

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Mike Atherton
(England Test captain)
"We decided one of the main things at selection was to pick a good fielding side and that invariably involves fresh legs and I thought the fielding here was a real plus factor for us."

Commenting on his side's eight-wicket win over India in the first Test at Edgbaston.

Sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-41

Tick the Correct Answers
(Competition closes: 8 p.m. June 14, 1996)

- The current Olympic women's singles tennis champion is

Gal	Novina	Capriati
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- The winner of women's shot put gold in the 24th national athletics championship is

Nely Jesani	Abrisa Begum	Lovely Begum
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- Pakistan's premier women's cricket team is

Surrey	Sussex	Essex
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- French Open tennis is played on

Grass	Clay	Hard court
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- The ball used in ice-hockey is

Puck	Striker	Wheel
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Name: _____
 Class: _____ Roll No: _____
 School Address: _____
 Phone: (if any) _____

TODAY'S EURO '96 FIXTURES

Switzerland vs Netherlands
Group A
 Venue: Villa Park
 Time: 12:30 am

Bulgaria vs Romania
Group B
 Venue: St James Park
 Time: 9:30 pm

Note: All times are Bangladesh Standard Time.

EURO '96 STANDINGS

LIVERPOOL, England, June 12: Group C Standings after Italy-Russia match on Tuesday (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, pts):

Germany	1	1	0	2	0	3
Italy	1	1	0	2	1	3
Czech Republic	1	0	0	2	2	0

June 9: Germany 2 (Zizka 25, Moeller 32); Czech Republic 0

June 11: Italy 2 (Casiraghi 5, 52); Russia 1 (Tsubalar 21)
 Group D standings after Turkey-Croatia match on Tuesday (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, pts):

Croatia	1	1	0	1	0	3
Denmark	1	0	1	1	1	1
Portugal	1	0	1	1	1	1
Turkey	1	0	0	1	1	0

June 9: Denmark 1 (B Lautrup 21); Portugal 1 (SA Pinto 53)

June 11: Turkey 0 Croatia 1 (Vlaovic 16)

Records may ruin hosts' hopes!

LONDON, June 12: England's World Cup failure two years ago could cost them a place in the quarterfinals of Euro '96 if all four teams in Group A finish level on points, reports AFP.

UEFA has elected to use respective qualifying records for the last three major championships — Euro '92, the 1994 World Cup and Euro '96 — to decide who will qualify for the quarterfinals should teams finish level.

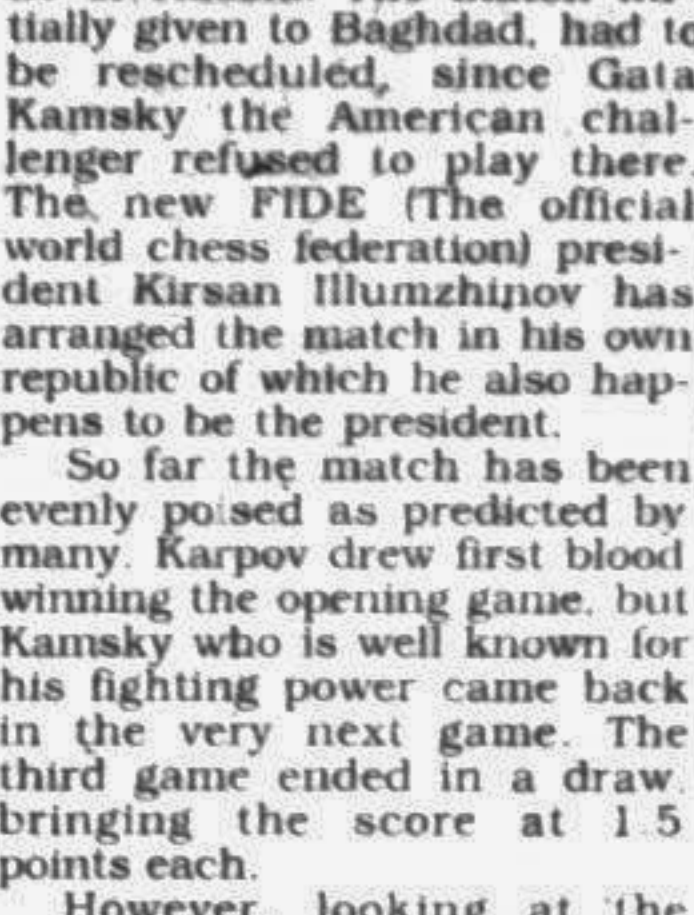
It leaves England, who failed to win a place for the World Cup in America two years ago and as hosts have not been involved in the qualifying rounds for Euro '96, at a distinct disadvantage to their group rivals — Holland, Switzerland, Scotland.

Holland have the best record, having reached all three finals, winning 18 qualifying matches in the process.

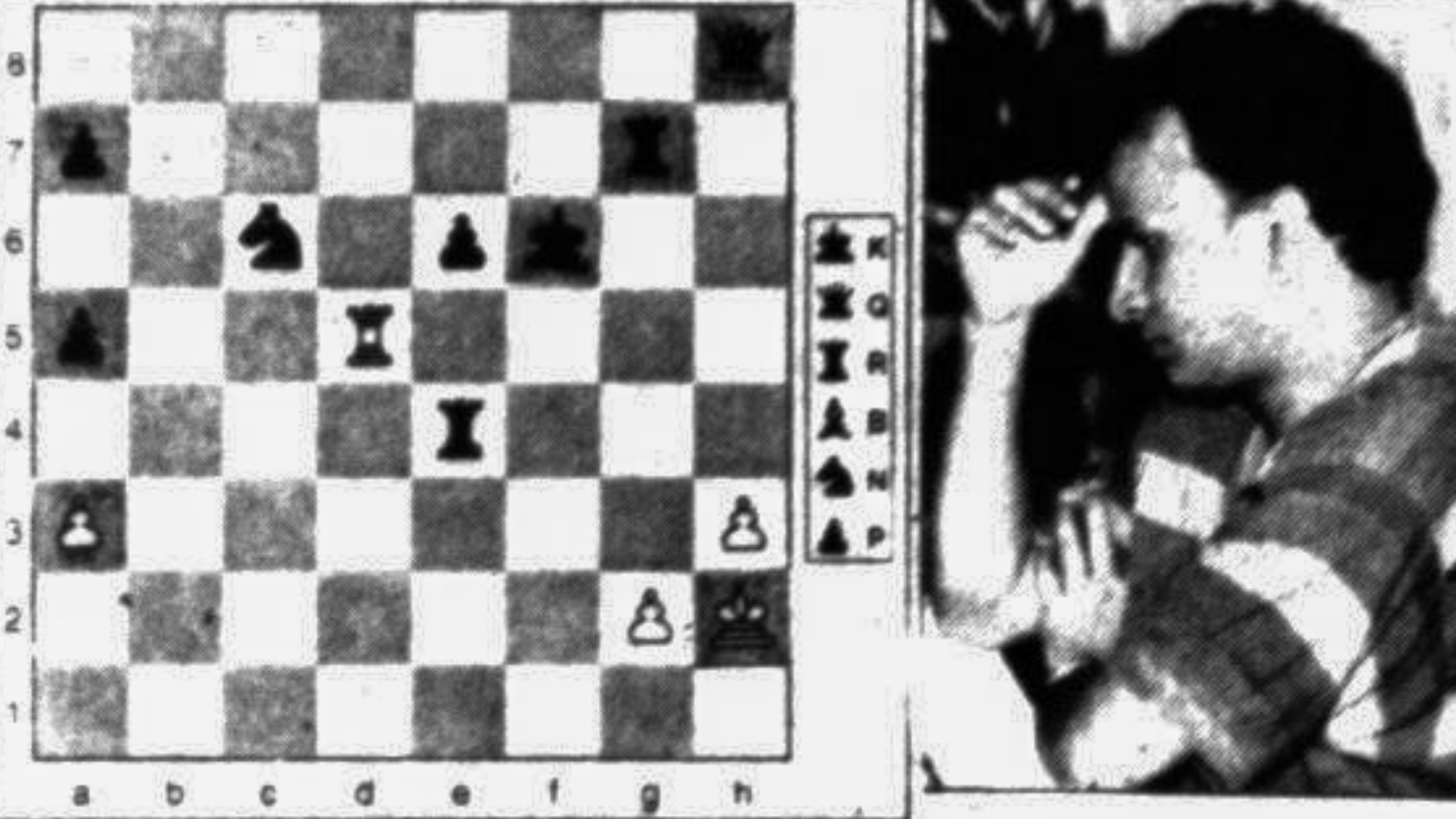
Craig Brown's Scotland won 15 matches while Switzerland, who drew 1-1 with England in the tournament opener at Wembley on Saturday, have won 15 matches.

Niaz Murshed's PAPERCHESS

No-7
 THE long awaited Anatoly Karpov vs. Gata Kamsky match began this week in Elista, capital of Kalmyk republic of Russia. The match initially given to Baghdad, had to be rescheduled, since Gata Kamsky the American challenger refused to play there. The new FIDE (The official world chess federation) president Kirsan Ilyumzhinov has arranged the match in his own republic of which he also happens to be the president.



ANATOLY KARPOV strong as he used to be, and is struggling at the opening stage



of the game. Kamsky, who is only about half as old as Karpov may be in for a real chance to win the title.
 The total prize fund is US 2 million dollars, which happens to be the highest amount so far with Kamsky playing white. (Can you find the winning move for white?)
 Solution: 1. R-h5! (White wants to play R-h6 check) Karpov played 1... N-e7 and resigned after 2.R-h7. 2... N-f5

in the history of chess. This record however may not last for long since FIDE has new ideas to make chess faster, less time consuming and more money earning. The traditional long drawn world chess championships may come to an end, with the introduction of a single knockout system tournament, which will only last three weeks. Each match will have four games including the semifinals and the final. This tournament which is supposed to take place in December this year in Elista will have 100 top players from all over the world. The six qualifiers from Asia would be Grandmasters Vishwanathan Anand, Utut Adianto, Dyebendo Barua, myself and two others from central Asian CIS countries.

No matter what some may say about this abrupt change, most chess players think that the staggering 5 million US dollar prize fund offered for the tournament is worth it. Lets take a look at the on going match which may be the last of its kind. Here is a position from the second game

would be replied with 3. R-g7 N-g7 4. Q-h6 check winning the knight and the game.

GATA KAMSKY
 Niaz Murshed is the continent's first Grand Master.

EURO '96 NOTEBOOK

DURHAM, Eng-land, June 12 (AP): Under-fire England were dealt another Euro '96 blow Tuesday when reserve centre back Steve Howey dropped out of the squad after twisting an ankle while on a training run. The squad was given two days off after Saturday's disappointing 1-1 tie with Switzerland and Howey, who was an injury doubt before the tournament, decided to maintain his fitness by going on a run near his home.

"I just went into a hole and went over on my ankle," the Newcastle player said. "I went straight down and knew instantly it was really bad."

"I couldn't move. I spent 15 minutes sitting in the nettles waiting for someone to help me out. Fortunately a couple came along, picked me up and helped me home," said Howey, who will be out of action for four weeks.

Because the championship has already started, England coach Terry Venables cannot call up a replacement and the loss of another center-back, along with Liverpool's Mark Wright, is a major problem for the coach.

Howey is the second player to be ruled out of Euro '96. Germany's Juergen Kohler, also a defender, was injured after only 10 minutes of his team's opening 2-0 victory over the Czech Republic on Sunday.

LONDON: Urt Geller, who found fame by claiming he could bend metal forks and spoons with just thought power, now says he can straighten out England's wilying soccer team. The Israeli-born psychic, who now follows soccer regularly in England, has asked coach Terry Venables if he can apply how powers to motivate the team, which appears to have been hit badly by Saturday's confidence-sapping tie with Switzerland in the European Championship.

Geller suggested that England could regain that confidence simply by touching the ball used in the 1966 World Cup final, when the nation won its only major title.

"I would like them all to touch it as an inspiration. If I can see the England team they will win against Scotland on Saturday," Geller said.

"I want to give them a psychic boost. I will tell them to have confidence, to visualize themselves scoring a goal. They can work up their own powers."

"If I tell them to be positive and that they can win — and then if I go ahead with a demonstration in which I bend a spoon, that will amaze them."

Venables said thanks but no thanks.

"We're not going to take up his invitation," England spokesman Steve Double said. "We appreciate everybody who is interested in the well-being of England's footballers but Terry felt this was one particular line that he was able to pass by."

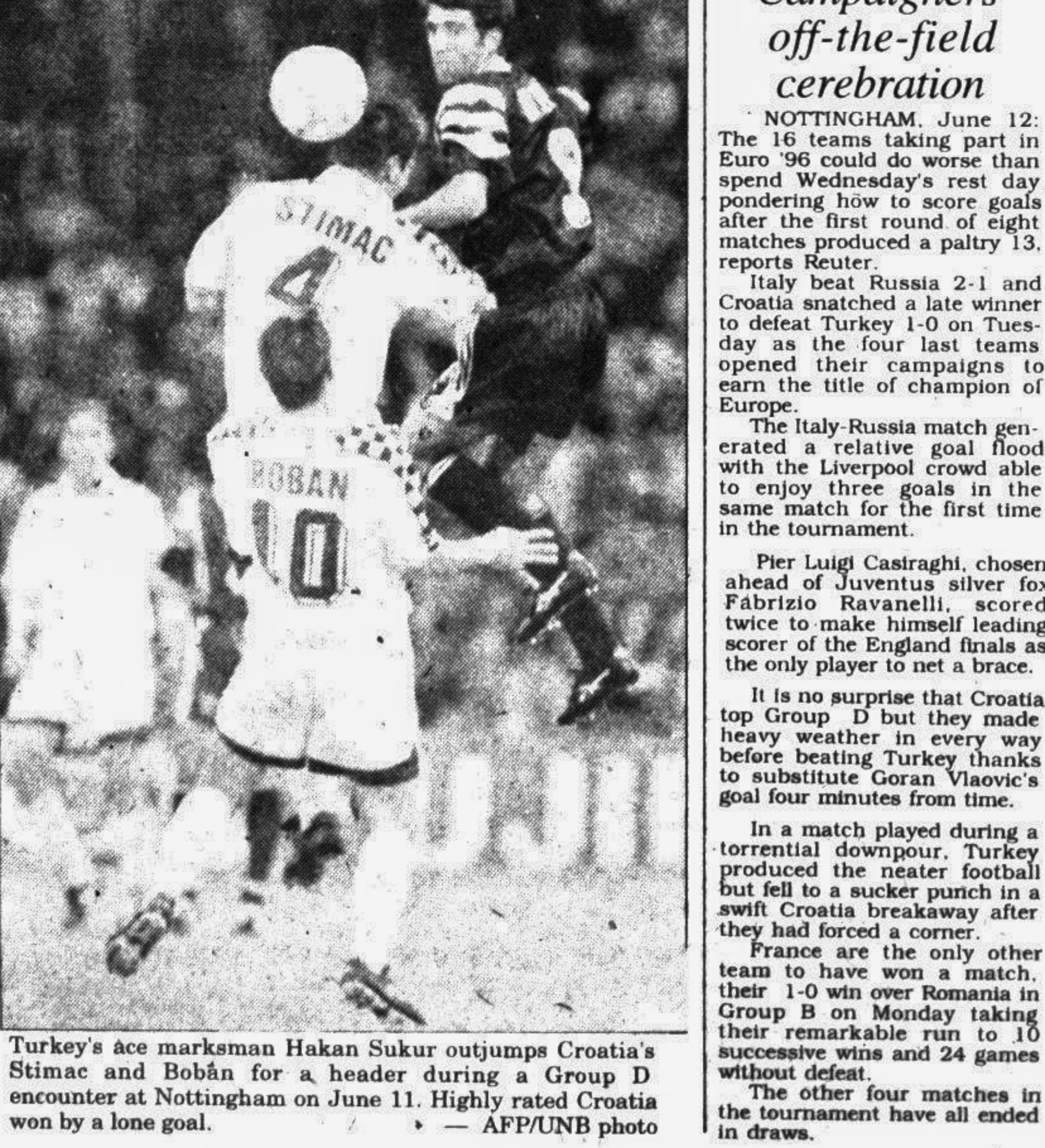
"Our preparations are right on line."

LONDON: Mick Hucknall, lead singer of the world renowned group Simply Red, is a fanatical Manchester United fan and hopes England will win the European Championship. But he believes the title will go to Germany and he has already had one successful prediction regarding its star striker Juergen Klinsmann.

"I met Juergen several years ago in Sardinia when he was playing for Inter Milan against Cagliari," said Hucknall, whose new release "We're In This Together" is the theme tune for the tournament.

"I told him they would win 3-0 and they did — and he scored two of the goals. I'm not saying that I can predict everything like that but I know he still remembers what happened."

ALSAGER: Not impressed by the locker room facilities at their training headquarters, the Italian squad has agreed to pay 7,500 pounds (dtrs. 11,250) for improvements, such as new mirrors, showers and hair driers.



Turkey's ace marksman Hakan Sukur outjumps Croatia's Stimac and Boban for a header during a Group D encounter at Nottingham on June 11. Highly rated Croatia won by a lone goal. — AFP/UNB photo

Benson & Hedges semis heat up

LONDON, June 12: Tim Walton blasted an unbeaten 70 to rescue Northamptonshire and guide them to a respectable 220 for seven against Warwickshire in a rain-delayed Benson and Hedges cricket semifinal on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

The 23-year-old Walton, brought into the side for out-of-form opener Alan Fordham, combined with Tony Penberthy in a Northants one-day seventh-wicket record of 108 in 17 overs after his side had slumped to 88 for six.

Play will resume at Northampton today with Warwickshire on 91 for three after 23.2 overs.

Walton, in only his eight first-class appearance, hit straight sixes of Paul Smith and Dougie Brown, whose final over cost 16 runs, his runs came from 73 balls.

Opener Richard Montgomerie's 49 single-handedly kept Northamptonshire afloat in the difficult early overs against the new ball.

Penberthy contributed 41 runs from 49 balls.

In the other semifinal at Old Trafford, Australia's Michael Bevan hammered an unbeaten 73 from 65 balls as Yorkshire moved to 198 for five against Lancashire when bad light stopped play in the 45th over.

In-form Bevan partnered Richard Blakey, 50 not out in 80 deliveries, in a stand of 115 after Yorkshire had slumped from 66 for one to 83 for five.

Bevan had earlier hit 80 not out, 75, 81 and 65 not out in the one-day competition this season.

Illy's date on Tuesday

LONDON, June 12: England's chairman of selectors Ray Illingworth will face a disciplinary hearing next Tuesday over comments he made in his book "one-man committee", reports Reuter.

He had been due to meet the Test and County Cricket Board's (TCCB) disciplinary committee this Tuesday but was granted a further seven days to prepare his case.

In recent newspaper articles extracted from his book, Illingworth castigated a number of England players in general and fast bowler Devon Malcolm in particular. The book is due to be published on Thursday.

Illingworth, who plans to quit his job at the end of this season, could be reprimanded, fined, or even suspended by the TCCB.

Klinsmann's denial

MACCLESFIELD, Eng-land, June 12: Germany captain and striker Juergen Klinsmann on Tuesday denied British press reports that he planned to return to English club football next season, reports Reuter.

"My future is at Bayern Munnich. I want to win the German championship and the European Cup," said the former Tottenham Hotspur forward who has been reported to be set to join Chelsea. "I have to smile about all this speculation."

Klinsmann has a major success in his 1994-95 season at premier league Tottenham before he returned to Germany at the end of the campaign.

Although he has had problems with Bayern's veteran World Cup midfielder Lothar Matthaus this season, few in Germany believe Klinsmann is going to leave the Bundesliga's richest club.

Klinsmann was mobbed by reporters at the Germany's European Championship training camp on Tuesday, spending half an hour answering questions in English, German and French.

The striker missed Germany's opening game against the Czech Republic on Sunday because of suspension but will return for their next Group C clash with Russia at the weekend.

"I was more tense in the stands than I am on the field because I couldn't influence anything," Klinsmann said of the 2-0 victory over the Czechs.

Asked what the Germans would do if they failed to come through their Euro '96 group of death, which also includes the powerful Italians, Klinsmann said: "It would be better if we didn't fly back to Germany."

Uhrin ushers in changes

PRESTON, June 12: Czech Republic coach Dusan Uhrin has promised changes for his team's European Championship match against Italy on Friday, reports Reuter.

"There'll be at least one or two changes," said Dusan in the wake of Sunday's 2-0 defeat by Germany.

Patrick Berger, the leading Czech marksman in the qualifiers, was not introduced until halftime against Germany but seems likely to start.

Uhrin has not joined the clamour over the strictness of referees. On the contrary he felt that English match official David Elleray, who cautioned 10 in the Germany-Czech games, should have been firmer earlier in the match.

"At first, he left things go," said Uhrin. "Then he wanted to make up for it. I was disappointed with the referee."

Defender Michal Hornak, who has a slight thigh strain, is the only Czech player troubled by injury.



Omar Tetrade (2) of Russia prepares to clear off while Italian star forward Alessandro Del Piero (C) scampers for possession during their Group C clash at Anfield, Liverpool, on June 11. Italy won 2-1. — AFP/UNB photo

Casiraghi's cameo debut

LIVERPOOL, Eng-land, June 12: Italy joined Germany at the top of Group C after two goals by controversial selection Pier Luigi Casiraghi secured a 2-1 victory over Russia at Anfield on Tuesday, reports AFP.

The decision to leave Juventus star Fabrizio Ravanelli on the bench was vindicated in emphatic fashion as Lazio star Casiraghi struck at the start of each half to ease the pressure on the Italians.

To the delight of the predominantly Italian 35,120 crowd, Casiraghi put Italy, the perennial slow starters of major championships into the lead after just five minutes.

Ravanelli said he was bitter about his omission but not even he would have resented his replacement's early strike.

The goal arrived at the courtesy of Russian keeper Stanislav Cherchesov who misleaked the ball straight to Angelo di Livio who promptly kicked out the powerful Casiraghi in acres of space outside the Russian area.

The 27-year-old showed good control to bring the ball down before turning smartly and firing a low shot to the right of Cherchesov who did not even bother to dive, he was so far out of position.

The technically accomplished Russians though showed they had no intention of succumbing to the 1994 World Cup finalists.

The 1988 European finalists and winners of the inaugural event in 1960 drew level after 20 minutes when captain and defensive linchpin Viktor Onopko found Valeri Karpin on the edge of the 18-yard box.

The Italian defence backed off allowing the 27-year-old Real Sociedad star a strike at goal and when his effort was blocked, Tsubalar, rushing into the left side of the area, pounced to bury a low shot beyond Angelo Peruzzi.

The start of the second half was a carbon copy of the first with the Italians wasting no time finding the back of the Russian net.

Casiraghi, old-fashioned centre forward of the muscular variety, staked his claim for a permanent place in the side with a second goal that owed much to the vision of Angelo di Livio and strike partner Gianfranco Zola.

Di Livio picked out Zola with a 30-yard pass who turned on the edge of the box and threaded the ball through the flat-footed Russian defence for Casiraghi of finish.

Alexander Mostovoi raised Russian hopes of a second equaliser with a snap volley from 25 yards that flew inches past the left-hand upright.

Parma striker Zola had two good chances to kill of the Russians. With 20 minutes to go he was clear through on the Russian goal, but as he burst into the area, Cherchesov raced off his line to smother his shot.

Moments later he showed why he is the most feared free-kick specialist in serie-a when he unleashed a dipping, swerving drive from 25 yards that whistled just wide of the right angle.

Ravanelli was finally brought into the action with 10 minutes to go, but the decision not to play him from the start appeared justified when he fluffed a clear chance after finding himself one-on-one with Cherchesov.

The winning goal also came on the counter-attack, almost directly from a Turkish corner. The game did little to dispel the feeling that at 80-1, Turkey have little chance of advancing to the quarterfinals, although they have some good technique and look one of the fittest sides in the competition.

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Croats late in the day

NOTTINGHAM, Eng-land, June 12: A stunning solo goal by substitute Goran Vlaovic four minutes from time gave Croatia a 1-0 win over Turkey in a disappointing Group D game which completed the first series of matches in Euro '96 on Tuesday.

Vlaovic, who replaced the bandaged Alen Boksic after 73 minutes, picked up the ball in his own half, outpaced the chasing defenders and after running fully 50 metres rounded goalkeeper Rustu Reber for the winner.

It was his fifth goal in only his eighth international and was the only memorable moment of a game which had flashes of individual skills from both teams but was largely a disappointing spectacle on a cold, rainy night in a half-filled ground.

Croatia had far more of the play and looked the more likely to score. But they rarely penetrated a Turkish defence which always seemed to have men behind the ball.

Croatia had three chances to score from back-post headers but Mario Stanic, Zvonimir Boban and Davor Suker all missed out.

Turkey, who like Croatia were playing in the European Championship finals for the first time, created a number of half chances of their own but left striker Hakan Sukur isolated in attack for long periods.

Too often when they broke out of defence they wasted their advantage with a succession of poor final passes.

Turkey, urged on by the vociferous support of around 15,000 fans in the 22,000-crowd, made a bright start and Sergen Yalcin tried his luck with a long-range shot after 11 minutes.

The Turks, with Abdullah Ercan and skipper Ogun Temelkanoglu showing invention, also played some nice football in midfield, but their attacks petered out in the final third, allowing Croatia to launch several counter offensives.

But with two defenders on Zvonimir Boban, one of their main playmakers who had a largely ineffectual game before going off after 57 minutes, the Croats tended to play the long ball forward — and their attacks also came to nothing.

Apart from the goal, the one exception came in the 67th minute when Robert Prosinecki and Robert Jarni worked an intelligent free kick on the left. Jarni's far-post cross found Suker whose close-range headed somehow bounced wide of a gaping goal.

The winning goal also came on the counter-attack, almost directly from a Turkish corner. The game did little to dispel the feeling that at 80-1, Turkey have little chance of advancing to the quarterfinals, although they have some good technique and look one of the fittest sides in the competition.

Croatia, tipped as tournament dark horses, will need to improve on this poor performance in their next match against defending champions Denmark at Sheffield on Sunday if they are to be taken as realistic, potential champions.

Odds on Italy improves

LONDON, June 12: The odds on Italy winning the European Soccer Championships were cut on Tuesday to 7/2 from 9/2 after their 2-1 victory over Russia, a leading bookmaker said, reports Reuter.

But they remain second favourites behind Germany who are quoted at 11/4.

Other fancied teams include France at 5-1, the Netherlands at 6-1 and England at 8/1.

Odds on Russia lengthened to 50/1 from 18/1.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	setting?	Grey's ilk	fields we go
1 Courted	33 Worthless	52 Part of	21 Chickpeas
2 A traffic ticket	34 DJIA	53 Farm females	22 Chum
3 Once around	35 Piece of a pound	54 Females	23 Trot
4 Vanished	36 Com-motion	55 "Evening Shade" role	24 Marilu's
5 Sacra-mento's	37 The whole enchilada	56 Carriage	25 Each
6 Arena	38 Mix	57 Follow re-lentlessly	26 "Holy cow"
7 Kimono	39 Back	58 Faithful	27 B&B
8 accessory	40 Resort	59 Faithful truck of	28 Yen
9 In the thick of	41 Bronx	60 With skill	29 Attention getter
10 He's not half bad looking	42 Works in his bed	61 Scales pitch?	30 Conceit
11 "Street Scene" playwright	43 Height: prefix	62 Simon's old partner	31 Put
12 Acapulco	44 Acapulco	63 Skip over	32 Together
13 Ostrich's cousin	45 Wars of the Roses	64 Friendly faction	33 Cupid's missile
14 Has possibilities	46 Earl	65 "the	34 Neighbor's kid?
15 Many, many times	47 Earl	66 "the	35 Aeronoc, for one
16 Tooth-paste type	48 Little, in Lille	67 Omit, ODE PERI	36 Pound of verse
17 Little, in Lille	49 Omit, ODE PERI	68 NOLI ODE AXES	37 Gambling game
18 Black lacquer	50 Omit, ODE PERI	69 Omit, ODE PERI	38 TV reception problem
19 Parsley, e.g.	51 Omit, ODE PERI	70 Omit, ODE PERI	39 Father (Fr.)
20 Finished swimmer	52 Omit, ODE PERI	71 Omit, ODE PERI	40 Clumsy boots
21 Banjo	53 Omit, ODE PERI	72 Omit, ODE PERI	41 Creator
			42 Needle aperture

Solution time: 27 mins.

CRYPTOQUIP
 X C A D J P R J C Z D J D V
 V X Q R E Q D P Z R A I Z C Z A N
 N D Q R D J R N C X I C R E C D I X P R
 T H I E F C O U L D H A V E A R E C O R D C O L L E C T I O N

Today's Cryptoquip clue: P equals V

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.