

Sabatini, Ivanisevic crash out of Aussie Open

Becker bows to other Mac

MELBOURNE. Jan 17: The McEnroe family returned to haunt Boris Becker on Tuesday as the German world number three suffered a dramatic straight sets loss in the first round of the Australian Open, reports Reuter.

MeEnroe on the same court in 1992 but acknowledged the famous New Yorker's younger brother had produced a performance worthy of the family name.

that five of the top seven remaining men's seeds are American, with only Stefan Edberg and Michael Stich flying the European flag.

A frustrated Becker crashed out 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 as an inspired Patrick McEnroe, brother of former Wimbledon and US Open champion John, took revenge for his defeat by the third seed in the 1991 semifinal at Flinders Park.

Ivanisevic, playing his first tournament since his eight-week ban from the ATP Tour for accumulated fines, was equally disappointing as he

McEnroe's current form suggests he could live with most of his compatriots and he His second round opponent will be Britain's Jeremy Bates



American Andre Agassi goes for a killer against South African Grant Stafford at the Australian Open yesterday. Agassi made an impressive debut at this year's opening Grand Slam event winning in straight sets 6-2, 6-4, 6-2.

suffered 6-1, 7-6, 6-3 to Germany's Carl-Uwe Steeb, his second successive first round loss at a Grand Slam.

agreed the Becker triumph was the best win of his career, who staged one of the finest comebacks of his fluctuating career to beat Swede Henrik Holm 6-4, 6-7, 3-6, 7-6, 6-3.

"I played bad tennis," admitted Becker. "Thank God in the third set I began to serve a little better but I just played bad tennis. I thought I was in good shape, ... but I had no rhythm, especially in my forehand."

The day's saddest loser, however, was China's Fang Li, reduced to tears during the closing moments of her 6-2, 6-0 thrashing by women's top seed Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario.

Benjamin blows Auckland away

AUCKLAND, Jan 17: Winston Benjamin completed a one-man demolition of Auckland today in the West Indies' second match of their New Zealand tour, reports Reuter.

The visitors won the 50-over match by 105 runs.

Batting first, they were restricted to 206 for nine but then bowled Auckland out for 101 in the 36th over.

The West Indies were in some trouble at 108 for six when Benjamin came to the crease. He smashed the Auckland bowlers for 74 runs off 60 balls, including six sixes and four fours.

Then he tore the heart out of the Auckland batting with his fast bowling.

In an opening spell of eight overs, Benjamin took four for 10 with all his victims caught behind the wicket — three by wicket keeper Jimmy Adams and one by Stuart Williams at slip.

The first five Auckland wickets fell for 30. Four of them were caught by Adams, one off the bowling of Curtly Ambrose.

Auckland resisted for a while, through captain Justin Vaughan who made 33 and Simon Peterson, but both fell to the gentle off-spin of part-time bowler Keith Arthurton, who ended with four for 26 from 9.2 overs.

Brian Lara, captaining the West Indies, was the only other West Indian batsman to shine with 38.

The game got off to an exciting start when New Zealand Test bowler Danny Morrison bowled Sherwin Campbell, a century-maker in the tour opener, with the third ball.

The Karnataka duo will replace West Indians Courtney Walsh (Gloucestershire) and Curtley Ambrose (Northamptonshire) who are unavailable due to the Caribbean tour of England from April to August.

Srinath has taken 41 wickets in 15 Tests so far. Kumble, the more successful of the two, has 99 wickets from 20 Tests.

Skipper Mohammad Azharuddin is the only other player in the present Indian Test team likely to play county cricket this year. He is expected to retain his place with Derbyshire after scoring more than 2,000 runs for them last year.

English counties are known to be wary of signing up Indian and Pakistani players because international commitments back home in July to August force them to abandon the counties midway through the season.

Sachin Tendulkar, who played for Yorkshire in 1993 and Pakistan's Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis and Mushtaq Ahmed all abandoned their counties in the last two seasons because of tours of Sri Lanka in July.

Kumble and Srinath, however, are expected to fulfil their obligations since India's next international home series against New Zealand, will not begin before October.

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"We will get everybody involved Landlords and market women's association will be made to instruct tenants and their colleagues respectively to keep their surroundings neat," Glover said. "We are used to working under pressure here, hence I'm convinced things will take shape before the championship."

Glover agreed it might be difficult to sustain enthusiasm. "Our people have a generally lackadaisical attitude towards clean up campaigns like the one on the ground because some of these habits are ingrained," he said.

The next step in the so-called War Against Indiscipline and Corruption (WAIC) in

Sampras too good for Pozzi

MELBOURNE, Jan 17: Top seed Pete Sampras made an electric start to the defence of his Australian Open title on Monday as former finalists Mats Wilander and Pat Cash both failed to rekindle the inspiration of past years, reports Reuter.

There was no stopping Sampras as he powered to a 6-3, 6-2, 6-0 first round victory in 73 minutes over the unfortunate Gianluca Pozzi of Italy in a match which provided few crumbs of comfort for his rivals.

For Wilander and Cash, however, the first hurdle proved too high on a day when youth generally prevailed over experience.

Three times champion Wilander went down in straight sets to Dutchman Jacco Eltingh while local favourite Cash, weakened by a virus, proved unable to resist the challenge of 96th-ranked Alex O'Brien after winning the first set.

Both were comfortably overshadowed by 14-year-old Swiss Martina Hings who became the youngest player to win a singles match at the Australian Open in the Open era.

She is already shaping up as a major crowd attraction in the first women's Grand Slam tournament for nine years not to include Steffi Graf, Monica Seles or Martina Navratilova, but for the moment the leading men remain the centre of attention.

Sampras looked a different man to the player beaten by Michael Chang in the final of the Koovong exhibition tournament two days earlier and said later only a second successive title would satisfy him.

The American world number one again reminded his audience that only injuries had allowed the likes of Andre Agassi and Boris Becker to close the gap at the top of the rankings list.

Another former Australian champion Jim Courier, winner in both 1992 and 1993 began his latest bid in impressive fashion by crushing the Czech Republic's David Rikl 6-4, 6-0, 7-6.

Courier won his first title in almost 17 months in Adelaide earlier this month and the ninth seed's display particularly in the second set when he crashed a succession of forehands past his startled opponent reflected his determined mood.

"It was hard to do better than that," agreed Courier, determined to play to his strengths in 1995. "I'll stick to

men's and women's singles were all still intact. Cash and Wilander, meanwhile, were both insisting they would continue their respective comebacks.

"I'm a great tennis player, people want to see me ... there is no reason in the world why I should stop," said Cash, now

ing her first Grand Slam tournament.

She now meets Japan's Kyoko Nagatsuka, with American 14th seed Amy Frazier looming in the third round. Frazier, like all the seeded women in action on Day One, did not drop a set on her way to Round Two.



Gabriela Sabatini receives therapy for a strained back during her opening round match at the Australian Open against American Marianne Werdel Witmeyer in Melbourne yesterday. The fifth-seeded Argentine became the biggest casualty to fall on Day Two of the Open losing 6-4, 6-4.

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Murdoch said he expects to announce plan for a new division at this US network, which also begins a five-year contract of National Hockey League telecasts later this year now that a league labour dispute is over.

Everything but Batistuta's trophies

FLORENCE, Italy, Jan 17: Burglars stole jewellery worth 35,000 dollars from the Italian home of Fiorentina's Argentine striker Gabriel Batistuta, police said on Monday, reports Reuter.

But the thieves left behind soccer trophies.

The theft occurred when Batistuta, Serie A's top scorer, this season, was playing in the Intercontinental Cup in Saudi Arabia. His wife Irina was in Argentina.

Murdoch won't admit defeat

SAN FRANCISCO, California, Jan 17: Australia-born media baron Rupert Murdoch denied rivals' claims he will lose 600 million dollars televising US football, saying the 1.58 million-dollar deal was well worth the price, reports AFP.

Murdoch said the value of his network has jumped by one billion dollars in the year since buying rights to television National Football League games. His Fox network enjoyed a 30 per cent jump in advertising rates, largely due to the four-year NFL deal.

"Put all that together and I think the NFL was a tremendous value," Murdoch said before watching the Dallas-San Francisco NFL semi-final here. "What's the value of being a great network? That's what we are now."

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The cost for hockey was 155 million dollars, or 31 million dollars a year.

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Sports page in Wall Street Journal Europe

BRUSSELS, Jan 17: The financial newspaper, the Wall Street Journal Europe, launched a weekly sports page on Monday and plans to carry daily results of major sporting events, Managing Editor Frederick Kempe said, reports Reuter.

"We think our readers are very interested in sport and so we decided to launch this page," Kempe told Reuters.

The newspaper, which does not even carry photographs usually, will devote one page every Monday to sports coverage, it will also look at business stories, such as sponsorship, as well as personalities involved in sport.

Kempe said his paper would publish results daily from big sporting events, especially those popular in Europe.

"We will not only be looking at baseball and American sports. Our readers are particularly interested in European events," he said.

Pat alright but Rafter

MELBOURNE, Jan 17: He doesn't wear a checkered headband and has yet to win Wimbledon. But Pat Rafter has more in common with Pat Cash than first names.

Like Cash, Rafter has lots of ability, a similar attacking game and has emerged as a heart-throb for Australia's teen-aged tennis fans.

three-hour, seven-minute 6-3, 1-6, 5-7, 7-6 (7-5), 6-3 triumph over experienced Swiss player Jakob Hlasek, reports AP.

The National Tennis Centre's retractable roof had been closed to allow the match to go ahead as rain delayed proceedings outside.

But the crowd — screaming "C'mon Pat" and "C'mon Aussie" at any opportunity throughout the match — then did their best to lift it with wild cheering after the Australian put away a Hlasek backhand on the fifth match point.

The win went some way to wiping away the disappointment of his third-round exit to Xavier Daufresne of Belgium last year, a match Australians

had expected him to win. "Last time on the centre court here I let a lot of people down, including myself," said Rafter, who beat a jet-lagged Andre Agassi in an exhibition event in Adelaide last week, and overcame a rash of unforced errors Tuesday.

"It was good to come back and show the crowd I can play and the reason why I'm the No 1 in Australia," he said.

Rafter admitted to being nervous and the tension showed in a verbal outburst to a linesman who had called a Hlasek shot in at the start of the fourth set.

"Sometimes it's important to get rid of the frustration," said Rafter.

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ing her first Grand Slam tournament.

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Lagos wakes up to Nigeria '95

LAGOS, Jan 17: The magic of soccer, the world's most popular sport, might not have the power to move mountains but in Nigeria it has inspired a drive to remove piles of garbage and reduce chronic traffic jams, reports Reuter.

With the Junior World Cup competition "Nigeria '95" weeks away, authorities have launched a clean up campaign to change the image of Lagos, a chaotic city of six million and main venue of the championship.

Armed soldiers chase off street vendors with whips to allow traffic to flow more smoothly, while plans are in place to move destitutes and unemployed youths from the heart of the city and clear rubbish heaps found at almost every street corner.

Lagos is the biggest and easily most important of the four venues for the games, hence we want to ensure it is

rid of the eyesores," Lagos State Commissioner for Works and Transport, Seun Ogun-dimu, who is responsible for the clean up, told Reuters.

The Junior World Cup will be staged from March 11-26 in four cities — Lagos and Ibadan in the southwest, Enugu in the east and Kaduna in the north.

Ogundimu said a sanitation task force had been set up, with the extra duty of educating people about cleanliness and order.

"We have so much to do within a short period of time because Lagos is a problem city," he said. "But we want our city to wear a new look before the championship. We want to project the good side of our almost battered image."

Plans call for moving the destitutes and unemployed youth popularly called "area boys" to Majidun, a settlement on the outskirts of Lagos, for rehabilitation.

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Div III soccer

Sports Reporter

Fire Service and Chalanika won their respective Pragati Insurance Third Division football league matches played at the Outer Stadium on Monday.

In the first match of the day, Shamim's early strike gave Chalanika a lone goal win over Maghbaraz KC.

Rafique scored at the dying moments of the proceedings as Fire Service picked up a sensational 2-1 victory over Gandaria Famous in the second match of the day.

Amzad gave Fire Service a 31st minute lead before Obaidullah restored parity for Famous 12 minutes into the second half.

Madagascar's moment to remember

MELBOURNE, Jan 17: Madagascar enjoyed its proudest tennis moment at the Australian Open on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

In fact, teenager Dally Randrientefy achieved the African island's only moment in tennis history, beating Argentine Florencia Labat 6-3, 7-6 on an outside court for Madagascar's first success at an international tournament.

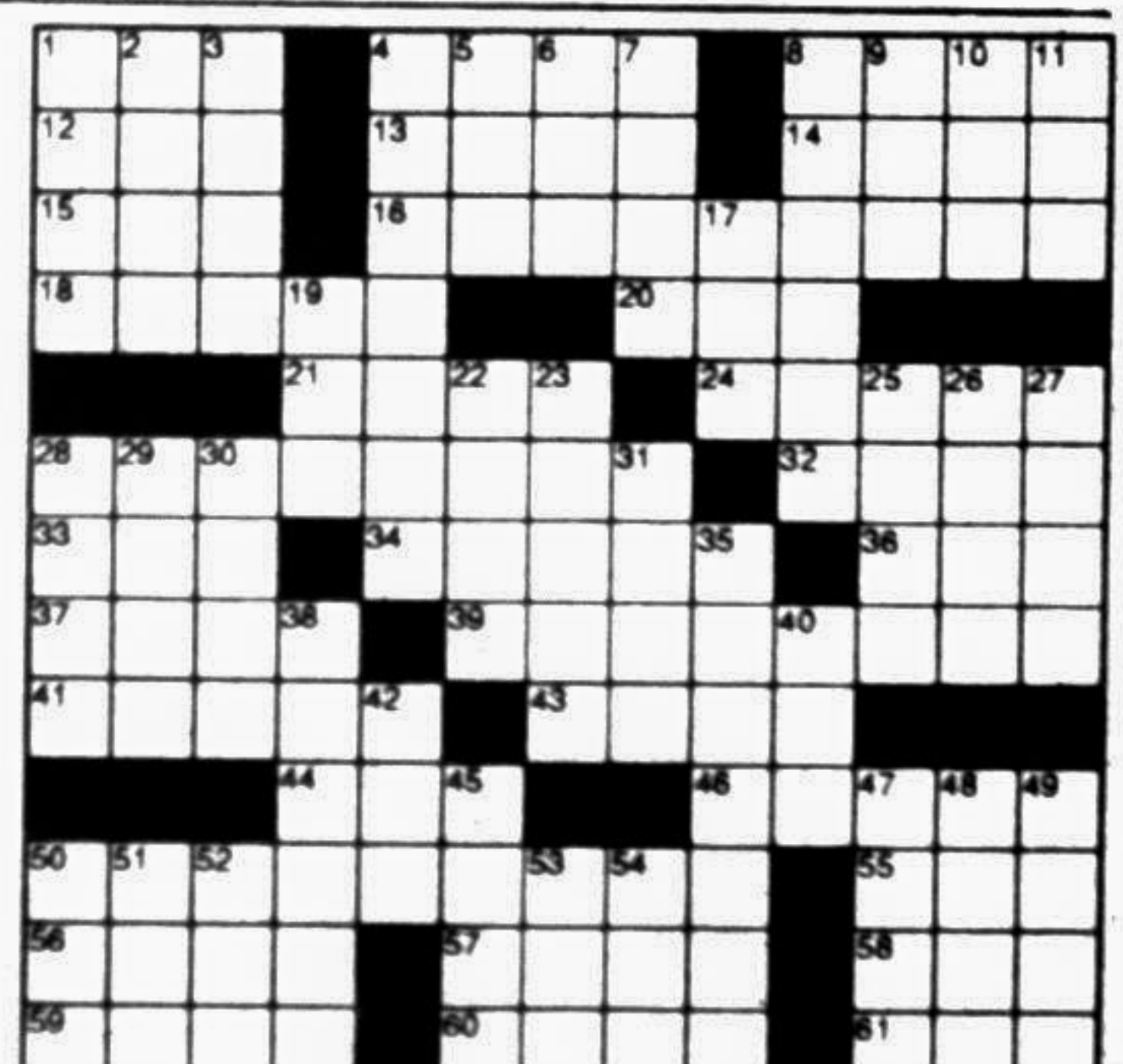
Randrientefy, 16, represents half of her country's professional ranks. Her 17-year-old sister Natasha makes up the other half.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 43 Peevish fit 3 River to state, pre-1959 44 Cleo's killer the Nerisse 1959 46 Rubber type 4 Photo copy? 25 "Lights out" tune 5 Coach 26 Lamb's pen name 6 Round segnian 27 Affix your John Hancock 7 Jobs or roles, figuratively 28 Ball in a gymnasium? 8 Bent 30 Curtain needs or Laura 9 Movie director Howard 31 Bruce or Laura 10 Fuss 35 A reaction some people have to cheese 11 Bronze ingredient 32 Library array 17 That man of repair 19 In need of quick cut 22 Wedding shower? 23 Largest

Solution time: 28 mins.

TINA HOAR OWE WOES ONCE NOT ONTHEOUTS TKO OLDS ASHEN STORM GLUE PANE SCREENED BANE BOLAS ORE ALT BOLA ORE SCHOOLED ASTIA EBRO SPEED PALER ASEA AMI ONTHE TOWN PIN WINO HONI ADE BPO T YOWL



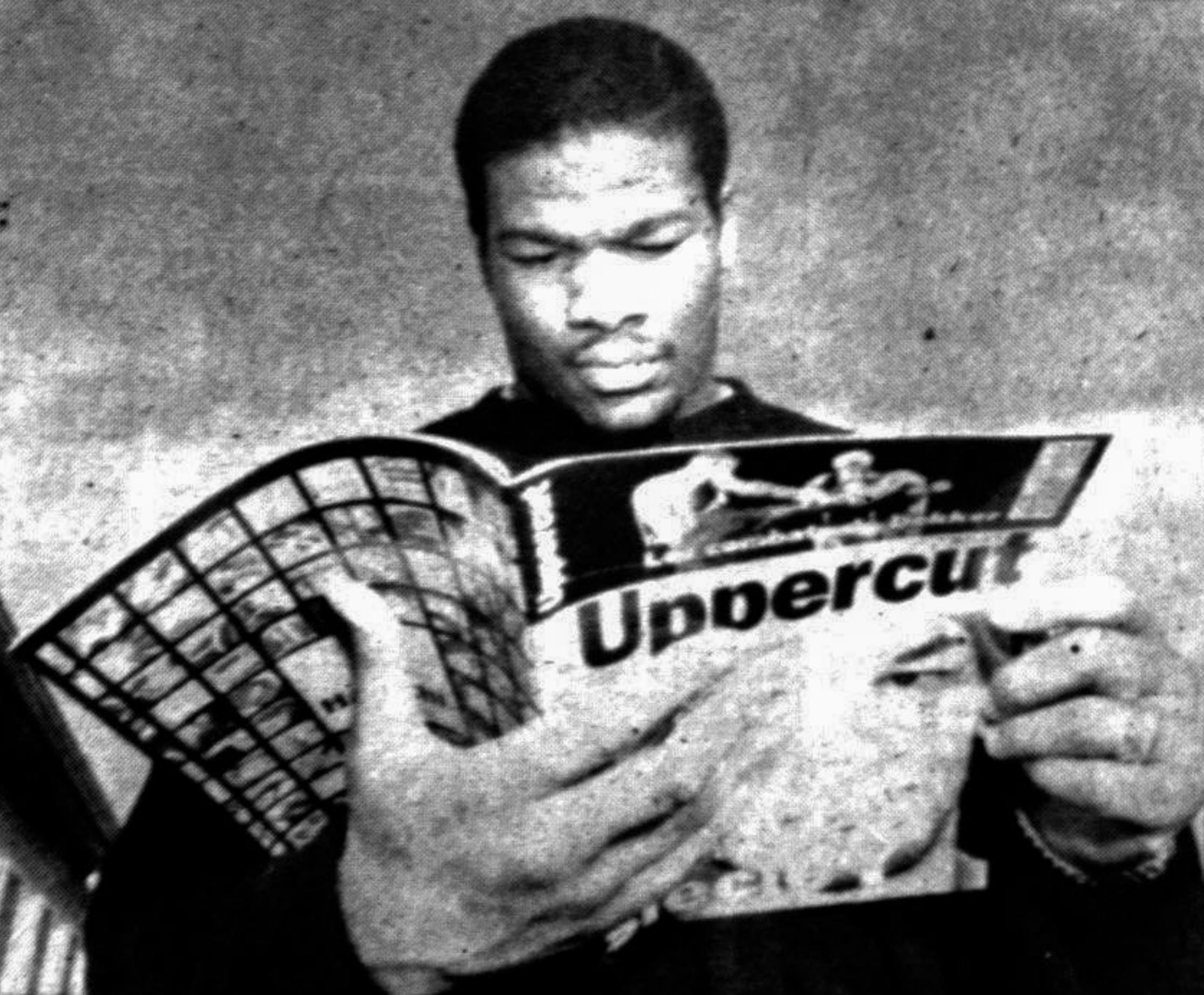
CRYPTOQUIP

IDX YDVYUXS YGGR OZP QXZFFM VVS ZS KRQGZQ; CGFUP PKPRXYI C G O F R F Z M

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AFTER ALL DICTIONARIES WERE STOLEN, BLANCHED LIBRARIAN WAS AT A LOSS FOR WORDS.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: Y 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.



Former heavyweight champion Riddick Bowe leafs through a French boxing magazine featuring boxer Mike Tyson while being interviewed by Agence France Presse at his Fort Washington, Maryland home on Jan 12.