

Brothers Union's Christopher (17) waits in vain as Abahani's keeper Dhanu is about to grip the ball in yesterday's match of the Lifebuoy Premier football league at the Dhaka Stadium. — Star photo

Public Works fix it with Victoria SC

Sports Reporter

PWD Sporting Club and Victoria Sporting Club split points in one of the two Lifebuoy First Division football league engagements which ended in a goalless draw at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The proceedings gave the impression that the result was pre-fixed long before the players entered the playing arena. Players of both the sides appeared relaxed and it seemed that they were fielded aimlessly without any plan. Players were very casual and with a few exceptions they are mostly locked up in their own halves.

Their occasional attacks produced naught as those were also without any particular or planned effort. Both the teams took to time wasting and were restlessly waiting for the end whistle.

In another match of the day Eskaton Sabuj Sangha humbled Santinagar Club 2-0 at the Mirpur Stadium. Both the goals were scored in the second half. Tipu opened the winners' account in the 68th minute while Arif netted the second goal 6 minutes away from the final whistle.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Lifebuoy Premier Division football league:

Arambagh KS vs Agrani Bank SC (4.30 pm Dhaka Stadium).

Wari Club vs Youngmen's Club Fakirerpool (6.30 pm Dhaka Stadium).

Lifebuoy First Division football league:

East End Club vs Badda Jagorani Sangsad (5 pm Mirpur Stadium).

Pioneer Division football league:

Tejgaon Nabataranga vs Diganta Majlish (2.30 pm Banani ground).

Modhubagh Friends Club vs Manikdi Provati Sangha (4 pm Banani ground).

Gazipur Eleven vs Kamal Young Society (2.30 pm Mohakhali T & T ground).

Chaitali Club vs Badda Jagorani Sangsad (Junior) (4 pm Mohakhali T & T ground).

Mukti Khelaghor Ashor vs Jatrabari KC (2.30 pm Jagannath University ground).

Eastern Football Club vs Redson KC (4 pm Jagannath University ground).

Bikrompur Eleven vs Manoor SC (2.30 pm Dhupkhola Metropolis ground).

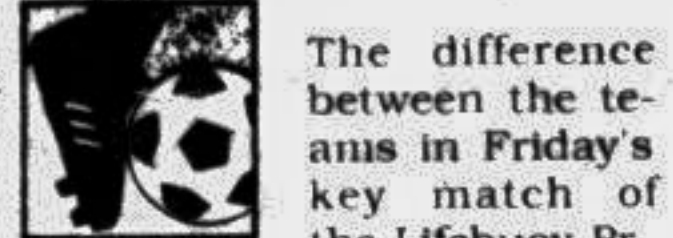
Sutrapur SC vs Diba Sangsad (4 pm Dhupkhola Metropolis ground).

Tenth Bata schools chess tournament: (NSC chess room).

Munna's blistering goal

Abahani alone on top

Sports Reporter



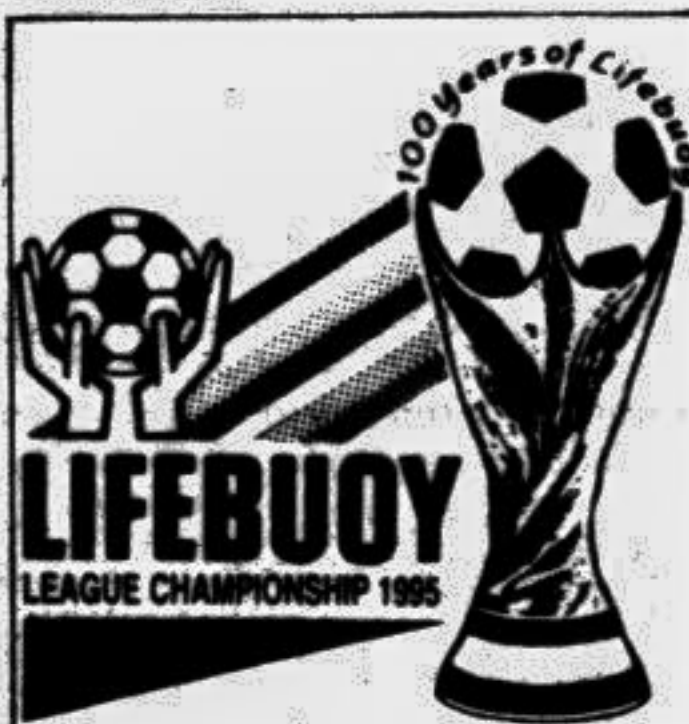
The difference between the teams in Friday's key match of the Lifebuoy Premier football league at the jam-packed Dhaka Stadium was more than the thunderous goal by Abahani Krira Chakra's prolific long-distance scorer Monem Munna. The real difference was in the positive attitude of champions Abahani and the sluggish approach of their opponents Brothers Union. The imbalance in temperament gained prominence as minutes ticked by in an otherwise exciting match. The final whistle pronounced Abahani as presently the lone leaders in the league. But, then, Abahani only know too well that it is never too lonely on the top rung of the football ladder.

In what was a crucial match, Abahani reigned supreme at the cost of Brothers who are now panting with nine points in near obscurity. The champions have 19 points from seven games and have on edge over title-chasers Muktiyoddha Sangsad (16 points) and Mohammedan Sporting Club (14 points).

Save for some bursts in the first quarter of the match, Brothers were not a shadow of the form that helped them to defeat giants Mohammedans last week. Abahani took control of the match midway into the first half and went on to tighten the noose on the Brothers' neck as the match matured. Abahani's prized attacking mid-fielder Munna found the deciding goal just past the half-hour mark with a resounding 40-yarder that ricocheted off the cross-piece to shake the net behind the stranded Brothers' custodian Tipu. Abahani supporters heralded the miraculous goal with a burst of crackers accompanied by a crescendo.

Earlier in the 10th minute a delightful Mamun floater from the right freed Aslam deep into the Brothers' box but the latter headed it off the mark with a diving effort. A minute later Aslam's miraculous free-kick beat the wall and loomed dangerously towards the goal-mouth but Tipu came to Brothers' rescue with a commendable second effort.

Shawpon gave Brothers the jitters just before Munna's goal as the out-of-box attempt hissed over the horizontal.



Soon after the all-important goal Brothers made two quick calls at the Abahani post but in vain. Don was too far ahead to take advantage of a right flank lob as Abahani's custodian Dhanu collected in his second attempt. Brothers Union again threatened the Dhanomandi outfit in the 36th minute when Bernard, winning Christopher's cross in the Abahani box, drove a powerful left-footer wide off the mark.

The second half belonged to Abahani but for occasional flashes by the orange-clad Brothers. Soon after the breather, Vladimir lowered a Brothers clearance with his chest but could only shoot over the bar. Several Abahani moves spelt danger but none brewed into a goal as Sergei could never match his shots with the chances. But, the miss of the day was delivered by Jahangir Hossain who failed to score in the 65th minute with Tipu in the gallops. Soon after Jahangir topped one from the left to beat an advanced Tipu but the shot was narrowly wide off the far post. Earlier, Jahangir's right-footer returned from the crosspiece.

Notable among Brothers' second-half attempts was Christopher's cross which was cut off by Sohail Reza before the minus could bear positive fruits. Brothers made a last ditch attempt to draw par but Amer Khan and Christopher failed to connect even after Dhanu failed to grip a Pijush cross.

If it is any consolation for Brothers Union, six Abahani players were booked compared to two of theirs. **YELLOW CARDS:** Mamun, Iqbal, Swapan and Jamal (Abahani). Bisu and Lulu (Brothers Union).

TEAMS

ABAHANI KC: Dhanu, Mamun, Ali Mansur (Iqbal), Sohail, Mansur, Vladimir, Munna, Sergei, Swapan (Jamal), Jahangir (Biplob) and Aslam.

BROTHERS UNION: Tipu, Pijush, Bisu, Pappu, Mizan, Bakhtiar, Amer Khan, Christopher, Bernard (Dulal), Lulu and (Mintu). Referee: Manirul Islam.

Iron Mike raring to go

LAS VEGAS, July 28: His torso rose up off the couch like a "rock out of the sea. And, indeed, his dusky features and tight-fitting black T-shirt suggested a block of granite, reports AP.

In one massive hand he held a remote to control the music flooding a living room, shaded from the blistering desert sun.

Occasionally, he would reach out a muscular arm and take a slice of apple or orange from a plate.

Mike Tyson was relaxing. "I'm back," he said with a

laugh during a 75-minute interview Wednesday at promoter Don King's house, where Tyson is living while his own house is being renovated. King was not present.

It was a freewheeling conversation, spanning subjects from boxing, of course, to music, Mao Tse-tung, Arthur Ashe and, obviously, prison. It was a conversation of life in and out of the boxing ring to which he will return August 19 against Peter McNeeley at the MGM Grand Garden.

This will be Tyson's first fight in more than four years. His body is honed by training and a strength and conditioning programme. It is fuelled by a nutritionist and a private chef.

"I'm basically pretty stable at this stage of my life," said the 29-year-old former undisputed heavyweight champion. "You can't grow holding grudges and being bitter."

When he was 20, he already was a champion, something he is confident he will be again. He thinks Mike Tyson II will surpass Mike Tyson I.

"This time I should be better, but I'm no fool, I know I'm a hard act to follow." His pride, obviously, is intact but tempered.

"Can you imagine me with my pride being told, 'Get back in your cell nigger and count,'" said Tyson, who was released March 25 from the Indiana Youth Correctional Facility after serving three years on a rape conviction.

"I know about humility. While in prison Tyson was quoted as saying he might not fight again.

"That I would say that shows I was feeling sorry for myself," he said. "But then I thought, 'Who am I going to hurt (by retiring)? I'm going to hurt myself.'"

"I was miserable back then," he added. Converting to Islam helped.

"That's the only thing that got me through. Most people have the wrong perception about Muslims. Most Muslims are humble, God-fearing people."

Though he says he has no Muslim name, "all the brothers call me Abdullah."

He seems to approach his religion as he does his profession, as a personal matter. "I read this guy Voltaire," Tyson said.

Pioneer soccer

Sports Reporter

Railway Blues and Apurba Jubo Sangha recorded 2-0 victories against their respective opponents in the Pioneer Division football league engagements at two different city grounds yesterday.

Barua and Manik scored once each for Railway against Aganagar PMS at the Dhupkhola metropolis ground.

At the Mirpur Stadium Abdul Latif and Saifur were on target in Apurba's victory over Nabodoy Sangha.

The matches featuring Suryoshikha and Spandan KC, and Dogair Chand Tara Club verses Kalindi KC ended goalless.

Meanwhile, Sawdesh Samaj Kalyan beat Suryoshena SC by a lone goal at the Rajuk ground.

Kamrul Hossain netted the winner.

Schools chess

Sports Reporter

Defending champion Abdullah-Al-Rakib won his opening encounter of the tenth schools chess tournament at the chess room of the National Sports Council (NSC) yesterday. A total of 76 first round matches were held on the first day of the competition.

Yesterday's other notable winners were — national player Enamul Hossain Rajib, national junior champion Adnan Faisal and sub-junior champion Syed Mahfuzur Rahman Imon.

Schillaci J-League's MVP

TOKYO, July 28: High-scoring Italian striker Salvatore Schillaci of Jubilo Iwata grabbed the Most Valuable Player award today with 24 goals in the first half of the Japanese football league, reports AFP.

"I never expected to receive this award," said the 30-year-old forward, who earned a one-million-yen (11,430-dollar) prize. "It stimulates me to continue to do my best in the second stage."

Schillaci, also top scorer in the 1990 World Cup, scored 24 goals in 26 games to help Jubilo to fifth place in the 14-team league.

Schillaci gained another 500,000 yen for being selected to the best 11 along with German defender Guido Buchwald of Urawa Red Diamonds and former Yugoslav captain Dragan Stojkovic of Nagoya Grampus Eight.

Calcutta MSC beat East Bengal

CALCUTTA, July 28: Mohammedan Sporting played their hearts out to stun title-aspirant East Bengal by a solitary second half goal in the Churns Super Division league match at the Salt Lake Stadium here today, reports PTI.

Striker Shamim Ahmed struck the match-winner early in the second session after winger Abdul Khaliq had done all the spadework from the left flank in a rather lacklustre encounter.

After being locked goalless at the interval, Mohammedan Sporting, under their new coach Syed Hakiem, took full advantage of a tentative defence to turn the table on the fancied team in the first big match of the Super Division.

England gain upper hand



MANCHESTER, July 28: England finished the second day of the fourth Test in a powerful position here at Old Trafford today with a first innings lead of 131 runs and three wickets remaining, reports AFP.

Michael Atherton set a fine example with a gutsy 47, while Robin Smith (44) and Graham Thorpe (94) put England in the driving seat. Bad light stopped play with 6 overs remaining. Test debutant Mike Watkinson was 25 not out with partner Dominic Cork (3 n.o.).

England slowly but surely tightened their grip on the fourth Test as they moved ahead of West Indies by 10 runs with six wickets in hand at tea.

When rain halted play 25 minutes before the scheduled interval, England had reached 226 for four thanks to a fourth wicket stand of 104 by Graham Thorpe and Robin Smith.

Thorpe was unbeaten on 70 but Smith fell victim to a brilliant catch at second slip. He had made 44 when Ambrose made a delivery climb in at him and the ball flew via bat-handle and looked as though it would comfortably elude substitute Stuart Williams, but the reserve opener dived full

length and held a magnificent one-handed catch.

With Craig White joining Thorpe in the middle, steady drizzle forced players to leave the field before any addition to the total.

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tain Mike Atherton for the opening hour of the morning session.

But when Atherton fell three runs short of his half-century, Thorpe assumed control with the help of Smith.

It all added up to a superb response from England as they battled to secure a series-leveling victory after falling 2-1 behind in Birmingham earlier this month.

Inevitably, West Indian fast bowlers Curtly Ambrose, Courtney Walsh, Ian Bishop and Kenny Benjamin made life as uncomfortable as possible for the home side.

They dished up a liberal helping of bouncers — and Walsh was given an official warning by umpire Dickie Bird.

Atherton had just been hit on the chest by Walsh when Bird intervened.

Despite that blow, the captain built confidently on his overnight 15 after England had resumed at 65 for two.

He should have been dismissed for 26 when edging Bishop to Brian Lara at first slip but survived that comfortable chance to reach 47.

Atherton's downfall eventually came when he gloved Ambrose to wicketkeeper Junior Murray — a dismissal that gave Ambrose his 250th Test wicket.

GRAHAM THORPE ... 94

zling sunshine that forced the players to take an early tea the previous day.

Earlier, Thorpe was happy to play second fiddle to cap-



HOWZAT! Dominic Cork appeals successfully to have Brian Lara out leg before during first day's play of the fourth Test between England and West Indies at Old Trafford on July 27. Lara returned to form with a brilliant 87 to stand tall among the Caribbean ruins. — APF/UNB photo

Agassi, Sampras in qtrs

MONTREAL, July 28: Top-seeded Andre Agassi and No. 2 Pete Sampras both reached the quarterfinals of the 2.5 million dollars Canadian Open Thursday, reports AP.

Agassi, who ousted Sampras as world No. 1, breezed by Czech qualifier Daniel Vacek 6-3, 6-2. Sampras had no more trouble in bouncing unseeded Mauricio Hadad of Colombia 6-2, 6-3 on the hardcourts at Jarry Stadium.

"I'd like to meet Pete in the finals because he's the guy to beat," said Agassi, who has reached at least the

quarterfinals in 17 consecutive tournaments. "When I do beat him, I feel it's a huge accomplishment."

"He's arguably the best player in the world. He's one guy that if I play my best tennis, I don't necessarily win."

Each has two matches to win before Sunday's final, starting today when Agassi meets unseeded fellow American Malivai Washington, who ousted 1994 French Open champion and ninth seed Sergi Bruguera of Spain 6-4, 6-2.

Sampras, in his first tournament since winning a third straight Wimbledon title on July 3, faces seventh-seeded

German Michael Stich in the quarterfinals.

Such downed the 10th seed, Jim Courier of the United States, 6-3, 6-2.

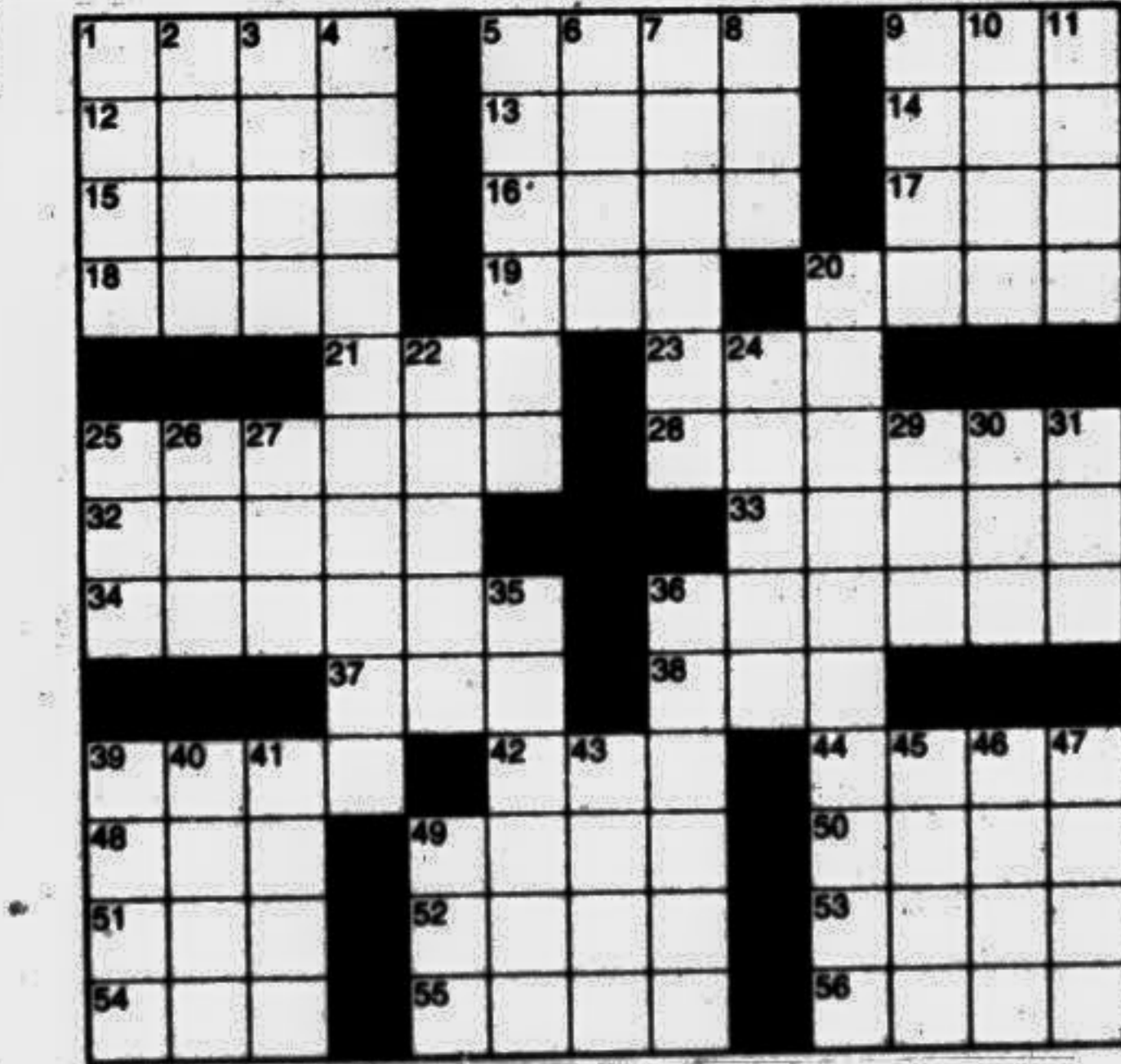
"It should be a good match because we both play a similar style," said Sampras, whose career record against Stich is even at three wins apiece.

Agassi has gone 81-11 in matches since winning the Canadian Open in Toronto last year, including wins in the US Open last September and the Australian Open in January.

He says this year's US Open beginning Aug. 29 should decide who is best between the two.

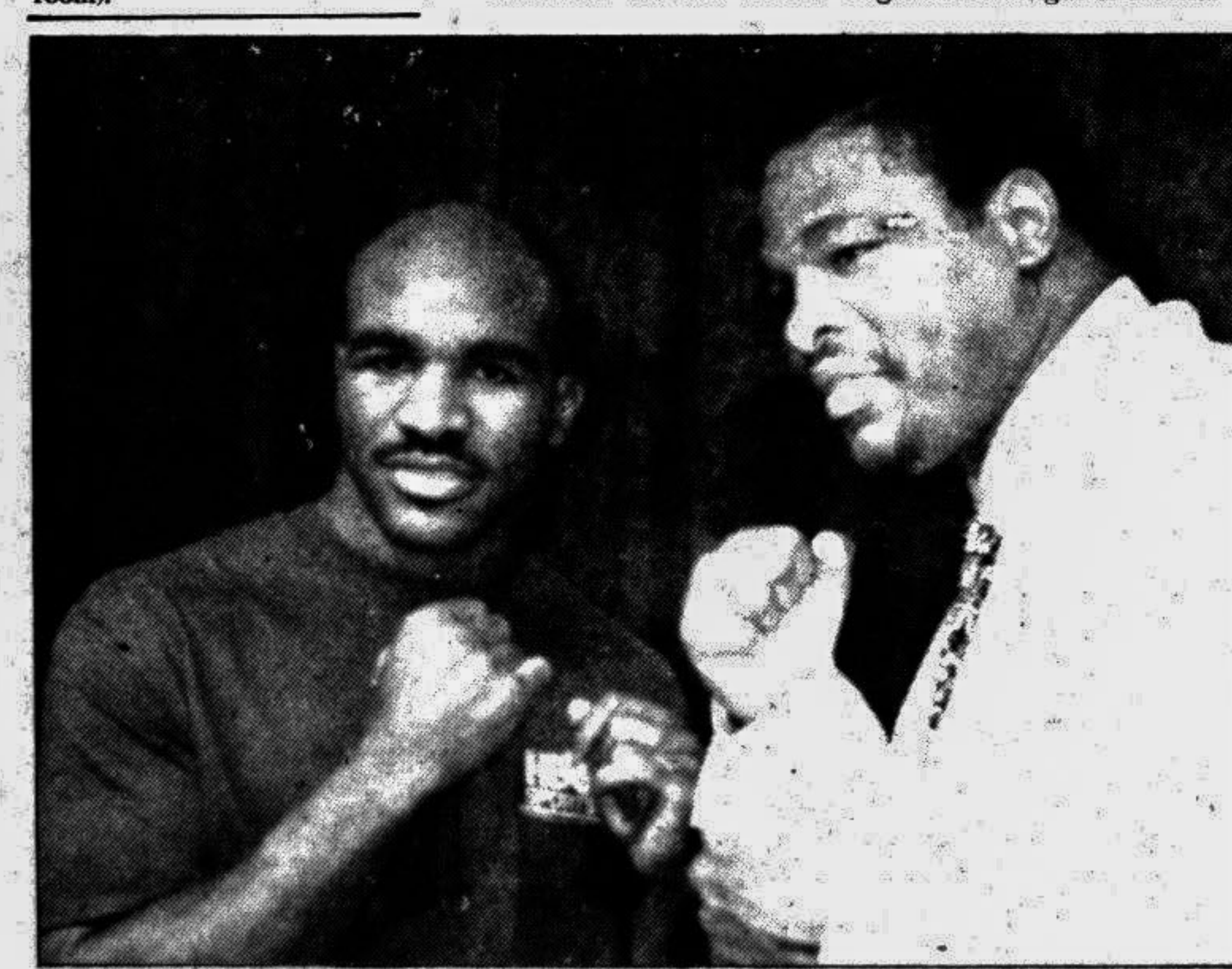
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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CRYPTOQUIP

JSC BPY WXKD HYZAVVAVZ
ZYXNXZAKDK JXPFAVZ
AVDSY IAYNU IXXNYU
HC KSBW P X OF K ?
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AT SEVERAL GET-TOGETHERS, ENGLISH LITERATURE CLASS WOULD DANCE THE OLIVER TWIST.
Today's Cryptoquip clue: P equals R
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 champions Evandar Holyfield (L) and Riddick Bowe pose after announcing the date of their upcoming clash at a press conference in New York on July 26. Their bout is scheduled for November 4 at Las Vegas. — APF/UNB photo