Pakistan, Shoaib fined

SHARJAH, Apr 15: Pakistan's paceman Shoaib Akhtar has been fined for comments to an English batsman during a Champions Cup one-day tournament, reports AP.

Akhtar was punished for breaching the code of conduct laid down by the International Cricket Council," according to match referee Sidath Wettimuny of Sri Lanka.

Wettimuny fined Akhtar "10 per cent of his match fee" for comments made to Nick Knight during the Pakistan-England match on Monday. He did not elaborate on the substance of Akhtar remarks.

Wettimuny also fined each of the Pakistan players 10 per cent of their match fees for their slow overs rate against Eng-land. He did not disclose their match fee.

Wettimuny shortened Pakistan's innings by two overs to 48, when they batted against England on Monday. Pakistan lost the match by 62 runs, giving England their only victory in the triangular tournament. Earlier Indian paceman

Venkatesh Prasad, was fined 30 per cent of his match fee for using abusive language against English batsman Vince Wells in Sunday's match.

india and Pakistan will meet in the final on Friday. England were eliminated from tournament, having lost once to Pakistan and twice to India.

Windies' tour to Pakistan not on

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates, Apr 15 (Reuters/ Internet): A planned West Indies tour of Pakistan later this year will not go ahead because of unsuitable dates, a Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) official said on Tuesday.

"It's not a question of the West Indies Cricket Board calling off the tour because it was never on in the first place," PCB chairman Khalid Mahmood

"The West Indies Board said September was too hot to tour Pakistan and they wanted to come in November when the weather was better.

"Since Pakistan have to tour Australia from November there are no suitable dates for both boards." Mahmood said.

Mahmood said the tour, taking in three Tests and three oneday internationals, had not advanced beyond the proposal

Nothing was finalised. "Pakistan have to pay a return visit to West Indies in February next year and the PCB simply suggested a West Indies tour of Pakistan in September and October."

McGrath lured to England

SYDNEY, Apr 15 (AFP/ Internet): Australia's feared fast bowler Glenn McGrath was expected to join an English County side next year, the Australian newspaper reported Thursday.

The 29-year-old, currently in the West Indies with the Australian tour party, declined to discuss details of several offers other than to confirm they were being finalised.

McGrath expects to play Test cricket for another five years, which would give him enough time to overtake Dennis Lillee's total of 355 as Australia's leading Test wicket-taker.

But Australia's coach Geoff Marsh has warned the player of the dangers of burn out.

McGrath missed most of the one-day series during 1997-98 with stomach and groin problems and was forced out of Australia's tours to New Zealand, - India and Sharjah in 1998.

He has been playing international cricket non-stop since Australia began their tour of Pakistan last September and had to be rested for the first two one-day internationals on their current tour of the West Indies.

McGrath's tally in four Tests was just three short of the Australia-West Indies series record of 33 set over five Tests by Curtly Ambrose, Clarrie Grimmett and Alan Davidson.

He seems to thrive on confrontation. He was involved in a mid-pitch altercation with Brian Lara during the third Test in Barbados and was charged with bringing the game into disrepute for spitting on the pitch near West Indies' opener Adrian Griffith in the fourth

That meant he had to pay a fine of 1,500 US dollars suspended from the Boxing Day Test, when he sledged England's Alan Mullally.

Graf included in Fed Cup team

BONN, Apr 15: German vet-eran Steffi Graf will play for Germany in the country's Fed Cup World Group two first-round tie against Japan later this month, reports Xinhua. The German Tennis Federa-

tion (DTB) said on Wednesday that Graf, Anke Huber, Andrea Glass and Marlene Weingaertner have been picked for the tie from April 24-25 in Hamburg. Germany.

Rematch given green signal

PANAMA CITY, Apr 15: The World Boxing Association (WBA) has officially sanctioned the proposed September world heavyweight reunification rematch in Las Vegas between American Evander Holyfield (WBA and IBF champion) and Britain's Lennox Lewis (WBC holder), reports AFP.

Indians turn around

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates, Apr 15: Sadagopan Ramesh and Rahul Dravid hit fighting half-centuries as India ended an eightmatch losing streak against Pakistan with a six-wicket romp here on Tuesday, reports

The Indians became the first team in the three-nation Champions' Cup tournament to win under lights when they overtook Pakistan's modest 205-9 with 11 deliveries to Ramesh and Dravid, who

came together in the fourth over, put on a match-winning partnership of 166 for the second wicket.

Left-handed Ramesh, playing only his sixth one-dayer, hit 82 and Dravid made 81 in a spirited reply before both batsmen were run out.

Ramesh went 23 short of the target when he slipped on the dew-laden wicket, while Dravid fell an over later in a mix-up with skipper Ajay Jadeja.

Paceman Shoaib Akhtar

also removed Jadeja to claim his 10th wicket in the tournament, but Robin Singh and Vinod Kambli scored the 16 runs needed amid mounting tension in the stands.

It was just the morale-boosting tonic India were looking for when they take on Pakistan again in Friday's final. India, missing their skipper

Mohammad Azharuddin because of a toe injury, ended the round-robin league with three wins from four matches. Pakistan, who won both

their opening matches, suffered their second defeat in two days, having lost to England by 62 runs on Monday. The previous five matches in the tournament were won by

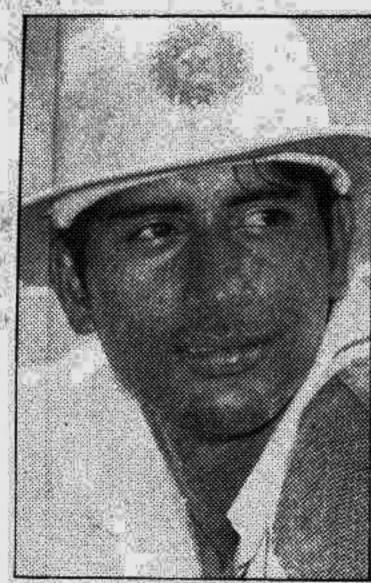
moist outfield made batting tougher in the second session. On Monday, England successfully defended a total of 206 by bowling out Pakistan for

teams taking first strike as the

So when Wasim Akram won

the toss for the third time in the tournament and had no hesitation in batting first, it seemed

India's goose was cooked. But Jadeja's men put in an aggressive display in the field to restrict Pakistan to 205-9 despite resting pace spearhead Javagal Srinath and Saurav Ganguly.



RAMESH ... m-o-m

Pakistan were reduced to 50-4 by the 14th over, before veteran Salim Malik came to his side's rescue with 50. Malik put on 60 for the fifth wicket with Wajahatullah

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Wasti and then 73 for the sixth with Moin Khan. Moin hit five boundaries in a typically defiant 54 off 61

200-run mark. Medium-pacer Robin Singh was the pick of the Indian bowlers, conceding just 26 runs

in his 10 overs. Leg-spinner Anil Kumble finished with 1-SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the Champions' Cup one-day international between India and Pakistan here on Tuesday: PAKISTAN Afridi run out Anwar c Jadeja b Agarkar Wasti c Jadeja b Agarkar Ijaz lbw b Kumble Inzamam run out Malik c Dravid b Prasad Moin c Joshi b Jadeja Akram run out Mahmood c Singh b Jadeja Saglain not out Akhtar not out Extras: (lb-7, nb-5) Total: (For nine wickets) 205 Fall of wickets: 1-16; 2-34; 3-

45; 4-50; 5-110; 6-183; 7-184; 8-200, 9-202 Bowler R 45 M Prasad 0 Agarkar 1 41 Kumble 27 26 Singh 40 Joshi Jadeia INDÍA Khurasia b Akhtar Ramesh run out Dravid run out Jadeja c Ijaz b Akhtar

Extras: (lb-6, w-12, nb-1) Total (For four wkts in 48.1 overs) Did not bat : A Agarkar, N Mongia, A Kumble, S Joshi, V Fall of wkts: 1-17; 2-183; 3-187: 4-190

Singh not out

Kambli not out

Bowler 39 Akram 0 Akhtar 43 Saglain 0 47 Mahmood 10 35 32 Result: India won by six wickets.

Friday's final: India v Pak-

Man-of-the-match:

Sadagopan Ramesh

balls to take Pakistan past the Ronaldo receives recall



MILAN, Apr 15; Ronaldo, called up to play for Brazil for the first time since the World Cup final, says he

Copa America in July, reports Ronaldo on Tuesday was included in the Brazil side to meet his former club Barcelona at their Nou Camp stadium in a

friendly on April 28. The Inter Milan player, who has only recently recovered from a knee injury that has plagued his season, said he was thrilled to return for Brazil after mysteriously falling ill before the Paris final last July, won by France 3-0.

This is more than great — it is beautiful," Ronaldo said.

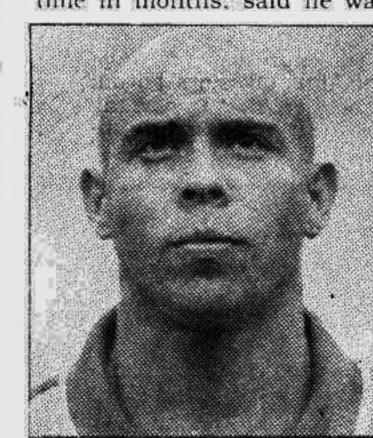
"I can now put back on the jersey I have missed so much and it will be wonderful to be able to cancel out that memory of the World Cup final against Barcelona," he was quoted as saying in Gazzetta dello Sport daily on Wednesday. "It is a joy that I dedicate to

myself - I think I deserve it after all I've been through - and I think it's good for Inter who have never stopped believing that I could return to my old

form," he added.

Inter have sorely missed Ronaldo this season, falling to the middle of the Serie A and crashing out of the quarter finals of the European Cup after a hopes to turn around his disapdefeat by England's Manchester pointing season by playing the United.

Ronaldo, who has played two full games in a row for the first time in months, said he was



RONALDO

slowly regaining his form. "I hope to play in the Copa America, it would be the best ending to a horrible season," he said. But for now I've still got to try to make it a little less horrible for Inter." Inter chairman

Massimo Moratti, angered over his team's lack of form, warned in an interview on Wednesday that he was ready to make changes to the squad of players. Inter, one of the biggest-

spending clubs in Italy, were humiliated yet again on Sunday, dropping to ninth place in Serie A after losing 2-0 to relegation-threatened Salernitana.

When you win, you think everyone is a good player, but when you lose, and lose badly like we have done, then you suddenly don't want to look at any of them any more," Moratti told Gazzetta.

"These players must understand they have huge responsibilities toward the contracts they have signed, their fans and the jersey they wear. "We must understand who

has the talent and character to play for Inter... because if a player is skilful but lacks character, then he can go and display his skills elsewhere." he

He added that he had made an offer for Parma's French defender Lilian Thuram but had yet to receive a reply.

"Thuram is a great player and 18 different clubs are interested in him, but I did not offer a blank cheque," he said.

Krajicek registers rusty win



TOKYO, Apr 15 (Reuters/Internet) : Top seed Richard Krajicek beat David German Prinosil 6-4, 6-4

in the third round of the Japan Open on Thursday despite complaining his game lacked its usual control. "I didn't feel completely in

control for the whole match." Krajicek said, adding he had trouble judging the court speed of the hard surface in Tokyo as well as following the ball through the air.

Krajicek missed several volley chances early in the match, but with the first set score tied three all, he was able to take advantage of a pair of Prinosil unforced errors and a double fault to get the break in a crucial seventh game. In the first game of the second set Prinosil lost a lacklustre service game and was never able to recover from the early break.

Krajicek will next face fourth-seeded Swede Jonas Bjorkman, who beat German Jens Knippschild 6-7 (4-7), 6-4,

Swedish third seed Thomas Enqvist rolled over Canadian Daniel Nestor to pull out an easy 6-2, 6-2 victory.

Enqvist took advantage of early service breaks and Nestor's patchy serve to win the match in just over an hour.

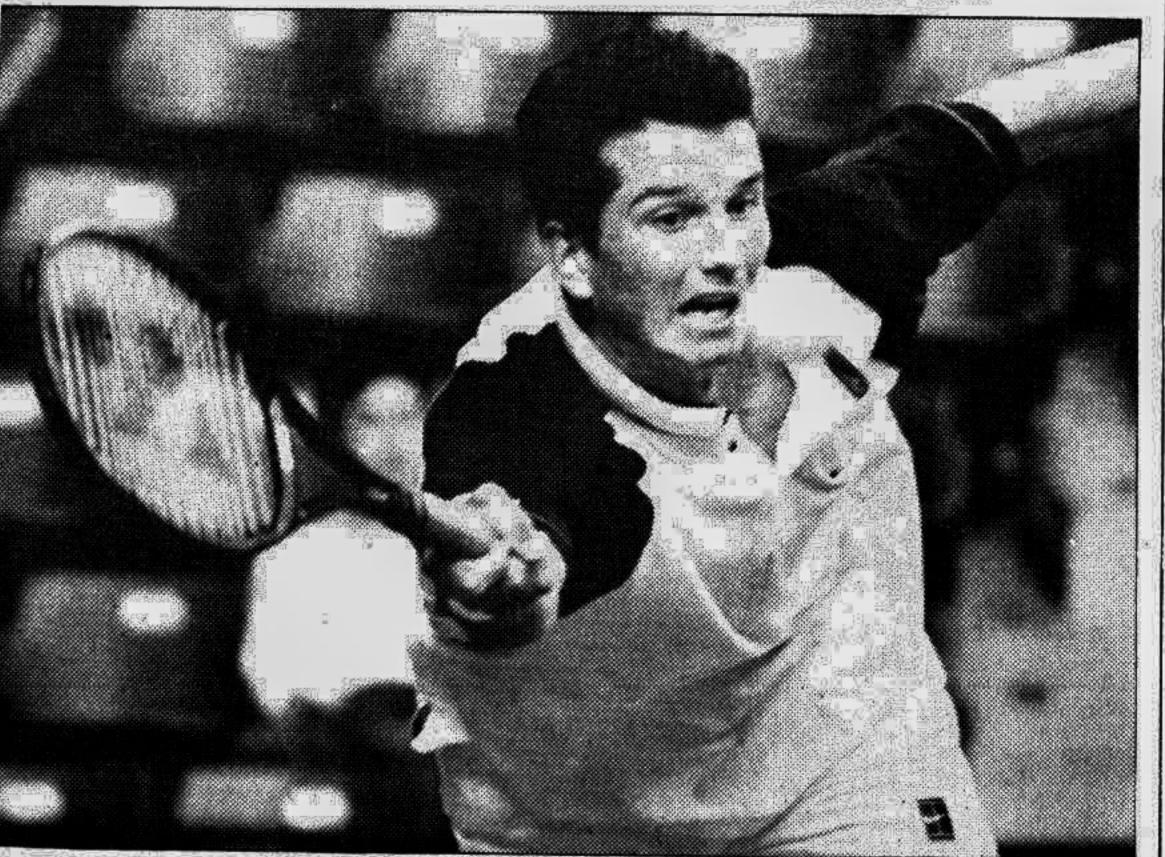
Enqvist said that he played an almost "perfect match" against Nestor, who beat fellow Swede Mikael Tillstrom in the second round.

"I had two tough Davis Cup matches (against Austria), so took a week off before Tokyo to try and recover from that," En-

qvist said. Enqvist became the top challenger for the Japan Open when number two seed Andre Agassi dropped out of the tournament on Wednesday because of a shoulder injury he suffered when winning the Salem Open last week in Hong Kong.

In other action, number four seed Thomas Johansson of Sweden beat Italian Gianluca Pozzi 6-4, 3-6, 6-4, while German number five seed Nicolas Kiefer downed American Michael Sell 3-6, 6-3, 6-2.

On the women's side, defending champion and number one seed Ai Sugiyama of Japan easily defeated Czech Lenka Nemeckova 6-4, 6-1.



Richard Krajicek of Netherlands playing a forehand during his Japan Open fixture against German David Prinosil at Tokyo on April 15. Krajicek won 6-4, 6-4.

Loreto earned a facile 102 Bank 17th schools cricket

Winning the toss, Loreto scored 226 in 34.1 overs and later bundled out Dhanmondi Tutorial for 124 in 25.1 overs.

In the day's other matches, Hammadia High School beat K L Jubilee School by seven wickets at the Orient Club ground while Mohammadpur Govt High School defeated BCSIR High School by three wickets at the Kalabagan ground.

BCB Eleven back home

Sports Reporter Cricket Board team, eliminated from the President's Cup na-tional one-day tournament be-ing held in Pakistan, returned

yesterday evening. prestigious 14-team competition, the tourists defeated Pakistan Customs by 7 runs on April 6 and Hyderabad Cricket Assiciation by six wickets in their last match on April 12. Besides, they tied with Quetta Cricket Association on April 10 . They lost the other two group matches to Karachi Cricket Association by 50 runs on April 4 and Pakistan Nationa Shipping Corporation by nine wickets on April 8.

M'singh cricket

MYMENSINGH, Apr 15: Two cricket matches of the district First Division cricket league were held here on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Mukul Fouz Sobuj made an easy win defeating Gulki Bari KC by 66 runs held at Circuit House premises.

stadium, Nil Komol defeated Ashit Memorial Club by seven runs with excellent bowling by Sumon.

In the 40-over match, Mukul Fouz scored 202 for seven wickets with Goutam's highest 41.

wickets. Moni scored the highest 67 runs. Nil Komol collected 110 against the defeated Ashit Memorial's 103 runs. Mitu of

Nil Komol scored the highest 30

CPC cricketers arrive today

A 15-member cricket team of Calcutta Press Club (CPC) arrives here today at the invitation of the Jatiya Press Club (JPC) on a four-day visit. re-

Stadium on April 17.

The CPC during their stay in Dhaka, is expected to call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, State Minister for Youth. Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader, State Minister for Information Professor Abu Sayeed, Deputy Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives and President of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Saber Hossain Chowdhury.

St George's ODI debut

this Caribbean island's unfinished new sports stadium at sold-out one-day international between the West Indies and Australia, reports AP.

Labourers and technicians who had worked throughout the night were putting last-minute touches to the 35 million dollars, 12,000-seat Queen's Park when people started gathering. hours before the official opening of the gates.

me about this match, I want to witness it myself," said a 35year-old Grenadian teacher. It's been 17 years since Grenada hosted a one day international - the West Indies versus India in 1982 - and tickets were sold out despite doubts about the new ground.

ing people that there will be "a good day's cricket."

Queen's Park has become There also was speculation

Wednesday because Grenadian wicketkeeper Junior Murray was not selected for the match. Murray, who has the best oneday record among the current players, was considered a cer-

that islanders might boycott

islanders to ignore the issue.

Loreto rout **D** Tutorial

ANZ Grindlays **National School Cricket**

runs victory over Dhanmondi Tutorial in the ANZ Grindlays tournament at the Mohammadpur Eidgah ground yester-day, reports UNB.

The 16-member Bangladesh

In the first round of the

In another match at local

in reply, Gulki Bari managed 136 in 33.3 overs losing all

and Iftekar 17 runs.

glish club.

ST GEORGE's, Grenada, Apr 15: Thousands of Grenadians and visitors crowded outside first light Wednesday for the

"I don't want anyone to tell

United in the final on May 22. in Brazil, and Ricky Villa's for

Officials of the West Indies Cricket Board have made clear that they are unhappy that Grenada's new playing surface never has been tested. Their concern is heightened by recollection of last year's embarrassing spectacle at Jamaica's Sabina Park, where an uneven pitch forced England and the West Indies to abandon a Test match, the first time that has ever happened. Umpires stopped the match after only 10.1 over because several English batsmen were struck by short-pitched deliveries.

But Prime Minister Sir James Mitchell has been assur-

controversial locally because of questions about why the government is building a sports stadium before a much-needed new hospital — a position Mitchell has strongly defended saying one of them had to come

On Tuesday Mitchell urged

Nicky Butt (C) of Manchester United fails to find a way through Arsenal defenders Martin Keown (R), Tony Adams (No 6) and Emmanuel Petit during their FA Cup semifinal replay at Birmingham on April 14.

Ryan classic carries MU



BIRMINGHAM. England, Apr 15(Reuters/Internet): Manchester United

stayed on course for an unprecedented treble when they beat holders Arsenal 2-1 in a breathtaking F.A. Cup semifinal replay on Wednesday. The match, one of the best in

the competition's history, had unrelenting excitement, dramatic incident and soccer of the highest technical quality. It finally tilted United's way

with a wonderful goal by Ryan

Giggs in extra time. United, reduced to 10 men after skipper Roy Keane was sent off in the 74th minute for a second yellow card after fouling Marc Overmars, overcame the odds to win after Giggs ran 60 metres from inside his own half, rode four tackles and then smashed the ball into the roof

of David Seaman's net. It also came against the run of play as Arsenal, who started slowly, dominated the action after Keane's dismissal.

"I got the ball, took it on and just hit it -- it is the best goal I have ever scored," Giggs said. United now play Newcastle United in the final on May 22 and keep alive their dream of winning a league and cup double as well as the European Cup, a feat never performed by an En-

United manager Alex Ferguson said: "That match will stay in people's minds forever. It was wonderful. We were hanging on for grim death to be honest and needed something out of this world -- and we got it with

Ryan's goal. "It was truly remarkable, These are goals and nights you

never forget." Arsenal manager Arsene Seaman and some hurried Wenger, almost lost for words shooting and near misses from afterwards, said: "So near yet so far. It was just not our night. A disallowed goal, a missed penalty and conceding an exceptional goal. It's a big blow but we must bounce back immediately for the champi-

onship challenge.' Arsenal, whose hopes of a second successive cup and league double died with this defeat, had a golden chance to wrap up the match on the stroke of full time. But Peter Schmeichel dived athletically to his left to save Dennis Bergkamp's penalty, sending the match into

extra time. United conceded the penalty after Phil Neville brought down Ray Parlour in the box. But Bergkamp, who scored Arsenal's equaliser, failed to guarantee Arsenal a place in the final against Newcastle for the second successive year.

United took the lead after 17

minutes with a superb curling shot from David Beckham -- the first goal Arsenal had conceded for 660 minutes since Newcastle's Dietmar Hamann scored against them on February 28. His shot followed a quick inter-passing move with Teddy

verse flick left Tony Adams stranded and Beckham in Beckham's 30-metre shot was always curling away from

Sheringham, whose clever re-

his England international colleague Seaman. United, who had not beaten Arsenal in six matches since February 1997, then had sev-

eral clear-cut chances to take a

But magnificent saves by Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and Teddy Sheringham, surprisingly preferred in attack to the 47-goal strike pairing of Dwight Yorke and Andy Cole, allowed Arsenal to stay in the hunt.

They took that chance after. 69 minutes, thanks to a lucky deflection off defender Jaap Stam.

Bergkamp's shot was going wide but hit the knee of his fellow Dutchman and flew past Schmeichel.

Arsenal thought they had gone ahead four minutes later when Schmeichel failed to hold a Bergkamp shot. He spilled the ball into the path of Anelka who rounded Schmeichel to score and then led his team mates in prolonged but premature celebration.

But the linesman had already flagged for offside against Anelka in the build-up to the goal and after a lengthy discussion between the officials referee David Elleray disallowed That incident mirrored the

controversial decision by Elleray to disallow a United goal in Sunday's 0-0 draw between the teams. Television replays later showed that the officials got it right this time as Anelka was half a metre offside when the ball was played for-

Arsenal then over-ran United with substitute Overmars creating chances almost at will for both himself and his

team mates. But Giggs, who had come on for Jesper Blomqvist after an hour, had the final say in the 109th minute.

commanding lead. The CPC team will play a friendly match with the JPC at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on April 17. Cal ggs doubtful for Juve return



ester United's epic 2-1 F.A. Cup semilinal replay triumph over holders Arsenal on Wednesday. The Welsh international hobbled out of Villa Park on crutches with an ankle injury and could now miss United's European Cup semifinal return leg against Juventus in Turin

Second half substitute Giggs sealed a dramatic replay between the Premier League's top two clubs with a sensational extra time winner. He burst past four Arsenal defenders in a 60-metre solo surge that began inside his own

next week.

half before lashing an unstoppable angled left-foot drive high into the net past England's No. 1 keeper David Seaman. United boss Alex Ferguson. who will become the first manager to win the F.A. Cup four times if United beat Newcastle

saluted Giggs' strike. "It ranks with John Barnes' goal for England when they won

31 Mess EMITERION BONDAR Reagan
CALZONE DEANE
45 Fiddler's 35 Roulette INSSTYN 39 Hitchcock tour de Wednesday's answers force 40 Wrigley

ONTIMENAMECHE

DIGITALEMALEK

MEDALBRAIL

26 Incessant

28 Crewman 30 Tackle

moguls

Spurs in the F.A. Cup final against Manchester City. "To be honest, we were hang-

ing on for grim death. We needed something out of this world to win it and we got it with Giggs' goal. I can't find words to describe it. It was just pure genius. But that's Ryan when he plays like that."

Ferguson described Arsenal as "terrific opponents. But he admitted he'd never been more proud of his own players.

"We never gave in, even when

the odds seemed stacked against

have numerous injury prob-

us. The time to give up in this game is when you die, and they're nailing down the coffin. Never on the football field." United, bidding for a domestic double plus European glory.

Giggs apart, Peter Schmeichel and Andy Cole could also miss Saturday's league game against Sheffield Wednesday. "I might even have to play myself," joked Ferguson, "People go on about us chasing the treble. But there's a danger all this could still blow up in our faces because we've got game af-

ter game and game coming up.

United captain Roy Keane

admitted he had feared the

worst after his sending off for a second yellow card for bringing down Arsenal's Marc Overmars leaving United with 10 men for the last 46 minutes.

Just like the 1995 semifinal

replay at the same Villa Park

venue when he was sent off against Crystal Palace, Keane watched the closing stages on television in the players' lounge. "Unfortunately this is becoming a bit of a habit for me." he said. "But I have no complaints with the referee. He

booking because they were both mistimed tackles. Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger insisted his side would bounce back and maintain their challenge in defence of

didn't have a choice with either

their championship. My players gave absolutely everything. We were so near and yet so far. We had a goal disallowed. missed a last minute penalty and lost the tie to an exceptional goal from Ryan Giggs. "Sometimes you just have to

accept it's not your night." After Sunday's 0-0 draw. notable mainly for Keane's disallowed goal. Wednesday's replay was full of dramatic twists

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer ACROSS product 18 Color Bourne 21 Chew the 1 Flourish Identity" 42 Egress 6 "The final 43 Feed-bag author scenery frontier 23 Tee shot 3 Peculiar 44 Comic strip 4 Make 11 Reason 25 Chow for a down 46 Nicklaus' 27 - out a rematch? 5 Track 12 Claws number 47 Admission 14 Fill full of 6 Map lines 29 Entertains 49 Ornate and 7 Carson's holes lavishly 15 Magipredeces- 31 Froggy tall florid 51 Topknot-32 Fishes' aide? adomed 8 Priestly partners 16 Wholly doll garment 33 Away from 17 Clear sky 52 Back-fence 9 Nirvana the biz chitchat 19 The time district rocker 53 Hose woes 10 Baffler of your 34 Bad 54 Frequently 11 Up for hairpiece 20 Despon-13 Superman 36 Tabloid 1 S.O.S. rival article, 22 Sweet girl maybe 37 Vitamin of song Solution time: 28 mins. 23 Symbol of B-3 CRYPTOQUIP thinness 38 Barber's 24 English CWUHXXVCQUY Channel 41 "Lost UNITED RASP ARMERODEHUSSY GOENETEPID feeder

XEWCUASUW XHVRYA'S Horizon' QS: KU FEG E actress GEF RHGUW. 44 State Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FOR STEALING A DECK OF CARDS, DIDN'T THE THIEF GET TWO WEEKS OF Secretary under

SOLITAIRE? Today's Cryptoquip clue: F equals W The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one

48 New Deal letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it relief org. 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.