

Imran Khan

(Pakistani cricket legend) "For me the one-bouncerper-over rule is without doubt one of the most brainless pieces of legislation passed by the ICC. Apart from protecting incompetent and gutless batsman. I'm not sure what it is supposed to

DID U' KNOW?

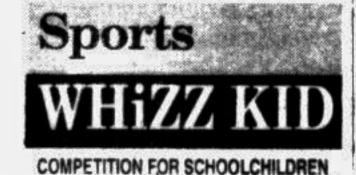
(The Professor does)

T HAT like the Olympic A Games, the Commonwealth Games is the sports festival of the Commonwealth countries. Held at an interval of four years, only in between the Olympic years, the C'wealth Games began in 1930 and for the first time were held at Hamilton, Canada The participants are those

countries which were formerly a part of the British Empire and, as independent countries, are now members of an international grouping called Commonwealth of Only eleven countries took

part in the Hamilton Games. Today about fifty nations vie for Commonwealth honours Bangladesh's first gold in the

Games was won by shooters Atique Rahman and Abdus Satter



(The rules are published every Saturday).

Sports WHiZZ KID competition-19 Tick the Correct Answer

(Competition closes: 8 p.m.

	Dec	29, 1995)						
1	Illie Nastase was famous for playing								
	Tennis	Football	Cricket						
2.	"Beamer" is a term used in								
	Cneket	Rugby	Squash						
3.	Where is Sabina Park, the famous cricket ground, located?								
0000001	Jamaica	Barbados	Trinidad						
4.	Who is Bangladesh's national football toach?								
	Pfister	Akraniov	Gaffar						
5.	Tottenha	ni?							

Name: A DESTRUCTION SERVICE SERVICE OF SECURIOR AND SERVICE OF

Class Roll No School Address.....

Phone: (if any)

Hotspurs

Tonya's mystery honeymoon!

WASHINGTON, Dec 26 Don't ask where disgraced Olympic skater Tonya Harding is honeymooning, reports "Do you think I'm stupid?"

the skater responded when asked where she and new hubby Michael Smith would spend their post-nuptial hol-Harding, beoted for life

from figure-skating competition for her role in a kneeslamming attack on colleague Nancy Kerrigan, was married Saturday aboard a yacht on a river in Portland, Oregon.

It was the fourth marriage for Smith, a 29-year-old machinist. "I'm very happy, and I hope to keep it that way," Harding said.

China to soup up boxing

BEIJING, Dec 26: China plans to hire foreign boxing coaches and sparring partners and send their boxers abroad for training next year to boost their standards, a sports official said today, reports Reuter.

The boxing centre under the cabinet's State Sports Commission plans to hire coaches from Cuba, Russia and Europe, along with sparring partners from Cuba, centre official Liang Xiaolong said.

"It will be long term and systematic starting next year," Liang said.

China banned boxing in 1959 after the death of a boxer in national games, saying the sport was "uncivilised" and too danger-

The ban was lifted in 1986, but the standard of Chinese boxing lags far behind many other sports, in which Chinese competitors are world class.

Boxing is still frowned upon here, although China has about 1,000 amateur box-

Column One One Old Boon on way back

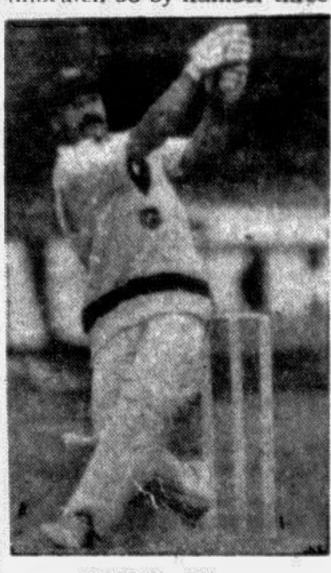
Dec 26: Sri Lanka, jubilant after being cleared of ball-tampering. faced further controversy on Tuesday when

off-spinner Muttiah Muraliaharan's bowling action was ruled illegal on the opening day of the second Test, reports Reuter Muralidharan, whose action has been queried in the

past was no-balled seven times in three overs by Australian umpire Darrell Hair as the home side built a commanding first innings total at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

But Muralidharan struck back in dramatic fashion late in the day with a wicket in his 17th over when he bowled Mark Waugh, who played on when attempting to cut with his score on 61.

Those incidents overshadowed a typically resolute and unbeaten 93 by number three



BOON... 93 n.o.

batsman David Boon, his highest first-class score of the season, as Australia reached 234 for three at close of play.

Patrick Keane of the Australian cricket board said International Cricket Council (ICC) match referee Graham Dowling had confirmed the umpire no-balled Muralidharan for throwing.

The umpires will file a report on the day's events to the ICC, Keane said, adding that Dowling would not make a statement at close of play on Tuesday. Boon's place in the side

was under threat after several failures during Australia's series win over Pakistan and the first Test against Sri Lanka two weeks ago. He hit ten boundaries in a sedate innings lasting 338 minutes and 263 balls

Steve Waugh, recalled to the side after recovering from a groin injury, was the other not out batsman on

Muralidharan was noballed for the first time in the fourth over of his spell when his fourth and sixth deliveries were ruled illegal by Hair, who spoke at length to the bowler

The 23-year-old spinner has never faced the bizarre situation in 58 previous firstclass appearances including

Muralidharan appeared upset at the end of his first spell as he walked to his fielding position. Under cricket regulations,

a bowler is deemed to have thrown the ball if there is a partial or complete strengthening of the arm in the action of releasing the ball from the hand.

Muralidharan, who was taken off by his captain Arjuna Ranatunga after a spell of six overs during the afternoon session back in style when he returned five overs later. New Zealand umpire Steve Dunne did not call any of his deliveries in his remaining eight overs in the

Muralidharan, who finished with figures of one for 58 from 18 overs, played in his side's crushing innings defeat by Australia in the first Test in Perth two weeks ago.

The Sri Lankans entered the second Test in buoyant spirits after the ICC on Monday cleared them of ball-tampering in the first test. They were found guilty by Dowling of altering the condition of the ball during Australia's first innings in Perth.

ICC chief executive David Richards on Monday released a statement which also criticised match umpires for not replacing the ball they believed it had been tampered with. It also expressed their sincere regrets to the Sri Lankan board and their play-

Ranatunga won the toss and sent Australia into bat but his bold gamble failed as Boon returned to form to the delight of a holiday crowd of

Sri Lanka removed Australian captain and opener Mark Taylor for seven before lunch and his fellow opener Michael Slater for 62 during the afternoon session.

Taylor was bowled by pace bowler Pramaodya Wickremasinghe with the total on 14, the first time the lefthander has been dismissed for less than 40 in Test or limited-overs matches in Australia this season.

Slater skied an attempted hook to Wickremasinghe on the deep fine leg boundary off a short delivery from Chaminda Vaas.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the opening day of the second Test between Australia and Sri Lanka at the Melbourne Cricket Ground Tuesday.

AUSTRALIA: First innings Slater c Wickremasinghe b Vaas



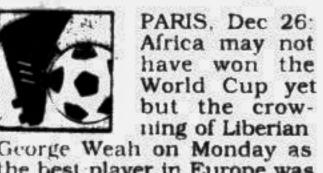
MURALIDHARAN

Taylor b Wickremasinghe Boon not out M Waugh b Muralidharan S Waugh not out Extras: (lb4, w2, nb3) Total (3 wkts; 90 overs) Fall of wkts: 1-14; 2-116; 3-219 Bowling:

52 Wickremasinghe 22 7 22 7 35 Vaas Hathurusinghe 0 Gurusinha 18 3 58 Muraltdharan 57 0 3 0 12 0 De Silva To bat: Ponting, Healy,

Reiffel, Warne, McDermott, McGrath, Kasprowicz. to fall in an unchanged 10-

Weah puts on golden boot



ning of Liberian George Weah on Monday as the best player in Europe was the surest sign yet of the rising power of the African continent in world soccer, reports Reuter. Weah the 29-year-old

striker AC, won the prestigious Golden Ball Award in the first year the 40-year-old annual poll has been open to non-Europeans. Weah received 144 votes

to beat Germany's Juergen Klinsmann of Bayern Munich (108) and Finn Jari Litmanen of Ajax Amsterdam (67). The poll, organised by the

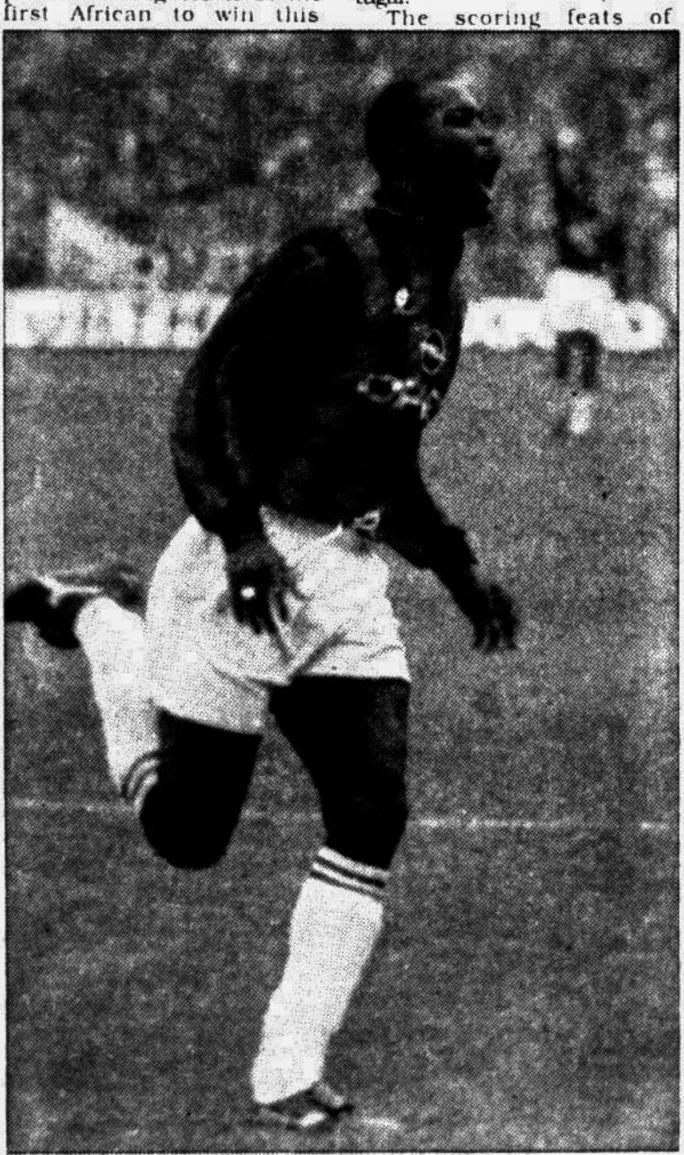
French soccer weekly France Football, is the longeststanding and most highly regarded annual vote in soccer. "I'm very happy," said Weah, after receiving his trophy. "It's a question of African pride. I'm delighted to be the

Weah, who moved from Paris St Germain to AC Milan during the summer, is actually the second African player to take the award as the Mozambique-born Eusebio won the title in 1965 as a Portuguese national.

That Weah should capture the first open title, despite flerce competition from the best players of Europe or South America, the traditional cornerstones of the sport, was a tribute both to the man himself and to Africa.

Weah has almost an overabundance of the natural African gifts of skill, elegance and physical power, combining them in a rich cocktail which makes him one of the world's most exciting players. African players have

steadily been making their mark in Europe's top leagues, notably in France but also in England, Germany, Belgium, Netherlands, Spain and Por-



An AFP file photo showing AC Milan's Liberian international George Weah celebrating after scoring a goal. Weah 29, was declared winner of the prestigious European Golden Boot (Ballon d'Or) award on Dec 25.

Ghana's Anthony Yeboah have charmed German and English fans. Nantes won the French title last season with Chad's Japhet N'Ooram pulling the strings and Nigerian Finidi George helped Ajax Amsterdam to the European Cup.

Italy, where the cream of world talent whips up soccer passions, was the last bastion to fall but Torino's signing of Ghanaian Abdi Pele, three times African-player-of-theyear, last year marked the turning point.

Milan, realising a reputation as the world's greatest club was at risk unless some African power was harnessed, turned to the best on offer -George Weah.

Weah has slotted into the Italian game with great aplomb, winning over teammates, fans and the media with his skill and dedication on the field and his humility off it.

In seven years in French soccer, first with Monaco, then with PSG, he was universally known as "Mister George" because of his gentlemanly behaviour and bearing.

A devout Muslim, Weah is also devoted to his home country where he is frequently to be mobbed by adoring crowds. He helped his country to qualify for the first time for the African Nations' Cup finals, taking place in South Africa next month. Weah may be a jet-setter,

spending a lot of time in the United States where he has a house and a restaurant business, but his heart is in Africa and he never forgets his humble origins, playing street football with friends in Monrovia.

"I could never forget for a single day that I am an African," he once said. "When I finish my career I will go back to Liberia. If I have to die, I want it to be in Africa." His last team will be not

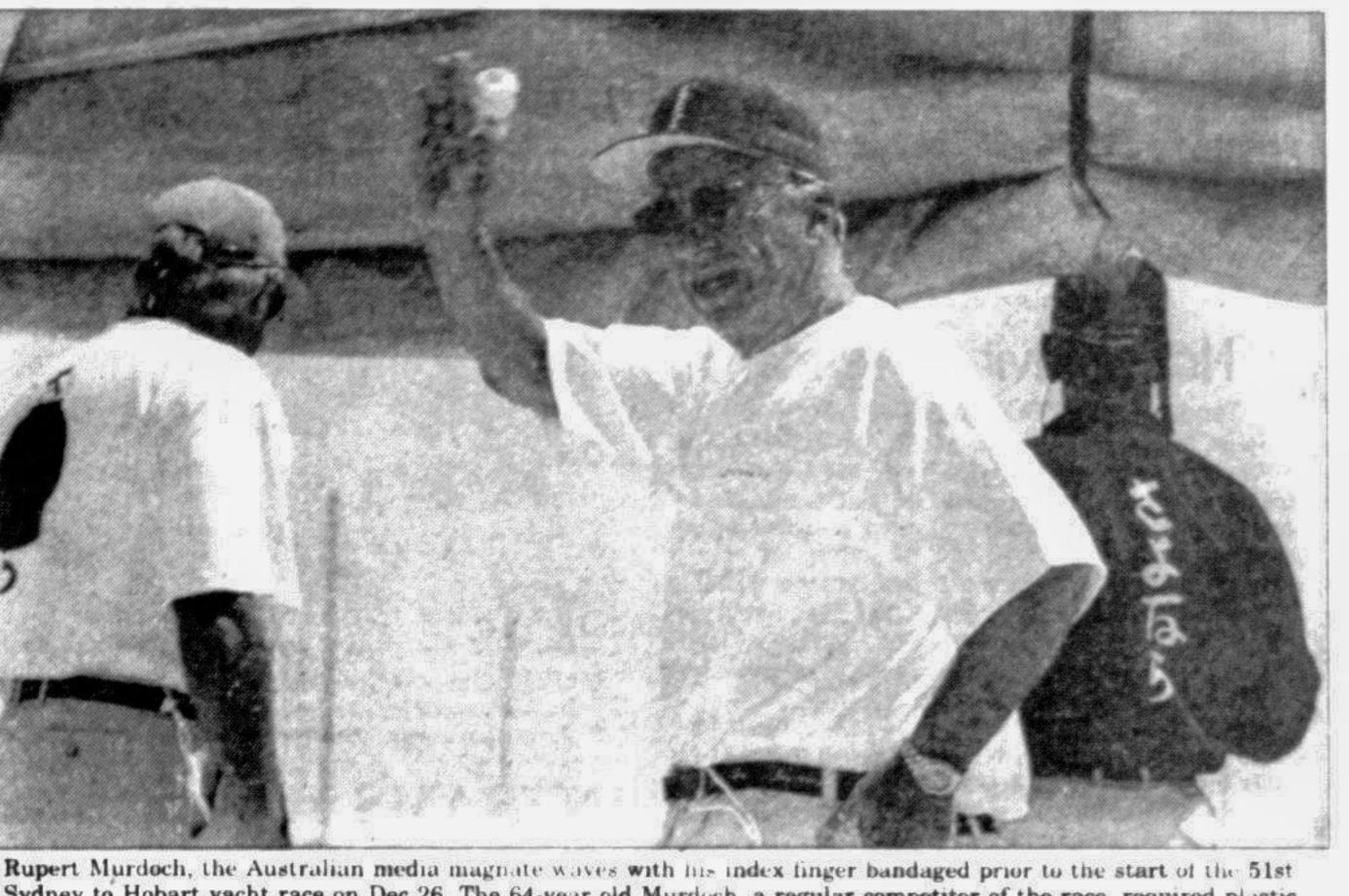
be AC Milan but the littleknown Junior Professional, the club he owns in Liberia. Ironically, Weah wins the

greatest award of his career after a year in which his goal tally has been relatively modest. He has scored only seven times this year in the French and Italian leagues, six since joining Milan, though he netted another four in European competition and three in domestic cups.

TOP GUNS Following are the top ten footballers in European club and nationality are in brack-1. George Weah (AC MilanA.iberia) 2 Juergen Klinsmann (Bayern Munich/Germany) 108

3. Jari Litmanen (Ajax Amsterdam/Finland) 4. Alessandro del Piero (Juventus/Italy) 5. Patrick Kluivert (Ajax Amsterdam/Netherlands) 47 6. Gianfranco Zola (Parma/Italy) 7. Paglo Maldini (AC Milan/Italy) 8. Marc Overmars (Ajax Amsterdem/Netherlands)33

9 Matthias Sammer (Borussia Dortmund/Germany) 10. Michael Laudrup (Real Madrid/Denmark)



Rupert Murdoch, the Australian media magnate waves with his index finger bandaged prior to the start of the 51st Sydney to Hobart yacht race on Dec 26. The 64-year old Murdoch, a regular competitor of the race, required plastic surgery after his finger was crushed in a boating accident on Thursday. - AFP/UNB photo

brings some solace

BRISBANE, Australia, Dec 26: A quickfire 77 off 88 balls by Jimmy Adams and Roger Harper saved West Indies in their one-day match against Queensland at the Brisbane Gabba today, reports AFP.

The tourists, struggling to shore up their problem batting, floundered to 121 for six before Harper and Adams pushed the total to 206 for eight off their 50 overs in the day-night match.

A seventh wicket stand between Adams (28 from 36 balls) and Harper (46 not out off 51) helped restore some pride after three losses to Sri Lanka and Australia in the World Series Cup competition, which resumes on new year's day in Sydney.

Harper hit Queensland captain Stuart Law for six off the last ball to end a magnificent knock None of the top order batsmen passed 50, but cap-

tain Richie Richardson showed some signs of a return to form with an enterprising 37. Swing bowler Adam Dale took the first three wickets

over spell, finishing with 3-West Indies rested wicketkeeper Courtney Browne while pacemen Ian Bishiop (groin) and Anderson Cum-

mins (back) were also left

Queensland needed to score at 4.14 runs an over to beat the West Indians under lights.

A helping hand to a champion in need

SAN JUAN, Dec 26: This week, Gov Pedro Rossello signed into a law a benefits package for local boxers. which would pay Benitez 600 dollars a month for life, reports AP.

"It was the least we could do. Here's a man who put Puerto Rico on the map and worked hard to become one of the best in the world," said lawmaker Ramon Luis Rivera, chairman of the local Senate Youth, Sports and Recreation Committee. "He was a great champion. Now he is sick and he needs our help."

Due to his condition, Benitez's speech is slurred and barely coherent. Nevertheless, the former champion was grateful.

What can I say. This will help ease the pain," Benitez Benitez's case is the latest in a long list of Puerto Rican

champions whose careers

have ended in mayhem. Wilfredo Gomez, a former WBC super bantamweight and featherweight champion, lost most of his assets soon after retiring and had several runins with the law, including arrests for domestic violence and cocaine possession.

Samuel Serrano, a former WBA junior lightweight champion, served a 10-year prison sentence for cocaine and marijuana trafficking. And the list goes on to in-

clude such names as the late Esteban de Jesus, Edwin "El Chapo" Rosario and Alfredo Escalera. As part of the benefits

package passed by the local

legislature, the Puerto Rico

Boxing Commission will now have a division providing financial counselling and social services to boxers. With many young locals rising through the ranks, including International Boxing Federation welterweight champ Felix Trinidad, the

Puerto Rico Boxing Commis-

sion is hoping to end the no-

torious trend. "Puerto Rican champions don't have a very good track record and we want to do our best to keep something like this from happening again," said Boxing Commission president Dommys Delgado. "It's a recurring tragedy that has to stop. It may be too late for Wilfred, but there are others who will benefit from

Windies willow Confident Messiah strikes out for the top

Leading African soccer players are showing the world that their continent is a force to be reckoned with. Gemini News service spotlights a Ghanaian superstar who is worshipped in Europe and is about to thrill South African crowds.

By John Perlman from London

sportsman who is said A to combine the speed and power of an Olympic sprint champion with the skill and vision of the world's best soccer player is ready to set the African Cup of Nations alight in January. Anthony Yeboah, the

stocky Ghanaian striker with dynamite in both feet, has been described by Franz Beckenbauer, a World Cup winner as a player and as a manager, as 'a cross between Pele and Carl Lewis."

Beckenbauer, manager of Bayern Munich, said that if he could sign any football player in the world it would by Yeboah. The German soccer le-

gend paid Ghana's number nine this lavish compliment while Yeboah was playing in Germany for Eintracht Frankfurt. But it is only since last season, when he moved to Leeds United, that fans around the world — thanks to the global coverage English soccer enjoys - have begun to savour his brilliance.

Yeboah and other top African players, such as Finidi George of Nigeria and Liberia's George Weah - who play for European clubs Ajax Amsterdam and AC Milan respectively - have been putting their continent's lootballing talent firmly on the world map.

The presence of these and other stars playing for their national teams in South Africa in January will further enhance the growing prestige of African football. Yeboah has ambitious goals at Leeds, but these will be put on ice for a month as he commits himself wholeheartedly to winning the continent's top soccer prize.

"It's very important to us to win the African championships," he says. "I'm looking forward to its because it is a long time since we won the African Cup. We are prepared to give our best." Yeboah's best is awesome.

At the start of the season, he scored the winning goal against Liverpool with a volley from outside the penalty area that required both the explosive power of his right boot and the perfect balance of a top athlete. Then, against Wimbledon, he went one better, using his chest and thigh to control the ball, before volleying home again from outside the area.

ACROSS

1 Broom-

5 Owns

8 Waxed

13 - Baba

14 Tide type

Cook

nove

16 Breed of

domestic

17 Emanation

20 Emulate

22 Edge of

26 Change

29 Stimpy's

30 Heavy

31 Shake-

32 Crib

33 Letter

34 One -

35 Feathery

37 Percus-

speare

epithet

man's com-

accessory

15 Robin

12 Be

After that game, in which

40 Deux +

45 Ruth's

49 Medley

50 Concern-

51 Eventual

52 Essential

tung

1 Speed

DOWN

tangent to 47 Actress

18 Last car? 53 Efferves-

the forest? 55 Kvetches

instrument

41 Up-to-date

husband

Thurman

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

number

reed instru-

occupants

2 Double-

3 Cougar

4 Led off

8 Knotty

9 Back

11 New Deal

19 Round

Solution time: 23 mins.

Table

5 Oda

he scored a hat-trick. Yeboah said: "After the Liverpool goal, my wife said. You'll have to score one like that for me. So the second gal against Wimbledon is for her. I think it might have put the goal against Liverpool - even though that was special - in the shade. Let's say it was a

The relaxed manner in which Yeboah talks about his moments of brilliance gives some insight into his inner strength. He is confident without being arrogant, and is too busy enjoying the game and his ability to play it to waste time on false modesty.

very nice goal!"

"I score a lot of goals and I'm not a player who is very nervous when I get a chance to score," he says. "If I get chances from my team colleagues, it is very easy to

Anthony Yeboah:

a chance to score'

21 Grecian

23 Pipe type

brave..

25 Slaughte

26 Slightly

27 Tumer

28 Ore

32 Scent of

a wine

36 Uruguay-

38 "Carmen"

39 Mirror's

42 Lamb's

43 Wagne-

it's OK

for short

45 Career

Line"

song

rian cycle

an's year

Hollywood

'I'm not nervous when I get

He packs a ferocious shot with both feet. He says they left is stronger, but the rockets against Liverpool and Wimbledon were both scored with the right. Many of the openings he makes are created by his speed. He has run 100 metres in less than 11 seconds. and is especially quick over the first 20 metres. His physique — 85 kilograms packed into a 1.78-metre frame - makes him very difficult to shake off the ball. The young Yeboah was in-

Yeboah's confidence, per-

haps, provides him with his

greatest weapon - no matter

how crowded the penalty

area and no matter how

fierce the tackles, he always

seems to have lots of time

Leeds manager Howard

Wilkinson describes him as

Yeboah tries to explain

what happens. "It's about

concentration, but you also

have to be relaxed. If you're

to aggressive you can miss.

try to create my opening and

then cool down. Normally, in

a one-on-one situation, the

goalkeeper will go one way.

That's why I always wait."

"clinical, cool and calm.

spired by such soccer greats as Pele, George Best and Gerd Muller as he was growing up in Ghana's second biggest city. Kumasi. He also followed in the footsteps of his father, Mike, who played for one of the nation's leading clubs, Asante Kotoko. Anthony was one of eight children and began playing

There was never a time I can remember when I wasn't striker," he says. He played for Okwahu United, from where he was picked for the national squad. And at the Cup of Nations eight years ago, he was ap-

proached by an agent who

offered to find him a team in

soccer from the age of two.

Germany. Yeboah has played a big part in raising the status of African football. But if he takes the form he has shown in England into the African Cup in South African in January, not everybody will rejoice. They will be to busy picking the ball out of the

net. - Gemini News About the author: John Perlman is a South African freelance journalist based in London.

	1	10			3		1		•	1	10	11.
12	1	t	1		13				14	1	1	
15	1	1			16	+			17	1		
18	+-	+		19			20	21				
			22	+	-	23		1			24	25
26	27	28				29	1	1		30	1	1
31		1	1		32		1		33		1	
34	1	1		35		+		36		1	1	
37	+		38			1	39		1			
-		40	1				41		\vdash	42	43	44
45	46				47	48			49	-	0.750	
50	1	1	1		51		1		52	1		
53	-	-	1		54		1		56	1		

CRYPTOQUIP

ORPPVSRZ ROKGF XURZ: SGVZUY WRX

POUND. Today's Cryptoquip clue: X equals Me

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BUT IT'S NOT AT ALL ZANY TO SAY THAT EZRA SOLD HIS POETRY BY THE

46 "A Chorus The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it 48 Booker will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short T 's band words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error