

Results of yesterday's warm-ups

Cardiff
Glamorgan
Kenya
Match abandoned due to rain

Southampton
Hampshire 91 all out
England 92-1
England beat Hampshire by 9 wickets

Leicester
Sri Lanka 143-5
Leicestershire 81-5
Leicestershire need 63 more runs to win (A rate of 13.50 runs/over)

Southgate
Middlesex 216-6
South Africa 219-4
South Africa beat Middlesex by 6 wickets

Trent Bridge
India 243-5
Nottinghamshire 159-6
India beat Nottinghamshire by 88 runs

Edgbaston
Warwickshire 171 all out
Zimbabwe 106 all out
Warwickshire beat Zimbabwe by 65 runs
(Source: Internet)

Graf back in action

BONN, May 11 (Reuters/AP) — Steffi Graf returns to action on home soil after two weeks out with a foot injury in the first round of the German Open on Tuesday.

Graf, 29, will take on Yugoslavian wildcard Sandra Naek, 11 years her junior.

She was seeded to meet Irena Spilrea in the last 16 but the 13th-ranked Romanian walked out of court during the second set of her first round match with Cara Black of Zimbabwe without explanation.

On Monday defending champion Conchita Martinez ousted France's Anne-Gaëlle Sidot in straight sets to kick off the event where 16 of the world's top 20 are entered.

Martinez, a former Wimbledon winner who has fallen to 17th in the world rankings, advanced into the second round with a 7-6 (7-3), 6-2 victory at the 1 million dollar event.

The top seeds, led by No. 1 Martina Hingis, are first scheduled to see action Tuesday and Wednesday.

Romania's Irina Spilrea, No. 13, became the first seed ousted when she withdrew with stomach pains while trailing Zimbabwe's Cara Black, 6-3, 0-1, while No. 16 Barbara Schett of Austria advanced with a 6-4, 5-7, 6-2 victory against South Africa's Marijn de Swardt.

While many of the new wave of teenagers are entered like Hingis, Serena Williams and Anna Kournikova, they have yet to break the domination of the veterans at the event.

France's Mary Pierce captured the title two years ago while Hingis — despite her dominance elsewhere — has failed to last beyond the quarterfinals in the past three years.

Venus Williams, who often doesn't enter the same events as her sister Serena, the injured Lindsay Davenport and Monica Seles are the only top players not entered.

In other matches Monday, Lisa Raymond beat Chanda Rubin 6-3, 7-6 (7-2) in an all-American duel, Italy's Silvia Lavea ousted Tara Snyder of the United States, 6-4, 6-1 and Russia's Anna Smashnova ousted Germany's Marlene Weingartner, 6-0, 6-4.

The major surprise of Monday's first round was the victory of 17-year-old German Julia Abe, rated 168th in the world, who beat Russia's Tatiana Panova ranked 100 places above her, 6-4, 7-6 (7-3).

Proteas' fifth element

LONDON, May 11 (AFP) — The South African team set five goals for the 1998-99 cricket season, including winning its first World Cup at its third attempt.

If the Proteas win the World Cup, goal No. 5, it will be a testament to their unparalleled all-round strength.

It all began last September when a second-string South African team beat a full-strength Australia to win the Commonwealth Games gold medal in Kuala Lumpur.

Since, it has won a mini-World Cup in Bangladesh, thrashed West Indies and New Zealand in both Tests and limited-over series, and now as strong favourites.

Hansie Cronje has captained South Africa in 100 limited-over internationals and has a 76 per cent success rate.

The players have started realizing that they can compete with the best in the world," he said. "To me that is a major step towards the right direction."

"I think we are flying in formation now."

Despite unsuccessful, and controversial, World Cup campaigns in 1992 and 1996, South

Africa has remained the team to beat in one-day cricket, boasting a galaxy of world class allrounders — Shaun Pollock, Lance Klusener, Jacques Kallis, Nicky Boje and Derek Coorrees.

"Those (World Cup) memories are still fresh," Cronje said. "Some of the players have played in both tournaments and think they owe the South African people a world title."

In Sydney in 1992, South Africa, were deprived of a place in the final by default after a farcical rain-rule reduced its target from 22 runs off 13 balls to scandalous 21 off one ball.

In Karachi in 1996, after remaining unbeaten in a group that included hosts Pakistan, New Zealand and England, it was knocked out in the quarterfinal by West Indies.

In the final, South Africa still lost, you can't ask for more than that," Cronje said. "There have been times when people back home have felt that we really could have played a little better and won."

The South Africans have vowed to bid a fitting farewell to the duo of chairman of selectors Peter Pollock and coach Bob Woolmer.

The two will end their commitments at the end of the

World Cup.

Since returning to international cricket in 1991, South Africa have won 101 of its 164 matches and clinched tournaments on home soil, in England, Sharjah, Kenya, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Although Sri Lanka re-invented one-day cricket with pinch-hitting, Woolmer has been the mastermind behind a tactical revolution in limited-over cricket, which make South Africa the most innovative and efficient side.

Woolmer, who took over from Mike Proctor in 1994, has worked hard in turning average players into all rounders by making them proficient in more than one area.

Boje was an ideal example. He was a spinner for his state and since coming under the wings of Woolmer at national level, he has been regarded as an all rounder.

"Yes I guess our allround depth and our seam bowlers are our strength," says Cronje, himself a one-day allrounder. "We've got to make sure our planning is spot."

South Africa open the tournament on Saturday against India at Hove on May 15.

Punter to net half a million if MU win

LONDON, May 11 — A punter stands to claim more than 500,000 pounds (750,000 dollars) from a British bookmaker if Manchester United win the English Premiership, reports AFP.

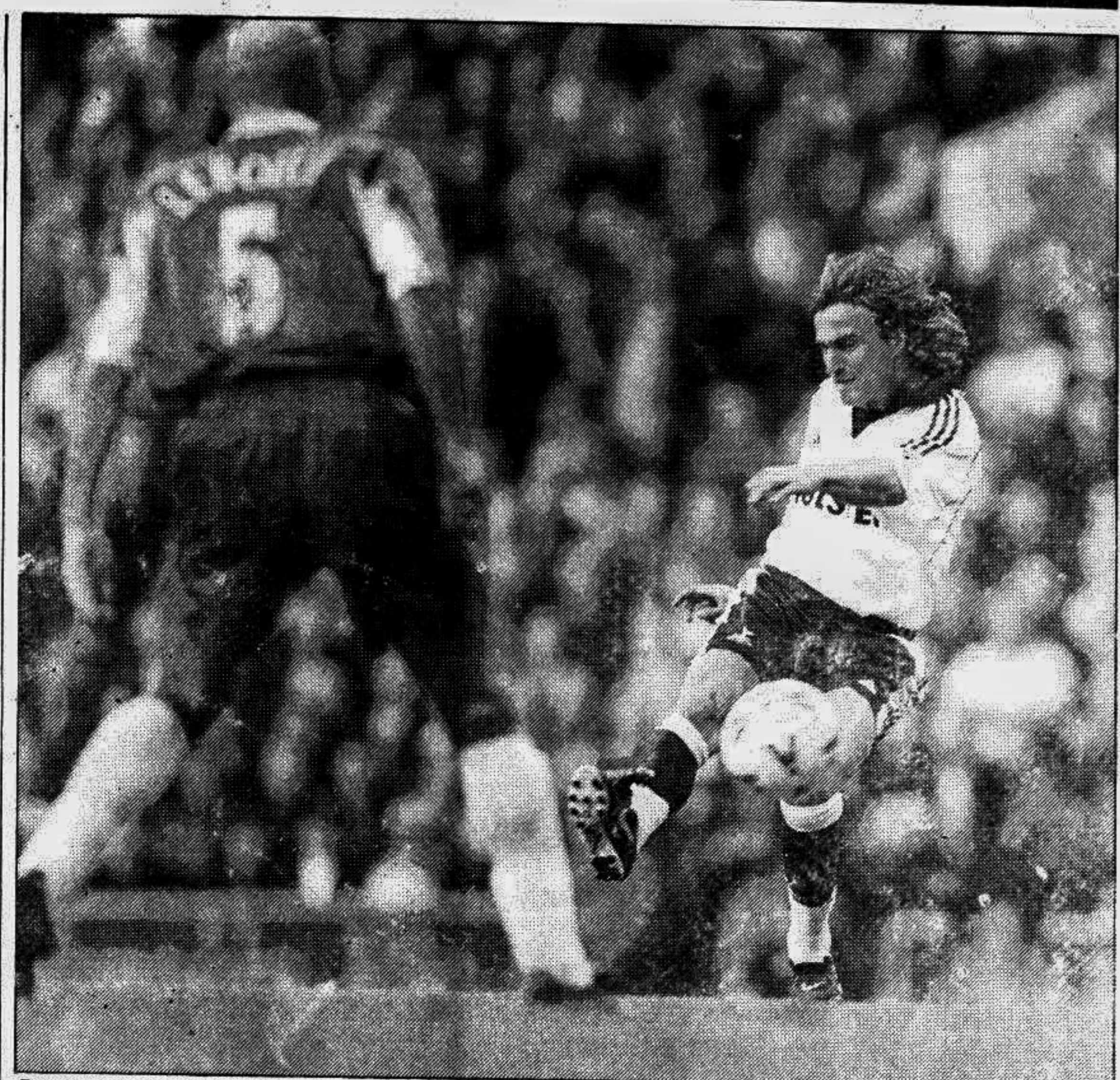
The customer from Basingstoke placed accumulators three times in August and September with bookmakers Coral, for 50 pounds, 40 pounds and 40 pounds.

So far he has correctly backed the division one champions, Sunderland (starting odds 10-3), division two champions Fulham (11-2) and division three champions Brentford (5-1) in England.

He also backed Premier League champions Rangers (4-6), division one champions Hibernian (10-11), division two champions Livingston (5-4) and division three champions Ross County (6-5) in Scotland.

Now only United — who began the season at 7-4 — need to finish top for the bet to pay out.

With two games to play United have the same number of points as Arsenal in the Premiership but are top because they have scored more goals.



David Ginola (R), Tottenham Hotspur's French superstar, fires in a long range shot during the English Premiership clash against Chelsea at White Hart Lane on May 10. The match ended 2-2. — AFP photo

Chelsea out of contention

LONDON, May 11 — A stunning second-half equaliser ended their already slender hopes of the English Premiership title, reports AFP.

The Dane's strike cancelled out another virtuoso goal from player-of-the-year David Ginola and ensured neither side lost face in the capital derby match.

Tottenham's French genius Ginola, yet to agree a new contract with Spurs, made a lively start, twice bamboozling the Chelsea defence with his trademark mazy runs.

But after only four minutes Chelsea took the lead.

Tottenham keeper Ian Walker must take the blame for the goal as he came rushing out for a Gianfranco Zola freekick that was beyond his reach leaving Uruguayan midfielder Gustavo Poyet the easy task of heading into an unguarded net.

Five minutes later Norwegian striker Tore Andre Flo embarrassed Spurs defender Mauricio Taricco but his cross was dealt with by John Scales and Walker.

Flo was in the thick of the action again after 13 minutes

but his glanced header from a Graeme Le Saux freekick went wide.

Finally Spurs began to string some passes together and a four-man move ended with a Steffen Iversen shot well held by Chelsea keeper Kevin Hitchcock.

After 27 minutes Steffen Freund fired a shot through a forest of legs that was again well gathered by Hitchcock.

Iversen then fired wide after a neat turn as the home team exerted an extended spell of pressure on the west Londoners.

Flo relieved the pressure, forcing another save from Walker with a well-directed header.

But Tottenham's pressure finally paid off when Iversen grabbed an improvised equaliser seven minutes before the interval.

Spurs caught Chelsea napping with a quickly taken corner by Darren Anderton and Ginola with the Frenchman's cross adroitly turned in by the Norwegian with the outside of his right boot for his 13th goal of the campaign.

While the goal was well taken Hitchcock's view may have been impaired by Chris Armstrong, who appeared to be in an offside position.

Almost immediately his compatriot Flo had a chance to

restore his side's lead but Walker redeemed his earlier blunder by deflecting the gangly Scandinavian's left-foot shot behind for a corner.

The early stages of the second half were nothing much to write home about but Ginola decided to illuminate proceedings after 65 minutes by embarrassing two French compatriots, who — unlike him — possess World Cup winners medals.

His master stroke came from unnecessarily adventurous play from Chelsea's Frank Leboeuf, who tried to dribble out of defence and then underhit a short pass to Dennis Wise.

Ginola pounced on the ball, and comprehensively turned Marcel Desailly before placing a shot inside Hitchcock's left-hand post for his seventh goal of his award-winning campaign.

But Dane Bjarne Goldback conjured up a goal out of nothing after 72 minutes.

There appeared to be little danger when the Dane picked the ball up on the right 30 yards out but he unleashed a sizzling shot into Walker's top right-hand corner.

Ginola was substituted to rapturous applause in the dying minutes and with just two minutes left Iversen missed a decent chance for Spurs.

Meet the real stars!

LONDON, May 11 (AFP) — Football is easy. The team with the most goals wins. Tennis makes sense, win the best of five sets and Wimbledon is yours. Rugby is slightly more complex, with tries, penalties, drop goals and conversions, reports AFP.

Cricket is decided by runs, wickets... and Duckworth and Lewis.

Steve Waugh, Australia's captain, approves of Duckworth and Lewis, two boffins who devised a method for adjusting team scores whenever rain interrupts a World Cup game.

But he admits he hasn't got a clue how the internally complicated scoring system works.

"We have a chart on the dressing room wall to help," he says. "It seems to be fair."

It could only happen in cricket. Imagine the scenario: Australia and South Africa play out the World Cup final at Lord's on June 20, a spot of rain comes down and nobody has a clue what the score is, or who is winning, until a computer lets us know.

With rain causing havoc with World Cup practise matches before the start of the tournament on Friday, Duck-

worth and Lewis could play as prominent a part in the tournament as Warner and Tendulkar.

The game, of course, has been struggling for years to find a fair way of re-adjusting scores in rain-shortened matches.

The original system favoured teams batting second. Teams going first would be on the point of accelerating their scoring after a cautious start when their innings would be ended prematurely by a downpour, giving their rivals an easy total to overhaul. In 1992, in the search for justice, the World Cup tried a new system. If side A scored 250 off 50 overs but there was only time for side B to bat for 30 overs, the winning target was found by compiling side A's 30 best scoring overs.

It proved a disaster.

South Africa, for instance, playing against England in the semi-final at Sydney, needed 22 runs off 16 balls when it began raining. As the teams prepared to take the field again, the target had been revised to 22 off seven.

Several minutes more were lost before the batsmen reached the crease and a new victory target was announced over the tannoy — 22 off a single delivery.

Enter budding rocket sci-

tists D/L. Their system seems to take everything into account via a devilish mathematical formula. The outcome? Normally a few runs added to the first innings total, which must be achieved in a few less overs.

Bob Woolmer, South Africa's coach, said: "It's better than earlier systems and obviously it's much better than the 1992 method. I think there is still some room for improvement though."

"In the Commonwealth Games, for instance, we had Ireland at 87 for seven before the rain and were asked to chase 133."

Crucially, however, the system is regarded, in Woolmer's words, as "close to the right thing." Disappointingly, it's as transparent as mud. But justice has a price.

As Martin Johnson wrote in Tuesday's Daily Telegraph: "The D/L requires a computer programme comparable with the one which beat Kasparov at chess."

"If the scientists really want to guard against every computer on the planet blowing up on January 1, it's not the millennium bug they should be working on, but the Duckworth/Lewis."



MARSEILLE IN MOSCOW: Olympique Marseille booters posing at Moscow's historic Red Square yesterday. — AFP photo

UEFA's thumbs up for Yugoslav qualifier

DUBLIN, May 11: The Republic of Ireland's controversial European Championship Group 8 qualifier with Yugoslavia will go ahead as planned on June 5 here at Lansdowne Road it was announced by UEFA on Monday, reports AFP.

UEFA announced that a special Task Force set up to deal with the current situation in Yugoslavia had decided that the country allowed to stay in Euro 2000, unlike in 1992 when it was banned from playing in the European championship finals in Sweden because of UN sporting sanctions over the war in Bosnia and Croatia.

However, the UEFA executive committee said that they will reassess developments in the Balkan region right up to their meeting in Barcelona on May 26.

Football Association of Ireland (FAI) chiefs, however, had hoped for a definite 'yes' or 'no' on the staging of the game in Dublin.

The Yugoslavs have already made arrangements for their players to stay at a hotel in Dublin. Most of the squad live outside Yugoslavia and will make their own way to Ireland for the game.

UEFA have also ruled that Yugoslavia will be allowed to play their match with Malta, scheduled for Belgrade on June 9 — outside the country.

This will also infuriate the FAI. The Republic lost 1-0 in Belgrade in November and will claim group rivals will have an easier ride with Yugoslavia now playing their home matches elsewhere.

They were the opposition when they were the England job full-time.

"We've sat down and talked and we will come to a deal," Keegan told Sky Sports.

Mystic Keegan foresees new deal

LONDON, May 11: England coach Kevin Keegan said Monday he would reach agreement with the English Football Association (FA) over a new contract, reports AFP.

Keegan's current deal, which was for four matches, expires after next month's Euro 2000 qualifiers against Sweden and Bulgaria.

But Keegan has had talks with the FA about a new deal after revealing last week that he wants the England job full-time.

"We've sat down and talked and we will come to a deal," Keegan told Sky Sports.

looking at the market and try to get what you deserve," he said.

The state of the market for me is with the fans and what happens on the pitch. I think I deserve something more. I know that silly financial things are not for us at this club, which is doing things in the way it thinks is right.

But at the end of the day I must find what I want and I believe it will all be cleared up very soon and very simply by all the people around me.

"There is not long to decide because I am going on holiday soon after the last week of the season and we are back for pre-season training on July 5."

Ginola added: "They love me here and I can't leave those fans to go somewhere else. They know I am a good thing for the club and I think the club knows it too. Mr Sugar and Mr Graham are tough negotiators to deal with but I think they want to

keep me and I'm sure they recognise what I am worth. They want what is good for the club — and at the moment I think that's me."

Graham himself admits Ginola deserves a rise.

"I believe David does deserve to earn more money," said the Scot. "Why shouldn't he try to renegotiate his contract?"

"He has fantastic individual talent although in some games he can be quite ineffective. That's maybe why he is no longer picked by France. I don't know."

BERLIN, May 11: Several leading Yugoslav footballers will attend a concert in Berlin on May 23 to raise funds for civilian victims of NATO airstrikes, the organisers said Tuesday, reports AFP.

Real Madrid striker Predrag Mijatovic and Lazio midfielder Sinisa Mihajlovic, as well as two top basketball stars Nikola Petic (Alba Berlin) and Sasa Obradovic (Rome) will be present.

One-day cricket — first step

Kh. Anwarul Islam Milu

Revolutionary development in cricket through the One-Day game which came into the scene in the early 1960s in England, when crowds were decreasing alarmingly even in the Ashes Series, in 1960 the number of crowds witnessing cricket was 20 lakhs, which reduced to 7 in the early 1970s. Even players like Barry Stanger, Trevor Goddard and Cowdrey were not being able to pull the crowd to the Test matches. So the English Cricket Authority tried to introduce a new model in cricket in an effort to popularise and save the game. In the late 1960s, they formed a committee, headed by R. A. Robinson as chairman, to study the feasibility of a new format of cricket with limited overs and limited batting. On the basis of that an experimental tournament was held in 1972 involving England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and Northamptonshire — which was very successful.

Kh. Anwarul Islam Milu

sixes, which was a new dimension and attraction to the game. Even over-slow and orthodox Geoff Boycott was enthralled so much that he scored 146 in the 1965 Gillette Cup final, which was regarded as the most adventurous one-day batting for many years.

The successful innovation of Gillette Cup led the English authority to introduce two more one-day tournaments namely, "John Players County League" and "Benson and Hedges Cup" in 1970 and 1972 respectively. The former one is a 40 over while the latter one is 55 over until 1995, since when it was reduced to 50. In fact these English efforts pioneered one-day cricket all over the world as England is the headquarters of all cricket management, and players from all other countries came to play English cricket and became habituated to this new format. Even more important was that crowds started returning to the cricket field which had led other countries to adopt one-day game in their schedules.

FIRST ODI

January 5, 1971 is the most important milestone in the history of One-Day Cricket, when One-Day International (ODI) started in an accidental manner at the Ashes Series. The first test was rained off with a 1-1 draw. In order to satisfy the disappointed Melbourne crowd an eight-ball, 15-over match was arranged on the day, which could have been the end of the test. Nothing out of the ordinary and no reflection of the best of the glorious past of the cricket history.

Australia vs England

Venue: Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG)

England: 190 all out in 39.4 overs.

Australia: 191 for 5 in 34.6 overs.

Result: Australia won by 5 wickets.

Man-of-the-match: J H Edrich (England)

Since then the cricket playing nations started including ODI matches and series in their home and overseas schedules. England became the first-ever team to win a series when they defeated archrivals Australia 2-1 in 1972. Incidentally English batsman D. Amiss became the first one to hit a century in ODI in that series by scoring 103.

One-day cricket was established forever and got tremendous impetus in 1975 when the first World Cup held at the Prudential World Cup. Great West Indian Clive Lloyd led his team to victory. But more achieved by cricket as the game created strong eagerness among all nations to think and play the game seriously. Since then every world cup had played new roles to improve the game more and more.

Asia's Channel-9 owner Kerry Packer will always be remembered as a special contributor to the development of ODI for his revolutionary efforts. The World Series Cricket commercialised the game and turned it into a recreational activity. This certainly ensured cricket to be equally competitive with other major games. As a result night cricket coloured dresses, white ball, fast restriction, slow motion, run rate etc have all come to make cricket more and more attractive. Even the technique of the batsman or a bowler has been replaced by the "superstar" system. The third umpire introduction is also a revolutionary product of one-day cricket which has ensured justice to a great extent.

Abdur Rahman Bukhatir and his Sharjah should also be separately marked in the history of ODI as he initiated unimaginable cricket in desert in 1983 by staging first Asia Cup between India, Pakistan

and Sri Lanka in which India was the winner. But more importantly Sharjah gradually flourished and now become the venue for major ODI tournaments. Individually it has the record to stage more ODI than any other single venue. Toronto has also started to be regular ODI venue.

Bangladesh may not have achieved many victories, but our organisers have certainly done that by successfully arranging notable International tournaments. The Asia Cup was held in 1987 and is again going to be so in April 2000. The Independence Cup of 1998 and the mini World Cup titled "Wills International Cup" involving all the nine full-blown members placed Dhaka as another important venue.

One-day cricket has been more and more acceptable to the crowds because of its assurance of a result. It has adopted a few methods to ensure results, even by introducing curtailed over method. Certainly in doing so some confusion arose gradually. ICC has now adopted a Duckworth/Lewis (D/L) method of resetting the target in one-day cricket, which helps warranting a result even after having major disruptions of the game. They are still trying to improve this.

ICC and cricket authorities all over the world have started working together to globalise cricket, specially through one-day cricket. Wherever it is played now it has sponsors, management and above all crowds, who are the main attraction of all.

Modern technologies and development of mass media have also created tremendous impact. Any one of Australia, South Africa, Pakistan, England, India and Sri Lanka can win the 1999 World Cup, but one-day cricket will certainly step a lot more forward.

Nacional celebrate centenary with PSV clash

MONTEVIDEO, May 11: Dutch first division side PSV Eindhoven will provide the opposition for legendary Uruguayan side Nacional in their centenary match on May 29 in Montevideo's Centenario Stadium, it was announced Monday, reports AFP.

PSV, coached by Englishman Bobby Robson, will field a full team. They were chosen because they were the opposition when Nacional won the last of their three World Club Championships in 1988.

They also won two other World Cup titles in 1971 and 1980 against Greek side Panathinaikos and England's Nottingham Forest respectively.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Brunnhoff pachy-garm

6 Persian Gulf nation

11 Ring of color

12 One

14 Sinatra's boss in the '40s

15 Make cryptic

16 Louis Quatorze, e.g.

17 In a way, slangily

19 Yule quaff

20 Scratishes (out)

22 — Perce

23 Gabri-elle's mentor

24 D.C. hostess

26 Ostentatious displays

23 Lick-entling, abbr.

30 Bagel topping

31 Johnson's chronicler

35 Michelle Kwan's figure?

39 Bits and pieces

40 Listening device

42 "Did you ever — I taste..."

43 Praiseful piece

44 Marsha — area

46 Pile

47 Ricky and Willie

49 Give in

51 Sality

52 Garlic units

53 Tennessee

8 Twitch

9 Did penance

10 Started over

11 Pertinent

13 French Impres-sionist

18 Agent

21 Fréts

23 Gravel line

25 Chowd

27 Caviar

29 House-hold chemical

31 Benefits

32 Severe trial

33 "Street car... role

34 Troubadour's rendition

36 Swiss city

37 Type of dive

38 Water-gate evidence

41 Urban bug

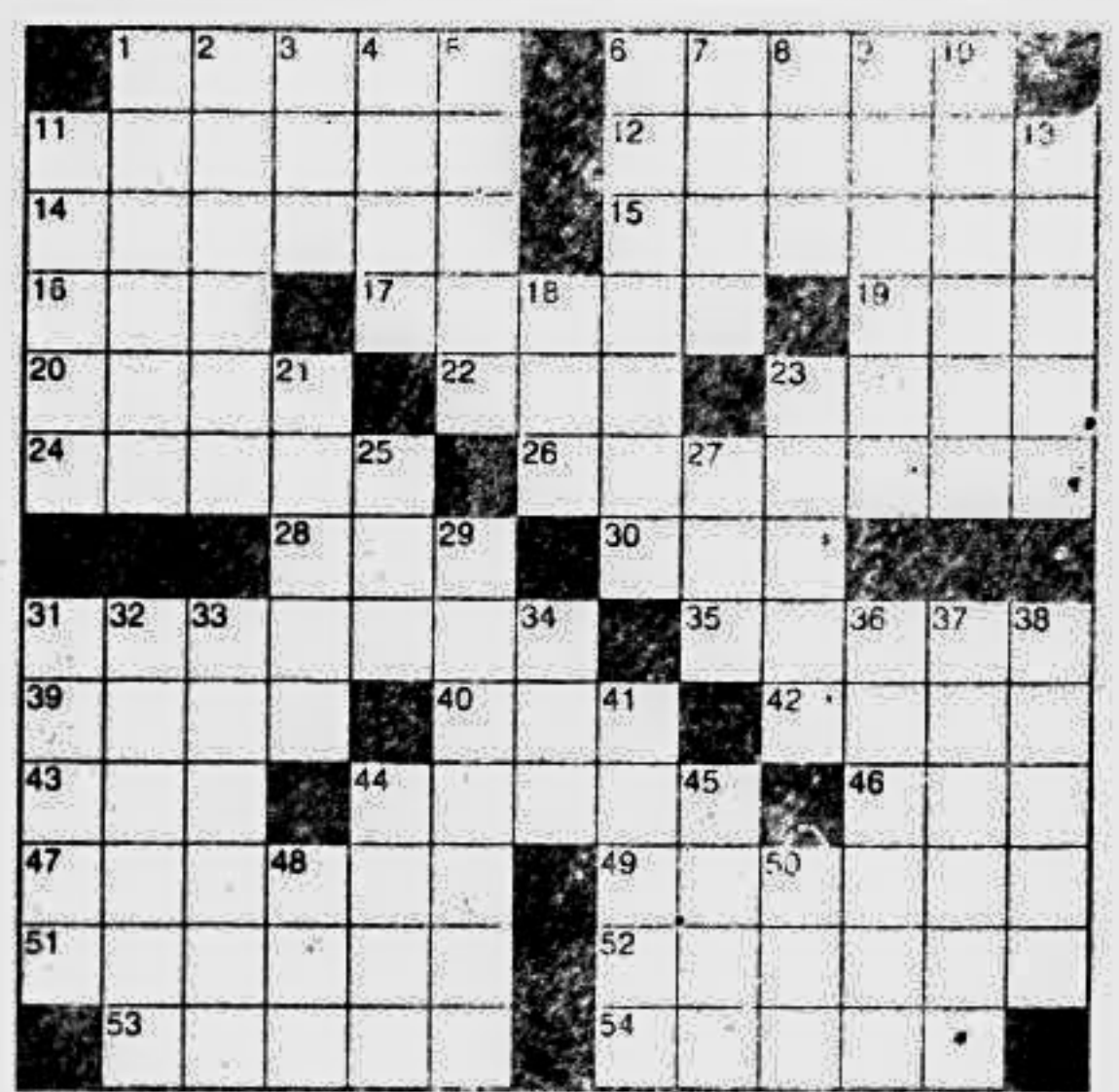
44 — frids

45 Brine

46 Actor

48 Alastair

50 Gear tooth



CRYPTOQUIP

VEYF BPEUPL LHKPZ-
HPWFMYU GNK EGNLY, W
HGLWMWBYŠZ LPV KYU.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I ONCE KNEW A SCAMP
WHO STOLE POSTAGE STAMPS. HE GOT A LICKING.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: V equals W

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.