

Boost sports WHIZZ KID
 COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-99
 ✓ Tick the correct answers
 Post to The Daily Star
 Win attractive prizes
 Competition closes at 8 pm
 on July 24, 1998

- How many goals has Del Piero scored at France '98?
 0 2 3
- How many times have Uruguay won the World Cup?
 Once Twice Thrice
- Who was the highest scorer in Italia '90?
 Lincker Schiachi Cannigla
- Who scored highest number of goals for Holland in France '98?
 Kluivert Davids Bergkamp
- How many ODI centuries has Tendulkar scored so far?
 17 18 19

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

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
 ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS



An AFP file photo of suspended Sri Lankan track starlet Susantika Jayasinghe in December 1997. It has been reported that Jayasinghe, who allegedly failed a drug test, resumed training amidst speculations that she had been cleared of the charges against her.

Ma falling out of favour

FUKUOKA, Japan, July 23: China's love-hate relationship with super coach Ma Junren has entered a new phase of hostility, reports AFP. Chinese officials at the Asian Athletics Championships here insisted there was no way Ma and his world record breaking runners would be appearing at the Asian Games in December.

The Chinese Athletics Association is angry because Ma's new army has shunned domestic events.

"No, they cannot take part in the Asian Games," said association secretary general Shang Xiutang.

"Athletes must take part in four domestic events in China to be eligible for the Asian Games apart from the qualifying competition in September, and they didn't take part in any of them," he added.

Shang said Ma's athletes did not go to the Asian championships, which ended Wednesday, because some competed in the Goodwill Games in New York, while the others were to compete in France this week.

China was also missing Li Ukemei, the Asian 100m and 200m men's record holder, who is also in Europe, but China still dominated the championships winning 26 gold medals, far ahead of Japan's six, Qatar's three, and the two golds each for Kazakhstan and Sri Lanka.

The absence of Ma and his new star runner Jiang Bo will be a blow to the drawing power of the Asian Games athletics.

Ma rose to fame in 1993 when Wang Junxia, Qu Yunxia and Liu Dong came from nowhere to dominate the women's middle and long distance races at the Stuttgart World Championships.

At the Chinese national games later the same year, Qu set a new 1,500m world record and Wang set new 3,000m and 10,000m records which still stand.

Ma astounded the world with claims that he gave runners a daily potion which included blood from a freshly killed turtle.

But the Ma family army collapsed when Wang led a split accusing Ma of keeping prize money and condemning his dictatorial training regime.

His tactics were also condemned by Chinese sports officials and Ma was beset by serious illness and also involved in a car crash.

But he retains enormous public support in China and Ma made a spectacular return at the Chinese national games last October when Jiang and Dong Yanemi both smashed the 5,000m world record.

"Ma promised 'miracles' for the 2000 Olympics. But the Chinese Athletics Association secretary general said Ma would still have to agree to qualify like other runners.

"It's the same for the Sydney Olympics. If the athletes of 'Ma's army' want to be eligible for the Olympics, of course, they have to take part in all of the qualifying events," said Shang.

"And if they do not want to take part in the qualifying events, well, they cannot take part in the Olympics."

Shang insisted there was no way the authorities would make a last-minute exception for the army to appear in Bangkok.

"There's no chance. There's no way for them to qualify for the Asian Games," Shang said, adding that rivals would be able to "take it easy" during the Games.

Jayasinghe cleared

COLOMBO, July 23: Asia's fastest woman athlete has been cleared of charges that she took a banned performance-enhancing drug at the World Track Championships last year, sports officials said Thursday, reports AP.

Susantika Jayasinghe, who finished ahead of Merlene Ottey at the Athens meet, was not immediately available for comment, but a family member said she was thrilled by the decision.

"She has gone to the temple to pray and express gratitude," said the family member who did not give her name when reached by telephone.

The vote was 2-1 in her favour by a panel of experts, the sports officials said.

Jayasinghe, 23, tested positive for Nadralon-19 when a random sample was taken after she sprinted to victory. She claimed she had taken a drug to control her menstrual cycle, but not Nadralon-19.

Jayasinghe accused Sri Lankan officials of tampering with the bottles that were used to collect urine samples, saying some of them were angry because she had rebuffed their advances.

Two of the 3-member panel, Wijeyadasa Rajapakse and Rajah Dep, ruled that there was not enough evidence to prove the charges. But the third member, Ravindra Fernando, professor of forensic medicine and head of the National Poisons Information Center, said it was proved beyond reasonable doubt that Jayasinghe had committed a doping offense.

Jayasinghe tested positive for Nadralone-19 once before, at the 1995 Asian Championships. She was banned from further participation. Subsequently, the International Amateur Athletic Federation lifted the ban following medical evidence that a drug taken by women to delay the menstrual cycle has similar organic compounds as Nadralone-19.



BEAT THAT! The world record setting US 4x400 metres relay quartet of (L-R) Antonio Pettigrew, Jerome Young, Michael Johnson and Tyree Washington after their triumph at the Goodwill Games in New York on July 22.

Chang, Agassi cruise

WASHINGTON, July 23: Top-seeded Michael Chang and No 2 Andre Agassi breezed to second-round victories Wednesday night in the Legg Mason Tennis Classic, reports AP.

Chang defeated Michael Sell 6-2, 6-3 and Agassi continued his success against David Wheaton with a 6-4, 6-2 victory.

Chang is a two-time defending champion of the tournament, but knee and wrist injuries have prevented him from winning on the tour this year.

"My biggest opponent has been the injuries," said Chang, who had been fairly free of injuries before this year. "It's little bit new for me. Maybe it has to do with El Nino or something."

"We've grown up together. ... There is no guesswork at what's going to take place out there. Just go out and see who executes," said Agassi, who has won five straight from Wheaton and is 6-3 overall in the series.

Agassi, a three-time Legg Mason champion, feasted on Wheaton's second serve, winning 17 of 30 points.

Fresh from helping the US Davis Cup team defeat Belgium over the weekend, Agassi heads into the summer hardcourt season with confidence.

"I feel great about my game," Agassi said.

Agassi's Davis Cup teammate Jim Courier, beat the head and Marcos Ondruska of South Africa.

The seventh-seeded Courier beat Ondruska 7-6, 7-6 in an afternoon match played in muggy conditions with a heat index of 43 degrees Celsius.

"It becomes a survival test more than anything else," Courier said. "Both of us were trying to keep the points short."

Courier managed the conditions better than Wade McGuire. McGuire was scheduled to resume his first-round match against Jimmy Arias on Wednesday morning, but was unable to after being hospitalized for six hours Tuesday night because of heat exhaustion.

McGuire dropped the first set to Arias 6-4 Tuesday, but was leading 5-2 in the second when a storm knocked out the power at the FitzGerald Tennis Centre.

Battling severe dehydration after the postponement, McGuire had to be taken by ambulance to the hospital where he was given intravenous fluids.

"It was really a frightening experience for me," McGuire said.

Arias, who turns 34 next month, was playing his first tour event in four years. Third-seed Wayne Ferreira cut Arias' comeback bid short with a 6-1, 6-2 victory Wednesday night.

"I'm better at hitting the ball now, but physically I'm worse," said Arias.

Arias, bothered by sore neck and ribs, wouldn't mind playing another tournament this summer but his next stop is likely the senior circuit.

"The fans appreciated Arias' on-court friendly demeanor. The same couldn't be said for ninth-seed Jeff Tarango, who lost to Canadian Sebastian Larreau 7-6, 6-2.

Tarango had a racket-throwing tantrum in the second set over line calls and directed a verbal assault at the chair un-

SPORTS TALK



Sachin Tendulkar
 (India's master batsman)
 "My wife (Anjali) has played a big role in my success."

Davis Cup USA-Italy semi at Wisconsin

MILWAUKEE, July 23: The Davis Cup semifinal between the United States and Italy will be played at Wisconsin Centre Arena in downtown Milwaukee, officials said Wednesday, reports AP.

"It is probably the most exciting thing that's ever happened to Wisconsin tennis," said Charles Mulcahy, a lawyer who helped establish Marquette's annual tournament 23 years ago.

The semifinal will be held September 25-27. Milwaukee beat out Detroit, San Diego and Richmond, Virginia, as the semifinal site.

Davis Cup representatives visited Milwaukee last week to consider the availability of motel and hotel rooms.

A reason for choosing the city was the excitement that I felt from all of the people we met," said Russ Cline, whose Kansas City firm helps organize the tournament.

The choice needed the approval of the London-based International Tennis Federation and the United States Tennis Federation, Cline said.

GOODWILL GAMES NOTEBOOK

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey, July 23 (AP): Megan Murray and her Wyckoff Torpedoes teammates wore World Cup T-shirts that read: "This is my game. This is my future. Watch me play."

The New Jersey team, which plays indoors and outdoors year-round, is 57-3, and on Wednesday it met another group that's used to winning — the US women's national soccer team.

"The girls are absolutely thrilled," Wyckoff coach Bill Reed said. "These are their heroines. They have their posters up on the wall. Some of the players on the team could aspire to be at this level if they continue to work."

The Torpedoes were on hand at Giants Stadium for a workout by the national team, which is preparing for the Goodwill Games soccer tournament that begins Saturday.

The young players collected autographs from many members of the national squad, including star forward Mia Hamm.

Hamm, who led the US women to an Olympic gold medal in 1996 and will be at centrestage when the Women's World Cup comes to the United States next year, said the chances of a US women's professional league remained uncertain.

"We're told different things all the time," she said. "One of the things is let's see how successful this World Cup is. We're all planning on it being a success. After that, I think it's vital to ensure the level of play on the national team and the level of play in the country."

HOT TIME AT THE BEACH: New York is gripped by a heat wave, and when beach volleyball opened its Goodwill Games run Wednesday, the players knew the only thing cool would be their singlasses.

The temperature at the side of the sand court in Central Park was 110 degrees as the No. 1 US team of Karch Kiraly and Adam Johnson defeated Canada's John Child and Marke Heese 15-8.

"The sand was extra hot and my feet were burning," Heese said. "I couldn't stand still to start my approach."

Kiraly, a 38-year-old from Southern California who has played in all kinds of weather, said the conditions were not too severe.

"It's definitely hot out there, but it's nothing that we're not used to," he said.

The volleyball beach, in what is usually an ice-skating rink, features some of the best scenery at the Goodwill Games, set against a backdrop of trees and skyscrapers.

"It's a beautiful setting," said Martin Conde of Argentina, who teamed with Esteban Martinez to defeat Paul and Mark Laciga of Switzerland 15-6. "I never thought I would play in Central Park in my life."

MEDALIST ARRESTED: Erick Walder won the long-jump silver medal at the Goodwill Games in New York. The next day, he was booked on misdemeanor charges stemming from an argument at the University of Arkansas.

Walder was arrested Tuesday on charges of assault and terroristic threatening for allegedly pushing traffic warden Robert A Gilbride twice in an argument June 12, police said.

Gilbride was trying to put a vehicle boot on Walder's car when the athlete pushed him, according to university police reports.

Walder apparently surrendered to the Fayetteville, Arkansas, police department after a warrant for his arrest was issued by the city prosecutor's office.

Walder was a nine-time All-American at Arkansas from 1991-94, and his 28-foot long jump remains a school record four years after it was set.

He jumped 27-6 Monday night to finish second to Cuba's Ivan Pedrozo.

Daum Vogts' choice

BONN, July 23: German national soccer coach Berti Vogts has said Bayer Leverkusen's Christophe Daum is his likely pick to replace him as coach.

"Otto Rehhagel and Ottmar Hitzfeld have no chance of becoming national coach. The German Soccer Federation (DFB) is of the opinion that Daum should be my successor," Vogts said in today's mass-circulation Bild newspaper.

Previous media reports had tipped both Kaiserslautern coach Rehhagel and Borussia Dortmund sports director Hitzfeld as potential successors to Vogts.

Last Friday German soccer bosses held a so-called "crisis meeting" to discuss the future of the national team after a disappointing performance in the World Cup in France. Germany lost 3-0 to Croatia in the quarterfinals.

There was speculation after the defeat that Vogts' job could be in danger, but a DFB announcement made after the meeting said the federation had full confidence in Vogts and that he would continue to head the national team until at least the 2000 European Championships.

Yevgeny, Thomas sent packing

STUTTGART, Germany, July 23: Former French Open champions Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Thomas Muster both crashed out as they suffered second-round upset losses Wednesday at the million-dollar Mercedes Cup, reports AFP.

Kafelnikov, seeded fourth, became the highest-ranked player to fall so far at the Weissenhof Club, losing to Czech Bohdan Ullrich 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.

Tenth seed Muster, who won the Paris title in 1995 — a year before Kafelnikov — was eliminated here in the first round for the second year in a row.

The two-year-old two-time Stuttgart champion lost to Spanish qualifier Fernando Vicente 6-3, 6-7, 7-5 in a match that began Tuesday night but was halted due to darkness.

Top-seeded world No. 2 Marcelo Rios of Chile was making a tournament start after a bye, taking on German Jens Knippschild.

Current French Open champion Carlos Moya of Spain was playing compatriot Julian Alonso, while Boris Becker was aiming for his eighth career win against Frenchman Cedric Pioline in the second round.

Becker, the crowd favourite, playing here for only the third time, has never lost to Pioline and beat the Frenchman a fortnight ago at Gstaad, on his way to the final.

Gustavo Kuerten, the 1997 Paris champion, was facing fellow Brazilian Fernando Meligeni.

Sixth seed Albert Costa of Spain advanced by beating Argentine Franco Squillari 6-3, 6-4, while Guillaume Raoux of France knocked out Former Paris finalist Alberto Berasategui, seeded eighth, 6-1, 6-2.

On Tuesday two-time French Open winner Sergi Bruguera was sent out in the first round by Alonso, perhaps best known as the boyfriend of women's No. 1 Martina Hingis.

The Stuttgart event is one of the final clay events for many players before they travel to North America for the summer hardcourt season leading up to the US Open, which begins on August 31.



Cricketers, who are going to Australia later this month for a month-long training at the Adelaide Cricket Academy, are with the Australian High Commission officials at the commission premises during a reception yesterday.

Worried Wenger

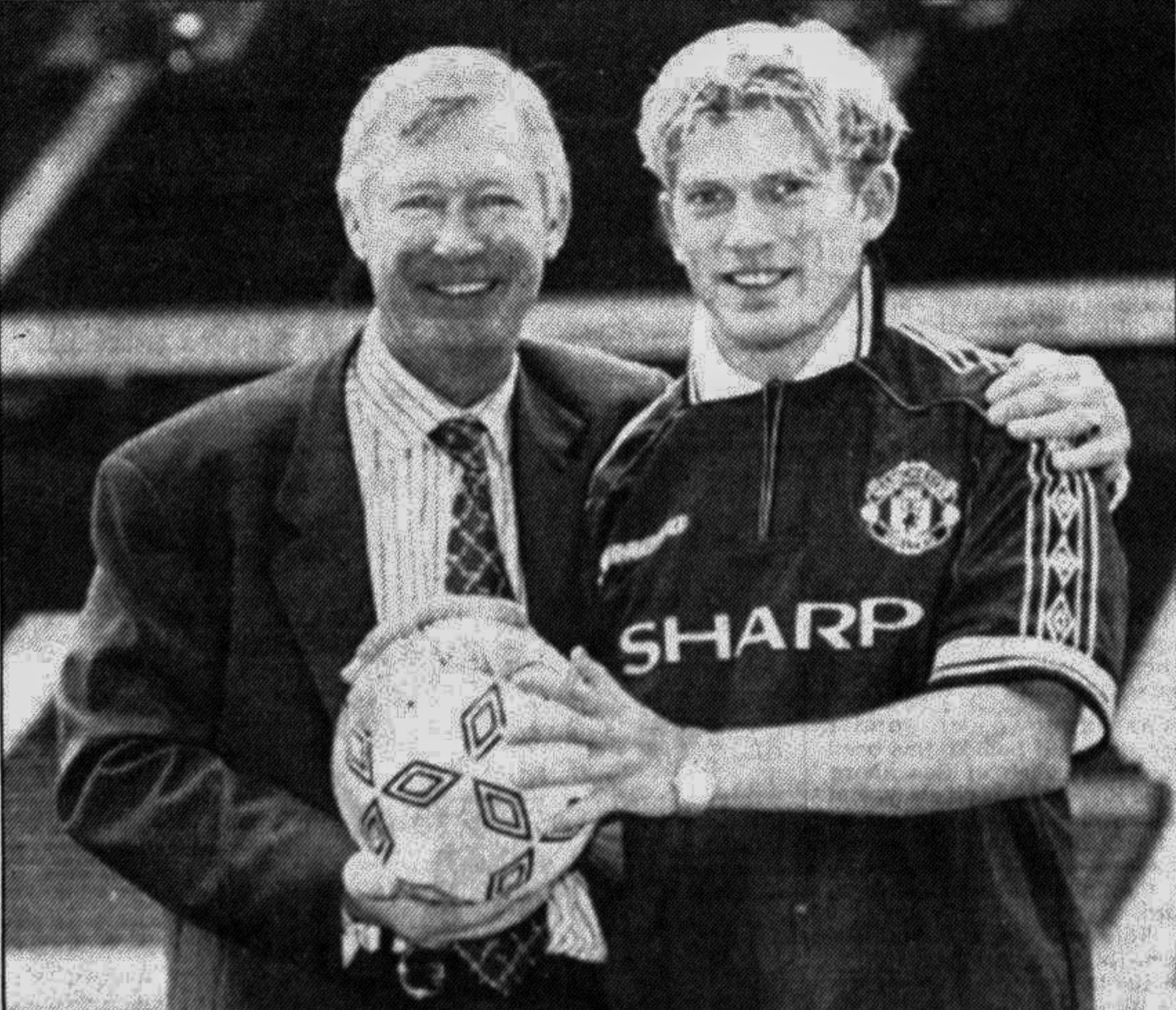
LONDON, July 23: Arsenal coach Arsene Wenger said Tuesday he was worried that his French World Cup stars Emmanuel Petit and Patrick Vieira might have trouble rediscovering their appetite for the game next season after achieving winning the Premiership, FA Cup and World Cup treble, reports AFP.

Wenger warned both players that in the new season they would both be starting from scratch and would have to come down from the high they reached with France's 3-0 win over Brazil in the July 12 final at Saint Denis.

The pair return to pre-season training on August 2 — just a week before the Charity Shield and 15 days before Arsenal's first Premiership game against Nottingham Forest.

Dutch duo Dennis Bergkamp and Marc Overmars will also have had just three weeks off from football when they report back on August 1.

"The time will be short, but I'm more worried about their psychological appetite and desire as they were on such a high in France," said Wenger.



Swedish international forward Jesper Blomqvist (R) being introduced by Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson at Old Trafford on July 22. Blomqvist recently joined United from Serie A side Parma in a 7.23 million dollars deal.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
 1 Desire customers home? 23 'Rebel Without a Cause'
 5 Uncooked 43 Gets the dignitary dirt off 3 End of a Christie 25 Dobbin's dinner title
 8 It's indecent 46 One more time 4 So far 26 Flamenco cry
 12 Melville book 50 Tackle-box item 5 Scooted 27 Nanki-Poo's disguise
 13 Pipe residue 51 'Brigadoon' center 7 Horse's halter? 29 Without delay, on a memo
 14 Ersatz swing director 74 Fab Four 31 White House nickname
 15 Large Philippine island 55 Eventual aves 9 Labyrinth beast 32 Guitarist Paul
 17 Green Gables girl 56 Kaiser, e.g. 57 Hardy hirsute 10 Grecian vessels
 18 Coat with crumbs 58 Prized pos-11 session Curtis for a pumpkin coach
 19 From one side to the other 59 Eye ailment 16 Lime quaff 20 Barrel 22 Slightly 38 Arouses rage
 21 Group of players 24 Museum 1 Starter 40 Winning 42 Name-to-adjective suffix
 25 Base-runner's goal 28 Prejudice 30 Have a bug 33 Actress 44 Emulation 45 Urban pall 47 Greatly 48 In a bad way 49 Green shade 52 "— Got a Secret" 53 "Platoon" locale

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterdays' answer
 ASTIA BOB OKRA
 PERU ORE UNUM
 EASTWOOD TELE
 HAT SPLEEN
 RIGOR STIOA
 OODOR SHERWOOD
 SLY STIAT RLOY
 YEARWOOD FAZE
 HAWK ELLES
 KAMUNA AGO
 ITEM WEDGWOOD
 CRAB ATA EDNA
 KARIA YAM REED

CRYPTOQUIP
 U I P Z X H N R T K X C B ! N U D
 Q I I T , Z X H A I R T G B D Z K G J D T
 N U T D P X C N U D H Q I C B D
 A G J D .
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE CHEERY FISHERMAN REFERS TO THE MONEY HE EARNS AS HIS NET INCOME.
 Today's Cryptoquip clue: Q equals P
 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.