

## Column One

## WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

WIN  
TK. 2000/-  
PRIZE BOND  
EVERY FORTNIGHT

## Sports WHIZZ KID competition-58

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes : 8 pm  
December 6, 19961 Who won the Sharjah  
Champions' Trophy?

Pakistan New Zealand Sri Lanka

2 Who currently holds the  
WBA heavyweight title?

Tyson Holyfield Leonard

3 Which country will stage the  
2002 World Cup football  
final?

Japan South Korea France

4 Who scored the Danish  
Premier Division football  
league second hattrick?

Mizan Alfaiz Nakib

5 Which team has won the  
SMAH kabaddi league this  
year?

Dilkusha SC Azad SC Victoria SC

Name .....

Class ..... Roll No. ....

School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....

SPORTS TALK



## Nayan Mongia

(Indian wicketkeeper)

"I would like to play at least  
100 one-day internationals and  
50 Test matches. I want to serve  
the team as long as I can."

About his goals in cricket.

## Venue

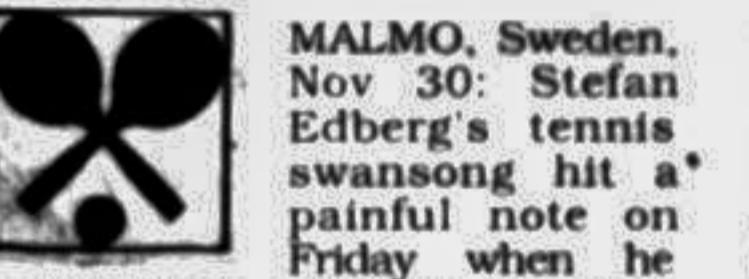
irks 'em!

MADRID, Nov 30: Spanish  
players are angry at the choice  
of Mallorca as venue for  
February's Davis Cup tie with  
Germany because they fear the  
large German population on the  
island will make the game feel  
like a home match for their  
opponents, reports Reuter."I think we should have been  
consulted first," said Spanish  
player Alberto Brasategui on  
Friday.

Swede Stefan Edberg has his ankle strapped by the team doctor after a heavy fall during his opening singles match against Frenchman Cedric Pioline in the final of the Davis Cup in Malmo, Sweden on Nov 29.

—AFP/UNB photo

## Stefan's sad swansong?



MALMO, Sweden. Nov 30: Stefan Edberg's tennis swansong hit a painful note on Friday when he twisted his ankle in the first match of the Davis Cup final against France, leaving teammate Thomas Enqvist to haul Sweden level, reports Reuter.

Edberg, who retires from competitive tennis after the tie, lost 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 to Cedric Pioline after being wrong-footed by a pass and falling heavily in the sixth game of the first set.

He played the rest of the match with a limp and said afterwards he did not know whether he would be fit for Sunday's reverse singles.

Enqvist, the highest ranked player in the final at number nine in the world, had little trouble holding off the challenge of Arnaud Boetsch, winning 6-4, 6-3, 7-6 to level the tie 1-1.

Edberg took a three-minute injury break after his fall and had his right ankle tightly strapped. But it caused him obvious discomfort and any quick or heavy movement made him wince with pain.

"I did what I could," he said gloomily afterwards. "It was a question of hanging in there and waiting for miracles — but

they did not come.

"I was in pain. I could not move at all like I should," added Edberg, who has beaten Pioline at their last four meetings, the most recent at the Italian Open in May this year.

Edberg, winner of six Grand Slam titles — in a 14-year professional career, said he would have to rest his swollen ankle today and hope it improved.

"If I'm not very nearly 100 per cent fit it's not fair on myself or the others. It's better to have someone healthy," he said.

If Edberg is unable to play, one of the Swedish doubles team of Jonas Bjorkman and Nicklas Kulti will deputies against Boetsch on Sunday.

Pioline kept Edberg running, forcing balls wide and long. He won the match with a deftly placed lob that the Swede, who is 31 next month, had no chance of retrieving.

"Despite feeling sympathy for him, I could not show pity," Pioline said.

"It's a bit upsetting but you have to try to forget that and concentrate on the game."

Both French players enjoyed raucous support from a noisy contingent of some 600 supporters decked in red, white and blue hats and scarves and armed with hooters and whistles.

"I didn't feel that much pressure even after Stefan's match," he said. "I went out there had a lot of fun and played some good tennis."

Sweden's non-playing captain Karl Axel-Hageskog said he did not have to decide whether Edberg would play until an hour before Sunday's matches.

"He has a slightly torn ligament. We have put some pressure on it and we will see what happens," Hageskog said.

For Edberg he will be hard to bear. "I do not yet know whether that was my last ever match or not," he said.

Their cries echoed around the converted ship-building shed used for the tie, often drowning out the more measured Swedish applause.

The noise reached a crescendo when Boetsch, struggling against the lanky Enqvist's power and confidence, forced a third set tie-break.

But Boetsch, ranked 33 in the world and possessing nothing like Enqvist's range of shots, succumbed 7-2, bowing out with an ill-judged forehand into the net.

Enqvist, heralded by the Swedish media as Edberg's natural successor, is on a high after winning two end-of-season tournaments, the Paris and Swedish Opens.

"I didn't feel that much pressure even after Stefan's match," he said. "I went out there had a lot of fun and played some good tennis."

Shareholders were also told to end speculation about a takeover of the club.

"We are mindful of the position of Manchester United and we are also aware that we are a public company but I don't want people ideas, said company chairman Sir Rod

Edwards.

"I can't guarantee anything, of course, but we don't do anything to encourage anything along those lines."

The club made profits of 15.4 million pounds (25.9 million dollars) compared with 20 million pounds (33.6 million dollars) the previous year. It said this was largely the result of the rebuilding of the North Stand.

On a lighter note, suggestions that singing areas be brought back for fans were rejected because it would be too difficult to change arrangements involving the 40,000 season ticket holders who attend each home game.

The valve was repaired rather than replaced in hopes of his return to the sport," Kramer said.

Cleveland Clinic surgeon Dr Bruce Lytle repaired the heart valve in a four-hour surgery on Monday. Kramer said tests done Friday showed no signs of valve leakage.

Kramer's manager, Franklin Sedoc, said Kramer wished to express his gratitude to his team, the team's fans and the people and government of Nigeria.

"We are taking it step by step," Sedoc said. "That's how we handled it when Kanu first learned about his heart condition, and that's how we approach his rehabilitation."

Inter signed the forward for two million dollars on a three-year contract, acquiring him from the Dutch team Ajax. Only later was the ailment revealed.

In Italy, a doctor for Kanu's team in Milan said Friday Kanu will know within four months if he can hope to play professional soccer again following heart surgery.

Dr Piero Volpi said the operation was highly successful and Nwankwo's life has been definitely saved."

Kanu will stay in Cleveland for about one month for rehabilitation.

"I know if Kanu will be able to play again. For sure he has been returned to a normal life," the doctor said.

Volpi explained that the weak aortic valve, discovered by Inter doctors in the off-season, caused an expansion of the heart, which should recede following surgery.

## Portugal rolls in action

LISBON, Nov 30: The Portuguese government is preparing a bill to present to parliament soon which will toughen disciplinary steps in cases of corruption in soccer, official sources said on Friday.

Soccer federations will have the right to punish offenders found guilty of violence, drug abuse and corruption, the sources told Reuters. Offenders could be subject to bans lasting from five to 10 years.

## Astrit appeals

TIRANA, Nov 30: Albania coach Astrit Hafizi on Friday called on his country's sports ministry and soccer Federation to settle their dispute which has led to the country's suspension from international soccer and jeopardised their chances of qualifying for the World Cup, reports Reuter.

FIFA, the game's governing body, suspended Albania indefinitely after the sports ministry ordered the suspension of Albanian Football Association (AFA) general secretary Eduard Dervishi and dissolved the executive committee.

Albania's state secretary for sports Marjeta Pronjari said Dervishi was banned for having continuously postponed new executive committee selections, breaking the country's civil law.

"More than anything else, I was too laid back," Hafizi said afterward in his dressing room.

## Hearns stops Willis

ROANOKE, Virginia, Nov 30: Fighting for the first time in 14 months, six-time world boxing champion Thomas Hearns stopped Karl Willis in the fifth round of their light heavyweight bout, reports AP.

The 38-year-old Hearns hit Willis with a stiff punch just below the sternum Friday night. The referee stopped the fight when the blow sent Willis to his knees. Just a minute earlier, Willis (23-17, 17 KOs) had swung a left hook that put Hearns (57-4, 44 KOs) on his heels.

The 38-year-old Hearns hit Willis with a stiff punch just below the sternum Friday night. The referee stopped the fight when the blow sent Willis to his knees. Just a minute earlier, Willis (23-17, 17 KOs) had swung a left hook that put Hearns (57-4, 44 KOs) on his heels.

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