

Sport

**Column One**  
Sports  
**WHIZZ KID**  
COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

**WIN**  
TK. 2000/-  
PRIZE BOND  
EVERY FORTNIGHT

**Sports WHIZZ KID**  
competition-60

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes : 8 pm  
Jan 3, '97

1	Who won the Danish Premier Division football league title this season?	Mohammedan	Abahani	Muktijoddha
2	Which team won the Biju Dabsh Cup hockey title?	Usha	Ajax	Bangladesh Army
3	Which country won the Champions Trophy hockey title recently?	Pakistan	Holland	Germany
4	Who is the top scorer in this season's Premier Division football league?	Nakib	Mizan	Allaz
5	Former Italian national soccer coach Arrigo Sacchi now coaches	Inter Milan	AC Milan	Florentina

Name .....

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

School Address .....

Phone: (if any) .....

**SPORTS TALK**



**Lance Klusener**  
(South African fast bowler)  
*"I am nowhere near as fast as Allan Donald or someone else like him. But the more you play with guys like them, the more you learn."*

**Ince banned for four-match**

MILAN, Dec 31: Internazionale and England midfielder Paul Ince was given a four match ban on Monday for protesting with foul language and abusive gestures after he was sent off in an Italian league match, reports Reuter.

Ince, picking up his third red card of the season, was sent off during Inter's 1-1 draw with bottom club Reggiana on December 22 after being booked by referee Stefano Farina.

The Serie A sporting judge said in a report, details of which were released by the Italian soccer league, that Ince had been given the ban because of his behaviour.

The report said Ince had applauded the referee mockingly after being booked, a gesture that brought him a red card and which prompted "vulgar and offensive language."

It added that Ince, encouraged to leave the pitch by his teammates, then repeatedly tapped his forehead with his index finger in front of another match official.

The player also "shouted further abuse while making an unmistakable gesture with his hand" from the tunnel.

Inter striker Marco Branca, who was sent off in the 30th minute of the match, was also suspended for one day — leaving Inter without two key players for their first league match of the new year at home to Roma, Branca's former club.

The lengthy suspension of Ince was also sure to heighten speculation about the player's future in Italy.

Italian newspapers picking up English media reports, on Monday ran stories suggesting that Ince, who has been the target of some racist abuse in Italy, was thinking of returning to English soccer at the end of the Italian season.

**Janata Bank karate champs**

The Janata Bank team clinched the championship with five gold, one silver and four bronze medals in the two-day second Kashem Group karate competition held at Mirpur Indoor Stadium on December 28 and 29, reports BSS.

Jane Karate Academy became runners up with four gold, one silver and two bronze medals in the grand competition organised by Shaolin Temple Martial Art School.

**Abahani right on target**

Sports Reporter

Local favourites Abahani got off to a winning start in the Bangabandhu Cup silver-jubilee of Independence football tournament defeating Malaysia Blue by the odd goal in three at the floodlit Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

In an ordinary display of football, Abahani aided by

short passes but were hardly able to make any penetration to open up the water-tight Abahani defence.

Abahani could have taken a lead as early in the third minute when Raju sent a brilliant cross from the right flank. But Tipu, who was standing in front of the empty net, spoiled

ond half and reduced the margin when they earned a penalty following a rough charge by substitute Abahani keeper Dhanu to Malaysian forward Rival Hasan. The Dhaka crowd experienced a new thing last night when they saw Malaysian keeper Omar brilliantly converting the spot kick



Sourav Raju (L) and Shahazuddin Tipu

quick blows in a span of only two minutes led the first half 2-0.

Striker Sourav Majumder Raju scored the first goal in the 14th minute with a spectacular header before Shahazuddin Tipu struck the second with a cool placing shot from inside the opponents box. On the other hand, Malaysia pulled one goal back midway through the second half with their custodian Mohammed Arman Omar converting a 12-yarder.

Abahani, who failed to record their second hat-trick championship in the local Premier league this season, be-

the sitter heading the ball straight to a hapless Malaysia custodian.

It was in the 14th minute when Abahani got their first goal. The move originated from the left side with Tipu sending the ball to Rakib who lobbed the ball inside Malaysian box from where Raju made no mistake at heading the ball home amidst cheers from the crowd.

(1-2). After conceding the goal Abahani became a bit scared and remained defensive throughout the remaining part of the match allowing no rooms to the Malaysians.

With yesterday's win, Abahani kept their hopes to qualify for the semifinals from three-team first round Group A. They will meet Calcutta Mo-



Unstoppable Abahani winger Sourav Raju overcoming a Malaysian opposition during yesterday's opening match of the Bangabandhu Cup Silver Jubilee of Independence football tournament at the Dhaka Stadium. Abahani won the match 2-1. — Star photo

gan their campaign yesterday in the cup opener on a promising note with four hired booters — defender Sohail Masum, midfielder Arif Khan Joy and forwards Sourav Majumder Raju and Shahazuddin Tipu — in their first eleven.

Although, the sky blues gained control over the mediocre Malaysian outfit from the word go, they had to wait for a while to break the evening's duck when an airborne Sourav headed home a spectacular curler from the left.

The Malaysians, who in their first appearance looked unimpressive, especially in the frontline, played some delicate

It did not take even a minute to complete the celebration as Abahani struck again in the next minute with Tipu, after receiving a short pass from Rakib at the top of the box, magnificently placing the ball home past a hapless Malaysian goalkeeper Omar on his right (2-0).

In the remaining first half, Abahani had two more opportunities to extend the margin one in the 26th minute and other in the 39th minute. But in both cases, Mizanis headers were nicely taken by Omar without any trouble.

Taking an advantage of a tired Abahani outfit after the break, Malaysian Blue staged a rally in the early sec-

hammadan Sporting Club in the last group match scheduled at the same venue on January 5.

**ABAHANI:** Biplab (Dhanu), Hasan Al Mamun, Sohail Reza, Munna, Sohail Masum, Saurav Raju, Joy, Barun, Rakib, Tapu and Mizan.

**MALAYSIA BLUE:** Omar, Amr, Karim, Rahim, Aizal, Yogeswaran, Azrin Shah, Hoc Guan, Nagarajan, Julfikari (Hamid) and risal (Otmam). Referee: Bazzam Abdullah (Iran).

**TEAMS**

**Seeds tumble on Day One**

AUCKLAND, Dec 31: The international women's tennis tournament here today lived up to its reputation as no respecter of form with four seeds out in the first round of the 107, 500 US dollars ASB Bank Classic, reports AFP.

Austrians Barbara Schett (fourth) and Karin Kschwendt (seventh), Belgium's Dominique van Roost (Sixth) and Frenchwoman Alexandra Fusai (eighth) fell at the first hurdle as sunshine replaced cyclone Fergus' torrential rain which cancelled Monday's play.

The biggest surprise was Schett's 6-4, 6-4 loss to German 16-year-old Marlene Weingartner making only her second appearance in the main draw of a WTA Tour event thanks to a wildcard.

She made light of her world ranking of 211, 179 places below Schett, for the biggest win of her brief Open career, although her junior record includes the singles finals at both the 1995 French Open and the 1996 United States Open.

"I felt confident today because I had been playing well," Weingartner said.

It was really nice to get a wildcard otherwise I would not have had the win here."

Van Roost's defeat was at the hands of Japanese Qualifier Rika Hiraki, who prevailed 6-3, 0-6, 6-2.

Among high-profile players who did negotiate a safe passage into the second round were top-seeded German Anke Huber, Austrian No 2 seed Judith Wiesner and defending champion Sandra Cacic of the United States.

Huber, the world No 7, was not at her best, but still had too much in her armoury for Italian Francesca Lubiani, winning 6-3, 6-3.

Lubiani, ranked 91, needed treatment for a leg problem during the second set, but Huber

was already a service break ahead at that stage.

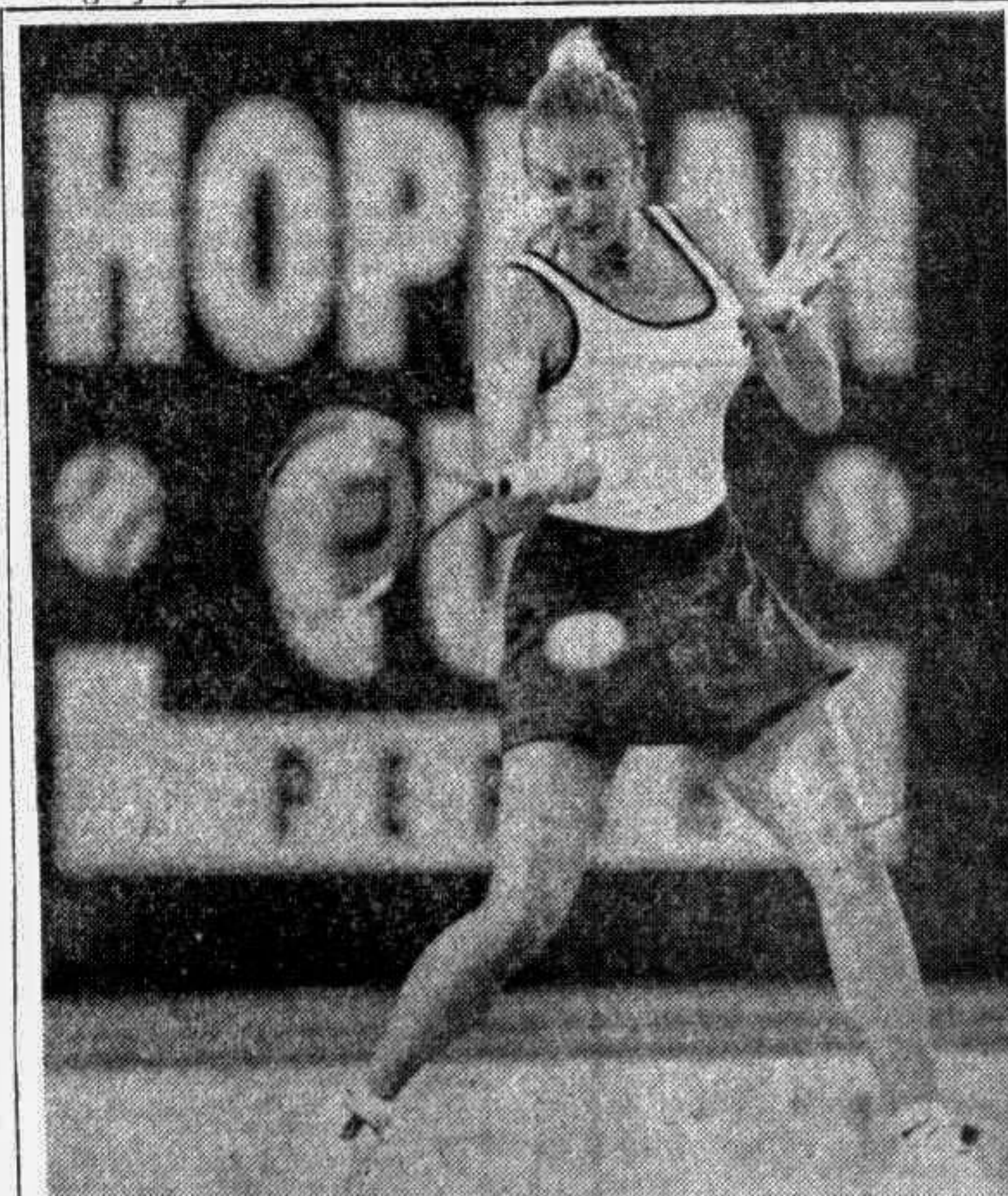
"I guess it was not a great match," Huber said.

"But it was like I expected. It was the first match of the year after a long break. For sure I can play better."

Huber next meets American Ann Grosaman, who got through when Belgian opponent Stephanie de Ville retired with a leg injury in the final set.

Wiesner, a first-round loser last year as the third seed, finally gave the Austrian Continent something to cheer about when she downed 1994 champion Ginger helgeson-Nielsen of the United States, 6-1, 6-3.

Unseeded Cacic, who won the tournament 12 months ago as a qualifier, eased past 1994 finalist Ines Gorrochategui, of Argentina, 6-3, 7-5.



Mary Pierce of France plays a forehand return during her singles match against Nicole Bradtke of Australia on the third day of the Hopman Cup in Perth yesterday. Pierce won 7-6 (8-6), 6-1. — AFP/UNB photo

**Mohammedans keep going**

Sports Reporter

**BRIEF SCORES**

**GMCC:** 150 all out in 46.3 over (Mutahir Ali 33, Ridwan 31, Dola 21 n.o, Shanto 2/32, Sujon 2/26, Shahid Mehmood 2/33, Sanwar 2/1)

**MOHAMMEDAN SC:** 153 for three in 42 overs (Sanwar Hossain 53 n.o, Bulbul 46, Raja Arshad 26, Monju 2/27.

**SURJO TARUN CLUB:** 145 for nine in 50 overs (Ehsan 25, Extra 38, Shuvro 3/29, Shahid Mahboob 2/29, Dipu Roy Chowdhury 2/40, Suja Erfan 2/19)

**AGRANI BANK:** 148 for five in 41.1 overs (Mukul 49, Nissan 26, Shahid Iqbal 28 n.o, Talha 2/22, Rafiqul Islam 2/34)

Defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club recorded their sixth successive victory in the Premier Division cricket league when they handed Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club a seven-wicket defeat at the BKSP ground yesterday.

Put into bat, GMCC were all out for a paltry 150 in 46.3 overs with Pakistani middle-order bat Mutahir Ali hammering highest 33. Among others one-down Ridwan added 31 runs.

In the face of some fierce bowling from Shanto, Sujon, Sanwar and Shahid Mehmood, who notched up two wickets each, the GMCC batting line-up caved in suddenly.

In reply, Mohammedans cruised home (153) in 42 overs with seven wickets in their hand.

One down Sanwar was not out on 53 off 92 balls while skipper Aminul Islam Bulbul scored 46 runs for the winners.

In the day's other match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Agrani Bank defeated Surjo Tarun Club by five wickets.

Electing to bat first, Surjo Tarun were restricted to only 145 for nine in their stipulated 50 overs.

In reply, the bankers reached their target (148) in the 42nd overs losing five wickets. Skipper Mukul scored highest 49 off 83 ball for the winners.

**Inter-varsity athletics end**

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Dec 31: Hosts Rajshahi University clinched the top spot in the 7th inter- varsity athletics championship, which concluded at the university stadium today.

The hosts bagged 24 gold, 14 silver and eight bronze medals in the two-day meet, while Jahangirnagar University finished second, securing one gold, nine silver and four bronzes.



Noted singers Sabina Yasmeen and Andrew Kishore presenting the tournament song during the inaugural ceremony of Bangabandhu Cup Silver Jubilee of Independence football tournament. — Star photo

**Mark muscles past Guy**

PERTH, Australia, Dec 31: Power-serving Mark Philippoussis unleashed 37 aces as he scored successive singles and doubles victories Tuesday to lift Australia to a 2-1 win over fourth-seeded France in the Hopman Cup mixed teams tennis championship at the Burswood Dome, reports AP.

The win kept alive the Australians' hopes of advancing as they improved to a 1-1 position while France suffered its second straight defeat and cannot make the final of the round-robin event.

Philippoussis slammed down 22 aces as he defeated Guy Forget 7-6 (7-1), 6-2 in the men's singles and then had another 15 as he combined with veteran Nicole Bradtke to win a tense mixed doubles 7-6 (9-7), 7-6 (7-5) against Forget and Mary Pierce.

France had earlier taken the lead when Pierce beat Bradtke 7-6 (8-6), 6-1 in the opening women's singles.

The Australian pair took almost two hours to win the doubles, squandering two match points when Bradtke served at 6-5 in the second set.

It was Bradtke, wife of Philadelphia 76ers basketball player Mark Bradtke, who clinched the victory, putting away a forehand volley at the net in the second set breaker.

"That felt good," Bradtke said. "I always feel quite confident playing doubles because I am capable of serving and volleying, and I felt volleyed pretty well today."

Philippoussis was in commanding form in both his matches, winning seven straight points in the first set tiebreaker of his singles and then winning six of the last seven games.

The powerful 20-year-old backed up his big serve with some excellent returns that kept the pressure on Forget, who was again troubled by blisters on his left hand. The win followed his opening day singles triumph over Goran Ivanisevic.

"I feel really confident," Philippoussis said. "I'm hitting



MARK PHILIPPOUSSIS

the ball well and playing nice, solid tennis. I'm working the ball around a lot better than I

was a year ago and am a lot more relaxed."

Pierce recovered from a sluggish first set to defeat Bradtke in the women's singles.

The former Australian Open champion squandered two set points at 5-3 in the first set and allowed Bradtke to force the tiebreaker. Bradtke led 5-1 and 6-4 in the tiebreaker, but squandered the two set points and Pierce escaped.

"You can't give the girls an inch, or they'll take a mile," Bradtke said.

Pierce, ranked 20th in the world, dominated the second set, using her pinpoint groundstrokes to good effect to win in 82 minutes.

Bradtke, a French Open semifinalist back in 1988, never has won a set in three meetings with Pierce.

Croatia, France, Australia and the United States are contesting Group A of the event and Switzerland, Germany, Romania and South Africa are in Group B.

Croatia and the United States, both winners of their opening matches, meet on Wednesday night with Switzerland and South Africa, also both victorious in their openers, contesting the day session.

The winning team from each group will advance to Saturday's final.

Prize money for the event totals US 640,000 dollars. The winning pair will collect US dollars 176,000.

The Hopman Cup is one of a series of lead-up events to the Australian Open, to be played in Melbourne from Jan 13-26.

**Steffi sees rise of a bubbly star**

PARIS, Dec 31 (AFP): It was the year Steffi Graf's reign was supposed to end. Monica Seles was back and looking increasingly menacing. Croatia's Iva Majoli and Chanda Rubin of the United States were fast improving.

Former 'golden girl' Jennifer Capriati was planning to return and Switzerland's teenage prodigy Martina Hingis was waiting impatiently in the wings.

But despite renewed injury problems and continual anxiety over her imprisoned father, Graf completed 1996 as world number one for the fourth year running.

Another incredible season brought three more Grand Slam titles with triumphs at the French Open, Wimbledon and the US Open and a fifth season-ending WTA Championship crown.

In all the 27-year-old German won 54 of the 59 matches she played, and she really lost only three times — Japan's Kimiko Date, Lindsay Davenport of the United States and Hingis.

Her other two "defeats" came when she was forced to retire because of injury — first against compatriot Anke Huber in Leipzig where she aggravated a knee strain, and then against Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic in Philadelphia when chronic back trouble came back to haunt her.

It was an astonishing season. Graf herself admitted: "Obviously, I'm thrilled with the results especially after all the problems I've had to contend with this year. But I'm probably more surprised than anyone else at what I have achieved."

Claiming she had never had specific goals or ambitions, or a sense of history, Graf said that "just a pure love of tennis" kept her going.

"My motivation is still really high and it is still a pleasure to play," she said simply.

At the start of the year Graf found herself sitting things out and convalescing from an operation on her foot while Seles basked in the limelight after notching up her fourth Australian Open triumph.

The Yugoslav-born American left-hander, playing in just her fourth tournament after spending 28 months away from tennis after being stabbed on court in Hamburg in 1993, defeated Huber in straight-sets to win the ninth Grand Slam title of her career.

The victory stretched Seles' unbeaten record at the event, which she had also won in 1991, 1992 and 1993, to 28 matches — but it also brought



STEFFI GRAF

her a shoulder injury which was to stay with her for the rest of the season.

Seles was left with a choice. Either she could undergo surgery and take up to four months off — or she could gamble on getting through the year using painkillers.

In an Olympic year and spurred on by the burning am-

bition to match Graf's 'golden' Grand Slam of 1998, Seles choose the second course of action.

But by the end of the year she was bitterly regretting her decision.

At the French Open she went out in straight sets in the quarter-finals to Novotna while her Wimbledon dream turned into a nightmare when she was beaten in three sets in the second round by 23-year-old Katarina Studenikova of Slovakia.

Olympic failure was followed by a straight-sets defeat in the United States Open final against Graf and first-round retirement from the WTA Championships because of renewed shoulder pain.

And if all that wasn't bad enough she was the victim of a freak accident in training just before Christmas — breaking a finger on her right hand while catching a ball — an injury which put her participation in January's Australian Open in the balance.

Chanda Rubin's promise carried over from 1995. The 19-year-old black American reached the semifinal at the Australian Open and gave Seles her toughest tournament test by coming to within just two points of victory and lead-

ing 5-3 in the third set.

But Rubin's hopes of continuing her climb up the rankings came to an abrupt halt when her season was disrupted by a



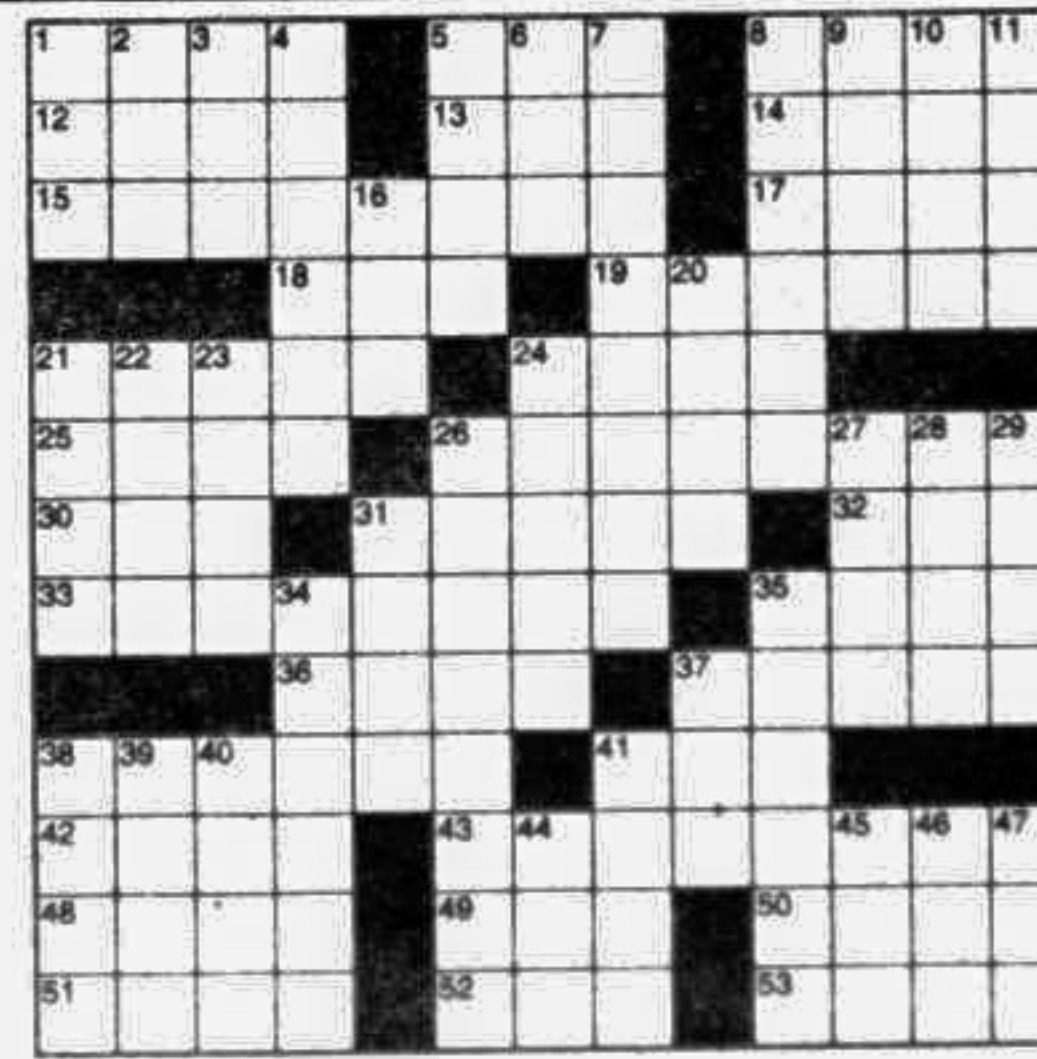
MARTINA HINGIS

serious wrist injury which kept her out of Wimbledon, the Olympics and the Fed Cup.

A superb five-set final against Graf at the WTA Championships at Madison Square Garden, her first two WTA titles at Filderstadt and Oakland, a historic first Grand Slam (doubles) title at Wimbledon and a career-high fourth place in the rankings were the highlights of Martina Hingis' year.

**CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer**

ACROSS	1 Treat	5 Laugh-a-minute type	8 Magazine articles?	12 Oriental?	13 Under the weather	14 First love	15 Operatic text	17 Nap	18 Sternward	19 Initiated	21 Move on momentum	24 Movie pig	25 Leftovers recipe	26 Smooth, flowing	30 Had a snack	31 Pre-diploma hurdles	32 Football irregular composition	35 Slush	36 Cry	37 York																						
DOWN	2 Down	3 Laugh-a-minute type	4 Flag	5 Skater	6 Ht.	7 The world over	8 Painter	9 Castle	10 Lab rat's challenge	11 Lean-to	12 Down's goal	13 "Carmen"	14 Practice boat	15 Recede	16 Pinnacle	17 Canadian	18 Conservative	19 Rotation	20 Momentum	21 Bum a bit	22 Four-letter	23 Cruising	24 Abacus array	25 Introduced a subject	26 Film director	27 Mira	28 Straighten (up)	29 Hurler	30 Scan-dinavian metropolis	31 Con-temptible	32 Feckish	33 Fish	34 Win — nose	35 Numero uno	36 Montreal athletes	37 Ananias	38 Ann's sis	39 The — Daba	40 Honey-moon	41 Outer prefix	42 Embarrassed	43 Tin Man's prop



CRYPTOCLIP

RS WHP ABHXXZO N ERL  
JRIM N SBHL R XPXEZAI  
WHP O LZI N JNRIMHL  
Yesterday's Cryptoclip: A CERTAIN GROUCHY GLUTTON ALWAYS WANTS TO WHINE AND DINE.

Today's Cryptoclip clue: I equals G

The Cryptoclip 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.