



Pusan city delegates congratulate their mayor Kim Ki-Jae (garlanded) after the South Korean port city won the right to host the 2002 Asiad over Taiwan's Kaohsiung after an OCA vote in Seoul yesterday. — AFP/UNB photo

## OCA offers Pusan 2002 Games

SEOUL, May 23: Pusan, a South Korean port city, won the right Tuesday to stage the 2002 Asian Games in a vote that drew angry criticism from rival bidder Taiwan, reports AP.

The general assembly of the Olympic Council of Asia gave overwhelming support for Pusan over Taiwan's Kaohsiung, also a port city. But Taiwanese delegates, protesting a last-minute change in the voting procedure, calling it "unfair."

They claimed that the OCA's executive council originally had decided to choose by secret ballot but, under China's influence, changed to a show of hands.

Taiwan had wanted a secret vote because some OCA members might not want Beijing to know if they backed Kaohsiung.

China, which considers Taiwan a renegade province and seeks to isolate it diplomatically, openly threatened to stay away from the 2002 Games if Kaohsiung were selected. OCA officials said China's objections influenced the outcome of the vote.

The vote by the 43-member OCA, Asia's sports governing body made South Korea a two-time venue of the Asian Games, the Asian version of the Olympics. Seoul was host in 1986.

Of the 41 OCA member delegates who voted, 37 raised their hands for Pusan. There was no call for a vote for

Kaohsiung, North Korea and Laos did not send delegates.

While South Korean delegates cheered the decision, about 20 Taiwanese officials stood grimly and silently outside the conference hall, holding signs protesting the voting procedure. "We didn't have a fair game," said one sign.

"We regret the abrupt change... by which we were doomed to fail," Taiwan's bidding committee said in a statement. "We strongly protest herewith and gravely condemn the political influence that caused this change."

Tears were rolling down the cheeks of some members.

OCA President Sheikh Ahmad said at a news conference that only two delegates wanted a secret ballot, fewer than the 15 required by the OCA constitution.

Chang Chi-cheng, a member of Taiwan's bidding committee, said, "It's a very unfair game from the beginning. It's very unusual to have Samaranch say publicly that he assists a certain bidding city."

"It's also very unusual for Samaranch to have an audience with NOC (National Olympic Committee) members to hint at his support for Pusan," he said.

She was referring to an interview in the English-language Korea Times Sunday in which International Olympic Committee President Juan Antonio Samaranch said, "Problems should be resolved rather than being created."

The remarks were taken as a warning that China and its supporters might boycott the 2002 Games if Kaohsiung were chosen as host. Samaranch attended the OCA meeting, as an observer.

Kim Un-young, head of South Korea's Olympic Committee, said it would have disrupted Asian sports harmony if Taiwan became the host. Most OCA member countries recognize Beijing as the sole legitimate government of China and don't have formal relations with Taiwan.

The voting followed fierce campaigns by officials of the two cities. Pusan offered to contribute up to 12 million dollars in development funds for the OCA. Kaohsiung offered 10 million dollars.

The 1998 Asian Games will be held in Bangkok.

## Mizan betters own mark

The inter-service swimming and water polo championships-95 got underway at the Naval Headquarters Complex Swimming Pool at Banani yesterday, an ISPR press release said, reports BSS.

Qarar Mizanur Rahman of the Bangladesh Navy improved the SAF Games record in 100m breaststroke clocking 1 min 09.50 secs. The previous record in the event was 1 min 09.77 secs.

Besides Bangladesh Navy also bettered team national record in 4x100 m medley relay.

## Edberg keeps Rafter at bay

DUESSELDORF, May 23: Stefan Edberg outgouged Australia's tennis hope, Patrick Rafter, in three sets to give Sweden a 1-0 lead Tuesday at the 1.8 million dollars World Team Cup, reports AP.

Edberg, the former world No. 1, needed three match points and two hours and 23 minutes to close the match against the 22-year-old Rafter, 6-4, 7-6 (11-9), 6-2.

## ATP leading money-winners

PARIS, May 23: Leading money winners as released by the ATP Tour on Monday, reports Reuter.

|                                   |           |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Andre Agassi (US)              | 1,023,060 |
| 2. Thomas Muster (Austria)        | 877,693   |
| 3. Pete Sampras (US)              | 735,880   |
| 4. Richard Krajicek (Netherlands) | 582,084   |
| 5. Wayne Ferreira (South Africa)  | 581,914   |
| 6. Yevgeny Kafelnikov (Russia)    | 532,319   |
| 7. Boris Becker (Germany)         | 531,493   |
| 8. Andrei Medvedev (Ukraine)      | 452,839   |
| 9. Goran Ivanisevic (Croatia)     | 426,956   |
| 10. Magnus Larsson (Sweden)       | 413,972   |
| 11. Michael Chang (US)            | 387,230   |
| 12. Michael Stich (Germany)       | 380,408   |
| 13. Paul Haarhuis (Netherlands)   | 366,823   |
| 14. Jim Courier (US)              | 359,899   |
| 15. Thomas Enqvist (Sweden)       | 326,598   |
| 16. Jonas Bjorkman (Sweden)       | 302,939   |
| 17. Andrea Gaudenzi (Italy)       | 302,714   |
| 18. Stefan Edberg (Sweden)        | 295,021   |
| 19. Sergi Bruguera (Spain)        | 292,950   |
| 20. Daniel Vacek (Czech Republic) | 283,623   |

## WTA's top 20

ST PETERSBURG, Florida, May 23: Top 20 women's tennis players, according to rankings issued by the WTA Tour, reports Reuter.

|                                    |                          |                         |                              |                                  |                                 |                           |                                  |                        |                               |                          |                          |                             |                      |                                    |                            |                                  |                      |                                   |                           |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario (Spain) | 2. Steffi Graf (Germany) | 3. Mary Pierce (France) | 4. Conchita Martinez (Spain) | 5. Jana Novotna (Czech Republic) | 6. Magdalena Maleeva (Bulgaria) | 7. Lindsay Davenport (US) | 8. Gabriela Sabatini (Argentina) | 9. Kimiko Date (Japan) | 10. Natasha Zvereva (Belarus) | 11. Anke Huber (Germany) | 12. Iva Majoli (Croatia) | 13. Mary Joe Fernandez (US) | 14. Amy Frazier (US) | 15. Helena Sukova (Czech Republic) | 16. Naoko Swamatus (Japan) | 17. Brenda Schultz (Netherlands) | 18. Lori McNeil (US) | 19. Amanda Coetzer (South Africa) | 20. Julie Halard (France) |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|

## Asiad-Taiwan's agony & dismay

TAIPEI, May 23: Disheartened residents in the Taiwan city of Kaohsiung reacted angrily Tuesday to the news their city had lost its bid for the 2002 Asian Games to Pusan in South Korea, reports AFP.

Residents interviewed on television said the bidding process had been unfair, adding they would boycott South Korea goods after the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) voted 37 to five to award the Games to Pusan.

Angry listeners to a radio call-in programme also called on the authorities to take back an one million US dollar donation to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to protest the alleged interference in the voting by IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch.

They also called for a nationwide campaign to boycott South Korean products.

Kaohsiung and Pusan are sister cities and local councillors in Kaohsiung demanded that these ties be immediately cut in protest.

Travel agencies in Kaohsiung have also said they will stop organising trips to South Korea in protest.

The campaign to stage the multi-billion dollars Games, Asia's biggest sporting event, has been marked by allegations of dirty tricks from both cities.

Kaohsiung Mayor Den Yih Wu said in Seoul: "Many member friends told us that each of them was invited to individual meetings with Samaranch and urged to vote for Pusan."

There had been fears of a Chinese boycott of the event if Kaohsiung was chosen, giving rival Taiwan international recognition.

Samaranch was in Seoul as an observer for the three-day OCA meeting. He has denied any interference, but did urge the OCA to "avoid problems."

The Taiwanese also charged that 11th-hour "political intervention" by the IOC, China and South Korea had led to a change from secret ballot to a show of hands.

The show of hands poll was an unprecedented break with Olympic tradition, the Taiwanese delegation said in a statement.

Pusan, South Korea's most important port, is the power base of President Kim Young-Sam.

China regards Taiwan as a renegade province and had threatened to boycott the Games if Kaohsiung was chosen.

## Stich steps up confidence

DUESSELDORF, May 23: Michael Stich helped Germany beat the United States 2-1 and collected a bit of confidence ahead of next week's French Open with a three-set win over American Todd Martin as the World Team Cup began on Monday, reports Reuter.

Stich, the world's 12th ranked player, outlasted the 14th ranked Martin 3-6, 6-1, 7-5 to get Germany's defence of the title off to a good start.

But while the victory did Stich's confidence no harm, the 26-year-old German is well aware that what happens of the clay courts at the World Team Cup is not always an indicator of what lies ahead at Roland Garros.

Last year, Stich turned up for Paris by handing American Pete Sampras his first defeat in three months, then the next day he polished off defending French champion Sergi Bruguera of Spain.

Those results, however, did not translate into similar success in Paris, Stich going out in second round.

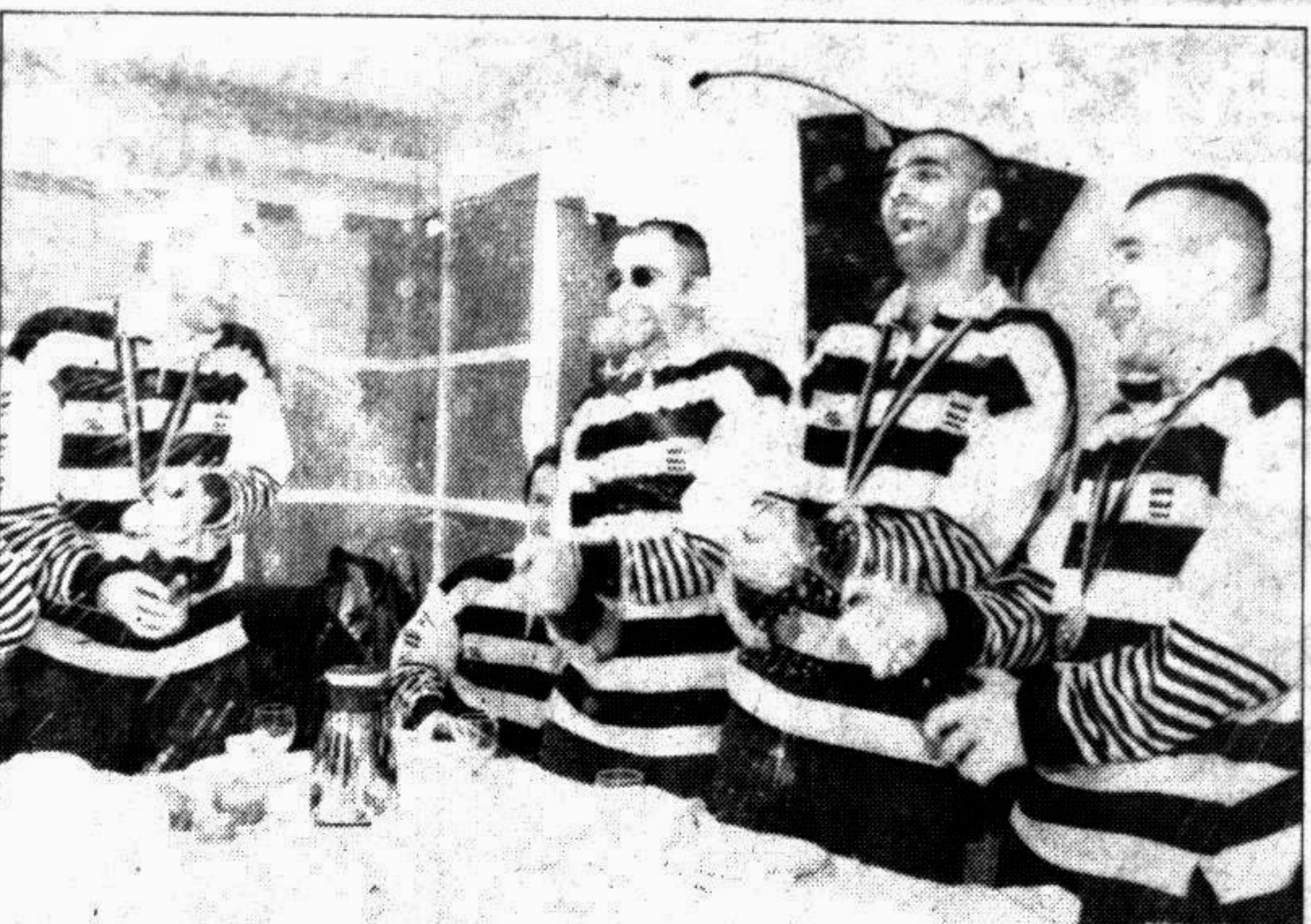
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French handball players Philippe Gardent (R) and Denis Lathoud (2-R) spray champagne while celebrating in Paris on May 22 with teammates their winning the World Championship in Reykjavik the day before. In the final they beat Croatia. — AFP/UNB photo

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Stich has had mixed success. The 1991 Wimbledon champion reached the final in Munich but in two other clay court tournaments, Monte Carlo and Hamburg, he managed just one win.

Despite Monday's well-earned victory, clay remains Stich's least favourite surface, the lanky German showing his disdain twice in the final three games by slamming his racket into the court after missing easy points.

"In the matches I've played on clay I wasn't that lucky, the balls weren't going the way I wanted," said Stich, who reached the semifinals of 1991 French Open for his best result. "It took the confidence out of my game, I wasn't happy with the way I was performing."

"It's tough to come out here, you're not just playing for yourself but for your country."

"But I did feel much better today than I have the past few weeks."

The United States, without the services of world number one Andre Agassi and number two Pete Sampras, took the second singles when Maliva

Washington beat Kartsen Braasch 6-0, 7-6 (7-5).

But Braach linked with Patrick Kuhnert to beat the US Davis Cup duo of Richey Reneberg and Jared Palmer 1-6, 7-6 (7-1), 6-4.

That was a blue Group tie. Russia tops the Red Group thanks to upset singles victories by Alexander Volkov and Andrei Chesnokov over Dutch opponents.

Volkov, ranked 35th in the world, provided the biggest surprise by defeating number 15 Richard Krajicek 6-4, 6-4.

Earlier Chesnokov, 40th in the rankings, disposed of number 28 Jacco Eltingh 6-0, 7-6 (7-2).

The Dutch took the doubles, Paul Haarhuis and Eltingh beating Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Chesnokov 6-4, 6-2.

It was the ninth-ranked Kafelnikov's first action since bowing out of last week's Italian Open with tendonitis in both knees.

The 21-year-old Russian, already the winner of two tournaments this year, has indicated he may lay singles later this week depending on his knees.

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## Navratilova era runs dry

NEW YORK, May 23: Martina Navratilova has not missed a Wimbledon since 1973, but her trip back to the All-England Club next month still has her feeling a bit odd, reports Reuter.

For the first time, Navratilova, Wimbledon's all-time leading singles champion with nine crowns, will be playing just doubles, teaming up with Steffi Graf after having retired from full time singles competition last year.

"It's going to be weird," said Navratilova. "I got the entry form and filled out the doubles and for a split second I thought about putting my name down on the singles line."

"Then I said, no way!"

Navratilova, 38, spoke at a news conference Monday to announce that she will also work as an analyst for the US HBO Cable Television Network at Wimbledon.

Last year Navratilova had an emotional centre court farewell as a singles player,

## Rusedski Britons' Wimbledon hope

LONDON, May 23: For the first time in several years, a British player winning Wimbledon is considered more likely than a verified UFO landing, reports AP.

Monday's decision by the International Tennis Federation to allow Canadian-born Greg Rusedski, the fastest server in the game, to play for Britain dramatically shortened the odds for a home victory.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 City of ancient Greece

6 English Channel port

12 Honest Stir up

13 Western event

15 Ignite

16 Comedians

17 Genealogy chart conclusion

20 Year-end celebration

22 Perched

24 Past

27 Vendetta

29 Laugh-a-minute

32 The question

35 Bridge position

36 — Valley, Calif.

37 Veto

38 Gretzky's millieu

40 School-book

42 Blue

44 Bellicose

deity

46 "Diary of — Housewife"

50 "— bragh!"

52 Mexican munch

54 They may be made of paper

55 Mar

56 Photo-copier supplies

57 Move by momentum

1 Waterery shade

2 Ladder feature

3 Boastful

4 Raw rock

5 Colonists

6 Encrust

7 Sign of spring

8 Mr. Chaney

9 One way to get into show biz

10 Puerto Rico, for example

11 Appear

12 Compass pt.

18 Come together again

21 Venusian vessel

23 Skill

24 Packed away

25 — long way

26 Volcanic glass

28 Butler, e.g.

30 Sapporo sash

31 Riffle of Westerns

33 List-shortening abbr.

34 Ducks, in "Variety"

39 Rinin' to go

41 Neighbor of St. Pete

42 Ninth mo.

43 Woody's son

45 Supreme commander?

47 "Serpico" author

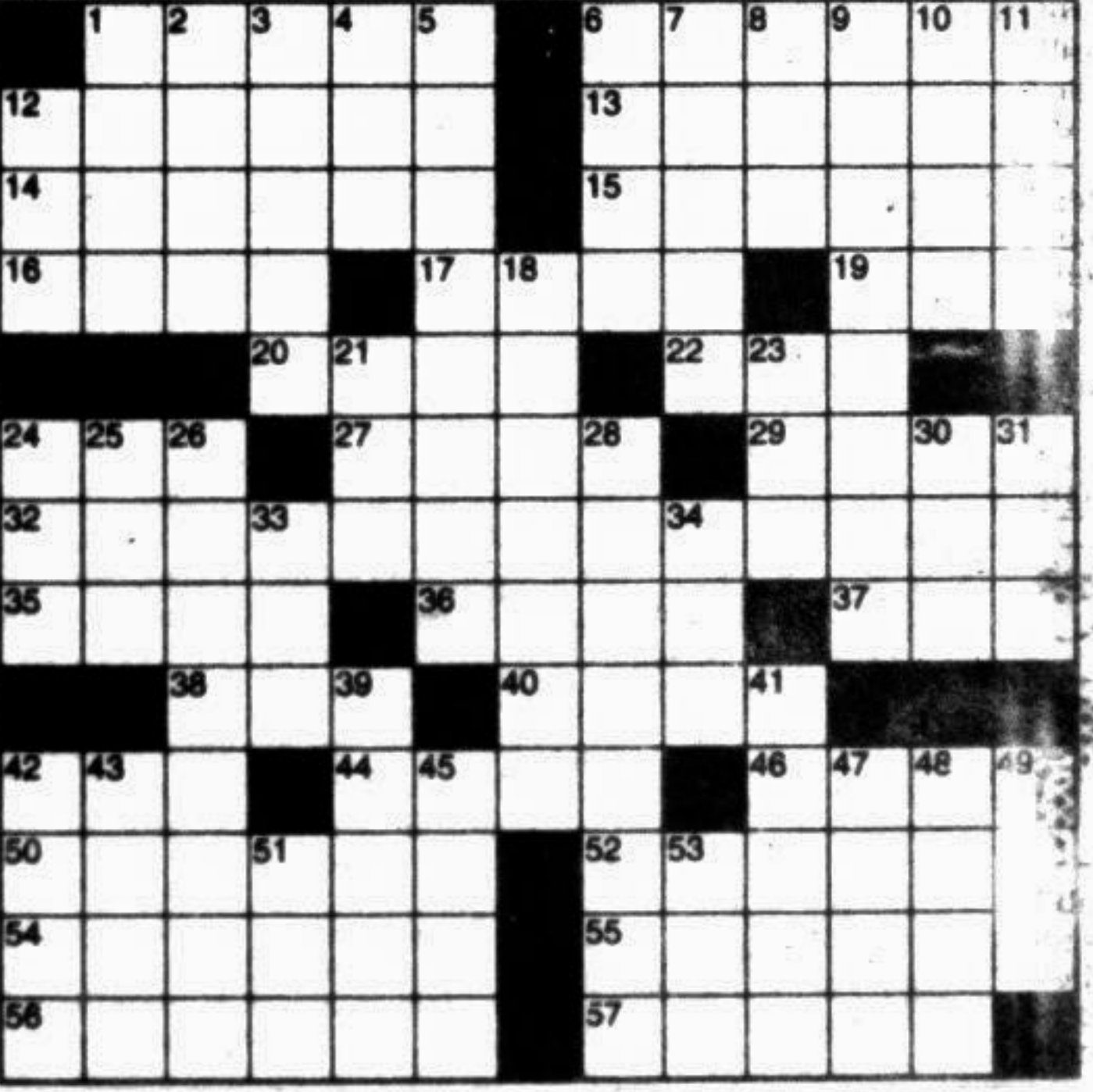
48 Dis-mounted

49 Aachen article

51 180 degrees from 12

Down

53 Livy's "I love"



CRYPTOQUIP

Z H H T Z X H J Q B A B F Z U B  
Q Z F S J T B X Z E A U J T H Y O  
Y Z H H J E L K B T B O B U Z I K B I

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MY LAST HUSBAND IS A REAL TREASURE, AND I HOPE NOBODY DIGS HIM UP.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: O equals Y

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

## Ngugi gunning for gold

NAIROBI, May 23: Reinstated Kenyan runner John Ngugi is aiming for a second Olympic gold medal for the 5,000 metres at Atlanta, Georgia, next year, reports AFP.

Ngugi, the 1988 Olympic 5,000m champion, and five times World cross-country champion, was suspended for four years on February 13, 1993, for refusing to give a drugs test sample.

He always protested an International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) official failed to properly identify himself and was not accompanied by a Kenyan track official when he demanded the sample. Ngugi also said there were language problems.

The IAAF lifted the ban on Sunday, but stressed this was an act of clemency and the offence remained on the books.

A photograph of a bare-chested Ngugi in Tuesday's East African Standard newspaper showed how overweight he has become. He told reporters he had put on 25 kilograms during his two years out of competition, but said he was working back to fitness.

He said after a 25km workout and three hours in a sauna: "Watch out for me, I will sweep everything from 1,500m to 5,000m and five more World cross-country titles."

He called John Whetton, the IAAF official who tried to collect a urine sample from him, "A devil's messenger." He also attacked the Kenya Amateur Athletic Federation, saying it had failed to support his bid for reinstatement.

## US eves beat Canada

EDMONTON, Alberta, May 23: Natalie Neaton, a second-half substitute, scored in the 85th minute Monday, leading the US women's soccer team to a 2-1 victory over Canada in an exhibition game, reports AP.

Neaton sent a cross from Holly Manthei past Canadian goalkeeper Carla Chin in a World Cup tuneup before a crowd of some 500 at Commonwealth Stadium.

The goal came 27 minutes after teammate Tiffany Miller made it 1-1 by heading a high cross through heavy traffic over Chin's arm.

Canada opened the scoring in the dying seconds of the first half when Charmaine Hooper took a cross from Angela Kelly and beat goalkeeper Saskia Webber.

## N Ireland gets the nod

GOTHEBURG, May 23: Northern Ireland has been awarded the 1999 World Cross Country Championships as a gesture towards the peace process in the province, reports Reuter.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) announced the decision at its council meeting on Monday after clearing the way by asking other countries not to submit a bid.

The move follows talks between IAAF president Primo Nebiolo, the British Athletics Federation (BAF) and the Northern Ireland Sports Council.