RAWALPINDI, Oct 3: Pakistani bowler Waqar Younis said today he is undecided about his county future although he . has offers coming for the 1999 season had has enough cricket left in him, reports AFP.

Pakistan eleven in the ongoing Rawalpindi Test against Aus-"I am not at all disappointed, this happens when you try to

Wagar was left out of the

regain fitness. There is enough season left for me and I am hopeful I will get my place back," he vowed.

Hitting back at his critics, who say his career is now at the fag end, Waqar said he is not finished

"I have enough cricket left in me and want to go on as long as I perform well and have motivation," he said.

The next English season will be dominated by the seventh World Cup, curtailing number of matches for overseas players.
"I have offers from different countries ... especially Glamorgan wants me back in 1999 but I

the year," Wagar said. Waqar, 26, completed a twoyear contract with Glamorgan

am still under pressure perhaps

I will finalise it at the turn of

this year. He is recovering from an elbow injury he sustained during the English season. He returned home in mid-season and played a side game for Karachi against the touring Aussies.

Wagar will feature in the Rawalpindi team in the next four-day game against Australia starting here from Octo-

"Hopefully in the next match I will regain full fitness and will play in the second Test," he

Waqar helped Glamorgan win county title in 1997 with some inspired bowling. Last season his county suffered badly in his absence.

The Pakistani paceman first played for Surrey from 1991 to 1995 before switching to the Welsh county in 1996.

Rijkaard gets down to business

ZEIST, Netherlands, Oct 3: Dutch national soccer coach Frank Rijkaard reshuffled the pack on Friday as he named his squad for friendlies against Peru and Ghana, Reports Reuters.

The Netherlands face Peru on October 10 in Eindhoven and Ghana three days later in Arn-

Rijkaard, appointed month ago to succeed Guus Hiddink scrapped 11 of the 22 players Hiddink brought to the World Cup in France. "I'm not influenced by name

or fame," Rijkaard told Dutch television. "I'm not looking at status, but just at who's in the right place right now."

"France is over ... now we're starting a new era, with other names for the time being. What this will lead to in the long run remains to be seen.

"I don't rule out calling back certain players in the future," Rijkaard added. Surprise newcomers to the

Dutch squad include Feyenoord's Kees van Wonderen, Marc van Hintum and Martin Reuser of Vitesse Arnhem, Oscar Moens of AZ Alkmaar and Heerenveen's Jeffrey Talan.

Conspicuous by their absence from the selection are Chelsea's goalkeeper Ed de Goey. Wim Jonk of Sheffield Wednesday, Inter Milan's Aron Winter and Barcelona's Boudewijn Zenden, while returnees include Feyenoord's Peter van Vossen and Michael Mols of FC Utrecht.

West

1 Club*

4 Hearts

Pass

1 No Trump

THE PLAY

AS BXX

D ABX

4 C: K10 X

Bidding: Neither side was vulnerable

* Artificial, 18 or more HCP

** Artificial, showing 7-9 HCP.

Double

₩ H: Q 109X



Indian Ghatak Poulmi during her women's singles third round match against North Korean Kim Hyon Hui at the Asian Table Tennis Championships in Osaka yesterday. - AFP photo Poulmi lost the match.

UEFA'S counter strategy



GENEVA, Oct 3: UEFA's response to a threatened breakaway European super league took shape on

Friday when it unveiled plans for a revamped European Champions' League with total prize money of between 600-800 million Swiss francs (446-595 million dollars), reports Reuters.

The European club football 2000 task force, charged with the responsibility of formulating a new order for European competition, said the winning club could expect to earn between 60-80 million Swiss francs depending on which of two proposals UEFA decides on at its executive committee meeting in Lisbon next week.

One concept involves a 24team Champions' League and the other is for 32 teams. The task force also revealed

a plan to merge the European Cup Winners' Cup and the UEFA Cup into one competition. The proposed changes are in

response to a proposed breakaway competition organised by the Milan-based media sales company Media Partners who are pushing for a 36-team Pan-European league with prize money of 1.2 billion dollars. They are also proposing a

new knockout competition called the Pro Cup comprising 96 clubs. UEFA conceded that the 600-

800 million Swiss franc figure it was using to keep teams from deserting to the new league was considerably less that the astronomical sums being bandled about by media partners in an efforts to lure them away.

Instead, UEFA secretary general Gerhard Aigner said Europe's soccer governing body will base its pitch on "realistic figures and conditions."

"On conditions that are facts today, we are not speculating." said Aigner. "Tomorrow if the market gives us a lot more money we will take it but we will not speculate on what we might earn tomorrow and

promise that today.
"UEFA is a risk free undertaking that may differ from other projects and concepts that

are elsewhere. "Our projection of between 600 and 800 million francs is a figure we can comfortably move between depending on which

4 5 : KQ 10976

◆ D: J107XX

1 Spade

Pass

3 Diamonds

♥ H : None

4 C:7X

SIX NO TRUMPS

A K Sayeedul Huq

A REALISTIC CONTRACT

(Hand # 110)

North

4 S . None

D:KQX

South (D)

&S: AJXX

₩ H: AK86

1 Heart**

2 Hearts

Pass

On Club opening by South (18 or more HCP) and North's response

showing 7-9 HCP, East bid vigorously first Spade and then Diamond. It

appeared to South that East must have a distributional hand, and hence

East led the King of Spades which was taken with the Ace in the dummy

and a small diamond was slapped from the closed hand. Next the declarer

played the King of Hearts and as suspected, East showed out. A small

Heart was then led from dummy on which West played the Queen who

then played the Ace of Diamond and continued with the suit. The

declarer won in the closed hand, cleared the trumps, took the Club

finesse which was lost to the West's King. The Spade return was ruffed

in the closed hand and as the Club suit was set up, 4 Hearts were made.

This was a straight forward hand play for which the declarer got the

necessary clues from the East's bidding. The important point was that

South, holding a powerful hand did not become ambitious to try a slam,

The defence got a Club, a Diamond and a Heart trick.

particularly when partner bid the Heart suit.

probably nothing beyond a game contract of 4 Hearts was attainable.

+ D 96

+ C: AQX

+ C: J986X

♥H:J7XXX

concept we put in place. "It could be more but for the

moment we are being cautious. UEFA said it is already investigating new ways to increase revenue to pay for the new league, including pay for view and splitting Champions' League games on two days instead of just the traditional Wednesday.

"If we want to make more money we have to change the concept," said Aigner. "The present concept has already reached saturation as far as the possibilities of television revenues are concerned.

"It's clear if we want to increase the income we have to diversify.

Of the two concepts being considered for the remodelled Champions' League, the one involving 24 teams is being given greater consideration because its 15 match days will fit into an already crowded soccer calendar. The 32-team model would

require two more match days which UEFA says are not readily available. "Dates are still a big ques-

tion," said Aigner. "We know we cannot exceed 16 and are most comfortable with 15. "But we have a chance to

fine-tune and reshape some things but we must stay within these limits because there is no Both models would have

three qualifying phases instead of the current two. The 24-team concept would be played in four groups of six followed by quarterfinals,

semifinals and a one match fi-

The champions from the top eight ranked countries, along with the runners-up of the top three plus the title holders would qualify automatically for the group phase.

Third place finishers in the top three leagues would enter the competition in the third qualifying phase along with the runners-up from the next five

top ranked nations. The 32-team model would see teams divided into four groups of eight

The winners and runners-up in each group would advance to the second group phase of four groups of four.

The winners and runners-up would go through to the quarterfinals followed by semifinals and one match final The model for a combined

Cup Winners' Cup and UEFA Cup competition is not as developed as the plans for the Champions' League but it was clear after Friday's meeting that a merger of the two competitions was inevitable. UEFA's proposal for a new

merged cup involves 114 teams playing in preliminary qualifying rounds which would be followed by a knockout competi-

Eventually 32 teams would play in a mini-league series of eight groups of four before reverting to a knockout competition from the quarterfinals enwards.

"It was almost inevitable with the increase of the number of quality teams in the Champions' League that they are missing in the other competitions," explained Aigner. "The competition that suffers most is the Cup Winners' Cup and it made sense to bring the Cup Winners' Cup into the UEFA

India in sight of victory

Star Sport Monitor

Indian leg-spinner Anil Kumble followed up his 5 wicket haul with an unbeaten century as the tourists looked set to complete an emphatic victory in their three-day match against the ZCU President's Eleven at the Sunrise Sports Club in Harare yesterday.

At close of play on the second day, the home side were reeling at 106 for five in their second innings after the visitors had declared their first innings at 400 for five. Kumble was not out on 100 while healthy contributions came from Sachin Tendulkar (70), Nayan Mongia (70 n.o), Ajay Jadeja (61) and an almost runa-ball 47 by Robin Singh.

In their first innings on Friday ZCU team was shot out for

Iseki upsets Ma

OSAKA, Japan, Oct 3: Japanese national champion Seiko Iseki caused a major upset at the Asian Table Tennis Championships today eliminating fourth-seeded Ma Lin of China in the men's singles, reports AFP.

The 36-year-old left-hander. better known as Seoul Olympics doubles champion Wei Qingguang from China, beat the world number 11, 21-18, 21-18. 21-10 in a third round match.

lseki, who said his best table tennis memory was the final 1988 Olympics final, gained Japanese nationality in July last year and became his adopted country's national champion in December.

There were no other upsets in the men's competition with Atlanta Olympics dual gold medalist Liu Guoliang, and fellow Chinese Wang Liqin, Yan Sen and Liu Guozheng safely through to the fourth round.

Seoul Olympics singles champion Yoo Nam-Kyu and Barcelona Olympics bronze medalist Kim Taek-Soo are also into the fourth round with Lee Chul-Seung. Poark Sang-Joon and Oh Sang-Eun.

Japan booked four more places with world doubles bronze medalists Hiroshi Shibutani and Koji Katsushita Ryo Yuzawa and Toshio Tasaki while Chiang Peng-Lung of Taiwan and Liu Jun Hui of Malaysia also kept their hopes

in the women's third round. 11th seed Kim Moo-Kyo o South Korea fell victim at the hand of Wong Ching of Hong Kong 21-14, 20-22, 14-21, 15-21

But the other favourites, led by China's world Number two Li Jun and number three Wang Nan. continued their winning

Div I h'ball from Nov 5

The Sheetal First Division women's handball league, organised by Bangladesh Hand ball Federation, will begin here on November 5, reports UNB. Interested teams have been

requested to send their entry fees of Tk 200 to the Federation office by October 15.

Premiership's super Sunday



Ruud Gullit faces his toughest challenge since taking over at Newcastle when his resur-

gent side take on English Premiership champions Arsenal at Highbury Sunday, reports

Newcastle have shot up the league since the Dutchman took over from Kenny Dalglish last month and are determined to avenge their 3-1 defeat in the corresponding fixture last sea-

Newcastle captain Alan Shearer, named Premiership player-of-the-month for September last week, said the players are relishing the challenge of facing last season's double winners.

"It is a big test for us and a good opportunity to see how far we have come," said the England striker.

Hertha Berlin's

"They are the club that have achieved the most in the last 12 months and we hope to emulate them — but there s a hell of a lot of work to do for the club."

Gullit will be worried by the lack of ruthlessness in front of goal which was apparent over the two legs in their away goals defeat against the Yugoslavs of Partizan Belgrade in the European Cup Winners' Cup on Thursday night Chances galore were squan-

dered by the likes of Temuri Ketsbaia, Gary Speed and David "We went out in a harsh way

but I have taken some positive things out of it," said Shearer. Irish winger Keith Gillespie

is fit but was left on the bench on Thursday night in Yugoslavia and has clearly not convinced Gullit of his talents. Rob Lee, who has a thigh strain, is likely to miss Sun-

Ante Covic skips a tumbling

Moenchengladbach custodian Robert Enke during their

Bundesliga clash in Berlin on October 2. — AFP photo

day's clash but Gullit can at least call on Batty, who could make his first Premiership start of the season after returning from injury and suspen-

The fixture planners, meanwhile, have decreed that Chelsea must travel to Liverpool less than three days after their return from Cup Winners' Cup action at Helsingborg in Sweden.

Ironically, the situation it is an exact repeat of last season when the Blues returned from their victory at Slovan Bratislava early on Friday. played at Liverpool on the Sunday and were promptly demolished 4-2. But with France's World Cup

defenders Frank Leboeuf and Marcel Desailly starting to give the side the solid backbone which boss Gianluca Vialli has been trying to make his priority, the Londoners will be confident of avoiding a repeat, scoreline.

Chelsea captain Dennis Wise is back in contention for a place in the Blues' starting line-up for Sunday's trip. Wise has missed Chelsea's

last two games against Middlesbrough and Helsingborg due to a knee injury but is nearing full fitness and could be ready in time for the match at Anfield. Vialli has no other injury worries but seems likely to re-

store Pierluigi Casiraghi and

Gianfranco Zola to the side at

the expense of the European strike partnership of himself and tore Andre Flo. The Chelsea rearguard know that they will have to be at their most vigilant with English football's new superstar Michael Owen lining up along-

Fowler. Chelsea wing back Graeme le Saux, Owen's England teammate, said: "One of our priorities will certainly be to keep Micheal under wraps.

side the rehabilitated Robbie

"He's so quick out off the blocks and that's what gives him an advantage over defend-

Le Saux is equally aware of the dangers posed by Fowler who has showed he has lost none of his sharpness during his lengthy lay-off. "There is quality between them and they show a great understanding," he said.

Liverpool are likely to rest Steve McManaman, who has been struggling with an achilles problem and missed the 5-0 UEFA Cup win over Kosice on Tuesday.

Bulgaria rely on old guard



SOFIA, Oct 3 (Reu-

ters/ Internet):

coach Dimitar Di-

mitrov said on

Saturday he wou-

ld rely on the old guard led by

striker Hristo Stoichkov for

European Championship

qualifiers against England and

continue his predecessor's pol

icy of rejuvenating the team,

admitted that the prospect of

facing England had stopped

Hagi where

are you?

from Romania's Football Fed-

eration (FRF) to make an inter-

round of European Champi-

standing down from the na-

goal in the dying seconds of

match all by himself," FRF

him to return to the national

side at least for the Euro 2000

qualifiers." Sandu's sentiments

were shared by Romania's

back, we're worried about the

national side," and "Hagi's re-

turn will please millions of

Romanian fans," being just

three of the headlines that will

leave the wily midfield general

in little doubt as to what is ex-

"The team needs you," "Come

"I've contacted Hagi to ask

president Mircea Sandu said.

Wednesday's game.

World Cup.

press.

pected of him.

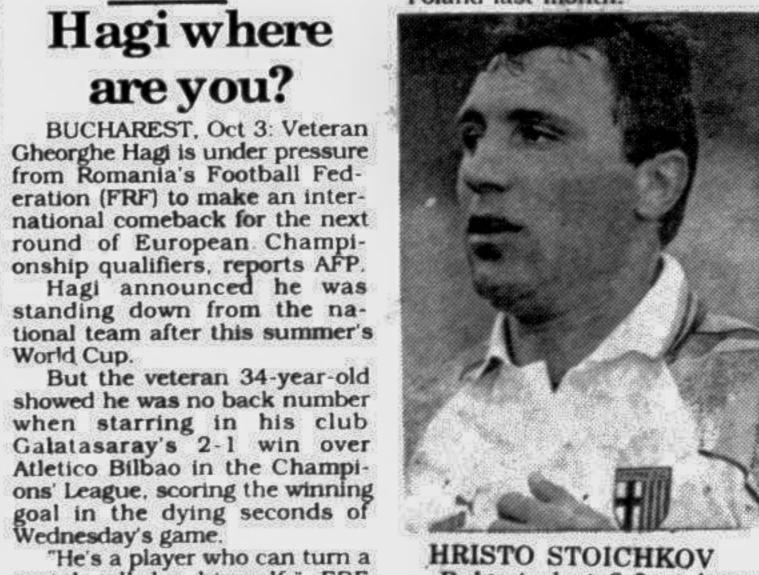
Dimitrov, who had vowed to

New Bulgarian

him making more experiments. Bulgaria play England at Wembley on October 10 and meet Sweden in Bulgaria four days later.

Dimitrov said of the England match: "The name of our opponents made me very pragmatic in forming the squad." The 32-year-old Stoichkov,

who joined Japanese club Kashiwa Reysol after being sacked by Barcelona in March. captained the Bulgarian side in their opening European championship qualifier against Poland last month.



Bulgaria lost 3-0 at home and coach Hristo Bonev stepped

down after the defeat. Dimitrov has called up three more stalwarts who helped Bulgaria to earn fourth place at the 1994 World Cup.

They are Ivailo Yordanov from Sporting Lisbon, Zlatko Yankov from Turkey's Adanaspor and Daniel Borimirov from TSV 1860 Munich.

Their experience will help other players in the team. Dimitrov said. Dimitrov also summoned

Celta Vigo striker Lyuboslav

Penev, who was left out of the side by Bonev. Among the 11 foreign-based footballers in Dimitrov's 20-man squad other new faces are Bursaspor midfielder Kostadin Vidolov, who said two years ago he would not play for the national team, and Borussia Moenchengladbach

SQUAD GOALKEPEERES: Zdravko Zdravkov (Istanbulspor, Turkey), Dimitar Ivankov (Levski

defender Vladimir Ivanov.

Sofia). **DEFENDERS: Radostin Kis**hishev (Litex Lovech), Zlatomir Zagorcic (Litex Lovech), Ivailo Petkov (Istanbulspor, Turkey). Vladimir Ivanov (Borussia Moenchengladbach, Germany), Valentin Naidenov (CSKA Sofia). Ivailo Yordanov

(Sporting Lisbon). MIDFIELDERS/FORWARDS: Kostadin Vidolov (Bursaspor, Turkey), Ilian Iliev (AEK. Greece). Ilia Gruev (Neftochimik Bourgas), Mitko Trendafilov (Nettochimik Bourgas), Milen Petkov (CSKA Sofia), Danirel Borimirov (TSV 1860 Munich). Zlatko Yankov (Adanaspor, Turkey), Hristo Stoichkov (Kashiwa Reysol, Japan), Georgi Ivanov (Levski Sofia), Georgi Bachev (Slavia Sofia), Lyuboslav Penev (Celta Vigo), Marian Hristov (Kaiserslautern).

Uganda beat Algeria

KAMPAALA, Oct 3: Uganda defeated Algeria 2-1 in their Group Seven qualifying match of the African Nations Cup soccer tournament on Friday, reports Xinhua.

Halftime score was 0-0. Uganda's Hassan Mubiru scored two goals in the 70th and 88th minutes while Blal Dzirl netted the lone goal for Algeria in the 79th minute. About 25,000 spectators

watched the game.

that got away, Safin has

claimed some big scalps else-

where on the international cir-

cuit this year, downing Andre

Agassi and Brazilian defending

champion Gustavo Kuerten at

the French Open before bowing

round performance in his debut

French Open but after that I lost

my confidence. If you have con-

fidence, then you play well nat-

urally, but when you do not you

He matched that fourth-

"I played quite well until the

to Cedric Pioline.

at the US Open.

Safin so far so good "It would be good to finish in TASHKENT, Oct 3 If Courier remains the one

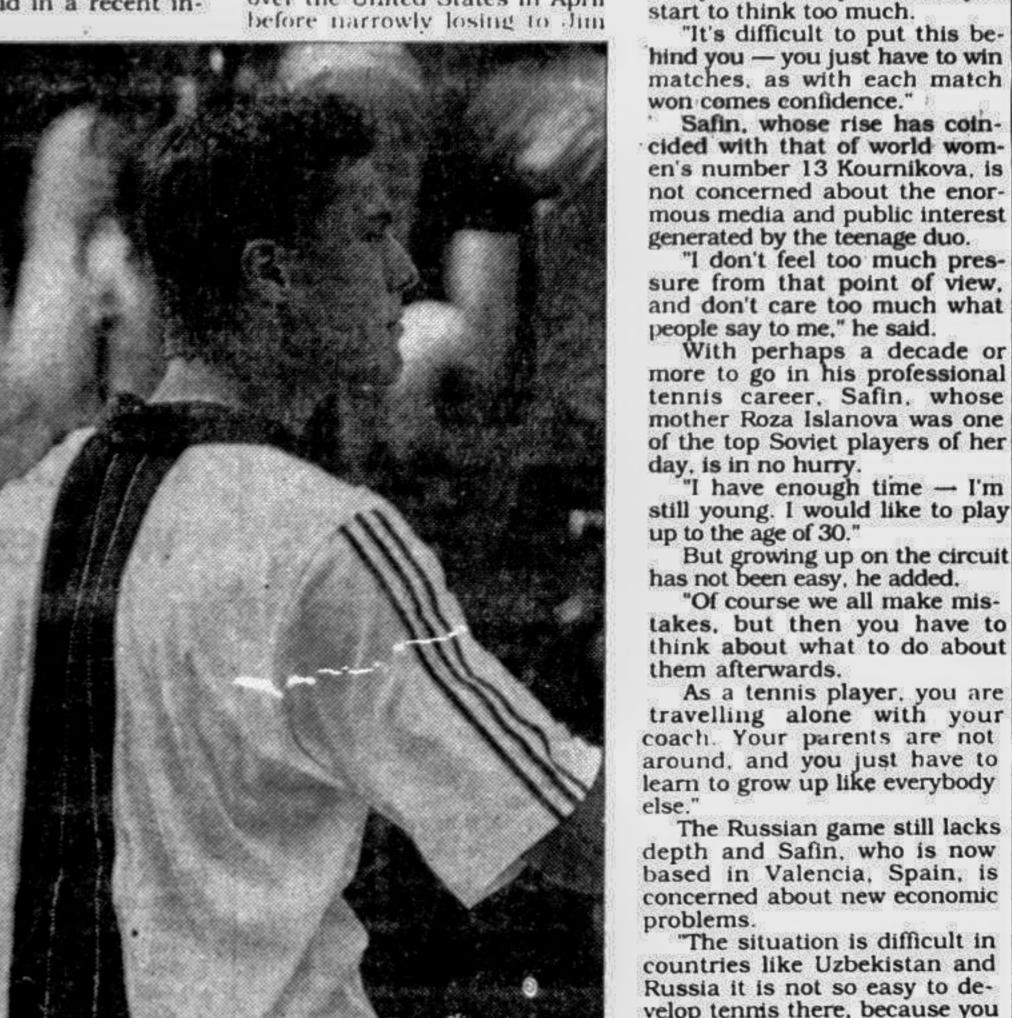
(Reuters): Marat Safin, a contemporary of Anna Kournikova a Moscow's Spartak tennis school, hopes to emulate his glamorous contemporary by moving into the world top 20 in

the next year. At the age of 18, the Russian number two reached the quarterfinals of both the French and US Opens to shoot up the rank-

This was a good year for me. as I started at 210," the tall Muscovite said in a recent inthe top 50 this year and get to the top 20 some time next year." Safin and world number 10

Yevgeny Kafelnikov, a former French Open champion, each won their singles then formed a winning doubles combination as Russia defeated Japan 3-1 in their Davis Cup World Group qualifier in Oslaka last week-

The 3-1 win was some compensation to Safin after the disappointment of taking the Russian team to the brink of an improbable Davis Cup victory over the United States in April



"I have enough time - I'm still young. I would like to play up to the age of 30."

But growing up on the circuit has not been easy, he added. "Of course we all make mistakes, but then you have to think about what to do about

travelling alone with your coach. Your parents are not around, and you just have to learn to grow up like everybody The Russian game still lacks

depth and Safin, who is now based in Valencia, Spain, is concerned about new economic problems. "The situation is difficult in

countries like Uzbekistan and Russia it is not so easy to develop tennis there, because you need money and you need to travel," he said.

He said more satellite tournaments were needed in the Russian provinces to encourage youngsters to take up the sport and raise the game's profile in a country where in Soviet times it was despised for its associations with the wealthy bour-

22 23 22 Magazine 38 39 40 **CRYPTOQUIP**

geoisie.

XJK FYOFAI AJKHS

V Z C O H X VWKUW SF-VAFUIFS FY-VIZUW TUZCTH. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THAT CRITICAL CHEF

Today's Cryptoquip clue: W equals K

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.

MARAT SAFIN CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer 37 Investiga-16 Stolen

20 Space-

21 *Family

statistics

or Zadora

orange

warbler

8 Full of

9 Sur-

10 Broad

11 Walk of

Fame

figure

Solution time: 24 mins.

good-

fellowship

rounded

craft

compart-

Matters*

articles?

23 Frisbee

24 Chars

26 Extinct

27 "Wines

28 Restrict

29 Patellar

area

31 TV's "-

Girl"

37 Favorite

38 Lomond.

39 Fencing

denizen

35 Composes 7

34 Alley

praine

chicken

burg, —'

ACROSS 1 Yule 3 Eventual 38 Area factor 5 Car ad 41 Actress 4 Sports abbr. Arthur 8 Big fish 42 Autumnal story? 5 Pinnacle 43 Connecti-12 Jason's 6 Lindstrom cut city 13 Sales 48 Relinquish 7 Black and 49 Freudian pitch?

concept

address

"Mi — 51 Get wind Loca" 18 Boston 52 Just out 53 A handful team. DOWN familiarly 19 Muffet's 1 Slangy refusal

2 Plata

15 63 gallons 50 Friend's

14 Leave out

17 1994 film,

21 Youngest

24 Old portico 25 Writer Kingsley 26 Wrestling ploy 30 Hotel's

wares: abbr. 31 Signs of SOFFOW 32 Attila, e.g. 33 "Lassie" star 35 Tragic

36 Grub

Yesterday's answer

Xochimileo OYL AVAILABILE 44 Candle

41 Forehead 45 "Eureka!" 46 Computer

acronym 47 Unpaid

OF OURS SURE COULD DISH IT OUT.