

Column One

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-86

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes at 8 pm on Jan 9, 1998

- 1 Who is the Australia cricket coach?
2 Who is the Argentina soccer coach?
3 Which county will Lara lead next year?
4 Who hit the first century in this year's Premier Division cricket league?
5 Who lifted the women's singles title of the national TT championships?

Name
Class
Roll No.
School Address
Phone: (If any)



SPORTS TALK



Shane Warne
(Australia's ace leg-spinner)
'Sometimes we all go a little bit far but that's the way it is, it's pretty competitive out in the middle, it's not a place for faint hearts.'

Elena advances

GOLD COAST, Australia, Jan 4: Defending champion Elena Likhovtseva of Russia overcame a first-set loss to beat Olga Barabanshchikova of Belarus 2-6, 6-1, 6-1, Sunday at the Australian women's hardcourt tournament, reports AP.

Earlier, Venezuelan Maria Vento advanced to a second-round match with the seventh-seeded Likhovtseva with a two-set victory over Spain's Magu Serna.

Vento, 23, who reached the fourth round of Wimbledon last year, made few mistakes in defeating Serna 6-3, 6-4 at the Hops Island complex.

'I knew she is a very consistent player and she was going to get a lot of balls back,' Vento said. 'So I tried just not to make mistakes myself and try and keep the ball in play and not be the first to make unforced errors.'

Coming from a country where tennis is a marginal sport, Vento's family moved to the United States almost 10 years ago to further her tennis career.

Last year she became the first Venezuelan to reach the fourth round of Wimbledon in the open era and jumped to 51 in the rankings.

In the other first-round match Sunday, Switzerland's Patty Schnyder defeated Italy's Rita Grande 6-4, 6-4.

Ticket sales unsatisfactory

TOKYO, Jan 4: Just 34 days before the 1998 Winter Olympic Games open in Nagano, organisers said Sunday that about 220,000 tickets remain unsold, partly because of poor overseas sales, reports AP.

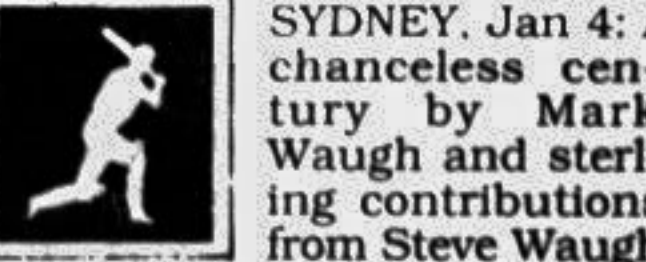
The leftover tickets are about one-sixth of the 1.28 million organisers put on sale for the games, which start Feb 7, said Takafumi Hara, head of the organising committee's ticket sales.

He said the organisers had hoped to sell 200,000 tickets overseas, matching foreign sales by 1994 Winter Olympics host Lillehammer, Norway, but 'because of (Nagano's) geographical location, we could sell only 110,000 tickets.'

Hara added, however, that the organisers have almost reached their target of taking in 5.3 billion yen (40.8 million dollars) through ticket sales. Prices range from 2,000 yen (dlsr 15.40) for some events to 35,000 yen (269 dollars) for the opening ceremony.

Hara said the organisers will try to sell the remaining tickets beginning on Jan 15 through five ticket offices in Nagano and 59 private ticket service counters throughout the country, and through telephone sales.

Mark's masterly hundred Hosts assert authority



SYDNEY, Jan 4: A chanceless century by Mark Waugh and sterling contributions from Steve Waugh and Ricky Ponting put Australia in the box seat in the second Test against South Africa on Sunday, reports AP.

Against a defensive-minded South African attack, Australia made 392 for nine in reply to the Proteas' 287 to take an invaluable 105-run lead at stumps on the third day at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

After Mark Waugh converted his third half-century of the season into a form-hitting 100, his twin Steve missed out on one what would have placed him in the elite company of three others.

Steve Waugh, playing in his 100th Test, was dismissed by fast bowler Allan Donald for 85 runs. Only England's Colin Cowdrey, Pakistani Javed Miandad and West Indian Gordon Greenidge have scored a century in their 100th appearance.

A decisive 116-run stand for the fourth wicket between the Waughs was more than sufficient to break loose of a tight rein South Africa had on the Australians.

Mark Waugh, in particular, recovered from an uncertain start against off spinner Pat Symcox.

Mark scored his first century in nine months and three series. His last century was a momentous 116 in Port Elizabeth, South Africa that laid the foundation for an unlikely second Test and series win.

Resuming the day needing 22 more for his 12th century, Mark Waugh cut loose, hammering Symcox and Adams and forcing Hansie Cronje to take the new ball after 80 overs.

Donald showed no discomfort of a troublesome left ankle and came out firing in a hostile new-ball spell that peppered Steve Waugh with bruises to the shoulder, ribs and groin.

The South African spearhead required a cortisone injection after being examined by an orthopedic surgeon after the second day's play.

He was badly under-bowled, and once introduced just before the tea break, removed Steve Waugh. Despite missing out on the century, Steve Waugh lifted his average against South Africa to 87.1 runs at 72.58.

Mark Waugh wasn't spared either. The first ball hit him on the shoulder. But it was all soon forgotten when he clipped Shaun Pollock to the fine leg boundary.

It was only the fourth time the twins have associated themselves in a century stand in their 57 Tests together.

Mark was trapped leg before wicket five balls later but Steve found a willing partner in Ricky Ponting.

The fifth-wicket pair put on 98 runs on either side of the lunch break to leave South Africa with a tough game with two days to go.

Ponting, Australia's first-Test hero with 105, scored another fine 62 before he hit a return catch to Adams after tea. Ian Healy has batted for 108 minutes for 31 runs along with No. 11 Glenn McGrath, who survived 15 minutes for his three runs.

South Africa was defensive throughout the day and seem to have their mind set on forcing a draw. They narrowly escape defeat in the first Test in Melbourne.

There wasn't much on the pitch, Mark Waugh said after the century. 'It was pretty handy to have a lead of 120.'

Pollock returned the best figures for the South Africans with 3-56 while Donald and Symcox took two wickets apiece.

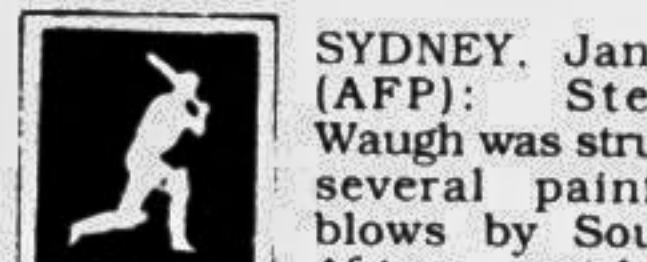
Scoreboard at the close on the third day of the second cricket Test between Australia and South Africa at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Sunday: SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 287 (Cronje 88, Gibbs 54; Blewett b McMillan 28, M Waugh lbw b Pollock 100, S Waugh b Donald 85, Ponting, c and b Adams 62, Begon c McMillan b Symcox 12, Healy not out 31, Reiffel b Donald 0, Warner lbw b Pollock 12, McGrath not out 3, Extras: (b-1, lb-11, nb-4) 16

Australia: First innings (174 for three overnight) Elliott c McMillan b Symcox 32, Taylor c Richardson b Pollock 11, Total: (9 wkts in 157 overs) 392, Fall of wkts: 1-35; 2-59; 3-103; 4-219; 5-317; 6-337; 7-354; 8-357; 9-385, Bowling O M R W



OUCH! Genturion Mark Waugh is struck a painful blow off an Allan Donald bouncer on the third day of the second Test between Australia and South Africa at Sydney yesterday. — AP/UNB photo

Nerves of steel!



SYDNEY, Jan 4 (AFP): Steve Waugh was struck several painful blows by South African cricket's 'White Lightning' Allan Donald during the second cricket Test here Saturday — and later said he enjoyed it.

Steve and twin brother Mark were hit on the body about 10 times in a furious spell with the second new ball before lunch from a fired-up Donald.

Steve, playing in his 100th Test on his home ground, bore the brunt of the pummeling, but as was the case against Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh in the West Indies in 1995, it failed to unnerve him.

Donald did return later in the day to bowl the single-minded Waugh with another shooter that straightened to hit off-stump and prevent him from becoming only the fourth player to make a hundred in his 100th Test.

He was out for 85 following on from his 96 in the first Test in Melbourne, again a victim of Donald.

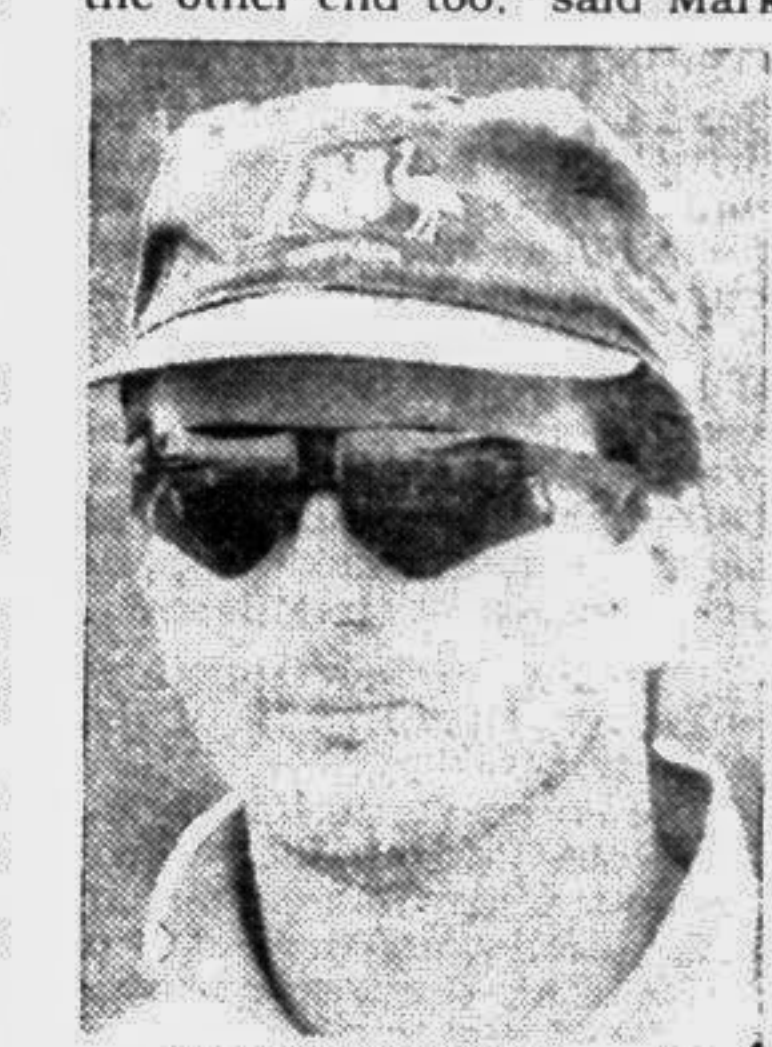
'That's the best thing about Test cricket, having a quick bowler running at you, obviously giving his best and trying to get on top of him,' said Waugh. 'That's what it's all about, so I really enjoy it.'

Even though Waugh has mastered the art of not getting dismissed by the short ball, either by ducking out of the way or allowing it to hit him on the body, he said he was not surprised that top quality fast bowlers still dished plenty of them up to him.

'That's Test match cricket and I'd be trying that if I was a bowler as well,' he said. 'That's part of the game — you try different things, you try and intimidate.'

Mark, who claimed his 12th Test century, agreed that Donald, in his initial six-over spell of the day, and opening partner Shaun Pollock, were both operating at top pace in that opening hour.

'Most of the time (Donald) had a good wind behind him and Pollock was pretty quick at the other end too,' said Mark.



STEVE WAUGH ... 85 Waugh, who was trapped lbw by Pollock for 100 on the last ball before the first drinks break. 'The new ball really skidded through this morning, Donald got quite a bit of movement as well and that was a tough period.'

Table with 5 columns: Player, Runs, Wickets, Overs, Extras. Rows include Blewett b McMillan, M Waugh lbw b Pollock, S Waugh b Donald, Ponting, c and b Adams, Begon c McMillan b Symcox, Healy not out, Reiffel b Donald, Warner lbw b Pollock, McGrath not out, Extras: (b-1, lb-11, nb-4).

Rafter's rusty debut

PERTH, Jan 4: Australia's world number two Patrick Rafter overcame nerves and a lapse of concentration today to beat Sweden's Thomas Enqvist on his first appearance on home soil since winning the US Open, reports Reuters.

Rafter defeated 28th-ranked Enqvist 6-3, 1-6, 7-5 in the first round of the Hopman Cup team tournament as Australia beat Sweden 3-0 in the men's and women's singles and the mixed doubles.

The Queenslander, who is partnered by 19-year-old Annabel Ellwood, makes his next singles appearance against Spain's Carlos Moya on Wednesday.

Rafter said he was aware of the pressure placed on him by fans anxious to see him perform in the lead-up to this month's Australian Open.

After breezing through the first set against 23-year-old Enqvist, serve-and-volley specialist Rafter admitted to losing his concentration in the second.

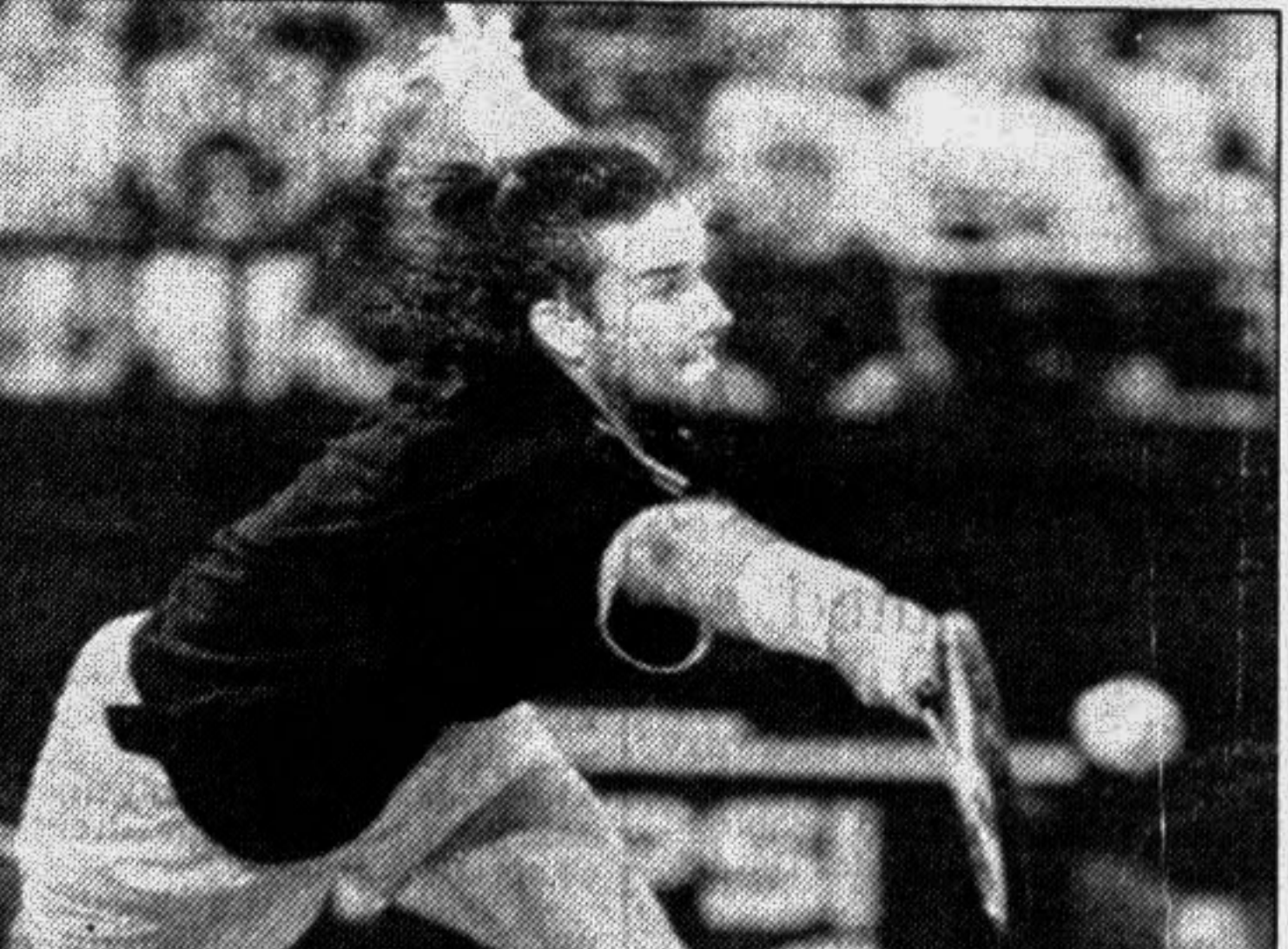
In other rubbers, Ellwood beat Asa Carlsson 6-4, 6-4 in the women's singles clash and Rafter and Ellwood beat Enqvist and Carlsson 6-2, 6-4 in the mixed doubles.

Rafter bowed out to Spanish baseliner Albert Costa, in the first round of last year's Aus-

tralian Open. Eight teams, playing in two round-robin groups of four teams, are contesting the 10th Hopman Cup, a traditional warm-up event for the Open.

On Monday, top seeds Moya and Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario meet Karol Kucera and Karina Habsudova of the Slovak Republic and South Africans.

Tuesday sees Cedric Pioline and Mary Pierce of France play Tommy Haas and Anke Huber of Germany and Enqvist and Carlsson play Kucera and Habsudova, the final is on Saturday.



Australian Patrick Rafter stretches to reach a return during his match against Sweden's Thomas Enqvist in the Hopman Cup in Perth on Jan 4. — AP/UNB photo

Naveed steadies SL board XI

MATARA, Sri Lanka, JAN 4: Test hopeful Naveed Nawaz scored a stubborn 91 not out for the Sri Lanka Board XI as they frustrated Zimbabwe in their opening tour match today, reports Reuters.

Left-hander Nawaz steered the Board XI to 240 for five, in reply to Zimbabwe's first innings of 311 for six declared, at the close on the second day of the three-day match.

Nawaz, supported by fellow Test hopeful Indika de Saram, rallied the Board side after they slipped to 121 for four following a 75-minute delayed start due to overnight rain.

The pair added 118 for the fifth wicket in 143 minutes before De Saram, who hit five fours in his 56, edged a catch to wicketkeeper Andy Flower in fading light.

Nawaz struck one six and seven fours in a stay of 259 minutes, and was poised for his maiden century against a visiting side by the end of the day.

Zimbabwe used seven bowlers but only spinners Andrew Whittall and Adam Huckle were successful, claiming two wickets each.

There was no play on Saturday because of national mourning for the funeral of a senior Buddhist priest.

The match ends on Monday.

Wilson denies Kiwis

ADELAIDE, Jan 4: South Australia paceman Paul Wilson seized two wickets in the last over to send New Zealand to a seven-run defeat in a 50-overs match at Adelaide Oval today, reports Reuters.

New Zealand needed 10 to win off the final over with two wickets left, but Wilson captured both in the first four balls.

The touring team were dismissed for 230 in 49 overs in reply to South Australia's 237 for five in their 50 overs.

South Australia's score was built on a second wicket stand of 121 between David Fitzgerald (72) and Ben Johnson (53).

New Zealand looked to be cruising to victory early on when openers Bryan Young (53) and Craig Spearman (37) put on 87.

Captain Stephen Fleming (32) and Mathan Astle (40) added 69 for the fourth wicket but New Zealand, having reached 174 for three, then suffered a collapse in which their last seven wickets tumbled for 56.

'We lost our way around the 40th and 45th overs but up to that point I thought we played pretty good cricket — not brilliant but okay,' Fleming said.

NZ Classic from today

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Jan 4: With three players ranked in the top 20, the New Zealand Classic women's tennis tournament that begins Monday will have its strongest-ever field, reports AP.

Top seed in the tournament is 14th-ranked Sandrine Testud of France while second seed Lisa Raymond of the United States is the 17th ranked in the world.

Dominique van Roost of Belgium, 18th ranked, says the tournament offers good preparation for the Australian Open that begins on Jan 19 in Melbourne.

'The conditions here are pretty similar to that in Melbourne and that is what makes being here ideal,' said van Roost. 'It is a little windy here like Melbourne but not as windy as the Gold Coast.'

Testud, who returns to Auckland after playing in the Australian women's hardcourt tournament at the Gold Coast last year, lost in the first round in Australia in 1996.

'It was very windy over there last year and there was a lot of rain in the evenings,' said Testud.

Raymond, 24, was one of the few women to beat Martina Hingis last year — in Zurich, Switzerland.

'I'm coming from a very cold winter (Philadelphia) so it is a perfect start in being able to adjust to the weather and acclimatize ahead of going to Australia,' said Raymond.

Australia's Barbara Schett is the fourth seed after Barbara Paulus withdrew with injury. Defending champion Marion Maruska has been seeded eighth.

NBA roundup

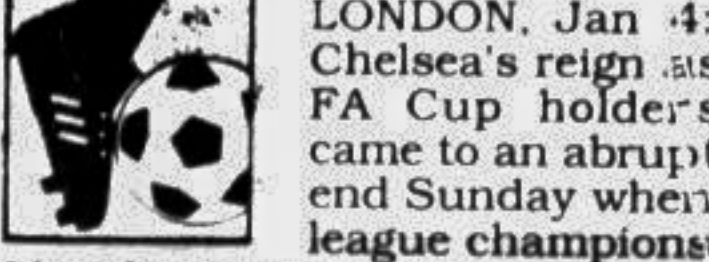
INDIANAPOLIS, Jan 4: Rik Smits, the only Indiana starter who played in the fourth quarter, had 24 points and 13 rebounds as the Pacers beat the Toronto Raptors 89-77 Saturday night, reports AP.

It was Indiana's 11th straight victory over Toronto, which has never beaten the Pacers in its three-year NBA existence.

The Indiana bench, led by Travis Best with 11 points and Fred Hoiberg with 10, combined for 43 points and accounted for all but three of the Pacers' points in the fourth quarter.

John Wallace led Toronto with 18 points, San Antonio Spurs 84, Miami Heat 77. In Miami, David Robinson had 27 points and 12 rebounds and the San Antonio Spurs won for the 10th time in 11 games, beating the Miami Heat in a battle of division leaders.

Chelsea get the MU dose



LONDON, Jan 4: Chelsea's reign as FA Cup holders came to an abrupt end Sunday when Manchester United romped to a 5-3 victory at Stamford Bridge, reports AP.

Quarterfinalists in the European Cup Winners' Cup, Ruud Gullit's star-studded team was torn apart by the Champions' Cup quarterfinalists on their own ground.

David Beckham and Andy Cole fired two goals each and Teddy Sheringham added another in the opening 74 minutes as United raced into a 5-0 lead.

Then came an amazing Chelsea fightback with two goals from substitute Gianluca Vialli and one from Graeme Le Saux in the final 13 minutes.

After Sheringham and Paul

Scholes had both gone close, United went ahead after 23 minutes with a little bit of good fortune.

Cole's cross from the left wing took two deflections before the ball dropped at the feet of the unmarked Beckham, who rolled it home from six yards.

Five minutes later it was 2-0 when Beckham swerved a 30-yard free kick round the Chelsea defensive wall and inside Ed de Goey's left-hand post.

Outplayed for a long spell, Chelsea went close to scoring just before the break when Romanian midfielder Dan Petrescu rose to meet a left-wing cross but headed over the bar.

His team was punished in the final seconds of the half when United broke from deep to score a third.

The ball was quickly down the left to Cole who sprinted 40

yards with Sheringham in support and with only defender Frank Leboeuf back for Chelsea. Cole could easily have passed to the unmarked Sheringham but continued on his own and fired a left-foot, angled shot into the roof of the net.

Chelsea had three chances to pull a goal back early in the second half when Peter Schmeichel made stunning saves from Paul Duddery and Gianfranco Zola and Le Saux also hit the bar all within the space of a few seconds.

But United stunned the Blues with a fourth goal from Cole in the 66th minute. The striker took a well-timed through ball from Ryan Giggs and raced clear to shoot his 50th goal in United colors.

Eight minutes later it was 5-0 when Sheringham rose unmarked to Beckham's left-wing cross to power a header past De Goey.

Many of the Chelsea fans were already on their way home when Le Saux scored a neat goal for the Blues, chipping the ball over Schmeichel from 20 yards after spotting the goalkeeper off his line.

Seven minutes from time, substitute Vialli got round the back of the United defence to shoot past Schmeichel from close range. Then a blunder by Gary Pallister put Chelsea clear again and Vialli added another to set up a thrilling final few minutes.

In later games Sunday, Newcastle went to Everton and Wimbledon hosted Division Two Wrexham.

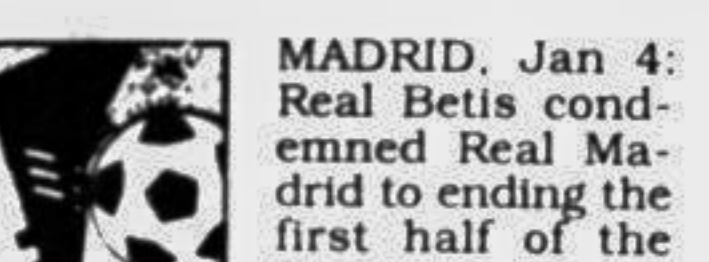
Among the highlights of Saturday's games, Coventry scored a 3-1 win at Anfield to oust Liverpool and the part-time players of Stevenage won 2-1 at Division One Swindon.

Arsenal were held 0-0 at home by Division One Port Vale. West Ham needed a late winner by John Hartson to down semi-Pro Emley and a late equaliser by Simon Grayson rescued Aston Villa against Portsmouth. Division One's last place team, who must play a replay after a 2-2 tie.



Liverpool's former German international Karlheinz Riedle (C) tries to force his way through the defence with Richard Shaw (L) of Coventry hot in pursuit during a FA Cup third round match at Anfield, Liverpool on Jan 3. Coventry won 3-1. — AP/UNB photo

Betis blunt Real hopes



MADRID, Jan 4: Real Betis condemned Real Madrid to ending the first half of the Spanish championship in second place after an outstanding 3-2 victory on Saturday night, reports Reuters.

Defeat left the reigning champions on 39 points after 19 matches, a point behind Barcelona who play at Saamanc on Monday and who will then also still have a game in hand.

Real Sociedad, who play today, are third with 32 points after 18 matches.

Betis opened the scoring with a somewhat fortunate goal after just 11 minutes.

Croatian international Robert Jarni misused his volley from a Luis Marquez cross but the ball hit the ground and spun off at an angle past Madrid goalkeeper Santiago Canizares.

The visitors equalised 10 minutes later with a typical Roberto Carlos thunderbolt.

The Brazilian's first league goal this season was blasted from the edge of the box after a deft one-two with Raul Gonzalez.

Betis regained the lead less than a minute after the break when Oli Alvarez stabbed the

ball home after a header from fellow Spanish international Alfonso Perez hit the post.

Real wasted little time in getting back on equal terms. Raul scored his eighth goal of the season less than five minutes later in a goalmouth scramble which followed a Fernando Hierro corner.

The decisive strike for Betis came just after the hour when Bosnian defender Hristo Vidakovic volleyed home a long range strike after a precision pass from Alvarez.

Betis almost increased their lead 12 minutes from time but Canizares tipped an Albert Nadj shot over the crossbar.

It was then the turn of Betis goalkeeper Toni Prats to come to the aid of his side aid during the final minutes of a thrilling game.

Excellent efforts from Fernando Morientes, Davor Suker and Carlos were all thwarted by Prats.

The game was spoiled in the second half as Betis resorted to physical tactics to unsettle their opponents and were penalised for almost 30 fouls, more than three times as many as Real, and had five players booked.

By comparison only Hierro was shown the yellow card for the visitors and that for dissent just before half-time.

Recent Brazilian signing Savio was introduced by Real coach Jupp Heynckes for the final 15 minutes but had a rare introduction to Spanish soccer.

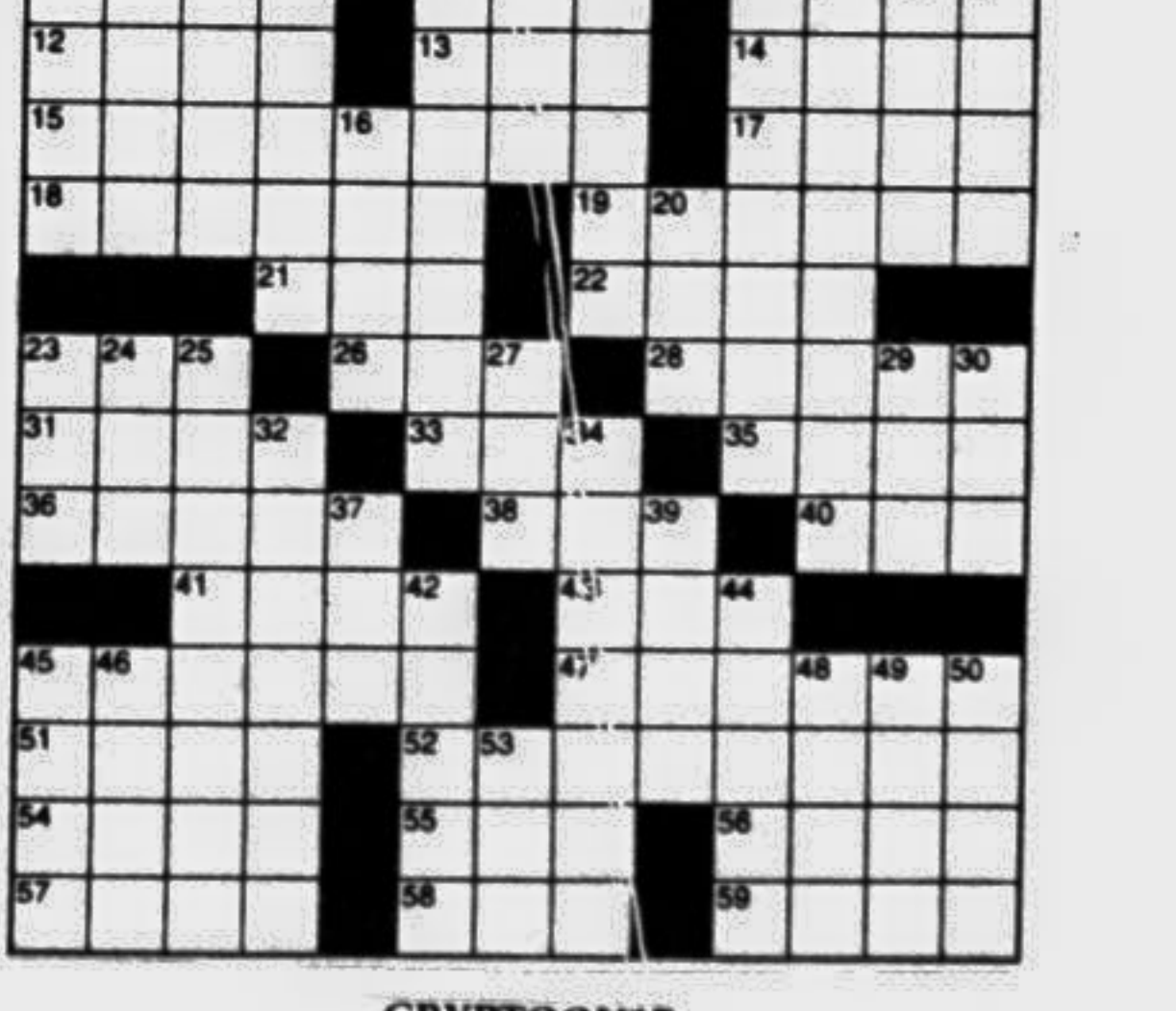
Brown's feat

DURHAM, England, Jan 4: Great Britain's John Brown won the Durham cross-country challenge for the second consecutive year on Saturday, beating Frenchman Yann Million and Kenyan Tom Nyariki — second and third respectively, reports AP.

In the early stages of the course, Brown put a clear distance between himself and the field and ran out alone in difficult underfoot conditions, mud and rain having soaked the undulating terrain. He finished in 31 minutes 32 seconds, 22 seconds ahead of million and more than 40 seconds ahead of Nyariki on the 9.2 km course.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS
1 Test the waters
5 History chapter
8 Toucan's trademark
12 Author Oz
13 Family
14 Lecherous look
15 O
17 Scenarist
18 It's often run by a child
19 Diminish
21 Hoo
22 'Coma' used?
23 Namath or DiMaggio
26 Big hot ball
28 Furner's supply
31 Seaweed
33 Yank
35 Jay's rival
36 Opened
38 A couple of cups?
40 Margery of rhyme
41 'Gothic'
43 The —
DOWN
1 Carry on
2 Cupid's specialty
3 'The Lady or the Tiger?' option
4 Composition
5 Barely made a living
6 Predator-mine
7 Viewpoint
8 Put one's feet in one's mouth
9 Bearly
10 Sheltered
11 Acute
16 Slaughter of baseball
20 Kreskin's claim
23 Pokes
24 Flamenco outcry
25 Encouraging
27 Gist
29 Project of 1933
30 Wield a needle
32 Spartan
34 Tries for the brass ring
37 Bomb
39 Touch
42 Boredom
44 Gladiators' place
45 Summer births
48 Whirlpool
48 'Zouder'
49 Show biz union: abbr.
50 PC owner
53 Super-man's emblem
9 'What's Up, Tiger Lily?' quest
10 Sheltered
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CRYPTOQUIP
RNU EDEQS NWCVMRSHCMR
VUZUVM RD NCTMUHZ
WM W HDEQMTCRN
Yesterday's Cryptogram: I'VE OFTEN FELT THAT THE TELEPHONE IS A REAL CONVERSATION PIECE.
Today's Cryptogram clue: T equals M
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. Simple letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.