

Sport

**Boost sports WHIZZ KID**

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN  
**Competition-100**

Tick the Correct Answers  
Post to The Daily Star  
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm,  
Aug 7, '98, and draw shortly  
afterwards

1	Who won the 'Golden Boot' in France '98?	Suker	Vieri	Ronaldo
2	Who won France '98?	Croatia	France	Brazil
3	Who was the captain of Argentina at France '98?	Ortega	Veron	Simeone
4	What was Holland's position in France '98?	Third	Fourth	Fifth
5	Michael Owen plays for	Lpool	M United	Arsenal

Name .....

Class ..... Roll No. ....

School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....

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**SPORTS TALK**



Russian ace swimmer Alexander Popov acknowledges the crowd's applause after breaking the Goodwill Games record in the 100 metres freestyle at the Nassau County Swimming and Diving Centre in New York on July 31. — AFP photo

## All-Star men come round

UNIONDALE, New York, Aug 1 (AP): For US men's swimming, it's never been this bad.

Even when American women struggled in the pool with the rise of East Germany in the 1970s and China in the '90s, the guys always found a way to win more than their share.

With the Olympics coming up in two years, it looks now like the men's team has a long way to go to catch up with the women, who are undefeated in two Goodwill Games dual meets. The men are 0-2 after a 78-43 thrashing by a World All-Star team Friday night.

"I saw my mom in the stands and she made eye contact with me and said, 'Good job,'" said Bill Pilczuk of Auburn, Alabama, a world champion this year in the 50-metre freestyle, but third to two World teamers. "I just rolled my eyes and said 'Sheesh.'"

Wednesday's loss to Germany was painful. This time, the defeat was downright embarrassing, with six 1-2 sweeps by the World team in 12 individual events.

"Americans come in to win every race, every day," said Josh Davis of San Antonio, one of the few US winners. "Wednesday was just a bad day in the office. It was an off day. We pride ourselves on having one of the strongest swimming programmes."

The Americans, who lost to Germany on the final race, the 400-metre freestyle relay — an event they've won at every Olympics — started okay against the World team by winning the 400 medley relay for a 7-0 lead.

But the World team then went 1-2 in five of the next seven events for a 46-24 lead that the Americans never challenged. Among the sweeps was in the 50 freestyle, where Pilczuk finished third behind Lorenzo Vismara of Italy and Ricardo Busquets of Puerto Rico.

"I would've liked to have another meet where it came down to the free relay, but it didn't

work out that way," US men's coach Bill Wadley said.

US men traditionally included a wealth of speedy freestylers, but the embarrassment in the sprints continued with another World sweep in the 100.

Fernando Scherer of Brazil became the fourth man in history to break 49 seconds in the event, joining Americans Matt Biondi and Gary Hall Jr, and Russian Aleksander Popov, the world record-holder at 48.21 seconds. Scherer was timed in 48.91, and Pieter van den Hoogenband of the Netherlands was second in 49.61.

"I knew I had swum a great race when I finished, but I wasn't sure how good my time would be," said Scherer, who was fifth in the Olympic 100 free two years ago. "I felt great until the last 5 meters, when my legs felt dead."

"The final indignity came in the 400 freestyle relay, as the World team, anchored by Scherer, won in 3:22.42 — 2.73 seconds ahead of the Americans."

"This is the fastest pool I've ever been in," Scherer said.

Few Americans would agree, but there were a few US highlights.

World Champion Lenny Kravtzev of Los Angeles won the 200 backstroke in 1:58.17, a Goodwill record and the ninth-fastest time in history. Davis captured the 200 freestyle and Kurt Grote of San Diego, California won the 100 breaststroke.

"The World team is a lot stronger than the rest of the competition," Davis said. "They have an advantage because they have some of the best in the world mixed on one team."

Todd Eldredge, the former world champion from the United States, won the gold in men's figure skating with string of 5.8s and 5.9s. Russians Alexei Urmanov and Evgeni Plushenko were 2-3.

World champions Elena Berezhnaya and Anton Sikharulidze of Russia won the gold medal in pairs figure skating, beating archrivals Artur Dmitriev and Oksana Kazakova. The bronze went to Dorota Zagorska and Mariusz Siudek of Poland.

There will be a new champion in women's beach volleyball. Defending gold medalists Karolyn Kirby and Liz Masakayan of San Diego lost to Brazil's top-seeded Shelda Bede and Adriana Behar 15-9.

Bede and Behar scored nine straight points for a 10-1 lead, then four of the last five points to wrap it up. In between, the US pair scored seven of eight points with play that brought back visions of their days at the top: an ace, three kills and a block by Kirby, and pressure behind Masakayan's serve.

"Once we started getting points, it was really the old Liz and Karolyn started coming back, where we started gaining some confidence and we had something we could work with," the 37-year-old Kirby said. "It's just too bad we didn't think of that a little bit earlier."

Masakayan and Kirby's last chance of advancing to Saturday's semifinals ended when Pauline Manser and Kerri Pottharst of Australia beat winless Kristine Drakich and Guylaine Dumont of Canada 15-8.

Also reaching the final four were Americans Holly McPeak and Lisa Arce, who beat Maikie Friedrichsen and Danja Musch of Germany 15-11, and Italy's Laura Bruschini and Annamaria Solazzi.

## South Korea plans big

SEOUL, Aug 1 (AFP/Internet): South Korea is determined to make the 2002 World Cup finals the most successful of all time and will spare no effort in promoting the event around the world, the government said Thursday.

"We will begin putting in all our efforts to promote 2002 World Cup at home and abroad to make this the best event ever held," an official at the Culture and Tourism ministry said.

He said details of how South Korea planned to promote the event were being drawn up.

"But we will try and include something on the 2002 World Cup in all the cultural events held here and overseas," the official said.

South Korea and Japan are co-hosts to the 2002 World Cup finals.

South Korea's football chief Chung Mong-Joon last week denied news reports Seoul was seeking a way of backing out of hosting the event.

Chung, a FIFA vice president, also said South Korea was going ahead with plans to hold the event in June and July as originally scheduled after world governing body FIFA said it would not smile on a request to hold the tournament later in the year.

## Felix fails

UMAG, Croatia, Aug 1: Spain was left without a representative in the 400,000 dollar Croatian Open after defending champion Felix Mantilla lost to unseeded Czech Bohdan Ulihrach in the quarterfinals on Friday, reports Reuters.

Ulihrach, ranked 43 in the world, took two hours and 17 minutes to beat Mantilla, the second seed, 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (7-2).

In another surprise, fourth seed Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil lost to Argentine Mariano Puerta. Kuerten fought back after losing the first set but Puerta won the decisive third on a tie-break to complete a 6-4, 1-6, 7-6 (7-5) win.

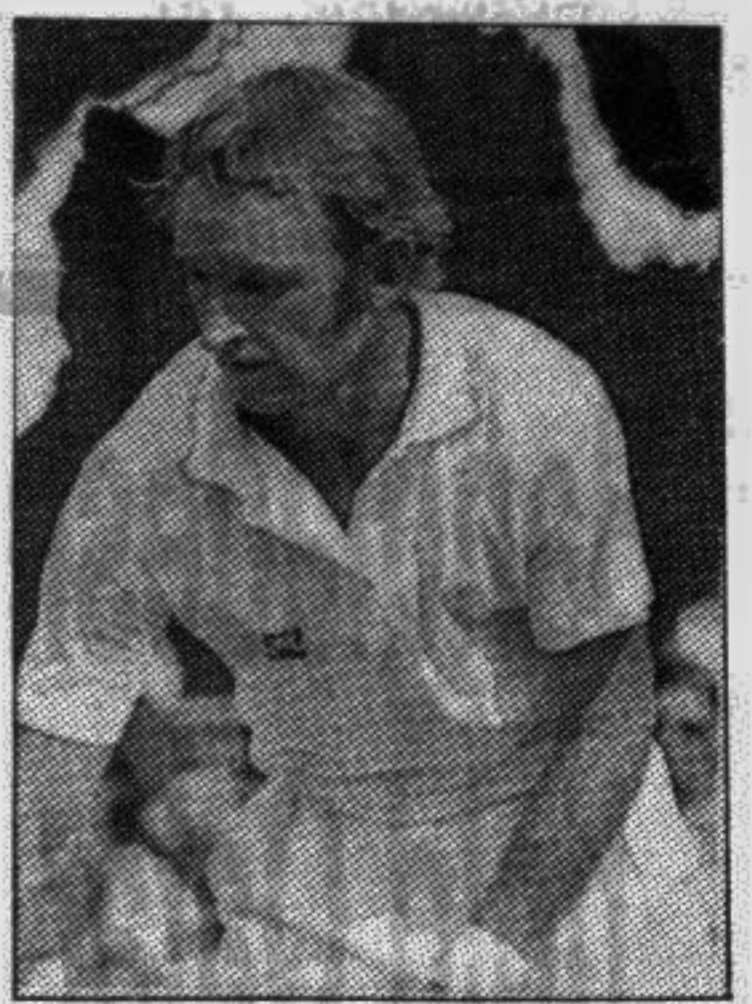
# Tales of the man called Rocket

Rod Laver was moved out of the intensive care unit Friday and his condition was upgraded to fair following a stroke on Monday. The tennis great is expected to remain at UCLA Medical Centre about one more week.

Laver, who will be 60 on August 8, has sustained a small haemorrhage on the left side of his brain and still has difficulty moving his right arm and right leg and his speech is improving.

The Australian was a short distance from the hospital Monday when he was stricken while doing an interview for an ESPN show on the century's greatest athletes.

He was the first professional to amass more than \$1 million in winnings. He retired from full-time tennis in the mid-1970s. Ira Berkow writes on the star of the yore for *The New York Times*.



ROD LAVER



It seemed a perfect nickname: Rocket. For when Rod Laver was playing top-flight tennis and dominating his sport as few others have - he is the only player to win the Grand Slam twice, sweeping all four major tournaments in 1962 and 1969 - he looked like a rocket's red glare.

Swift, sure, relatively small, at 172cm and 68kg, with a patch of red hair that resembled a rooster's comb when in flight, a profusion of freckles, a beaklike nose, bandy legs, left-handed and a will to reach and whack back every shot at every conceivable angle on the court, the spectator saw a scarlet blur.

"I feel as if I have a good chance tomorrow afternoon in the final against Rocket," wrote Arthur Ashe, about an ATP tournament in Philadelphia, in his book/diary, *Arthur Ashe: Portrait in Motion*, published in 1975. "But then, I always feel as if I have a good chance against him, and most times I play a good match. The only thing is, every time he wins, Laver has won 17 straight from me without ever losing."

The next day's entry began: "18-0." Ashe was hardly alone (though he did finally beat the Australian, finishing his career 2-22 against him). Laver beat most people with regularity.

"In Rocket's best years," Don Budge, the first tennis player to win the Grand Slam, in 1938, said this week, "John Newcombe had a better serve and forehand, Ken Rosewall had a better backhand, Tony Roche

had a better net game. But each of them had a weakness. Laver's strength was that he had no weakness."

On Monday, at age 59, Rocket Rod, who for years has made his home in Newport Beach, California, demonstrated a weakness of a different kind.

While recording a television interview for ESPN on the century's greatest athletes, he suffered a stroke. Laver lost partial movement in his right hand, arm and leg.

"It is impossible at this time to say whether he is going to have a 100 per cent recovery," said Neil Martin, a neurosurgeon and director of the University of California at Los Angeles Stroke Centre, where Laver was being treated. "But I expect a dramatic improvement in his condition."

ANY listing of history's greatest tennis players is subject to the same kind of subjectivity that any list of greatest novels, greatest movies, greatest plumbers would be. But Laver's name would certainly merit at least serious consideration for the top tennis spot, along with such as Tilden and Budge and Vines and Gonzalez and Kramer and Borg and McEnroe and Connors and Sampras.

In his book, *The 100 Greatest Athletes of All Time*, Bert Sugar listed Tilden, the first male tennis player entry, at No. 20, and Laver next, at No. 32. When Gene Scott's newspaper, *Tennis Week*, made imaginary draw sheets of the greatest players a few years ago, it had Pancho Gonzalez beating the Rocket in

the final.

Indeed, in one of the most thrilling sports events I have witnessed, I saw Gonzalez play Laver in a \$10,000 match in Madison Square Garden in January 1970. Laver was 31 and had just won his second Grand Slam. Gonzalez was a 42-year-old grandfather with greying, leonine hair. Laver went up two sets to nil - his leaping overhead smashes were spectacular - and Gonzalez roared back to win.

Years later, I recalled that match to Laver. "The bloke knew where I was going to hit the ball every time," Laver said. "Pancho often played me like that."

Laver reached the No. 1 ranking in the world in 1961, when he was 23. He was in the top 10 (No. 7) as late as age 37. He played and practised ferociously. I remember watching him work out with a young college player at a tennis club in Manhattan in 1971.

He began a stream of conversation with himself: "Oh, that was a good shot, Rod"; with the ball: "You rotten ball"; with the racket: "The ball too high for you?"; with the net: "Hitting your tape enough?" and with the kid who made a good shot: "Rats!"

In the final five minutes of the hour, the Rocket asked his companion to throw up some lobs, and the red-headed Laver chased what appeared to be a thousand tennis balls into every corner of the court at once. It seemed the court was ablaze. It was beautiful.

## Cubans' fiery Friday night



NEW YORK, Aug 1: Felix Savon of Cuba wrote another brief but stunning chapter to his heavy weight career with a one-punch knockout of American DaVar Williams on Friday night in the Goodwill Games, reports AP.

Savon, 30, was backed up by a left hand to the head from the 29-year-old Williams. But as Williams tried to throw a right, Savon put every ounce of his vaunted power into a right of his own that knocked his opponent down and out with 1:05 left in the first round.

It was the third Goodwill Games championship for the 201-pound (91.17-kilo) Savon to go along with two Olympic titles, four World Championships and a Pan American Games title.

Savon's stunning victory in The Theater at Madison Square Garden was the fourth in five finals for the Cubans Friday night. The loss for Williams, of Aurora, Illinois, meant that all three American finalists on Friday's card were beaten.

Savon's victory also gave the Cubans a 7-3 margin over American boxers in head-to-head meetings in this competition.

The Cubans will try to win three more titles Saturday night. Also in Saturday finals will be Roberto Benitez, 112 (50.80 kilos), of Marquette, Michigan; Teance Shepherd, 125 (56.70 kilos), also of Marquette; and Olanda Anderson, 178 (80.74 kilos), of Fort Carson, Colorado, and an all-American match at 139 (63.05 kilos) of Ebo Elder of Newman, Georgia, and Ricardo Williams

Jr of Cincinnati.

The first American victim Friday night was 19-year-old Jacob Hudson of Augusta, Ga, who lost 13-4 in the 132-pound (59.87-kilo) final to Mario Kindelan.

Hudson held his own for the first three of five two-minute rounds, but the left-handed Cuban took complete charge in the fourth round, landing several right hooks to build a 10-4 lead.

The Americans suffered another defeat when 19-year-old Andrei Mishin of Russia outpointed 18-year-old Larry Mosley of Los Angeles 11-3 in the 147-pound (66.68-kilo) final.

Mosley, a US national

## Shell Caribbean Cup Reggae Boyz become champs

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad and Tobago, Aug 1: Jamaica's "Reggae Boyz" confirmed they are the class of the region's soccer Friday, beating hosts Trinidad and Tobago 2-1 in the final of the Shell Caribbean Cup, reports AP.

The Jamaicans took advantage of gaping holes in the defence of the home team, which seemed to be having more trouble with the wet, slushy conditions. O'Neil McDonald opened the scoring in the 20th minute and Dean Sewell made it 2-0 in minute 34.

However, inspired by a large crowd at Hasely Crawford Stadium, Trinidad and Tobago came out fired up in the second half and nearly scored within a minute on a shot by Irasto Knight.

champion, appeared tight in the early rounds and simply could not solve the defense of Mishin, who scored effectively with right jabs and hooks.

Russian team officials had threatened to withdraw their four finalists — two will fight Saturday night — because they were upset about losing several close decisions earlier in the tournament. The International Amateur Boxing Association then suspended two referees, a referee and a judge, and the Russians didn't go through with their threat.

The first Cuban to win was Maikro Romero, a 25-year-old Olympic champion and reigning world champion. He was just too slick and powerful for Aleksan Nalbaniyan of Russia and scored a 10-5 decision at 106 pounds (48.08 kilos).

The Cubans suffered a loss at 119 pounds (53.98 kilos) in dramatic fashion. Timur Tulyakov of Uzbekistan was trouncing Waldemar Font 14-13 when he evened the score with a right to the head with 15 seconds remaining and won 15-14 with another right to the head just before the bell.

The other Cuban winner was Ariel Hernandez, a two-time Olympic champion who overcame a two-point penalty for holding in the fifth round and edged Jean-Paul Mendy of France 15-14 in the 165-pound (74.84 kilos) final.

The two left-handers exchanged some rocking head blows, especially in the final two rounds. Hernandez led 6-2 after three rounds but then Mendy rallied to tie it 10-10 after four. After the penalty made it 12-12 in the final round, Hernandez scored two quick points to clinch the bout.

## SIX NO TRUMPS

AK Sayeedul Huq

GOOD HAND PLAY TO LAND THE SLAM CONTRACT (Hand # 55)

West	North	East
♠ S : XX	♥ H : XX	♠ S : Q J X X
♥ H : Q X X X X	♦ D : A 10 9 X X	♥ H : K J X X
♦ D : J X X	♣ C : A X X	♦ D : X
♣ C : J 10 X	South (D)	♣ C : Q X X X
	♠ S : A K 9 X	
	♥ H : A X	
	♦ D : K Q X X	
	♣ C : K X X	

BIDDING (Both side were vulnerable)

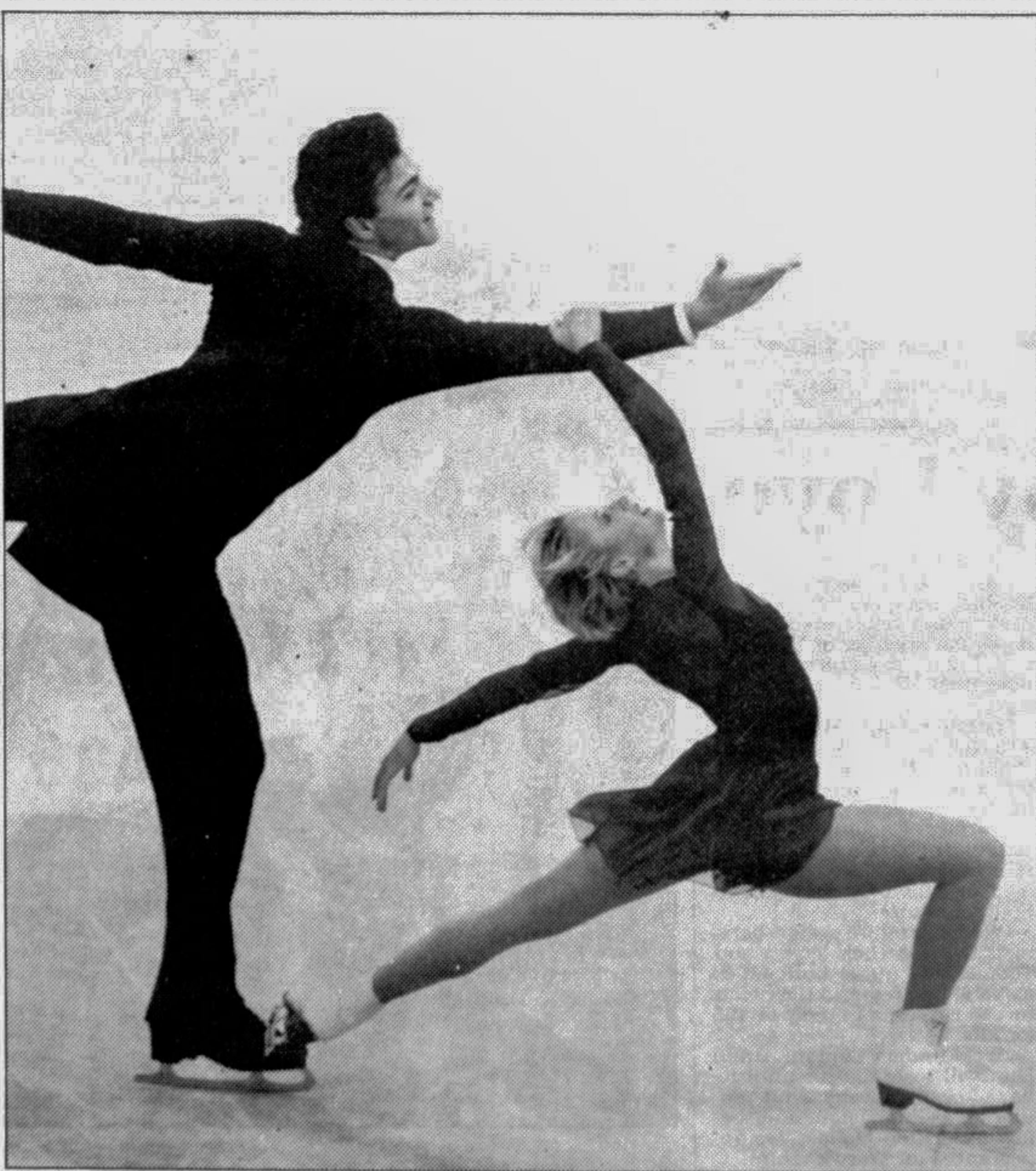
South (Sayeed)	West (Zaglu)	North (Mannan)	East (Mizan)
1C*	Pass	1H**	Pass
1NT	Pass	2D	Pass
4D	Pass	4NT	Pass
5H	Pass	6D	Pass
Pass	Pass		

\* Artificial, 18 or more HCP  
\*\* Artificial, 7-9 HCP

South double raised North's 2D bid. When all the Aces were located in the combined hands, North booked game in Diamond.

### THE PLAY

East faced an opening lead problem. Assuming that nothing to lose, East led a Diamond, the declarer captured West's Jack with the Ace. The declarer, faced with a definite loss of a trick in Club, Heart and possibly in Spade, made a sensible assumption that he probably could make the contract provided East had both the QJ of Spades. He therefore played the 8 of Spades from the closed hand at trick two, and when East played low, he ran it successfully. Next he played 10 of Spades which was covered with Jack by East and dummy won the trick with the King. The declarer then played the King of Diamond and entered the closed hand with the 10 of Diamond to play the third Spade. Thus on the good fourth Spade he threw a Heart loser. Finally a Club was surrendered to make the slam.



Russian skating duo of Elena Berezhnaya and Anton Sikharulidze performing during the pair competition of the Goodwill Games in Uniondale on Friday. — AFP photo

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	publisher	4 Menlo Park	Jennings' employer
1 Mazda model	46 Sylvester's trademark	5 He can't be sure	23 Greek vowel
6 Beetle amulet	50 Untapered cigar	51 Friends are	24 Rock concert need
12 Discards	52 Flattened at the poles	6 "Lion King" villain	25 Harmonizing pair
13 Keel	54 Up	7 "The Stranger" novel	26 Arcane
14 Play reveille	55 "Love Is on the Air" actor	8 "Chances for visitors"	28 Off-misplaced item
15 Restitution	56 Dressed for Man of La Mancha	9 Raccoon-like animal	30 Outerwear, for Madonna
16 Sria, across the Pyrenees	57 Man of La Mancha	10 Time —	31 Away from NNE
17 Beige	58 Dressed for visitors	11 Kittenish comment	33 Dander
19 Xenon, e.g.	59 Dressed for visitors	12 Stressful type: abbr. ment	34 Stolen
20 Vivacity	60 Dressed for visitors	13 Answered, on "Jeopardy!"	39 "Blame it on Rio" director
22 Rarin' to go	61 Dressed for visitors	14 Novelty singer Sherman	
24 "Fables in Slang" author	62 Dressed for visitors	15 Novelty singer Sherman	
27 Slang	63 Dressed for visitors	16 Novelty singer Sherman	
29 Surveillance	64 Dressed for visitors	17 Novelty singer Sherman	
32 Kids' party game	65 Dressed for visitors	18 Novelty singer Sherman	
35 Indigent	66 Dressed for visitors	19 Novelty singer Sherman	
36 Madison Avenue award	67 Dressed for visitors	20 Novelty singer Sherman	
37 Matlock's field	68 Dressed for visitors	21 Novelty singer Sherman	
38 Media bigwig	69 Dressed for visitors	22 Novelty singer Sherman	
40 Nora's pet	70 Dressed for visitors	23 Novelty singer Sherman	
42 Unoriginal one	71 Dressed for visitors	24 Novelty singer Sherman	
44 Newspaper	72 Dressed for visitors	25 Novelty singer Sherman	

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer

12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57
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CRYPTOQUIP

SVEY FTMY DOLWRLFA  
IOEYVRLMFE MHT VGTFE  
WMDTWTR ME IMETE  
VG AVR DHVSLFA

Yesterday's Cryptquip: DO YOU THINK MAYBE AUTO MECHANICS UNIVERSALLY LOVE TO BRAKE DANCE?

Today's Cryptquip clue: D equals B  
The Cryptquip 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.