

Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT the Basques of south-western France and north-central Spain play a ball called *Jai alai* which is Basque for "holy day" or "merry festival". Played by opposing individuals or teams who alternately bounce a small, hard ball against one, two, or three walls and catch it upon its return. *Jai alai* is, therefore, a type of handball. It is one of the fastest of all games and requires great agility and coordination. The objective of the game is to amass a given number of points by forcing the opponent to miss the ball or to throw it out of bounds. The ball, or *pelota*, is caught and propelled with a glovelike, scoop-shaped wicker basket, the *cesta*, which is strapped to the player's wrist. *Jai alai* matches are usually played in a large auditorium known as a *fronton*: the rectangular court on which the game is played is called a *cancha* which has walls about 40 feet high.

It can't be. The *Bangla* for *khacha*, meaning cage, can't be of Basque origin.

SPORTS TALK



Mike Tyson

(Former heavyweight boxing champion)
"I don't remember anything after the third round ... I can't remember losing."

(Said of his title loss to Evander Holyfield.)

Sports

WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

WIN
TK, 2000/-
PRIZE BOND
EVERY FORTNIGHT

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-57

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes : 8 pm November 22, 1996

1 Who won the Titan Trophy?

India S. Africa Australia

2 How many one-day matches has Wasim Akram played to capture 300 wickets?

206 207 208

3 The 13th QM Hossain IM chess championship was won by

Zia Reefat M. Lodhi

4 Who clinched the top position in the 16th national age-group swimming championship?

BKSP American Int'l School Biman

5 Which country will host the 1998 Commonwealth Games?

Malaysia England Hong Kong

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

Italian boxer dead

PISA, Italy, Nov 18: Italian boxer Fabrizio Di Chiara was declared dead early Monday, two days after sustaining head injuries in a title fight, reports AP.

Doctors at Santa Chiara hospital said the 25-year-old middleweight had been brain dead since Sunday, and that his family approved organ donation.

Di Chiara, the seventh Italian professional boxer to die from injuries sustained on the ring, lapsed into a deep coma Saturday night shortly after a technical knockout during the final round of an Italian title bout against champion Vincenzo Imparato at Avenza.

"I'm upset, we were friends," said Imparato, who floored Di Chiara with a sharp blow to the head and another to the stomach. "He looked very tired at the start of the last round. Perhaps he should have been stopped before."

Di Chiara, 13-2 as a professional, collapsed after walking back to his corner following referee Lorenzo Giuntini's decision to stop the fight. The fighter's condition worsened Sunday after surgeons twice operated to remove blood that was putting pressure on his brain.

Jamaica baffle Mexico

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Nov 18: Jamaica reached the final round of World Cup qualifying for the first time since 1966, stunning Mexico 1-0 Sunday to move within one level of the 1998 finals in France, reports AP.

Hobbled midfielder Ian Goodison's 83rd minute goal from the top of the penalty area finished Jamaica with a 4-1-1 record and 13 points, one ahead of Mexico (4-0-2) and atop semifinal Group 3.

Jamaica needed only a draw Sunday to advance, but pressed throughout and finally scored to the roaring delight of 35,000 at National Stadium.

Honduras put the pressure on Jamaica, beating St Vincent in a match played at the same time in San Pedro Sula 11-3, a margin good enough to advance had Mexico won by one goal.

Goodison was hobbled in the first half when a stud from the shoe of Jamaican defender Lincoln Dixon caught him on the knee. He said he asked to be replaced because he was in a lot of pain.

"But it was like Father God said, 'Don't come off son, and I decided I would stay with my team to the very last drop,'" he said.

Mexico, who already had clinched their spot in the CONCACAF finals, started off fast, hoarding the ball in Jamaica's half, putting up a solid wall at midfield but sending only one shot at Jamaican goalkeeper Warren Barrett.

The country of Jamaica, with a population of 2.5 million compared to Mexico's 94 million, saw Sunday's match as a chance to avenge last month's 2-1 loss at Azteca Stadium in Mexico City.

A week-long Jamaican media campaign, calling the match "the revenge by the reggae boys against El Toro," turned the stadium into a rowdy sea of black, gold and green — the Jamaican national colours — and reggae music ricocheted off the bleachers for hours before play began.

Jamaicans were rewarded with their first rainless day in a week.

"Believe me, I am feeling

good," said Portia Simpson, Jamaican Minister of Sports. "The footballers demonstrated that as Jamaicans when we want to be good and great we are just the best."

Only once before have Jamaica reached this stage, over 30 years ago when they lost final 0-1-3 against Mexico and

Costa Rica and finished last in the three team group. Mexico were the lone CONCACAF qualifiers for the 1996 World Cup.

Canada also have qualified for the six-team CONCACAF finals. The teams will play a league schedule next spring and fall to send three teams to

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