

Column One SPORTS TALK



Malivai Washington (American tennis player)

I thought it was a photographer at first. Then I looked over and I see this streaker. She smiled at me. She had on an apron. She lifted it up and she was still smiling at me. Then I got flustered and 'boom' three sets later I was gone.

Sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

ANNOUNCEMENT

Now Taka 1000/-!!! Hey Kids! Take a look at this WHIZZ KID who have one winner drawn from all the correct entries each week.

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-45

Tick the Correct Answers

Table with 5 questions and multiple choice options for the Whizz Kid competition.

Registration form for the Whizz Kid competition including fields for Name, Class, Roll No, School Address, and Phone.

Where is Ronaldo going?

ROTTERDAM, July 10: Brazilian striker Ronaldo looks set to leave Dutch club holders PSV Eindhoven for either Barcelona or Inter Milan.

The 19-year-old striker has said he would like to play in Spain, following in the footsteps of fellow Brazilian Ronaldo who is scored 96 goals in 102 games for the Dutch side before signing for Barcelona in 1993.

Schools kabaddi

Dolairpar High School and Bangladesh Rifles High School & College moved into the finals of the sixth schools kabaddi tournament winning their respective semifinal matches yesterday, reports UNB.

In the first semi Dolairpar High School easily beat Shaheed Nabi High School by 44-14 points at the court of Dhaka Outer Stadium.

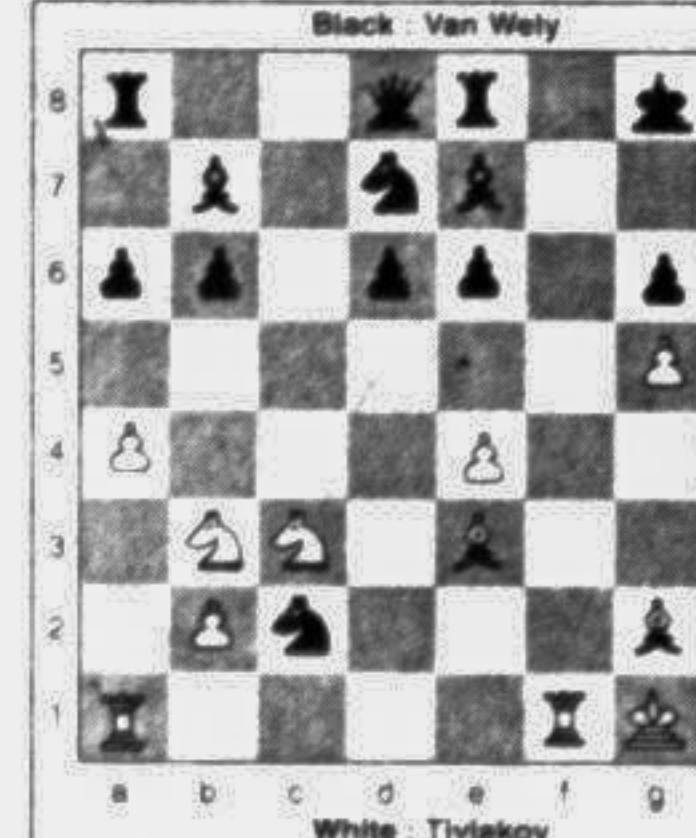
Niaz Mursheed's PAPERCHESS

No. 11 THE former Soviet school of chess has always been the strongest in the world. In fact there really hasn't been any other school, or should I say any other style of play which has been so durable.

Why are the ex-Soviet states and particularly Russians so good at this game? Well, it is analogous to the Chinese being good at table tennis or the Americans at basketball. These sports are intertwined into the lifestyle of the entire nation.

For example, in the old communist days, when the use of labour was rather inefficient, you could sit around the factory and practice king's Indian defence all day.

I remember in 1983 when I first visited Moscow, I went to see a friendly game which was being played between the liftman and the hotel boy. I thought I could show some of my superior skills to them.



black king Solution: 1. R7! K72. Q. h7 check Kf8 3. Rf1 check with a winning attack.

Israel now, sums it up beautifully. "If you beat Shakhov, then you have to face Shakhovsky. He adds with a sigh: "And when you beat Shakhovsky, Shakhov comes along. It is a never ending line."



black king Solution: 1. R7! K72. Q. h7 check Kf8 3. Rf1 check with a winning attack.

Track to take the heat

ATLANTA, July 10 (AFP) Two track athletes look certain to overshadow this year's centennial Olympics.

Both are already assured of their places in the sport's Hall of Fame. Both are sprinters.



MICHAEL JOHNSON both American and both the biggest of box office.

You do not get any more high profile than Carl Lewis and Michael Johnson.

They are so central to Atlanta's hopes of success as a sporting showpiece, 100 years on after Athens heralded the start of modern athletics, that the track schedules were even redrafted for them.

Lewis - yesterday's man - a dream of winning four golds, just as he had done so gloriously in Los Angeles in 1984.

New world record holder Johnson - today's man, and tomorrow's too - wanted to

attempt the 200/400m double, emulating his feat at the World Championships last year.

The International Olympic Committee's efforts to accommodate the pair - even though Lewis then let them down by only qualifying for the long jump at the US trials - show how far athletics, the heart of Atlanta's centennial Games, has come to rely on its front-line stars.

And the sprinters above all the Atlanta track, it seems, hard and fast, has been tailor-made for them. World champion hurdler Allen Johnson called it "probably the fastest track in the world" earlier in the year.

Olympic 100m champion Linford Christie was blunter still. "It's going to be a sprinters' Games," he said.

If it is, Atlanta may even outdo the Tokyo World Championships in 1991, which produced a Carl Lewis world record in the blue ribbon event and six runners under the loser banner.

The other attraction of the men's sprints will be their strength in depth, in a discipline where there is such small margin for error.

The 100m looks wide open, with will-he-win the Olympic champion Linford Christie, world champion Donovan Bailey and Americans Dennis Mitchell and Mike Marsh the leading contenders.

Trinidadian Ato Bolden, the fastest man in the world this year, will play the role of wild card. A false start or a slip out of the blocks could settle it.

The 200m field may be dominated by Johnson, who beat the oldest record in the book when he effaced Pietro Mennea's 1979 mark by six hundredths of a second, but 1993 world champion Frankie Fredericks and Marsh, the reigning Olympic gold medalist, will be snapping at his heels.

The case seems as cut and dried over one lap. It's not so much a case of whether Johnson will win, but whether he will beat another world record by removing Butch Reynolds' name from the history books.

World records, in fact, are real possibilities in all the

men's sprints, adding to the likelihood that they will be the focus of attention as never before.

Every Marsh muscle twinge, every Bailey blunder, every Christie cough and Johnson eyebrow-twitch will be recorded and dissected for some sort of meaning during



CARL LEWIS Atlanta.

The United States' traditional strength in sprints - sadly, however, Green Torrence failed to qualify for the 200m - will only add to the local fervour.

The rest of the athletics programme will have to struggle for what it left of the limelight.

There is plenty of quality about. Nouredine Morcelli in the 1,500, Haile-Gebreselassie in the 5,000 and 10,000m, Moses Kiptanui in the steeplechase and Sergey Bubka in the pole vault and Jonathan Edwards in the triple jump.

The women's crowd-pullers will be led by Torrence, Marie-Jose Perce in the 400m, Maria Mutola in the 800, Wang Junxia in the 10,000m.

If there is a weakness, however, it may be that certain disciplines lack competitive depth.

Most of the above competitors - like Johnson - belong to a class of super-athletes that have taken on the aura of invincibility over recent seasons.

The drama, therefore, may have to come from record times or from the story behind the athlete rather than from the thrill of head-to-head battle.

Mutola, for example, is out for revenge after being disqualified during last year's World Championships for stepping out of lane.

Morcelli is looking for his first Olympic gold to accompany three world titles after a disastrous run in Barcelona. Bubka, too, has a nightmare to bury after no-heighting four years ago.

Wang, meanwhile, has a past to bury after breaking away from controversial coach Ma Junren in an attempt to recapture the form that won her the world title in Stuttgart.

Karpov half a point away

ELISTA, Russia, July 10: Russian title-holder Anatoly Karpov only needs a draw to keep his crown after drawing on Tuesday his 17th game against American challenger Gata Kamsky in the international chess federation (FIDE) World Championship held in Elista (Kalmyk Republic), reports AFP.

Karpov leads over Kamsky by 10 points to 7 and a draw in the 18th game, which will be played today, would allow him to win definitively this encounter and keep his title.

The winner of this championship scheduled in 20 games will be the first player to score 10.5 or 11 points (1 for a victory, 0.5 for a draw).

Karpov and Kamsky agreed a draw without resuming their 17th game which had adjourned on Monday evening in an equal position.

Gata Kamsky's father and manager, Roustam, phoned to the arbiter to offer a draw and Karpov agreed. Karpov's sealed move was 60.kd4.

Olympic torch in Georgia

SANANNAH, Georgia, July 10: Ten days before the centennial Olympics in Atlanta, the Olympic flame arrived in the state of Georgia, on Tuesday, reaching Sanannah by tall ship where it was carried ashore by a sailing champion, reports AFP.

The flame, which started its journey in Athens 74 days earlier, arrived in Los Angeles, the last US city to host the Summer Games, in April. It still has 2,880 kilometres (1,800 miles) to go in Georgia before it reaches Atlanta in time for the opening ceremonies on July 19.

"This is a proud day for all of Georgia. We now have responsibility for this flame, and we are going to live up to our commitments," said Billy Payne, the chief executive officer of the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games.

The flame was carried ashore after its trip from Florida by Mark Reynolds, who won a yachting gold medal for the United States at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

The ceremony in Sanannah's Forsyth Park was within sight of the Sanannah Olympic Village, where yachting competitors and officials are housed.

Sailors from several teams, including Australia and the United States, were among the several thousand people who turned out for the show.

The yachting competition site is several miles away in Wassaw Sound.

Payne, who flew the 440 kilometre (275 miles) from Atlanta to Sanannah for the ceremony, said his job had not changed in the final countdown to the Olympics.

"I'm approaching the next 10 days like I did the last 3,600," Payne said. "You learn something new every day. Every day you work as hard as you can."

He added: "Sometimes I feel guilty that I'm not nervous. We've done our job for 10 years, and we're ready."

The first official welcoming ceremonies at the main Olympic Village in Atlanta were scheduled today.

Athletes were already training at Olympic venues, including the International Horse Park and the Competition Pool.

But teams from many of the 197 competing nations were still at training camps outside the host city, in some cases in neighbouring states.

217 ROK athletes ahead for Atlanta

SEOUL, July 10: The main contingent of South Korea's 503-member Olympic team left here today for Atlanta to attend the Olympics, one day after the departure of a North Korean Olympic squad, reports AFP.

Television showed 217 South Korean athletes and officials holding a brief ceremony at Seoul's Gimpo international airport before boarding a charter flight.

The remaining South Korean Olympic team members will be sent later on regular commercial flights.

"We are fully ready and will do our best in Atlanta," team manager Shin Pak-Jae told reporters, saying South Korea aims to win up to 13 gold medals in Atlanta.

Super 8s bids to be the game of the century

Bob Holmes from Kuala Lumpur

Once a leisurely game in which long periods of inactivity were interrupted only by breaks for lunch and tea, cricket was rocked by rule changes that speeded up the pace and the excitement. Now, reports Gemini News Service, comes a new, even faster variation.

"Cricket," wrote novelist George Orwell, "is not a 20th century game." But that was before the invention of Super 8s, which its sponsors are sure will make it a top attraction in the 21st.

The game has already been subjected to a one-day revolution and its accompanying gadgetry, which has seen it through the last 25 years. Super 8s makes the 50-over bash seem long-winded.

The eight-a-side game will be officially launched in Kuala Lumpur on 12 July by star-studded teams from Australia, New Zealand, India, South Africa and a polyglot Asian side skippered by former Aussie Test legend Allan Border.

The brainchild of another Australian cricketing great, Greg Chappell, Super 8s lasts a maximum of two action-packed hours. Everyone but the wicketkeeper bowls between one and three overs, for a total of 14 overs per team.

The emphasis is on participation for all: a batsman must retire at 50 but may return later if there are still balls left to be bowled, and the last man can bat on even when the seventh wicket has fallen. A shot clearing the fence counts for eight runs instead of the customary six.

With just six fielders - besides bowler and wicketkeeper - athleticism in the field is essential, while the captain must be clued up and imaginative to keep his opponents' score within reach.

Traditionalists who have still not adjusted to the one-day format may blanche at the thought of such heresy, but others see it as useful in honing skills for five-day Test matches.

Chappell recognised that even one-day cricket is still long-winded compared with many fast-moving sports and that if the game was going to attract a new audience and a wider market, an even shorter version was necessary.

Also mindful of the fact that England is the only nation playing a domestic programme in the middle of the year, he sought a short, sharp alternative challenge in which southern hemisphere players could hone their skills.

"Traditionally, a professional who wants to play cricket all year round went to

England, but the standard is often so low and the conditions so poor that an emerging player does not gain much," he explains. "Nor does the migration of all these players to a cricket stronghold do anything for the expansion of the game."

"This is where Super 8s comes in. It offers an alternative to players wanting to make a career out of the game and, by playing international tournaments in non-traditional

countries, has the potential to assist in the development of the game worldwide."

Malaysia was chosen as the launch pad, says Chappell, "because of its strong cricket foundation and ambitions, and its increasing economic clout."

He believes Asia could be "the next great growth area for the game. You don't have to be 210cm tall or 120kg to play cricket and this game offers a real opportunity to Asian countries."

"Also, in today's electronic climate, cricket cannot afford

to be off the television screen for six months of the year."

Cricket's latest attempt to reinvent itself will be watched closely by everyone connected with the game. In England, for example, the game has all but disappeared in schools as demands on hard-pressed teachers have risen, but the two-hour hit-about could see it return to the afternoon timetable.

In non-cricketing nations, the game should be fast enough to grab an audience as there will be few dull moments. It may be of particular appeal to Asians who traditionally excel in sports in which balls are hit by wooden implements.

Even though the portents look good, Chappell originally had doubts his creation.

"When I went to the Australian Cricket Board for support, I expected to be laughed at. I thought it might have been an uphill battle with too many drastic ideas."

Instead, it was warmly embraced by the Board and by leading players: "You can propose any concept but if it doesn't appeal to the players it's got no hope. So far the response from all the elite players has been fantastic."

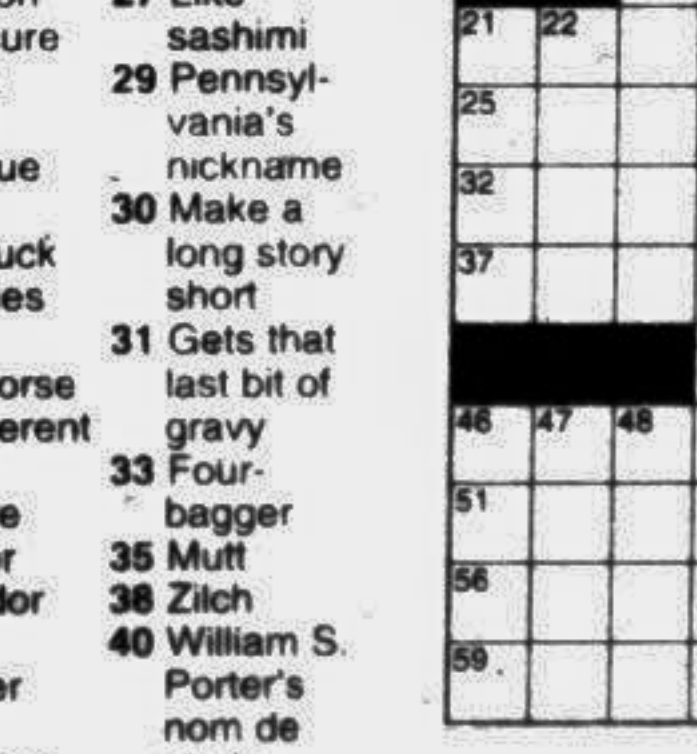
Border, who is coming out of retirement for the Kuala Lumpur tourney, is enthusiastic: "It's a great concept because it contains all the skills. You have to bat, bowl and, in particular, be good in the field," he says.

"We need a game that is going to keep pace with the 21st century without bastardising the basics, and this will be a good answer to baseball because it's fast and has results."

He does not think the quick-fire format will detract from Test cricket: "You're still going to have the focus on the five-day game because Test cricket is still the greatest assessment. Today's kids still rate Test cricket as the ultimate."

But if Super 8s can build a new innings for cricket in Asia, Orwell could well prove to have been right in the long run - though superseded in the 20th century, cricket could emerge as the game for the 21st.

Author: Bob Holmes is a freelance sports writer based in Kuala Lumpur.



Allan Border: An answer to baseball

Evans keeps her end up

ATLANTA, July 10: Janet Evans, who has ruled women's distance swimming since the 1988 Seoul Olympics, arrived in Atlanta besieged by younger rivals on all sides, reports Reuter.

From Australia comes Hayley Lewis. German freestyler Franziska van Almsick is a threat at 400m, while in the United States itself the 24-year-old California has spent the past year fending off - with varying degrees of success - Brooke Bennett, Cristina Teuscher and Trina Jackson.

Evans won three gold medals at the Seoul Games, in the 400m and 800m freestyle and the 400m medley.

In Barcelona she claimed a second straight 800m free victory - a feat she hopes to improve upon in Atlanta.

Her successful defense of her 800m free title at the 1994 World Championships in Rome showed she still has what it takes, but she relinquished her 400m freestyle world title in 1994 and her dominance in the distance freestyle events is no longer assured.

The year-end world rankings tell the story. In 1993, Evans was ranked number one at both 400m and 800m. In

1994, she was ranked first in the 400m free and second in the 800m.

By the end of last year, Evans had slipped to number five in the 400m free and number three in the 800m.

For a woman who was all-ports Reuter.

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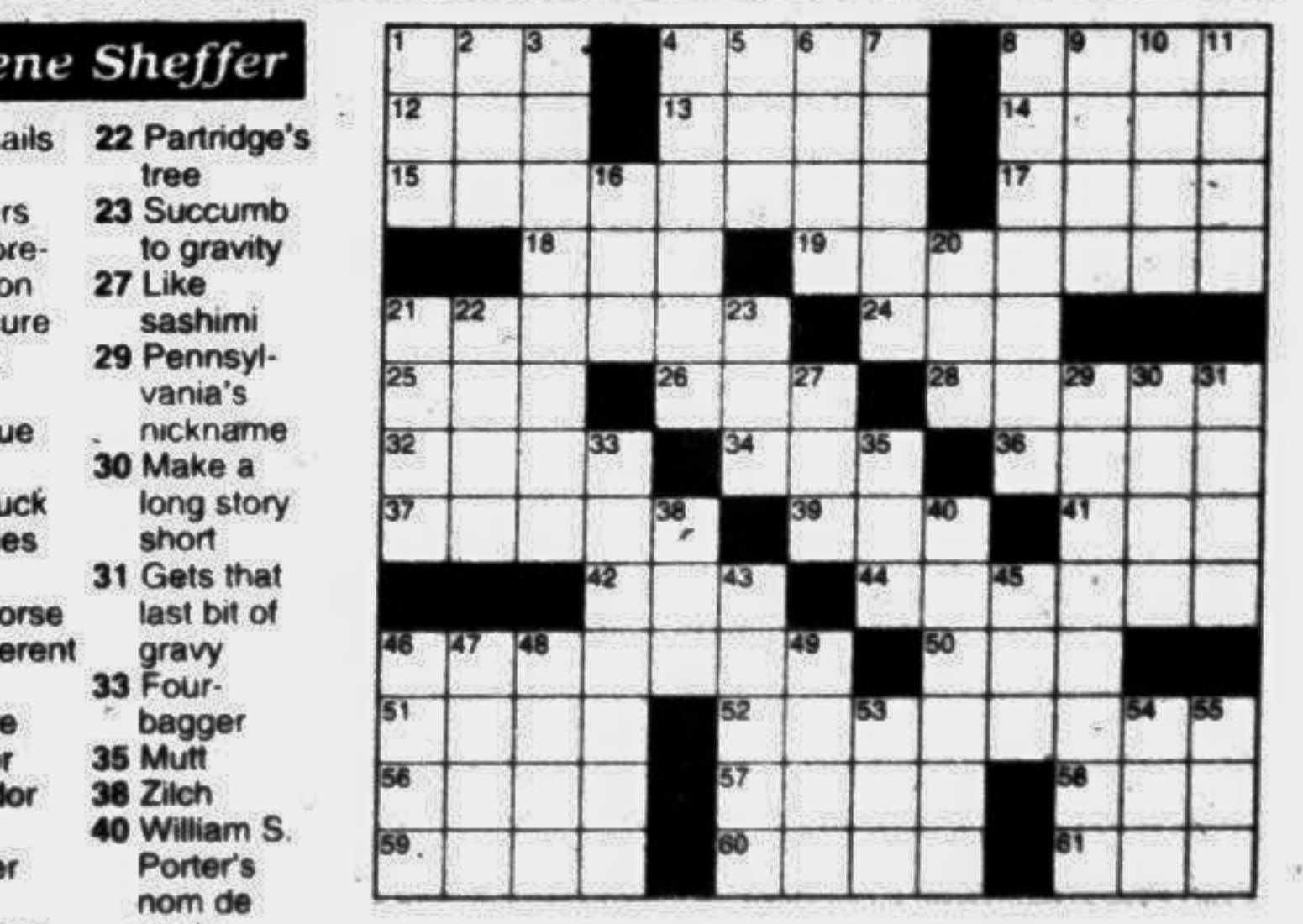
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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- CROSSWORD clues: 1 Ring champ, 4 Hexagonal state, 8 Long-popular sitcom, 12 Elmer, 13 Walt, 14 Salome, 15 Apparitions, 17 Jodie, 18 He'll put the squeeze on you, 19 Ozene, 21 Apparitions, 24 Piglet's parent, 25 Shell-game need, 26 Van Gogh's love token, 28 Uses a kiln, 32 John Paul, 34 Peregrinate, 36 Start over, 37 Bad lighting?, 39 Court



Solution time: 23 mins.

CRYPTOQUIP QUB, JVK LVUN JVUJ W B H K B J K C H K A H K J Q U C K U B W L K N W A K I Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IT'S SAD WHEN YOU'RE ALWAYS REFERRING TO YOUR DIET AS A WEIGH OF LIFE.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: N equals P. 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.