

## 14-year-old Croat joins Bordeaux

BORDEAUX, France, July 17: French champions Girondins Bordeaux have signed 14-year-old Croatian Filip Maric from Hajduk Split, the club said on Friday, reports Reuters.

Bordeaux beat Italy's Juventus in the race for the talented young striker, who was already a member of Hajduk's under-17 side.

Their youth scheme, run by former French World Cup defender Patrick Battiston, bore excellent results last season with victory in both the French under-15 and under-17 championships.

"The titles are not an end. The goal is to produce competitive teams in which players can progress to play one day with the professionals at the Stade Lesieur," Battiston said.

"At the same time we do scouting and recruiting which now goes beyond (French) borders. But 90 per cent of the players in the under-17 championship side are from the (Bordeaux) region."

Guinean striker Pascal Feindouno, a product of the youth scheme, has signed his first professional contract with the club. Feindouno scored the winner in Bordeaux's 3-2 victory at Paris St Germain which secured the first division title in May.

## Spanish clubs cleared to float

MADRID, July 17: Spanish football clubs will have the chance to follow the lead of some of Europe's other major teams from 2002 when they will be allowed to float on the stock market, the government said on Friday, reports Reuters.

Under new rules for limited sporting companies, the government has also opened the way for foreigners to invest in Spanish clubs.

But no individual will be able to own more than five per cent of more than one club and the acquisition of 25 per cent of a team by any one person will need sports council approval.

The changes to ownership rules will come into force soon but stock market floatations may only begin from January 1, 2002.

The government said clubs needed a transition period to demonstrate the necessary accountability and transparency in their financial dealings.

Several Spanish clubs have been lobbying hard for changes to the law to follow the likes of Manchester United by going public to raise cash.

The changes will not affect Spain's two largest clubs, however. Real Madrid and Barcelona are both owned by their members and have promised to resist the move to become limited companies.

## Boskov new Yugoslav coach

BELGRADE, July 17: Vujadin Boskov will replace Milan Zivadinovic as the coach of the Yugoslav national team, Yugoslav Football Association (FSJ) general secretary Branko Bulatovic said on Friday, reports Reuters.

"There is absolute consensus in the association that Boskov is the right man for the job," said Bulatovic, adding that the choice was certain to be formally approved at a meeting of the FSJ executive board on July 24.

He said the entire FSJ management as well as team stars were in favour of Boskov.

Bulatovic said Boskov had, as a member of the FSJ's executive board in charge of the national team, been present at all matches and training sessions for the past two years.

"He is already intimately tied to the team, and will simply make a step up to become the coach," said Bulatovic.

"Boskov accepted the offer without thinking — our conversation lasted five minutes," he said, adding that Boskov would lead the team in the Euro 2000 qualifying stage and the finals, if Yugoslavia goes through.

"Boskov is one of the biggest names in the history of Yugoslav soccer. He has 58 caps and won many national and European honours as a coach with clubs in Yugoslavia, the Netherlands, Spain and Italy, including the Cup Winners Cup with Sampdoria," said Bulatovic.

Zivadinovic, who replaced Slobodan Santrac and spent less than a year as national coach, was sacked on Tuesday after he went on a controversial vacation and signed a lucrative deal with Saudi Arabian first division club Al Nasr of Riyadh.

Zivadinovic's surprise move left the Yugoslav team in a lurch after the postponement of four Euro 2000 matches due to NATO's 78-day bombing campaign of the country.

Despite the political upheaval in Yugoslavia over recent months, the team is well placed to qualify for the European finals in Belgium and the Netherlands next year.

They top group eight having won all three matches played so far, and face four crucial qualifiers packed into just three weeks in August and September.

They host bitter rivals Croatia on August 18 and then face the Republic of Ireland in Dublin on September 1.

The match was originally due to be played on June 5, but UEFA postponed it after the Irish authorities refused to issue visas to the Yugoslavs during the NATO campaign.

Yugoslavia also play neighbours Macedonia on September 4 and 8.



Lleyton Hewitt of Australia executing a forehand against Todd Martin of the USA during their Davis Cup fixture at Brookline on July 16. — AFP photo

## Australia go 2-0 up



BROOKLINE, Massachusetts, July 17: Teenaged Lleyton Hewitt made a smashing Davis Cup debut and US open champion Patrick Rafter completed the singles sweep Friday as Australia took a commanding 2-0 lead over the United States in their Davis Cup quarterfinals, reports Reuters.

The 18-year-old Hewitt, ranked 32, cut world number eight Todd Martin down to size with surprising ease in a 6-4, 6-7, 6-3, 6-0 upset victory in sweltering heat on the showcase hardcourt at Longwood Cricket Club.

Rafter followed Hewitt's heroics with an efficient 7-6, 6-4, 6-4 dismissal of the US team's inspirational leader, Jim Courier.

The pair of victories put the US team on the brink of elimination.

Wimbledon champion Pete Sampras — the world's top-ranked player the last six years — whose absence from the singles lineup is sure to stir debate —

will partner Alex O'Brien in today's doubles against Sandon Stolle and Mark Woodforde needing a win to keep the hosts in the running.

Hewitt, a late replacement for injured Mark Philippoussis, outplayed the erratic Martin, who sprayed 79 unforced errors against the short, nimble-footed Australian, whose aggressive baseline game encourages comparison to Andre Agassi.

World number two Rafter belted 13 aces and 53 winners in defeating the 41st-ranked Courier, who won a pair of five-setters, including the fifth-match clincher, to lift the Americans over Britain in the first round at Birmingham.

That inspirational triumph is what motivated Sampras to return to Davis Cup play — and also to insist he play only doubles so as not to take a singles place so well-earned by Courier and Martin.

The Australian sweep put a damper on home crowd cheering at this Centennial Celebration tie.

The celebration, marking the anniversary of the first Davis Cup competition between teams from the United States and Britain at Longwood in 1900, was launched with fireworks after a flag-carrying ceremony on Centre Court in the cosy, 5,342-seat stadium.

But Hewitt provided the rest of the fireworks during the early afternoon hours on a steamy day in which the on-court temperature was measured at 111 degrees F (44 C). With his short, thick blond pony tail flapping behind him, Hewitt used his flair and fitness to exploit his plodding opponent.

"I thought Todd was getting a little tired," the 5-10 (1.78m) Hewitt said about the latter stages of his match. "I told myself, no matter how I'm feeling he's feeling worse."

The 6-6 (1.99m) Martin, 29, showed only glimpses of his best form, sending balls long, short, high and wide off both flanks — to the glee of a small, but boisterous band of 20 Australian fans, their faces painted in brilliant yellow and green.

## Heat wave hits Brookline

BROOKLINE, July 17 (AP): Marjorie Marshall came all the way from England for the Davis Cup but spent most of a steamy Friday unable to see the matches from the shady spot she'd chosen under the stands.

"I was in my seat but not for long," the 67-year-old tennis fan said as the crowd cheered a point. "I'd rather hear what's going on than risk getting ill."

Jeanna Emert, a trumpet player from Nashville, Tennessee, delivered bottles of water to other members of the Harvard University band that played occasionally while spending the day in the stands with the sun bearing down on them. It could have been worse.

"Our usual uniform is black pants, black shoes, white shirt, black tie and a wool jacket," she said. "So this is a little bit better."

At one point, the temperature on the Longwood Cricket Club court was reported at 126 degrees (52 Celsius). That took a toll on the players.

Lleyton Hewitt of Australia, just 18 years old, handled it better than 29-year-old Todd Martin of the United States and won the first match of the best-of-five quarterfinals 6-4, 6-7, 6-3, 6-0.

"I thought Todd was starting to get a little bit tired" in the third set, Hewitt said. "That was the most positive thing I could take out of it; that whatever I am feeling, I am sure he is feeling a lot worse than I am."

Martin said he had also suffered from the heat. "The first set I felt lousy. I was definitely a little shocked by the weather."

The temperature cooled a bit for the second match. The result though, was similar as Australia won again with Patrick Rafter beating Jim Courier 7-6, 6-4, 6-4. A win in Saturday's doubles match would clinch a semifinal spot for Australia even before Sunday's two singles matches.

While Sampras watched part of the first match from court-side with a wet towel over his head, Rafter chose to watch from the locker room.

"I didn't want to come out and watch," Rafter said. "It was too damn hot out there."

Some spectators waved small yellow fans to stir up a breeze. But at least 20 people were treated by medical personnel, mostly for heat-related problems.

Firefighter Joe Hingston of the Brookline Fire Department, working in a medical tent, put a positive spin on it.

"We're actually thankful we haven't had any heart attacks or strokes because there are a lot of older people here," Hingston said.

Marshall, the fan from Lambourn, England, enjoyed the atmosphere of the event but was looking forward to returning to the Rhode Island home where she was staying with family members.

"I can't wait to get back and swim in the pool," she said.

## Poland go for lucky stadium

WARSAW, July 17: The Polish soccer federation has moved its crunch Euro 2000 qualifying game against England to a small Warsaw stadium from a larger ground in the south-west of the country, reports Reuters.

The switch has been made despite the ground holding only 12,000. The government has offered to pay a third of the cost of adding another 5,700 temporary seats, with English fans due to get 10 per cent of all tickets.

The original venue in Chorzow, Silesia, would have held 32,000.

"Our players feel more comfortable in Warsaw and are more used to playing on the Legia ground, it's our lucky stadium," said Jaroslaw Kolakowski, spokesman for the soccer federation.

Both sides need to win the September 8 match. Poland have 12 points from six games, three more than England, who beat them 3-1 at Wembley in March.

But England's other match is home to Luxembourg, while the Poles have to play unbeaten group leaders Sweden away.

"What spoke for the Legia stadium was the atmosphere and playing there is what the manager and the team want," federation head Michal Listkiewicz told Polish television.

Poland have won all six games they have played in Warsaw in the last two years, including two Euro championship qualifiers.

## Hrbaty's brother attacked in Moscow

MOSCOW, July 17: A Russian fan attacked the brother of Slovak player Dominik Hrbaty on Friday on the first day of a Davis Cup World Group quarterfinal, reports Reuters.

Hrbaty's 19-year-old younger brother George, who had been beating drums to encourage Dominik during his match against Yevgeny Kafelnikov, was attacked by a fellow spectator in the stands.

Former world number one, Kafelnikov went on to beat Hrbaty 2-6, 6-2, 6-7, 6-1, 7-5 in an emotional match which lasted nearly three hours to put Russia 2-0 in front after Marat Safin had defeated Karol Kucera 2-6, 6-4, 6-2, 6-4.

The second match was interrupted for several minutes in the third set after the attack on Hrbaty's brother. The Slovak player said the incident had not affected his performance.

"Actually it made me play better," Hrbaty said. "I wanted to show the Russians that matches are won on the court rather than in the stands."

## Pioline restores parity



PAU, France, July 17 (Reuters/AP): Cedric Pioline crushed Fernando Meligeni 6-3, 6-3, 6-3 to put France level 1-1 with Brazil after the opening singles of their Davis Cup World Group quarterfinal on Friday.

Gustavo Kuerten had given Brazil the lead when he overcame cramps to beat Davis Cup debutant Sebastian Grosjean 6-2, 6-7, 7-6, 6-7, 9-7.

The Brazilians will decide at the last minute today whether to play Kuerten alongside Jaime Oncins in the doubles against Fabrice Santoro and Olivier Delaite as planned or rest him for Sunday's reverse singles.

Pioline, who helped France win the trophy in 1996, took less than two hours to beat French Open semifinalist Meligeni, a clay-court specialist.

On the fast synthetic surface of the Pau sports hall, Pioline — ranked five places above Meligeni at number 25 — exacted revenge for two defeats to the Brazilian on clay earlier in the season.

Such was Pioline's dominance that the Frenchman never once allowed Meligeni a break ball.

The opening singles, in contrast, was an epic match lasting four hours and 42 minutes in which former French Open champion Kuerten had to fight all the way after comfortably winning the first set.

Kuerten, who showed he could play on fast surfaces by reaching the Wimbledon quarterfinals two weeks ago, encountered strong resistance in world number 34 Grosjean through a draining battle in a highly-charged atmosphere.

Brazilian fans looking for revenge over the French for their soccer team's defeat in the World Cup final a year ago, rallied under a banner that read "Brazil 3 France 0", the reverse of the score in Paris on July 12, 1998.

Having shared tie-break wins in the next two sets, Kuerten appeared to struggle to stay in the match, requiring stretching exercises at every change of end as he was troubled by cramp in his legs and right arm.

But the former French Open champion pulled out some of his best shots when he really needed them, notably a superb drop at the net when he broke

back in the 14th game of the deciding set as Grosjean served for the match.

"When I saw him hand-capped, I maybe relaxed a little," Grosjean said.

"I wanted to make him run rather than continue to play my own game. Unconsciously, in those cases, you modify your tactics ... And experience certainly made the difference."

**RUSSIA IN CONTROL**

In Moscow, Yevgeny Kafelnikov overcame a crowd brawl and a determined Dominik Hrbaty as Russia took a 2-0 lead over Slovakia.

Marat Safin gave the Russians an early edge with an upset win over Slovakia's Karol Kucera.

The 19-year-old came back from a set and broke down to win the second and third sets. And after trailing 1-4 in the fourth, he won five successive games to clinch the result 2-6, 6-4, 6-2, 6-4.

Kafelnikov won a marathon five-set match 2-6, 6-2, 6-7, 6-1, 7-5.

After splitting the opening two sets, Kafelnikov lost the third in a tiebreak after it was played several minutes when a fight broke out between rival Slovak and Russian fans.

But he took just 23 minutes to draw level at 2-2 and then broke the Slovakian at with the decider tied 5-5 before serving out for the match.

The Moscow encounter was destined to be surrounded in controversy after sand, specially imported from Sweden to spread over the clay courts, was sent back by Russian authorities because it was radioactive.

**BELGIUM 2: SWITZERLAND 0**

In Brussels, Belgium's top player Xavier Malisse beat Switzerland's Lorenzo Mantia 6-4, 6-0, 7-6 and Christophe Van Garsee overcame Roger Federer in five sets as the hosts took a 2-0 advantage.

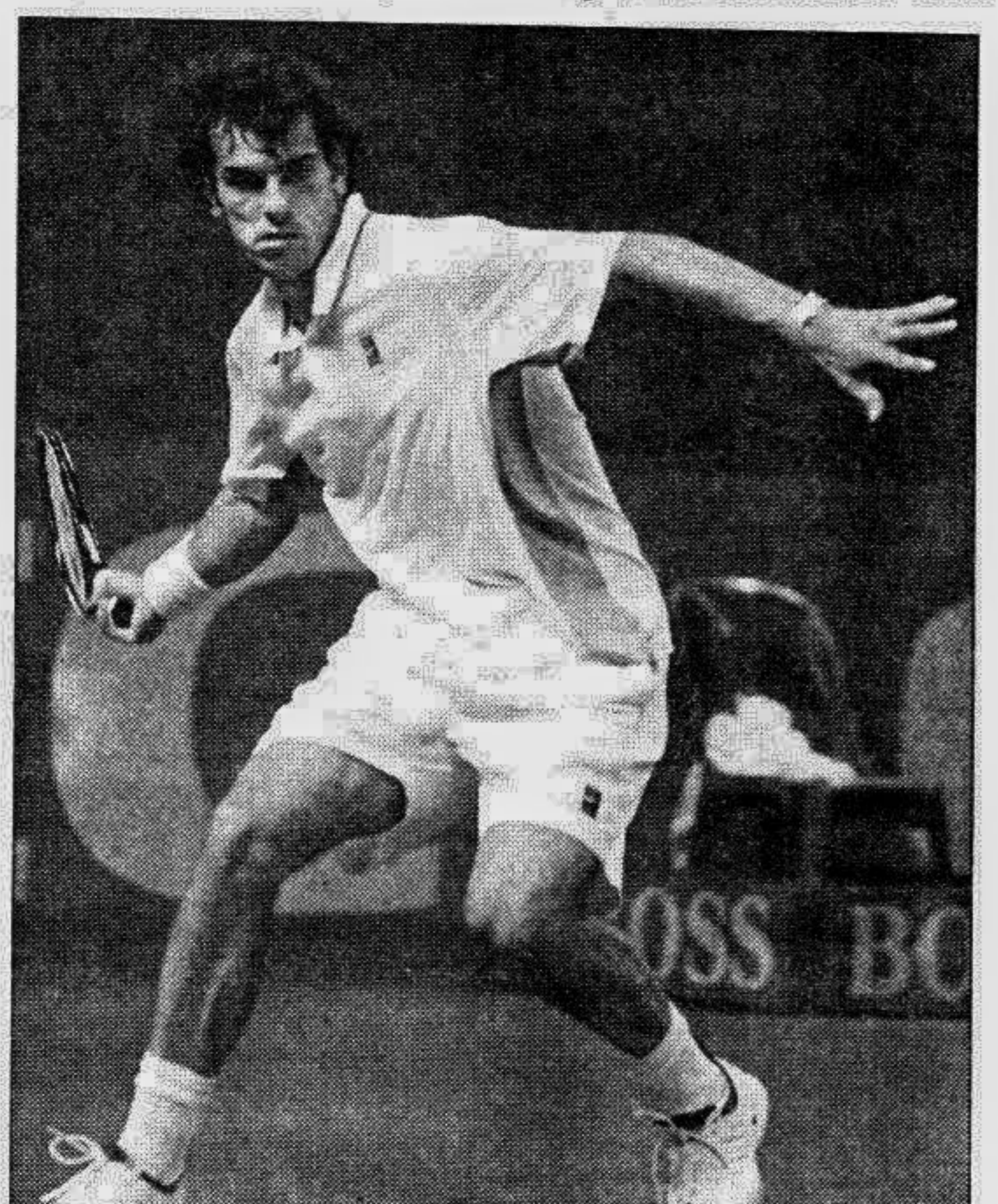
Van Garsee beat Federer 7-6, 3-6, 1-6, 7-5, 6-1 in a long duel on the outdoor clay court during a heat and humid afternoon.

Federer suffered leg cramps several times and had to take breaks for massage.

In the first match 18-year-old Malisse, who has climbed up the world rankings from No 847 to No 111, made half as many unforced errors as his more experienced rival to win in straight sets.

**URUGUAY, PERU LEVEL**

In Lima, Uruguay and Peru were level 1-1 after the opening day's singles in their Davis Cup American Zone Group Two semifinals tie on Friday.



Frenchman Cedric Pioline lines up for a forehand against Brazil's Fernando Meligeni during their Davis Cup quarter-final at Pau, France on July 16. — AFP photo

## Rivalry revisited



ASUNCION, July 17 (AP): Sunday's Copa America Final between Uruguay and Brazil is the latest clash in a historic rivalry.

While Uruguay were the most successful side in world football in the first half of the 20th century, Brazil have undeniably been the kings of the globe's most popular sport in the second with their achievements unmatched.

Uruguay won two of the first four World Cups - Vittorio Pozzo's Italy took the other two but with a controversial selection policy that allowed for the selection of several South American players of Italian origin.

And Uruguay also won the two Olympic Games - 1924 and 1928 - before the World Cup was inaugurated.

However, in the later part of the century Brazil have been in a league of their own.

Uruguay, meanwhile, have not even qualified for the last two World Cups and are ranked only 74th by FIFA - behind teams such as Trinidad and Tobago, Mali, Gabon and Northern Ireland.

In one respect, however, Uruguay have the whip hand. They have 14 Copa America titles - a joint record held with Argentina - while Brazil have only five.

There have been many meetings between the two teams but two - both in the World Cup - are outstanding:

**1950:** This match in Rio de Janeiro's legendary Maracana stadium was a World Cup Final in all but name.

Organisers had opted for a group format instead of a knockout phase but final group leaders Brazil met second-placed Uruguay in the last fixture knowing their opponents would have to win to lift the Jules Rimet Trophy.

A crowd of 199,584 - still a world record for a stadium-based sporting event - gave vocal backing to Brazil, who had won their two other final group matches 7-1 and 6-1 against Sweden and Spain respectively. Uruguay had drawn with Spain and edged Sweden 3-2.

The stage seemed set for a first World Cup triumph for Brazil.

The hosts laid siege to the Uruguay goal and eventually Friaca gave them the lead after 47 minutes, finally settling the nerves of the crowd.

But that brought Uruguay out of their shells and halfway through the second period Juan Schiaffino levelled the match before his teammate Alcide Ghiggia scored what would prove to be the winner with 10 minutes remaining.

It was Uruguay's second World Cup - they won the inaugural event on home soil in 1930. Devastated, Brazil had to

wait a further eight years before their day would come.

**1970:** Difficult though it may be to believe, Brazil approached this World Cup semi-final with real trepidation, even though they had won two of the three previous World Cups and had looked awesome so far in Mexico.

The favourites had dispatched Romania, Czechoslovakia and reigning champions England in their group section and had walloped Peru 4-2 in their quarter-final.

But Uruguay were their bogey team and the nerves were rattled when winger Cubilla gave his side the lead, beating Brazil's accident-prone goalkeeper Felix from a tight angle.

Shortly before the interval Brazil midfielder Clodoaldo levelled the match.

After the interval Brazil took control with further goals from Jairzinho and Roberto Rivellino.

Perhaps the most memorable moment of the match was when winger Ledislav Mazurkiewicz only to miss his shot with the open goal at his mercy.

Brazil, who had played brilliant football throughout the tournament, went on to destroy Italy 4-1 in the final for an unprecedented third World Cup victory.

The star-studded team - including Jairzinho, Rivellino, Tostao, Gerson and Pele - is generally recognised now as the best ever in football: the living incarnation of what Pele called "the beautiful game".

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

- 1 Birthday
- 2 "I —"
- 3 Show-room sample
- 4 "The Raven" writer
- 5 Leave out
- 6 Evangelist
- 7 Cry of discovery
- 8 Slogan
- 9 "The season..."
- 10 Fritz's brother
- 11 "Star Trek" doctor
- 12 Having a cupola
- 13 Apiece
- 14 Archaic expletive
- 15 1860s event
- 16 Illustrations
- 17 Relocated
- 18 Bullring bravo
- 19 Fades
- 20 Genealogy chart
- 21 Williams of C&W
- 22 the
- 23 oven
- 24 Synagogue VIP
- 25 Line of fashion?
- 26 Past
- 27 Junk drawers, e.g.
- 28 Earth: prefix
- 29 Month after
- 30 Shevat
- 31 Gilgamesh
- 32 Invite
- 33 Maitre d's handout
- 34 Catch sight of
- 35 One of
- 36 Solved
- 37 The
- 38 the
- 39 the
- 40 Camera
- 41 Do-it-yourselfer's buy
- 42 Left a good impression?
- 43 Unhappy
- 44 Piccadilly statue
- 45 Ruin the veneer
- 46 Un-matched card
- 47 Quilter's method
- 48 Columbus' home
- 49 Mexican
- 50 "Humbert"
- 51 Sitarist's rendition
- 52 Matures
- 53 Getz or Musil
- 54 Wall-paint shade
- 55 Lemony drink
- 56 — Angeles
- 57 Prune
- 58 Filmmaker
- 59 Effortless
- 60 Owned
- 61 20 M divided by IV
- 62 Out of play
- 63 Storybook
- 64 Bar
- 65 memento
- 66 Prior
- 67 nights
- 68 Nail on the noggin
- 69 "Got a Secret?"
- 70 Sheltered
- 71 Obispo's need
- 72 Videotaping device
- 73 Retriever type, for short
- 74 entree
- 75 "Humbert"
- 76 Sitarist's rendition
- 77 Matures
- 78 Getz or Musil
- 79 Wall-paint shade
- 80 Lemony drink
- 81 — Angeles
- 82 Prune
- 83 Filmmaker

**CRYPTOQUIP**

J F A S Q H F A M Z X C X C B

F Q H U Q S A C X Z A B J F A Q M

C A U H V C M V B

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: TO BE FRANK, I OFTEN JUST PREFER TO SKIP JOKES ABOUT ROPES.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: M equals R

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, 45 — Angeles 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.



Jim Courier of the USA makes a backhand return during his Davis Cup tie against Australian Pat Rafter at Brookline on July 16. — AFP photo