

Sydney Net restrictions

SYDNEY, Oct 28: Plans to put video pictures on the official Sydney Olympic internet site have been ruled out by the International Olympic Committee, reports AFP.

"Video and audio of the games during the Games is a no-go zone. That's the preserve of TV and radio," Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG) business manager Mark Jackson said today.

However, the IOC, keen to protect TV rights holders who will put about one billion dollars (600 million US) into the 2000 Games, will allow the web site to run interviews of athletes recorded before the Games.

The site will also seek advertising revenue from Games sponsors for the first time.

Site managers are hoping the eventual 20,000 pages of Games information covering the 28 sports will receive a billion hits during the Games.

The Nagano Winter Games site set a record of 650 million hits in February.

Meanwhile, Games sponsors were told today to get off the mark if they did not want rivals to beat them to the Olympic marketing opportunity.

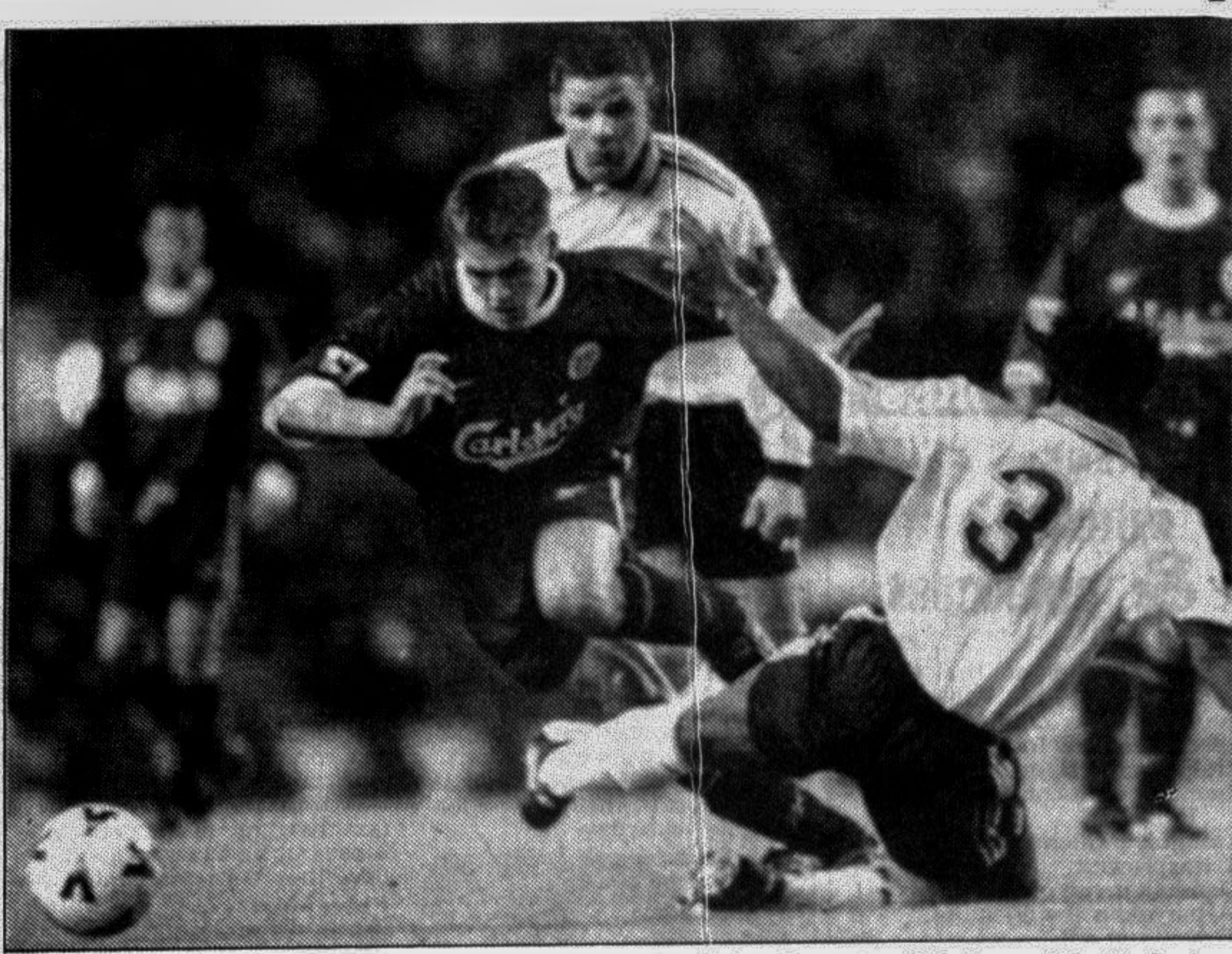
SOCOG's general marketing manager John Moore said: "I think there's a sponsorship time clock and it's ticking, and it's ticking fast, you can't just gear up a campaign in five minutes, you need three to six months."

"I think companies are realising they haven't got two years, they have got 18 months," Ian Elliott, head of SOCOG's advertising agency, added: "I think a lot of companies are lazy and assume that because they have made an investment in the rings someone else is going to do the work for them."

The problem for sponsors is they have discovered that after paying around 50 million dollars (30 million US) for sponsorship rights they then find they have to pay extra for marketing, hotels, ticketing and hospitality.

An Australian TV network revealed Tuesday it was asking 13.95 million dollars (8.4 million US) for advertising packages. Rival firms were being approached as well as official sponsors.

"This is a very, very competitive market," Moore warned.



Liverpool's Michael Owen being brought down by John Brevett of Fulham (No 3) during their League Cup encounter at Anfield on October 27. Liverpool won 3-1. —AP/UNB photo

Coventry sent crashing

LONDON, Oct 28: Second Division Luton piled on the misery for Premiership club Coventry by knocking them out of the English League Cup at Kenilworth Road on Tuesday, reports AFP.

The Sky Blues, with club captain and top scorer Dion Dublin left out of their line-up as he considered a move to Blackburn, crashed out of the third round 2-0 thanks to goals from Phil Gray and Steve Davis.

Northern Ireland international Gray, enjoying his second spell at Kenilworth Road, brought back memories of the Hatters' finest hour when they beat Arsenal at Wembley 10 years ago to claim this trophy. His 50th-minute strike rocked Coventry before Steve Davis snookered the Midlands side with the second goal 12 minutes from time.

At Anfield, Kevin Keegan's Second Division side Fulham went down 3-1 to his old club Liverpool.

David Thompson smashed in a 25-metre shot which skewed off the foot of the unfortunate Simon Morgan and into the net to give Liverpool the breakthrough after 53 minutes.

But Paul Pescholdo, who had tested Brad Friedel in the Liverpool goal in the first half,

stunned Anfield with a sensational equaliser after 59 minutes. The Canadian turned Stig Inge Bjornebye and curled a superb 30-metre shot over Friedel and into the net with his left foot.

Seven minutes later, England striker Michael Owen broke onto a through ball and when he cut inside Gus Uhlenbeck clumsily pulled him down. Robbie Fowler drove home the penalty to restore Liverpool's lead.

England midfielder Paul Ince made it 3-1 with a rare header from a free-kick after 77 minutes.

George Graham's Tottenham side survived an early scare to see off Second Division Northampton, who beat West Ham in the last round.

Sean Parrish gave Northampton a shock lead after half-an-hour with a floated shot but Chris Armstrong sidefooted the equaliser for Spurs six minutes before the break.

England defender Sol Campbell (47) and Armstrong (83) made the game safe for Spurs, who could even afford a missed penalty by David Ginola.

Leicester emerged with a 2-1 win from the all-Premiership clash against Charlton at the Valley.

Paul Dalglish gave Premiership Newcastle a 1-0 win over Tranmere with the only goal of

the game at Prenton Park after 31 minutes.

Premiership strugglers Nottingham Forest were given a gigantic scare by Third Division Cambridge, who beat Sheffield Wednesday in the previous round.

Dougie Freedman put Forest ahead after 22 minutes and Craig Armstrong made it 2-0 on the stroke of half-time with a header.

A minute after the interval Marlon Harewood fired high into the net after his first shot was blocked to make it 3-0.

Trevor Benjamin (68) and Martin Butler (72) hit back for Cambridge and then John Taylor scored from the penalty spot six minutes from time after Forest's Thierry Bonalair was sent off to make it 3-3 and complete a sensational comeback for the Third Division side.

There were no clear chances in extra-time but it was Forest who held their nerve in the winner shoot-out, goalkeeper Dave Deasant saving the decisive penalty from Benjamin allowing the Premiership side to triumph 4-3 on spot-kicks.

Barnsley beat Bournemouth 2-1, while Niall Quinn scored an extra-time winner to give Sunderland a 2-1 win over Grimsby. Bolton beat Norwich 3-1 on penalties after their match at Carrow Road finished 1-1 after extra-time.

Vogts wants to coach S Africa

JOHANNESBURG, Oct 28: Bertl Vogts who resigned as coach of Germany last month, has applied for the vacant South Africa post, reports AFP.

South African Football Association (SAFA) chief executive Danny Jordaan said Tuesday that Vogts faxed a request to be interviewed for one of the leading posts in Africa.

The position has been vacant since June when the contract of Frenchman Philippe Troussier was not renewed after Bafana Bafana (the boys) were eliminated in the first round of the World Cup.

Former Dutch star Ruud Krol, who manages Egyptian club Zamalek, and local coaches Gordon Igesund, Ephraim 'shakes' Mashaba and Trott Moloto have been interviewed.

Carlos Alberto Parreira, coach of the 1994 Brazil World Cup-winning team, is also interested and will hold talks with SAFA during a one-week visit next month.

Vogts, a defender known as the 'terrier' who won 96 caps, quit on September 7 after an eight-year reign that produced 67 victories, 23 draws and 12 losses.

"The way everyone complains about me you would think I had won only 12 matches," Vogts said following his departure amid heavy media and public criticism.

Vogts, a World Cup winner as a player in 1974, paid the price for failing to equal the feat as a coach with Germany making quarterfinal exits from the last two tournaments.

He had more success in the European Championship, where Germany finished runners-up to Denmark in 1992 and defeated the Czech Republic two years ago in the final settled by a golden goal.

"His application is recognition of the achievements and potential of South African football," Jordaan told AFP. "We have two of the best coaches in the world competing for the national post."

Arena confirmed

NEW YORK, Oct 28: Bruce Arena, who has two Major League Soccer titles and five national college championships to his credit, was named coach of the US national soccer team on Tuesday by US Soccer, reports Reuters.

The 47-year-old Arena replaces Steve Sampson, who was fired after the Americans lost all three World Cup games they played this summer in France.

Terms were not disclosed, though published reports said Arena had agreed on a four-year deal worth more than 500,000 dollars a season.

Euro 2000 will be jointly staged by Belgium and the Netherlands.

"For the World Cup in France, about 65 per cent of the 2.5 million tickets were sold on the French market, creating an uproar from other European nations."

The European Union challenged the World Cup organisers and EU parliamentarians sued, trying to obtain more tickets for the public outside France. Both attempts failed.

French doctor's 'revelation'

ROME, Oct 28: A French doctor said that he has given the banned drug EPO to some top players in Italy's First Division soccer league, sports daily Gazzetta dello Sport reported Wednesday, reports AP.

Jerome Malzac, who now lives in Italy, declined to provide names, said the paper, which quoted him as saying the athletes treated were "Serie A top players."

"(Soccer players) are enthusiastic. They keep calling me," the doctor told Gazzetta in an interview. "You can see results," he added.

Malzac has been questioned by Turin Prosecutor Raffaele Guariniello, who is conducting one of the several anti-doping investigations currently underway in Italy.

EPO, or erythropoietin, is a synthetic hormone which boosts oxygen absorption in the bloodstream. EPO is a banned drug and is the same substance that several cyclists in the Tour de France are alleged to have taken.

For Malzac assumption of EPO doesn't constitute doping. "Doping is the absorption of external substances. The medicine I propose just activates elements (present in the human body)," he was quoted as saying.

The world of soccer has been shaken by doping scandals recently.

The fallout has included the resignation of Italian Olympic Committee (CONI) president Mario Pescante and the firing of the chief of CONI's drug-testing laboratory.

The investigations grew out of a S Roma coach Zdenek Zeman's remarks that he was amazed by the quick muscular development of some players.

ASDA seeks IOC help

ADELAIDE, Oct 28: The Australian Sports Drug Agency (ASDA) is facing a potential showdown with international sports federations after saying it will drug test athletes in Olympic leadup events, reports AP.

ASDA chairman Peter Baume on Tuesday also called on the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to "stand back" and help create an independent international drug testing authority.

Baume, who announced he will retire from the post in February 1999, said athletes travelling to Australia for warmup competitions would receive no favours.

"We are bound by legislation and that legislation will apply in the lead up to the Sydney Olympics," he told a science and medicine in sport conference in Adelaide on Tuesday.

Baume said there had already been embarrassment when approaches were made to test visitors.

"We've had great difficulties already, but we have no option but to enforce the law as it stands," he said.

Euro 2000 chief's recipe for success



Euro 2000 tournament director Alain Courtois speaking at a press conference in Rotterdam on October 27. —AP/UNB photo

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands, Oct 28 (AP/Reuters): Euro 2000 has learned from the World Cup ticketing scandal. On Tuesday it pledged a fairer system, more open to all Europeans and free of package deals that left thousands without seats in France.

The first of the 1.23 million

Euro 2000 organisers want to avoid such problems. About 37 per cent of tickets will be sold to the general public and 32 per cent to the two nations involved in the match concerned.

The World Cup in France also was heavily criticised for offering only 8 per cent of tickets to each team involved in a particular match.

An honest system implies that the tickets will be offered to the supporters without intermediaries, such as tour operators, and not as part of a wider service package," a Euro 2000 statement said.

The idea of joint hosts, particular the decision to award the 2002 World Cup finals to Japan and South Korea, has been questioned.

But Belgium and the Netherlands believe they can show it works.

"It is the first time that a football event has crossed boundaries... and what we want particularly is to show football in a festive light," said Michel D'Hooge, chairman of the Belgian F A and joint president of Euro 2000.

D'Hooge scotched some media suggestions that the Dutch and the Belgians may not be pulling in the same direction and that the Belgian interior ministry was more preoccupied with domestic problems.

"We are in regular contact with the ministries. The will is there," he said.

At least 12 of the finalists will be playing matches in both Belgium and the Netherlands.

Tournament director Alain Courtois believes the distances involved should be no cause for concern. France, which hosted this year's World Cup is over eight times the size of Belgium and the Netherlands combined and all venues are less than four hours from any other traffic point.

And, in a nod to Luxembourg, the organisers intend to host a congress here.

"Luxembourg does not have a suitable stadium, but in this way we will give a chance for the whole of BENELUX," said D'Hooge.

On Tuesday, for certain, the barriers were down. D'Hooge and Dutch counterpart Jeu Sprengers jointly introduced the Euro 2000 strategy in a well-choreographed routine, dialogue switching neatly from one to the other.

But the two FA's have not always gelled. Courtois said all stadiums would be ready at least a year in advance, but there will be no pre-tournament, as is often the case, because of commercial and merchandising differences between the two associations.

The organisers still have other national disparities to overcome — including transport issues, security needs and separate currencies — but for the time being, the two seem in healthy accord and able to share the spoils with less fuss.

Brussels will host the opening ceremony and Rotterdam the final.

D'Hooge said he was reluctant to give any advice to the next World Cup hosts, who are separated by the Korea Strait and must patch over years of discord.

"We don't want to be giving lessons, but they must try as much as possible to draw together and not just do things on their own," said D'Hooge.



Euro 2000 tournament director Alain Courtois speaking at a press conference in Rotterdam on October 27. —AP/UNB photo

tickets for the June 10-July 2, 2000 European Championship will go on sale next spring with the participating teams and the public at large getting a shot at almost 75 per cent of the available seats.

"We are doing it differently than others. We are giving everyone an honest and fair chance," said Harry Been, Euro 2000 board secretary.

Euro 2000 will be jointly staged by Belgium and the Netherlands.

"For the World Cup in France, about 65 per cent of the 2.5 million tickets were sold on the French market, creating an uproar from other European nations."

The European Union challenged the World Cup organisers and EU parliamentarians sued, trying to obtain more tickets for the public outside France. Both attempts failed.

"Interest is expected to be overwhelming," Been said.

About 25 million people, most of them Europeans, tried to buy World Cup tickets this summer.

Hospitality seats, offering meals, guaranteed parking and other luxuries, make up another five per cent of tickets, raising the total of seats sold directly to the public to 74 per cent.

The rest of the seats will be reserved for UEFA, FIFA, the participating cities and the media.

Euro 2000 has also done away with package deals to travel agencies that offered hotels, transport and tickets in one contract. Such a system caused many problems at the World Cup.

Thousands of fans arrived with package tours this summer only to find out the tickets were not available on match day.

Korean sporting venture

SEOUL, Oct 28 (AFP): Arch-rivals South and North Korea are planning to stage a rare series of joint sporting events next month under the auspices of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), a report said here today.

The Korea Times quoted South Korean Olympic Committee (KOC) president Kim Ung-sung as saying the events — including soccer, table tennis, badminton and boxing — would take place ahead of December's Asian Games in Bangkok.

Sports contact between the two Koreas, still technically at war since the end of the 1950-53 Korean conflict, has been stalled since July 1991 when a North Korean judoka defected to South Korea.

The defection dampened hopes of any inter-Korean ties which followed the formation of unified Korean delegations for international table tennis and soccer games in early 1991.

Pyeongyang dismissed subsequent overtures aimed at fielding joint teams.

But the isolated communist nation responded positively to the latest proposal for joint games with Seoul when the plan was put forward by IOC executive Thomas Bach during a visit to Pyongyang last month.

Bach, a German IOC executive board member, embarked on a crucial trip last month to broker inter-Korean sports exchanges with the blessing of South Korean president Kim Dae-jung.

In addition, sports officials in the communist state also agreed in principle to take part in discussions involving the Olympic committees of both Korea in Lausanne, Switzerland, Kim said in an exclusive interview.

"The IOC headquarters is closely working with the KOC to make this happen," Kim said. "I am confident that things will move ahead as planned," he added.

The official, however, said that names of team members for the events had yet to be finalised, but said he was confident the games would go ahead as Pyongyang has no choice but to accept the IOC offer.

The North Korean officials will have to agree to the IOC proposal shortly, otherwise they will be completely isolated from the international sports community," Kim said.

Responding to claims that North Korea would use the planned games to extract concessions for its fading economy, Kim said that the IOC had made donations to North Korea and would continue to do so in the future.

The IOC donated 7,000 tonnes of food aid to the North earlier this year while the German Daimler Benz Motor Company gave it a minivan and other sports supplies as part of an "Olympic solidarity" programme.

Kim said that the joint games could serve as a mechanism between the rival Koreas and make progress where political initiatives had failed.

"If politics cannot resolve the deadlocked situation between Seoul and Pyongyang, we need to turn to other options and a sports exchange programme is certainly one of them."

President Kim Dae-jung initiated his unique "sunshine policy" of boosting non-official sporting and cultural contacts between the divided Koreas after coming to power in February.

Warne getting better

MELBOURNE, Oct 28 (AP/Reuters/Internet): Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne moved a step closer to making his first-class comeback when he practised with Victoria's Sheffield Shield team on Wednesday.

Under the guidance of wrist spin coach Terry Jenner, Warne bowled around seven overs during the practice session, slowly building up to near full pace.

Jenner said Warne would not be ready for Victoria's next Sheffield Shield match against New South Wales but would be considered for a one-day match at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on November 8.

"He would need to be pleased with that effort," Jenner said

after watching Warne practice. "The last over was terrific because he bowled the leg-stump line that we know he is capable

of. "It was somewhat slower than what he has bowled before but this is to only test his

shoulder and not see how well he can bowl."

Warne underwent surgery on his right shoulder in May and is hoping to be back in time for the forthcoming Ashes series against England.

He scored an unbeaten century last weekend playing for St Kilda in the Melbourne district competition but did not bowl. He said he would play for St Kilda again this weekend.

But whether he bowls will depend on how his shoulder responds Thursday after Wednesday's session.

Warne said he desperately wants to play again but doesn't want to risk further injury.

Warne said he was adamant he would not rush his return.

"The real test is how I pull up tomorrow," Warne said. "I will ice it, see the physio and see how much strength I've got and then have another bowl."

"I won't be doing anything that is going to rush it, if it means I have to wait two months or a month or whatever it takes, I will wait until there is no stiffness and I pull up okay before I actually play."

Kazakhstan, long billed as an underdog, qualified for the 1999 FIFA World Youth Under-20 Championship in Nigeria after finishing second to Saudi Arabia in a recent group match held in Thailand, said a statement from the Malaysian-based AFC.

Kazakhs create FIFA history

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 28: Kazakhstan has broken new ground in Asian soccer, becoming the first Central Asian team to qualify for a FIFA World Championship, the Asian Football Confederation said Wednesday, reports AP.

Kazakhstan, long billed as an underdog, qualified for the 1999 FIFA World Youth Under-20 Championship in Nigeria after finishing second to Saudi Arabia in a recent group match held in Thailand, said a statement from the Malaysian-based AFC.

The IOC headquarters is closely working with the KOC to make this happen," Kim said. "I am confident that things will move ahead as planned," he added.

2 Aussies banned

MELBOURNE, Oct 28: An Australian weightlifter and a wrestler have both tested positive to using illegal drugs and have been banned for selection to Australian Olympic teams for two years, reports AP.

The National Sports Dispute Center said Friday that weightlifter Gavin Kulper had breached the anti-doping policy of the Australian Olympic Committee by admitting using stanozolol, an anabolic agent.

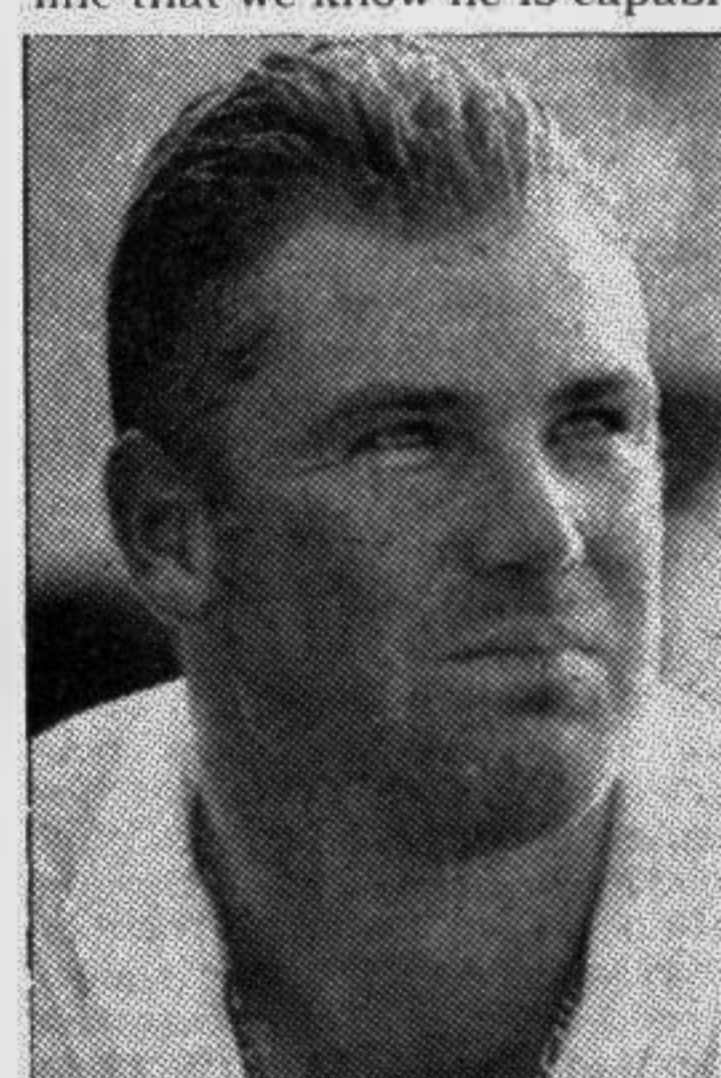
Phillip Fox, a wrestler, has also been suspended for two years after returning a sample containing prolantane, a stimulant.

The pair have also been banned from receiving Australian Olympic Committee funding and holding any position on the AOC.

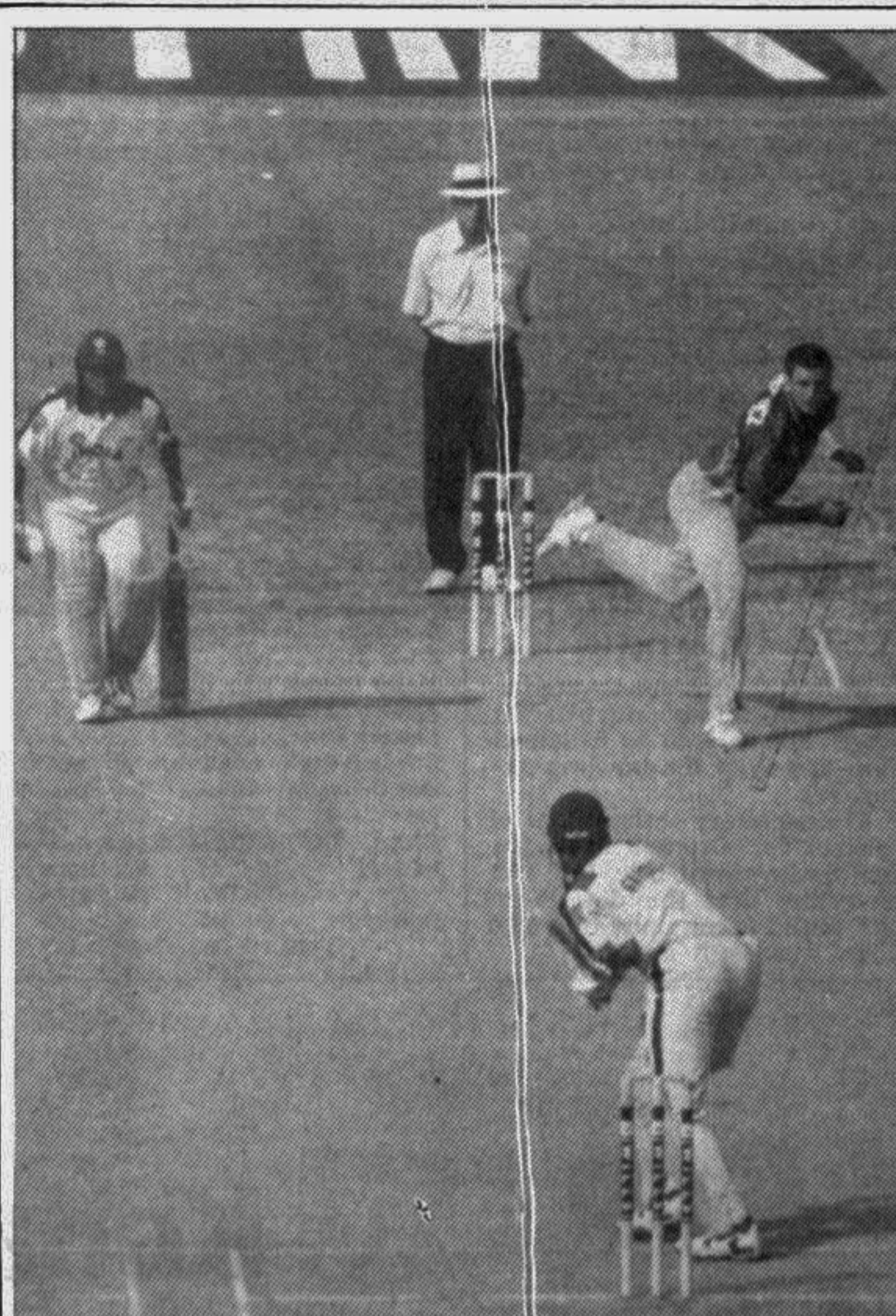
Kulper's suspension runs from September 13, 1997, the date he provided the urine sample containing stanozolol.

Fox's ban is from June 7, 1997, the date he returned a positive urine sample at the national wrestling championships.

Kulper's ban comes only weeks after another weightlifter, Duncan Van Rooyen, a reserve for the Commonwealth Games team, revealed that he had tested positive to taking a banned substance, Clenbuterol.



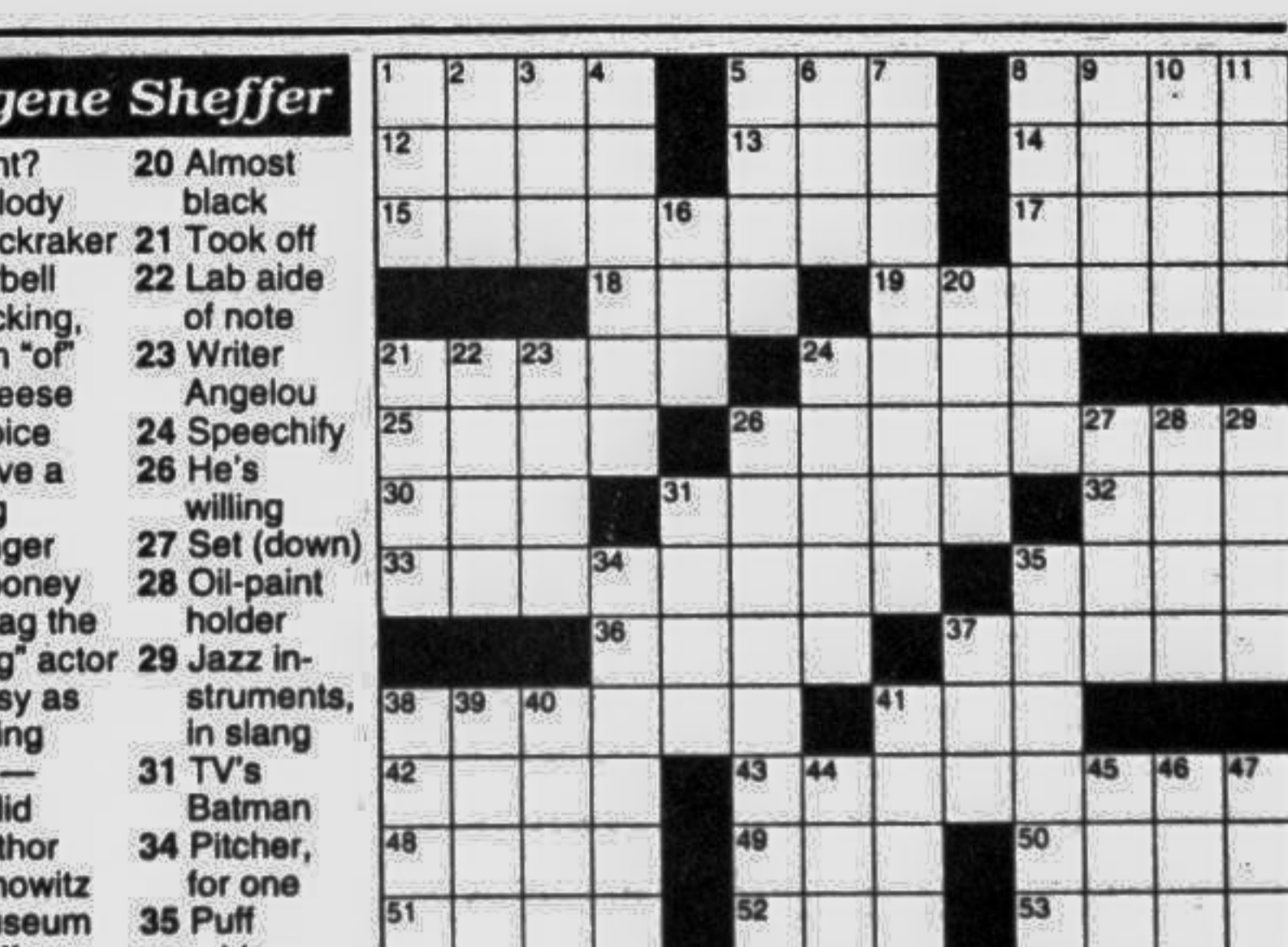
SHANE WARNE



Indian opener Saurav Ganguly is about to play a delivery from Michael Kasprovic during yesterday's quarterfinal. —Star photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS
- 1 "Upstairs, Downstairs" portrayal
- 5 Prohibit
- 8 Screwy
- 12 Staffer
- 13 Carnival setting
- 14 Director
- 15 Great pains
- 17 "Cheers" patron
- 18 Raw rock
- 19 Baffler
- 21 The sky, -maybe
- 24 Gen.
- 25 Old expiative
- 26 "Pulp Fiction" actor
- 30 Eddie of vaudeville
- 31 Fatigue
- 32 "La Cage - Folles"
- 33 Burlesque
- 35 Emotional sensation, for short
- 36 Noble Italian name
- 37 Carnival attractions
- 38 Daisy variety
- 41 Energy
- 42 Kine
- 43 Journey journal?
- 48 Heinz
- 49 Overseas agreement?
- 50 Judicial
- 51 Bridge payment
- 52 Roulette
- 53 Take to the lake
- 54 Gen.
- 55 Old expiative
- 56 "Pulp Fiction" actor
- 57 Eddie of vaudeville
- 58 Fatigue
- 59 "La Cage - Folles"
- 60 Burlesque
- 61 Emotional sensation, for short
- 62 Noble Italian name
- 63 Carnival attractions
- 20 Almost black
- 21 Took off
- 22 Lab aide of note
- 23 Writer
- 24 Speechify
- 26 He's willing
- 27 Set (down)
- 28 Oil-paint holder
- 29 Jazz instruments, in slang
- 31 TV's
- 32 Pitcher, for one
- 35 Puff adders
- 37 Gun the engine
- 38 Glaswegian, e.g.
- 39 Vagrant
- 40 MP's quarry
- 41 Receipt stamp
- 44 Wish
- 45 Bass
- 46 - Wan Kenobi
- 47 Prized possession



CRYPTOQUIP

P G J C J P G M I J P Y Q C I
B Q I I S Z V M P B O O Q
I V J J B S T Z P G T P Y V J I ?
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I'VE OFTEN HEARD THAT RIVAL POTATO FARMERS SIMPLY DON'T SEE EYE TO EYE.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: B 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.