

## Atletico's third loss on the trot

MADRID, Feb 14 (Reuters/Internet). Atletico Madrid suffered their third successive Spanish league defeat on Saturday as another woeful defensive display gifted Espanyol a 2-1 win.

Arrigo Sacchi's expensively assembled side remain eight points behind leaders Barcelona -- who play Real Madrid in Sunday's showpiece game at the Nou Camp -- and have played a game more.

Atletico started brightly and took the lead on 21 minutes through Jose Mari Romero, who squeezed home a left-foot shot after beating two defenders, only to be pegged back before halftime as Moises Arteaga rose unchallenged at the near post to flick a header past Francisco Molina.

Another glaring defensive error six minutes from time gifted the three points to the visitors.

A tiring Atletico defence failed to clear a speculative cross from the left and Dario Silva, unmarked at the far post, headed precisely past the exposed keeper.

Mallorca, who like Atletico have been struggling of late after a bright start to the season, had earlier moved back up to second spot, two points off the pace, thanks to a 1-0 win at home to Real Sociedad.

A second-half penalty from Leonardo Biagini, after Jovan Stankovic had been bundled over in the penalty area, was enough to give Hector Cuper's side the points.

In Saturday's other game, Deportivo Coruna beat relegation candidates Salamanca 1-0 thanks to a second-half strike from Turu Flores.

## Sampras, Chang tumble

SAN JOSE, Feb 14: Top-seeded Pete Sampras withdrew from the tournament and qualified Cecil Mamiit advanced to his first career final by defeating No 4 seed Michael Chang 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 in the semifinals of the Sybase Open on Saturday afternoon, reports AP.

Mamiit, who had never won an ATP Tour match before this season, will play No 3 seed Mark Philippoussis for the tournament title Sunday.

Philippoussis advanced to the finals when Sampras withdrew with a tendon strain above his left ankle, sustained during his quarterfinal victory over Bernard Karbacher on Friday.

Mamiit, who turned pro after winning the NCAA Championship in 1996 as a freshman at Southern California, said he grew up admiring Chang, who won his first tournament title when Mamiit was 11 years old.

"I watched his game and followed his tactics," Mamiit said. "I was pretty pumped up."

Sampras strained the tendon just above his left ankle during break point of the sixth game in the second set against Karbacher.

"I hit a forehand and was caught off balance," said Sampras, the world's top-ranked player. "I felt it in my sudden movement. I continued to play on it, but it was quite sore."

Sampras said he tried to practice on the injury Saturday morning, but he couldn't run on it.

"I couldn't put any weight on it," Sampras said. "I didn't feel like I could have played a proper match. It hurt on any movement. It didn't make any sense."

Mamiit fell behind 5-0 in the first set before he said he was comfortable.

"I wasn't feeling all that great," Mamiit said. "Getting the first service game was probably what got me going."

Mamiit held serve the rest of the way, and began to take charge when he broke Chang's serve in game four of the second set.

"When I missed a few shots, I started to get a little tentative," Chang said. "I wasn't as aggressive as I should have been. Cecil is playing some good tennis right now."

Mamiit, who became the first qualifier in tournament history to advance to the final, broke Chang's serve in the first game of the third set to gain momentum which led to his first professional semifinal victory.

## Woodhall retains title

NEWCASTLE, Feb 14: England's Richie Woodhall held on to his WBC super-middleweight title Saturday, stopping Italy's Vincenzo Nardiello in the sixth round, reports AP.

Woodhall, in his second title defence, was in command winning the first four rounds with crisp body punches as the Italian looked out-classed.

But 40 seconds into the fifth round, Nardiello landed a left hook that floored Woodhall and stunned a partisan crowd of 10,000. But the Englishman came back, took control of the round and dropped Nardiello with a right to the mid-section in the final 30 seconds.

Nardiello complained it was a low blow and then drew loud jeers when he went down just after the bell, complaining Woodhall had thrown a late punch.

By that time the fight was all but over.

Woodhall caught Nardiello with a left-right combination exactly mid-way through the six. Woodhall got up by the 10 count only to have the referee stop the fight.

"We knew after five rounds he (Nardiello) would be looking for a way out to take his money," Woodhall said.

Nardiello, a former WBC super-middleweight champion, saw his record fall to 33 wins and 7 losses. Woodhall improved to 25 wins and 1 loss.



Salamaca's Brazilian defender Everton Giovannella (L) checks compatriot Flavio Conceicao of Deportivo la Coruna during their Spanish Primera Liga clash at La Coruna on February 13. — AFP photo

## Wiltord takes Bordeaux atop

PARIS, Feb 14: Sylvain Wiltord shot Bordeaux to top spot in the French league on Saturday with both goals in their 2-0 win against Bastia, reports AFP.

The Parc Lescure victory puts Bordeaux a point ahead of Marseille, who play at Toulouse today and keeps Wiltord top of the scoring list with 17 goals.

It completes a memorable week for Wiltord, who made his first appearance for France on Wednesday as a substitute in the historic 2-0 victory over England at Wembley.

Wiltord, fed by strike partner Lilian Laslandes himself with 14 goals this term, scored his first in the 51st minute and added another following an error in the 73rd minute by Bastia defender Francois Modesto.

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European Champions League. David Linares had a goal disallowed for offside midway through the first half before Cavegia made up for that with a penalty in the 37th minute after Sebastian Pjocelle handled in the area.

Cavegia, thanks to an error by Yves Deroff, doubled his tally a minute after the break through substitute Patrick Suffo headed home for Nantes from an Olivier Montterrubio free-kick with a quartet hour to go.

Monaco's Ludovic Giuly scored in the final minute to complete a 4-2 win at home to Rennes, putting the principality club into fourth spot. Giuly, fed by Wagneau Eloi who did well to keep his balance in the area, killed the ball into the top right hand corner to put the match beyond any doubt.

Nigerian Victor Ikpeba, substituted with just over a quarter hour to go, had had a superb night, scoring twice for the home side.

Outgoing champions Lens beat Paris Saint Germain 2-1 in a freezing cold Felix-Bollaert stadium with a capacity crowd of more than 39,000 fans.

Stephane Dalmat put Lens ahead from a Pascal Nouma cross after only 11 minutes, but Italian striker Marco Simone beat out Vladimir Smicer and Cyrille Magnier to score in the 66th minute, moments after coming on.

PSG keeper Bernard Lama failed to control a corner from Smicer and Lasalles was in the perfect spot to find the net.

Lorient drew 1-1 with Montpellier in the night's other match. Loic Duon scored the first for Brittany side Lorient with an impressive solo goal, getting past several Montpellier players before shooting past keeper Stephane Cassard three minutes after the interval.

Didier Thimothee equalized just three minutes later from a pass by Dos Santos in a move originating from a Laurent Robert freekick.

"Nicolas was very motivated to score for many reasons, the first one being that in the French team we didn't find strikers," Petit said.

"We try many strikers but on Wednesday night I think we found one of them. He deserved to score a hat-trick."

"He is still young, he is still learning every day. Sometimes he has chances to score but doesn't, but on Wednesday he didn't have many opportunities to score but he scored twice."

Christophe Dugarry, Stephane Guivarch, Lilian Laslandes, Florian Maurice, Thierry Henry and Tony Vairelles have all tried and failed to claim an automatic place in the starting line-up for the world champions, who have built defence and brilliant midfield.

Anelka, who missed out on the World Cup in his home country last summer, has confessed to feeling isolated in England away from his family and friends.

His remarks even prompted transfer speculation with Spanish giants Barcelona and former club Paris Saint Germain rumoured to be monitoring his progress.

But Petit is confident the 19-year-old will eventually adapt to his surroundings in London and fulfil his potential.

"When I was young I didn't speak with many partners. It's not because I didn't want to speak, when you're young you don't know what to say," Petit added. "It wasn't until I was around 25 (that I was more confident)."

"I started in national team when I was 17 or 18. I think I was too young, you have to learn if you want to grow up quickly and well."

"We can give him some advice for his future, but he is intelligent and he is so strong in his mind. We expect too much from him, like Ronaldo, when you find a prospect like him in France we ask many, many things from him."

"If he stays very strong like that it could be very good for him."

Anelka described Wednesday's win as the greatest moment in his career so far, eclipsing his last appearance at Wembley in the FA Cup final victory over Newcastle.

"It was brilliant for me to be in the first French side to win at Wembley," he said. "I gave me greater pleasure than the FA Cup final goal."

"I love it at Wembley because of the extra space. You can say it's a good place for me. It was the best French performance since the World Cup and it means a lot even though it was a friendly."

"I'm gaining experience all the time but I have to work and work and we will see what happens in the future. I'm going to stay quiet in the Arsenal dressing room because I didn't give Tony Adams any stick."

"I've never said I wanted to leave but it's hard when you're young and the family is not there. It's difficult but I knew that when I came to play here."

## Szabo erases McCloghan's mark

DORTMUND, Feb 14: Romanian Gabriela Szabo set the first indoor world record of the year when she smashed Briton Liz McCloghan's seven year-old 5,000 metres mark by clocking 14 minutes 47.36 second at an international meeting on Saturday, reports Reuters.

Szabo shaved nearly 16 seconds off McCloghan's previous best of 15.03/17 set in February 1992 in Birmingham.

"I was certain that I could make it," said Szabo, who was cheered on by a capacity crowd of 4,500 in this Ruhr Valley town.

McCloghan, who is pregnant with her second child, said this week she would miss April's London Marathon but planned to carry on until the 2000 Olympics.

The other highlight of the Dortmund meeting came in the women's 4x200 metres relay with the German quartet of Esther Moeller, Gabi and Brigit Rockmeir and Andrea Philip clocking the second fastest indoor mark ever in 1:32.88.

## O'Neill tipped for the top job

LONDON, Feb 14 (Reuters/Internet): Northern Ireland's Martin O'Neill was added to the list of likely candidates for the job as England coach as the British media continued to speculate over Glenn Hoddle's successor.

A decision is due in the next few days and caretaker coach Howard Wilkinson and Fulham's Kevin Keegan have been tipped as front-runners.

But the Sunday Telegraph said that O'Neill, the former Northern Ireland international and current Leicester City manager, had been added to the short list by the FA after they decided against former incumbents Bobby Robson and Terry Venables.

Keegan, a popular choice among both fans and the media, has ruled himself out because of his commitment to Fulham, although the Sunday Mirror said the club's owner Mohamed Al Fayed had agreed the FA could at least talk to Keegan.

Didier Thimothee equalized just three minutes later from a pass by Dos Santos in a move originating from a Laurent Robert freekick.

## Golmard grounds Moya

DUBAI, Feb 14: The last seed in the Dubai Open fell Saturday when Frenchman Jerome Golmard defeated No 2 Carlos Moya to reach his first ATP Tour final ever, reports AP.

"It's like a dream. I have dreamt for a long time of a moment like this," said Golmard, who fought off a one-set deficit to clinch a 4-6, 7-5, 6-3 victory.

The Spaniard admitted that he relaxed a little after winning the first set and let Golmard back into the match.

"I was in a good position to win the match after the first set. He was hitting hard and didn't do many mistakes," said Moya.

Moya broke in the third game and maintained his presence in the first set without much difficulty.

The 25-year-old Golmard, who had earlier ousted fifth seed Karol Kucera and third seed Tim Henman, broke Moya in the fourth game of the second set and then held serve to take a 4-1 lead before Moya broke back to even it at 4-4.

The match appeared to be heading to a tie-break but Golmard, leading 6-5 and tending to an injured elbow with an ice pack in between games, broke Moya to take the set 7-5.

Moya's game fell apart in the third set with Golmard breaking in the first game. Moya immediately broke back, but the Frenchman, who was serving well throughout the two-hour match, broke to take a 4-1 lead and didn't look back.

Moya served 13 aces, the majority of which came in the second set and admitted that he was not very comfortable playing the left-handed Golmard.

"His serve is good and he is a lefty. I hate playing lefties," said Moya.

Golmard said that his main goal is to reach the top 30 in the world.

"I didn't have anything to lose, unlike Carlos, who has to think of ranking points," said the 61st-ranked player.

The other semifinal between Australia's Andrew Ilie and German Nicolas Kiefer was suspended due to rain. Kiefer was leading 6-3.

## Rosset keeps cruising

ST PETERSBURG, Russia, Feb 14 (Reuters/Internet): Marc Rosset maintained his record of not having dropped a set in the tournament to beat David Prinosil 6-3, 6-4 in the final of the St Petersburg Open on Sunday.

The Swiss second seed took the initiative against Prinosil from the start, breaking the unseeded German twice in the opening set.

The first break came in the fifth game after Prinosil had double-faulted twice. He was broken again in the ninth game.

Rosset appeared to lose his concentration at the start of the second set, losing his service to love.

"It was a bad service game," said the lanky Swiss. "I just lost my concentration for a moment. That's something I have to work at because when you play somebody stronger you lose your serve and the set is gone."

Rosset bounced back with a service break in the sixth game and broke again in the 10th. Prinosil saved one match point but, faced with another against him, he hit an easy forehand into the net.



Gabriela Szabo celebrates her 5000 metres world indoors record in front of the display board at Dortmund on February 13. — AFP photo

## Wenger calls for a change

LONDON, Feb 14 (Reuters/Internet): Arsene Wenger received backing on Sunday for his call for a change to the laws of the game following Arsenal's offer to re-play an FA Cup match they had won through an "unsporting" goal.

Holders Arsenal beat Sheffield United 2-1 in their fifth round tie with a late goal that Wenger admitted was "sports-wise not right."

"There is a hole in the rule-book, we would be better off to have a law rather than a convention," said the Arsenal manager.

David Davies, English Football Association (FA) acting chief executive, applauded Wenger's call.

"An opportunity to discuss a rule change will come almost immediately with the lawmakers of world soccer, the International Board, due to meet in Cardiff on Saturday."

"We would be delighted to discuss this at the International Board meeting because clearly while we have a convention for fair play in this country events at Arsenal did illustrate a loophole in the law," Davies said.

"It was not going to be on the agenda next week but we have an unprecedented situation which we want to resolve as quickly as possible. In this country we pay more than just lip service to FIFA's motto of fair play."

Wenger said on Saturday his team had gone against the spirit of the game in the way in which they scored their 76th minute "winner" after Sheffield's Lee Morris had been injured.

Nigerian international Nwanku Kanu, making his Arsenal debut, ran on to a throw-in which under soccer etiquette was intended to return the ball to United. Kanu then set up Marc Overmars for the goal.

Arsenal won praise for their quick response in offering the Yorkshire club a replay.

The FA swiftly agreed and the two teams will meet again on February 23.

Responding to criticism that the FA had acted hastily, Davies said: "The reason we took a very quick decision to replay the match is that we think fair play matters."

Wenger's suggestion also found approval from one of Britain's most experienced managers, Ron Atkinson, recently installed at Nottingham Forest, welcomed the proposal.

"These things never show up until they happen. I think it's a decent idea and it should save confusion," he said.

## ATP to change code of conduct

SAN JOSE, California, Feb 14: (Reuters/Internet): The default of Andre Agassi from the 350,000 US dollars Sybase Open on Wednesday for cursing near a linesman has led to calls that the ATP Tour's code of conduct be changed, and a tour official acknowledged that a change is likely in the near future.

"You can guarantee that when I meet with other tournament directors next month that I'm going to ask for a rule change and you can bet that most of them will be in favour of it," Sybase Open tournament director Barry Mackay said Thursday.

ATP Tour Director of Player Services Weller Evans told the news agency that the ATP Tour Player Council discussed making a change last month and said the ATP may soon join the WTA Tour and the International Tennis Federation in changing the code of conduct to allow tour supervisors discretion in the default of a player for minor code violations.

Currently, a player must be defaulted if he commits three violations in a row.

Agassi was thrown out of his second round match against American Cecil Mamiit in San Jose for two audible obscenities and one case of verbal abuse of an official. He was fined a total of \$7,500 and lost \$5,500 in prize money, losing a total of \$13,000.

The proposed change would allow chair umpires to assess multiple game penalties on a player for minor code violations such as an audible obscenity and permit a tour supervisor flexibility in deciding whether a player committed an egregious enough offence to warrant a default.

"The ball is on the tee," Evans told Reuters. "We've already had a good indication from the players, coaches and board members that a change would be supported. We don't want to jump the gun on the WTA and ITF. We want to announce the change in cooperation with those organisations."

## MLS Mattheaus' next destination

MIAMI, Florida, Feb 14: Lothar Mattheaus, the five-time German World Cup defender who turns 38 in March, confirmed Friday he is considering playing in Major League Soccer next year after his deal with German first division side Bayern Munich ends, reports AP.

New York and Los Angeles are the two metropolises I would consider," Mattheaus told USA Today, "but my main reason is to help the American sport become more prominent."

Mattheaus, who captained West Germany's 1990 World Cup winning team, would follow the footsteps of many big-name players who came to US clubs in later years of their career, including Pele and Franz Beckenbauer.

Mattheaus understands the step down he might take coming to the United States after the 2000 European Championship, which he expects to be the end of my career at that level."

MLS deputy commissioner Sunil Gulati reportedly balked at a 1997 plan to pay Mattheaus 850,000 dollars a season to play for the Chicago Fire, which won the MLS crown last year in its first season.

Mattheaus, whose deal with Bayern expires in June of next year, is the only non-goalkeeper to play in five World Cups. He has five Bundesliga titles with Bayern Munich and helped Inter Milan win the Serie A crown.

In the heat of battle, sometimes you overreact and that's what happened to him, but there has to be a time when you get your second warning and you're one F-word away from losing that you have to hold back a little bit."

Evans hastened to add that Agassi's conduct on Wednesday was not a just a series of minor code violations.

"His third violation was verbal abuse of an official and under the new rule he still could be defaulted for that," Evans said.

Agassi denied swearing at the official, saying he was merely swearing at himself, but umpire Steve Ullrich and ATP Supervisor Tom Barnes saw it differently.

"The number one Pete Sampras said Agassi acted irresponsibly."

"He knows the rules," Sampras said. "Just because he's Andre, he's not going to get away with things like that. He learned his lesson, he's not in the tournament. He knows he's a professional and he should act like one."

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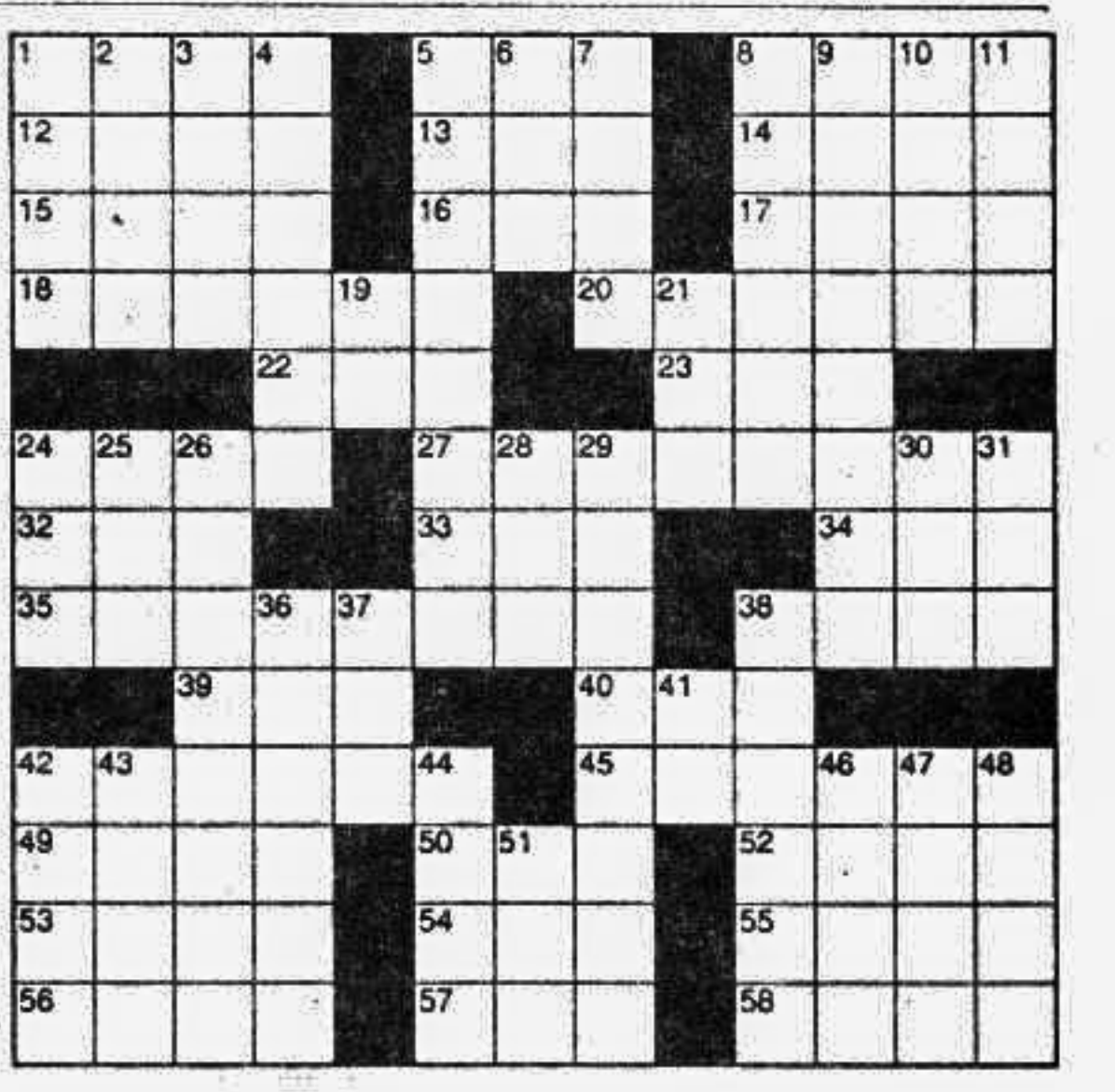
## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

|                          |                   |                            |                                      |
|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ACROSS                   | 42 Certain ray    | 2 Locality                 | 24 One of a Latin 101                |
| 1 Hamstring              | 45 Money back     | 3 "Death in Venice" author | 25 Anti                              |
| 5 Stashed                | 49 PQD, on a memo | 4 Fairness                 | 26 Card dealer?                      |
| 8 Bloke                  | 50 Past place?    | 5 Needle's                 | 28 Stamping device                   |
| 12 OPEC member           | 52 Toast          | 6 Bar                      | 29 Music style                       |
| 13 Proficient one        | 53 Zhivago's love | 7 Un-                      | 30 Abbr. on a binding                |
| 14 Highway division      | 54 Singer         | 8 Seals                    | 31 Greek vowel                       |
| 15 Waiter's handout      | 55 Authentic      | 9 Three-goal feat          | 36 Brassy sound                      |
| 16 Verily                | 56 Egyptian cross | 10 Initial chip            | 37 "Bird—Wire"                       |
| 17 Sgt. Snorkel's dog    | 57 Wapiti         | 11 Unskilled laborer       | 38 Medium to dark gray               |
| 18 Alarms                | 58 Small valley   | 19 Prefix meaning "joint"  | 41 That is                           |
| 20 Attach                | DOWN              | 1 Flaccid                  | 42 Big bash                          |
| 22 Young child           |                   | 21 Gorilla                 | 43 Slippery —eel                     |
| 23 Apiece                |                   |                            | 44 Except                            |
| 24 Needing liniment      |                   |                            | 46 Peter Fonda role                  |
| 27 Sticky stuff          |                   |                            | 47 Curly of the Harlem Globetrotters |
| 32 Extinct New Zealander |                   |                            | 48 Barbie or Ken?                    |
| 33 Spy novel org.        |                   |                            | 51 Baseball's Hodges                 |
| 34 Baracks furnishing    |                   |                            |                                      |
| 35 Spectator             |                   |                            |                                      |
| 38 Norman's st.          |                   |                            |                                      |
| 39 Chaney Sr. or Jr.     |                   |                            |                                      |
| 40 New Jersey fort       |                   |                            |                                      |

Solution time: 23 mins.

|                 |                |                 |                 |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| WITTY PAID SWAG | ESAU ORO LAIT  | TAIXFORMS EXIT  | SWIFT TREBLE    |
| ETITON APE      | TUFT MAGI AFT  | ATTA SAXION NEE | REX PHOTO ALSEA |
| STAMPS VEGAS    | PAPA MAXER NST | APAG ELY TATE   | MERE WIZ SWIM   |

Yesterday's answer



## CRYPTOQUIP

N T O O A N X G G D F R L C X

C X T N N R K V : " T V R C

D O G K C A R F L C C R K

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF THE DESERT IS YOUR HOME, MUSTN'T YOU HAVE A VERY DRY SENSE OF HUMOR?

Today's Cryptoquip clue: D 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.