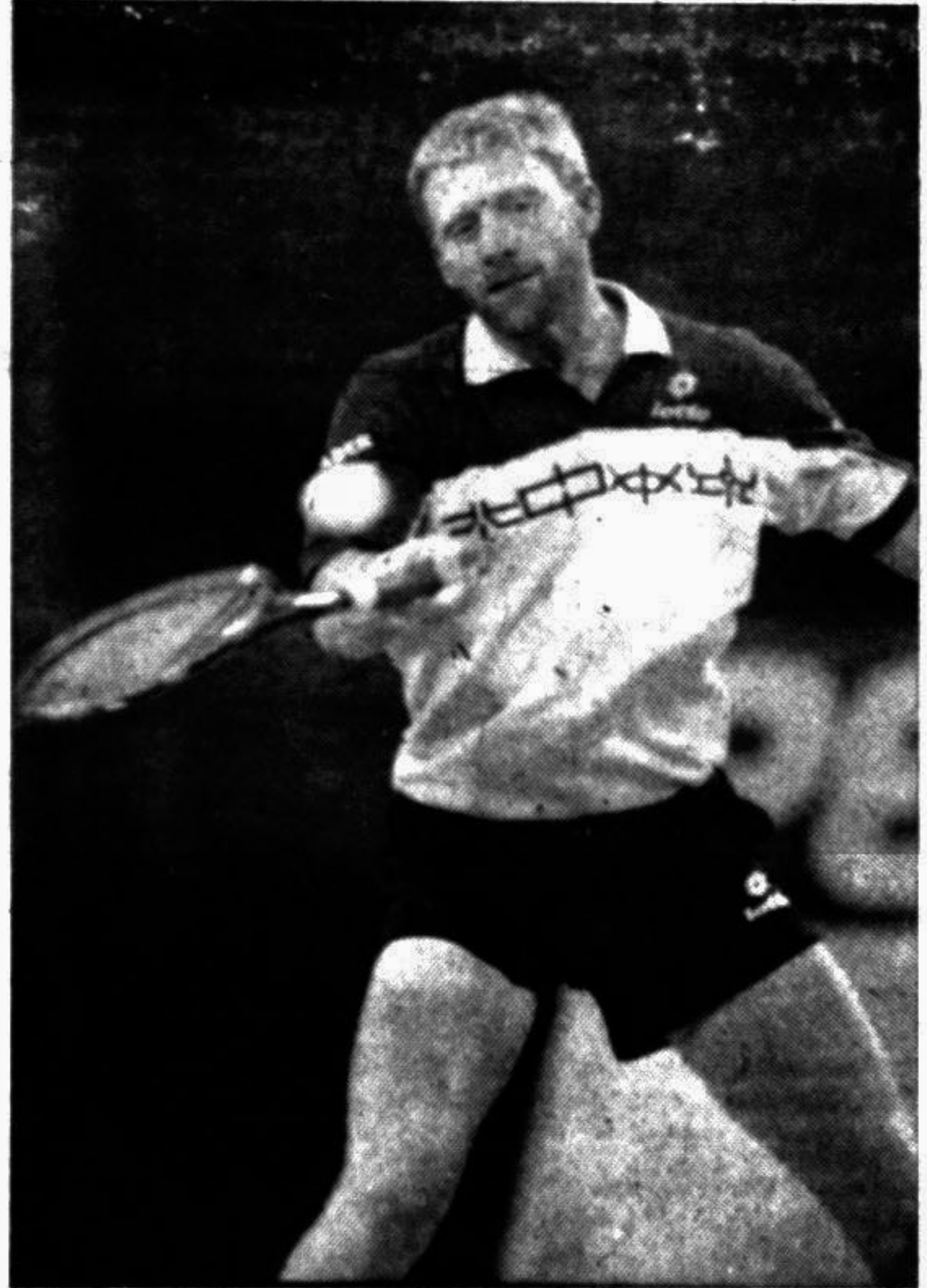
Juventus to miss Baggio, Kohler

TURIN, Jan 4: Juventus will be without international stars Roberto Baggio and Juergen Kohler when they meet Parma in Italy's top-of-the-table clash on Sunday...

Fiorentina say Effenberg not for sale?

BONN, Jan 4: Italian club Fiorentina denied on Tuesday that they had agreed to sell midfielder Stefan Effenberg to the bad boy of German soccer since he was kicked out of last summer's World Cup for an obscene gesture to fans...

Second-seeded Germany will now face either No. 3 seed Spain or No. 6 France. Those teams meet in the last quarterfinal later Wednesday.



Boris Becker of Germany plays a forehand return during his Hopman Cup quarterfinal match against Horst Skoff of Austria at the Superdome in Perth yesterday.

Paes to lead India

BOMBAY, Jan 4: Former Wimbledon junior champion Leander Paes will lead India's challenge in the Asia Oceania Davis Cup tie against Hong Kong in Calcutta next month...

Coulthard in, Mansell out

DIDCOT, England, Jan 4: The Williams Formula One team named David Coulthard as its No. 2 driver Tuesday, placing in doubt the racing future of former world champion Nigel Mansell...

Christmas for 500,000 pounds (dls 775,000), a fraction of the fee that Mansell would expect to command. I am delighted to have reached a fair agreement to race for Williams Renault...

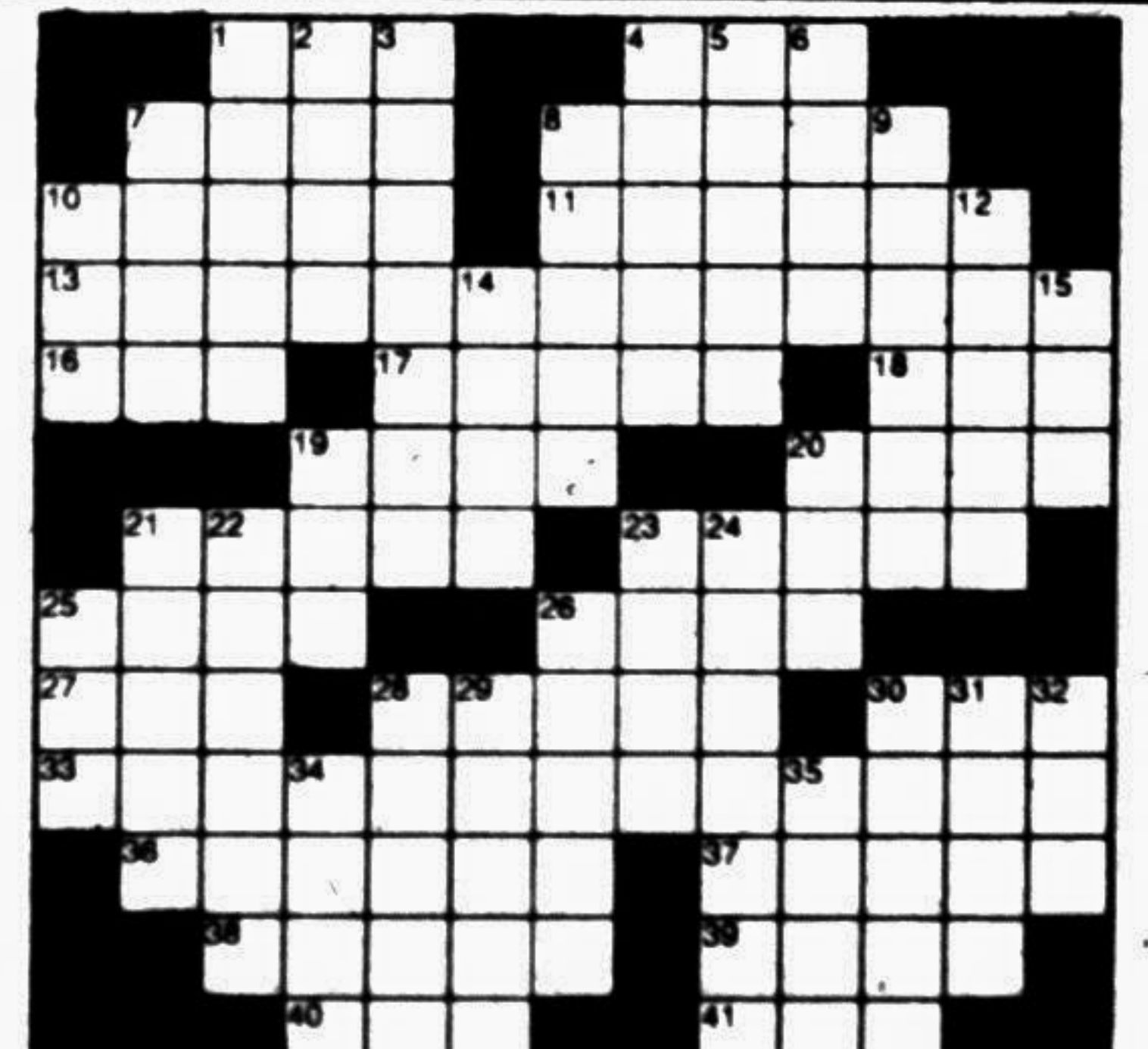
made the jump across the Atlantic the following year. He won the Indy car PPG championship with the Newman Haas team and, for a few weeks, became the first driver to hold both major titles at the same time.



Sandra Volker of Germany waves from the podium after setting a world record in the women's 50m backstroke event at the World Cup swimming in Hong Kong on Jan 3.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS 1 Ersatz piggy bank 4 Mil. award 7 Breaker 8 Engine 10 Obscure 11 Canine coat? 13 Valentine's Day gift 16 Put together 17 Coup — 18 AP counter-part 19 Becomes one 20 NYSE counter-part 21 Bucket handles 23 Not as many 25 Throat annoyance 26 Ring up 27 Always 28 Motionless 30 Genetics



- 33 Disobey Jean Kerr? 36 Leather-neck 37 Hut 38 Man of La Mancha 39 Sty cry 40 Longing 41 22.5 degrees DOWN 1 Blase 2 Enthusiastic 3 Do, over Solution time: 22 mins.

CRYPTOQUIP OPDZKCKD UT IKDJF ORDVXDRK CZ: 'R XRCZ UBPU R STDMBRI UBK ODTGCM FTG SPVJ TC.' Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MY LAST APTITUDE TEST INDICATED THAT I'M PERFECTLY SUITED FOR RETIREMENT. Today's Cryptoquip clue: O equals G