



Players and officials of the victorious South African team with the Wills International Cup.

Star photo by AKM Mohsin

Feyenoord taste defeat

AMSTERDAM, Nov 1: Michael Busker molen and Dennis den Turk scored goals and AZ Alkmaar, coached by former Feyenoord boss Willem van Hanegem, handed the Rotterdam club their first league loss of the season Saturday, 2-1, reports AP.

The defeat left Feyenoord level on points at the top of the league with FC Twente, who won 3-0 Friday at Fortuna Sittard. The Rotterdam club has one match in hand to Twente and a superior goal difference.

The victory took AZ, who were promoted from the Dutch First Division at the end of last season, to sixth place. It was also revenge for Van Hanegem, who was fired by Feyenoord in 1996.

Busker molen opened the scoring for Alkmaar in the 43rd minute before Den Turk double the lead on the hour. Feyenoord captain Jean Paul van Gastel pulled back a goal in the 75th minute, setting up an exciting last 15 minutes, but Feyenoord could not find the equalizer.

In Endhoven, PSV thrashed Sparta Rotterdam 4-0 on the strength of three first-half goals by Ruud van Nistelrooij. Belgian international Luc Nilis also scored before the break to give Bobby Robson's side their fourth victory of the season and lift them to ninth place.

In other matches, Willem II Tilburg drew 1-1 at MVV Maastricht, while SC Heerenveen beat Vitesse Arnhem 2-1, and Cambuur Leeuwarden downed NAC Breda 3-1.

Ajax Amsterdam take on NEC Nijmegen Sunday knowing that a victory would put them level on points with arch-rivals Feyenoord.

Malisse makes his mark

MEXICO CITY, Nov 1: Competing in only his fifth career ATP Tour event, Belgian teenager Xavier Malisse stormed into his first final Saturday by whipping defending champion Francisco Clavet of Spain at the 315,000 dollars Mexican Open, reports Reuters.

Ranked 361st in the world, the 18-year-old qualifier dumped the fourth-seeded Clavet 6-2, 6-2, snapping Clavet's eight-match winning streak at this event.

Malisse, who eliminated top seed Felix Mantilla of Spain in the second round, will be the fifth qualifier to appear in an ATP Tour final this year when he faces unseeded Czech Jiri Novak in Sunday's final.

Real blush Extremadura



MADRID, Nov 1: Croatian Robert Jarni scored less than a minute after kickoff and Madrid got goals from five different players to rout Extremadura 5-1 Saturday, retaking the Spanish First Division lead at least for a day, reports AP.

Jarni's countryman Davor Suker also scored as Madrid improved to 5-2-1 and 17 points, two more than Mallorca, who play their eighth-round match Sunday when they travel to La Coruna.

In other games Saturday, Barcelona moved back into second place with a 4-1 victory over Real Sociedad. Elsewhere it was: Atletico Madrid 3, Alaves 0; Athletic Bilbao 2, Espanyol 2; Betis 1, Salamanca 0; Valencia, 4, Zaragoza 1; and Racing Santander 2, Celta Vigo 2.

In other games Sunday, it is: Villareal vs. Tenerife and Valladolid vs. Oviedo.

At Almeria, Jarni's goal put Madrid ahead quickly and Savoia added a controversial header in the 22nd. Fernando Hierro's penalty made it 3-0 in the 37th.

Suker curled another in to make the score 4-0 in the 59th minute, and, after a sloppy defense allowed Carlos Alejandro Dure to score a compensation goal for Extremadura in the 66th, Clarence Seedorf added the final just before the final double whistle.

At Barcelona, Brazilians Rivaldo and Sonny Anderson both scored a pair to rally Barca after they fell behind early.

Yugoslav Darko Kovacevic gave Sociedad the lead in the 24th but Rivaldo equalised only eight minutes later, and five minutes after that Anderson chested a ball in to give Barcelona the lead.

After the break Rivaldo returned to beat several defenders before scoring in the 63rd and Anderson added his second in the 87th.

At Santander, Victor Sanchez scored his second — a penalty — with four minutes remaining to earn the draw for Racing and halting Celta from keeping up with the other front-runners.

Juan Sanchez gave Celta the lead just before halftime but Victor Sanchez equalised eight minutes into the second half.

Rafael Berges gave Celta the apparent victory in the 77th before Victor Sanchez earned Racing the point.

At Seville, Olivero 'Ol' Alvarez scored in the 55th minute to give Betis only their second victory of the season and Javier

Clemente a successful debut as their coach after being dismissed as the Spanish national team coach following the World Cup.

The home crowd was ecstatic with the victory, hoping the victory can turn around a side that includes widely acclaimed Denilson and Finidi George.

At Madrid, Jose Mari Romero and Italian Stefano Torrisi both scored in the first 18 minutes and Atletico recovered from last week's 4-0 embarrassing loss to Mallorca.

Romero's header in the seventh and Torrisi's in the 18th spotted Atletico a 2-0 lead and Argentine Fernando Correa headed in a third in the final seconds.

The match was littered with yellow cards and Atletico played a man down for 40 minutes after Vladimir Jugovic of Yugoslavia was sent off with

two in the 33rd minute. The manpower was equalised when Jorge Ascoitia was ejected with a red in the 73rd.

At Zaragoza, three second-half goals in 16 minutes lifted Valencia just ahead of Zaragoza with 12 points.

Romania Adrian Ilie gave Valencia the lead in the second minute but Lily Gonzalez drew Zaragoza even in the 23rd.

In the second half Italian Cristiano Lucarelli scored in the 68th minute, Swede Stefan Schwarz followed in the 79th and Gaizka Mendietia finished in the 84th.

At Bilbao, Carlos Garcia scored in the first minute of injury time and Bilbao rallied for the draw after Espanyol midfielder Moises Artega was expelled in the 84th.

Paraguayan Miguel Angel Benitez scored twice for Espanyol — in the 12th and the 62nd minute, but the original equaliser in the 25th from Joseba Etxeberria kept Athletic in the game.

Noblet BANGKOK, Nov 1: Almost 10,000 runners, along with some of their canine friends, took to the streets of Bangkok Sunday to raise money for Thai athletes at the upcoming Asian Games, reports AP.

South Korea's Samsung Electronics Company, one of the Games sponsors, pledged a donation of one US dollar for every participant in the 5-kilometre "fun run."

The money will go to the Amateur Athletics Association of Thailand to help athletes at the December 6-20 Asian Games which will be staged in Bangkok.

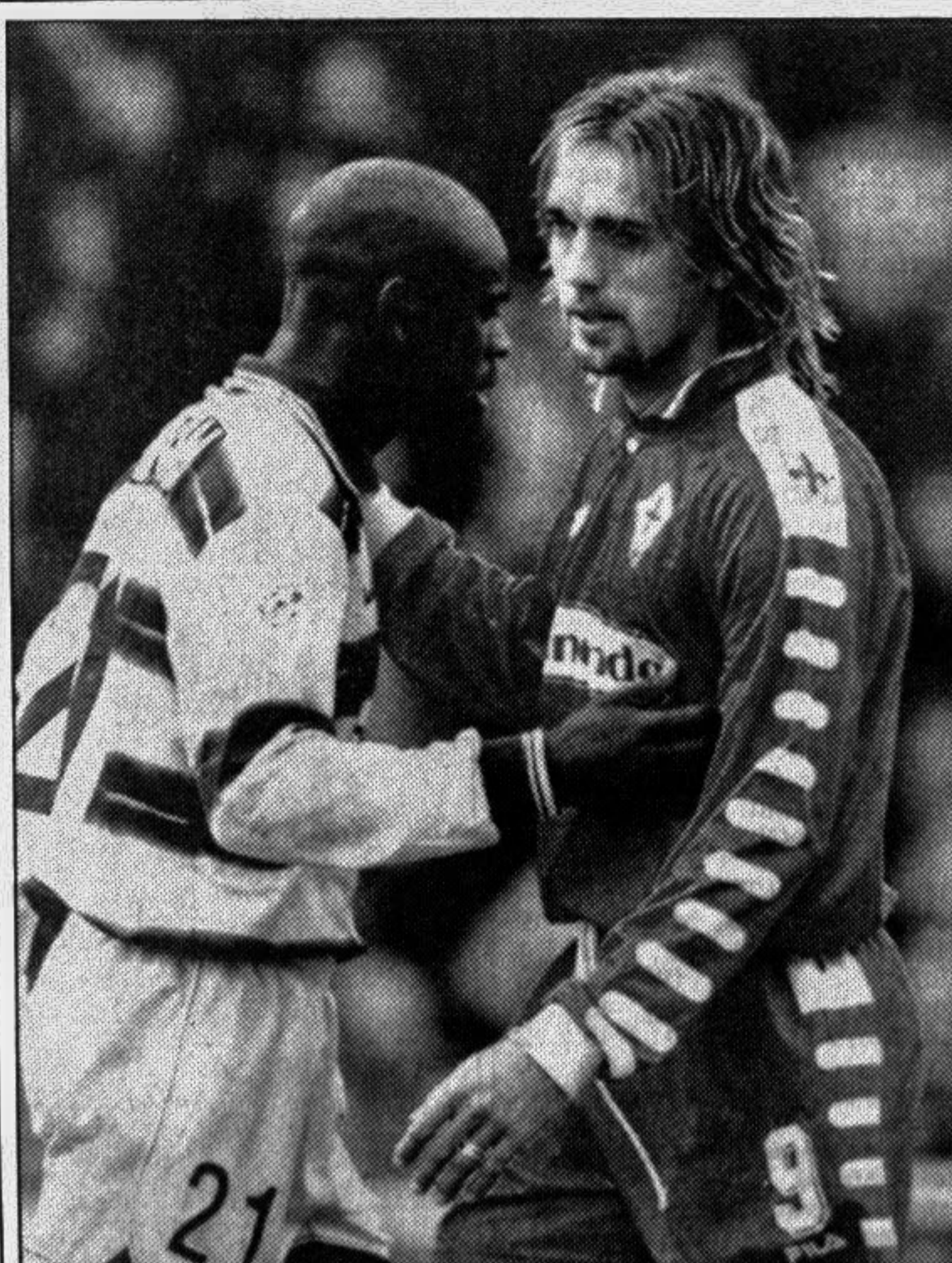
Taking part Sunday were celebrities, sports stars, youngsters and even a few pet dogs that trotted alongside their masters. A wheelchair race was also staged.

Winning the men's 5km was Nuntakorn Chukaw in a time of 14 minutes, 55 seconds, while Vilaiwan Khumpitak registered the best women's time, a 16:58.00.

The Asian Games will attract 43 countries from across the continent. A number, including Thailand, are finding it difficult to field full, well-trained teams in wake of the Asian economic crisis.

The sponsor, which will stage similar runs in Beijing and New Delhi, said 9,700 people took part in the Bangkok run but rounded off the figure to 10,000 and signed a check for 10,000 dollars.

While today's activities will raise money and help our athletes prepare for the Asian Games, they will also pass on a strong message of support and encouragement from all Thai people," said Gen. Chetta Thanajaro, chairman of the Thai National Olympic Committee, at the event.



Fiorentina's Gabriel Batistuta (R) receives encouragement from Parma's Lilian Thuram. The Serie A clash on October 31 ended 2-0 in Parma's favour. — AFP photo

Eintracht end Bayern run

BONN, Nov 1: Leaders Bayern Munich slumped to their first league defeat of the season when they had a man sent off and lost 1-0 at promoted Eintracht Frankfurt in the German First Division on Saturday, reports Reuters.

Eintracht midfielder Thomas Sobotzik scored the only goal of the match in the 32nd minute to stop Bayern's brilliant run of eight wins and a draw.

Sobotzik delighted the 58,000 crowd packing Frankfurt's stadium by collecting a headed pass from captain Ralf Weber to beat Bayern keeper Oliver Kahn from close range.

Bayern, who dominated but were clumsy in front of goal, were reduced to 10 men when striker Carsten Jancker was sent off for a second bookable offence in the 61st minute.

They still have a comfortable five-point lead over city rivals TSV 1860 Munich, who lost 3-2 at home to lowly VfL Wolfsburg.

Bayern and TSV 1860 clash in a top-of-the-table derby next Saturday.

"We played badly, especially in the first half," said Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld, whose men face a tough Test away to Barcelona in the Champions League on Wednesday.

"We give Eintracht far too many opportunities. They deserved their victory."

Eintracht, who had only won once this season, moved two places up to 14th.

TSV, who had lined up eight matches without defeat, went 2-0 down after goals from Detlev Dammier and Steffen Baumgart in the seventh and 47th minutes, respectively.

Striker Markus Schroth restored hope for the "Lions", re-emerging as a soccer force after years in the doldrums, by reducing the arrears in the 84th minute.

But two minutes later, Marijan Kovacevic put Wolfsburg 3-1 up on the penalty spot.

With the issue already beyond doubt, striker Bernd Hobsch scored another goal for the home side in the dying moments.

"Our strategy was to put them under pressure but after they took the lead, we became nervous," said TSV coach Werner Lorant. "After we went 3-1 down, I understood that we would lose."

Wolfsburg, recovering from a disastrous start to the season, have now won their last two matches. They climb three places up to 11th in the 18-strong league.

Borussia Dortmund and Ruhr Valley neighbours Schalke 04 were forced to postpone their home games scheduled for Saturday because of flooded pitches.

The match in Gelsenkirchen between Schalke and SC Freiburg will be played on Tuesday. No new date has been set for the Dortmund-Hamburg, SV match.

Krajicek, ranked No. 11 in the world, improved his record against Sampras to 5-2 and has won the last three encounters. Wimbledon champion in

1996, Krajicek also has a good record in Stuttgart: he won the title in 1995 and has reached his second consecutive final.

Sampras is assured of keeping his top ranking at least through next week's Paris indoor tournament and the battle for No. 1 is unlikely to be settled until Hanover.

But the loss could make it more difficult for Sampras to become the first player to finish as No. 1 for six years in a row.

"It's a tough one to take at this point. I'll have to try to regroup," Sampras said. "He seems to play with no fear against me."

Krajicek, the 1996 Wimbledon champion, saved a set point in the opening set with a couple of good serves and Sampras then fought off two break points to force a tiebreaker. A cross-court forehand winner gave him the set.

England respond positively



PERTH, Nov 1: England's preparations for the Ashes series were thrown into further disarray here today when opening batsman Mark Butcher was struck above the right eye by a thunderbolt delivery from a young fast bowler, reports AFP.

Butcher, 26, was forced to leave the field with blood streaming from a gaping wound just before lunch on the second day of the four-day game against Western Australia.

He had 10 stitches inserted into the three centimetre wide gash by a doctor at the ground and spent the final two sessions of the day resting in the team's changing room.

Butcher, who has played in 14 Tests, was felled by the second delivery of the England first innings, sent down by 24-year-old Matthew Nicholson, in only his fourth first-class game.

Despite the Butcher incident, England's batsmen fared well, taking the side to 191-2 by stumps.

Western Australia declared with a first innings 8-334. Butcher's injury comes in the wake of fitness problems to captain Alec Stewart and the side's only other specialist opening batsman, Mike Atherton.

With the first Test less than three weeks away both are sitting out this match — Stewart with a sore back, and Atherton with a bruised right hip.

England manager Graham Gooch said: "Butcher has a bit of a headache, but there is no serious damage. He has a deep cut on the corner of the eye."

"It was a case of total misjudgement. We believe the ball got through his protective gear because the gap between his

helmet and grille is a bit bigger than with some players. Somehow, the ball went straight through, Gooch said. "It was a nasty blow — it hit him straight on."

Butcher walked off with assistance, holding a bloodied cloth to wound. Gooch said the best thing for Butcher would be to return to the crease as soon as he was well enough.

"I am sure he will want to get out there tomorrow," he said. Gooch said Atherton had improved sufficiently to be able to bat in the nets Saturday and today and he hoped Stewart would be able to have a similar workout Monday.

"I am hopeful both players will be ready for the next first-class game, against South Australia, starting in Adelaide Saturday," he said.

Perth has been a disaster zone for England players on recent tours. Gooch was injured in the nets here eight years ago and Stewart broke a finger while practising four years ago.

The England bowlers continued to toil for limited success early today when Western Australia's low-order players displayed stubborn resistance.

Peace pair Darren Gough and Alan Mullally each picked up a further wicket to finish with four and three respectively.

The tourists' fielding remained shoddy as two further catches — both off Gough — went to ground, making five missed chances for the innings.

There was plenty of cheer for the England batsmen. Though stand-in opener John Crawley failed, bowled by paceman Sean Cary who speared a ball between bat and pad to skittle the stumps, England's other batsmen had valuable workouts.

Left-hander Graham Thorpe compiled a vigorous 42 from 68 balls and acting captain Nasser Hussain (93 not out) and Mark Ramprakash (42 not out) stroked the ball fluently.

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the four-day match between England and Western Australia at the WACA on Sunday:

WESTERN AUSTRALIA: First innings (Overnight 265-6) Hussey c Thorpe b Mullally 3 Campbell lbw b Gough 1 Langer c and b Gough 85 Kitchin lbw b Gough 106 Dighton c Cork b Mullally 23 Rogers c Hegg b Ramprakash 14 Harvey lbw b Mullally 7 Nicholson not out 56 Gildroy c Hussain b Gough 9 Jurgensen not out 13 Extras (b-5, lb-7, w-1, nb-2) 15 Total (for eight wickets declared) 334

Fall of wickets: 1-4; 2-4; 3-149; 4-193; 5-230; 6-249; 7-266; 8-292.

Did not bat: S Cary. Bowler: O M R W Mullally 25 8 56 3 Gough 27.5 9 74 4 Cork 16 0 63 0 Fraser 25 6 79 0 Croft 15 4 47 0 Ramprakash 2 0 4 1

ENGLAND: First innings Butcher retired hurt 0 Crawley b Cary 7 Hussain not out 93 Thorpe c Cary b Nicholson 42 Ramprakash not out 42 Extras: (b-1, lb-1, nb-5) 7 Total: (for two wickets) 191

Fall of wickets: 1-16; 2-92. Still to bat: W. Hegg, D. Cork, R. Croft, D. Gough, A. Fraser, A. Mullally.

Bowler: O M R W Nicholson 19 10 40 1 Cary 15 3 35 1 Jurgensen 11 11 37 0 Harvey 10 1 37 0 Oldroyd 12 3 31 0 Kitchin 2 0 11 0



Manchester United's Dwight Yorke goes past Everton goalie Thomas Mhyer to score during their Premiership encounter at Goodison Park on Oct 31. — AP/UNB photo

Pete stoops to Richard



STUTTGART, Nov 1: Richard Krajicek, one of the few players to have a winning record against Pete Sampras, up through next week's Paris indoor tournament and the battle for No. 1 is unlikely to be settled until Hanover.

But the loss could make it more difficult for Sampras to become the first player to finish as No. 1 for six years in a row.

"It's a tough one to take at this point. I'll have to try to regroup," Sampras said. "He seems to play with no fear against me."

Krajicek, the 1996 Wimbledon champion, saved a set point in the opening set with a couple of good serves and Sampras then fought off two break points to force a tiebreaker. A cross-court forehand winner gave him the set.

Sampras saved two set points in the second, hitting an ace on one of them. Going for a big second serve, he hit it just a bit long for his third double-fault if the game to give Krajicek the second set.

"I was going for big second serves the entire match and I pushed some long," Sampras said. "I got tight."

The American had another double-fault in the decisive tiebreaker to fall down 4-2 and he never recovered.

Krajicek hit an ace to gain three match points. Sampras saved the first two with service winners but the Dutchman clinched the match with a volley on the net.

"It's very frustrating. I felt I was playing very well this week and had a chance to win this tournament," said Sampras, winner of 11 Grand Slam titles, one short of Roy Emerson's record.

Connors defends Tokyo title

TOKYO, Nov 1: American tennis legend Jimmy Connors denied any disadvantage of an eight-year age gap to beat Andres Gomez and defend the champions tennis tournament today, reports AFP.

"Of course, it's an advantage. There's no substitute for youth," said Connors, now 46, after scoring a 6-2, 6-3 victory in the final over the 1990 French Open champion, who is 38.

"So the older you get, the more experience you get, but the problem is when you get these experience, you are too old to do anything with it."

"I would not like to play against somebody 30 years old or 25 years old now, but as long as I'm in the age group, I feel at least I can go out and try to compete," said Connors.

The five-time US Open champion said the secret of his eagerness to play tennis was not to practice every day.

"This is my last tournament of the year so I have four months off. I just enjoy to get away from tennis and do other things and take care of the business," said Connors.

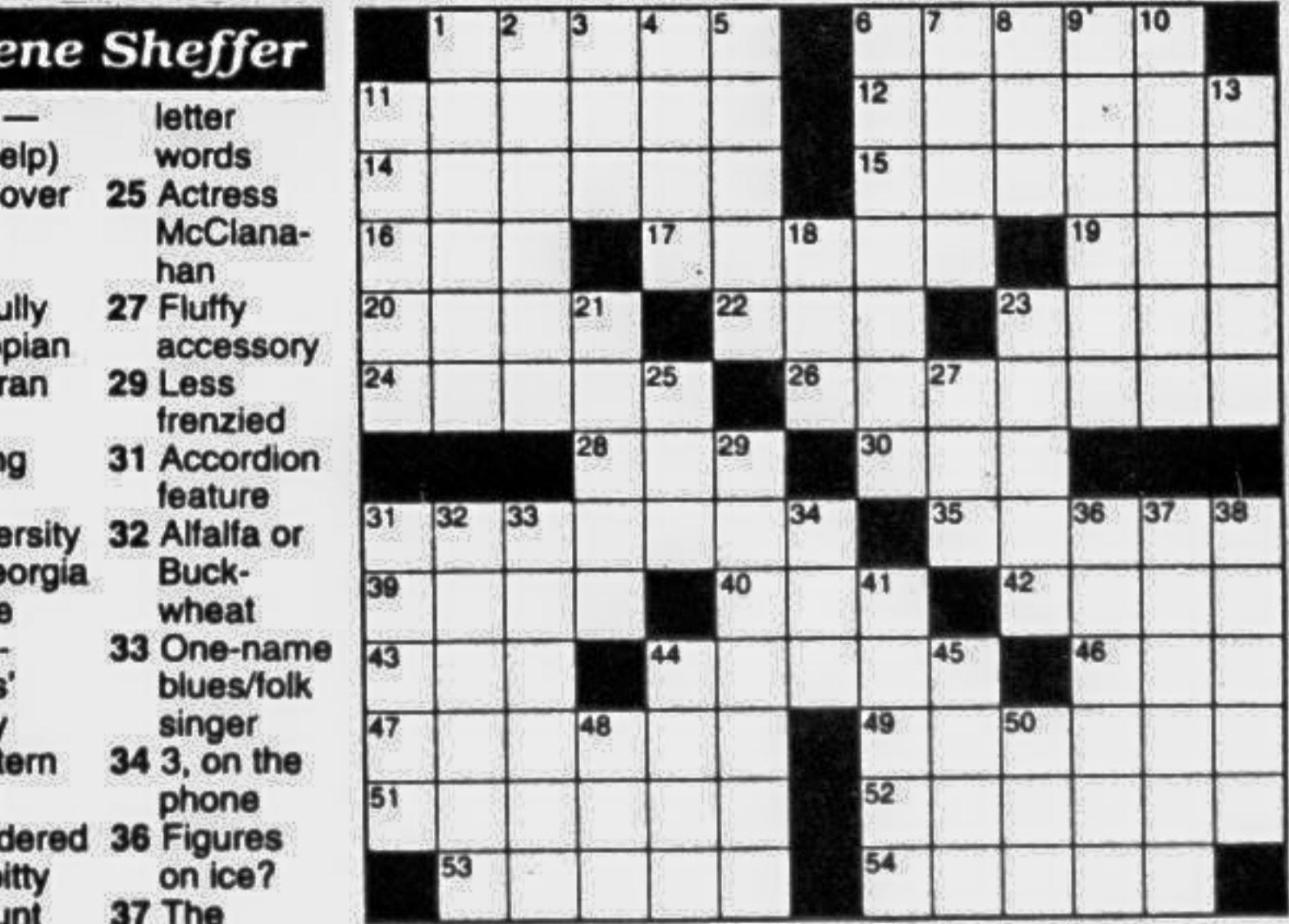
"I don't enjoy going out and practicing and doing that on daily basis any more. It's more important for me to come in and to be eager when I play my matches."

"So I go out and play like I did today — that's the most important thing," Connors concluded.

SIX NO TRUMPS A K Sayeedul Huq EAST BIDS SIX IN A COMPETITIVE BIDDING (Hand # 130) North: S: 109532, H: K92, D: 8, C: AQ96. West: S: None, H: A765, D: K10985432, C: 10. East: S: A8, H: QJ1083, D: A7, C: K52. South (D): S: KQJ764, H: 4, D: Q, C: J8743. Bidding: Neither side was vulnerable. South: 2 Spades, 4 Spades, Pass. West: 3 Diamonds, 5 Hearts, Pass. North: 3 Spades, Pass. East: 4 Hearts, 6 Hearts. THE PLAY: In the absence of any information about the Club suit, South opened his King of Spades — apparently an innocent but ultimately a suicidal move. The Club loser in the dummy was thrown on the Ace of Spades. The declarer had to give up the Heart King and that was all. Six Hearts were made and East West recovered some losses. Needless to say that a Club move would have set the contract. However, South could not be faulted too much for not making the Club move.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS: 42 Paddock, 43 pop, 44 Render, 46 Trap, 47 Director's, 11 Fight, 12 Steer, 14 "Yes", 15 Sagittarius, 16 Anonymous, 17 "to the Church on Time", 19 Always, 20 "Holy cow!", 22 Knock, 23 Formerly, 24 Stage direction, 26 Humiliated, 28 Greek consonants, 30 Deteriorate, 31 Go forward, 35 Forward, 39 Take on cargo, 40 Fun 'n' games. DOWN: 4 Give up (help), 5 Passover, 6 Feast, 7 Aesopian, 8 List, 9 University of Georgia, 10 Argonauts', 11 Western star?, 13 Blundered, 18 Itty-bitty, 21 Therefore, 23 Four, 25 Actress, 27 Fluffy, 29 Less, 31 Accordion, 32 Atlanta or Buck, 33 One-name blues/folk singer, 34 3, on the phone, 36 Figures on ice?, 37 The Little Mermaid's namesakes, 38 Compact, 41 He leads a charmed life, 44 Tree trunk, 45 Largest of the Marianas, 48 "Mony Mon" opener, 50 Depot: abbr.



CRYPTOQUIP: TZXNY ZS ZQAC AQTVSZE VI HSY J CZJ HSEN QHXI ICHY IJHQYI. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I'M VERY SURE THAT A DEPARTMENT STORE DETECTIVE IS, IN TRUTH, A COUNTER SPY. Today's Cryptoquip clue: T equals M. — 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.