Maradona's legacy lives on



May 13: Diego Maradona may be volatile supestar prone to sudden and wild changes of temperament but the players he left behind

when he resigned as coach of Racing Club say he makes an ideal boss, reports Reuter. Maradona walked out on the

Argentine club last Saturday after four months in charge. one week of which he was missing and twenty days of which he spent on leave, when club president Juan de Stefano failed to gain re-election on Saturday.

But the man who last year took pot shots at journalists with an air rifle and is currently serving a 15-month playing ban for drugs abuse. was described by the players as a compassionate boss, a good tactician and an excellent motivator.

"It's a great shame he's gone, he's the best coach I've had in my career," said midfielder Fernando Quiroz in a telephone interview from his Buenos Aires home.

"It was a good experience. simply because of who he is. But the relationship with the players was perfect," said the 26-year-old, who has worked with six coaches in his career to date.

He always looks for the positive things in a player. If

of the season, but gave few

hints as to where he would be

midfielder has been the sub-

ject of an unofficial bidding

war for several weeks as

British teams anticipate his

return after an unproductive

and injury-plagued two years in

is to get my future sorted out,"

the midfielder told Channel 4's

Gazzetta Football Italia. "Lazio

have agreed to let me talk to

Scottish champion Rangers

appear to lead the Gascoigne

sweepstakes, having agreed a

4.5 million-pound (7.2 million

dollars) transfer fee with Lazio

last weekend. This week.

Aston Villa added their name

to the list of interest clubs.

which is reported to include

Newcastle, Everton, Leeds

Queens Park Rangers and

would be content playing with

Rangers, who recently

clinched their seventh con-

Gascoigne indicated he

Middlesbrough.

clubs and listen to offers."

"The main thing for me now

The 27-year-old England

headed, reports AP.

Paul Gascoigne

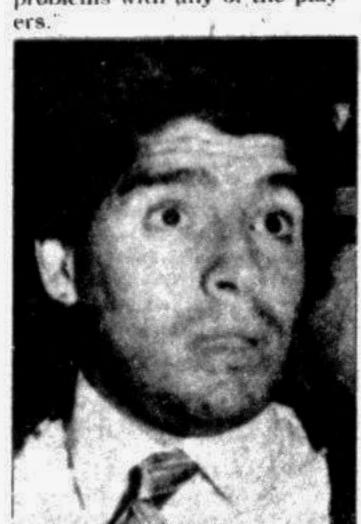
indicated Satur-

day he probably

would be leaving

Lazio at the end

you do something wrong, he will tell you but he does it in the right way, without showing you up in front of your teammates. He did not have any problems with any of the play-



DIEGO MARADONA

Quiroz also praised Maradona's tactical awareness. Defender Gustavo Costas said Maradona knew how to bring out the best in his play-

"He's an excellent motivator. He has confidence in his players and shows it," said Costas, one of the team's most experienced members.

The club, which has suffered for 28 years without a

Gazza giving nothing away

secutive Scottish Premier

Division title and will return to

the European Champions' Cup

terested." Gascoigne said. "I

"I heard Rangers were in-

again next season.

major title since winning the South American Libertadores Cup in 1967, lived turbulent

days during Maradona's reign. His presence attracted a media hordes, especially when he went missing for one week in March. The players said, however, they were unaffected by the traumas of working with one of the most controversial soccer players in history.

"Diego sheltered the team from the attention. He never took out his frustrations on the players," said Quiroz. Maradona. who was joint

coach of the team along with Carlos Fren, did not leave the club with the most impressive of records.

Racing are a modest ninth in the 20-team Argentine Championship with three wins in 12 games. One of them came when Maradona was on leave and one of them was on Tuesday, three days after his departure.

But the club's record last year had been even more dismal and Costas is convinced Maradona was on the right

"We were unlucky in a lot of games. We could easily have won three or four more points than we got.

"Forming a good football team needs time. We were getting better and we were very enthusiastic about him making a comeback as player." Costas said.

where the quality of football is

good and where there is a big

stage." Gascoigne said. "What is

important to me is the quality

of football and to win medals.

I've been playing for 10 years

and I haven't really won any

play central midfield and I will

give them blood and guts. But

I'm prepared to talk to a lot of

Gascoigne dismissed re-

ports that claim England coach

Terry Venables wants him to

play in the English Premier

he would say it my face,"

Gascoigne said. "I've spoken to

Terry and that is definitely

what he didn't say. He just

wants me to be happy because

when bur happy I play good

Gascoigne was sold from

Tottenham to Lazio for 5.5

million pounds (8.8 million

dollars) three years ago, but a

series of injuries have kept

him more on the sidelines

than on the field. Having re-

turned recently after a year

long absence with a broken

leg. Gascoigne found that

Lazio's structured offense had

little room for his creative

toothall.

midligld style

"If Terry had anything to say

League rather than Scotland

For my next team I want to

thing. I'm getting on a bit.

clubs, not just Rangers."

Butragueno to bid Madrid bye

MADRID, May 13: Spanish international Émilio Butragueno will leave Real Madrid at the end of the season after more than a decade at the club, reports Reuter.

The 31-year-old forward capped 69 times, has played only a handful of first team games this season after featuring in the Madrid line-up for most of the 1980s.

One of the most popular players in the squad, Butragueno - known as "El Buitre" (The Vulture) for his ability to pounce on loose balls in the penalty area - is widely tipped to end his career in Japan.

"We're conscious of just what Butragueno means to the Madrid fans. We don't yet know where he's going but we will pay him the homage he deserves," said club board member Nemesio Fernandez Cuesta.

Butragueno, born and bred in the Spanish capital, joined the current league leaders in 1983. He has said he has no desire to play for any other club in Spain.

FIFA's five

ZURICH, May 13: Soccer's world governing body FIFA. on Friday named five people it has declared "persona non grata in football" for their alleged role in a match-rigging scam during the recent World Youth Championships, reports Reuter.

A FIFA newsletter said players from various teams were approached during last month's championships in Qatar and asked to "manipulate the outcome of certain matches in return for cash" for a southeast Asian betting syndicate.

The players and teams involved reported the matter to FIFA, which carried out an investigation.

A FIFA spokesman said the five - all Asian - were deported from Qatar during the championships. He did not know whether they faced any charges on their return home.

Penalty spot phobia!

ZURICH, May 13: World soccer body FIFA complained on Friday that referees were being too cautious and inconsistent in awarding penalties. especially during high pressure games, reports Reuter.

In an editorial in FIFA's monthly newsletter, genera secretary Sepp Blatter recalled an Austrian novel called "The goalkeeper's fear of the penalty

The title might have been just as valid for the referee as the goalkeeper," wrote Blatter. "For there are still too many instances when the referee appears afraid to indicate the

Blatter said that referees might be happy to award penalties for fouls within the penalty area in a mid-season match between two middle-ofthe table teams.

But in an end-of-season match with a title at stake, the same foul could make referees

think twice, said Blatter. "In FIFA's ongoing campaign

for consistent refereeing, the concept of consistency must apply not only to all parts of the world but also to all parts of the field of play, not only to all times within a single match but also to all times of year." wrote Blatter.

"The penalty area is as much a part of the field of play as the centre circle and an offence committed in midfield which entails a largely inconsequential direct free kick should be punished no differently in the penalty area.

"And the same offence at the start of the season must be dealt with in the same manner towards the end."

Blatter said that with three World Championships on the calendar this year and with many league seasons now reaching their climax, referees had to overcome their reluctance to award penalties, regardless of the pressure from the media.

Zaragoza stun Gunners

PARIS, May 13: Real Zaragoza beat Arsenal 2-1 (halftime 0-0, 90 minutes 1-1) after extra-time in the European Cup Winners' Cup final on Wednesday, reports Reuter. Scorers:

Real Zaragoza - Juan Esnaider (68th). Nayim (120th) Arsenal - John Hartson 75th) Attendance: 42,424.

Regatta in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, May 13: Pakistan plans to hold its first major international yachting competition at the Karachi harbour in September, it was announced Saturday, reports



semifinal match at World Table Tennis Championships in Tiajin, China yesterday. -AFP/UNB photo

Kim earns ITTF's wrath



TIANJIN, China, were tested three times -Soo, the first plaver to be kicked out of a Table

Tennis World Championships for using a banned glue to improve his game, lost an appeal against a quarter-final disqualification on Saturday. reports Reuter.

Kim, the world number five. had beaten China's top player Wang Tao in their last-eight match in straight games on Friday, a result in stark contrast to the home player's easy defeat of the South Korean in the team event semifinals last Sunday.

"We accept that he made a genuine mistake but the appeal had to be refused because we have to follow the regulations." Andre Damman, a member of the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) jury considering the appeal, told reporters. "Kim used the wrong can

(of glue)," Danunan said after a second and final appeal against the disqualification. "There was no question of any tampering with the testing. The solvent he used had far too high leads of toxicity." Damman Details emerged later that

Kim's bats had been tested three times previously during the team events and that one bat had been confiscated as a proscribed solvent was detected.

"Four racquets were confiscated during the team events one of which belonged to Kim Taek-Soo," said Colin Clements, chairman of the ITTF rules committee. "His racquets

borderline and the third was over the limit.

"The tests were carried out before play in the team event with the only penalty being confiscation of the racquet. Because of time restraints testing was done after matches in the singles with disqualification as the penalty that's completely fair as all the players were treated the same

The ITTF had banned Kim after a routine test on his bat after Friday's match found that it contained a banned solvent "at a level several times above the permitted limit."

Officials later confirmed that he was the first player to be thrown out of a World Championships for this of-

Glues are applied by players immediately before matches to speed up serves and improve

The disqualification means that Kim's beaten opponent. world number two Wang Tao. will go through to Sunday's semifinals and Chinese players will now make up the last four in the men's singles, emulating the women's event and ensuring a host country victory in both competitions.

"Our rules are not clear on this (Wang's semifinal berth) but we decided that Kim probably took advantage of an illegal product so we had to let Wang go through," Damman said.

Wang, whose form has been inconsistent, was easily beaten in straight games 21-18, 21-16. 21-18 by Kim in the quarter-final.

Fifth seed Kim. 24, who has May 13: South once there was zero (toxicity), never won a major title, was Korea's Kim Tack- the second time it was the last of the top seeds to go through to the final four after the defeat of defending champion Jean-Philippe Gatien, worid number one Jean-Michel Saive and 1992 Olympic champion Jan-Ove Waldner.

Wang, who was regarded as one of the favourites for the title, now joins 10th-seeded teenager Kong Linghui as the last two of the top 10 seeds to make it through to Sunday's semifinal after the rout of the leading European players.

Wang said he felt that Kim was a stronger player than when he beat him in straight games last Sunday in the team event semifinals. "It was strange," he told Reuters.

"Now I think he might have been helped by the illegal glue, although he did play very

The ITTF said in its statement that Kim's bat contained a toxic solvent banned because its repeated use was believed to be harmful to players health.

The ITTF has a list of 20 approved liquid glues that have some degree of toxicity but are not considered a danger to health. The ITTF were to have im-

posed a total ban on liquid glues from August 1 but decided not to go ahead after an appeal from leading players that the game would be slowed down

The ITTF council decided that any player using other than approved glues in an ITTF competition would be disqualified and liable to disciplinary action by his or her associa-

Deng wins Sino duel

TIANJIN. China, May 13: China's Deng Yaping did her duty when she won the women's single title at the World Table Tennis Championships here on Saturday by beating teammate Qiao Hong, reports

But the 22-year-old, who has been ranked world number one for five years, showed little of the brilliance that has made her the most feared woman in table tennis.

Instead the 10,000 strong crowd packed into the Tianjin gymnasium were treated to a final that looked more like a choreographed exhibition than a struggle between the two best players in the world.

Even the score had a certain artistic balance to it: 14-21. 21-17. 21-17. 14-21. 21-

In the final game Deng held an unbeatable 20-8 lead but suddenly the 26-year-old Qiao, who has for so long lived in the shadow of Deng, began hitting a series of winners to reach

Deng then firmly closed the door in a furious exchange of smashes with a perfectly placed forehand and the crowd. which had been strangely muted throughout, did their duty and applauded.

The only emotion Deng showed throughout the evening was when the Chinese flag was raised in the victory ceremony and she shed a tear.

Holyfield and co speak out

NEW YORK, May 13: Former champions Evander Holyfield. Michael Moorer and Lennox Lewis all took pot shots at the World Boxing Council's (WBC) recent decision to rank Mike Tyson as its number one contender despite his inactivity for nearly four years, reports Reuter. "It's not right," said Holy-

field on Wednesday in a teleconference call with Moorer and Lewis. "You look at the situation

and it's the kind of political type of thing that is not fair for the other guys. You should have to fight somebody in the top 10 to get ranked." "It's sad," said Holyfield,

who fights Ray Mercer in Atlantic City on May 20 in his first bout since losing the title to Moorer a year ago.

Like Holyfield. Lewis and Moorer are working their way back for another crack at the title and resent the easy ride being given to the 29-year-old Tyson, who has not fought since outpointing Razor Ruddock in June 1991.

"It shows how much politicking and racketeering plays in boxing," Lewis said.

Tyson's re-entry to the top of the ratings chart came shortly after his release from an Indiana prison where he served there years on a rape conviction.

Lewis fights Lionel Butler Saturday in Sacramento, California, in the Briton's first bout since losing the WBC crown to Oliver McCall last September.

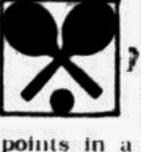
Also featured on the Sacramento card is a 12-rounder pitting Moorer against Melvin

Foster. "Everyone talks about Mike

Tyson fighting and doing this and that," said Moorer, who will be boxing for the first time since he was knocked out by George Foreman to lose the International Boxing Federation crown last November.

"Mike Tyson was a force to reckon with four years ago, but this is now. It's unfair to neglect everybody else and put Tyson back on the threshold of the championship," he sale

Larsson survives a scare quarter-final 6-4, 6-3. 7). 7-6 (7-2). 7-6 (8-6). PINEHURST.



ACROSS

1 Talent

5 Lid for a

8 Antiquing

12 Blueprint

13 Exploit

15 Piscine

organ

16 Average

17 Home:

20 Knave

collog.

18 Dormant

22 Match a

23 Flushed

24 Roomy

34 Line of

35 "Emile"

27 Ties, e.g.

32 Commotion

33 Life-saving

hosiery?

author

38 Answers,

ardy!"

39 Skeptic's

40 Fast-for-

the ads

on "Jeop-

skill: abbr.

statistic

apparatus

14 Unadomed 53 Like

North Carolina.

May 13: Top seed Magnus Larsson of Sweden survived two match

points in a triple tie-break marathon on Friday to advance to the semifinals of the US clay court champio-nships, reports Reuter.

The 11th-ranked Larsson battled eighth seed and defending champion Jared Palmer for two hours and 35 minutes in a match that reached the maximum number of games possible before downing the American 6-7 (5-

Larsson will meet Argentina's Javier Frana in the semifinals. The 60th ranked lefthander came from behind to beat Switzerland's Jakob Hlasek 6-7 (3-7), 7-5, 6-4. In contrast to fellow-Swede

Larsson, second seed Thomas Engvist barely broke a sweat in his quarter-final match. Enqvist dismissed Brazil's

19 Poet

cummings

21 Prototypi-

cal love

24 Children's

card game

choose to

chest item

28 Antipollu-

29 Brazilian

31 Hosp.

36 Taste

38 Entreaty

tool

42 Treaty

46 Parisi-

47 Anger

48 1994 film.

book

41 Bunyan's

43 Fraternal

fielder

44 Cartoonist

Goldberg

ennes' mag

"Guarding

money

staffers

tion org.

boat?

25 "- not

run"

Fernando Meligeni 6-2, 6-1 in just 46 minutes to set up a semifinal against fourth-seeded American David Wheaton, who made unexpectedly short work of Spanish claycourt specialist Jordi Arrese, winning their

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

2 Pupil's

place?

3 Suffered

throw

Neigh-

author

6 Simile

center

7 Long-time

TV talk

Wyeths

money

11 Leftovers

PISA IKE IDLE TREY SEC LEEK 51 Pocket-

Solution time: 23 mins.

LEAD OAF CHAP

ACRE SHE HEIR

DOGHOUSE

SNOOD

DAMN WOOL USA

I RA WOODY SID

XED ALISO REND

APOLICO SCRIP

PAUL TEAHOUSE

HAL TRUE

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host

9 Dutch

bor's Wife"

5 British coin 26 Pirate-

8 One of the 30 Diving bird

10 Advantage 37 That girl

4 "Thy

an over-

42 First golfer

\$1 million

9 Cockeyed

50 Where, to

Caesar

Wiesel

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weather

54 Prohibit

55 Shake-

56 Melody

part

DOWN

speare

title start

57 ld counter-

58 Sediment

52 Author

to win

45 Ace

The drama of the day was played out on the stadium court, the scene of Palmer's first and only title a year ago. With both players serving well, there were no service

breaks until the fourth game

Palmer closed out the first tie-break 7-5 when Larsson went for the big forehand winner and missed.

of the third set.

Palmer reached his first match point at 6-4 of the tiebreak with a chipped backhand return, but Larsson served up an ace to save it.

CRYPTOQUIP

DQETI PMTUYQMTI VEBVS BKUQD FKGVS EBUIT GTIDDIT PYUI QE Yesterday's Cryptoquip: STUFFY DIRECTORY OF LOCAL OWL WATCHERS IS CALLED "WHO'S HOOT."

Today's Cryptoquip clue: B equals W

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which on letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, in 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.

Martinez gets into groove She confounded critics who had said she could never win After mo-nths in on the grass at Wimbledon. the doldrums fol-That victory, Martinez asserlowing her surpted, "gives you a lot of ise Wimbledon confidence to know you can victory. Conchita win a lot of titles." Martinez is peaking in time for The other quarterfinal another Grand Slam tournamatchups pit No 2 Mary Pierce, who holds dual US-The Spaniard powered her French citizenship, against No way into the semifinals of the

Italian Open with a convincing 6-4, 6-3 win Friday over No 6 seed Mary Joe Fernandez, reports Al'. Martinez, serded third, has

won her last three tournaments and lost only one match since March. She also has won the last two editions of this clay court classic, a major tuneup for the French Open later this month. Against Fernandez, a toprated US clay court player

Martinez was impressive. She had some trouble with her serve. playing in the wind and what at the time was an intermittent drizzle, but she won all the big points and had complete command of the match. She attributes her recent

success to a new coach, Carlos Kirmayr, a Brazilian who previously worked with Sanchez Vicario and Gabriela Sabatini. "I'm getting more aggressive, going more to the net and

finishing points earlier,"

Martinez said. She rejected any suggestion that she's lazy, unwilling to push herself to achieve a higher ranking.

"I'm telling you it's not true," Martinez responded. "If I didn't work I wouldn't be No 4 in the world, I'd be 800something."

Covacs dead

BUCHAREST, May 13:

Romania's Stefan Covacs, who twice coached Ajax Amsterdam to the European Champions' Cup title in the early 70s, has died aged 74. reports AFP. Romania daily newspaper

Friday the former French coach died in his birth place at Cluj in western Transylvania where he had retired. Covacs had been taken to

Sportul Romanesc told AFP on

hospital on several occasions following a heart attack.

PAUL GASCOIGNE

decided to speak to them and

talks with (manager) Walter

Smith went very well. We all

know they are a very big club."

I want to go to a club

8 Iva Majoli of Croatia and No 13 Helena Sukova of the Czech Republic against the unseeded Joannette Kruger of South

The two million dollars men's edition of the Italian Open, which starts play Monday, suffered a blow when

lower back.

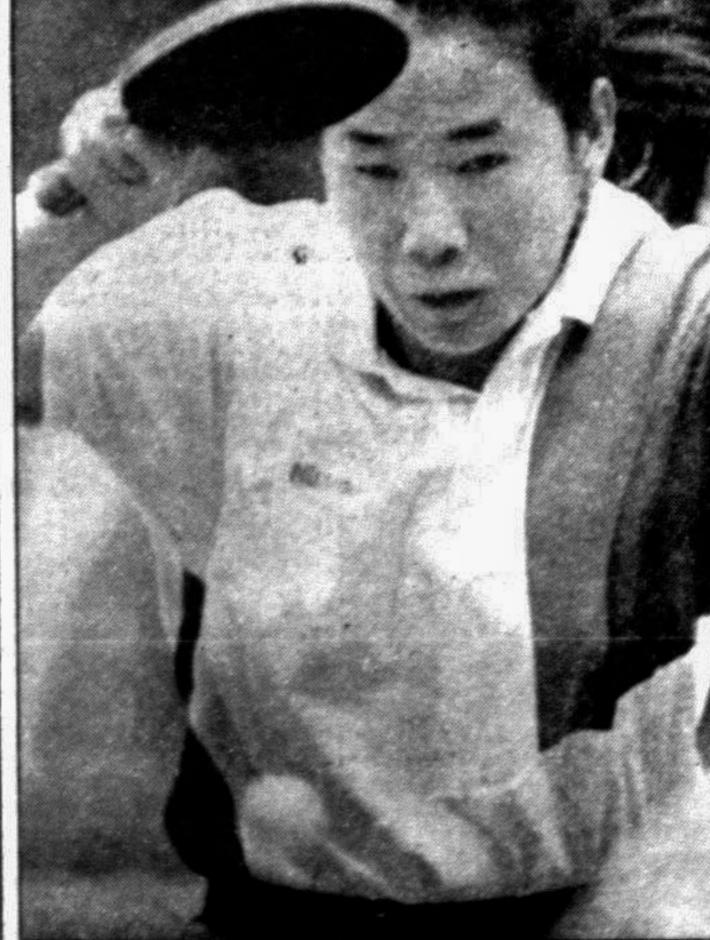
withdrawal of Boris Becker, the No 3 ranked player in the world. Becker was said to be suffering severe pain in his

The pullout puts off any possible confrontation with Thomas Muster, who recently came back from two sets down to defeat Becker in the finals of Monte Carlo. The German then questioned the speed of

Muster's recovery from exhaustion in the semifinals. Also doubtful is the big serving Dutchman Richard Krajicek, who injured his knee in Hamburg, Germany, this week.

Pete Sampras, seeking to

defend his Italian title, will lead the field. organizers announced the



Qiao Hong of China is engaged in rally with her compatriot Quan Yunping during their women's singles semifinal match at the World Table Tennis Championships in Tianjin - AFP/UNB photo -yesterday.