

Sport

Vogts annoys Assauer

BONN, July 17 (Reuters): Schalke 04 general manager Rudi Assauer wants Bert Vogts sacked as German national team coach, the Bild newspaper reported today.

Bild quoted Assauer as saying Vogts had failed to get the most out of the German squad, who lost 3-0 to Croatia in the World Cup quarterfinals.

"What really annoys me is what Vogts did with what was basically a good team, any Bundesliga coach would certainly have got more out of them," the paper quoted Assauer as saying.

"For me, there can only be one conclusion — Bert has to go straight away and the entire coaching staff with him," said Assauer, who has clashed bitterly with Vogts in the past.

German soccer bosses were scheduled to hold talks with Vogts at a meeting later today. The coach has signalled he wants to stay in the job and the German soccer federation (DFB) has so far offered him its backing.

Vogts has come under media and public pressure to quit after eight years in charge. Assauer insisted his opinion was widely shared inside German soccer, even though no other big names have called publicly for the coach to go.



Bulgarian superstar Hristo Stoichkov (L) being greeted by J-League side Kashiwa Reysol's head coach Akira Nishino during a media conference at Kashiwa on July yesterday. Stoichkov has recently signed for the club. — AFP photo

Khakpur prefers Bundesliga

SINGAPORE, July 17: Three European clubs are chasing the signature of Iranian World Cup defender Mohammad Khakpur, the player said on Thursday, reports Reuters.

Germany's VfL Bochum, Bordeaux in France and Sturm Graz of Austria have all expressed an interest in signing the 29-year-old Bahman centre-half.

But Khakpur, formerly with Geyland United in Singapore and Turkey's Yanspor, expressed a preference to play in the Bundesliga.

"I'm talking for my club to finish talking to the others," said Khakpur. "But I'd like to play in Germany. They have a strong league which is probably stronger than France or Austria."

Khakpur's international teammates Hamid Reza Estili, Mehdi Pashazadeh and Ali Lafzian are currently in Austria hoping to find new clubs.

Jacquet trades places

PARIS, July 17: Aime Jacquet, standing down as coach of the national team less than a week after leading France to World Cup victory, will become technical director of national soccer, the French Football Federation (FFF) said today, reports Reuters.

Jacquet had always indicated he wanted to quit as coach after the World Cup and said in an interview with Friday's Le Monde newspaper he was ready for the new challenge: "To go to the little clubs, meet the trainers and exchange ideas."

He will take over as technical supremo from Gerard Houllier, who on Thursday was appointed joint team manager of English Premier League club Liverpool.

The FFF said Jacquet's replacement would be announced in the days ahead.

A new coach will have little time to get to grips with the job as France play their next game on August 19 — a friendly against Austria in Vienna.

Jacquet, a former metal worker, took charge of France in late 1993 with the team at a low ebb following a shock elimination from the World Cup finals.

He soon licked the squad into shape, building up an unbeaten run that stretched to 30 matches and three years until a 1-0 defeat to Denmark in 1996. During that period, his team qualified for the 1996 European championship where he reached the semifinals before going out to former Czechoslovakia on penalties.

A man of few words, which he speaks with a strong rural accent, Jacquet was for less

glamorous than predecessor Michel Platini or current Monaco coach Jean Tigana — tipped by many to succeed him at the helm of the French team.

He faced virulent criticism in the press ahead of the World Cup for some of his tactical decisions but has become a national hero in the wake of France's first World Cup triumph.

Before going into coaching he was a useful midfielder, winning two international caps.

AP adds: French soccer officials said Friday they will not announce the successor to Aime Jacquet, the coach who led France to World Cup glory, until next week.

The French Football Federation had been expected to name a new coach Friday, but said that it wanted to hold further discussions before making a decision.

Jacquet said early this year that he would leave the post after the World Cup, no matter how France performed at the competition.

There are three main candidates for the job: Roger Lemerre, Jacquet's assistant; Monaco Jean Tigana; and Auxerre coach Guy Roux.

Australia pursues Goodwill Games

SYDNEY, July 17: Australian sports officials are hoping to cash in on the thawing of the cold war by bringing the Goodwill Games down under, reports Reuters.

An Australian state government minister flew to New York today to try to persuade Games founder Ted Turner to take the multi-sport extravaganza to Brisbane in 2001.

"We're optimistic but still there's no decision," said a spokesman for Queensland state sports minister Bob Gibbs.

"If we won it, it would be an enormous benefit for Queensland. It would be the year after the (Sydney) Olympics and our peak time for visitors."

Brisbane staged the 1982 Commonwealth Games and was Australia's nomination for the 1992 Summer Olympics.

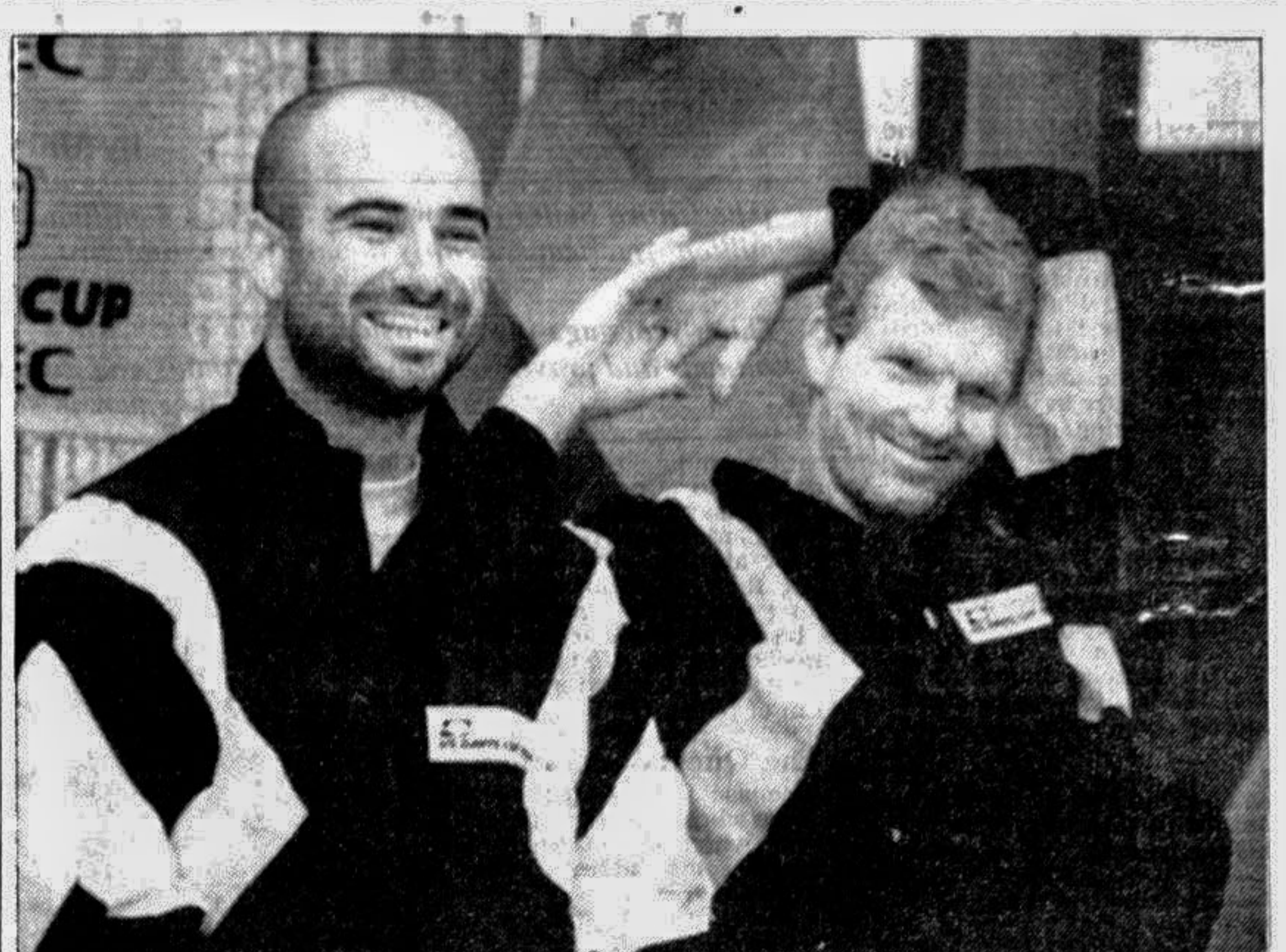
The Goodwill Games were launched by Turner in 1986 with the aim of helping to thaw out cold war fallout that had strained US-Soviet sporting relations.

The first four editions alternated between sites in Russia and the United States but with the cold war now over, Turner wants to take the Games somewhere else.

Games president Michael Plant announced last year that the 1998 Games, which start in New York this weekend, would be the last under the current format and the next site would probably be in Asia or Oceania.

The announcement of the new site is expected on Saturday.

The organisers are also expected to announce other changes, including a shift of the timing of the next Games to the year 2001 so that they will not compete with the 2002 Winter Olympics, the Commonwealth Games and the Asian Games.



US Davis Cup teammates Andre Agassi (L) and Jim Courier looking relaxed during a press conference at Indianapolis on July 16. — AP/UNB photo

Davis Cup scene

Courier the cheerleader

INDIANAPOLIS, July 17: Jim Courier wants fans of the US Davis Cup team to get rowdy during this weekend's match against Belgium, reports AP.

Courier, who never has played on a losing US team in 11 Davis Cup series, has seen many loud fans cheer on teams from South America and Europe when they've played on their home soil.

"The potential problem here is fans are not aware of what Davis Cup is like in those places, and what it can be like for us, the players," Courier said Thursday. "It's a real intense experience when you're playing in South America and southern Europe where the fans are very passionate."

"We played in Brazil a few years ago, and you almost fear for your life, it is so intense," Courier will play the opening match Friday against Filip Dewulf.

"The fans here don't have to make the other players fear for their life, only that they know we're in America, and they're playing on foreign soil," he said. "I think it is important that they get behind us and give us their energy."

The United States already appears to have everything in its favour — experience and surface. Courier and Andre Agassi, who will play Christophe Van

Garsse in Friday's other singles match, both have been ranked No. 1 in the world. Dewulf is the highest ranked player on the Belgium team at No. 43 and never has been higher than 39.

The match is being played on hardcourts, the surface where the US team learned to play the game. Belgium's players come from a clay background and have had little success on hardcourts.

Belgium's hopes will depend heavily on Dewulf, who also will play doubles with 17-year-old Xavier Malisse. The two never have played together and will face Todd Martin and Richey Reneberg on Saturday.

Courier has been struggling and is 11-13 this year after losing five of his last six matches. His victories include a dramatic comeback over Russia's Marat Safin in the decisive fifth match of the opening Davis Cup round in April. The 3-2 triumph was the 17th straight on US soil by the United States.

Meanwhile, at Hamburg, Germany, defending champion Sweden is favoured against a young German team.

The Swedes are led by Jonas Bjorkman, the world's ninth-ranked player, and Thomas Enqvist, No. 18. The Germans are relying on inexperienced Nicolas Pietrangeli and Tommy Haas.

But the Germans, three-time champions, also have three-time Wimbledon titlist Boris Becker, now the head of the Davis Cup team, could insert himself into Sunday's singles if his two young proteges falter. The former world No. 1, easing into retirement, reached last week's Swiss Open final.

Bjorkman will face Haas in the first singles then Kiefer will play Enqvist. In Saturday's doubles, Becker and David Prinosil meet Nicklas Kulti and Enqvist.

Italy, banking on the surprising Davide Sanguinetti, faces the Black brothers of Zimbabwe in a quarterfinal match on clay at Prato, Italy.

Italy's top-ranked player, Andrew Gaudenzi, will meet Wayne Black in Friday's opening singles. Sanguinetti, ranked No. 56 in the world but a quarterfinalist at Wimbledon, will follow against Byron Black.

In Saturday's doubles, Gaudenzi will team with Diego Nargiso against the Black brothers.

At Coruna, Spain, the Spanish team will be trying to reach the semifinals after an 11-year drought when it faced Switzerland on clay.

Spain will be led by Carlos Moya, the world's No. 4 player.

Moya, the French Open champion, will face Ivo Heuberger in the first singles match Friday, followed by Alex Corretja, who is ranked No. 7 and is fresh off winning the Swiss Open, against Marc Rosset.

Tyson owes Rooney \$4.4m

NEW YORK, July 17: A federal appeals court Thursday reinstated a 4.4 million dollars award that a jury decided boxer Mike Tyson owes former trainer Royce Clayton for unjustly firing him, reports AP.

"We feel we won a tremendous victory," Rooney's lawyer, Michael Coyle, said after speaking by phone with Rooney, who was in England training another boxer. "We're both overjoyed with it. We've been vindicated."

The 2nd US Circuit Court of Appeals based its ruling on the findings of a New York Court of Appeals' review of an oral contract in which Tyson agreed to keep Rooney as his trainer "for as long as the boxer fights professionally."

The federal court had looked to the state court for guidance on state contract law.

Tyson's lawyer, Lawrence Weinstein, did not immediately return a telephone call for comment.

Coyle said his client will be entitled to 7.6 million dollars when interest is added to the jury award.

In addition, Rooney will seek another 20 million dollars in post-trial motions that the federal appeals court said must now be considered in Albany by US District Court Judge Thomas McAvoy.

McAvoy presided over a September 1996 trial in which a jury awarded more than 4.4 million dollars to Rooney, who had sued Tyson for 49 million dollars.

The judge later tossed out the award, saying it was improper because Rooney failed to prove Tyson had a contract with him.

Rooney trained the former heavyweight champion for the first 35 fights of his career, but was fired in 1988. Tyson later said he became angry about the trainer's public comments about his then-marriage to actress Robin Givens and a contract dispute with ex-manager Bill Cayton.

Cha goes to China

BEIJING, July 17: South Korea's sacked World Cup coach Cha Bum-Kun today was named manager of Chinese First Division side Shenzhen Ping'an, the official Xinhua news agency reported, says AFP.

Cha, who was fired after South Korea suffered humiliating losses in their first two matches of the finals in France, took the reins of the newly promoted club in a "surprise" move, the report said.

Cha was dumped after South Korea's 3-1 opening loss to Mexico was followed by a 5-0 hammering by Holland, their worst World Cup finals result since 1954.

The South Koreans managed a 1-1 draw with Belgium in their final match without Cha in charge.

"I tried my best, but I am sorry for not being able to realize the country's dream of getting the team to the second round," the disgraced coach said on his return to Seoul, where police set up cordons to prevent violent protests against him.

Cha was South Korea's one true footballing icon. His 98 goals in 308 matches in Germany's Bundesliga in the 1980s is a record for an overseas player.

But he was lambasted for naive team selection and tactics in France, where South Korea failed yet again to win a game in the finals at the fifth attempt.

Morrison arrested

BROKEN ARROW, Oklahoma, July 17: Former heavyweight champion Tommy Morrison was arrested early Thursday on suspicion of drunken driving, destruction of private property and running a red light, reports AP.

Morrison, who was booked into the Tulsa County Jail, is appealing a six-month jail term imposed in January in a Delaware County drunken driving case.

Broken Arrow detective Chris Slaton said an officer pulled Morrison over at 3:42 a.m. for running a red light. Earlier, Slaton said, Morrison had tried to fill up with gas at a closed station, and then drove off with the nozzle and hose still hooked to the Jeep Cherokee.

The arresting officer found the nozzle and broken hose hanging from Morrison's tank when he was stopped almost 5 miles (8 kilometres) from the gas station, Slaton said.

Morrison was released from jail about noon. No court date has been set, a jail spokesman said.

He retired in February 1996 after testing positive for the virus that causes AIDS. He returned to pro boxing for one fight, saying he felt certain the disease could not be spread in the ring.

SIX NO TRUMPS

A K Sayeedul Huq

IT'S NO USE TAKING A LOSING FINESSE (Hand # 43)

<p>West</p> <p>♦ S : X</p> <p>♥ H : QX</p> <p>♦ D : XXXXXX</p> <p>♣ C : 10XXX</p>	<p>North</p> <p>♦ S : 10XXX</p> <p>♥ H : XXX</p> <p>♦ D : XX</p> <p>♣ C : KJXX</p>	<p>East</p> <p>♦ S : QJ</p> <p>♥ H : XXXX</p> <p>♦ D : QJ10</p> <p>♣ C : AQXX</p>	<p>South (D)</p> <p>♦ S : AKXXXX</p> <p>♥ H : AKJ10</p> <p>♦ D : AK</p> <p>♣ C : X</p>
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BIDDING (Neither side vulnerable)

South (Sayeed)	West (Akram)	North (Mizan)	East (Zaglu)
1C*	Pass	1D**	Pass
2S	Pass	4S	Pass
4NT	Pass	5C	Double
6S	Pass	Pass	Pass

* Artificial; 18 or more HCP
 ** Artificial; 0-6 HCP

South picked up a very powerful hand, and when his 2 Spades were raised to 4 Spades by North he started smelling slam. As his 6-carder Spade suit was supported by North, South needed the Queen of Hearts, or Ace of Clubs for slam. When North did not show the Ace of Clubs, he was certain (so he thought) partner was holding the Queen of Hearts. A real positive thinker! He pushed on to six Spades.

THE PLAY

West opened the 10 of Clubs, J was played from dummy which was won by East with the Queen, East returned the Queen of Diamonds which was won by the declarer with the Ace. He then played the King of Spades, and when East produced the Queen, the Ace cleared the trumps. The declarer played the King of Hearts but nothing startling happened. He thought of entering dummy with a trump to take the Heart finesse, but then he paused to count East's HCP. East was certain to have AQ of Clubs; he produced QJ of Spades and he must have QJ of Diamonds as he led Q from the suit. All that made up 12 HCP. He would have entered into bidding in a non-vulnerable position if had 14 HCP. Therefore, he was unlikely to have the Queen of Hearts. South learned in his early days not to take a losing finesse. So he played the Ace of Hearts and when the fairy Queen appeared from the West he congratulated himself for remembering what he learned in the early days of bridge play.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	tain toss	3 Harvard's	23 Purple
1 Crucial	44 Gist	rival	Heart, e.g.
4 Fastener	46 Oust	4 Stand-up	25 "What's the
8 Small bit	50 Tape	comic's	big —?"
12 "—	holder	woe	26 Whom Toto
Yankee..."	55 Tool of evil	5 Coach Par-	started
13 Huron's	in "The	seghian	27 Give for
neighbor	Shining"	6 Polite	a while
14 Peeved	56 Hodge-	address	28 Follow
15 Part of	podge	7 Household	29 Verdi mas-
RSVP	57 Source	members	terwork
16 Sideways	58 Crony of	8 Off the boat	30 Harvest
somersault	Tarzan	9 Place-	31 Garr or
18 Vegan's	59 A-line	kicker's	Hatcher
no-no	creator	pride	35 Many in
20 — Paulo	60 Society	10 Raw rock	36 NY are
21 Actor	61 South	11 Gibson or	numbered
Bevans	Korea: abbr.	Torne	38 Trusted
24 Interrogate	17 Humorist	38 Trusted	counselor
28 Battle of	DOWN	19 Don't just	40 Remiss
Normandy	1 X, on 2/14	sit there	42 Play with
town	2 Send forth	22 Actor Stoltz	machines?
32 Singer	Solution time: 28 mins.	45 Onetime	Celtics star
Brickell	RODE ACED MAP	47 Carson's	predecessor
33 Waste not	AVON MORE AWE	48 Montreal	athlete
a second	MACAROONS COE	49 Welsh	emblem
34 Carnival	MUSK CHALK	50 Food fish	51 "The
attractions	HEMEN FEUD	51 "The	Greatest"
36 Quite	OVAL FOUNTAIN	52 — de Oro	
some time	PIC CRUST MOO	53 Buck's	mate
37 Leading	SLATHERS FIND	54 Sailor	
man?	READ CLASS		
39 Romance	WATER AGUA		
novelist	ASH MACABRELY		
Barbara	SHU EARN ERIE		
41 Origami's	PER DREG DADS		
supply			
43 Trevi foun-			

CRYPTOQUIP

R Z G G Z I W C F P F N P S N
 V Z N E F W W J K F J Q Z Z C P J S
 H Z R A K Y I K H Z E S N K ?
 " Y Z E P F Q F A V I !"

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I THINK THE CARD GAME COMMONLY LIKED BEST BY MOST DENTISTS IS BRIDGE.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: P equals B

The Cryptoquip 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.