

European football scene

UNDATED, Nov 2 (Reuters/AP): England's Manchester United and Arsenal warmed up for European action this week with domestic victories. Juventus moved to the top of the Serie A for the first time in the league, in Spain Mallorca lost their lead in the Spanish Premier league, Hertha Berlin went fourth in Germany while Feyenoord at the weekend.

ENGLAND: Manchester United smashed four goals past Everton to move to within a point of Aston Villa at the top of the Premier League.

Duncan Ferguson scored a consolation goal for the hosts — but Everton, unbeaten in ten games before this match, had no answer to United's pace and power.

Villa's match at Chelsea was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

Champions Arsenal won 1-0 at Coventry city in a match marred by the death of a steward after he was struck by the Arsenal team bus in an accident outside the stadium before the game.

England midfielder Paul Gascoigne returned for his first game since leaving a rehabilitation clinic in Middlesbrough's 1-1 draw with Nottingham Forest.

ITALY: Striker Filippo Inzaghi scored twice as Juventus moved to the top of Serie A for the first time this season with a 2-0 win over Sampdoria at the Delle Alpi stadium.

Victory was enough to put the defending champions a point ahead of Fiorentina, who have set the First Division pace since the opening day of the season but slipped to a 2-0 defeat at Parma.

Struggling Inter Milan had Portugal's Paolo Sousa sent-off on the way to a third successive defeat.

Last year's runners-up fell 3-2 at home to Bari, despite an inspired last five minutes from second-half substitute Ronaldo, who scored a penalty and made a goal for Francesco Colonnese.

Novak clips Malisse's wings

MEXICO CITY, Nov 2: Czech tennis star Novak ended his qualification for his first ATP Tour title by defeating the teenager 6-3, 6-3 on Sunday in the final of the \$15,000 Mexican Open tennis event, reports Reuters.

Novak, who lost to Thomas Muster in the 1996 final, claimed his second career ATP Tour title and the first prize of 45,000 dollars. He won his other singles title in Auckland, New Zealand, in 1996.

The 23-year-old Novak has struggled this year, mainly due to an early-season virus, and saw his ranking plummet 50 spots to 98th. With this win, Novak boosted his season mark to 17-20 and will see his ranking rise into the low 70s.

Competing in only his fifth career ATP Tour event, the 18-year-old Malisse upset top seed Felix Mantilla and defending champion Francisco Clavet en route to his first professional final.

Ranked 361st in the world, Malisse became the fifth qualifier to appear in an ATP Tour final this year and was trying to become the second to win an event. With his showing here, he will climb to approximately 185th when the rankings are released today.

SPAIN: Held to a 1-1 draw against Deportivo, Mallorca lost the top spot of the Spanish soccer league to Real Madrid but kept ahead of FC Barcelona on goal difference at the end of the eighth round.

Atop the table, Madrid now boasts 17 points, one more than Mallorca and Barcelona.

Playing at home, Deportivo dominated midfield for the first half hour of Sunday's match, keeping Mallorca's Argentine star goalkeeper Carlos Roa on his toes.

Then a goal from fellow Argentine Leonardo Biagini in the 32nd minute put Mallorca one up — a tidy finish to the team's first opportunity of the match that began with a dash up the right wing from Daniel Dani Gonzalez.

The equaliser came ten minutes later when Brazil's Djalminha broke Roa's unbeaten record this season from the penalty spot.

After the break Mallorca dominated play but was unable to find the back of Deportivo's net.

Coming in the wake of Madrid's 5-1 routing of lowly Extremadura on Saturday, the draw meant Mallorca's brief period of glory at the top of the table was over.

Barcelona trounced Real Sociedad 4-1 on Saturday.

In Sunday's other games, Tenerife routed division newcomer Villarreal 5-2 in a spectacular game between two relatively lowly clubs.

Makaya scored his and Tenerife's first goal the 38th minute, with Brazilian Emerson Moises Costa making it 2-0 one minute later. Just before the break, Moises Garcia shot home a penalty for Villarreal awarded against Argentine Pablo Ariel Paz for a foul on David Albeldas.

Out on the field again, Andre Luiz of Brazil scored Tenerife's third in the 49th minute. Imanol Alguacil pulled one back for Villarreal in the 62nd, before Makaya scored his second goal and take the score to 4-2. Samuel Slovak of Slovakia sealed the final 5-2 scoreline with 10 minutes left to play.

Elsewhere, Valladolid overcame Oviedo 2-1 in another result that rearranged the lower

half of the table. Jose Luis Perez Caminero scored the first goal of the match in the 55th minute for Valladolid and Croatian Alen Peternac made it 2-0 in the 64th.

A goal from Panamanian Julio Cesar Dely Valdes in the 71st minute reduced the size of Oviedo's defeat.

In the remaining matches of the round played Saturday it was: Athletic Madrid 3, Alaves 0; Athletic Bilbao 2, Espanyol 2; Betis 1, Salamanca 0; Valencia 4, Zaragoza 1; and Racing Santander 2, Celta 2.

GERMANY: Hertha Berlin, hoping to crack the ranks of Europe's top clubs, routed FC Nuremberg 3-0 Sunday to move to fourth in the Bundesliga.

Berlin may still be far away from team management's professed goal, but the club boasting Germany's biggest market has established itself as a league power at home in two First Division years.

Sergei Mandreko's ninth minute goal, followed by a shot by Sixten Viet seven minutes later, allowed Berlin to coast to their fifth victory in as many outings at Olympiastadium this season.

Berlin, however, hasn't been able to win away. The team has managed just two draws against three losses outside of the German capital.

Alphonse Tchami then scored the 3-0 just before the break against Nuremberg, whose last hopes vanished in the 34th minute when Henning Burger was ejected for repeated fouls.

Berlin's win also meant that four of the five teams chasing Bayern Munich and second-place 1860 Munich gained ground on the two front-runners over the weekend.

Leverkusen, Berlin, Stuttgart and Kaiserslautern picked up three points while fifth place Hamburger SV's match was postponed because of muddy fields.

Berlin's win also made up to its home fans for the 4-2 whipping the team received last week by cross-town rival TeBe Berlin in the German Cup.

"After that Cup disaster, those early goals were important to us," said Hertha coach

Juergen Rober. TeBe, leading the second division, is another team receiving heavy financing in hopes of capitalising on the huge fan base in Berlin, who for years didn't have a single First Division club.

HOLLAND: Ajax Amsterdam warmed up for Wednesday's Champions League clash with Olympiakos of Greece by trouncing NEC Nijmegen 4-0.

Ajax (7-2-2) drew level with Feyenoord at the top of the league with 23 points, but the Rotterdamers have played a game less.

Ajax have scored 13 goals and conceded just one in winning their last three games, and now has the league's best defensive and offensive records.

Finn Jari Litmanen and Georgian Shota Arveladze missed good chances before the floodlights failed in the 16th minute causing a half-hour delay.

But the pair made amends soon after the restart, Litmanen with a sharp headed goal from Ronald de Boer's centre and Arveladze with a typical striker's goal when the ball dropped loose close to goal.

Jack de Gier made things worse for NEC on 39 minutes when he was sent off for a wild two-footed tackle.

Just as NEC was coming back into the game, Peter Hoekstra broke on the left and pulled the ball back for Brazilian Wamberto to score from 10 metres. Then Arveladze set up Richard Witschge for the fourth.

But with the game won, holes opened up in the Ajax defense, with the inexperienced Arno Splinter at their heart, and Edwin van der Sar had to prove his great class as a keeper with a string of saves.

Changing managers didn't help unless bottom club RKC Wallwijk this week. It sacked Peter Boeve Monday after the club's seventh defeat and appointed ex-Roda JC boss Martin Jol.

But a last-minute own-goal from defender Michel van Zundert prolonged their losing streak Sunday. RKC lost 2-1 at home to De Graafschap Doetinchem.

The day's other game saw Roda win 3-0 at FC Utrecht.



Action from the Champions' Trophy encounter between hosts Pakistan and Olympic silver medalists Spain on Nov 1. The game finished 2-2. — AFP photo

Champions' Trophy Australia, ROK draw

LAHORE, Pakistan, Nov 2 (AP): Australia drew 1-1 with South Korea in the only match of Day Three in the 20th Champions' Trophy men's hockey tournament here today.

South Korea J (Kim Young-kui 24), Australia I (Trony Elder 60).

5 HK booters charged

HONG KONG, Nov 2: Hong Kong's anti-corruption watchdog has charged five footballers with conspiring to lose a World Cup qualifying match against Thailand, reports AFP.

The five defendants face a total of 17 counts of corruption and will appear in Hong Kong's eastern court on Tuesday, the Independent Commission Against Corruption said.

The footballers are accused of conspiring with jailed soccer star Chan Tsz-Kong in fixing a series of local First Division matches as well as the Thai Cup qualifier in March 1996.

Wal-man faces another conspiracy charge over causing local team Sing Tao to lose a first division match October 1996.

Hao to join Palace

BEIJING, Nov 2: China's First Division league top scorer Hao Haidong will join England's First Division side Crystal Palace next season, the official news agency Xinhua reported today, reports AFP.

Hao, who scored 18 goals this season for league winners Dalian, will join Dalian teammate Sun Jihai and Shanghai's Fan Zhiyi at the London club, the news agency said.

It provided no details of Hao's contract with Crystal Palace, where Fan has a four-year contract and Sun has a two-year contract.

Two other Chinese football stars are already playing in Europe, with Liaoning striker Li Jinyun playing with Nantes and Beijing striker Yang Chen with Frankfurt.

Bangladesh lose 2nd tie

After a brilliant start with a 3-2 win over Uzbekistan on Sunday, Bangladesh lost to India by 4-1 margin in their second match of the four-nation hockey tournament at the National Hockey Stadium in Bangkok, Thailand yesterday, according to a telephone message received here last night.

The match was locked at 1-1 in the first half. Centre-half Musa Miah scored the lone goal for Bangladesh through a penalty stroke in the 28th minute. The other details could not be gathered till filing of this report late last night.

India, who beat Thailand 9-1 in their first match, are now leading the table with full six points and confirmed their

berth in the final while Bangladesh and Thailand, who defeated Uzbekistan 4-2 on Monday, are now sharing the second spot with three points each.

Earlier, on the inaugural day of the meet which has been arranged to mark the opening of the newly established National Hockey Stadium in Bangkok for the forthcoming 13th Asian Games, Bangladesh came from behind to register the thrilling win over Uzbekistan.

Trailing the Uzbeks 0-2 until the mid second half, Bangladesh staged a magnificent rally and scored three goals in a span of 13 minutes.

Musa Miah converted a penalty corner in the 47th minute while Ariful Haque Prince levelled the margin after three minutes. Winger Alamgir Alam netted

the winner in the 60th minute. Bangladesh now have to bet hosts Thailand today in their last robin league match to earn a berth in the November 5 final against India.

BANGLADESH SQUAD: Mamun-ur-Rashid, Rafiqul Islam Kamal (vice-captain), Jahangir Alam, Mirajul Islam, Isa Miah, Syed Rafiqunnabi Nakib, Khurshid Alam, Musa Miah, Rabiuddin Ahmed, Alamgir Alam, Mujahidul Islam Shipul, Ariful Haque Prince, Moududur Rahman Shuvo, Shamsuzzaman, Russell Khan and Tutul Kumar Nag.

Team	M	W	D	L	CF	GA	Pts
India	2	2	0	0	13	2	6
Thailand	2	1	0	1	5	11	3
Bangladesh	2	1	0	1	4	6	3
Uzbekistan	2	0	0	2	4	7	0

France, Spain set to clash

LONDON, Nov 2 (Reuters/Internet): Spain and France are threatening to swamp the UEFA Cup with nine teams between them playing in Tuesday's second round and only one of them trailing after the first leg.

Nether country has a good record in the competition. France has never won it and has only produced two finalists in 40 years. Spain's last success came in 1986 when Real Madrid beat Cologne in the second of their back-to-back wins and the country has to go back to the Inter City Fairs Cup of the 1960's for any other success.

But that could change this season with five Spanish sides in with a chance of making the third round.

Atletico Madrid lead the charge after their 4-2 first leg away win over CSKA Sofia.

Veteran striker Kiko Narvaez is doubtful for the games after missing Saturday's 3-0 league win over Alaves with an ankle injury but Atletico should cruise through.

Real Sociedad have a 3-2 advantage over visiting Dynamo Moscow but their defence was taken apart in a 4-1 defeat by Barcelona on Saturday.

Coach Bernd Krauss is likely to pack the side with midfielders to avoid a repeat, leaving Yugoslav Darko Kovacevic as a lone striker.

Valencia have found a rich seam of form in recent games as a 5-1 demolition of Real Betis was followed at the weekend by an even more impressive 4-1 win at Real Zaragoza.

Romanian World Cup star Adrian Ilie has been the inspiration behind those victories, as his partnership with Argentine Claudio Lopez has started to blossom, the pair scoring five of those nine goals between them.

They drew their first leg at Liverpool 0-0 and were unlucky not to win it. "I'm on a sweet run of form at

the moment, but then again, so is the whole team," said Ilie on Monday.

"We've been playing so well lately and we just need to demonstrate that sort of form against Liverpool.

Liverpool slumped to a 1-0 defeat at Leicester and are struggling to find their early-season form.

Real Betis, who host Willem II Tilburg level at 1-1, have been given a new lease of life by the arrival of new coach Javier Clemente.

He inspired an immediate turnaround in league form on Saturday, as Betis beat Salamanca 1-0 to move off the bottom of the table with Brazilian Denilson finally showing some form.

Celta Vigo are the Spanish team with the toughest task after losing their home first leg 1-0 to English league leaders Aston Villa.

Celta, who have scored 12 times in their last four games, drew 2-2 with Racing Santander at the weekend while Villa had an enforced rest as their game against Chelsea was rained off.

The French quartet of Olympique Lyon, Monaco, Olympique Marseille and Girondins Bordeaux are all at home on Tuesday and well placed.

Lyon, who have won just four of their 11 league games, are in the best position following

ing their 2-1 victory in Belgrade against Crvena Zvezda.

Bordeaux, who slumped to a 3-2 defeat in Strasbourg to leave rivals Marseille top of the French championship this weekend, lead Vitesse Arnhem 1-0.

Despite the domestic hiccup, Bordeaux are unbeaten at home this season and should progress.

Marseille can boast a better record -- they are unbeaten anywhere -- but face an awkward return with Werder Bremen after their 1-1 draw in Germany. "The first leg result is encouraging but this is not enough. When you play a European match, you can lose everything in one evening," said captain Laurent Blanc.

Monaco host AK Graz level at 3-3 and the away goals scored in Austria are a useful back-up should they struggle.

Italy, who have dominated the UEFA Cup for the past 10 years, are not so well placed this season. Fiorentina, knocked off the top of Serie A after a 2-0 defeat at Parma, should progress as they play Grasshoppers with a 2-0 lead at the neutral venue of Salerno.

Parma will also be confident of getting past visiting Polish side Wisla Krakow following their 1-1 first leg.

AS Roma take a 1-0 lead to Leeds United on the back of their best performance of the season, an emphatic 4-0 home win against Udinese on Saturday.

Bologna visit Czech side Slavia Prague with a 2-1 lead. Elsewhere, Scotland's Rangers have a chance of some rare European progress as they host Bayer Leverkusen with a 2-1 first leg lead in a match being played on Thursday. But Bayer are in high spirits after beating Borussia Moenchengladbach 8-2 on Friday, the biggest win in the Bundesliga for 14 years.

VfB Stuttgart visit Club Brugge and FC Zurich host Celtic, both matches level at 1-1.

Cork waits to be uncorked

PERTH, Nov 2 (AP): Dominic Cork is an aggressive all-rounder who would love nothing more than to rough up Australia during the coming Ashes cricket series. Just don't call him "the new Ian Botham."

Cork, 27, has played 25 Tests since his debut in 1995 but is yet to turn out against the world's

Warne recovering ahead of time

MELBOURNE, Australia, Nov 2: Master leg-spinner Shane Warne has shown no ill-effects from a spell of bowling last weekend and is looking to return to first-class cricket in a one-day club match against New South Wales on Sunday, reports AFP.

Warne, who is Australia's greatest spin bowler with 313 Test wickets, is recovering well from major shoulder surgery last May and said his weekend game was the first he had played in 18 months without pain.

He claimed a wicket only three balls into his return to bowling in a club match here last Saturday.

Warne, playing for his Melbourne club St Kilda, got a stumping against Geelong opener Rohan Sadler.

He will play for St Kilda against Fitzroy-Doncaster in a one-dayer Tuesday.

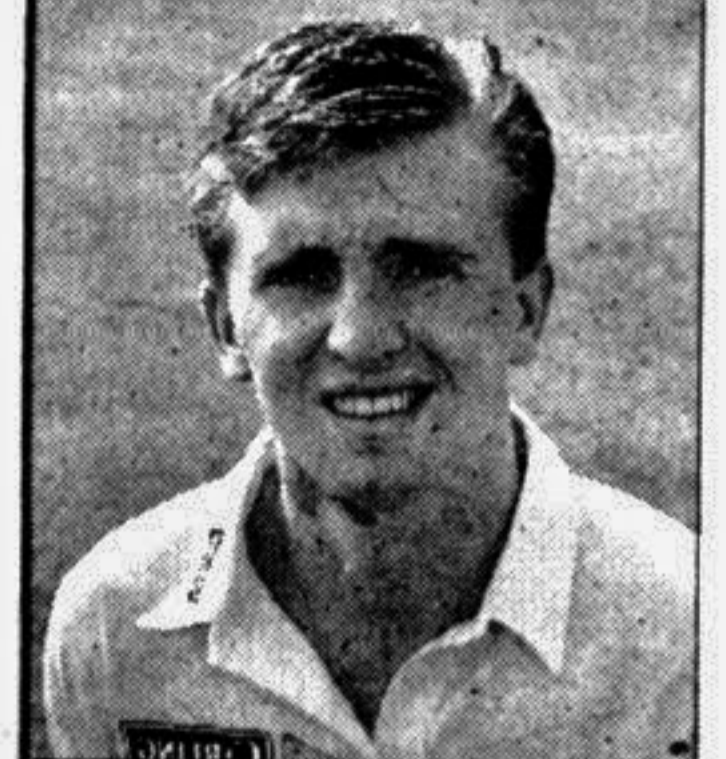
Victorian Cricket Association operations manager and St Kilda teammate Shaun Graf said if Warne came through Tuesday's game without any problems, there would be likely to take on NSW on Sunday.

"Everything is on target. He's feeling fine and there's no discomfort," Graf said today.

"He bowled with no pain so that's a bonus for him."

No. 1 side in a Test match. No cricketer could have enjoyed his first taste of Tests more than Cork, and his success was all the sweeter because he had been made to wait through four England A tours before his senior debut.

For someone whose up-and-at-em approach is the key ingredient in his cricket, Cork's 7-43 destruction of the West Indies on debut at Lord's didn't come as a surprise to those who



DOMINIC CORK

knew him. "It's not just aggression," Cork said Monday. "It's controlled aggression. I always want to win. At the end of the day, people get to realise, there will only ever be one Ian Botham, one Viv Richards, one Richard Hadlee, and one Imran Khan," Cork said. "To emulate someone as these great people is impossible."

Cork, went from strength to strength and clearly relished the combat of Test cricket when he later inspired England with a half-century and a hat-trick in only his third match.

Flying doctors

BANGKOK, Nov 2: More than 2,500 doctors, nurses and health experts will be on standby during the 13th Asian Games here next month, organisers said, reports AFP.

A medical centre had been set up to treat athletes' injuries while serious cases would be dealt with at Bangkok's Siriraj Hospital, they said.

The Thai army would provide helicopters to ferry injured athletes from distant sports facilities in emergencies.

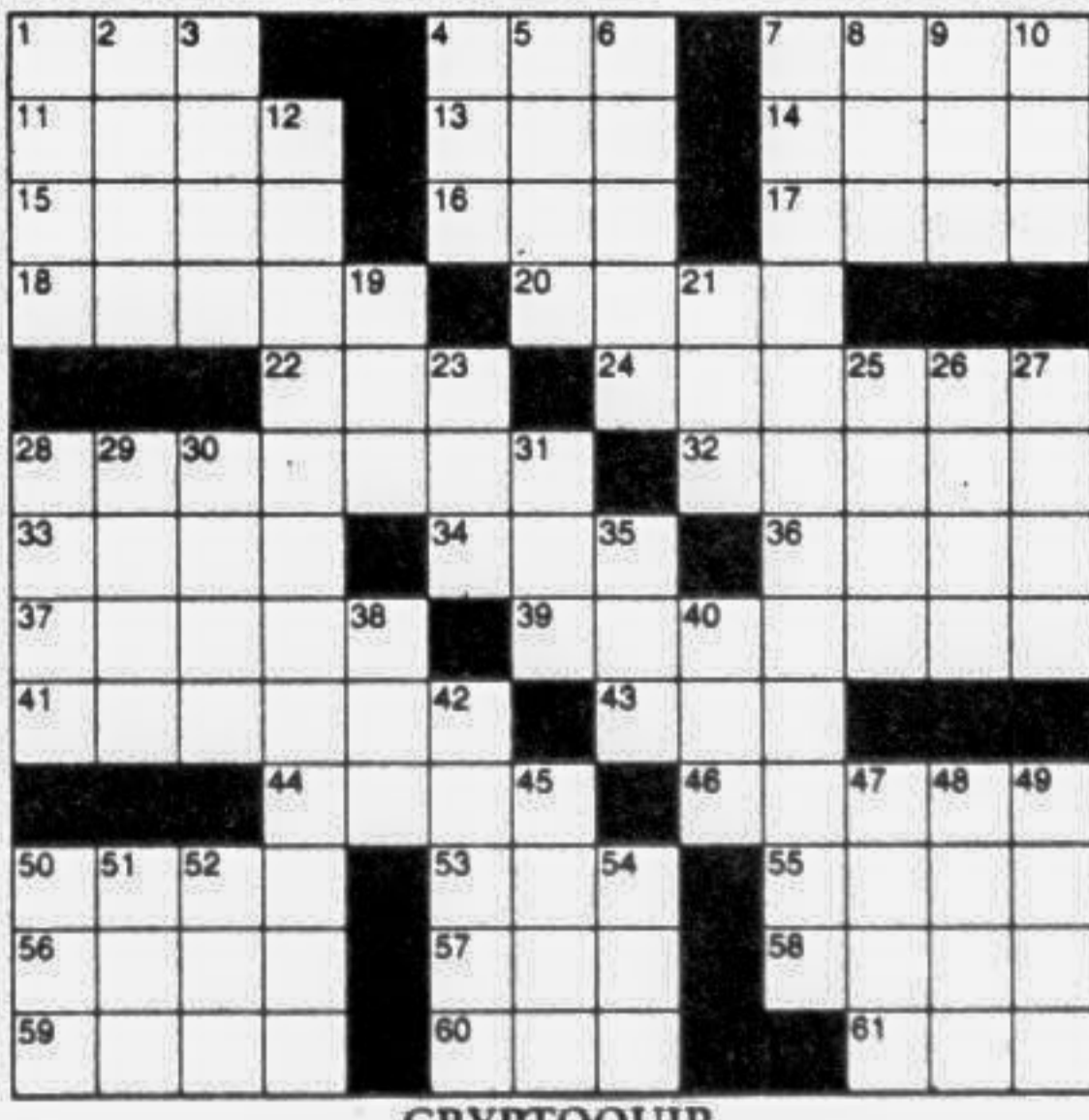
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- Choice: 41 Flag
- Hoover, e.g. 43
- Bring to maturity 44
- Hacienda, e.g. 7
- Stray animal 11
- au vin 13
- Mountain 14
- Geometry 15
- Greek 16
- Assess 17
- Absolutely 18
- Post-bath 20
- Application 22
- Levin 24
- Waiting room 24
- Hungarian 28
- Steward 32
- Wrong 33
- "Ullalume" writer 34
- language 36
- language 37
- Little 39

DOWN

- 60 Actress
- Thompson 61
- Famed gardens 61
- Down 62
- Trade 63
- Count 64
- counterpart 65
- Stead 66
- Performer 67
- mance 68
- Capricorn 69
- Peer 70
- 7 The Wallendas, e.g. 71
- Erstwhile 72
- hoop grp. 73
- 9 Rarin' to go 74
- 35 Conclusion 75
- 38 "T" strain? 76
- 42 Guy's date inventor 77
- 45 Counterfeit 78
- 47 Register 79
- 48 Croupier's prop 79
- 49 From the top 80
- 50 Automaton, for short 81
- 51 Matlock's field 82
- 52 "Eureka!" 83
- 54 Verily 84



CRYPTOQUIP

H I R I K G Y A X M E N K L R
N E X M J D A L U A M J U R
G I F J G H K N J H " G Y
U I E X E D E X F J D ?

Saturday's Cryptogram: MAYBE AN ARCH CRIMINAL IS ONE THAT ONLY ROBS SHOE STORES.

Today's Cryptogram: D equals R. The Cryptogram 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.

SIX NO TRUMPS

A K Sayeedul Huq

EAST TEMPERISED DIAMOND SUPPORT

(Hand # 131)

West	North	East	South (D)
♠: Q 5 3	♠: A 4 2	♠: K 10 9 7	♠: 8 6
♥: A 3 2	♥: 8 6 5 4	♥: Q J 9 7	♥: K 10
♦: A 7 6 4	♦: J 5	♦: K 10 9 3	♦: Q 2
♣: 7	♣: K 8 4 2	♣: 6	♣: A Q J 10 9 5 3

Bidding: Neither side was vulnerable

South	West	North	East
2 Clubs*	2 Diamonds	3 Clubs	3 Spades
4 Clubs	4 Spades	5 Clubs	5 Diamonds
Pass	Pass	Pass	

* Club suit but less than 18 HCP.

With seven cards in the suit but 12 HCP South opened two Club which was overcalled by West with two Diamonds. North bid 3 Clubs, and East with a strong support for the partner's suit delayed a Diamond raise. He tried a 4-4 fit in Spades but when North pushed on to five Clubs, he supported partner by raising him to five Diamonds. West already supported partner in Spades, but when East bid five Diamonds, he left it alone in the hope that partner would know what was the best for the side. Moreover, he was afraid that in Spade contract an opponent might have a singleton in Diamond, and in case, if partner did not have the Ace of Spades, the defence might score a Diamond ruff. Hence technically he thought Diamonds at the same level were the better contract although his highest card was Eight after the Ace of Diamonds.

THE PLAY

A small Club was led by North which was won with the Ace by South. As he did not like to return a trump, nor could he return a Heart, South played back the Queen of Clubs. The declarer slapped a small Heart from the closed hand and ruffed in the dummy. The declarer was sure to lose a Spade trick, hence he could not afford to lose any more trick either in the trump suit or in the Heart suit. In the absence of both the Queen and Jack of Diamonds, his job was easy as he had to play for the drop. He played the 10 of Diamond from the dummy and when South played low, he went up with the Ace. Since neither the Queen nor the Jack dropped in the first round, he played back a small Diamond, North dropped the jack and the declarer had to go up with the King, collecting the Queen from South. Now the Heart finesse must be correct for the contract. As the placing of the cards was appropriate, five Diamonds were made.