

Sport

Column One

Roost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-83

Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes at 8 pm, Nov 28, '97

- 1 Who lifted the Stockholm Open tennis title? Bjorkman, Rios, Pohlme...

Name .....

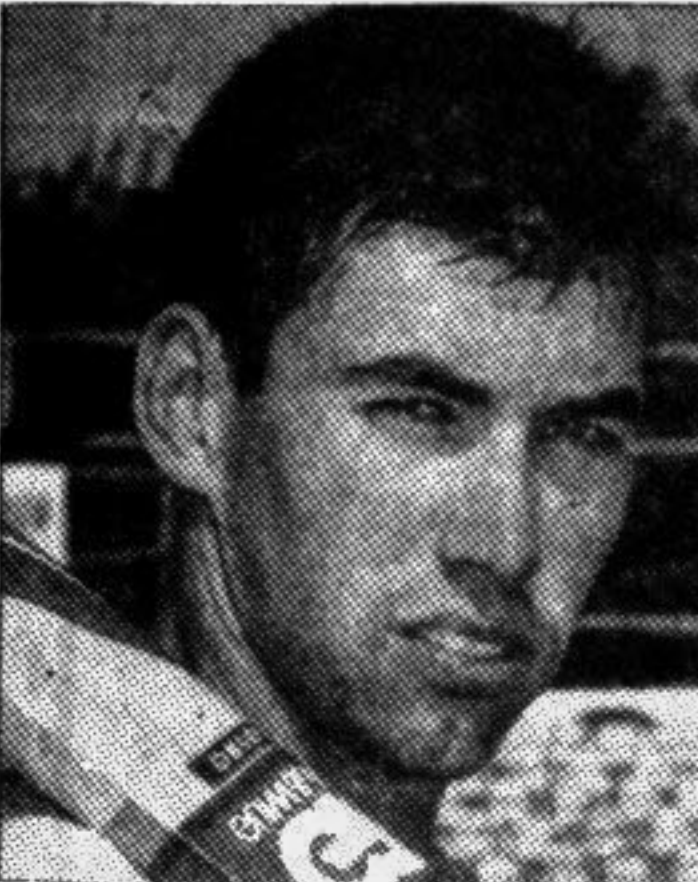
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SPORTS TALK



Stephen Fleming

(New Zealand cricket captain) "We have been struggling all tour. It all points to experience. I think this team has the potential to develop into a fine team."

Brazil's fifth in a row

TOKYO, Nov 24: Barcelona Olympic champions Brazil powered past hosts Japan in three sets for their fifth consecutive victory and to take the men's trophy at the World Grand Champions Cup volleyball tournament today, reports AFP.

The Brazilian spikers, who defeated Atlanta Olympic champions the Netherlands Saturday, went on to make a clean sweep by scoring a 15-5, 15-11, 19-17 victory to finish top in the six-team round robin contest.

The victory brought them the top prize of 300,000 dollars. Earlier in the day at the Yogi National Gymnasium, Asian champions China needed just two hours to beat Australia 15-12, 15-9, 13-15, 12-15, 15-13.

China ended the tournament with a 3-2 win-loss record and Australia 0-5.

The Netherlands outclassed Cuba 15-11, 16-14, 4-15, 15-8, to be tied with the Cubans and the Chinese with the same 3-2 win-loss record, and the Dutchmen won the 200,000 dollar runner-up prize thanks to a better set ratio.

Cuba had to be satisfied with 100,000 dollars at third and China at fourth with 50,000 dollars.

Jana breaks the jinx



NEW YORK, Nov 24 (AP): Exorcising the pain of past disappointments, Jana Novotna finally put a major tournament title on her resume.

The Czech player captured the Chase Championships on Sunday by defeating Mary Pierce 7-6 (7-4), 6-2, 6-3 in the season-ending showcase featuring the tour's top 16 players.

This victory will not erase the sting of her collapse in the 1993 Wimbledon final or her failures in the finals of the 1991 Australian Open or this year's Wimbledon. But it put to rest the whispers she is unable to win a big one.

"I have come a long way," Novotna said. "I have made it to the final three times in the Grand Slam. Twice I came close to winning. After today I feel I'm a great champion."

"Even if I don't win another match, I proved I'm the player I expected to be and I am a great champion."

A day earlier, Novotna teamed with Lindsay Davenport of the United States to win the doubles title, defeating France's Alexandra Fusai and Nathalie Tauziat 6-7, (5-7), 6-3, 6-2.

"It feels great," said Novotna, who with Sunday's victory regains the No. 2 ranking she lost last Monday to her doubles teammate.

Later, during the post-match ceremonies, Novotna cried as she thanked her coach, Hana Mandlikova.

Novotna earned 500,000 dollars and Pierce collected 250,000 dollars.

Even with the loss, Pierce can claim her best year since winning the Australian Open in 1995. She reached the final at this year's Australian Open, won the Italian Open and was named the WTA Tour Comeback Player of the year.

But on Sunday, Novotna took charge in the first-set tiebreaker and never let Pierce

back into the match. As she did when she shocked top-seeded Martina Hingis in the quarterfinals, Pierce opened the match with blistering groundstrokes and repeatedly beat Novotna to the net. In a way, she played Novotna's game, but with bigger strokes.



Jana Novotna of Czech Republic holds the trophy after beating Mary Pierce of France in the Chase championships final at Madison Square Garden in New York on Nov 23. Novotna won 6-2, 6-3. —AP/UNB photo

"I knew that she would have to come up with something new to beat me today," Novotna said of Pierce's frequent forays to the net. Pierce, despite a groin injury, seemed in control through the first 12 games. She had a break point in the very first game and had two set points on Novotna's serve in the 12th game.

But Novotna, who served brilliantly the entire match, served into Pierce's body to stave off the first break point, then crushed her fourth ace of the match to save the second.

She closed the 16-point game with another ace, sending the set into a tiebreaker.

Again, Pierce drew first blood, rifling a forehand past Novotna, who had spent most of the opening set on the baseline, to take a 4-2 lead. Novotna pulled even on the eighth point, smacking a forehand cross court that Pierce could not control. When Pierce sailed a forehand long on the next point, all Novotna had to do was hold service, and she did.

"Pierce gave it one more shot, in the opening game of the second set. But Novotna finally held in the 10-minute battle, fighting off two break points and even deuces. By then, Novotna was in full gear, her tie in sight.

"I'm not ashamed of myself. I have a lot to look forward to next year."

Pierce happy & hopeful



NEW YORK, Nov 24 (Reuters): Mary Pierce chose to look at the upside of a down day. Despite losing in straight sets to Jana Novotna in the final of the Chase Championships on Sunday, Pierce was cheerful that she ended the year by playing quality tennis.

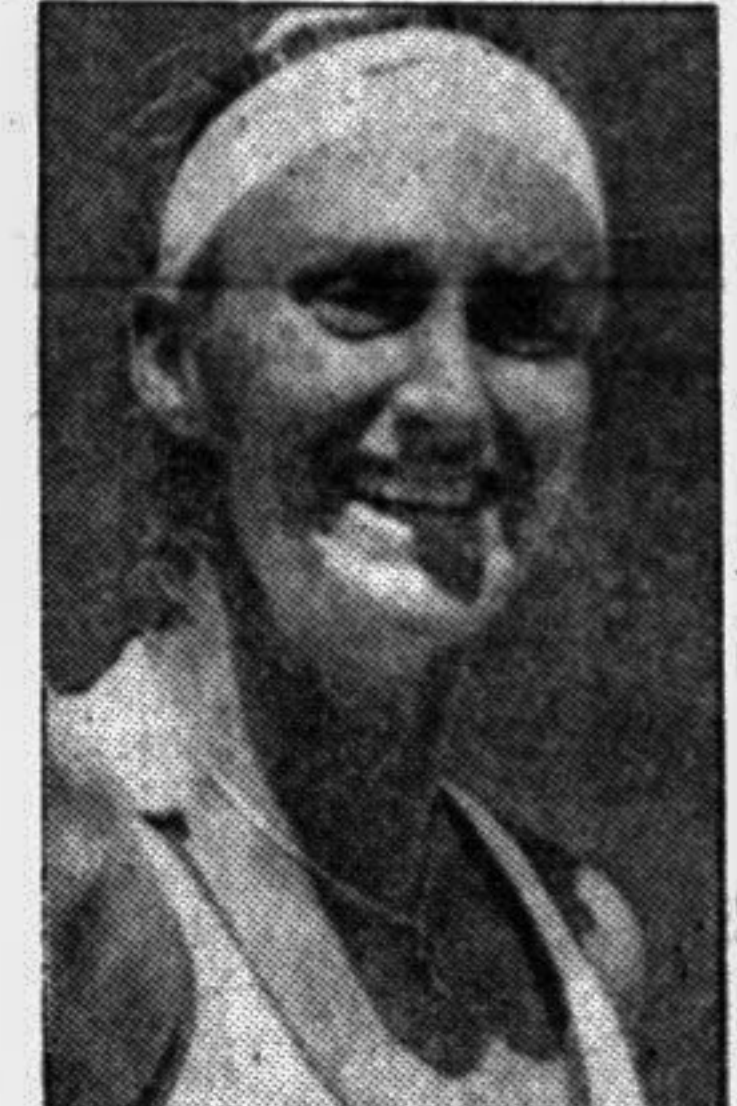
The 7-6 (7-4), 6-2, 6-3 loss to Novotna did not dampen Pierce's enthusiasm, particularly since she has improved her ranking from 20th in the world last January to a more comfortable seventh.

"I'm happy and I'm not happy at the same time," Pierce said. "Basically, I'm pretty satisfied. If I came here Saturday night (a week ago) and they told me you would be in the finals a week from now, not that I wouldn't believe them, because I always believe in myself, but I've been sick lately."

A recent kidney ailment sidelined Pierce for close to two months recently, so her showing at these championships was encouraging.

Pierce's most startling accomplishment of the week came when she shocked top-ranked Martina Hingis 6-3, 2-6, 7-5 in the quarterfinals.

"Having been sick, I've missed a lot of tournaments and not playing a lot of matches, and not being able to train," Pierce said. "I didn't play so well (two weeks ago) in Chicago and took the (last) week off to get fitter and get ready to play here.



MARY PIERCE

"I'm really happy I played three great matches and beat

the number one in the world," Pierce said.

Pierce, 22, also missed most of the last half of the 1996 season, including the US Open, because of a right shoulder injury. But she began her campaign to return to the top 10 in fine fashion by reaching the final of the Australian Open, where she lost to Hingis.

Her ability to return to the upper echelon of the sport earned Pierce the WTA Tour's comeback-player-of-the-year honor for 1997.

"Pierce reached as high as third in the world after claiming her lone Grand Slam title at the 1995 Australian Open.

And though her first appearance in the Chase Championships final did not result in an ninth career title for the Frenchwoman, she left Madison Square Garden pleased with her performance.

"When you come here to this tournament, it's the last one of the year, you've got all the best girls on the tour and every match is tough. So, I'm happy that I made the finals, but I'm not happy that I didn't win today," Pierce said.

"I'm not ashamed of myself. I have a lot to look forward to next year."

McRae heading for the title

Winning is the only option for the 555 Subaru World Rally Team crew of Colin McRae and Nicky Grist and, after eleven stages of the deciding round of the FIA World Rally Champi-

onship, the British pair are heading in the direction that could see them wearing the World crown in Cheltenham on Tuesday evening, says a press release.

Eleven 'super' special stages have taken the crews out to the northwest of Cheltenham and despite all being short, have been the type of stages that the rally could be lost on. Thick fog greeted the crews this morning and on the tight and slippery tracks through the surrounding country estates and race circuits, caution has been exercised by all before they head into the Welsh forests and more familiar territory today.

Bidding for his second World title, Colin McRae set an impressive time in the Subaru Impreza 555 on the opening 3.8-km stage, posting a time five seconds faster than any of his rivals, intent on domination from the outset. The Scot and Finland's Juha Kankkunen traded the number one slot during the opening stages, McRae losing time on stage 4 when he was forced to slow up.

555 Subaru teammate Piero Liatti is making his debut in England and finished the opening leg in a fine 8th position. He and co-driver, Fabrizia Pons, like many others, have found it hard to get into a flowing rhythm on the short stages where conditions have been changing by the minute from tarmac to very loose gravel. Nevertheless the Italians is pleased with his performance, despite a spin early in the day.

The all-Swedish pairing of Kenneth Eriksson and Staffan Parmander — who claimed a hat-trick of Asia-Pacific Rally Championships titles this year — suffered possibly the bitterest blow of the season this morning. One kilometre into the opening stage at Cheltenham Racecourse, the Swedes were sidelined when the engine stopped.

IUB cricket

The third Independent University, Bangladesh inter-semester cricket tournament 1997 concluded on Sunday, reports UNB.

Saffron-97 beat Blue-96 by three runs in the final match of the cricket tournament in which nine teams took part.

Saffron scored 104 runs for the loss of nine wickets. In reply, the Blues made 101 for six in the 16 overs-a-side final, said a press release.

Windies not happy with accommodation

HYDERABAD, Nov 24: The West Indies cricket team refused to play their scheduled three-day match against Habib Bank on Monday grumbling about "sub-standard accommodation," reports AP.

The cricket team left Hyderabad for Karachi some 160 kilometres (96 miles) away, on Sunday night after being housed in a guest house, which the team claimed was not up to standard.

It's not clear what was wrong with the accommodations. Guest houses in Pakistan are generally clean and well-maintained, albeit smaller than hotels.

The Hyderabad Cricket Association however blasted the West Indian team. India, who played a recent match in Hyderabad against Pakistan, apparently stayed at the same guest house without complaining, said Yar Mohammad Solangi, president of the association.

The only hotel available in Hyderabad was booked because of a convention, according to Solangi.

According to the West Indies' management the team was to be booked in a hotel and not a guest house causing him to pack up his men and send them to Karachi.

As a result the three-day match has been reduced to two and the West Indian team will drive to Karachi at the end of the day's play.

Americans spoil Indian party

HARTFORD, Connecticut, Nov 24: Fourth-seeded Americans Rick Leach and Jonathan Stark beat the fifth-seeded Indian duo Mahesh Bhupathi and Leander Paes in three sets yesterday to win the ATP Tour World Doubles Championship, reports AP.

Leach and Stark captured their first title of the year despite appearing in five finals. It was also their first World Championship success as a team. (Leach also won the event with Jim Pugh in 1988).

Sunday's victory was worth 115,000 dollars in prize money and Leach and Stark finish third in the final ATP Tour team rankings, behind Australia's Mark Woodforde and Todd Woodbridge and Dutchmen Jacco Eltingh and Paul Haarhuis, who Leach and Stark defeated here in the semifinals.

Bhupathi and Paes, playing in the championships for the first time, were denied their seventh doubles crown of 1997.

Juve stay behind Inter



PARIS, Nov 24 (AFP): Juventus missed a golden opportunity to go top of the Italian Serie A on Sunday when they managed only a 2-2 draw at home to third place Parma and

Gianluigi Buffon from close range.

But two minutes later, another long ball — this time from the head of Dino Baggio — found Hernan Crespo and the Argentine's angled shot into the far corner was just too good for Peruzzi.



Brazilian Ronaldo celebrates after converting a penalty for Inter in the Milan derby on Nov 22. Inter drew 2-2 against AC.

unfashionable Metz went back to the French First Division with a home win over Toulouse after Marseille and Paris St Germain both crashed to surprise defeats.

ITALY: Juventus, who had stood poised to go top of the league on goal difference, had to settle for a share of the points and remain two points adrift of pacesetters Inter Milan who drew 2-2 with AC Milan 24 hours earlier.

Marcello Lippi's champions pushed forward but paid the price in the 34th minute, a long ball from Brazilian Ze-Maria caught out the Juve defence and Enrico Chiesa ran through to tuck the ball past goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi.

Juventus levelled in the 43rd minute when Alessandro Del Piero chested down Angelo Di Livio's cross and volleyed past Parma's teenage goalkeeper

Parma looked set for all three points until the 83rd minute, when Nicola Amoroso rose above the melee to head Juventus' equaliser from a corner.

FRANCE: Metz's 2-1 victory on Friday put them one point clear of Marseille and two ahead of reigning champions Monaco.

Marseille, who had gone clear a week ago with a 4-0 thrashing of Auxerre, conceded pole position after their 2-0 loss at Strasbourg on Thursday to leave the door open for Metz, who have never won the championship.

Monaco ensured third spot in the standings with their humiliating 3-0 win against Psg on Thursday.

Bordeaux, who are in fifth place and one point behind the Parisians squandered their chances and crashed 1-0 at

promoted Chateauroux. It was Bordeaux's first defeat since September 5.

The win took unheralded Chateauroux out of the bottom four, a point clear of 1995 champions Nantes, who crashed 3-0 at fellow strugglers Rennes.

Cannes remain bottom on 14 points but boosted their chances of survival by beating Lyon 1-0.

GERMANY: UEFA Cup champions Schalke, who host the Portuguese side Braga Tuesday, are fourth in the Bundesliga after their 2-0 win over Munich 1860.

It was Schalke's seventh home victory from their eight matches, they are level on 28 points with Stuttgart who demoralised Karlsruhe 3-0 Saturday.

Terry's guarded optimism

MELBOURNE, Nov 24: Australia's soccer team returned home Monday to prepare for the return leg of its World Cup qualifying showdown with Iran on Saturday at the 100,000-capacity Melbourne Cricket Ground, reports AP.

Coach Terry Venables said a 1-1 draw in the first leg in Tehran last Saturday was as good a result as any side could expect, but it was too early to think about France next year.

"Let's not celebrate in advance," said Venables.

The players left Tehran for their camp-base in Dubai after the game and then packed and left immediately for Melbourne.

Venables said Iran's unbeaten record at home showed just how tough earning a draw had been.

The former coach of England tried to play down the fact that Australia now had the edge in the two-leg contest.

Venables said he had no intention of turning his side into a defensive unit prepared to camp in its own half and fight for a 0-0 draw. Away goals count double, so a scoreless draw would give Australia the last qualifying spot.

If Australia retreated and gave up too much ground the Iranians' confidence would soar and they would take the game to Australia, Venables said.

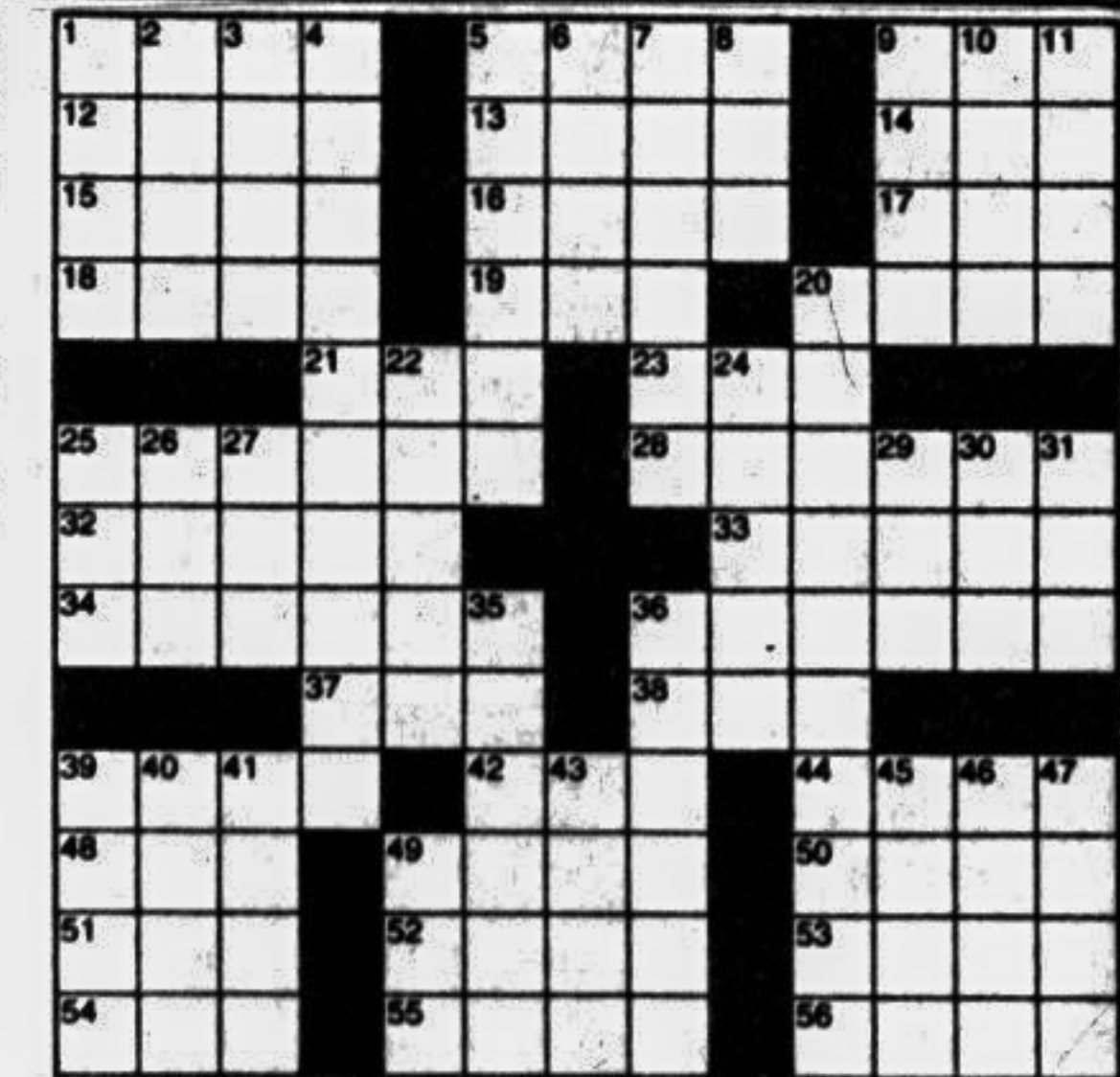
"We'll play like I've always played since I've been here and we'll get in amongst them," Venables said.

The coach still has an unbeaten record since joining the Socceroos with 12 wins and a draw.

The Iranian squad is expected to arrive in Melbourne on Wednesday. It will be boosted by the return of star player Karim Bagheri, who has served a two-match suspension.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS 1 Sci-fi villain 5 Beat into a pulp 9 Moonshine container 12 "Clue" weapon 13 Oaxaca water 14 Raw rock 15 Squashed circle 16 Lather 17 Relatives 18 Suitably 19 Proof abbr. 20 A-No.1 21 Ad-dressee 23 Palin-dromic preposi-tion 25 Chuck Norris' skill 26 Trafalgar casualty 32 Pleisto-cene, e.g. 33 Drudge 34 Infernal 36 Tele-phone array 37 Number



CRYPTOQUIP P A X O T T U , E X U L T S G F X X Y X X O X U F U T Y X T S P H E A H L X G Yesterday's Cryptokuip: BIG SIGN IN GREEK RESTAURANT URGES: "CHECK OUT THE BLUE PLATO SPECIAL!" Today's Cryptokuip clue: L equals V The Cryptokuip 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.

SIEMENS Tomorrow's talk technology today. The feature-filled compact S10 has just been voted the best business cell phone in the world by Connect, the European communications magazine. Imported from Germany the S10 comes with features that are the envy of others - the first-ever color display, fax and data communication, 20-second voice recording, 100 hours standby and 10 hours talk time, and best of all, Siemens' own after-sales service. Find out more about this incredible cell phone today from our sales centers or authorized dealers. Siemens Bangladesh Limited. Authorized dealers: Brother's Limited, National Scouts Bhaban, V.P. Road, Kakral, Dhaka-1000, Tel: 410013-17, Fax: 880-2-832835.