# Ronaldo does Lazio a favour



Ronaldo scored his first goals in nearly three months and Internazionale downed Fiorentina 2-0 at San Siro on

points atop the Serie A standings. Ronaldo scored both goals on penalties, improving his season total to eight in portions

Saturday to help push Lazio six

of 12 league matches. Lazio, held to goalless home draw by AC Milan in the highlight the 27th round, moved another point ahead of secondplaced Florentine while Milan stayed seven points behind in

Parma, held to a 1-1 home draw by underdog Cagliari, re-mained in fourth place, eight points behind Lazio.

In other pre-Easter games, it was: AS Roma 4, Bari 1; Piacenza 4, Udinese 3; Empoli 1. Juventus 0; Perugia 0, Bologna 0; Vicenza 1, Sampdoria 0; Venezia 0, Salernitana 0.

Ronaldo, recovering from tendinitis in his knees which sidelined him repeatedly this season, converted the first penalty in the 45th minute and capped an outstanding performance which ended Inter's 10match winless streak.

He made it two with seven minutes left and completed his much-applauded show hitting the bar with a powerful drive in the closing minutes.

Inter improved to 11-6-10 while Fiorentina suffered their seventh away loss.

The Brazilian striker showed a questionable form but put Fiorentina's defence in trouble every time he was fed by Roberto Baggio.

Ronaldo, who barely missed the net with a lob in the 20th minute, earned the first penalty when Fiorentina's defender Giulo Falcone fouled him close to the net. He converted with a precise

right-footed drive as Inter celebrated the debut of coach Luciano Castellini — Inter's third coach this season following Gigi Simoni and Mircea Lucescu.

Inter were granted the second penalty when Chilean veteran striker Ivan Zamorano was fouled by goalkeeper Francesco Toldo following a fast counterattack.

Ronaldo was not Inter's only hero. French keeper Sebastien Frey, replacing suspended regular Gianluca Pagliuca, made

Azlan Shah hockey

Germany blank

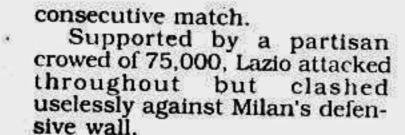
**New Zealand** 

KUALA LUMPUR, Apr 4:

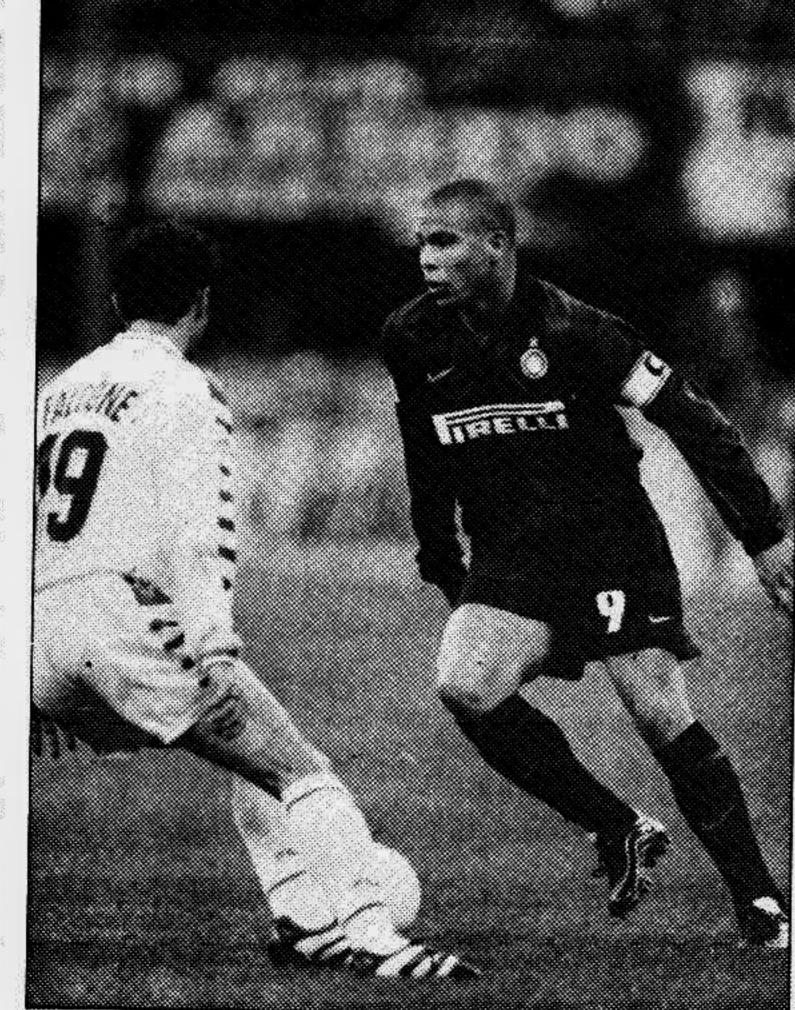
several saves against Fiorentina's strikers Gabriel Batistuta and Edmundo.

Batistuta, the leading scoring leader with 19 goals, hit the bar with a powerful free kick in the first half. Roberto Baggio countered by hitting the post in the second half, also on a free kick.

At Romes Olympic Stadium, 21-year-old goalkeeper Chris-



The Milan team seemed willing to defend its third place in the standings, which would earn it a place in next season's Champions League, rather than narrow its gap with the league



REDISCOVERING THE TOUCH: Superstar Ronaldo (R) tries to outwit a Fiorentina defender during Inter Milan's Serie A fixture at the San Siro on April 3. - AFP photo

tian Abbiati got help from veteran defenders Paolo Maldini

and Alessandro Costacurta. With seven rounds remaining in their bid for its first "scudetto" since 1974, Lazio improved to 16-8-3 and 56 points. The draw, Lazio's fourth at

home, extended the Roaman's unbeaten streak to 17 matches. AC Milan improved to 13-10-4 but missed victory for the third

Milan's Liberian striker George Weah often played in his own penalty area to help defend on corner kicks. Lazio pressed on the attack

from the kickoff and appeared to lead when Vieri scored after two minutes. But the goal was voided by a questionable offside flag.

At Parma, Croat midfielder

Mario Stanic gave Parma a first-half lead with a precise header in the 18th minute. Cameroon's Patrick Mboma

ing a penalty kick, converted by Roberto Muzzi in the 60th. At Empoli, without French mastermind Zinedine Zidane. key Uruguayan defender Paolo Montero and striker Filippo Inzaghi, Juventus were felled by a first-half header by Empoli defender Stefano Bianconi.

gave Cagliari the draw by draw-

The upset still left Empoli in last place, close to almost certain relegations.

At Piacenza, a penalty by Simone Inzaghi in the 45th and second-half goals by Pietro Vierchowod and Paolo Cristallini rallied Pizacenza, to revive their hopes of avoiding relegation.

Martin Jorgensen, Jonathan Bachini and Alessandro Pierini gave Undinese a 3-1 lead by the 32nd minute.

The league oldest player, 40year-old defender Vierchowod, headed in Piacenza equaliser in the 63rd before Cristallini tallied the winning goal nine minutes later.

At Bari, Italian international Luigi Di Biagio scored twice and Brazilian defender Cafu and midfielder Eusebio Di Francesco added goals in the last 10 minutes to power Roma, Di Biagio opened the scoring

in the 12th minute when his free kick hit Colombian forward Miguel Guerrero in the wall and deflected in.

South African forward Philemon Masinga scored Bari's only goal his ninth this sea-

At Vicenza, Marcelo Otero scored in the 33rd minute to hand Sampdoria, coming off a 4-0 rout of Inter two weeks ago, in the previous round, the upset.

The victory allowed Vicenza to draw level with Sampdoria on 26 points for 15th place. The team of Genoa badly missed suspended Argentine star Ariel

At Perugia, Bologna rested several players for Tuesday's UEFA Cup semifinal and played for a draw, which kept the team in a safe eighth place overall, two points behind Juventus.

At Venezia, a powerful drive by Uruguayan star Alvaro Recoba, which hit the bar, was the only thrill. The draw left Salernitana in next-to-lasx place overall. Venezia preserved a 11th-place tie with Perugia, at 32 points.

# It's Hingis v Kournikova



Germany defeated New Zealand 3-0 on Sunday to stay unbeaten in the ninth Sultan Azlan Shah Cup tournament at the National Hockey Stadium in Malaysia. reports AP. Germany, who came from

behind to beat South Korea 4-3 | Family on Friday, started off cautiously, but Sascha Reinelt fired the team's opening goal in the 18th minute for the only score in the first half.

Germany's Benjamin Kopp scored the second goal in the 45th minute thanks to a penalty corner rebound. Christian Wein scored the final goal in the 68th minute.

Germany will meet Malaysia Monday while New Zealand

take on Pakistan. GERMANY: Arnold Clemens. Jan Peter Tewes, Max Landsult. Bjorn Michel, Sascha Reinelt, Christoph Eimar, Michael Green, Tibor Weibenborn, Benjamin Kopp, Christian Mayerhofer. Frank Gemmring.

Reserves: Christian Schulte. Stefan Saliger, Christian Kurtz, Bjorn Emmerling, Christian

Wein. **NEW ZEALAND:** Michael Bevin, Simon Towns, Bradley Apted, Andrew Hastie, Andrew Buckley, John Radovonich, Dion Gosling, Brett Leaver, Ryan Archibald, Umesh Parag, Greg Russ.

Reserves: scott Anderson, Dareen Smith, Wayne McIndoe. Craig Russ. Bevan Hari.

### Players' chief blasts Fowler

LONDON, Apr 4(Reuters) Internet): English players' union chief Gordon Taylor has slammed Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler over his controversial celebration after scoring against city rivals Everton on Saturday.

Fowler kneeled down and sniffed a white line of the penalty box as though to taunt Everton fans over drug allegations that blighted him last season.

Taylor, chairman of the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA), told BBC Radio: "It's not the sort of celebration you want to see. The manager should tell him not to do it again

The Fowler incident came after he equalised from the penalty spot in the 15th minute in a premier league match at Anfield that Liverpool went on to win 3-2.

Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier played down the incident, saying: "Rigobert Song used to do it at Metz, pretending to eat the grass, it was not sup-posed to be inflammatory...it was nothing."

The English Football Association (F.A.) are to await video evidence and the referee's report before deciding whether to take any action.

Fowler is already facing an F.A. investigation over another controversy.

That hearing is on Friday and follows Fowler's recent fracas with Chelsea's Graeme Le Saux, when the Liverpool forward bent over during a match in February pointing to his backside in an attempt to cast a 'gay' slur on the heterosexual Le



ISLAND, South Carolina, Apr 4; Martina Hingis and Anna Hournikova gave wom-

teenaged final, advancing to the Circle championship Saturday, re-

Hingis, the world's No 1 player from Switzerland, downed No 3 Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic 6-2, 6-3, while Kournikova, seeded seventh, overcame a first-set tiebreaker loss to defeat No 6 Patty Schnyder 6-7, 6-0, 6-3.

"With Anna and me, it's like two youngsters coming up," said the 18-year-old Hingis. "It's going to be very interesting.

A week ago, the Williams sisters grabbed the world's attention in the Lipton Championship final. Venus, 18, outlasted 17-year-old Serena in the game's first sister act since 1884 as their father, Richard Williams, led cheers and held up a sign, "The Williams Show." But it's a show shared with

Hingis, who's already won four Grand Slam events, and the AP. confident 17-year-old Kournikova, who has unashamedly dated much-older ice hockey star Sergei Fedorov and was one of People Magazine's "50 Most Beautiful Peo-

"There are longterm factors involved here," WTA Tour chief executive officer Bart McGuire said. "It means we will continue to have this kind of depth and continue to have these kind of exciting personalities." If women's tennis is to keep

growing, the four-teen queens

will be its bankable stars. en's tennis'its second straight "If people are talking about us it must mean they are good players," Kournikova said. "Everybody's different, but I guess it's becoming true."

A huge crowd filled Stadium Court for both matches, pulling for Hingis, then Kournikova. They will have a hard time deciding allegiances for Sunday's

Hingis won this event two years ago as history's youngest No 1. Kournikova has charmed resort fans in her first Family Circle appearance even though

### Uzbekistan beat Japan

AIZUWAKAMATSU, Japan, Apr 4: Vadim Kutsenko won the decisive fifth match Sunday, leading Uzbekistan to a 3-2 win over host Japan in their second round of the Asia-Oceania Davis Cup tennis tie, reports

Kutsenko beat Hideki Kaneko 7-6 (7-5), 6-4, 6-3. Uzbekistan started the day with a 2-1 advantage, but Japan's Takao Suzuki evened at 2-2 as he won the first reverse singles 7-6 (7-5), 7-6 (7-4), 7-5 against Oleg Ogorodov.

Kutsenko met Kaneko in the second and last reverse singles match.

she's vet to claim a WTA tier I ti-

Hingis won her ninth straight match at Sea Pines Racquet Club without her best stuff. She won slightly more than half her first serves and committed four double faults. more than she had her three previous matches.

But Novotna, known more for her grass court skills than clay, continually had backhand problems and made 40 errors.

Novotna was two points from 4-2 in the second set when Hingis got rolling. A nifty lob clipped the back line, giving Hingis a 4-3 lead. Novotna's double fault and wayward backhand made it 5-3 and Hingis closed the match with

her only ace. After Kournikova blew a 5-3 lead in the opening tiebreaker. she rolled off 10 of the next 11 games. Schnyder woke up in the third set - she won two straight games to close Kournikova's

lead to 4-3 — but it was too late. "I didn't feel really tired, but it just became hard to concentrate," said Schnyder.

. When it was over. Kournikova collapsed in the lime green promotional couches used as courtside chairs and thought about her first WTA Tour final since losing to Venus Williams at the 1998 Lip-

"I don't feel any pressure at all," Kournikova said. "Martina, she has to show she's No 1. I don't feel like I have to do anything special."



Romanian Cristina Costee crosses to win the 23rd Paris Marathon yesterday.

- AFP photo

## Germany

FRANKFURT, Apr 4: Boris Becker, playing perhaps his final Davis Cup match, Saturday led Germany to a emotional five-set doubles win over Russia and a 2-1 lead in their World Group tie, reports AP.

Yevgeny Kafelnikov, playing with Andrei Olhovski, refused to shake hands.

pion felt victimsed by some close calls and also was booed non-stop by the 4,900 spectators in the final set until the German team was slapped with a warning.

Kafelnikov fell to his knees and beat the court in frustration after one bad call cost Russia the match. The point set up the decisive break in the final

Kafelnikov sailed into the net at match point, the world No 3 had mounted a rousing duel with Becker. Both players, unleashing one spectacular shot after another, took turns domi-

Both are excellent doubles players with Kafelnikov having won three Grand Slams and Becker having once claimed an

whose last tournament is Stuttgart July 19-25, first played for Germany 14 years ago and led the country to Davis Cup titles in 1988 and 1989. He now is the boss of the German Davis Cup team.

Russia and Germany had split Friday's opening singles as Kafelnikov, the Australian Open champion, swept Nicolas Kiefer 7-6, 6-4, 6-4 and Tommy Haas beat Marat Safin 6-7, 6-4,

The crowd began booing Kafelnikov when his backhand volley gave Russia a break in the final set that pulled his country even at 3-3.

While Kafelnikov, pumped up for the match, jumped up and down in excitement the crowd began to boo as Becker and Pri-

The best-of-five tie will be decided Sunday with the reserve singles.

### Stojkovic sent off in Nagoya loss

TOKYO, Apr 4(Reuters/Internet): Yugoslav veteran forward Dragan Stojkovic, who angered J.League officials last week with his "NATO Stop Strikes" T-shirt, was sent off on Saturday in Nagoya Grampus. Eight's 2-0 loss to Sanfrecce Hiroshima.

Stojkovic was shown the red card in the first half for violent conduct after kicking Hiroshima defender Kenichi Uemura. The Yugoslav star is one of the leaders of a boycott of club matches by Yugoslav players playing for teams located in NATO countries.

J.League chairman Saburo Kawabuchi warned Stojkovic and other players to avoid "bringing political issues to the pitch" after the Yugoslav player brandished the T-shirt in last Saturday's match calling for the end of NATO air strikes on his country.

In other action, Shimizu S-Pulse lost for the first time this season as Yokohama F Marinos international striker Shoji Jo scored twice to lead his team to a 3-2 victory.

Shimizu's defeat sent them from the top of the J.League standings to third. Perennial powerhouses Kashima Antlers and Jubilo Iwata overtook Shimizu on top of the leader board with 12

points each after five matches as they both won on Saturday. Jubilo got an early goal from Daisuke Oku and Masashi Nakayama converted a penalty to give the team a 2-1 win over bottom club Kyoto Purple

Sanga. Atushi Yanagisawa scored twice as Kashima pasted Bellmare Hiratsuka 4-2.

Verdy Kawasaki and Urawa Reds played to a 2-2 draw, while former Japanese international centre forward Akinori Nishizawa was Cerezo Osaka's hat-trick hero in a 3-0 victory over Kashiwa Reysol.

Avispa Fukuoka beat JEF United Ichihara 3-1 while Gamba Osaka downed Vissel Kobe 2-1.

### Paris Marathon Ruto's

PARIS, Apr 4: Kenya's Julius Ruto was the surprise winner of the Paris Marathon on Sunday, while Romania's Christina Costea easily won the women's race, reports AP.

two hours, eight minutes and ten seconds, 15 seconds ahead of his countryman Paul Kipsambo. Congo's Mwenze Kalombo came in third, a further 15 sec-

Ruto completed the course in

Under clear bright skies,

Fred Kiprop and Elija Alajat, both of Kenya, came in fourth and fifth respectively. In the women's race, Romanians filled three of the first

onds behind.

five places. Costea won in two hours, 26 minutes and 11 seconds, one minute and 35 seconds ahead of Russia's Irina Timoseyeva. Japan's Mineko Ya-

manouchi came in third, two

minutes 41 seconds behind

Costea. Romanians Alina Tecuta and Christina Omacu also finished in the top five.

## in front

Becker, who plans to retire in July, and teammate David Prinosil needed three hours and 30 minutes to finally win the 6-7. 6-2, 6-3, 4-6, 10-8 match marred by flaring tempers.
Afterwards Russian star

The Australian Open cham-

set on his serve at 8-8. But before a forehand by

nating the match.

Olympic gold medal. Becker, the former world No

6-3, 2-6, 9-7.

nosil protested the call.

reports AP. which had 9,300 home fans on the edges of their seats and kept

> Americans still lead 2-1. Rusedski and Jim Courier.

> > been on court for almost 7 1/2 hours in his two matches. Courier, having been rested for the doubles by team captain Tom Gullikson, should be a lot fresher against Rusedski despite his 4 hour 12 minute marathon against Henman on

## Michalczewski retains WBO

Germany's Dariusz Michalczewski pounded Muslim Biarslanov at will Saturday, stopping the Russian in the seventh round to defend his WBO light heavyweight title for the 15th time, reports AP.

injury suffered in the finals against Sweden in Milan last December. Žimbabwe 1, Australia 2 At Harare, Mark Woodforde and Todd Woodbridge overpow-

of both Zimbabweans' services three times each. ron Black will meet Pat Rafter and Wayne is expected to take on Mark Philippoussis, who in a surprise upset lost to Byron Black in the opening singles

Friday. France 2, Netherlands 1 France a 2-1 lead.

On Sunday, Pioline can clinch the match by beating Richard Kracijek, winner of the

WOODIES AT WORK: Mark Woodforde (foreground) stretches for a return while his Australian partner Todd Woodbridge watches from the baseline during their Davis Cup doubles match against Zimbabweans Wayne and Byron Black in Harare on April 3. - AFP photo

weekend. If he doesn't it goes

down to the final match be-

tween Jerôme Golmard and

and Jaime Oncins gave Brazil a

2-1 lead after beating Alex Cor-

retja and Albert Costa 6-2, 5-7,

to turn the match around now

rely on Carlos Moya beating

Kuerten, the former French

Open champion, and Corretja

Belgium 1, Czech Republic 2

downing Fernando Meligini.

At Lleida, Gustavo Kuerten

The Spanish team's chances

Spain 1, Brazil 2

Haarhuis.

4-6, 6-4, 6-3.

## Swedes stage fightback Lipton Championship last



hattan.

Defending Davis Cup titlist Sweden stayed in the competition when Nicklas Kulti and Jonas Bjorkman won the doubles on Saturday but still

trailed Slovakia 2-1 going into Sunday singles, reports AP. Kulti and Bjorkman hit back from two sets to one down to score a 4-6, 7-6 (7-2), 6-7 (6-8), 6-1. 6-3 victory over Karol Kucera and Dominik Hrbaty at Troll-

In Sunday's matches,

Thomas Enqvist meets Kucera and Thomas Johansson faces Hrbaty. Switzerland became the first team to reach the last eight by scoring a 3-0 victory over Italy, last season's runner up, when

cosolido and Laurence Tiele-The Italians were handi-

Marc Rosset and Lorenzo Manta

gained a 7-6 (7-4), 4-6, 7-5, 6-3

victory over Stefano Pas-

capped by the absence of their No 1 player Andrea Gaudenzi, still recovering from a shoulder

ered brothers Wayne and Byron

Black 6-4, 2-6, 6-3, 6-0 breaking

In the remaining singles By-

At Nimes, Cedric Pioline and Guillaume Raoux outlasted Paul Haarhuis and Jan Siemerink 6-4, 5-7, 7-6 (7-4), 6-7 (4-7), 6-2 in four hours, 27 minutes to give

At Gent, Jiri Novak and David Rikl scored a 7-6 (7-3), 6-2. 6-0 victory over Johan van Herck and Filip Dewulf to give the Czechs a 2-1 lead after Friday's singles had been split.

In Sunday's reverse singles. Dewulf faces Bohden Ulihrach and Xavier Malisse, who won his singles match for the Belgians, meets Slava Dosedal.

## Brits amaze Americans



BIRMINGHAM. Apr 4: Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski dashed United States hopes of a quick Davis Cup victory over Britain

triumph over Todd Martin and Alex O'Brien on Saturday, With Rusedski's serve unbroken throughout the 3 hours 15 minutes match, the British pair stretched their unbeaten record as doubles partners to seven matches with a 3-6, 7-5. 6-3, 6-7 (7-5), 6-3 triumph

the tie alive even though the A place in the quarterfinal of the World Group now depends on Sunday's matches between Henman and Martin and

Henman is out first having

BREMEN, Germany, Apr 4:

The referee pulled Michalczewski off the helpless Biarslanov, who was being punished against the ropes, with 1:24 left in the round to end a one-sided fight.

38 Wharton

hero

stamp

letters

43 Good king

of song

48 Every last

crumb

49 Exchange

50 Type size

51 Dr.'s ken

product

Solution time: 24 mins.

NATIONAL ROOF
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WIZ GLOVE PIA
DEPRIVE BARD

PAJAMA HOT

COVE EUPHORIA

Yesterday's answer

52 Missing

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ACROSS

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9 Charlotte's

12 Partner in 42 "- Town"

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14 Ostrich's

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30 Grafton's

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18 Job safety DOWN

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4 W.W.II

"Having been on court for something like seven hours I'm bound to be a little fatigued," Henman said. "I hope that Todd's tired as well."

But Martin, who beat Rusedski in three, one-sided sets on Friday, said he had no plans to work on Henman's possible tiredness. "If it were on clay then maybe I could spin the ball and

play the angles," he said. "But it's a quicker surface than that and anyway that's not the way I "I'm not going to beat him by fatiguing him, just beat him." For the Americans, who hold the record of 31 Davis Cup

titles, it appeared like a opportunity lost having taken the first set. For the home nation, which has been in the tennis doldrums for more than a decade, it gives them a glimpse of a World Group quarterfinal it last saw in 1986. "I thought that when Rused-

ski saw Todd again it would be like a reoccurring nightmare," US team captain Tom Gullikson said. "We did it the first set but just couldn't keep the momentum up." Gullikson sent out his 12th different doubles pair in the 16

matches he has been in charge

and they appeared to be getting on top early. O'Brien saved three break points at 3-3 in the opening set before the Americans struck first by breaking Henman. Martin then held his to love and the American duo looked confident as they took the set 6-3 and scented another victory to go with Friday's singles triumphs. Roared on by the fans, the British duo wouldn't lie down.

ing O'Brien in the final game of the second set and swung the match around when they broke Martin in the second game of the third to lead 3-0. They held on to take the set

and go ahead in the match but

there were no breaks in the

21 Moist

23 1973

24 Actor

26 Chum,

robot

movie

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Under

hends

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37 White

38 Spume

39 Hold the

Etats- -

wegian

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41 Glas-

The Brits hit back by break-

fourth and it went a tiebreaker. Holding a mini-break for 3-1 the home duo threw it away when Rusedski netted a backhand. The Americans tied the match at two sets all on a second set point when O'Brien expertly served wide to Rusedski and then hit a winning forehand past a wrong-footed Hen-

O'Brien saved three break points at 1-0 down in the fifth but couldn't stave off a fourth when Rusedski's fiercely-hit forehand flew off the rim of Martin's racket and into the cheering crowd.

Henman then held confidently as the Brits went 3-0 ahead and Rusedski sent down a series of power-packed serves at 5-3 to clinch victory on his second match point.

## Nielsen leads NZ victory

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, Apr 4: New Zealand's Mark Nielsen won the decisive fifth rubber to give the hosts a 3-2 win over South Korea in their Davis Cup Asia-Oceania group second-round tie Sunday.

Nielsen beat Song Hyeong-

New Zealand started the fi-

nal day with a 2-1 advantage,

Keun 6-3, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4.

thanks to Brett Steven and James Greenhalgh winning Saturday's doubles but a quad muscle problem forced Steven's withdrawal from the reverse singles. Lee Hyung-Taik, who beat Nielsen in the first singles,

trounced Alistair Hut 6-3, 6-4, 6-0 to level the tie. "I told myself I had to start playing better, that I needed to win. It was important for me to move a lot faster and be a bit more aggressive," Nielsen said. He sought inspiration from

his first-day defeat, reminding

himself he "didn't want to play

like that again."



ROLR

GZME QJHXPGZ-LXXYE HJMNYMK HPXX IG KRMPNY. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THAT DOPE PROBABLY THINKS YOU LEARN ABOUT CHICKENS IN THE

A L O T TRYSTING 44 Freudian Subject Today's Cryptoquip clue: Z equals G subject 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

45 Whopper 46 Expert 47 Muppel words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

HENCYCLOPEDIA.