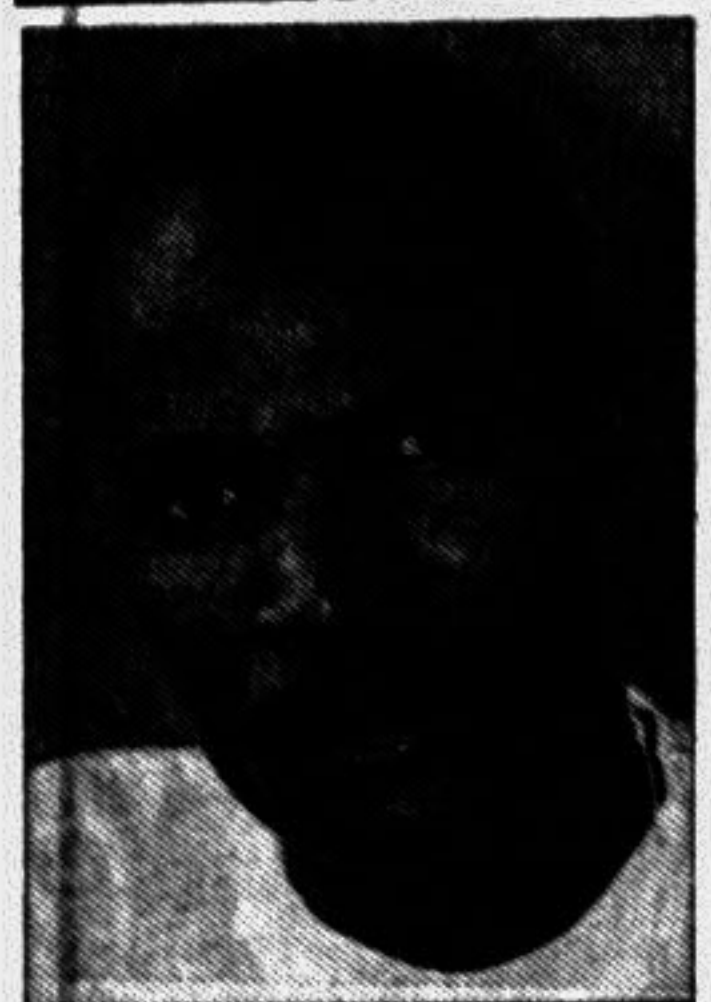


Column One

SPORTS TALK



William Tanul
(Kenyan long distance runner)

"To win or lose is part of sports and you cannot have competitions without a winner or loser. I think there should be no regret when you lose. It is not something which you should think about for a long time. I have that kind of heart."

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

That the highest score in an international hockey match was when India defeated the USA 24:1 at the 1932 Los Angeles Olympic Games.

That Michael Peter represented West Germany over 250 times between 1969 and 1984 indoors and out.

That the greatest number of goals by an individual in international hockey is 267 by Paul Litjens of the Netherlands in 177 games.

That John French of England scored the fastest goal (7 seconds after the start) in an international match between England and West Germany in 1971.

That the longest international game was one of 145 minutes (into the sixth period of extra time) between the Netherlands and Spain in 1968 Mexico Olympic Games.

Well, now you know.

Sports

WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN

The rules are published every Saturday

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-21

Tick the Correct Answer

(Competition closes: 8 p.m. Jan 12, 1996)

- Which country has won the greatest number of Olympic medals?
USA USSR Germany
- What is the maximum break in snooker?
125 136 147
- In international gymnastics, how many events are there in men's contests?
Six Eight Ten
- How long is a marathon?
51.33km 40.21km 42.95km
- A super-heavyweight boxer must weigh more than
91kg 101kg 105kg

Name: _____

Class: _____ Roll No: _____

School Address: _____

Phone: (if any) _____

Engqvist off the mark

AUCKLAND, Jan 9: Top seed and defending champion Thomas Engqvist was given a solid work-out by American Richey Reneberg before prevailing 6-3, 1-6, 6-0 Tuesday in the \$28,000 US dollar Bell South Open tennis tournament, reports AP.

Engqvist fell into a hole in the second set as Reneberg charged to the net whenever possible and the normally reliable Swede faltered from the service line. A stream of double faults by Engqvist gave Reneberg control and he won the set comfortably.

However, the 21-year-old Engqvist, who had a rewarding 1995, rising to No 7 in the world, composed himself.

"I've played Reneberg a lot of times," Engqvist said. "I've won every time but we've had some close matches and he's a tough opponent. He has beaten a lot of very good players."

Japan's Shuzo Matsuoka upset third seed Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden 7-5, 6-1 in a night match while Argentine Javier Frana produced the comeback match of the day against American Aaron Krickstein, one of the tour's renowned battlers.

Krickstein, formerly ranked in the top 10, served for the match at 5-4 in the second set after winning the first set 6-3.

But Frana, who gave glimpses of his ability in an erratic start, returned to form at the right time, winning 3-6, 7-6 (7-1), 6-4.

Weah's ultimate accolade



MILAN, Jan 9: AC Milan's Liberian striker George Weah completed a unique hat-trick of soccer awards on Monday when he was named as FIFA's World Player of the Year at a ceremony in Milan.

The recognition rounded off an extraordinary year for Weah, acclaimed as 'King George' in Italy and already voted European and African player of the year, who joined Milan this season from Paris St Germain.

Strangely, the 29-year-old has yet to win any major international club honour in his career.

As FIFA president Joao Havelange looked on, Weah surprised the celebrity audience by summoning Arsene Wenger, his former coach at Monaco, on to the stage and offered him the box containing his medal.

"I want you all to know I love a lot of people, but a good man has to be rewarded. This is the man," he said.

"When I came to Europe, you were like a father to me. You told me 'George, work hard and you're going to be a good player.' I followed his example, he made me a good man."

"This is for me, but I want you to have it. You deserve it more than me," he told Wenger, his first coach in Europe after he was signed from Tonnerre Yaounde of Cameroon.

Voting details released by FIFA showed that Weah was not a unanimous first choice, with several top coaches ignoring his claims for the title.

England's Terry Venables picked Italy's Roberto Baggio, while Italy's Arrigo Sacchi opted for Maldini. Brazil's coach Mario Zagallo went for compatriot Bebeto.

Weah, the first African player to win the FIFA award, followed in the footsteps of Germany's Lothar Matthaus, who was announced the 1995 winner. Dutchman Marco Van Basten, Roberto Baggio and Brazil's Romario.

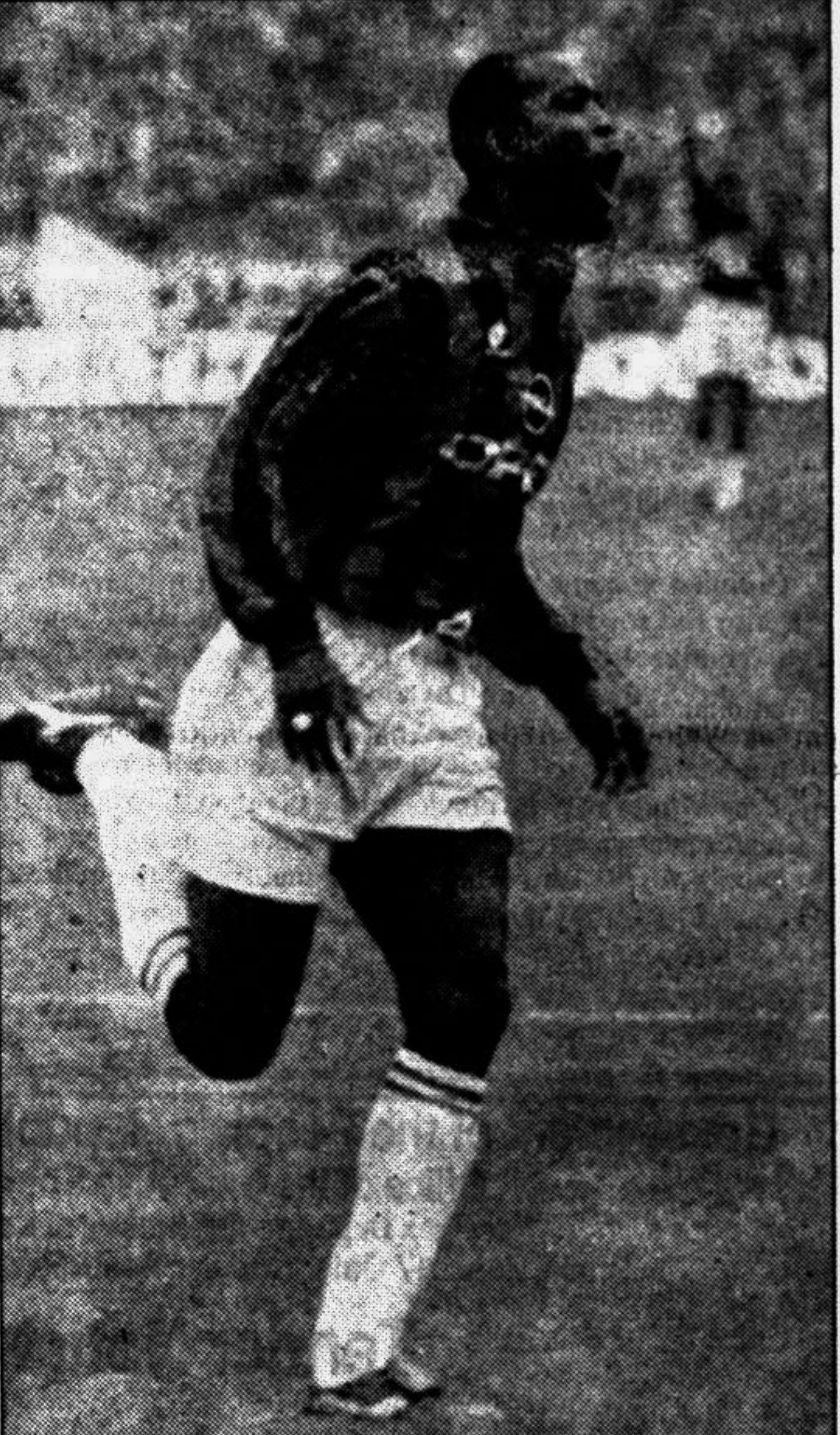
The striker, shortly to lead Liberia in the African Nations' Cup finals, was also named African Player of the Year at the ceremony.

Weah won 170 points in a poll of 100 national team coaches, ahead of his Milan teammate Paolo Maldini on 80. Germany's captain Jurgen Klinsmann, who plays for Bayern Munich, finished third with 58 points.

"It's a great honour," Weah said. "Thanks to all who voted for me and thanks to my coaches. I wish peace in Africa."



- MILAN, Jan 9: Top ten players in the FIFA award Monday:
- George Weah (LIB) 170 points
 - Paolo Maldini (ITA) 80
 - Jurgen Klinsmann (GER) 58
 - Romario (BRA) 50
 - Roberto Baggio (ITA) 49
 - Hristo Stoichkov (BUL) 37
 - Ivan Lusa Zamorano (CHI) 36
 - Juninho (BRA) 28
 - Matthias Sammer (GER) 23
 - Michael Laudrup (DEN) 20
 - Gianfranco Zola (ITA) 20



GEORGE WEAH ...over the moon

Weah received a heavy metal trophy — a tripod with a soccer ball on top — from FIFA president Joao Havelange.

The African forward, who helped AC Milan to qualify for the UEFA Cup quarterfinals and take a 3-point lead in the Italian leagues, leaves for Africa on Tuesday to lead Liberia in the African Cup of Nations.

Maldini, an AC Milan international defender and captain of the Italian national team, was second with 80 points and said he could understand that voters preferred "a player who scores goals rather than a defender."

Klinsmann, who scored dozens of goals in four European leagues, placed third with 58 points.

"I want to thank teammates of Tottenham and Bayern, and those of the German national team who helped me win the third-place prize," said Klinsmann, who rejoined the Bundesliga after three seasons in Italy, two in France and one in England.

Brazilian forward Romario, the 1994 winner, finished fourth, with 50 points. Italy's Roberto Baggio, the 1993 winner, was fifth.

Weah, who spent four seasons with AS Monaco before his transfers to Paris and Milan, recalled the days when he was a child from a poor village on the outskirts of Monrovia. He used to play with a ball made of rags.

He now makes about 1.5 million dollars a year with AC Milan, owned by television tycoon and former Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi.

Weah received the award at Milan's Nazionale theatre, during a gala night organised by FIFA, world soccer's governing body, in Italy to celebrate the centennial of the largest Italian sport daily, Gazzetta dello Sport.

FIFA also awarded world champion Brazil as the best 1995 team, and Jamaica as the best emerging team on the world scene. The Jamaican team climbed to 40th place, from 96th, in the FIFA standings.

Brazil's award was presented by Havelange to his son-in-law, Ricardo Texeira, the president of the Brazilian federation and player Roberto Carlos, who is with Internazionale of Milan.

During the gala evening, Jacques Glassmann was given the FIFA Fair Play Award — 10,000 Swiss francs — for unravelling the biggest scandal in French soccer history. Glassmann, 33, who plays for Valenciennes, reported a bribery attempt by Olympique Marseille, owned by French businessman Bernard Tapie.

FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter praised Glassmann for his courage in denouncing the scandal.

Gazzetta dello Sport gave out special prizes to AC Milan captain Franco Baresi for his exceptional career and to Juventus of Turin forward Alessandro Del Piero for being the rising star of 1995 in Italian soccer.

Klinsmann was asked why players from European champion Ajax Amsterdam didn't do well in voting for the FIFA award and the Golden Ball.

"Ajax is for sure the best European team," Klinsmann said, "but it's a strong team for its teamwork rather than for the individual skill of its players. They are very young players, and for sure will have the opportunity to shine in the next editions."

Soccer bonanza in USA



LOS ANGELES, Jan 9: The United States, no longer a soccer laughing stock, hosts the Gold Cup Tournament starting this week, looking to avenge narrow defeats by world champions Brazil in the 1994 World Cup and last year's Copa America, reports Reuters.

The Gold Cup could also give the Americans a chance to continue their recent dominance over Mexico, who beat the United States in the final of the same competition two years ago.

The tournament, starting tomorrow in southern California, pits eight national teams from CONCACAF — the soccer federation for the north and central America and the Caribbean. Brazil was invited to make up three first-round groups of three teams each.

Bosman returns to action

BRUSSELS, Jan 9: Belgian footballer Jean-Marc Bosman was back in action with non-league side CS Vise at the weekend, three weeks after winning his historic transfer case at the European Court of Justice, reports AFP.

Bosman, 31 and under contract with Vise until the end of the season, quit the professional game after former league club FC Liege refused to allow his transfer to a French side when his contract expired.

The court ruled in his favour, throwing doubt on the future of the entire European football transfer system.

Bosman is now set to play in a benefit match between a European select XI and a rest of the world side in Spain in April with proceeds going to cover his legal costs.

The other semifinal likely will be the United States v Brazil — presuming the Americans get past El Salvador and Trinidad and Tobago in Anaheim and Brazil beats Canada and Honduras in Los Angeles.

The Brazilians have beaten the United States twice 1-0 in competitions in the last 18 months — the World Cup second-Round clash and in the semifinal of the Copa America.

The Americans, under the steady hand of Steve Sampson, Milutinovic's assistant in the World Cup, will line up

with most of their World Cup stars who have been playing overseas.

The big central defenders — Marcelo Balboa, outstanding for Leon in the Mexican first division and Alex Larios, with Padua in Italy's Serie A — are cornerstones of the US team.

Goalkeeper Kasey Keller is making headlines with English first division Millwall and midfielders John Harkes, with English Premier League West Ham, Tab Ramos with Mexico's Tigres and Claudio Reyna with Bayer Leverkusen in Germany show the advances the United States has made in soccer.

Although the Gold Cup is for full national teams, Brazil sent its under-23 squad, in preparation for a pre-Olympic play-off next month. But in Calo of Inter-Milan, Savio of Flamengo and Leandro of Internacional, the world champions are well represented.

Paulus puzzled

HOBBART, Australia, Jan 9: France's Lea Gharardi-Rubbi upset second-seeded Barbara Paulus of Austria 6-1, 2-6, 6-2 Tuesday in the first round of the US dollars 107,000 Tasmanian International tennis tournament, reports AP.

Earlier, third seed Yuyuk Basuki of Indonesia moved into the second round with a 6-2, 6-3 win over Italy's Adriana Serra-Zanetti.

Nana Miyagi of Japan caused another upset, downing compatriot and fourth seed Yone Kamio, 6-7 (2-7), 7-5, 6-0.

The 24-year-old Kamio, No 30 in the world, was a semifinalist in this tournament last year.

In another match, Australian Annabel Ellwood beat American Erika De Lone, 6-1, 4-6, 7-5.

Big bosses brought to terms

PARIS, Jan 9: European football chiefs have agreed to meet top clubs next month to thrash out an agreement on how many foreign players each side can use in European Cup competitions which resume in March, reports AFP.

The European football union (UEFA) has agreed to meet national federations and major European Cup winners on February 7 in Geneva and representatives of the quarterfinalists in the three European Cups the following day.

Ajax, AC Milan and Real Madrid will confront over UEFA over the body's defiance of the Jean-Marc Bosman case ruling that effectively swept aside UEFA regulations restricting clubs to picking three foreigners plus two assimilated players.

England is so far the only European country to have adopted the European Court of Justice ruling.

Supreme Premier league supremo Rick Parry warned: "We wouldn't advise clubs to take the risk of breaking (UEFA) rules. UEFA will regard their rules as enforceable and will no doubt exercise sanctions."

"And being tied up in the Swiss courts for two or three years afterwards is something we all want to avoid."

Manchester United's legal adviser Maurice Watkins, who has been invited to the Feb 7 meeting, said: "Manchester United have never been able to play the team that won the championship in Europe so we are very concerned about the position."

"How UEFA have interpreted it is totally wrong. We tackled them on it pre-Bosman but they are still trying to hold on to their system ... It's great to win a legal battle, but what if you are barred for three years in the meantime."

UEFA have already scheduled another meeting with the international federation (FIFA) next Monday, four days after Parry tries to persuade European commissioners that adopting the English transfer system would be best for football.

The European court ruled that transfer fees at the end of a contract are illegal when a player wants to move from one European Union state to another.

Parry, who is happy that the bulk of the Bosman ruling regarding transfers will not affect internal end-of-contract deals in the UK, has told UEFA they were wrong in their interpretation and will discuss matters with EU officials in Brussels on Thursday.

"We want to see our domestic transfer system preserved," he said. "We believe we have some compelling arguments and we hope the EU take them on board."

Ashe's widow in disagreement

RICHMOND, Virginia, Jan 9: Arthur Ashe's widow says the tennis great never intended a statue of himself to stand on the city's historic Monument Avenue, reports AP.

Jeanne Moutoussamy-Ashe wrote in an opinion piece appearing in Monday's Richmond Times-Dispatch that Ashe wanted his statue to stand in front of his proposed African-American Sports Hall of Fame.

But after Ashe's death in 1993 from AIDS, plans for the hall bogged down over politics and financing, and city officials turned their attention to raising a statue along the avenue known for massive, ornate monuments to Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson and other Confederates from the American Civil War.

"I am not in agreement with the decision to place the Arthur Ashe monument on Monument Avenue," she wrote. "I am afraid that a statue of Arthur Ashe on Monument Avenue honours Richmond, Virginia, more than it does its son, his legacy, and his works."

The city approved the statue for the site last year. The statue — showing Ashe clad in a sweat suit, holding books and a tennis racket — is scheduled to be unveiled next July 10.

Ashe, who was once barred from the segregated courts of his hometown, later became known for his global promotion of human rights.

Marshall suspended for doping

LONDON, Jan 9: Shot putter Guy Marshall had a four-year suspension for drug-taking confirmed by the British Athletic Federation on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

Marshall was ranked 17 in Britain when he returned a positive test at a domestic athletics meeting in May. The federation did not disclose what substance was involved.

At the time, he was the eighth British athlete to fail a drugs test in 12 months.

A kiss of life for Lanka



MELBOURNE, Jan 9: Sri Lanka revived their hopes of reaching the World Series final with a three-wicket victory over Australia on Tuesday after omitting spinner Muralitharan in a further twist to the saga of his suspect bowling action, reports Reuters.

Hard-hitting wicket-keeper Romesh Kaluwitharana justified his promotion to opener with a scintillating 77 from 79 balls to ease the tourists to a vital win with 15 balls to spare.

In reply to Australia's 213 for five from 50 overs, Sri Lanka scored 214 for seven in 47.3 overs to the dismay of a crowd of 60,000 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Test opener Roshan Mahanama, dropped down the order after a poor run of scores, made a timely return to form to quite his side to the verge of victory with a patient 51.

Australia posted a respectable target after Ricky Ponting and Michael Bevan added 159 runs for a record fifth-wicket partnership in the history of limited overs cricket.

Ponting, batting at number four, hammered an outstanding 123 from 142 balls, his first century for Australia, before being run-out on the final ball of the innings.

Bevan, who remained unbeaten on 65, joined Ponting with the total on 54 for four after Australia captain Mark Taylor won the toss and elected to bat.

Their partnership eclipsed the previous record of 152 runs, shared jointly by West Indies pair Viv Richards and Clive Lloyd and Pakistan's

spinner Muralitharan with experienced all-rounder Ruwan Kalpage only hours after he arrived in Australia to strengthen the side's bowling ranks.

Sri Lanka dropped Muralitharan to 12th man after he was no-balled for throwing in the World Series match against West Indies in Brisbane on Friday, the second time umpires have penalised



KALUWITHARANA ... m.o.m.

his suspect bowling action.

Without his services, Sri Lanka struggled to contain Ponting's onslaught, which featured one massive straight six and seven fours.

Despite their second loss in successive matches, Australia still lead the triangular competition with eight points from six games, two clear of West Indies, who have played one game more.

Sri Lanka propped up the table with four points from five games but can still qualify for the best of three finals later this month.

Sri Lanka captain Aravinda de Silva said his players met beforehand and vowed to win

captain Mark Taylor said.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the World Series limited overs match between Australia and Sri Lanka at the Melbourne Cricket Ground Tuesday.

AUSTRALIA

Slater c Kaluwitharana b Munasinghe 2

Taylor c Kaluwitharana b Munasinghe 9

M Waugh b Munasinghe 0

Ponting run out 123

Law c Tilkeratne b Wickremasinghe 8

Bevan not out 65

Extras (nb-2, lb-2, w-2) 6

Total (for 50 wkts, 50 overs) 213

Fall of wickets: 1-8; 2-10; 3-33; 4-54; 5-213

Bowling:

W O M R W

Vass 10 3 41 0

Munasinghe 10 1 30 3

Wickremasinghe 6 0 29 1

Dharmasena 10 0 31 0

Jayasuriya 10 0 56 0

Kalpage 4 0 24 0

SRI LANKA

Jayasuriya c Lee b Reiffel 8

Kaluwitharana run out 77

Gurusinha run out 35

De Silva lbw b McDermott 0

Mahanama lbw b Bevan 51

Tilkeratne lbw b McDermott 0

Kalpage b Warne 1

Dharmasena not out 28

Vass not out 0

Extras (lb-7, nb-2, w-5) 14

Total (for 50 wkts, 57.3 overs) 214

Fall of wickets: 1-17; 2-39; 3-127; 4-144; 5-144; 6-147; 7-209

Did not bat: Munasinghe, Wickremasinghe

Bowling:

W O M R W

McDermott 10 0 42 2

Reiffel 10 0 47 1

M Waugh 6 0 31 0

Lee 6 2 26 0

Warne 10 1 37 1

Bevan 5.3 0 24 1

Man-of-the-match: Romesh



MAHANAMA ... 51

Inzamam-ul-Haq and Ijaz Ahmed.

Sri Lanka replace off.

STANDINGS

BRISBANE, Australia, Jan 9: Standings in the World Series limited overs competition today (tabulate under played, won, lost, points).

W L P

Australia 6 4 2 8

West Indies 7 3 4 6

Sri Lanka 5 2 3 4

the game for Muralitharan.

"I would like to dedicate this game to Muralitharan, who has been a great team man. The guys decided they would do it for him and they pulled it off," De Silva said.

"Overall, we played with much more aggression in this particular game," he added.

Australia selectors later dropped opener Michael Slater for their next match against the same opponents in Perth on Friday.

After failing in his last five innings in the competition, Slater will be replaced by all-rounder Steve Waugh, who has recovered from a hamstring strain.

There's not much point playing Michael if he is not making runs. It will not do his confidence any good. Overall, we're a bit off the boil at the moment," Australia



PONTING ... 123

Kaluwitharana

Match result: Sri Lanka won by three wickets.

Lions armed for action?



JOHANNESBURG, Jan 9: Some things never change in African football. So Cameroon's build-up to the African Nations' Cup has been surrounded by chaos and confusion, reports AFP.

Lucky to qualify after Malawi and Zimbabwe surrendered points when Leletho withdrew, the 'Indomitable Lions' almost did not make it to South Africa because of feuds involving the government and administrators.

When the sports ministry kicked out alleged corrupt football officials and replaced them with their own nominees, the International football federation (FIFA) cried foul. Peace was restored only after delicate negotiations.

As the wrangling continued, national coach Jules Niyongha and assistant Jean Manga-Ongue kicked their heels while Group A rivals South Africa and Egypt embarked on intensive preparations.

Although Angola are un-

likely to be a pushover, the Johannesburg showdowns between 'Bafana Bafana' (the boys), the 'Indomitable Lions' and the 'Pharaohs' are expected to provide many first-round highlights.

Cameroon were the first visitors to South Africa when the country was readmitted into international football in 1992 following almost three decades of apartheid-induced isolation.

In four meetings in Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town over three years, Cameroon lost only one, a fact not lost on South Africa, who consider victory over the Lions in the opening match essential to dreams of ultimate triumph.

Cameroon and Egypt clashed in three consecutive tournaments from 1984 with

honours even, although legend has it that a government minister pleaded with his Lions to miss penalties in the 1986 final lest the Cairo crowd riot.

Egypt won the shootout 5-4, foiling Cameroon's hopes of becoming the first nation since Ghana in 1965 to successfully defend a cup which carries no prize money but whose value is incalculable.

While popular belief says South Africa and Egypt are heading for the knockout phase, Cameroon could put a heavy spanner in the work if their stars return from around the globe.

Francois Omam-Biyik, a prolific scorer in Mexico, is one of many talented players who refused to take part in the qualifying matches due to disputes over unpaid bonuses dating back six years.

An attack including Omam-Biyik, Alphonse Tchami of Argentine club Boca Juniors and George Mouyeme from French side Angers would be capable of striking fear into even the best organised defences.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Change the Constitution

3 Beaver's creation

9 Scroogean cry

12 He's a big man about town

13 History chapter

14 Lennon's lady

15 Sports setting

16 City in eastern China

18 Kennel comment

20 Holler

21 Cat coat

23 Back muscle, for short

24 Oodles

25 On

27 One may make you say "Oh"

29 South's word for "stunk"

31 Stunk to high heaven

DOWN

1 " — Camera"

2 Deface

3 Sometimes called in it's pen-called in

4 Adornment to Nanette

5 Talk slowly

6 Mississippi River discoverer

7 Queued

8 He led a Long March

9 Black tea, barely type

10 "I'm — Cowhand"

11 Bays

17 Spin and rise, e.g.

19 Fluctuate

21 "Terri!"

22 Salt Lake athlete

24 Witness

26 Far Eastern temple

28 Pull with a twist

30 Use 55- Across

32 Expertise

33 Conger

34 Passing grade, barely

36 Talked like Tabby

38 Marconi's creation

39 Author Jong

40 Skinfint

42 Message

45 PBS science series

46 Sp. Snorkel's dog

48 Energy

50 Compass hlg.

51 Prot. or Cath.

Solution time: 25 mins.

LAUD OAH AOUA

ITSA WEE FURL

POEM EEL GAGA

SPRAWL MAMES

GEL CAT

JADE IDLENESS

WIDU

RAMPAGED ASTA

IRK GUN

PACIAL IETHMI

AVOID IAN HOOD

MOLE BOG ELSE

EWES DOB MEISA

CRYPTOQUIP

VJQC IAH ZTUC HUMA

JKUB ZTU SRBUH HZRDD

SJM'Z TIKU IDD ZTU VIQ!

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: YOU MAY FIND THAT OLD BAKERS CAN BECOME EITHER FLAKY OR CRUSTY.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: S equals W

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.