

Sport

Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT before the introduction of the heart-breaking tie-breaker system in football matches went on for ever. The longest FA Cup tie was between Stoke City and Bury in January, 1955 when the teams met five times between January 8 and 24 for 9 hours and 22 minutes before Stoke won it 3-2. The 22 minutes fraction was extra-time play after which the match was abandoned on January 12.

Nowadays, 22 players sweat it for 90 minutes full time, 30 minutes extra time; but, if there's a tie, ten (often more under more-equal circumstances) penalties are taken to resolve the issue in about ten minutes time. The whole thing is totally unfair particularly to the losing side. But, to the winners, there could not have been any body more deserving.

Thank goodness, FIFA got wise and the tie-breaker was put into practice. Otherwise, the fixed matches of Bangladesh would have gone on and on and on.

SPORTS TALK



Joe Louis

(Former world heavyweight boxing champion) "Everybody wants to go to heaven, but nobody wants to die." (1965)

Sports WHIZZ KID-2

Winners of the competition:



- 1. Sharif Maidul Kabir Scholastica
2. Umar A Salim Khulna Zilla School
3. Faria Salim Khulna Govt Girls' School
4. Rakhtin Tripura Ramgarh Govt High School
5. Hussain Patel 27 Dhanmondi
(Please collect your prizes from The Daily Star office.)

Sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN (The rules are published every Saturday.)

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-3

Tick the Correct Answer (Competition closes: 8 PM, Sept 8, 1995)

- 1. Where was the 1992 Olympics held? Barcelona Atlanta Seoul
2. The national game of Bangladesh is Kabaddi Football Cricket
3. In cricket the distance between the wickets is 22 yards 33 feet 44 metres
4. How many players play in a basketball team? 5 7 9
5. Bangladesh youths are better than Great Britain in Handball Football Volleyball

Name: Class: Roll No: School Address: Phone: (if any)

WHIZZ KID-2 Correct answers

- 1. How many players in a handball team? Ans: 7
2. What game is Old Trafford famous for? Ans: Cricket
3. Which game is not an Olympic event? Ans: Kabaddi
4. Which game uses the expression 'checkmate'? Ans: Chess
5. Of which game is the world body called FIFA? Ans: Football



American Amy Frazier plays a forehand return against Mary Pierce of France in the third round of the US Open at Flushing Meadows, New York on Friday. Frazier won the match 6-3, 7-6 (8-6). -AFP/UNB photo

Sampras settles a score

NEW YORK, Sept 2: It was a different year, a different US Open tennis championships and above all a different Pete Sampras on Friday night, report agencies.

A year ago, Sampras was hobbled by a foot injury and weakened by a lack of match preparation and the then defending Open champion dramatically fell to Jaime Yzaga in a titanic five-set, 3 1/2 hour battle in the fourth round.

This time, on the same National Tennis Centre Stadium Court, Sampras was healthy and primed for the occasion and the second seed took quick and ruthless revenge by beating the Peruvian 6-1, 6-4, 6-3 in a second-round match.

"This match I was looking forward to, once I saw the draw, to get a little revenge," Sampras said. "What happened last year didn't sit well with me. I wasn't in shape. I was unprepared. You never forget a loss like that, especially at a major. Tonight I was really pumped up."

"I was ready to go from the first point and set the tone of the match." If Sampras was thinking about last year's clash, Yzaga was not.

"That is something in the past and the past is over," he said.

Yzaga said he had high hopes of repeating last year's upset, but never was able to mount a serious challenge against the American.

"I was always down," Yzaga

said after the 92-minute shellacking. "He played a great match, he almost didn't make any mistakes."

Sampras was nearly perfect on his serve, bombing in bullet deliveries to hammer Yzaga into submission. He fired 16 aces, and lost just 15 points on his serve in the match. Yzaga never had a break point.

"It's hard when someone is serving that big," Yzaga said.

Sampras' serve is his biggest weapon and once that was clicking, everything else in the arsenal of the three-time Wimbledon champion was on target.

"Once I'm serving well my whole game carries on behind it," said Sampras, who had 34 winners.

The men's side also featured just one surprise as ninth seed Thomas Enqvist fell to Byron Black of Zimbabwe 6-4, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 in the second round.

The Swede had come into the tournament as one of the summer's hottest players, having reached the final and the semifinals in his last three tournaments, but his failure here continued his pattern of Grand Slam disappointments.

Enqvist has lost in the third round or before in 11 of 12 majors he has played.

However, third seed Thomas Muster of Austria, 12th seed Richard Krajcek of the Netherlands and Americans Michael Chang, the fifth seed, 14th-seeded Jim Courier and 15th seed Todd Martin easily moved into the third round.

Of the group only Muster, loser, also likes the 19-year-old Rubin's chances against the reigning Wimbledon and French Open champion.

"You need power to beat Steffi and she has got the power," Fernandez said. "If she attacks Steffi's backhand and the forehand is in control, I think she has a very good chance."

The timing might be right for an upset.

The Lafayette, Louisiana native should be the fan

favoured, and the top-seeded Graf has been distracted by the arrest of father Peter in Germany for tax evasion and has been slowed by a chronic back pain.

Rubin is more concerned about herself than about Graf. "I'm not really thinking about what she is not doing well," she said of Graf, who beat France's Nathalie Tauziat 6-3, 6-3 to advance. "I'm just going out and do what I've been doing well."

Rubin has been doing a lot of things well recently. Since reaching the French Open quarter-finals, Rubin has compiled a 16-5 singles record. This summer Rubin has been runner-up twice and won an exhibition event in Mahwah, New Jersey last week.

"She has really improved in the last few months," Graf said of the American teen she last played more than two years ago, losing just three games. "She is a more confident player."

Rubin's confidence level jumped to a whole new level when she rallied from 0-5 down and three match points in the last set to beat Jana Novotna in the French Open quarter-finals.

"That has got to give you a lot of confidence and help you believe that it is never over until you shake hands," said Fernandez. "Right now she is riding on that wave and it will probably last for a little longer."

Graf sees few weaknesses in Rubin's all-court game. "She is a talented player," Graf said. "She has a great serve and she can really go for her shots."

Rubin has in mind a simple strategy to produce the upset.

"I'm going to do all and play aggressive and do all the things that I've been doing," she said.

Rubin ready to rock 'n' roll

NEW YORK, Sept 2: Rising American star Chanda Rubin is not bashful about rating her chances against top seed Steffi Graf at the US Open, reports Reuter.

"I definitely think I can win," said Rubin after beating Gigi Fernandez Friday to set up a marquee fourth-round showdown with the German. Fernandez, a 7-6, 6-1

loser, also likes the 19-year-old Rubin's chances against the reigning Wimbledon and French Open champion.

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Steffi Graf of Germany signs autographs after her third round match of the US Open against Nathalie Tauziat of France at Flushing Meadows on Friday. Graf won the match 6-3, 6-3. -AFP/UNB photo

Windies in unfestive mood

SCARBOROUGH, England, Sept 2: West Indies manager Wes Hall was compelled to tell the touring team to declare when they showed no interest in setting up a positive finish to their Scarborough Festival match on Friday, reports Reuter.

West Indies, who had a first innings lead of 129 against Yorkshire in their final first-class tour game, did not declare their second innings until they were 356 for four.

Yorkshire, set an impossible victory target of 486 in 125 minutes plus 20 overs, were 143 for three when the match ended in a draw on the third and last day.

Hall said: "In my day we knew how to play festival cricket but some of these boys don't."

"I was surprised when we were still batting after lunch. When I got to the dressing room I insisted on a declaration."

"It's a bit unfortunate but we have had a busy summer and most of our leading bowlers are injured so we were under a lot of pressure."

Yorkshire seemed to find it difficult to apply their minds to playing out time and lost three wickets to some careless cricket, but captain Martyn Moxon prevented any possible collapse.

Moxon made an unbeaten 55 from 123 balls, hitting nine fours, before bad light brought an early finish to the game and shouts of derision from the spectators.

Shivnarine Chanderpaul and Carl Hooper earlier completed largely unchallenged centuries, adding 162 in 36 overs for the fourth wicket.

Hooper's 105, which included one six and 19 fours, came from 119 deliveries while Chanderpaul made an unbeaten 132, facing 219 balls and hitting one six and 18 fours.

The Scarborough Festival, a traditional feature of Yorkshire cricket at this stage of the season, continues with a one-day tour-ending match between West Indies and the President's XI on Sunday.

Saunders has other plans

CARDIFF, Sept 2: Welsh striker Dean Saunders of Turkish First Division Galatasaray will miss next Wednesday's European Championship qualifier against Moldova so he can be with his wife who is expecting their third child, reports Reuter.

Saunders, formerly of English Premier League Aston Villa and Liverpool, was withdrawn from the Welsh squad on Friday on compassionate grounds.

Manager Bobby Gould is allowing Saunders to stay in Istanbul alongside his wife, with the birth of their third child imminent.

"It would be unfair in the circumstances to expect Dean to travel to Cardiff," Gould said. "I feel this is a time when he should be with his family."

The absence of Saunders will mean promotion for wether Arsenal's John Hartson or Gareth Taylor of Bristol Rovers, who are both in the under-21 team which plays on Tuesday and on stand-by for the senior squad.

Mary came, saw and lost

NEW YORK, Sept 2: A Grand Slam season that soared at the finish for Mary Pierce, who was left wondering what hit her after falling to unseeded Amy Frazier Friday in the third round of the US Open, reports Reuter.

Pierce, whose good looks, hard-hitting style and multi-national connections have made her an international crowd favourite, saw her high hopes for a return to Grand Slam glory ruined on the windblown Stadium Court 6-3, 7-6 (8-6).

"I am really disappointed, I have to be honest," said the 20-year-old Pierce, who was born in Montreal, grew up in Florida and plays internationally for France.

"I started the year off better than I expected. And the rest of the year didn't go as I expected."

Pierce, who thought she had overcome a mid-season slump brought on by a groin pull, a kidney infection and a lack of confidence, said she was plagued by the swirling wind as her attacking

groundstroke game accounted for 46 unforced errors. She had come to Flushing Meadows with great expectations following trips to a sports psychologist, intense workouts with a new trainer and the loss of about 13 pounds (six kilos).



MARY PIERCE The best-laid preparations and plans, however, came

undone against the steady shotmaking of 20th-ranked Frazier.

"After winning the Australia, which was unbelievable and I didn't expect, it was like a dream come true to win my first Grand Slam tournament," said Pierce, who achieved the greatness predicted for her after cutting ties to her bullying, overbearing father, who had served as her coach.

"It was just amazing when you win something like that. You start to believe that you know you are finally ready to be able to compete at the top, week in and week out."

Then the injuries and illnesses I got made it hard for me to do that. Now I have been feeling well for the past two months and that is why I was really excited to play here."

After her Melbourne triumph over Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario in the final, Pierce's season spluttered.

She was eliminated from the fourth of 16 at the French Open, where a year before she had been to the final. At Wimbledon, she lost in the second round.

Middlesex miss the bus

LONDON, Sept 2: Middlesex failed in a bold bid to regain the English County Championship lead they lost 24 hours earlier to Warwickshire, despite a superb century from opener Paul Weekes on Friday, reports Reuter.

Weekes sped to three figures in 135 deliveries as middlesex pursued a daunting victory target of 367 off 55 overs to beat fellow title contenders Northamptonshire at Uxbridge.

Weekes could not find an ally to give him sustained support and ultimately had to defend doggedly as wickets were tumbling, ending with an unbeaten 127 out of 277 for six as the four-day game was drawn.

The result left title-holders Warwickshire top on 289 points after their victory over Gloucestershire on Thursday. Middlesex second with 277 and Northants, seeking to win the championship for the first time, third with 266.

Fourth-placed Lancashire stayed in the hunt by completing an emphatic nine-wicket victory over Surrey at The Oval earlier in the day to move up to 263 points.

The top four teams each have two games left.

Middlesex's run chase was given a dashy start by Weekes and Jason Pooley (74), who put on 126, but the running out of Mark Ramprakash cheaply was a

critical blow. Captain Mike Gatting helped to maintain the momentum but, at 201 for three, Middlesex needed 166 off the last 20 overs and it was Northants who then scented victory when four wickets went for 39.

Rob Bailey had earlier completed his second century of the match — the first time in his career he had achieved the feat — with 119 to follow his 157 as Northants declared on 238 for six.

South African captain Hansie Cronje was dismissed one run short of a century as he fired Leicestershire to a six-wicket home win over Glamorgan — their fourth win in five championship games.

Leicestershire passed their target of 283 with more than seven overs to spare after Ben Smith (62 not out) and Cronje who hit four sixes and eight fours in 93 balls, had compiled a fourth-wicket stand worth 130 in just 15

overs. Worcestershire scored their highest-ever first-class total but were unable to secure a victory as Somerset comfortably batted out time at Worcester.

Worcestershire piled up 670 for seven declared but Somerset, needing 245 to avoid an innings defeat, were 275 for three in their second innings at the end of the drawn match.

Chinese nat'l soccer league on Star TV

Star TV kicks-off another season from the Chinese national football league, top professional league in China, beginning this Sunday, September 3 at 4:00 pm. Last year, the Star TV network signed a ten-year agreement with the China Football Association (CFA) and International Management Group (IMG) awarding Star TV (live and exclusive) terrestrial, satellite and cable broadcasting rights (except in China) for selected 'Showcase Matches' from the First Division, says a press release.

Each week, Mandarin commentary will be provided by Kenneth Lau who will be joined by a variety of special guests including coaches from various Chinese teams as well as national team coach Qi Wusheng.

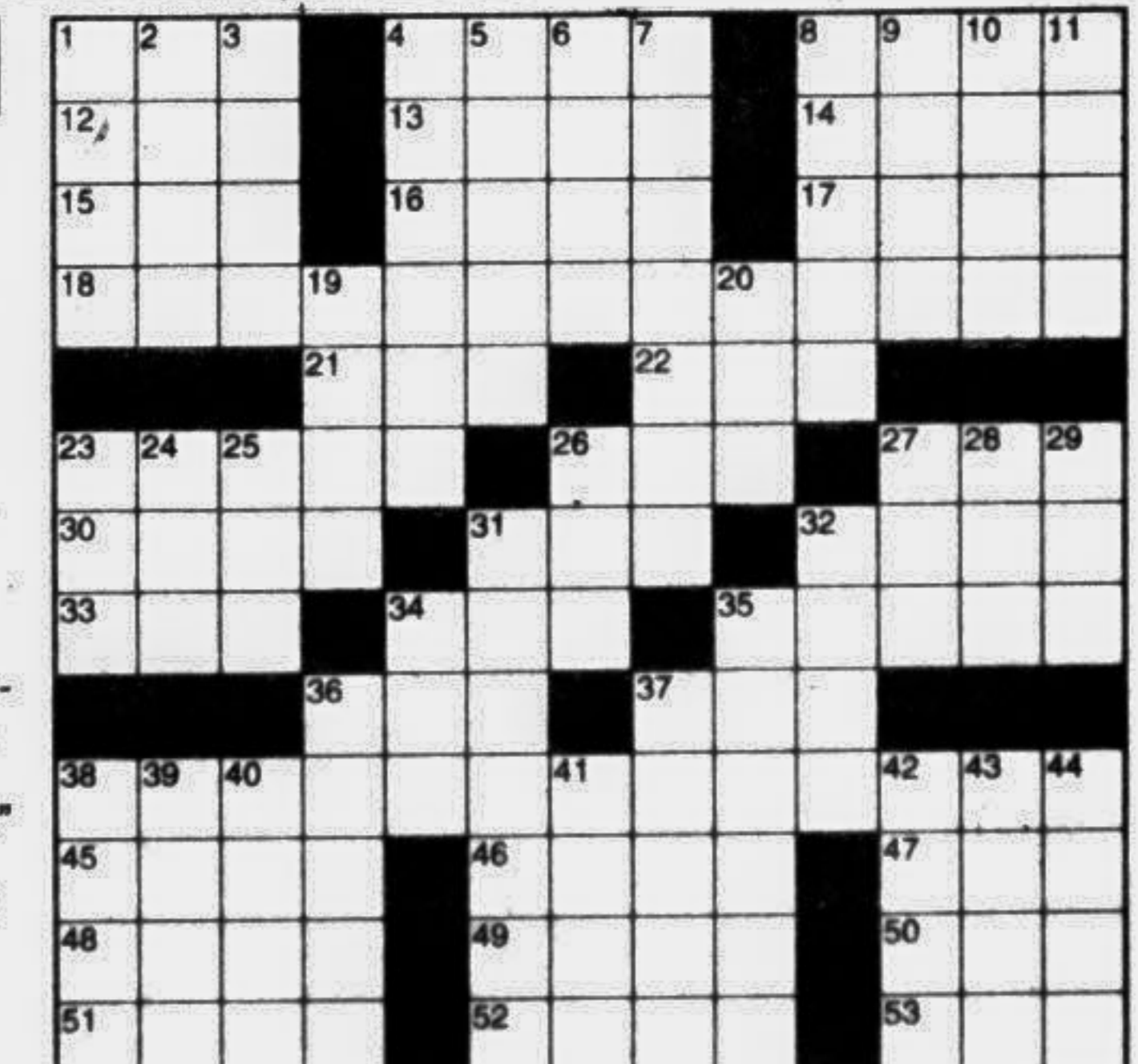
Star TV's on-site production will be enhanced this season as the crew have been granted access to the pitch and team locker rooms. Special features and interviews with the players and coaches, together with the match coverage, will make for two entertaining hours of football on Sunday evenings.

English commentary will be provided by Brian Langley, Hong Kong football star Dale Tempest, and Nick Mould from the Asian Football Confederation.

Table with columns: Date, Teams, Broadcast Time (BST), Coverage. Lists matches from Sept 3 to Nov 19.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a solution time of 23 mins and a word bank at the bottom.



CRYPTOQUIP J Z N C U J Q E J P A U Q J C Z N C U Q E U V K A O U I J M Q U M K B P U Q J H J J I J M V K P B H N P Q A H V K P J H J P G. Yesterday's Cryptquip: LIGHTING STRIKES WOMAN ON WALL STREET; CREATES A SHOCK MARKET. Today's Cryptquip clue: C equals R. The Cryptquip 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.