

Tyson to fight again

CLEVELAND, Mar 31: Former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson said Thursday he will return to the ring with the same handlers who guided his career before he was jailed for three years on a rape conviction, reports Reuter.

Tyson did not give a date for his next fight but said it would be held at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas, aired by the cable channel Showtime and promoted by Don King.

Tyson put an end to rumours of a rift with King, his long-time associate, calling him "the greatest promoter in the world."

The 28-year-old fighter also announced that his friends Rory Holloway and John Horne will continue as co-managers.

Besides being my closest friends for many years, John and Rory have given me great advice in my professional career and they will continue to be my managers," he said.

It was Tyson's first public comment since his release Saturday from an Indiana prison where he served the rape sentence.

Details of Tyson's deals later emerged. His agreement with the MGM Grand was a 2-1/2 year, six-fight deal that sources say could be worth as much as 200 million dollar to Tyson.

There also was an indication from sources close to the MGM deal that Tyson's first post-prison fight will be in August.

The Showtime deal to broadcast his fights and allow him some work as a commentator covered three years, sources said.

Unlike Saturday when he left jail wearing loose-fitting clothes and a Muslim prayer cap, Tyson showed up at his news conference in a blue suit topped off with a jaunty straw boater, which he removed before reading a brief statement.

He took no questions from a crowd of reporters gathered at Gund arena and closed by saying, "May Allah bless you all."

Tyson has said he underwent a conversion to Islam two years ago. His first stop on leaving prison Saturday was a local mosque where he prayed with boxing legend Muhammad Ali.

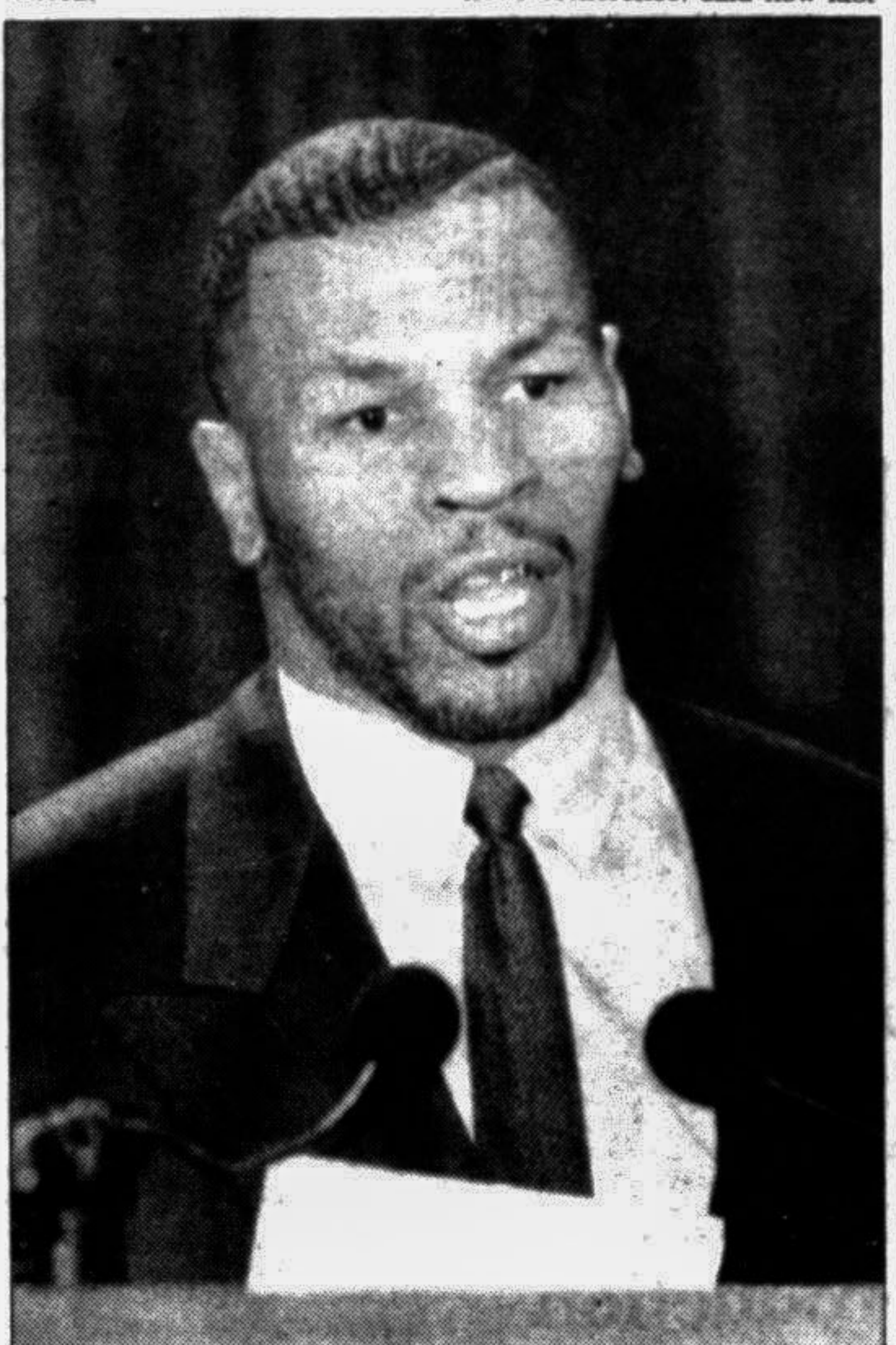
In his four-paragraph statement Tyson said:

"In the last three years I've had the chance to reflect on my life and develop my mind. I

will continue my journey to making myself a better person so that I can help others.

"But I'm here today to make a statement about my professional future ... I will fight again. I want to confirm John Horne and Rory Holloway as my co-managers.

"I also want to confirm that Don King will continue to promote my fights. Don is the greatest promoter in the world."



Former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson addresses newsmen in a press conference in Cleveland, Ohio on Thursday, five days after he was released from prison. — AFP/UNB photo

Tyson said he had chosen Showtime to be his television network and that he would be fighting at the new MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas.

King has had a long-time association with Showtime.

Tyson at age 20 became the youngest man ever to win the heavyweight crown. He lost it in 1990 in knockout by James "Buster" Douglas but was on a comeback trail before he was convicted of raping a beauty

pageant contestant in an Indianapolis hotel.

He remains on probation for four years under the supervision of officials in Ohio where he has a country estate near Youngstown. He made his first visit to his probation officer in Youngstown on Wednesday.

Matthew Saad Muhammad, a former light heavyweight champion who attended the news conference, said how fast

Mysterious Maradona

BUENOS AIRES, Mar 31: Diego Maradona, who mysteriously disappeared from public sight on Sunday, was found holed up at a Buenos Aires hotel on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Maradona's manager Marcos Franchi entered the hotel and left glum-faced and tight-lipped an hour later, implicitly confirming the presence of Argentina's former World Cup captain despite denials by hotel staff.

Argentine President Carlos Menem had promised earlier on Thursday to try to find out where he was and to help if he could.

"I myself will try to find out what's going on with Diego. The time has come for us to try to help him so he can pull out quickly from whatever difficult situation he may be in," Menem told a radio interviewer.

The Argentine press had been a buzz with rumours about the disgraced Maradona.

He missed several training sessions of Racing Club, the side he coaches, and failed for a third time to appear before a disciplinary tribunal of the Argentine Soccer Federation (AFA) for questioning on recent incidents in which he was involved.

The Argentine press has spun endless theories this week to explain Maradona's sudden disappearance, from a row with his wife Claudia to a stint in a drugs clinic.

His father-in-law, Coco Villafane, accused the media of mounting an anti-Maradona campaign but failed to reveal his whereabouts.

Maradona is still serving a 15-month FIFA suspension for taking banned substances at the 1994 World Cup.

He is also awaiting sentencing for wounding two journalists with pellets from an air rifle in February last year as they mounted guard outside his home.

Lara will play for Windies

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, Mar 31: West Indies star batsman Brian Lara passed a fitness test Thursday, guaranteeing he would play in the opening cricket Test match against Australia starting Friday, reports AP.

The 25-year-old Lara, who holds the world record Test and first class scores, has been nursing an injured hip since he missed the last of five one-day international matches against Australia on March 18.

On Thursday, Lara practised with no obvious discomfort.

"Brian came through the session quite well and we are confident he is fit enough to take his place in the team," manager Andy Roberts said.

Lara cut short a batting practice session Wednesday when, according to Roberts, he "felt a little discomfort after playing a particular shot."

Lara's presence in the West Indies team is a big confidence-booster as he is widely regarded as the best batsman in the game and hit the only hundred in the recent one-day internationals — 139 in the third match at the Queen's Park Oval in his native Trinidad and Tobago.

West Indies captain Richie Richardson, who had to miss the last four one-day internationals after straining ligaments in his right shoulder in the opening match March 8, came through both practice sessions with no ill effects.

It will be Richardson's first Test since he led the West Indies against England in Barbados last April. In July, doctors diagnosed him as suffering from acute fatigue syndrome and advised him to take a six-

month break from the game. In the interim, he missed Test series against India in India and against New Zealand in New Zealand.

The West Indies have not lost a Test series since they were beaten 1-0 by New Zealand in New Zealand in 1980. They haven't been beaten at home in the Caribbean since they lost to Australia 2-0 in 1973.

The West Indies' emphatic 4-1 triumph in the one-day international series, the ankle



BRIAN LARA

injury that has put Australia's leading fast bowler, Craig McDermott, out of the series; and the indifferent form of key Australian, leg-spinner Shane Warne have further increased the West Indies' chances.

But Richardson warned against complacency.

"I'm very happy with that result but we're not going to relax and believe that because we've won that series so easily it's going to be the same with the Test matches," he said.

"They seem a little bit

tired," Richardson added. "They've been playing a lot of cricket but I'm sure that when the Tests start, they're going to be rejuvenated and more motivated."

The Australians completed a 3-1 victory over England in the Test series in Australia that ended in early February and are generally rated as the strongest challengers to the West Indies in cricket.

Australia's captain, Mark Taylor, said his team's morale was good in spite of the defeat in the one-day series and the loss of McDermott.

"We are at the point where things are happening," Taylor said. "Our players are fit, all the batsmen, except myself, have had a good workout coming into the Test and we are ready to switch on."

Barbados Cricket Association secretary Basil Matthews said a sellout crowd of 14,000 was expected for the first three days — including about 700 Australian tourists who came for the first two Tests here and in Antigua.

The second Test is in Antigua April 8-13, the third in Trinidad April 21-26 and the fourth and final in Jamaica April 29 to May 3.

TEAMS
AUSTRALIA 12: Mark Taylor (captain), Michael Slater, David Boon, Mark Waugh, Steve Waugh, Greg Blewett, Ian Healy, Paul Reiffel, Brendon Julian, Shane Warne, Glenn McGrath, Tim May.
WEST INDIES 13: Richie Richardson (captain), Stuart Williams, Sherman Campbell, Brian Lara, Jimmy Adams, Carl Hooper, Junior Murray, Winston Benjamin, Curtly Ambrose, Courtney Walsh, Kenny Benjamin, Shivnarine Chanderpaul and Rajindra Dhanraj.

Calero puts Deportivo on top

BOGOTA, Mar 31: Miguel Calero kept alive the tradition of flamboyant Latin American goalkeepers when he scored with a brilliant individual effort to keep Deportivo Cali top of the Colombian soccer championship, reports Reuter.

Calero's astonishing solo run, which began near his own goal, came in the 88th minute of the game at home to Pereira with the score at 1-1.

He rushed out of his goal to intercept a Pereira breakaway, dribbled the ball past an oncoming forward, charged into the opposing half and then scored with a powerful left foot shot.

The 2-1 win in Wednesday night's game meant that Deportivo stay one point ahead of Atletico Nacional at the top of the championship table and added Calero to the list of eccentric Latin American goalkeepers.

His countryman Rene Higuita, who in 1993 spent six months in jail after being charged with breaking anti-kidnapping laws, was famed for his near-suicidal forays upfield.

Paraguay's Jose Luis Chilavert last year scored with a 25-metre free-kick for his Argentine club Velez Sarsfield in a championship match, while Mexico's Jorge Campos, an ex-surfer from Acapulco, is famed for his fluorescent pink kits.

4 more Malaysian booters banished into exile

KUALA LUMPUR, Mar 31: Malaysia's Home Ministry Thursday banished four more footballers and a former coach into internal exile for two years over the country's match-fixing scandal, reports AFP.

Players Azizul Abu Hamfah, Aziz Azizan, Zami Taib, Che Harizal Hassan and Roslan Yaacob, a former coach in the southwestern Megeri Sembilan state will be sent to remote districts in peninsular Malaysia, a senior police official, Khiew Ching Hoi was reported by Bernama news agency saying.

People sent to internal exile are also kept under strict police supervision.

The banishment order came 11 days after eight footballers and a coach were ordered to face a similar fate by Deputy Home Minister Megat Junid Megat Ayub.

The exile was proposed by the police in January following the arrest to date of about 150 footballers for alleged match rigging since investigations began in August last year.

Since then, more than 20 players have been banished to internal exile and another 80 banned from playing. Three Malaysian bookies were also arrested and banished during the probe.

Officials said Megat was expected to banish eight more players from those arrested.

Malaysian police recently dismissed reports that football bookies operating in Malaysia rigged games in the English Premier League and World Cup despite suspicion that punters had international links.

A Malaysian businessman, Heng Suan Lim, was arrested by British police earlier this month in a swoop on players, including Southampton's Zimbabwe national goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar.

Arantxa in Family Circle qtrs

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, South Carolina, Mar 31: Arantxa Sanchez shrugged off a severe ankle sprain to beat Amanda Coetzer in three sets here Thursday, reaching the Family Circle Cup quarter-finals and securing her number-one ranking for another week, reports AFP.

The top-seeded Spaniard went into the match fighting the flu. She fought back from a 5-2 deficit in the first set, then recovered after spraining her ankle in the second to win 7-6 (7/1), 3-6, 6-3.

"It's amazing to finish a match like that," she said. "But mentally I never gave up and stayed aggressive and didn't want to lose a match that way."

A defeat would have cost her the number-one spot when the new world rankings are released on Monday.

Now she is certain to keep that spot, at least for the time being, in front of fast-closing German Steffi Graf.

Her future in the tournament, however, remained uncertain because of the ankle injury.

"It's serious, and I have to be careful," she said, her ankle wrapped in bandages and ice.

She dropped out of the doubles competition to nurse it.

The injury occurred in the fourth game of the second set, when she tripped on a lay motionless for several minutes.

WTA Tour trainers gave on-court treatment and she resumed play without any noticeable signs of pain.

"I remember I hit a forehand, I slid, and suddenly I'm on the ground and in a lot of pain," she said. "I guess because it was so warm it didn't feel so bad."

Coetzer took a 3-1 lead in the second set, then won six of the next eight games before Sanchez raised her game in the final set.

The Spaniard moved Coetzer from side to side, came to the net when she could and started hitting deeper to put pressure on Coetzer's groundstrokes.

In the quarter-finals, Sanchez was scheduled to meet fifth-seeded Bulgarian Magdalena Maleeva, who beat American Chanda Rubin 6-3, 6-2.

Second-seeded Spaniard Conchita Martinez, the defending champion, advanced with a 6-2, 7-5 victory over Kristie Boogert.

Martinez will meet sixth-seeded Croatian Ivan Majoli, who beat Iriana Spirlea of Romania 6-1, 6-4.

Fourth-seeded Natasha Zvereva of Belarus beat American Sandra Cacic 7-5, 7-5 to line up a quarter-final clash with her old Soviet teammate Larisa Neiland, who beat American Ginger Helgeson-Nielsen 6-1, 5-7, 7-6 (7/5).

French qualifier Lea Ghirardi, who upset Gabriela Sabatini on Wednesday, had another win when she beat compatriot Sarah Pitkowski 6-4, 2-6, 6-4. And Italy's Silvia Farina beat Austrian Petra Schwarzer-Ritter 6-2, 6-0.



Uruguay's Daniel Fonseca (L) and England's Barry Venison fight for the ball during a friendly at the Wembley Stadium on Wednesday. The match ended with a goalless draw. — AFP/UNB photo

Tyson applauded

KHARTOUM, Mar 31: Hundreds of Islamic fundamentalists here Thursday applauded former world boxing champion Mike Tyson for his conversion to Islam during his jail term for rape, reports AFP.

"This means Islam will become popular among the youth in America," Akbar Mohammad, delegate from the US-based nation of Islam, told the Islamic and Arab People's Conference at Sudan's Chinese-built Friendship Hall on the Nile.

The 300 delegates from 80 countries then gave a warm round of applause to the heavyweight boxer who announced Thursday in the United States that he would return to boxing.

Another former heavyweight world boxing champion, Cassius Clay, also converted to Islam and changed his name to Muhammad Ali.

Akbar Mohammad, representing nation of Islam leader Louis Farra Kha, said "There is a vicious campaign against Islam in the USA. The American government feels threatened. Islam stands for justice and they are unjust."

"There is a campaign in the USA against Sudan. The American government is using the power of its dollar and propaganda to divide Moslems," he said.

England want Gazza back SOON

LONDON, Mar 31: Hurry back, Gazza.

That was the sentiment of most English soccer commentators Thursday after England's lackluster 0-0 draw with Uruguay in an exhibition game at Wembley Stadium, reports AP.

The man being hailed as England's potential savior is Paul Gascoigne, the gifted midfielder who has been sidelined for a year while recovering from a broken leg.

British newspapers were highly critical of England's performance Wednesday night and suggested that Gascoigne was the player who could bring spark and imagination to the side.

Gascoigne, who is looking fit and trim, is due to return to action with his Italian club Lazio in two weeks. He is being lined up to return to the England team for a June tournament at Wembley with Brazil, Sweden and Japan.

"I will consider Gazza for the summer tournament," said England coach Terry Venables, Gascoigne's former manager at Tottenham. "We know what he is capable of and sometimes it frightens you."

"It is just a question of his fitness. He would make a difference if fit. He can give you something different."

Uruguay manager Hector Nunez had no doubts England missed the Gascoigne magic.

Guenter a political fanatic

HAMBURG, Mar 31: The man who stabbed Monica Seles two years ago was a "politically crazed fanatic" who hated Serbs, her lawyer said Thursday. Guenter Parche's defence lawyer asked for lenient treatment of a man of "limited intelligence," reports AP.

Parche was given a suspended sentence after his first trial for the April 1993 stabbing of Seles that took the top-ranked women's player out of competitive tennis.

The decision triggered an uproar, and the prosecution won a retrial. Prosecutors want a two-year, nine-month sentence for Parche; defence wants the original suspended sentence issued in October 1993.

Sentencing is set for Monday.

Parche told police after his arrest that he stabbed Seles during a match to open the way for Steffi Graf to regain her No 1 ranking on the WTA Tour. He also said it would hurt the "evil" Serbs.

Seles is an ethnic Hungarian born in Serbia, part of former Yugoslavia. She has since become a US citizen.

"Steffi Graf was the embodiment of the empire of good, Monica Seles the embodiment of the empire of evil (in Parche's mind)," Gerhard Strate, one of Seles lawyers, told the court in a final argument characterizing Parche's attack.

"This was not the deed of a loving fan. It was the deed of a politically crazed fanatic," he said.

Strate wants Parche convicted of attempted manslaughter, which carries a maximum jail term of 10 years.

Prosecutors, however, are asking only for conviction on a charge of causing grievous bodily injury.



GUENTER PARCHE

Parche's defence lawyer, Otmur Kury, emphasized in his closing statement that Parche was a simple man, "with limited vocabulary and limited intelligence."

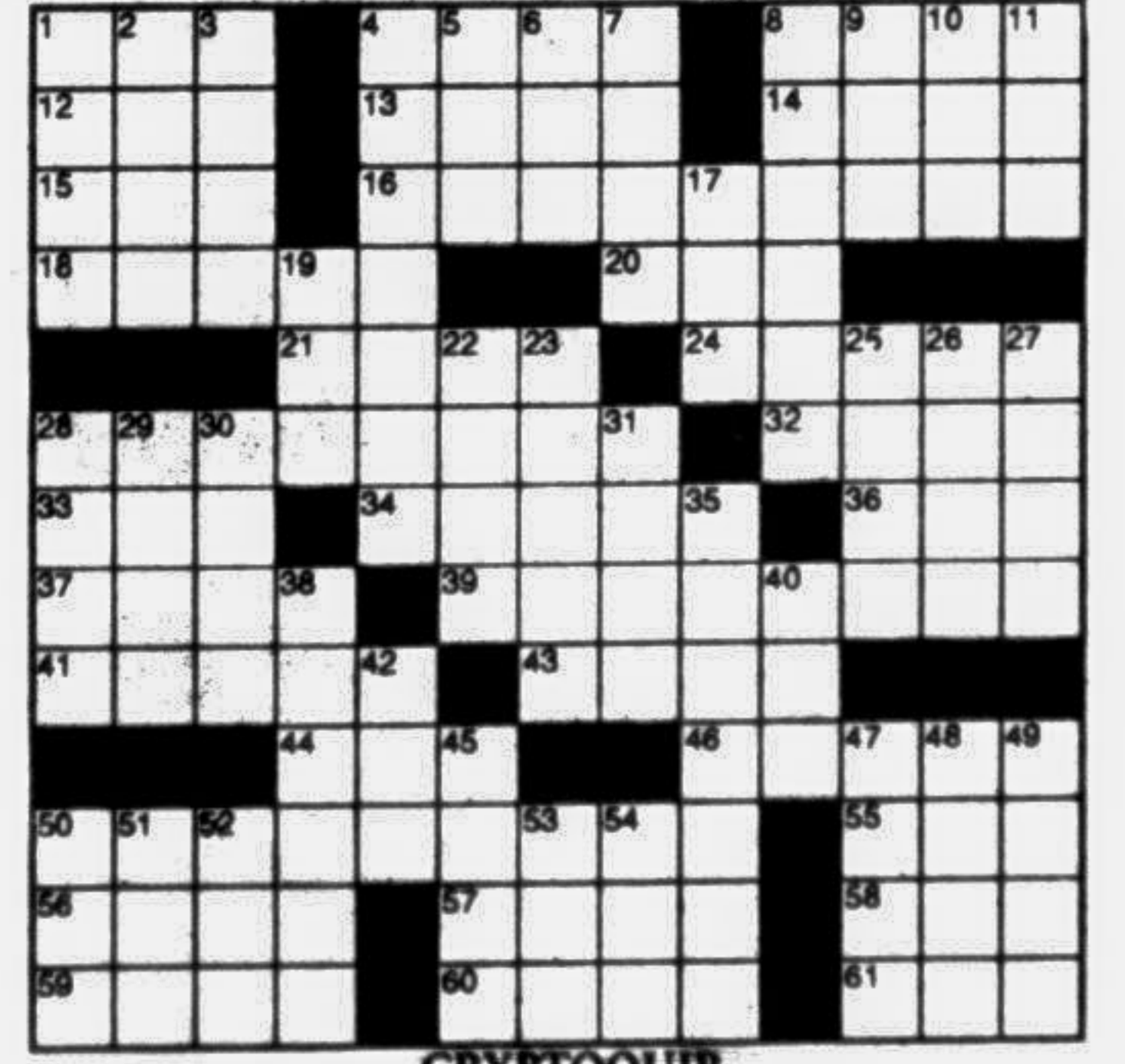
Parche has consistently denied he wanted to hurt Seles and had no intention of killing her, Kury said.

"The accused is not able to disguise his actions or his motives," Kury said. "His personality excludes the possibility that he could have lied to the court."

Kury accused Strate of using a media campaign against

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Felon's flight
 - 4 Athlete
 - 8 Crushing blow
 - 12 Mound stat.
 - 13 Evangelist
 - 14 Exchange premium
 - 15 Madam's mate
 - 16 Ruth crossed it over 700 times
 - 18 Dresden resident
 - 20 Wet wiggler
 - 21 — were (so to speak)
 - 24 Addams patriarch
 - 28 Pay
 - 32 "Rikki-Tikki—"
 - 33 Ms. Gardner
 - 34 Peter and Franco
 - 36 Army rank: abbr.
 - 37 Hideout
 - 39 Affectionate display
 - 41 Grant
- DOWN**
- 43 Scrape one's knee
 - 44 Gear tooth
 - 46 Take five
 - 50 Diver's choice
 - 55 Football fill
 - 56 Chills and fever
 - 57 Sheltered
 - 58 Rhoda's mom
 - 59 Bit of hardware
 - 60 Symbols of intrigue
 - 61 Rotation duration
 - DOWN
 - 1 Smaller
 - 2 Met melody
 - 3 Engels collaborator
 - 4 Boswell's subject
 - 5 Partner of plata
 - 6 Rotating part
 - 7 "Fish Magic" painter
 - 8 November slip
 - 9 Khan title
 - 10 Perch
 - 11 Prop for Markham's man
 - 17 Cribbage score-keeper
 - 19 Erstwhile acorn
 - 22 "A Little Bitty Tear" singer
 - 23 Maryland squad
 - 25 Creche trio
 - 26 Squared away
 - 27 Pizzazz
 - 28 White House dog
 - 29 Ellipse
 - 30 Vituperate, with "at"
 - 31 Castle on board
 - 35 Afternoon socials
 - 38 Sci-fi vessel
 - 40 22 1/2 degrees on the comp.
 - 42 Stir-fry pan
 - 45 Rodents do it
 - 47 Deposited
 - 48 Verdi heroine
 - 49 The picture of health?
 - 50 Part of Bowe's repertoire
 - 51 Past
 - 52 — de-sac
 - 53 1917 O'Neill drama
 - 54 Shortest of the 12: abbr.
- Solution time: 28 mins.**
- SPAS WAIF PTA**
KENO ECRU RAW
INALATHER ALL
YOKED MOST
OMAR INAWHILE
GEL ONERS CAW
INAJIFFY PANE
MANO FOLDS
SHARK DARN
WIZ INAPICKLE
ADO NUDE HIED
GEO GLAD ODDS



CRYPTOQUIP

Z Q B K Z O D B Y W N D - J Z N D

E W N D J T N Y O T N Z O K :

Z O Y T Q O Z B

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ON LAUNDRY DAY TOMORROW, ADAM AND EVE WILL TURN OVER A NEW LEAF.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: J equals F

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.