

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?
Lille Marsh Simpson
- 2 Who is the Argentina soccer coach?
Passarella Venables Cruvill
- 3 Which county will Lara lead next year?
Essex Durham Warwickshire
- 4 Who hit the first century in this year's Premier Division cricket league?
Nadim Saeed Kazmi
- 5 Who lifted the women's singles title of the national TT championships?
Linu Tumpa Zulekha

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)



SPORTS TALK



Michel Platini
(President of World Cup France '98)

"We will make a profit, not a huge profit because we want to have a good World Cup, but we will make a profit."

Jadukar Samad SOCCER

The eighth Jadukar Samad Kishore football tournament began at the Outer Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader inaugurated the tournament as the chief guest.

Russell Jatiya Shishu Kishore Parisdad took to Hos-saini Dalan Samaj Kalyan and Kriya Unnayan Sangstha in the opening match.

IFFHS' honours

ROTENBURG, Germany, Jan 13 (AP): Mario Zagallo, having just received an award from his German hosts, placed Germany among World Cup favourites, but then added: "We are going to be the world champions."

Brazil's coach was among several South Americans soccer personalities who were honoured at a ceremony late Monday by the German-based International Federation for Football History and Statistics (IFFHS).

Zagallo was named national-team-coach-of-1997, while Brazilian striker Ronaldo was named forward-of-the-year. Ronaldo did not attend the ceremony because he was near Paris picking up the FIFA player-of-the-year title.

Ottmar Hitzfeld, who led Borussia Dortmund of Germany to the Champions' Cup title last season, was named world-club-trainer-of-the-year. Hitzfeld retired as coach after winning the title.

Alex Ferguson of Manchester United was second and Marcello Lippi of Juventus third.

Jose Luis Chilavert was voted world-goalscorer-of-1997, while the best league forward title for the year went to Hakan Sukur of Galatasaray, Istanbul.

Best 'still active' First Division scorer title went to Toni Polster, the Austrian who now plays in the Bundesliga for Cologne. Polster has 286 goals in 480 league games. He has also played in Italy and Spain.

Victor Hugo Antelo of Bolivia was second with 268 goals in 330 league games. Carlos Hermosillo was third with 264 goals in 438 games, and Diego Maradona fourth with 259 goals in 490 games.

Thomas Ravelli of Sweden picked up the award for the 'still active' goalkeeper with most international games, 143.

Barcelona were voted the top club last year in the world, followed by Borussia and Juventus.

The IFFHS judged Germany to have the best league in the world, followed by Italy and Spain.

Colombo Test begins today Lanka bring Anurasiri back



COLOMBO, Jan 13: Sri Lankan cricket selectors brought back left-arm spinner Don Anurasiri into a 14-member squad for the second and final Test against Zimbabwe which start here tomorrow, reports AFP.

Anurasiri comes back after a four-year absence and is strongly tipped to partner off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan on a pitch that is likely to be conducive to spin bowling at the Sinhalese Sports Club (SSC) grounds.

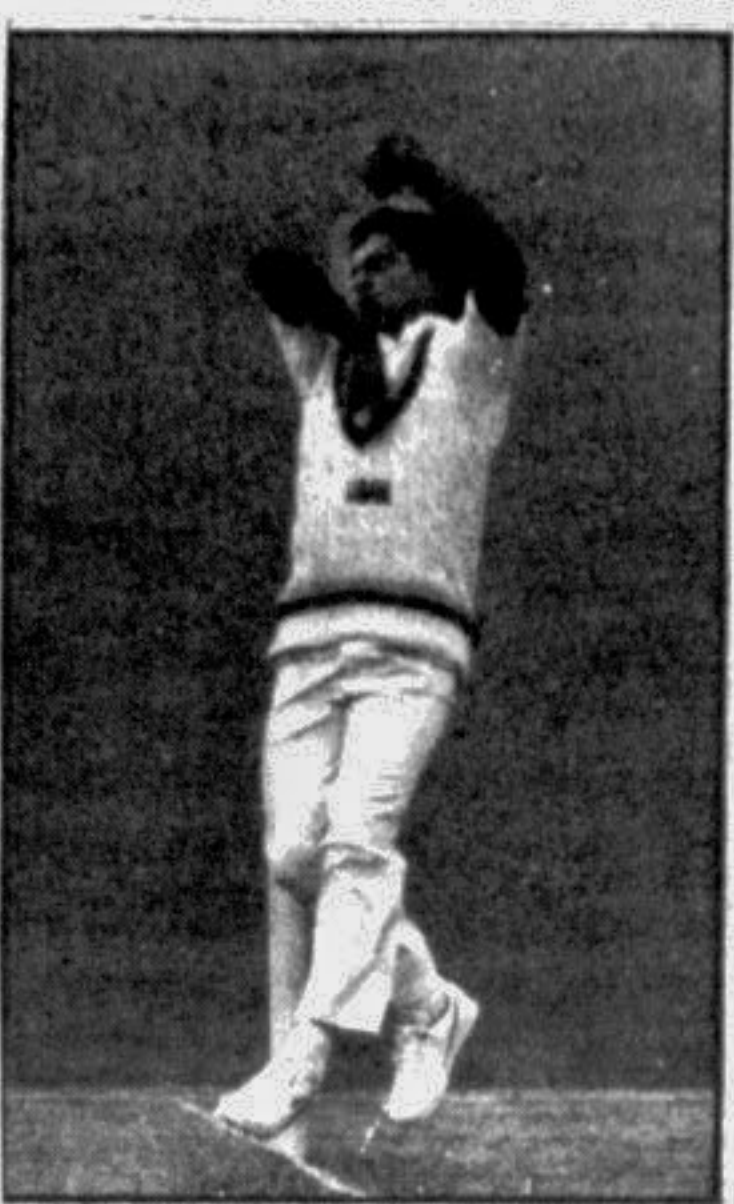
Anurasiri replaces the 22-year-old Jayantha Silva who had mixed fortune in the first Test in which he went wicketless in the second innings after taking three wickets for 27 runs in Zimbabwe's second innings.

Sri Lanka won the first Test with Muralitharan capturing a match bag of 12 wickets to become the island's first spinner to take a haul of 10 wickets in a



A RANATUNGA

Test. Pacerman Chaminda Vaas took 10 wickets in a Test



DON ANURASIRI

against New Zealand at Napier in 1995 to become the first Sri Lankan bowler to achieve the feat.

The Sri Lankan team management however had a shock on the eve of the match when off-spinner Kumara Dharmasena pulled out from selection after injuring his bowling finger at practice on Monday.

Dharmasena is presently under scrutiny by the International Cricket Council over claims of a suspect bowling action.

Also taken into the Sri Lankan squad is 23-year-old pacerman Mario Villavrayan.

The team managements of both Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe said they will announce their respective teams only after inspection of the pitch tomorrow.

TEAMS

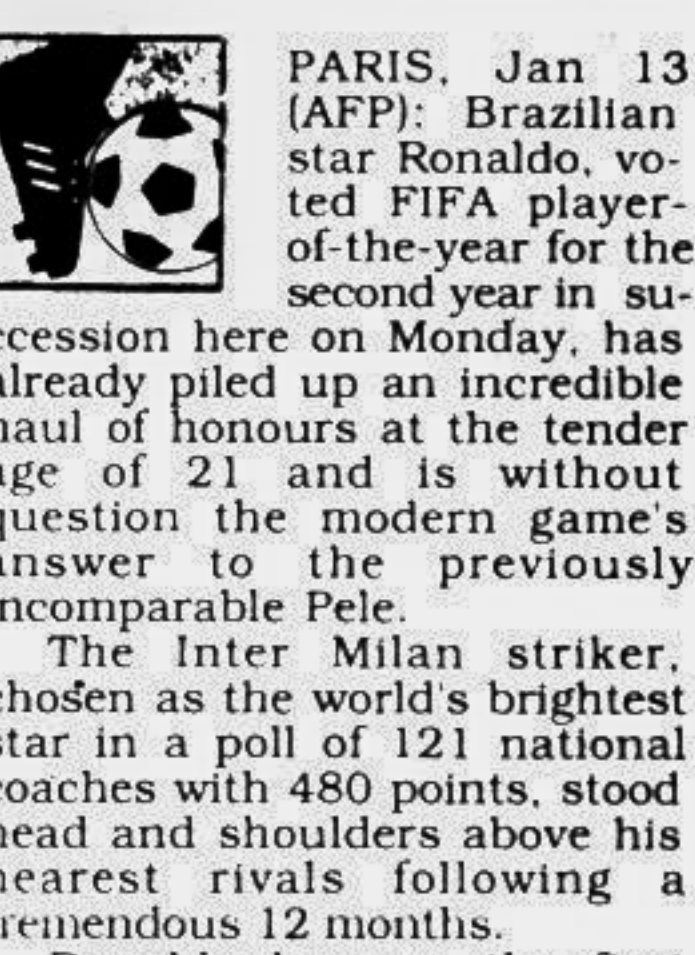
ZIMBABWE (from): Alistair Campbell (captain), Grant Flower, Paul Strang, Murray Goodwin, Andrew Flower, Craig Wishart, Paul Strang, Heath Streak, Andrew Whittall, Adam Huckle, Bryan Strang, Guy Whittall, Everton Matanzano, Mpumelo Bhangwa, Henry Olonga.

SRI LANKA (from): Arjuna Ranatunga (captain), Sanath Jayasuriya, Marvan Atapattu, Roshan Mahanama, Aravinda de Silva, Romesh Kaluwitharana, Hashan Tillekeratne, Chaminda Vaas, Ravindra Pushpakumara, Muttiah Muralitharan, Don Anurasiri, Russell Arnold, Mario Villavrayan and Mahela Jaywardena.



ALISTAIR CAMPBELL

Ronaldo rules the world



PARIS, Jan 13 (AFP): Brazilian star Ronaldo, voted FIFA player-of-the-year for the second year in succession here on Monday, has already piled up an incredible haul of honours at the tender age of 21 and is without question the modern game's answer to the previously incomparable Pele.

The Inter Milan striker, chosen as the world's brightest star in a poll of 121 national coaches with 480 points, stood head and shoulders above his nearest rivals following a tremendous 12 months.

Ronaldo became the first player to achieve the feat since the award's inception in 1991.

His triumph at Euro Disneyland on the outskirts of the French capital was the worst kept secret in the game, but the scale of his win was unprecedented.

Ronaldo was the first choice of 86 coaches and the second choice of 16 more enabling him to see off compatriot Roberto Carlos with the consummate ease which he normally reserves for beating goalkeepers.

Arsenal's Dutch striker Dennis Bergkamp and Juventus' French midfielder Zinedine Zidane both polled 62 points.

FIFA's gala evening turned out to be a Brazilian double as the world champions carried off the title of best team.

"It is brilliant that Brazil won best player and best team," Ronaldo said.

"I am sorry that I couldn't share it with Carlos," he added.

Franz Beckenbauer, who won the 1974 World Cup as a player and coached Germany to the 1990 title, paid tribute to the Brazilian star.

"He is so fast, so quick and so skilful. He has such great technique and he has excellent ball control that makes him special. He has this instinct to score goals that makes it very difficult to stop him," Beckenbauer said.

Ronaldo was asked whether he would be trying to break just Fontaine's record of 13 goals in a single World Cup finals in France later in the summer.

"I may think of it," Ronaldo said.

Ronaldo, lauded while with Barcelona by Spanish writer Manuel Vazquez Montalban as having the same kind of twinking feet as dance hall star Fred Astaire, was marked out for greatness early on in his career, which he began with Sao Cristovao in the Brazilian league.

Born in Bento Ribeiro in Rio de Janeiro state on September 22, 1976, he developed a taste for soccer as an infant, but curiously started out as a goalkeeper, although his boyhood idol was midfield star Zico.

Ronaldo soon moved on from Sao Cristovao to First Cruzeiro then Belo Horizonte, scoring goals at a rate of one per game between 1992 and 1994.

By now he had attracted the attention of dozens of scouts in Europe and it was PSV Eindhoven who won the chase for his services in 1994.

He scored 55 in 56 games for the Dutch giants before Barcelona came knocking at the door.

Although he played just one season for the Catalan Club, he led them to two major honours — the Cup Winners' Cup and the Spanish Cup.

Former Brazilian coach Carlos Alberto Parreira deemed it too early for him to break through onto the international stage at the 1994 World Cup in the United States, where a frontline of Bebeto and Romario led the Brazilians to their fourth world title.

But already Ronaldo — or Ronaldo Luis Nazario de Lima to give him his full name — had been dubbed the new Pele by experienced observers such as Yugoslav coach Miljan Miljanic.

Like the wayward Diego Maradona, Ronaldo's tale of success is very much a rag to riches tale as his parents, father Nello Nazario Lima, a typographer, and mother Sonia Barata, struggled to make a living.

But he escaped the tough existence which befalls so much of Brazilian youth when he was discovered by coach Fernando Gordo, who put him in touch with Sao Cristovao.

One of his few major disappointments to date was when Brazil lost the Olympic semi-final in Atlanta to Nigeria in 1996.

But a World Cup win will more than make up for that," said the man who is now the world's most expensive ever player following his 30 million dollars move to Inter Milan last summer.

TOP TWENTY

| Rank | Player | Country | Club | Points |
|-------|----------------------|-------------|-------------------|--------|
| 1 | Ronaldo | Brazil | Inter Milan | 480 |
| 2 | Roberto Carlos | Brazil | Real Madrid | 65 |
| 3 | Dennis Bergkamp | Netherlands | Arsenal | 62 |
| Equal | Zinedine Zidane | France | Juventus | 62 |
| 5 | Raul | Spain | Real Madrid | 51 |
| 6 | Alessandro del Piero | Italy | Juventus | 27 |
| 7 | Davor Suker | Croatia | Real Madrid | 20 |
| 8 | Gabriel Batistuta | Argentina | Florentina | 16 |
| Equal | Alan Shearer | England | Newcastle | 16 |
| 10 | Leonardo | Brazil | AC Milan | 14 |
| Equal | Peter Schmeichel | Denmark | M United | 14 |
| 12 | Younis Djorkaeff | France | Inter Milan | 12 |
| Equal | Marcelo Salas | Chile | River Plate | 12 |
| 14 | Andreas Moller | Germany | Borussia Dortmund | 11 |
| Equal | Matthias Sammer | Germany | " | 11 |
| Equal | George Weah | Liberia | AC Milan | 11 |
| Equal | Gianfranco Zola | Italy | Chelsea | 11 |
| 18 | Predrag Mijatovic | Yugoslavia | Real Madrid | 10 |
| 19 | Faustino Asprilla | Colombia | Newcastle | 9 |
| 20 | Luis Figo | Portugal | Barcelona | 8 |



THE PAST AND THE PRESENT ... football legend Pele (R) shares a light moment with Ronaldo during the FIFA's award giving ceremony at Euro Disneyland in Paris on Jan 12. Ronaldo, with the 'golden ball', was voted player-of-the-year for the second consecutive time.

— AP/UNB photo

Some solace for Bergkamp

PARIS, Jan 13: Flying Dutchman Dennis Bergkamp may have been trounced by Brazilian Ronaldo in the FIFA world-player-of-the-year award announced here on Monday but he gained the first choice votes of all the British Isles national coaches — save Wales Bobby Gould, reports AFP.

The 28-year-old Bergkamp, who finished joint third with Frenchman Zinedine Zidane on 62 points way behind the 480 points of Gould's first choice Ronaldo, was the first choice selection of England coach Glenn Hoddle, Scotland's Craig Brown, Northern Ireland's former boss Brian Hamilton and the Republic of Ireland's Mick McCarthy.

One of Gould's Welsh charges the Manchester United wing Ryan Giggs received just one first choice selection from Turkish chief Mustafa Denizli.

Blessing in disguise

LONDON, Jan 13: Trouble involving England fans in the World Cup finals can be avoided if the French authorities learn from the mistakes of the Italians, according to the police chief appointed by the British government to co-ordinate anti-hooligan policy, reports AFP.

Sir Brian Hayes described the organisation of England's riot-free qualifier against Italy in Rome in October as 'absolute chaos'.

But he believes the events at the Olympic Stadium might have been a blessing in disguise in terms of providing valuable lessons in how to combat violence.

Hayes, Deputy Commissioner in London's Metropolitan Police, says it will be very lucky 'if the summer's tournament passes off without incident, but he is confident that co-ordinated hooliganism can be beaten.

Victoria stun Brothers Sports Reporter

Promotees Victoria Sporting Club registered their fourth win in the Premier Division football league with an upset lone goal victory over Brothers Union Club in their return leg clash at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

After a barren first half, Rinku netted the all-important match-winner in the 78th minute.

The win raised Victoria's tally 19 points from 17 matches while the defeat kept Brothers glued to their previous collection of 23 points on completion of their 17th encounter.

BRTC BEAT WARI

Away at the Army Stadium, a 62nd minute goal by Sangram Chandra guided BRTC Sports Club to an identical victory over Wari Club in a First Division football league engagement.

BRTC, with the win, earned 27 points from 17 matches while Wari have 17 points from as many outings.

Dolan defends title

PERTH, Jan 13 (AP/AF): Americans Tom Dolan and Kristy Kowal were among the World Championship gold medalists Tuesday as Chinese swimmers were left on the sidelines in continuing drug-related controversy.

Dolan defended the title he won in Rome in 1994 by taking gold in the men's 400-metre individual medley and Atlanta Olympian Claudia Poll of Costa Rica took the women's 200-metre freestyle when two of her major Chinese rivals failed to qualify for the final.

"There's some great swimmers out there and it was really tough," said Dolan, who trained in Perth last year to prepare for the defense of his title.

Kowal was the upset winner in the 100-metre breaststroke with Helen Denman of Australia second and Canadian Lauren Van Oosten third.

Penny Heyns of South Africa, the Atlanta Olympic champion, was fifth and defending world champion Samantha Riley of Australia, who is suffering from tonsillitis, was sixth.

Australia smashed the championship record with an overpowering win in the men's 200 metres freestyle relay.

The Australian team of world 200m freestyle champion Michael Klim, Gran Hackett, Ian Thorpe and Daniel Kowalski, cleared away to win the relay before a wildly cheering home crowd to win in seven minutes 12.48 seconds.

Australia's time eclipsed the championship record time of 7:13.50 set by Germany at the last World Swimming Championships in Perth in 1991.

Sampras feels pretty well

MELBOURNE, Australia, Jan 13 (AP): His calf injury healed, Pete Sampras is ready to take on all comers as he defends his Australian Open tennis title next week.

"It took me three weeks to get over the injury, having treatment twice a day," Sampras said Tuesday. "But now everything is fine and I'm not too worried about it."

As preparation for the Australian Open, Sampras is part of an eight-man field gathered in Kooyong for the Colonial Classic this week.

The round-robin format splits the players into two groups, with Sampras lined up with Gustavo Kuerten, Mark Philippoussis and Greg Rusedski. The other group features defending champion Michael Chang, Thomas Muster, Andre Agassi and Goran Ivanisevic.

With 10 Grand Slam titles to his credit, Sampras is chasing history and hopes to beat the 12 titles claimed by Roy Emerson and the 11 held by both Bjorn Borg and Rod Laver.

"It's very important to me," said Sampras. "Realistically I think I can do it. I wasn't thinking of it when I was a kid, but it's the way things have happened."

"It's definitely something I want to achieve. I have a chance here and in the rest of the year, so we'll see."

Evander angry at HBO

ATLANTA, Jan 13: Evander Holyfield blamed a US cable television network for failed negotiations on a heavyweight title unification fight with Lennox Lewis, reports AP.

Holyfield said HBO would guarantee only 650,000 pay-per-view buys for the proposed fight, in effect guaranteeing him about 15 million dollars to 18 million. He made 20 million dollar for a lower-profile bout against Michael Moore.

"I was looking forward to the fight, Holyfield said in an interview published today in The Atlanta Constitution. "But it wasn't so much the fault of the promoters or the managers as it was the network."

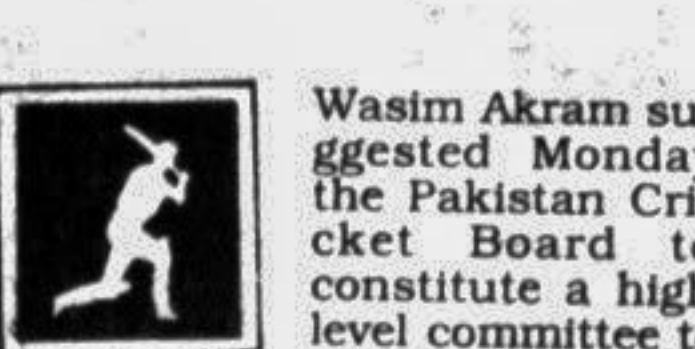
"If a network says they're No. 1 in boxing, they need to prove it. They need to share the risk, too."

Holyfield is the WBA and IBF champion. Lewis is the WBC champion.

The Atlanta boxer said he still believes a Holyfield-Lewis unification fight will occur, perhaps in 1999.

HBO has Lewis under contract for two more fights.

Akram for high-level probe



legations of match-fixing and betting, Pakistani newspapers report.

"Though I am the target of criticism and accused of being involved in unethical activities, yet I am ready to present myself before that committee," the former Pakistan skipper said at press briefing in Karachi.

"It would be a new chapter in Pakistan cricket history and would go a long way in cleaning the image of the players and country. These baseless and unproven stories are severely denting the reputation of the country and the team," Akram was quoted by The Dawn. "I am ready to present everything before the nation because I don't want to fall in the eyes of those who have always prayed and wished for my success."

Akram, denying his involvement, argued that he was one of the most well off cricketers.

"Most of my earnings are from Lancashire for whom I have been playing for the last 10 years. Besides, everyone knows how much every individual got after winning the 1992 World Cup. The national team's sponsorship revenues and the players fees also are in millions. I would only be a foolish person to lose my reputation for a few pennies."

Akram stated that whatever committee the cricket board will constitute, he will appear before it. "But personally I would like the committee to be headed by a senior judge like India did last year or for that matter Pakistan did in 1995."

The fast bowler in question said every member of the team should be invited to appear before that panel and record his statement. "I would accept the findings of the committee and so will every member of the team."

Akram said the cricket board was not supporting him in the most difficult phase of his career. He said he was not sure what the reasons were "but certainly I am missing their support."

"On the other hand, I am receiving regular calls from my Lancashire colleagues who have been supporting and backing me. But when your own institution fails to come to your rescue, it hurts and that is precisely where the people start suspecting your credibility."

Defending his case, Akram argued that it was the gambling mafia which was leaking baseless stories. "It is that mafia that puts the money on a team and when it loses, raise a hue and cry."

"I strongly urge the government to ban and penalise illegal betting and put those behind the bars who put money on the Pakistan team and then defame the cricketers."

Sports Reporter

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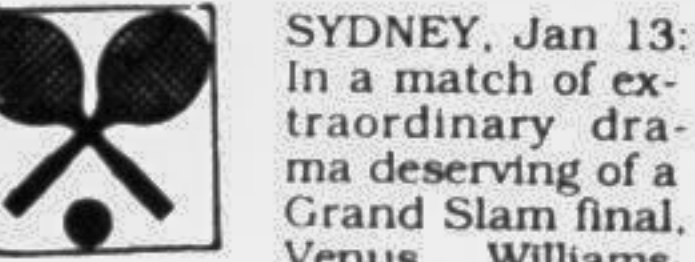
"I strongly urge the government to ban and penalise illegal betting and put those behind the bars who put money on the Pakistan team and then defame the cricketers."



Former Pakistan captain Wasim Akram addresses a press conference in Karachi on Jan 12. He called the briefing to explain his position in the reported match-fixing allegations brought against him.

— AP/UNB photo

Venus upstages Martina



SYDNEY, Jan 13: In a match of extraordinary drama deserving of a Grand Slam final, Venus Williams lumped and staggered through a third set Tuesday in the Sydney International to beat top-ranked Martina Hingis for the first time, reports AP.

Embarrassed by her wild performance during a straight-sets thrashing in the US Open last September, Williams played gutsy and brilliant tennis in a 3-6, 6-4, 7-5 second-round victory of this tuneup for the Australian Open.

Williams came into the match boldly vowing to take over Hingis' No. 1 spot this year. She departed feeling she's on her way.

"Anyone can talk, but you have to walk," Williams said.

Williams began limping from cramps in her right leg late in the second set, and after an unusual 10-minute break before the third set because of the heat and humidity, came back

limping worse than before.

"I never had that," said the 17-year-old Williams. "The (umpire) asked me if it's cramps. I said, 'I don't know, it's pain.' I really didn't want to quit because I'd come so far in the heat. I had to go on."

Williams mother, Oracene, sat at court-side watching her daughter in trouble, but remarked, "When she's hurt, that's when she's dangerous. That's when she goes for her shots."

Williams required a medical timeout and treatment on court at 1-1 in the third set. When she resumed play and served, she grimaced through each point as she fell behind a 1-2.

But Hingis, the defending champion at this tournament and winner of three major titles last year, couldn't capitalise on that injury and dropped serve at love when Williams ripped a forehand winner crosscourt and out of reach.

Williams made it 4-2 when she broke Hingis with another sizzling forehand crosscourt into the corner. After Hingis evened the match, and took a medical timeout of her own to deal with cramps and dizziness at 5-5, Williams swept through the final two games and won both at love.

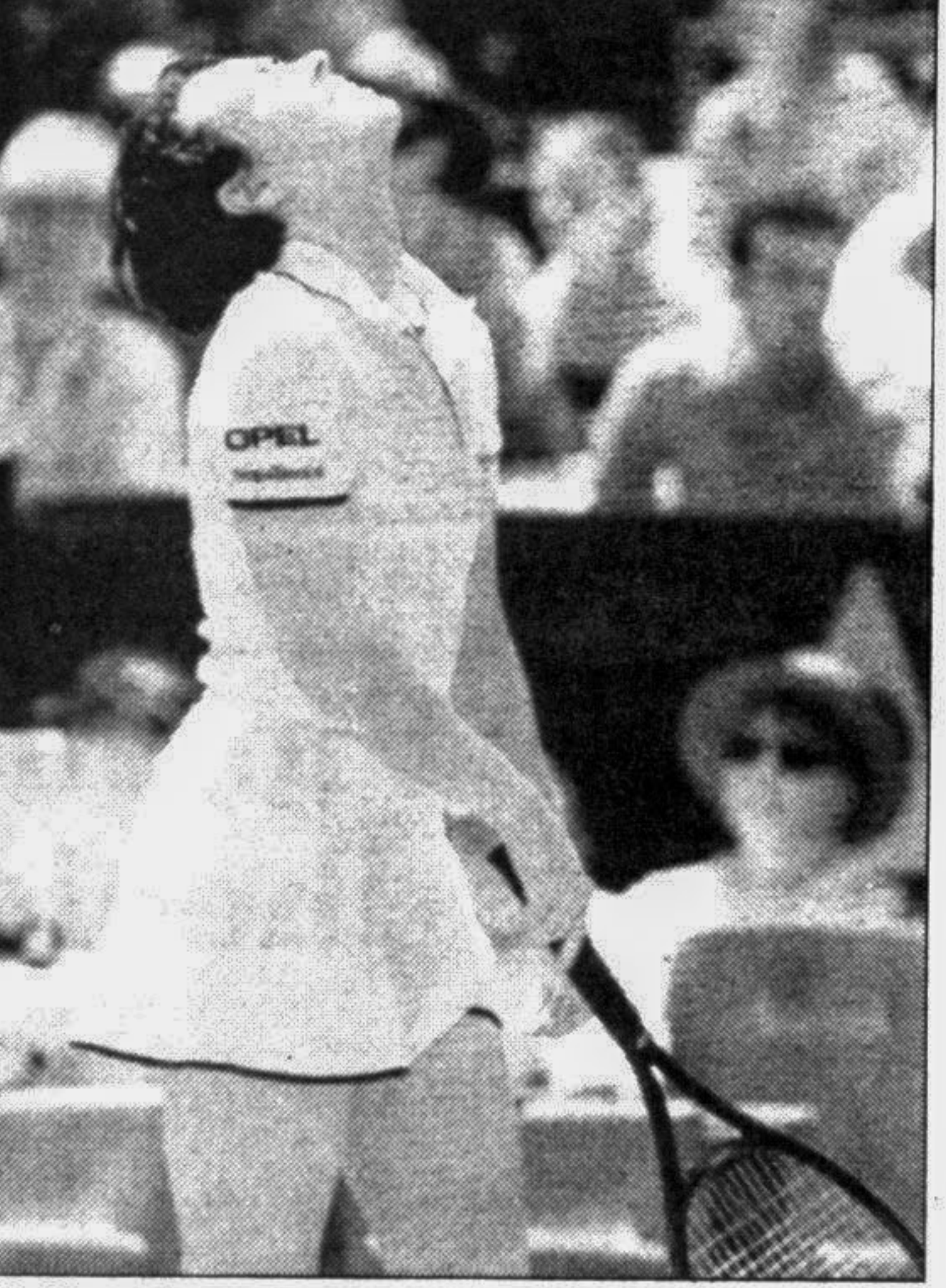
At the end of the nearly 2 1/2-hour match, Williams bounced up and down in delight, the white, yellow and blue beads in her hair clacking, and she ran to hug her mother in the stands while the crowd gave her a standing ovation.

Hingis, who won all three of her matches against Williams last year while going 7-5, brushed off the loss as insignificant.

"This was not as important as it was at the US Open," Hingis said. "I'm sure we will have many other matches."

Hingis blamed herself, saying, "I didn't play very smart," and claimed she probably wasn't ready for a tough match after arriving from wintry Switzerland only a few days earlier.

But for Williams, the victory is important. Not only will it boost her ranking into the top 20, but it means she's learned at last how to beat Hingis.

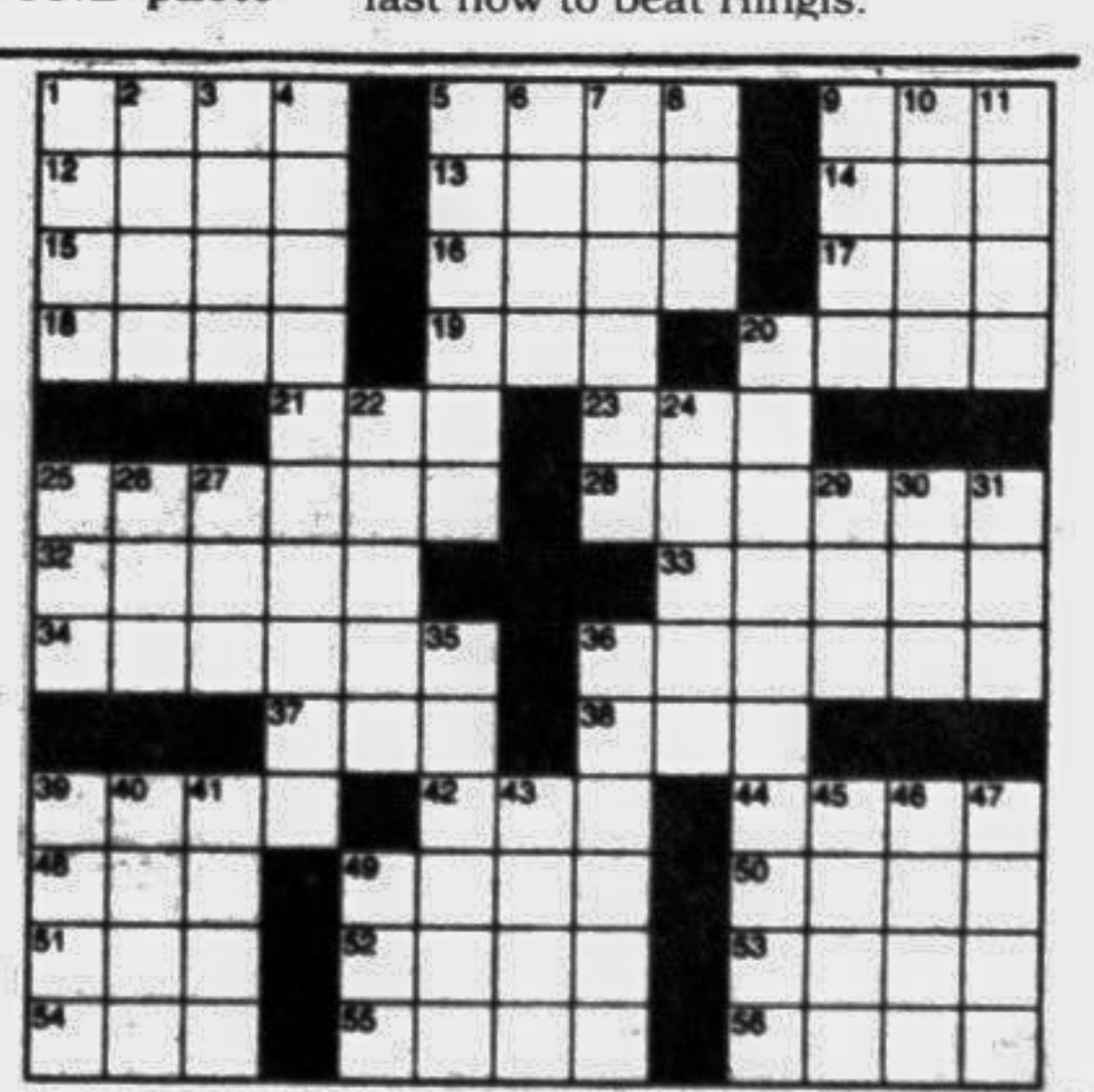


World number one Martina Hingis of Switzerland is in grief after losing the second round match against American Venus Williams at the Sydney International on Jan 13.

— AP/UNB photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Temperate one
5 An Essay
9 Kittens' comment
12 Birthright
13 One of Ben Cartwright's boys
14 Geological period
15 Post-diet
16 Makes confetti
17 0
18 Dagwood's 54 neighbor
19 Cousin's milieu
20 Avoid a bean ball
21 Abbott's first baseman
23 Addresses
25 Get back
26 Audia
32 Use
33 Tolerate
34 Get snug
36 Squelch
37 Keep tabs on
38 Become
- DOWN**
- 1 Network
2 Land in the water
3 Hideaway
4 Elevator's kin
5 Clergy member
6 Comic-strip pooch
7 Tropical fruit
8 Type units
9 Options list
10 Left's pop
11 Base on balls
20 Over-simplified
25 Skedaddled
26 She raised Cain
27 State of matter
29 "Great Expectations" hero
30 Berlin's "What'll I Do?"
31 X rating
35 Pooh's surname
36 Sutors
38 IOU
40 See 17
41 Vacationing
43 Holly-wood clasher
45 Ontario's neighbor
46 Scruff
47 Rosebud, e.g.
48 Sweet nothings
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- ABOVE: GOLF**
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CRYPTOQUIP

SDG PCZ JI EGMI CZ
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BE EBYKQS C JBT-ZCYI
UGZOIM.

Yesterday's Cryptogram: I ONCE KNEW THIS BRICKLAYER WHO LEARNED HIS TRADE BY TROWEL AND ERROR.

Today's Cryptogram clue: 2 equals N

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.