

Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT the entire cricketing world was puzzled because the UAE skipper Zarwan did not use the full quota of ten overs of his star bowler Samarsekara during their WC match against South Africa last week. Sam bowled only nine overs.

Thank goodness Zarwan was not leading the West Indies side in 1957 against England at Edgbaston. Because, then we would be deprived of a world record. In that Test match, Sonny Ramadhin bowled 774 balls, that's 129 overs. Did he get any wickets? Yup! 7/49 and 2/179 in the two innings.

Sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-27

Tick the Correct Answer

(Competition closes: 8 p.m. Feb 23, 1996)

- 1. Asian Club football champions are: The Farmers, Kawasaki Verdy, Al-Nasr
2. The 1974 Asian Games were held in: India, Tehran, Islamabad
3. The present West Indian cricket vice-captain is: Courtney Walsh, Brian Lara, Roger Irtiger
4. Tennis prodigy Martina Hingis is a: Swiss, Czech, Polish
5. The name of the captain of the UAE cricket team is: Zarwan, Dolanemis, Mashar

Name:

Class: Roll No:

School Address:

Phone: (if any)

SPORTS TALK



Christopher Martin

(Noted English cricket writer)

'Summer by summer winter by winter the evidence mounts that it is between the ages of 19 and 25 that our many talented young cricketers mark time: become injured or generally fail to advance, while others against whom they were once so favourably fitted advance rapidly to the status of Test cricketers. Not all of them, of course, but it only takes two or three - an Adams, a Pollock, a Mackenzie - to make all the difference at the only level which really matters.'

On the difference between talented English cricketers and talents from the other countries.

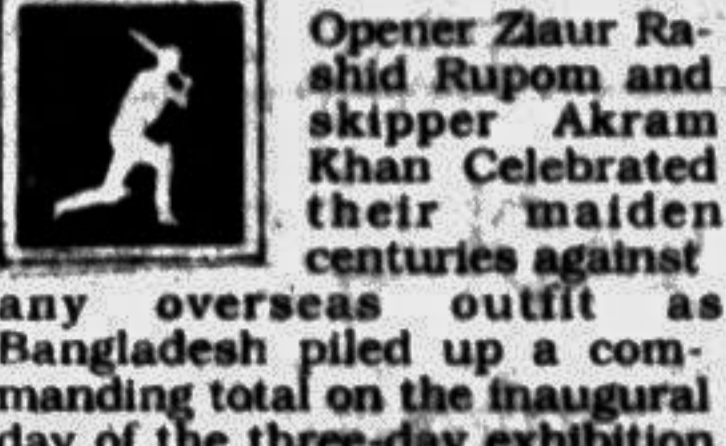
Sampras outguns Rusedski

SAN JOSE, California, Feb 17: Pete Sampras took another step in his quest to regain the No. 1 ranking, rallying to defeat Greg Rusedski 6-7, 5-7, 6-3, 6-4 Friday at the Sybase Open, reports AP.

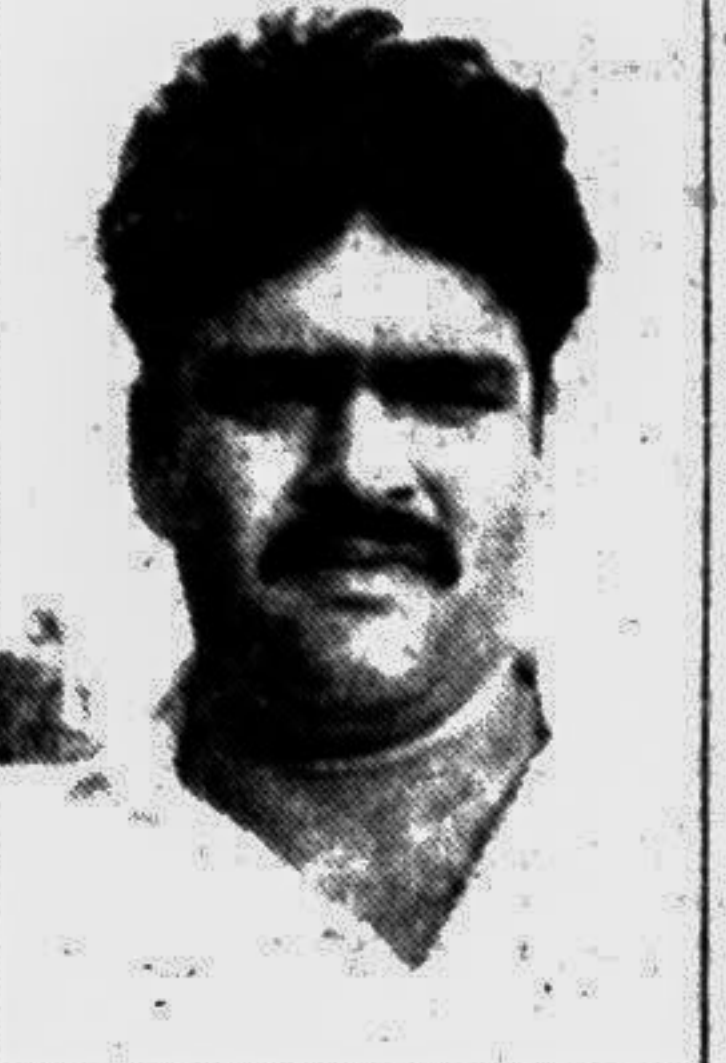
Rusedski and Sampras, two of the most powerful servers in the game, had faced each other only once before, when Sampras won in straight sets last year at Wimbledon. Sampras will face Jan Krosak, ranked 119th, in Saturday's first semifinal match. The other semifinal will pit the winners of Friday night's Andre Agassi-Richey Reneberg and Michael Chang-Jason Stoltenberg matches. Now the only unseeded player left in the field, Krosak went to a third-set tiebreaker to finally beat fellow 21-year-old longshot Vince Spadea 6-7, (4-6), 6-4, 7-6 (7-2). After losing the first set, Sampras came back strong late in the second set. Down 15-30 at 3-3, Sampras got a point on a net return and then suddenly found his rhythm, winning 11 straight points to break Rusedski in game eight and finish out the set. 'I was confused a little bit by what he was doing out there. If he would have kept it up, he maybe could have beaten me,' Sampras said. Sampras carried over the momentum into the third set, holding all of his serves and breaking Rusedski in the third game with a smashing forehand passing shot.

Centuries by Akram, Rupom against MCC Bangladesh well poised

Sports Reporter



AKRAM ... 107



RUPOM ... 101

Opener Zaur Rashid Rupom and skipper Akram Khan celebrated their maiden centuries against any overseas outfit as Bangladesh piled up a commanding total on the inaugural day of the three-day exhibition cricket match against the visiting Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Rupom hammered a brilliant 101 while Akram, the burly middle-order bat, blasted a cameo 107 as Bangladesh, electing to use the wicket in the morning, scored 282 before being all-out in 75.2 overs. In reply, MCC, who had earlier lost the three-match one-day series 3-0, were 48 for two in 12 overs at stumps in the 90-over-a-day match with the option of two innings for each team. For Rupom, who got the nod from the selectors for the first time following his resounding performance in the domestic league, it was certainly a memorable day as it was his first top century. After a jumpy start with opener Athar Ali Khan (1) returning to the dressing room with the scoreboard reading 3 for 1, Rupom steadied the innings sharing 79 runs for the second wicket with Faruque Ahmed before the latter departed for a breezy 68-ball 45. Faruque's dismissal inflicted a mini-collapse as discarded English Test cap David Capel, who got the prized scalp of the former national skipper, bowled an in-form

that MCC left the crease without further damage when the umpires lifted the balls after 12 overs.

But Rupom, who was playing sensibly, found an agile partner in his skipper Akram Khan to share an invaluable 154 runs for the fourth wicket. The soft-spoken right-handed bat, who was dropped at point while on 20, reached the magical three figure mark with a straight drive off leg-spinner Ian Salisbury. In his 155-ball stay at the crease, Rupom clubbed 10 sweetly-timed hits across the rope. He was eventually out in the 55th over while going for a lofted drive off slow left-arm seamer Laurie Potter, leaving Bangladesh comfortably poised at 236 for four.

Akram, who was in the 80's when Rupom made his way back to the dressing room, completed his century off 147 deliveries. The robust right-hander cracked 13 sparkling fours in his polished 157 ball innings. But the Bangladesh skipper hardly got any support at the other end in a bid to ensure a huge total.

And Bangladesh, who were at one stage eyeing a mammoth total, suddenly suffered a dramatic collapse in the face of some intelligent bowling from former England Test player Ian Salisbury. Losing their last five wickets with the addition of only 27 runs.

The leggie, who was not so impressive during the limited over matches, truncated half the Bangladesh line-up to finish with fantastic figures of five for 73 in his 21.2 overs. Potter, who removed both the century makers, and right-arm seamer Capel, with two wickets apiece, were the other notable MCC bowlers.

However, the success-lorn MCC, who had earlier won only one match against five defeats in their 18-day tour of Bangladesh, once again failed to have a promising start in their last exhibition match, losing two wickets for only 48 in 8.3 over.

Hasibul Hossain Shanto, the young right-arm seamer who bowled with venom, struck in the seventh over when he had opener Gaywood (3) caught behind. He then dismissed one-down Matsun (2) in his next over, dashing MCC's hopes of a sound start.

Only skipper Fordham, who faced fire with fire, remained unbeaten on a 38-ball 35, and Potter on four not out, ensured

early in the innings. The 32-year-old Manoj Prabhakar has proved his prowess with the ball and bat for a long time now and his utility to the side as an all-rounder remained unquestioned. Tendulkar and Ajay Jadeja could chip in with the ball providing more bowling resources to captain Azharuddin but his trump card would be the spinners - Anil Kumble, Ashish Kapoor and Venkatapaty Raju - who could be entrusted with the difficult job of containing the run flow in the later stages of the innings. But fielding has continued to be a source of worry for the Indians despite a lot of emphasis on that aspect during the practice sessions. The home team can hardly afford to be shoddy on the field as even a single dropped catch could change the complexion of the game in one-dayers.

All's in womb of future



CUTTACK, Feb 17: Mohammed Azharuddin and his men, seeking to regain the glory of 1983, would leave no room for complacency when they launch their Wills World Cup campaign with a league match against unknowns Kenya at the Barabati stadium here tomorrow, reports PTI.

Although the Kenyans, making their debut in the World Cup, were likely to fall easy preys to the Indian juggernaut, the former champions were not in the mood to underestimate their African challengers who have promised to play good cricket.

With the good wishes of countless Indian fans behind them, the Indians would be hoping to begin the quest for the sterling silver trophy in right earnest but the recent spate of viral attacks on the team has left leg spinner Anil Kumble a doubtful starter for the opening match tomorrow.

The absence of Kumble, the silent assassin who has scripted many a memorable win for his country, would no doubt upset India's action plan to some extent on the morrow but the home team has two other spinners at their disposal who were quite capable of doing the damage.

Opener Navjot Singh Sidhu, who was also afflicted by the viral fever during the solidarity match in Colombo earlier this week, was still feeling weak and it remains to be seen whether the Punjab batsman takes the field tomorrow.

Both Sidhu and Kumble have to pass the fitness test tomorrow to be eligible for selection. Azharuddin and his men also face the difficult task of breaking a jinx that has been following the World Cup host teams never since the prestigious tournament began in 1975 - none of the host teams have ever won the coveted Cup so far.

India, arguably one of the most formidable teams in the fray in the 1987 Reliance Cup, discovered this bitter truth a little too late. The Kenyans, who qualified for the World Cup by finishing runners up in the ICC Trophy, were an unknown quantity but their decent showing against the India-A team was proved that they were no push-overs.

Although they may find it difficult to counter the mighty Indians on their home soil, the Kenyans have nothing at stake and their only endeavour should be to see that they were not disgraced in their maiden World Cup appearance.

The one-dayers have often been dubbed as a batsman's game and the star-studded Indian batting line-up which

includes Sachin Tendulkar, Mohammed Azharuddin, Navjot Sidhu, Sanjay Manjrekar, Vinod Kambli, Ajay Jadeja, Manoj Prabhakar and Nayan Mongia looks formidable at least on paper.

The Indian batting would, however, largely depend on Tendulkar, who has displayed his prodigious talent time and again, and the young vice-captain must be aware of the responsibility that rests on his shoulder. Tendulkar's form would play a key role to translate India's title dreams into a reality.

Although there is a lot of depth in the Indian batting, the team still lacks a lusty hitter in the middle order - Kapil Dev's calibre who could destroy and bowling attack.

The Indian bowling looks stronger than before as Jagmal Singh and Venkatesh Prasad have gradually matured as fast-medium bowlers and were capable of doing the damages



Bangladesh batsman Faruque in all sorts of trouble as he tries to get out of the way of a sizzling bouncer from MCC's Angus Mackay. - Star photo

PILCOM ignores Ramadan

Sports Reporter

The last-minute decision of the organisers in Pakistan to facilitate drinks indoors in order to maintain the sanctity of Ramadan can be termed hypocritical in the least. In some ways, it reminds one of BTV ladies donning head-cover during Ramadan and while making religious announcements.

Did not the Pakistani organisers know that the World Cup dates clash with Ramadan as well as Eid-ul-Fitr? Would it be possible for players from Pakistan, UAE and Azharuddin to fast during such a high profile tournament? Would the intending-to-fast Muslims among the crowds in different stadiums of the sub-continent be able to observe the piety of this holy month?

These are the questions that seem to have been hovering in Siberia while PILCOM were meeting in India, Pakistan or Sri Lanka. The sentiment of Muslims has been grossly disregarded. And, sadly so, because it could have been easily avoided.

The Pak organisers know very well that drinks in all non-Pak venues would be taken in the open. And, there will be fasting Muslims in those stadium.

Premier cricket resumes Mar 1

Sports Reporter

The league committee has decided to continue with 50-overs-a-side matches in the second phase of the Premier cricket beginning March 1, according to the committee's secretary, Golam Faruque Apu.

The six-team super league and the relegation league were earlier scheduled to be 90-overs-a-side affairs according to the annual calendar of the BCCB. This was revoked after a league committee meeting last night.

The premier league which was suspended to accommodate a rather listless tour of the MCC against different local selections, will resume at the Dhaka Stadium with leaders Mohammedan Sporting Club taking on War Club in the inaugural super-league match.

However, the fixture may change if the Kiwis, who are now engaged in the World Cup, make a short visit to Dhaka, especially in the last week of February or early March.

Now media to boycott?

CUTTACK, Feb 17: Local press reporters and photographers have threatened to boycott tomorrow's Wills World Cup league match-between India and Kenya because they were not issued local passes for covering the event, reports PTI.

The Orissa Sports Journalists Association, in a letter to the convenor of the BCCI special committee which is organising the match, said that despite the assurance that local press passes would be issued, correspondents of both Bhubaneswar and Cuttack were yet to receive the passes.

The OSJA, at an emergency meeting at the Barabati Stadium, also decided to observe the day as a "black day" and stage a demonstration in front of the Orissa Cricket Association office before the start of the match tomorrow.

A copy of the letter was also sent to the Orissa chief minister, J B Patnaik, and the PILCOM convenor-secretary, Jagmohan Dalmiya, for necessary action.

S Australia still on top

SYDNEY, Feb 17: Sheffield Shield leaders South Australia crashed to a 10-wicket defeat by Victoria on Friday but remained six points clear as Queensland also lost, reports Reuter.

Victoria wrapped up their first victory of the season with two sessions to spare in Melbourne after dismissing South Australia for 229, leaving them to score just 20. In Perth, Shield holders Queensland were beaten by seven wickets by Western Australia at the WACA ground.

Victoria all-rounder Tony Doleman steered his side to victory by claiming four for 16 in seven overs. South Australia, resuming on 183 for five, saw their hopes of saving the match ended with the early dismissal of captain Jamie Siddons.

"It's the first game for while that we've played poorly so hopefully its just a hiccup and we'll bounce back," Siddons said. Victoria captain Dean Jones said that opener Matthew Elliot, scorer of a double century in their first innings 519 for seven, was ready to fill the vacancy at Test level created by the recent retirement of David Boon.

At the WACA, Western Australia opener Mark Lavender scored 77 to guide his side to their victory target of 185.

Capriati starts afresh in Essen

PARIS, Feb 17: After an aborted comeback attempt in a Paris, American Jennifer Capriati has accepted a wild card invitation to play in Essen, Germany, next week. WTA Tour officials said Friday, reports AP.



ON SONG: A composed and spirited West Indies side celebrates the fall of Zimbabwe's Heath Streaks wicket - lbw to Courtney Walsh (C) - during the Group 'A' match in Hyderabad, India, on Feb 16. West Indies comfortably won by six wickets. - AFP/UNB photo

Kiwis hound Hollanders



BARODA, India, Feb 17: New Zealand virtually sealed their place in the World Cup quarterfinals with a thumping 119-run victory over minnows Holland in a Group B match here on Saturday, reports AFP.

The Kiwis, fresh from their 11-run victory over England in Wednesday's opener, made light of spirited Dutch resistance in the field to pile up 307 for eight after taking first strike on an easy-paced wicket. It was a target far beyond the reach of the inexperienced Dutchmen, who managed 188 for seven in reply as medium-pace Chris Harris ripped through the middle-order with three wickets.

The Kiwis now fly to Pakistan needing to win one of their three remaining league matches against South Africa, rank outsiders the United Arab Emirates and defending champions Pakistan to confirm a quarterfinal berth.

But New Zealand supporters may not be too impressed by the loss of eight wickets in a match regarded as nothing more than useful batting practice before the tougher games ahead.

Nathan Astle, century-maker against England, failed to get off the mark after being run out in the second over by Craig Spearman while attempting a sharp single. "I was doing a lot of apologising," said Spearman afterwards.

Spearman (68), Stephen Fleming (66), Chris Cairns (52) and Adam Parore (55), however, settled in before throwing their wickets away in a bid to step-up the run-rate.

Dutch captain Steven Lubbers led from the front by grabbing three wickets with his gentle off-spin, while wicketkeeper Marcel Schewe also left a mark in his team's first World Cup appearance with two catches and a stumping at the second attempt.

But, apart from former Hampshire veteran P J Bakker who claimed two wickets with some accurate seamers, the rest of the Dutch attack posed no problems for the experienced Kiwis.

Spearman and Fleming put on 118 for the second wicket after Astle's early dismissal and Cairns blasted four boundaries and two sixes in a typically belligerent 52 off 38 balls. Parore, omitted from the opening game, kept up the pace by striking an aggressive 55 off 54 balls which included three huge sixes.

New Zealand's score fell just two short of their best ever in the World Cup - 309 for five against East Africa in 1975 made off 60 overs.

Dutch opener Peter Cantrell and current county professional Roland Lefebvre top-scored for Holland with 45 apiece. Klass Noordwijk contributed an unbeaten 36 towards the end but the race for victory had been given up long before then.

Nolan Clarke, at 47 the oldest player ever to play in the World Cup, made 14 as Holland's opener before being bowled by rookie fast bowler Robert Kennedy.

New Zealand play South Africa next in Faisalabad on Tuesday. Holland take on England in Peshawar on Thursday. A satisfied New Zealand manager Glenn Turner said: "It was a good exercise. We won comfortably. The batsmen had

Fall of wickets: 1-1; 2-119; 3-155; 4-165; 5-253; 6-279; 7-292; 8-306

Table with columns O, M, R, W for players like Cantrell, Lefebvre, Bakker, Deleeds, Aponso, Lubbers, Cantrell

HOLLAND: N Clarke b Kennedy 14, P Cantrell c Astle b Harris 45, R Lefebvre b Kennedy 45, T Deleeds b Harris 12, K Noordwijk not out 36, M Schewe c Gernon b Fleming 12, B Zuidereit not out 18, Extras: (b-3, lb-5, w-8, nb-2) 188, Total: (7 wickets) 188, Did not bat: E Gouka, P Bakker

Fall of wickets: 1-18; 2-52; 3-66; 4-100; 5-102; 6-147; 7-181

Table with columns O, M, R, W for players like Morrison, Kennedy, Cairns, Harris, Patel, Astle, Fleming, Twease

Over: 50, Result: New Zealand won by 119 runs. Man-of-the match: Craig Spearman.

STANDINGS

World Cup standings after Saturday's matches (top four from each group qualify, played, won, lost, tied, no-result, points): Group A: Sri Lanka 0 0 0 0 0 4+, West Indies 1 1 0 0 0 2, Australia 0 0 0 0 0 0, Kenya 0 0 0 0 0 0, India 0 0 0 0 0 0, Zimbabwe 1 0 1 0 0 0

(+Sri Lanka awarded two points against Australia and two against the West Indies after they forfeited their matches in Colombo)

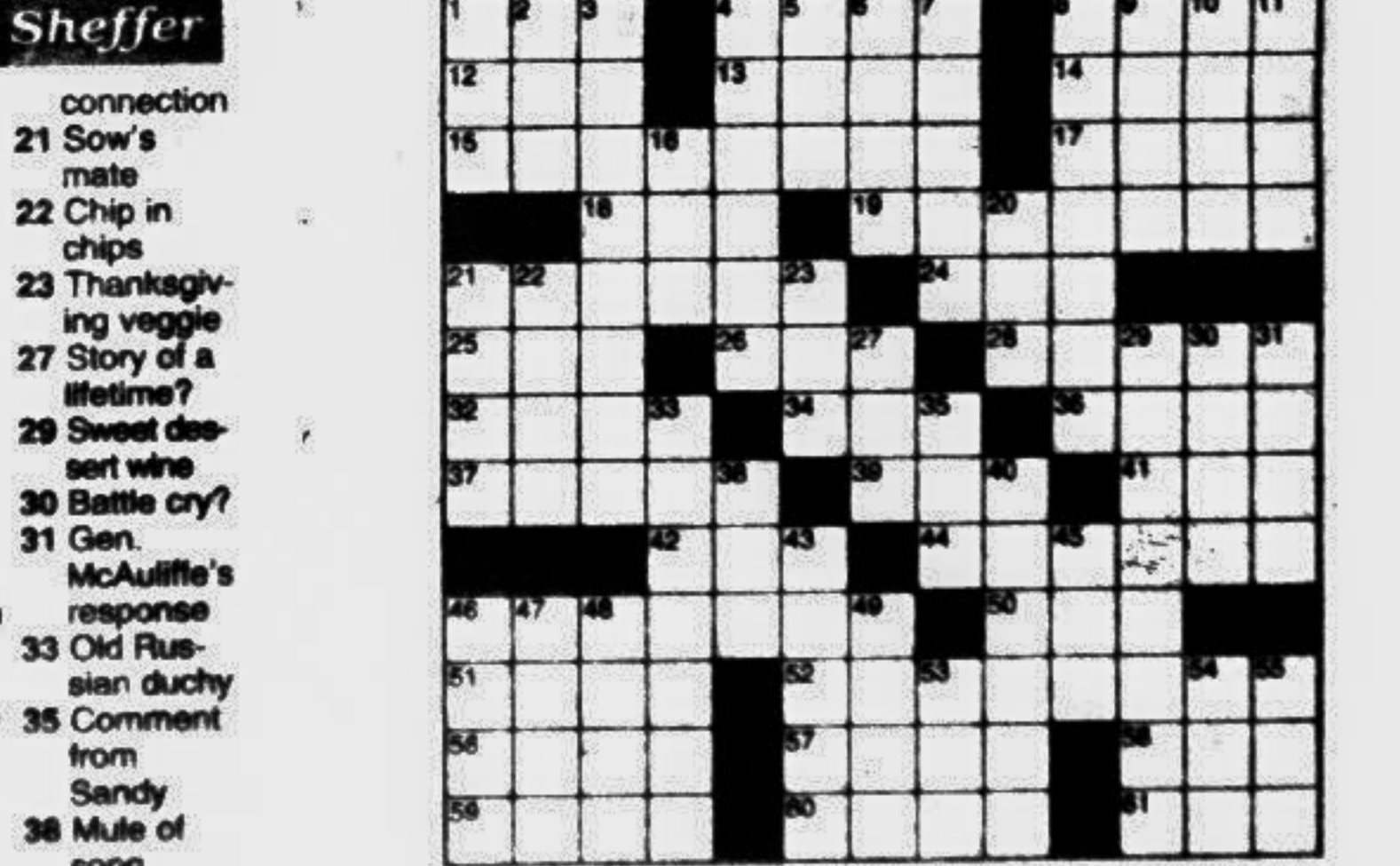
Table with columns Group A, P, W, L, NR, T, Pts for various teams

Laudrup extends his tenure in Rangers

GLASGOW, Feb 17: Danish international star Brian Laudrup will be staying at Scottish champions Rangers until the end of 1998 after signing a one-year extension to his contract, reports AFP. 'He is delighted to make this commitment to the club and we are delighted to have him. Maybe this will end all the speculation about his future,' he added.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS: 1 Line of fashion? 4 Exemplar of redness 8 Ancient Dead Sea Kingdom 12 - Darya (Arab Sea leader) 13 Tangelo variety 14 West Point abbr. 15 Oklahoma city 17 Furniture finder? 18 Dinner for Dobbin 19 "Clue" colonial 21 Auto racer Oldfield 24 Sch. org. 25 Lennon's wife 26 Hair-cream quantity 28 Deprive of fortitude 32 Bit for Fermi 34 Soon-Y's mom 36 Mentor 37 Harris' avuncular stylister 38 Sphere



CRYPTOQUIP: X B X C H V X B I N P X V E C Y B V M P N T B W M I B W V I B V N I B Y B E V C H T N W B: N I C. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WOULD YOU EVER CALL THE MENTALLY OBSSIVE-COMPULSIVE BOWLER A PIN HEAD? Today's Cryptoquip clue: I equals R. The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, R will equal Q throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.