

Column One

Boost sports WHIZZ KID COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-75 Tick the Correct Answers

SPORTS TALK



Aaqib Javed (Pakistan cricket's unsung hero) I think I have come at the wrong time in Pakistan cricket with Wasim (Akram) and Waqar (Younis) around.

Gloucester go on top

LONDON, July 27: Gloucestershire beat the rain which disrupted the latest round of English county championship matches to defeat Durham by an innings and 28 runs and return to the top of the table on Saturday, reports AFP.

David dwells on fielding

LEEDS, July 27: Coach David Lloyd plans to have an inquest on England's fielding practice following their poor showing during the second day of the fourth Test against Australia here, reports AFP.

Johnston holds on to belt

YOKOHAMA, Japan, July 27: American champion Steve Johnson took a split decision victory over Japan's Hiroyuki Sakamoto to keep his World Boxing Council (WBC) light-weight title on Saturday, reports AFP.

England on the ropes

LEEDS, England, July 27: Australian fast bowlers, inspired by a brilliant 199 by Matthew Elliott, had England starting at an innings defeat and a 2-1 Ashes deficit in the fourth Test at Headingley Sunday, report agencies.

England need another 227 runs to make Australia bat again, with little hope of saving the Test. An Australian win is the only likely result at the moment, unless the weather intervenes.

Three balls later and in a fresh over, with a similar delivery McGrath squared him up and the ball flew to Shane Warne at third slip. England was 28 for two.

Stewart and Hussain came together for a 27-run stand, but Reiffel found the bottom edge of the England No. 3's bat and hit the stumps.

Thorpe's miserable match continued. He scored 15 runs apiece in the two innings and put down a decisive catch offered by Elliott when on 29 with Australia on 50 for three.

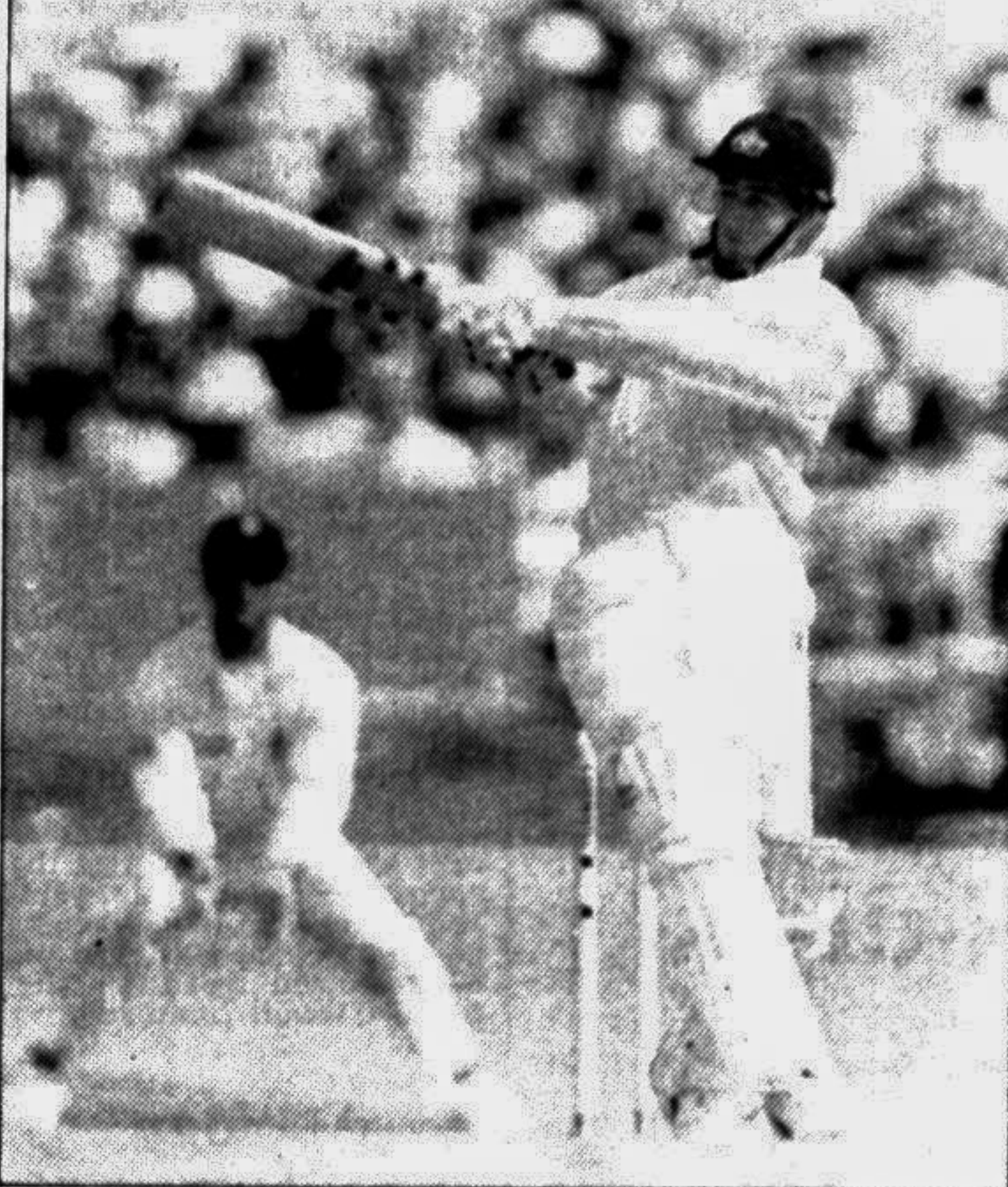
Elliott's marathon seven hours and 35-minute innings finally ended to a superb yorker by medium paceman Darren Gough, who went on to claim five for 149 in Australia 501 for nine declared at the lunch break.

He drove, hooked and pulled in a display of brilliant left handed batting that lasted 351 balls. He hit three sixes and 23 fours and was eighth out after providing the backbone of a

match-winning total. He shared three innings-building stands, but the 288 with Ricky Ponting (127) stood out as the most important of the

match-winning total. He shared three innings-building stands, but the 288 with Ricky Ponting (127) stood out as the most important of the

Reiffel with 54, 35 of them being no-balls. SCOREBOARD Scoreboard Sunday, at tea



Australian opener Mathew Elliott pulls one to the boundary in his marathon knock of 199 on the penultimate day of the Headingley Test.

three. It helped Australia recover from a perilously placed 50 for four.

Elliott and Ian Healy (31) took their overnight partnership to 64 before medium paceman Mark Ealham chipped in with two quick wickets.

Bowling: O M R W Gough 36 5 149 5 Headley 25 2 125 2 Smith 23 2 89 0 Ealham 19 3 56 2 Croft 18 1 49 0 Butcher 2 0 14 0

D GOUGH ... 5 for 149

He forced Healy to play on and five balls later forced Shane Warne to edge a low catch to Graham Thorpe at first slip.

Reiffel hit his third half century in Tests and frustrated the bowlers with No. 11 batsman Glenn McGrath, who contributed an unbeaten 20 in 35 minutes.

Extras finished third top scorer of the innings alongside

hold a regimental catch at first slip off Mike Smith's 18th ball of his Test career.

Elliott again escaped on 63 when captain Michael Atherton put him down in the gully off Mark Ealham, and he was dropped again by Smith in the penultimate over off Darren Gough, but by then he had progressed to 132.

"When we bowled they were 50 for four and we are doing damage but again we paid dearly for that dropped catch," said Lloyd. "We do the right things, practice hard and work on all our fielding skills."

"We may have been preening ourselves in the winter but recently some catches have gone down. We do not miss practice but as a coach I must sort out whether we are missing a trick or two."

"On that wicket you would want the bowlers to bowl a bit shorter rather than bowl a good length and have it seam around a bit and that's what they did," Elliott said.

"Dean Headley impressed me because he got the big wickets again, he has been a tremendous bowler since he came into the side. He has got bounce and pace and keeps you on your toes but I have been pleased with my form and I decided to go for my shots."



Heryanto Arbi of Indonesia holds aloft the trophy after winning the Singapore Open badminton final against compatriot Indra Wijaya yesterday. Arbi won 3-15, 18-14, 15-9.

Cricket not for cows!

LEEDS, England, July 27: Police launched an inquiry on Saturday after a man wearing a pantomime cow's rear end was knocked out when tackled by ground officials during the fourth Test match between England and Australia, reports AFP.

Stewards at the Headingley ground have been told "not to overdo things" after criticism of their allegedly excessively physical response when the "cow" strayed on to the pitch.

West Yorkshire police say they might consider charging the stewards involved if they find an offence had been committed. A spokesman said they were continuing to make inquiries.

Yorkshire County Cricket chief executive Chris Hassell said they were also "still looking into the matter."

No action had been taken against any steward at this stage, he said, but he had "spoken to the stewards to alert them to be very careful not to overdo things."

Branca Resik, 34, in the rear of the animal outfit, was rugby-tackled by stewards and knocked himself on advertising hoardings when the "cow" wandered on to the outfield at the end of play on Friday.

He was taken to Leeds General Hospital where a spokesman said he had not been admitted but discharged himself after treatment in the casualty department despite being unconscious for 90 minutes.

Rain bids Gooch bye

LONDON, July 27: Former England captain Graham Gooch's retirement party was spoiled by the fickle English weather on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Essex fans were hoping for a swashbuckling knock from Gooch on the final day of his first-class career. But rain cut almost four hours from the day's play and the championship game against Worcestershire ended in a tame draw.

Gooch denied himself the opportunity of a 651st first-class innings for Essex before bringing down the curtain on his 25-year career.

Worcestershire skipper Tom Moody offered to declare after Graeme Hick had completed a second innings century to ensure his side were safe from defeat.

But the offer was turned down by Gooch. He bowled two overs as Worcestershire batted through to the close.

The Worcestershire players then lined up to give him a guard of honour as he left the outfield.

Gooch, 44, had been given a standing ovation by the 3,000 crowd when he led out Essex at the start of the morning's play with high hopes of signing off with a victory.

Mozambique book Nations' Cup slot

JOHANNESBURG, July 27: Two goals in the last five minutes gave Mozambique a dramatic 2-1 win over Malawi on Saturday and a place in next year's African Nations' Cup finals, reports Reuter.

Malawi needed a draw to qualify for only the second time in their history and looked on course when defender Manson Shamba Phiri stunned the hosts with a goal in the 62nd minute.

But upstart Barro equalised five minutes from time and roared on by a 35,000 crowd at the Machava Stadium, Mozambique pushed forward and striker Tico Tico hit the winner two minutes later.

The victory sent Mozambique to the 1998 tournament. The third time they have reached the finals after 1986 and 1996.

Hingis, Martinez in final

STANFORD, California, July 27: Growing fitter every day, 16-year-old Swiss world number one Martina Hingis withstood the crushing groundstrokes of fourth seed Lindsay Davenport to earn a 6-3, 1-6, 6-2 victory in the semifinals of the 450,000-dollar Bank of the West Classic Saturday, reports Reuter.

In today's final, Hingis will meet sixth seed Conchita Martinez of Spain, who won a topspin war of attrition with third seed Amanda Coetzer 6-4, 6-0.

The 5-foot 6-inch (1.68 metres), 115-pound (52 kg) Hingis stood toe-to-toe with the 6-foot-3 (1.91 metres), 165-pound (75 kg) American, successfully trading gargantuan crosscourt backhands and bludgeoning the bigger woman's second serve.

"I'm a little faster, my movement is better and my strength is improving," said Hingis, who underwent knee surgery in the spring and was out for five weeks. "I'm almost feeling 100 per cent again. I see the court better than I did before."

It was the fifth meeting between the two and like the previous four, the match went three sets. And like the last two occasions, Hingis stepped it up when it appeared Davenport was about to blow her off the court.

"In my whole career I have

been pretty good in three sets," said Hingis, who notched her 22nd straight three-set victory dating back to the 1996 French Open. "When it gets to the third set I kind of expect that the other girl will get kind

numerous opportunities to put the game away and Hingis seized the day, pasting a backhand return of serve that the American buried into the net.

While Davenport does not believe that Hingis is as dominant a number one as Steffi Graf was, she is impressed with the 1997 Australian and Wimbledon champion's ability to close.

"Martina can turn it up, turns it down and turns it up again," Davenport said. "Whether she relaxes or gets bored, I don't know what it is, but she can turn it on again in the third."

Martinez sported an 11-1 record against Coetzer entering their semifinal. However, Coetzer beat her foe for the first time at the French Open in May.

But here, Martinez was able to push her opponent deep behind the baseline with high topspin groundstrokes.

After winning the one-hour first set Martinez romped over a despondent Coetzer, who unusually lost her composure at the end of the first set, throwing her racket and loudly disputing two line calls.

Martinez is 2-0 against Hingis and says she is playing the best she has in a year. "If I play my game and don't let her play hers, I have a pretty good chance," Martinez said.

Dewulf-Alonso showdown

KITZBUHEL, Austria, July 27: Belgian Filip Dewulf, a French Open semifinalist earlier this year, continued his excellent season on Saturday when he advanced to the final of the 535,000-dollar ATP Tour clay court tournament here, reports AFP.

Dewulf, seeded 10th, easily beat the 14th seed from Spain, Galo Blanco, 6-3, 6-2 in under an hour.

He will face another Spaniard, Julian Alonso, in the final on Sunday after 20-year-old Alonso, progressing further than ever before in a tour event, beat 15th-seeded Czech Slava Dosedel 6-3, 6-4.

Mantilla prevails

UMAG, Croatia, July 27: Third-seeded Felix Mantilla outlasted fellow Spaniard and No. 2 seed Carlos Moya 7-6 (7-5), 5-7, 6-3 on Saturday, advancing to the final of 400,000 dollars Croatian Open, reports AP.

He will face top-seeded countryman Sergi Bruguera, who had little trouble disposing of another Spaniard, unseeded Alberto Martin, 6-3, 6-1.

Goran digs own grave

LOS ANGELES, July 27: Sixth seed Jim Courier used his serve to dump error-prone top seed Goran Ivanisevic 6-3, 6-4 Saturday night in the 303,000-dollar Infield Open and earn a spot in the final against second seed Thomas Enqvist, reports Reuter.

"I think I turned it up a notch tonight for sure," said Courier, who ran his record to 7-3 with his fifth consecutive straight-sets win over the Croatian.

"I just came out on top of the ball early and I don't think he came out sharp. I got on top quick and never really let up. He never had a break point, never even sniffed my serve all night."

Enqvist swept past Frenchman Guillaume Raoux 6-4, 6-1 in the day's first semifinal. Courier sparked from the baseline and surrendered only seven points off 10 service games to gain his second final of the year.

"Basically I was cruising off my serve, which gave me the freedom to take on his serve. I took my chances well out there," the American added.

Ivanisevic was asked to explain what happened to his high-powered game.

"Nothing happened," said the world's third-ranked player. "He didn't play anything special. He didn't have to. I made too many mistakes and didn't have one break chance."

Ivanisevic said he made it

easy for his opponent. He committed 34 unforced errors — 22 more than Courier.

Courier captured the opening set with a lone break as the left-hander committed one of his four double faults at game point in the second game.

He quickly broke again at the start of the second set and rode his serve to a 5-4 advantage. Ivanisevic saved a pair of

In early May, Enqvist tore two tendons in his left foot when he tripped over his equipment bag at a courtside practice session in Monte Carlo, and was sidelined until this week.

"I thought it would take more time to get into the matches," said the world's eighth-ranked player. "But you have more spirit that you want even more to win if you been away for a while."

Though surprised at how quickly he has returned to form, the 23-year-old Swedish Davis Cupper won't be satisfied with a runner-up trophy.

"It's a final," he said. "You go to a tournament to win. If I win I will be very happy and if I lose I will be very disappointed."

Enqvist showed world-class form to outlast Raoux, who had consecutive upsets over Australian Davis Cup stars Mark Philippoussis and Patrick Rafter, seeds three and five.

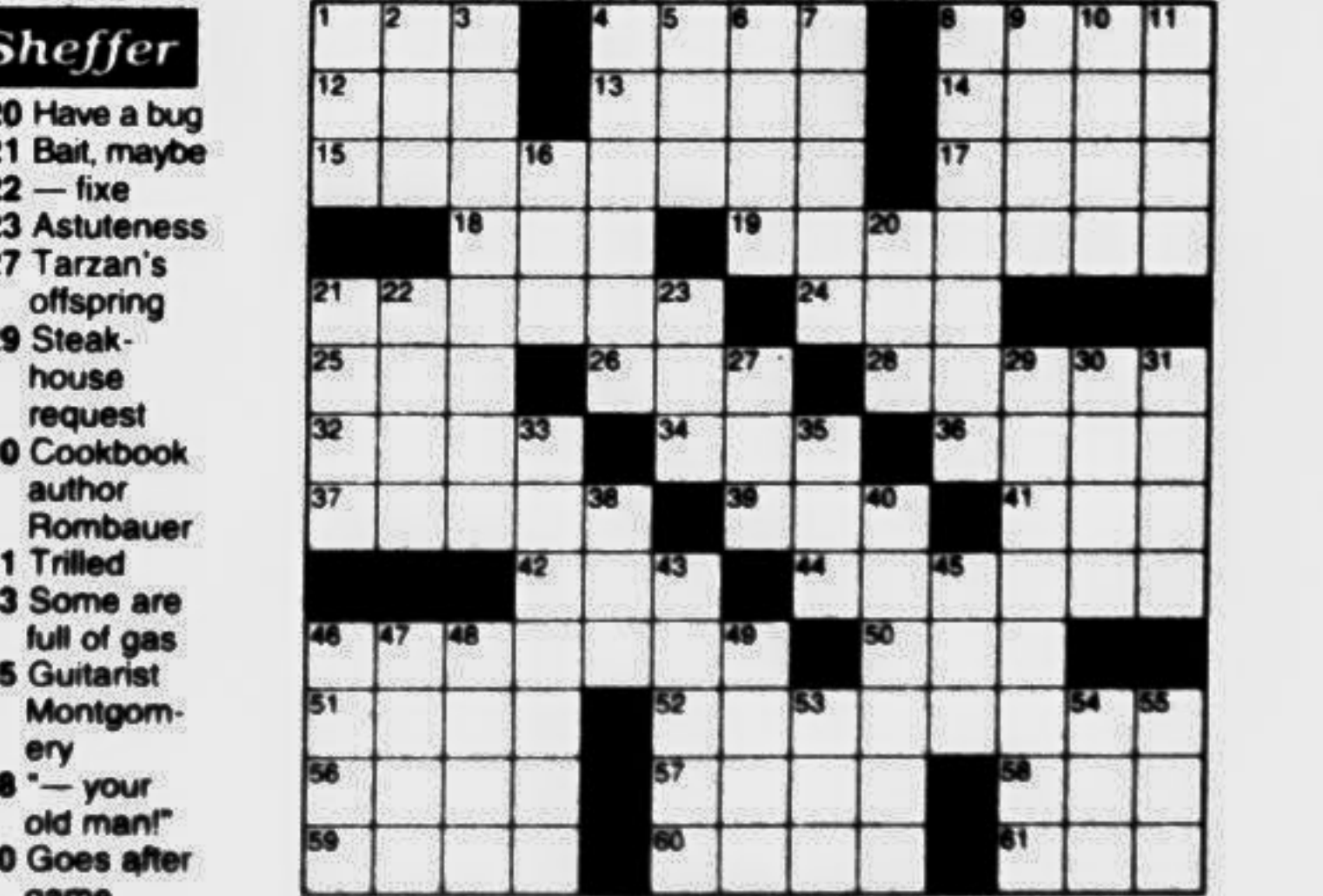
"Thomas played much better than me today and there's nothing else I can say," said the 80th-ranked Raoux, who fell to 1-3 against the Swede.

Enqvist took a 3-0 lead with one service break in each set. In the first he played a loose fifth game to let Raoux back into the set before breaking again in the 10th game with a sharp backhand service return winner.

In the second set he built remorselessly on his advantage with breaks in the second and sixth games, winning his first match point with a forehand passing shot.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Mandible 4 It'll grow on you 8 Slender branch 12 Ram's ma'am 13 It could be quite a lot 14 — but known... 15 Lierate 17 Strident 18 Retriever type, for short 19 Lost heart 21 It can be a real pane 24 Fortnight tally 25 Tribute in verse 26 Tease 28 Martin's longtime partner 32 Every-thing else 34 AAJ type 36 Antitoxins 37 South-western terrain, in part 38 Understudy 41 K-O connection? 42 — a



CRYPTOQUIP U G F I M K P O O W M L R G M G M E Y O P K O Y K L E G H E G H W E R M G R Y M P E P K Y U G ? Yesterday's Cryptogram: YOU COULD EASILY SAY THAT STOLEN CANDY IS HOT CHOCOLATE. Today's Cryptogram clue: K equals R. The Cryptogram 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.