

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, Simone
4 What was Holland's position in France '98? Third, Fourth, Fifth
5 Michael Owen plays for Liverpool, M United, Arsenal

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)



SPORTS TALK



Michael Laudrup (Former Denmark soccer superstar) 'It was great propaganda for Danish football that we played Brazilian-style football' During the World Cup.

Laver back in intensive care

LOS ANGELES, Aug 4: Tennis great Rod Laver, who suffered a stroke last week, was back in the intensive care unit Monday in serious but stable condition, a spokeswoman for the University of California at Los Angeles Medical Centre said, reports AFP.

'He was returned to the intensive care unit to manage a fever which has caused what doctors expect to be a temporary neurological condition,' Roxanne Mosier said.

Laver, 59 had been moved out of the intensive care unit at the end of last week, when his condition was upgraded to fair. 'He is beginning to respond to treatment for his fever,' Muster said. 'He will out of the intensive care unit, hopefully, by the end of the week.'

Doctor Neil Martin said Laver suffered a moderate stroke caused by small hemorrhage on the left side of his brain.

Although the lefthander is not paralysed, he is having difficulty moving his right arm and right leg, the doctor said.

Laver, who lives in Newport Beach south of Los Angeles, was taping an interview for ESPN television when the stroke occurred.

Martin said he became weak and had a sudden headache.



UNBEATABLE: US sprinting ace Marion Jones (L) speeding past the rest during the 100-metre at the MAI athletics meet in Malmo, Sweden on August 3. Jones won the event clocking 10.87 sec. — AFP photo

Why blame him only?



LONDON, Aug 4 (AP): Ben Johnson, the Canadian sprinter who was stripped of his Olympic gold medal in 1988 after testing positive for drugs, says the recent doping scandals in the Tour de France and other sports prove he was never 'the only bad guy.'

Johnson, who was banned for life after a second positive test in 1993, says athletes in all sports use performance-enhancing drugs and that there has never been a level playing field.

Johnson said the widespread use of drugs in cycling, which was exposed during the Tour de France, and the recent positive tests of American sprinter Dennis Mitchell and Olympic shot-put champion Randy Barnes support his claim.

'The whole world was pointing at me saying I was the big, bad guy — the only guy taking substances,' Johnson was quoted as saying in an interview in Tuesday's Daily Mail. 'Now they can't hide from the truth.'

'Now the world has seen that no sport is fair, that there is no level playing field — that cyclists are at it, Dennis Mitchell and Randy Barnes, the East Germans, the Chinese, everybody is at it.'

'So Ben Johnson is not the only one who was doing it. And I was never alone. In 1988 I was never alone. The majority at Seoul were on some substance.'

Johnson, 36, claims he was a scapegoat. The times he clocked — 9.79 seconds for the 100 metres at the Seoul Olympics and the 9.83 seconds at the 1987 World

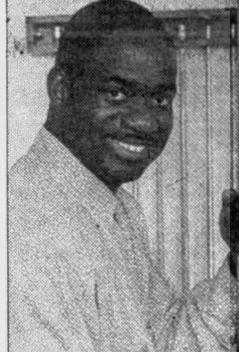
Championships — were, annulled. The current world record of 9.84 was set by Canada's Donovan Bailey in 1996.

Johnson said he didn't think he could run under 10 seconds without drugs. 'I would say 10 seconds flat,' he said, referring to his fastest possible time without the aid of drugs. 'If you've never used anything, just come to it natural, that's about my limit.'

At the inquiry into Johnson's Seoul Olympics, Johnson's coach Charlie Francis estimated drugs gave the sprinter a two-metre boost in the Olympic final.

'I won by that much. So I would have won anyway,' Johnson said.

Johnson admitted taking



BEN JOHNSON

drugs after the 1988 scandal but claims he did so at the instigation of his coach and doctor.

He is still appealing his life ban and will appear in a Canadian court just days before the 10th anniversary of his Olympic disqualification on Sept. 25.

Johnson said he was the victim of a conspiracy to show the sport was serious about cleaning itself up.

'Somebody was out to get Ben Johnson and succeeded. But the truth will be revealed very soon,' he said. 'They had to get rid of somebody, show they were doing something so they picked me. Then they say the rest were clean. You saw how true that was last week. Ben Johnson wasn't the only bad guy. Never was.'

Johnson told the Daily Mail he reserved his greatest contempt for the Americans who were quicker to condemn him than they were to compete against him.

'So do I think Mitchell and Barnes are the only ones? What do you think?'

Mitchell was four places behind Johnson in the final at Seoul but was upgraded to fourth when Johnson was disqualified and his record thrown out.

Mitchell, who won the bronze medal in the 100 at the 1996 Atlanta Games, tested positive for high levels of testosterone earlier this year and has been suspended by the International Amateur Athletic Federation pending a hearing.

Barnes, the world record-holder in the shot, tested positive for a testosterone-related substance and faces the prospect of a life ban because it was his second offence.

Schurer moves to Deportivo

LA CORUNA, Spain, Aug 4: Deportivo la Coruna have completed the signing of Argentine international defender Gabriel Schurer, the Spanish club said today, reports Reuters.

Schurer, who has played the last two seasons at Racing Santander after moving from the Argentine club Lanus, has signed a five-year contract, with the transfer fee believed to be around 4.5 million dollars.

The 26-year-old defender, who missed out on a place in Daniel Passarella's squad for the recent World Cup finals, is now hoping the move to Deportivo will bring him the first trophy of his career.

'Deportivo are one of Spain's biggest clubs, always in contention for honours and that possibility is very attractive,' he said.

'The club have opened the doors of success to me and I'm hoping not to disappoint anyone.'

Testud survives a scare

CARLSBAD, California, Aug 4: Amateur Alexandra Stevenson was on the brink of her biggest victory yet, only to lose concentration and with it a potential upset Monday in the Toshiba Tennis Classic, reports AP.

France's Sandrine Testud, ranked 13th in the world, was down a set and trailed 2-1 in the second set before winning the final 11 games for a 4-6, 6-2, 6-0 victory on the opening day of the 450,000 dollars event at the La Costa Resort and Spa.

Testud's comeback highlighted play on the first day of action in the tournament featuring seven of the top 10 players on the WTA Tour.

None of the seeded players, including No. 1 seed Martina Hingis, played on Monday.

In other matches Monday, Mary Pierce of France, ranked No. 16 on the WTA Tour, beat Barbara Paulus of Austria 6-3, 7-5; Iva Majoli of Croatia, ranked 20th, was extended in a 7-6 (7-1), 6-3 victory over Alexandra Fusai of France; and former ten sensation Jennifer Capriati won her third qualifying match — a 7-6 (7-5), 2-6, 6-1 victory against France's Nathalie Dechy — to move into the main draw.

Goran, Malivai advance



TORONTO, Aug 4: Tenth-seeded Croatian Goran Ivanisevic disappointed record crowds on the first day of the 4,450,000 Canadian Open by defeating Canadian Sebastian Lareau 7-6 (14-12), 7-6 (7-4) on Monday, reports Reuters.

A civic holiday in Toronto and a promotion that allowed families to enter for free resulted in a total of 20,346 fans crowding the site.

Malivai Washington of the United States posted the only upset of the day when he beat 13th seeded Jana Stiemerink of the Netherlands 7-6 (7-2), 6-3.

In a match between the Black brothers from Zimbabwe Wayne, 24 and ranked 105th defeated Byron, 28 and ranked 32nd, 6-4, 6-0.

In other first round matches Australian Scott Draper outlasted American Jim Courier 7-5, 5-7, 6-4 and 14th seeded Aussie Mark Philippoussis won 6-4, 6-3 over American Doug Flach.

The Ivanisevic-Lareau contest saw several momentum swings. The 16th ranked Croatian served three double faults in a row to go down 3-4 in the opening set. But then Ivanisevic broke the 95th ranked Canadian on four points on his way to a eight point run.

Ivanisevic won the first set tiebreak on his sixth set point with a blistering serve return winner. Lareau led 5-6 in the second set but Ivanisevic rallied and finished the tiebreak and the match with his 20th ace.

'Today I served very good in the tiebreaks,' Ivanisevic said. 'Usually the advantage in a tiebreak goes to the guy who serves bigger and better and in this case it was me.'

Ivanisevic, who lost in the first round last week in Los Angeles is still haunted by losing to world number one Pete Sampras in the Wimbledon final last month.

Even half the time today I was thinking about Wimbledon and I'm still having trouble finding my motivation, Ivanisevic said I'm thinking if I could have made those two series returns (on set points in the second set tiebreak) I could have won Wimbledon.

'We both played to a high standard' said Draper, who was able to get the better of Courier with aggressive groundstrokes. Several hours after the match a pensive despondent Courier sat immobile by himself on the steps of a tourna-

ment van for about 45 minutes. Washington a finalist at Wimbledon in 1996, has been hampered by a knee problem that required surgery in April, 1997, his win over Stiemerink was his first since April.

'I've been playing a limited schedule this year,' said the 217th ranked Washington. 'I missed the French Open and Wimbledon and I've kind of said to myself that how I do this summer will be a telltale sign for the rest of the year and next year.'

ment van for about 45 minutes. Washington a finalist at Wimbledon in 1996, has been hampered by a knee problem that required surgery in April, 1997, his win over Stiemerink was his first since April.

'I've been playing a limited schedule this year,' said the 217th ranked Washington. 'I missed the French Open and Wimbledon and I've kind of said to myself that how I do this summer will be a telltale sign for the rest of the year and next year.'



Sandrine Testud of France plays a backhand return against Alexandra Stevenson of San Diego during the Toshiba Classic at the La Costa Resort in Carlsbad, California on Aug 3. — AP/UNB photo

Reader's Opinion Slow death of football

Aziz Amirul

The fever is still prevailing, may be a little smothered at the moment, but it will go on for the few more weeks or so. Yes, it is the France '98 World Cup fever that gripped the globe, needless to say our country, too, and undoubtedly stronger than in many non-participating nations, with even a few reported cases of casualties among 'super-enthusiastic' fans, who died for their favourite teams.

This is nothing new for us as we are always too crazy about soccer and cricket, and specially when it is the World Cup extravaganza. For over a month of sleepless nights seemed like spending time in paradise, turning us into some excited and extremely noisy (screaming I mean) nocturnal beings! There is no harm for a nation where people spend such odd hours watching soccer, discussing and understanding the game to its fullest. But let us remember the past. Gone are those golden era of Channu, Salahuddin, Aslam, Mohsin, Kaiser Hamid and other prodigies. Instead of producing new stars in our country, we are now turning solely into soccer-watchers of TV, becoming blind fans of Ronaldo, Batistuta or Zidane. To say most frankly, names like Boban, Suker, Vieri were completely unknown to many of us even a year back. Despite being a member of FIFA we have nailed our country's soccer in a dark coffin. The golden deer of SAF soccer seems to be a day dream. In the FIFA world ranking, we are gradually falling. We are transforming ourselves into a soccer-watching nation, not a playing one?

Nowadays, local leagues are somehow going on mostly without sponsors, often financed by the Football Federation itself and merely taking

place as a formality. Matches between smaller teams take place to empty galleries. Even the big matches between the giants like Abahani, Mohammedan and Muktiyoddha are played with crowds that do not fill even half of the stands.

When matches of senior division leagues show such dismal appearance, junior division leagues seem to be nothing more than a mockery. It is usually said by the general mass that as soon as a footballer enters the big league he fetches a minimum of hundred thousand bucks or more. This is indeed one of the main faults of the club officials who are ready to pay the rookie such an exorbitant amount at the very first opportunity, thus ruining his carrier right at the start, transforming him into a "proud, boasting supper star". For a senior division soccer club of large to medium status the yearly budget may even go up to a few crores. In a "third world" country like ours where the majority lives below the poverty level, soccer masters relish the game by spending millions of bucks (not to mention, both black and white in the name of so-called "donations"). Besides, through "fixed matches" in leagues, clubs earn extra amount only to flourish which is another story.

It may sound like a joke but if things go on like this then it will not take long for us to forget the basics of the game! There is no real academy in the country (except BKSP) for soccer where kids would join and shape up as future players. Whatever they say, since the country's liberation the concerned authorities are yet to chalk up any major master plan for the welfare of the game. As the soccer season approaches, heads of various

clubs get busy looking for foreign recruits to make their respective teams the so-called "star-studded" side with a wish to capture the title any how. As a result many local youngsters who could outshine their foreign colleagues remain seated on the bench throughout the season, thus spoiling a priceless year of his carrier.

The present situation in our soccer arena is completely chaotic. No body knows the solution. Once our fans sacrificed lives in bravos over big matches of local giants but now the saddest part is that in Bangladesh fans pass away in extreme shock at the loss of some Latin or European nation to whom Bangladesh perhaps is a country of flood, poverty, distress and not of soccer! But now the question that lies in our mind is that who will appear as the angel to resurrect our soccer tradition? Will the leather ball again rise from its grave? None seem to take any responsibility. So many queries but there is none available to give a satisfactory answer. Only long speeches are delivered and future plans are heard from the masters. Bosses of different organisations are more interested to close down the offices early in the afternoon while educational institutions declare "World Cup vacation" for over a month postponing important exams to watch Taffaire's penalty save rather than trying to save the "sudden-death penalties" of our local soccer only to enhance the downfall of soccer in Bangladesh. Only time will say whether the poor leather ball will again feel that sweet impact of flashing boots from newly born Salahuddins and Aslams or find a place in glass shelves of museums in the coming millennium.

Polish move to avoid FIFA ban



WARSAW, Aug 4 (Reuters/Internet): The Polish Sports Ministry on Monday welcomed a proposal by the country's top soccer clubs to stave off the threat of an international ban.

World body FIFA has threatened sanctions against Polish national and club teams after the government sacked local federation (PZPN) officials for incompetence and alleged financial improprieties in May.

The world body insists that local soccer authorities must be independent of their governments. It has set the two sides a deadline of August 7 to resolve the matter.

Sports ministry spokesman Pawel Krzykowski said the clubs had proposed ditching federation boss Marian Dziurawicz but allowing other sacked officials to return while an investigation is carried out into federation finances.

'If the PZPN accepts a full financial probe and Dziurawicz resigns, then it is possible to re-

solve this thing,' Krzykowski said. 'The proposal is a step in the right direction.'

PZPN officials, who were due to meet the ministry on Tuesday to discuss a deal, could not be reached for comment.

The row started when Minister Marek Debski, the head of the Physical Culture and Tourism Office, dismissed PZPN officials after they denied his inspectors full access to federation files during an official investigation.

The PZPN officials said the sports minister over-reacted and that the sackings were politically motivated.

Poland's participation in UEFA and Champions League matches would be the first to suffer from any ban.

LKS Lodz was due to meet Manchester United in the qualifying round of the UEFA Champions' League next week. Wisla Krakow are due to play Turko. Trabzonspor and Polonia Warsaw against Dynamo Moscow in UEFA Cup ties on August 11 and 25.

Olsen takes on relegation challenge

OSLO, Aug 4 (Reuters/Internet): Norway's World Cup coach Egil Olsen agreed on Tuesday to take a temporary job as manager of relegation-threatened Norwegian elite division club Valerenga.

Club chairman John Nordbrekken said the Oslo club was taking on the former national team boss for the rest of the season ending in October.

Olsen led Norway to the World Cup twice in a row, ending a drought stretching back to before World War Two, and resigned after the recent finals in France to seek new challenges.

Olsen's team was knocked out of the World Cup in the second round by Italy after a first-round that included a 2-1 victory over former champions Brazil. He plans to make a decision about his long-term future next year.

Frequently tipped by Norwegian media as a candidate for a top job abroad, Olsen admitted after the World Cup that he had only had a few offers, including one from Vietnam.

Van Hooijdonk fined



NOTTINGHAM, England, Aug 4 (Reuters/Internet): Dutch World Cup striker Pierre Van Hooijdonk has been fined by Nottingham Forest for failing to return to the newly-promoted English premier league club for pre-season training on Tuesday.

Van Hooijdonk's club manager Dave Bassett he will not play for Forest again after having a transfer request turned down.

The 28 year-old former Celtic striker was due to report back to the City Ground on Tuesday, but officials of his former Dutch club NAC Breda confirmed he had spent the morning training with them.

The player submitted a written transfer request through his agent, insisting he wasn't prepared to 'let his career go down the pan' by staying at the City Ground in a squad 'not good

enough" to survive in the premier league.

'I was told the club would buy top quality players if we won promotion,' he said. 'Instead they've sold one of our best players in Kevin Campbell.'

Van Hooijdonk claimed the 'last straw' came when Forest lost out to Sheffield Wednesday in the race to sign his Dutch international team mate Wim Jonk.

But his transfer request has been turned down out of hand by the Forest board, and the player has four years of his contract to run.

Van Hooijdonk, though, said: 'I am not changing my stance. I am training in Holland and I've instructed my agent to try and sort things out as quickly as possible.'

His non-appearance on Tuesday morning was followed by an instant fine and the threat of suspension.

De Boers, Ajax talks enter second round

AMSTERDAM, Aug 4: Frank and Ronald de Boer and Ajax Amsterdam failed to reach agreement in talks on Monday but have resolved to meet again, reports Reuters.

The two Dutch internationals — Spanish champions Barcelona have expressed an interest in the pair — but the club insist the players must abide by their contracts which run until 2004.

Last week a Dutch FA arbitration committee supported Ajax's stance.

'Ajax and the brothers will continue their discussions until a solution is reached. Both parties have agreed that they will make no further comment on the matter,' Ajax said in a statement.

No date has been set for the second round of talks. The De Boers did not take part in morning or afternoon training in Amsterdam.

SIX NO TRUMPS

A K Sayeedul Huq A FINE BID BY NORTH (Hand # 58)

Table with 4 columns: West, North, East, South (D). Contains card symbols and counts for a Six No Trumps hand.

BIDDING (East-West were vulnerable)

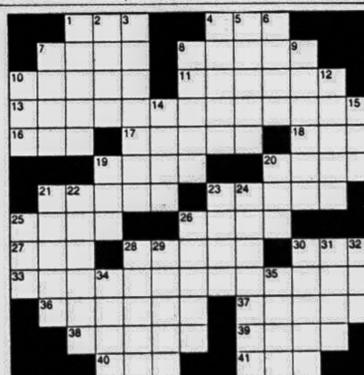
Table with 4 columns: South, West, North, East. Shows bidding sequence: 3D, Pass, 3H, Pass, 4D, Pass.

When West overcalled in Hearts, North first thought of passing with the intention to double if the opponents were to get into four Hearts. But then he thought that the opponents could locate a Spade fit for game against partner's pre-empt by bidding 4 Diamond. In a vulnerable position East decided not bid 4S, for, North might have too many of them. South passed 4D with the intention to bid 5D if the opponents were to bid again. Both the decisions of North and South were excellent.

THE PLAY West led the King of Hearts and when East discouraged, he led a small Spade. East, after cashing King and Ace of Spades, moved a Club which was won by West with the Ace. Down one. Not bad for North South as East-West had game in Spades.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS 1 Joke 28 In the future 1 'Lonesome nes' milieu George' 12 Hurt 4 Author 30 Strich's cousin 2 'Should' — 14 'Cassius...' acquain- 15 Old French coin 7 LeShan 33 Soaps 36 Lat 3 'Gigo' star coin 8 Exclusion of sorts 37 In reserve 4 Cheer up 19 Prompt 10 Authoritative text 38 Unpaid bills 5 Sofa bed 20 Favorite 11 Vacillates 39 Character-ization 7 Suitable approval 13 Indianapolis-based sitcom 40 Sauce source 9 Van Gogh work 22 Granted 23 Thoric region 41 Opinion work 24 Poe topics 16 Set 17 Tabitha of MTV DOWN 10 Cranber- 25 Spacecraft compartment 18 Pouch 26 Undoes a dele 28 Some bend over backwards to do it 19 Highway pylon 20 Inca territory 21 'Row, Row, Row Your Boat' e.g. XENA GRIDIRON TIRONIBAR ONIEDN EIAH PLOT TWELVE BIRD CODE TION BUM AOL CODERED PIAAWN DOG LOU ATRIA REDIGOAT COATROOM KONA ELO VIS UNITO SILD TAIN SATIS



Solution time: 22 mins. Yesterday's answer... 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.