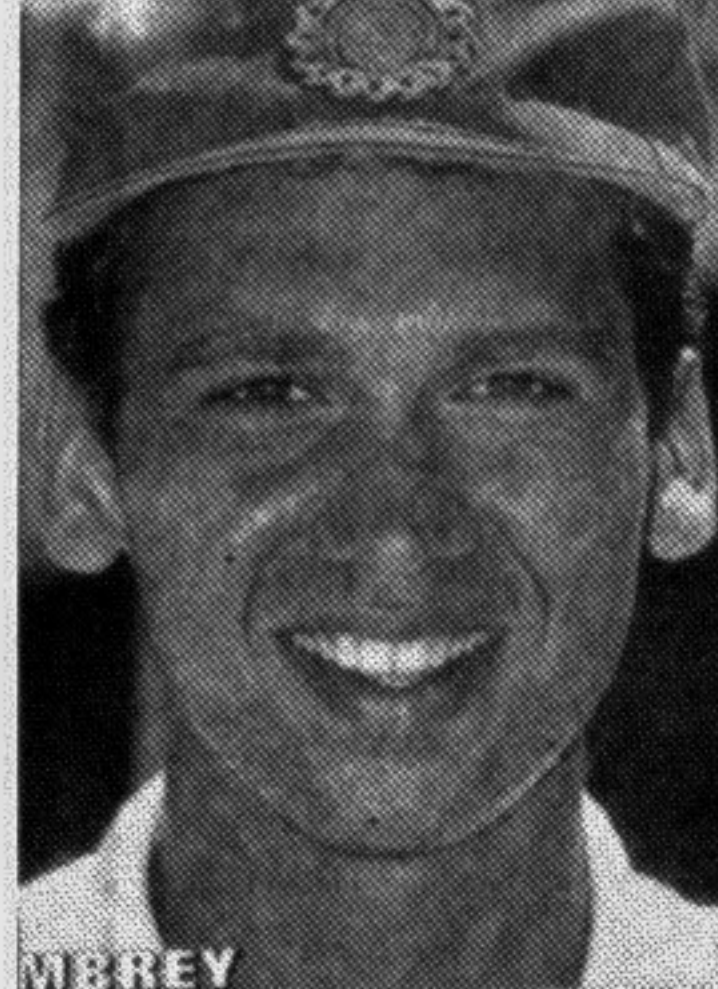


Sport

Column One
SPORTS TALK



Parag Mhambrey
(Indian Test cricketer)
"At the moment, I can only say that I am happy and will strive hard on the tour."
After being selected to tour England last year.

Moya bruises Boris' ego

MELBOURNE, Jan 13: Boris Becker's defence of his Australian Open title ended after 3 1/2 hours of brutal heat and utter frustration Monday against Spain's Carlos Moya — the first man to knock out the defending champion in the opening round of a Grand Slam event in 20 years, reports AP.

Becker launched his surge to the Australian title a year ago with a pair of five-setters. This time, he couldn't get past one.

Moya, who beat Becker indoors in Paris last fall, camped out on the baseline again, drilled passing shots, and upset the sixth-seeded German 5-7, 7-6 (7-4), 3-6, 6-1, 6-4 as court-side temperatures soared past 100 degrees.

"My brain is scrambled eggs right now," an exhausted Becker said. "I was burning, especially my feet and legs. At times I could not move at all because I was afraid I would lose the skin on my feet."

Moya, a 20-year-old with shoulder-length dark hair and

dominated virtually everyone when he was healthy, knew he would have trouble against Moya, and he was right.

Becker complained that the soft balls, designed to slow down the game and produce longer rallies, favoured Moya.

"I didn't feel like I was getting any power from the ball, so I was hitting harder and harder, and I lost my timing," Becker said. "I didn't lose because of soft tennis balls, but if you see injuries, it comes down to the balls."

Though Becker had 22 aces to Moya's five, and smacked 30 winning volleys to Moya's one, the 25th-ranked Moya proved far steadier and made many fewer errors. While Becker had 17 double faults, Moya had only six. Becker's 87 unforced errors were 36 more than Moya's total.

"I made many, many unforced errors, which I haven't done in a long time," Becker said. "The only thing I had was my serve. My timing and my groundstrokes were really bad today. I felt like he was getting tired at the end of the third set."

match. Nor had any other defending men's champion at any major tournament in the open era since 1968 lost in the first round.

Moya's upset wasn't as big a shock as it might have appeared. The 20-year-old was coming off a solid performance in the tuneup in the Sydney International, where he reached the final before losing to Britain's Tim Henman.

"It gave me confidence to improve my game on hard courts," Moya said of his victory in Paris over Becker in their only previous meeting. "Maybe I've changed my mentality. I think I play more aggressively."

Becker, thinking about retirement in a few years, played well, if not spectacularly, in an exhibition tuneup in Melbourne. Against Moya, Becker simply looked too slow, made too many mistakes and couldn't produce the kind of comebacks he had in the past. Considered the king of five-setters, Becker is now 31-15 in matches that go the distance.

Steffi Graf nursed a fallen opponent, and Michael Chang rescued a ball girl who fainted in the heat as the injury-riddled Australian Open got off to a stumbling start.

Graf led 5-1 in the first set when Janette Husarova of Slovakia twisted her left knee changing direction while rushing the net.

Graf, who's had plenty of injuries of her own, put a towel under Husarova, carried out on ice in another towel and unrolled an elastic bandage before a trainer and doctor arrived to finish the job of wrapping the knee in ice.

Michael Chang, the men's No. 2 seed, had no problem beating Kris Gossens of Belgium, 6-0, 6-3, 6-1. The only unexpected part of the match was the brief collapse of a ball girl, whom Chang helped out with a water-soaked towel he kept handy.

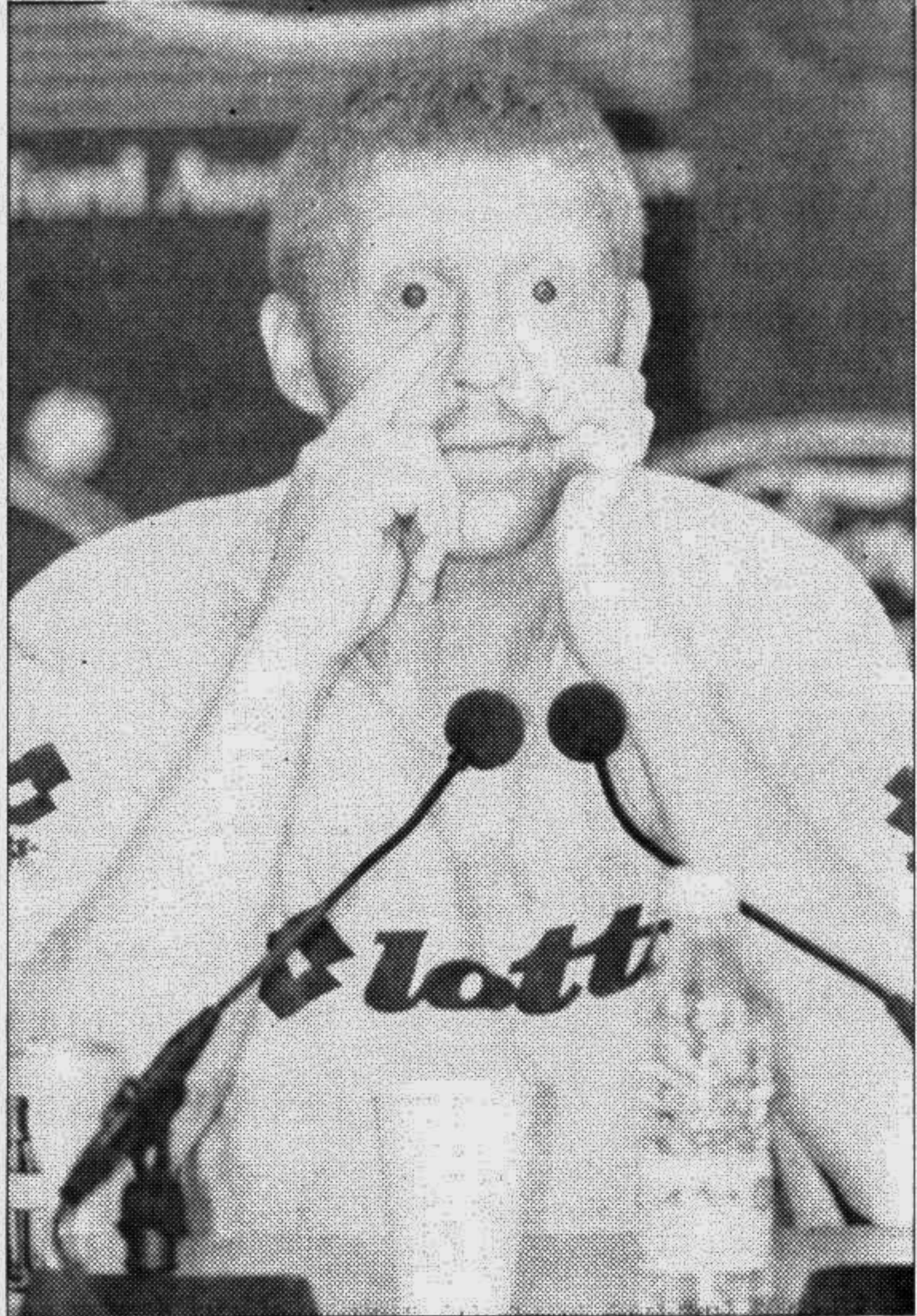
Chang isn't trained in first aid but, like Graf, knows what to do from experience in certain situations.

"Playing in some pretty tough conditions," he said, "You learn things, precautions that you need to take if you feel like your body temperature is rising a little bit higher than what you're normally used to."

Chang next plays Richey Reneberg of the United States, who got off court as quickly as the Graf when his opponent, Oscar Burrieza of Spain, twisted an ankle at 2-2 in the first set.

In uneventful matches, No. 5 Thomas Muster of Austria beat Geoff Grant of the United States 6-3, 6-4, 6-2. No. 7 Thomas Enqvist of Sweden raced past Nicolas Pereira of Venezuela, 6-1, 6-2, 6-4. No. 12 Magnus Gustafsson of Sweden edged Grant Doyle of Australia 6-7 (7-2), 6-3, 7-5, 6-1, and No. 16 Michael Stich of Germany dispatched Sweden's Patrik Fredriksson 6-3, 6-2, 6-2.

In other women's matches, No. 3 Conchita Martinez of Spain beat Miriam Oremans of the Netherlands, 6-0, 6-2. No. 10 Brenda Schultz-McCarthy of the Netherlands downed Sung-Hee Park of South Korea 6-2, 2-6, 6-2. No. 12 Amanda Coetzer of South Africa beat 15-year-old Anna Kournikova of Russia 6-2, 6-2, and No. 16 Sabine Appelmans of Belgium defeated Helena Sukova of the Czech Republic 6-2, 6-2.



Defending champion Boris Becker of Germany attends a post-match press conference after losing to Spaniard Carlos Moya in the first round of the Australian Open yesterday. A dejected Becker announced that the 5-7, 7-6, 3-6, 6-1, 6-4 upset was his last match in Australia.

baggy, black shorts down to his knees, looked and felt a generation younger than the 29-year-old Becker.

"The weather was maybe the key to match," Moya said. "I was tired, but I think he was more tired than me. I'm still young."

Becker, coming off a 4.3 million dollars year in which he

Unfortunately, I stopped playing. But I wasn't feeling that fresh, either."

Not since Roscoe Tanner lost in the first round to Chris Lewis at the Australian in December 1977, after winning the title in January of the same year, has a defending men's champion here gone down in his opening

Graf's cause of concern

MELBOURNE, Jan 13: More medical assistance should be available at the busy start of major tennis tournaments, Steffi Graf said Monday after her first-round opponent at the Australian Open exited in a wheelchair, reports AP.

The top-seeded Graf went to the aid of Slovakia's Janette Husarova after the right-hander fell awkwardly and twisted her knee while changing direction at the net at 5-1 in the opening set on Centre Court.

Husarova, 22, ranked No. 79, lay sprawled on the court for several minutes before being wheeled off in obvious pain.

Concerns were later raised over the delay in help arriving for Husarova.

"I know trainers can't be on court at all times, they have to be in the locker rooms and can't always come out. But I think a doctor should be close by," Graf said.

"Maybe another physio (also). It's extremely busy in there and injuries are getting more often... so it would prob-

ably help."

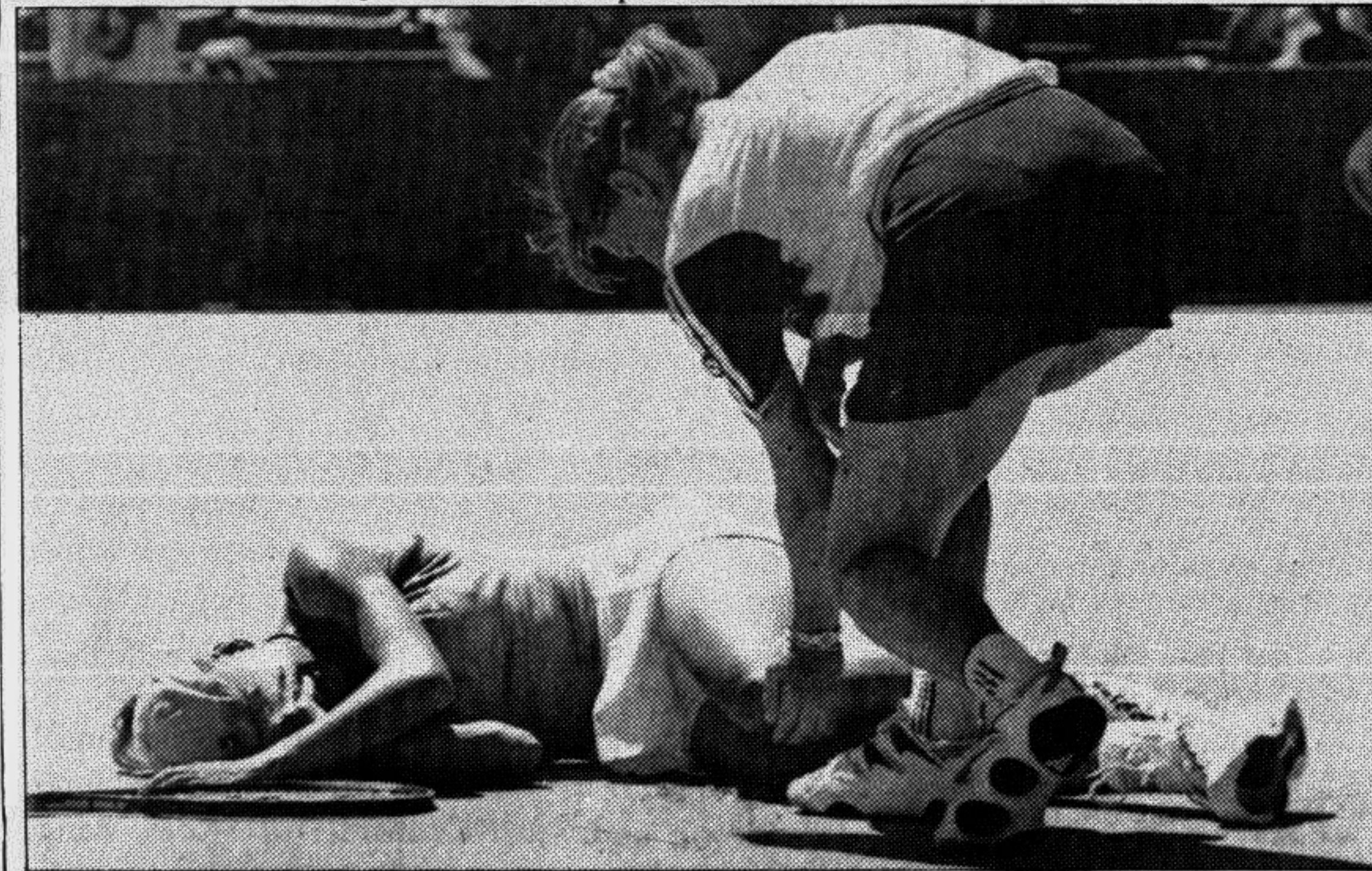
Graf took a towel containing ice to the injured Husarova and also stayed on court after the match was called off, watching her opponent receive treatment.

"I didn't see what happened. I just saw her lying on the floor," said Graf. "I've had plenty of injuries and it seemed serious. That was all that was on my mind. I didn't care if the match was over."

The 1997 Australian Open has been hit by player withdrawals through injury, most notably defending women's champion Monica Seles, who has a broken finger.

Wimbledon champion Richard Krajci of the Netherlands, French Open champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov, American Todd Martin, Australians Mark Philippoussis and Jason Stoltenberg, Cedric Pioline of France and Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic also will miss the tournament with a variety of ailments.

Former men's singles winner Andre Agassi is taking a break from the sport.



NOT AN OPPONENT ONLY ... world number one and top seed German Steffi Graf (R) nursing the knee of Janette Husarova of Slovakia with ice after she collapsed on court during their first round match at the Australian Open in Melbourne yesterday. The Slovakian was forced to retire due to the injury.



An aerial Flavio Maestri (C) of Peru fires the ball during a World Cup qualifier against Chile in Lima on January 12. —AFP/UNB photo

Pierce upbeat

MELBOURNE, Jan 13: Former champion Mary Pierce is aiming to put a dismal 1996 behind her and put her stuttering career back on the fast track, reports AP.

Pierce, winner of the 1995 Australian Open but beaten in the second round last year, opened this year's campaign Monday with a 3-6, 6-2, 6-4 win over 13th-seeded Elena Likhovtseva of Russia.

"I'm just working hard every day. I feel I'm getting better and better. I don't think I have anything to prove to myself or anybody," Pierce said after her 2-hour, 5-minute Centre Court victory.

Pierce, who turns 22 Wednesday, climbed as high as No. 3 in the world in 1995, but suffered from a loss of form last year that saw her ranking fall to No. 20 at year's end.

Now ranked No. 22, the French right-hander made the final at Amelia Island and the quarterfinals at Wimbledon during 1996 but struggled elsewhere, missing the US Open with a right shoulder complaint.

A low point came when she was jeered by local fans at the French Open after her third-round exit.

"Last year was a difficult year for me, changing coaches, injuring my shoulder was difficult, never being able to train at the level I wanted to," Pierce said.

She took October and November off and spent the time relaxing and training in Paris.

"It got to the point I couldn't lift my arm and I took five months off," said Pierce, who beat Likhovtseva on her fifth match point.

Now free of pain, Pierce said her aim was to stay healthy. But the ultimate goal is to win the French Open.

"It's a dream for me and always will be to hopefully win that tournament one day," said Pierce.

Pierce next faces Natalia Medvedeva of Ukraine in the second round.

N Zealand Open Bjorkman's

AUCKLAND, Jan 13: Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman moved from 65th in the world into the top 50 with a straight sets 7-6 (7-0), 6-0 win over Denmark's Kenneth Carlsen in the final of New Zealand Open tennis championships today, reports Reuter.

Bjorkman won 43,000 US dollars for taking the title while Carlsen collected 25,300 US dollars as he lost his third finals appearance.

A delighted Bjorkman said the fourth game of the second set, where he forced five break points on Carlsen's service before finally prevailing, had been the crucial point in the match.

"The fourth game was very important. It was where it all happened. Especially after Kenneth started off so well and was all over me early in the first set," he said.

"I struggled a bit in the first set but I made it to the tiebreak, and playing a good tiebreak, then felt very strong after that."

Carlsen had raced to a 4-1 lead in the first set with two breaks of service before Bjorkman rallied to reel off three games in a row to level at 4-4.

He then whitewashed his opponent with a confident performance in the tiebreak and always looked in control of the second set.

The pair now fly to Melbourne to prepare for first-round matches at the Australian Open on Tuesday.

Hoyer-Larsen bows out

TAIPEI, Jan 13: Olympic champion Poul-Erik Hoyer-Larsen suffered a surprise defeat in the final of the Chinese Taipei Badminton Open championship on Sunday, losing to fellow Dane Peter Gade-Christensen who triumphed 15-10, 18-15, reports Reuter.

In the semifinal, Gade-Christensen, the joint fifth seed, had beaten top seed Fung Permadi of Taiwan.

The women's singles final went to second-seed Camilla Martin of Denmark who upset top seed Mia Audina of Indonesia 12-10, 11-2.

Old foes face tricky time

RIO DE JANEIRO, Jan 13: The South American World Cup qualifying competition was thrown wide open on Sunday when Peru and Bolivia both won to rekindle their hopes and old foes Uruguay and Argentina drew 0-0 in Montevideo, reports Reuter.

Only two points now separate third-place Argentina from eighth-place Chile as the marathon competition, in which the nine teams play each other twice, nears the halfway mark.

The top four teams in the group qualify for the 1998 World Cup in France, with Brazil exempt from the qualifying tournament as holders.

In the old days, Uruguay and Argentina would have expected to meet little resistance from the other South American nations.

This time, however, they have found themselves slugging it out with teams such as Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador and playing second fiddle to group leaders Colombia and Paraguay.

The relatively poor campaigns of the two great rivals added extra spice to Sunday's meeting — their first-ever in a World Cup qualifier — but despite the tension there was no trouble and only three players were booked.

Uruguay had slightly the better of the game in which the performance of Ignacio Gonzalez hinted that Argentina may have finally ended their goal-keeping troubles.

The highlight of a solid display by Gonzalez, the fifth goalkeeper to be used by Argentine coach Daniel Passarella in the last year, was a spectacular seventh minute save from veteran Enzo Francescoli.

"We overcame a stiff test and

kept third place in a very tough qualifying contest," said Passarella.

The result kept Argentina ahead of Uruguay on goal difference. Both have ten points.

Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador all have nine points after Peru beat Chile 2-1 in Lima and Bolivia beat Ecuador 2-0 in La Paz.

Peru overcame Chile with first half goals by Flavio Maestri and Roberto Palacios. Ivan Zamorano grabbed a consolation for Chile, who have eight points, two minutes from time.

Bolivia have failed to make the most of playing at 3,600 metres above sea level, drawing their last three home games, but wrapped up Sunday's game in the first 12 minutes with goals by Jaime Moreno and Marco Etcheverry.

The Bolivians won all their home games on their way to reaching the 1994 World Cup, with Brazil among their victims, and their failure to repeat the performance may seriously undermine their hopes of qualifying again.

Paraguay, who last reached the World Cup finals in 1986,

moved four points ahead of Argentina with a 2-0 win away to lightweights Venezuela, who are propping up the table with a meagre one point.

Miguel Benitez and Julio Enciso scored in each half for Paraguay, who were missing their inspirational goalkeeper-free kick specialist Jose Luis Chilavert through suspension.

Paraguay cut the gap between themselves and leaders Colombia, who did not play, to three points.

WC qualifier Kenya hold Nigeria

NAIROBI, Jan 13: Nigeria's Super Eagles were held to a surprise 1-1 draw by Kenya in their World Cup Africa Group One qualifying match in Nairobi on Sunday, reports Reuter.

The Kenyans took the lead in the 25th minute through Ken Simiyu who beat Nigerian goalkeeper Joseph Dossu with a header from close range after a corner by Eric Ochieng.

Jonathan Kapoborie struck the equaliser for the Olympic champions in the 48th minute, heading in a corner from Finidi George.

A capacity, 60,000-strong crowd, including Kenyan President Daniel Arab Moi and members of his cabinet, packed the Moi International Sports Centre in Nairobi for the match.

Nigerian coach Shuaibu Amodu criticised the state of the pitch, but Kenya's German coach Reinhardt Fabisch, who sacked the existing team and replaced it two months ago with youthful outfit whose average age is just 21, was well satisfied.

Ridiculous!
BUCHAREST, Jan 13: The owner of a Romanian district soccer team has appointed his six-month-old son as club manager and player, a local newspaper reported today, reports Reuter.
Daily Sportul Romanesc said Aurel Rusu, owner of the Sadcom soccer team in the eastern village of Caragele wanted his son Lucian to become "a great soccer player so I decided to introduce him early into sports."
Sadcom play in the Vrancea County's lowest championship.

Pete's emotional epitaph

MELBOURNE, Jan 13: World number one Pete Sampras said the emotional strain of the past 12 months has forced him to re-evaluate his priorities as he prepares his challenge for the Australian Open title, reports Reuter.

The US Open champion last year lost his coach and mentor Tim Gullikson to a fatal brain tumor and split with his girlfriend of six years, Delaina Mulheys.

"From a tennis point of view, 1996 was great. I finished number one again, and won the US Open, so I have to complaints," Sampras told Melbourne's The Age newspaper in an interview published today.

But events of the court forced the 25-year-old American to reassess his values outside the cloistered world of professional tennis.

"Losing Tim, breaking up with my girlfriend after six years... I had to deal with things, real-life things that I



PETE SAMPRAS never had to deal with before. "As an athlete you kind of lose touch with things, at least I know I have when things like this happen it just wakes you up a bit about life."
Tennis is this great game...

but it's not the most important thing in the life, being healthy and happy.

"I've got the second half of my life to look forward to and I've thought about that a lot more than I once did since Tim passed away," said Sampras, who will begin his campaign in Melbourne against qualifier Dinu Pescariu of Romania on Tuesday.

His return to Melbourne Park will have added personal significance for Sampras, who is chasing his second Australian Open title after his triumph in 1994.

It was here two years ago that Gullikson was taken ill and hospitalised after suffering a relapse.

Sampras carried the torment over his friend's illness uncontrollably near the end of his quarter-final against compatriot Jim Courier.

Despite the obvious emotional strain, Sampras rallied to beat the two-time Australian Open champion in five sets.

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✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes : 8 pm Jan 17, '97

1	How many teams are taking part in the Bangabandhu Cup football tournament?	12	13	14
2	How many new national records were set up in the Sixth Bangladesh Games?	20	23	27
3	Which team clinched the gold in the 20th Sher-e-Bangla Cup football competition?	DU	Narayanganj	Bangladesh Army
4	The skipper of Bangladesh under-16 cricket team visiting Calcutta is	Imran	Tushar	Saleh
5	The century South African opener Gary Kirsten scored against India in the second Test in Cape Town is his	4th	5th	6th

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)

Saive pockets English Open title

KETTERING, England, Jan 13: Belgium's Jean-Michel Saive won the English Open championships after overwhelming the Czech Republic's Peter Korbel 21-10, 21-15, 21-19 on Sunday, reports AP.

Korbel had played superbly throughout the tournament and had disposed of German number two seed Jorg Rosskopf in the semifinal.

But he met his match in 27-year-old Saive who, with the third game tied at 18-18, responded to the late challenge with a fierce drive to the middle of the court that left Korbel standing.

"After his victory Saive said: 'I'm pleased to win this title for the first time. I hope playing well in England this week will help me prepare and give me confidence for the World Championship next April in Manchester.'"

In the women's final, Taipei number one Tong Feiming, 27, also won comfortably, overwhelming number one seed Chi Powa, from Hong Kong 21-10, 23-21, 21-10.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Invitational International Hockey Tournament:
(Venue: Hockey Stadium)
Mohammedan SC vs Defence Services (Sri Lanka) 2:45 pm

Premier Division Cricket League:
Victoria SC vs Lalmitia Club (Venue: Dhaka Stadium)

First Division Cricket League:
Eskaton SS vs Ajax SC (Venue: City Club)
Gopibagh FA vs Azad SC (Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium)

Acme Second Division Cricket League:
B Railways vs Kalindi KC (Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, East)
Kathalbagan GCC vs Rayer Bazar AC (Mirpur Outer Stadium)
DOHS vs Udayachal (Uttara Club)

Algeria, Lebanon friendly drawn

BEIRUT, Jan 13: Lebanon and Algeria drew 2-2 (halftime 0-1) in a friendly soccer international on Sunday, reports Reuter.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

1 Across	41 Blue hue	2 Emanation	kova of tennis
One way to pay	43 Señor's shawl	3 Period	22 'Zounds!'
5 Opposite of	46 Harpoon	4 Insectivorous bird	23 Place for sweaters?
35 Across	50 Press	5 Pussycat's partner	25 Leno's prominence
8 Hollywood agent?	51 Nickname for NYC	6 Powell co-star	26 Exploitation
12 Jam ingredient?	54 Orange coat	7 Word of admonition	27 Section of NYC
13 Court	55 Halloween party	8 One of the Barmyores territory	29 Saddam's territory
14 Mah-jongg piece	56 Potential NYC	9 Mayor of NYC	31 Tooth-paste type
15 Section of NYC	57 Not merely attractive	10 Gymnast	32 It does the hole job
17 Enormous	58 Long lunch?	11 Appear	34 Acknowledge 2/29
18 Overly sentimental	59 Undiluted DOWN	12 Pindaric output	38 Transpire
19 On (fleeing)	1 Urban fest	20 Mandill-	40 Licentious
21 Pindaric output	1 Urban fest	20 Mandill-	42 Can
24 The "Greatest"			43 Letter opener
25 Burlap fiber			44 Pennsylvania vena port
28 Gridiron statistic			45 Subsidies
30 Khan title			47 Fencing sword
33 Bat wood			48 - breve
34 Petrarch's beloved			49 What-aver's still there
35 Opposite of 5 Across			52 Debtor's letters
36 Infinitesimal			53 Sailor
37 Author Ferber			
38 Mound			
39 Pectoral pouch			

CRYPTOQUIP
R'Y RPBDRPTV SM KFH
SZFS FP MISRYRKS RK
YTETH F ZFIH-BZMPVERFB
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DID YOU HEAR THAT ANTIQUES ARE QUITE GENUINELY DEAR OLD THINGS?
Today's Cryptoquip clue: I equals P
The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that K 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.