

### Year-ending FIFA table

ZURICH, Dec 23 (Reuters): World Cup runners-up Brazil ended the year top of FIFA's world rankings with their conquerors France in second place. Croatia, third place finishers at France '98, won best mover of the year for the second time since 1994. Jumping up 15 places from their year end ranking in 1997 to number four, behind Germany, the team they beat in the quarterfinals.

Two Asian teams made late charges to earn places in the top 30. Japan jumping 10 places to 20 while Iran, recent winners of the Asian Games title, soared 17 places to 27.

**Final 1998 FIFA rankings (ranking, last month's ranking, points)**

- (1) Brazil 73.44
- (2) France 68.86
- (3) Germany 66.87
- (4) Croatia 66.75
- (5) Argentina 66.22
- (6) Yugoslavia 64.70
- (7) Italy 63.82
- (8) Czech Republic 63.80
- (9) England 63.13
- (10) Mexico 61.93
- (11) Netherlands 61.67
- (12) Romania 60.01
- (13) Morocco 59.58
- (14) Norway 58.99
- (15) Spain 56.63
- (16) Chile 57.81
- (17) South Korea 57.17
- (18) Sweden 56.27
- (19) Denmark 55.10
- (20) Japan 55.01
- (21) Tunisia 54.88
- (22) Austria 54.76
- (23) USA 54.74
- (24) Kuwait 54.69
- (25) Paraguay 54.57
- (26) South Africa 53.64
- (27) Iran 53.61
- (28) Egypt 53.56
- (29) Zambia 53.31
- (30) Saudi Arabia 53.25

### Stewart lashes teammates

MELBOURNE, Dec 23 (Reuters/Internet): England captain Alec Stewart has criticised his teammates after their humiliating nine-wicket defeat by an Australian XI on Tuesday but dismissed suggestions that the loss had affected morale ahead of Saturday's fourth Test.



An AFP file photo shows Czech tennis player Petr Korda playing against Dutchman John van Lottum at this year's Wimbledon. International Tennis Federation yesterday revealed Korda escaped a ban after failing a doping test during the Wimbledon Championships.

### Korda escaped ban!

SYDNEY, Dec 23 (AP/Reuters): Australian Open tennis champion Petr Korda failed a drug test at the 1998 Wimbledon Championships, the International Tennis Federation said Wednesday.

### Zagreb tempt Miura

TOKYO, Dec 23: Japanese striker Kazuyoshi Miura, one of the Asia's most celebrated players, may be off to Croatia, Zagreb, soccer sources said today, reports Reuters.

### Tommy waiting for old Mike

NEW YORK, Dec 23 (AP): Trainer Tommy Brooks is looking for a return of the old Mike Tyson when the former heavyweight champion makes his comeback next month.



Scene from the third round of the Prime Bank International Masters' chess tournament at the NSC yesterday. — Star photo

### Knock-out master Moore is no more

SAN DIEGO, California, Dec 23: Archie Moore, who knocked out more fighters than anyone in history and who fought both Rocky Marciano and Muhammad Ali died Wednesday. He was 84, reports AFP.

# The scandals that smeared a sporting calendar

NEW YORK, Dec 23 (AP): Doping and bribery. Scandal, accusations and labour disputes. The image of sports in 1998.

Even the biggest event — the World Cup — was not immune from controversy. From the red card scare before the World Cup to Ronaldo's mysterious illness before the final, soccer had to deal all sorts of non-game distractions like nearly every other sport.

To cycling's Tour de France goes the doping scandal of the year. Cricket saw bribery allegations against Pakistan's Salim Malik continue — and then had charges levelled against two of his accusers, Australia's Shane Warne and Mark Waugh, about taking controversial payments from an Indian bookmaker.

Baseball had its brouhaha in the United States over American home run record breaker Mark McGwire taking a controversial yet allowed dietary supplement, and in Japan about the Fukuoka Dai-ichi Hawks and its manager, legendary home run king Sadaharu Oh, stealing signs.

The National Basketball Association locked out its players after the season in June and hasn't played a game since. English soccer was rocked with a bribery scandal as the year ended, but the biggest mess of all seemed to be when 80-year-old Swiss lawyer and International Olympic Committee member Marc Hodler claimed vote-buying was common in the selection of host cities.

Hodler claimed four "agents" — one an IOC member, had been involved in schemes to buy votes in the election of host cities. His claims came after a Salt Lake City television station reported the American organizers of the 2002 Winter Games had given 400,000 dollars worth scholarships, some to relatives of IOC members.

The Swiss was the first person within the IOC to support claims of corruption against the Olympic movement. Hodler said he came forth because he didn't want to see Salt Lake get blamed instead of those on the inside of the IOC.

But everybody seemed to have their own scandal and it was hard to find a sport which wasn't tainted in 1998. The English Football Association was responsible for soccer's biggest scandal of the year when chief executive Graham Kelly resigned over his and chairman Keith Wiseman's decision to loan the Welsh FA 3.2 million pounds (\$5 million dollars).

Kelly and Wiseman acted unilaterally, but denied accusations it was to get the Welsh FA's support for Wiseman for executive committee posts at UEFA and FIFA and England's bid for the World Cup of 2006.

But even before that, soccer had other problems. The bitter election campaign between Sepp Blatter and Lennart Johansson to replace Joao Havelange as president didn't even end after Blatter won.

Johansson accused his opponent of vote-buying the day after the election, getting the new president's term off to an inauspicious start.

The World Cup, which many feared would look like a May Day parade in Red Square with FIFA's directive to referees to punish any tackle from behind with an ejection, started out like any of the other quadrennial championships.

But midway through the tournament, after Blatter publicly said referees should be less tolerant of fouling, a flurry of reds emerged, including three in the South Africa-Denmark game.

The French were largely ambivalent to their team until it reached and eventually won the final, celebrating non-stop for more than 24 hours. But the reason for their joy was set off by the great World Cup mystery — Ronaldo.

The two-time FIFA-player-of-the-year was supposed to be centre-stage for Brazil's unprecedented fifth title, but instead wasn't even listed on the lineup — even as a reserve — distributed to the media more than four hours before kickoff.

But in a scandal plagued year, soccer was one of the lesser offenders. Besides the Olympics, cycling took the biggest beating thanks to the doping madness that engulfed the Tour de France.

While suspicions have been rampant about the sport for years, 1998 confirmed what many already believed. Three days before the start of the race, the Festina team masseur was caught with massive quantities of performance-enhancing drugs, including the undetectable blood agent EPO.

Before it was over, police had raided cyclists' rooms, the competitors staged a strike and seven teams were driven from the race.

Besides Hodler's accusations, the Olympics in Nagano, Japan, had its own doping controversy when Canadian snowboarder Ross Rebagliati won the giant slalom gold, but then had it taken away because he tested positive for marijuana.

He claimed he tested positive because of second-hand smoke and an appeals panel restored his medal.

Of course the whole year started out with a doping scandal when Chinese swimmer Yuan Yuan was caught entering Australia for the World Championships with more than a little Human Growth Hormone (HGH).

After dominating the 1994 Championships in Rome with 16 golds and 28 medals overall, the Chinese were expected to be a big presence. But after Yuan was caught, she and her coach were sent home in disgrace and the Chinese returned to Beijing with only six golds and more accusations about systematic doping.

Cricket's woes revolved largely around three players, Malik, Warne and Waugh. Malik has been under suspicion for three years after Warne, Waugh and Australian teammate Tim May accused him of trying to bribe them during a 1994 tour of Pakistan.

The latest inquiry into the matter saw Waugh testify in Pakistan in October, but the matter took a peculiar twist when in December it was revealed that Warne and Waugh accepted money from an Indian bookmaker during a 1994 tour of Sri Lanka.

The money supposedly was for pitch and weather information, but the oddest revelation was that the Australian board not only was aware, but fined the pair and never disclosed the matter.

Baseball had its problems as Dominican Sammy Sosa and

McGwire battled almost until the final day to break Roger Maris' single-season US Major League Baseball home run record of 61.

McGwire eventually prevailed with 70, but discovery that he was taking the muscle-building supplement androstenedione for more than a year led some to say the mark was tainted. The substance, which has been associated with some of the same negative side effects as steroids, is banned by the IOC and some other sports organizations but is not prohibited by MLB.

Japanese baseball's scandal seemed less nefarious, at least to Americans, who consider sign-stealing, like a badge of honour.

A 10-day internal investigation by the Hawks said it found no evidence club personnel were sitting in the stands with binoculars, intercepting the catcher's signs and relaying them by wireless radio to another person who would signal the batter as to what pitch to expect.

For fans of the NBA, after the Chicago Bulls won their sixth title in eight years in June the only thing for them to read about was the "lockout". Club owners essentially have gone on strike until a new collective bargaining agreement with the players union is reached. The biggest problem was how to divide about two billion dollars in revenue and with neither side budging, the NBA hasn't played a game this season and doesn't appear likely to anytime soon.

Otherwise, teams did win, lose and draw. Egypt won its fourth African Nations' Cup. South Africa won the tri-nations' rugby title and went on to a record-equaling 18 straight Test victories, and Finland's Mika Hakkinen brought McLaren the Formula One title for the first time since 1991 when the late Ayrton Senna was driving for the team.

The Olympics produced their own heroes. Norway's Bjorn Daelie became the Winter Games' all-time gold medal winner; Japanese Masahiko Harada and Kazuyoshi Funaki exorcised a 4-year-old demon when they combined with Takanobu Okabe and Hiroya Saito to win the team ski jumping; and goalie Dominik Hasek carried the Czech Republic on his hot glove to the ice hockey crown.

By the year started with scandal to cast a morning shadow on sports, and as the sun set on 1998, several more left little light to shine on its champions.

### Testing time for 5-Test

SYDNEY, Dec 23: Five-Test series could be a thing of the past if International Cricket Council recommendations are accepted by the world's playing nations, reports AFP.

The ICC has commissioned the New Zealand Cricket to come up with a proposal for a Test match World Championship run over a four or five-year period. The Sydney Telegraph said Tuesday.

It involves each of the nine Test playing nations competing in four series, two at home and two overseas, each year.

Each series would be no shorter than two Tests and all countries would play each other over the four or five-year period, the paper says.

If Australia complies, for example, it would have to reduce its traditional five Test series against the West Indies and England to four and play two Tests against a lower ranked nation such as Zimbabwe or Sri Lanka.

Australia and England have been playing five or six Test series since 1897, but England said "I was worried that I might not have enough time, but he showed me we were taking everything in that we were working on. He was putting his punches together in bunches and not trying to take him out in one punch. He was not squaring up."

Brooks was in Holyfield's corner for his two victories over Tyson. In the rematch, Brooks remembers sensing Tyson's growing frustration before snapping and biting Holyfield's ear to get disqualified in the third round.

The thing that happened to Mike was he wasn't in shape and he was getting hit by punches that he didn't think he could get hit by and he just lost it," Brooks said.

# Now Pescante speaks

LONDON, Dec 23 (AP): The former head of the Italian Olympic Committee says he alerted IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch eight months ago to unethical practices in the bidding for the Games.

Mario Pescante, an IOC member and secretary general of the European Association of Olympic committees, said he wrote to Samaranch last April expressing concern about irregularities in the election of Olympic host cities.

Pescante said he raised many of the same accusations which Swiss IOC official Marc Hodler made public 10 days ago, setting off the biggest ethical scandal in International Olympic Committee history.

In an telephone interview Tuesday with The Associated Press, Pescante said he cited a "crisis of my vocation as an IOC member" in his two-page letter to Samaranch.

Pescante said his letter included "precise accusations" of wrongdoing but gave no names.

"I spoke of some elements which move in Olympic circles and influence the vote," he said. Samaranch did not respond to the letter, Pescante said.

"I did speak with him later and he said he was concerned (about the warnings)," Pescante said.

The Italian official said he and others had been aware that Salt Lake City offered scholarships to relatives of IOC members during the successful bid for the 2002 Winter Games.

### Another cakewalk for Jones?

NEW YORK, Dec 23 (AFP): With no one of significance for him to fight Roy Jones keeps fighting and defending his World Boxing Association (WBA) and World Boxing Council (WBC) light-heavyweight championship belts against unknowns.

Pescante criticised proposals, backed by Samaranch, to overhaul the procedure for selecting Olympic cities by taking the vote away from the full IOC assembly and allowing the executive board or other small group to decide.

"I am very offended by this," Pescante said. "This is very grave. Why should I pay for the mistakes of others? If 10 per cent were doing wrong, you can't just strip the other 90 per cent of their power. You can't punish the whole assembly."

"I find the timing strange," Pescante said. "Maybe you know which country Hodler is from."

Pescante, who was one of the main backers of Rome's 2004 bid, also questioned why Hodler had not cited any irregularities in last year's vote awarding those Games to Athens.

**CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer**

**ACROSS**

- 1 - U.S. ways
- 2 Labrynth
- 3 Heredity
- 4 Derogatory
- 5 Enomide
- 6 Canal zone
- 7 Tin Man's prop
- 8 Bear lair
- 9 Soap ingredient
- 10 Post-yore
- 11 Post-1900
- 12 Ayatollah's forerunner
- 13 Family-related
- 14 Words of encouragement
- 15 Jack
- 16 First victim
- 17 Feathery wrap
- 18 Piratic potation
- 19 Healthy
- 20 They often hold hands

**DOWN**

- 1 St. Louis
- 2 Send promptly
- 3 Hobin
- 4 Flood's hue
- 5 Mutual Friend
- 6 Depressed
- 7 Wading
- 8 Michelle
- 9 Tm Man's figure?
- 10 City near the Anacostia River
- 11 Chic no more
- 12 Jazz trombonist
- 13 Melody
- 14 Consonant
- 15 the season
- 16 Transfer
- 17 Sly
- 18 OPEC member
- 19 Jay's rival
- 20 Ogled
- 21 Gents
- 22 Swiss canton
- 23 Job biz
- 24 Infinitesimal

**Solution time: 24 min.**

**WHIST JOKER**

MAINTAIN ADDRESS  
ASLONG MINUTE  
CAT SHAME PITU  
OIBNIVITOTI  
MINNY REPOSSES  
TIECSEA  
SPARTAN RILEY  
LACY TAP LUGE  
OTI PHYLA MOA  
BIBI HAITIS  
QUOIRE NAMEIT  
SPADE HEART

**Saturday's answer**

1. 100 2. 100 3. 100 4. 100 5. 100 6. 100 7. 100 8. 100 9. 100 10. 100 11. 100 12. 100 13. 100 14. 100 15. 100 16. 100 17. 100 18. 100 19. 100 20. 100 21. 100 22. 100 23. 100 24. 100

### CRYPTOQUIP

J S Z X Q T S - Y X A W Z W  
W X H J X Q A D U K C D M Z C Y D A  
G D C H M Z D U M K D C T Q W W  
D C S X C G Q U W

**Saturday's Cryptoquip: ONE MIGHT LOGICALLY DECLARE THAT A COW WITH TWO HEADS IS REALLY A MOOTATION.**

Today's Cryptoquip clue: T equals G

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.