

Hwang hits a hat-trick

TOKYO, Sept 18: South Korea's three-time World Cup player Hwang Sun-Hong scored a hat-trick to stretch his lead in the goal rankings as Cerezo Osaka defeated Vissel Kobe 5-0 in the J-League football on Saturday, reports AFP.

Hwang quickly collected his teammate's wrong-angle shot to open the scoring in the 26th minute and then added two more in the 70th and 80th minutes for a total of 19 goals this season.

"I thought I would have another scoring chance. I was seeking a third goal. I'm going to aim for 25 goals this season," said Hwang, who was four goals above Brazilian Baron, of JEF United Ichihara in the goal rankings.

Shimizu S-Pulse took the sole lead when they blanked Sanfrecce Hiroshima 2-0 for their seventh win against two defeats for 20 points, three points above Yokohama Marinos. Kyoto Purple Sanga and Kashiwa Reysol.

Marinos came back from a goal down in the last four minutes and then Japan's international striker Shoji Jo in the 99th minute as they defeated Verdy Kawasaki 3-2.

Purple Sanga made too many mistakes and suffered a humiliating 5-1 defeat to Avispa Fukuoka, although Brazilian midfielder Silas once tied the contest in the 44th minute.

Kashiwa Reysol edged past Bellmare Hiratsuka 1-0 thanks to Hideaki Kitajima's header shortly before the first half.

Euro 2000

Ukraine can play in Moscow

KIEV, Sept 18: Ukraine are ready to play a European Championship qualifier against Russia in Moscow next month after suggesting the game should be moved to a neutral venue because of fears of terrorism, reports Reuters.

President Leonid Kuchma, a big soccer fan, told a news briefing on Friday that the Group Four match should go ahead on October 9 despite several bomb attacks in Russia.

"As a fan, I think the match should take place in any case. Kuchma said. "But Russia should provide security for the soccer players and the match."

Ukrainian news agencies had quoted Boris Voskresensky, vice-president of the Ukrainian Football Federation, as saying on Thursday that the qualifier should be switched.

"Definitely, you can't play in Moscow," Voskresensky had said, adding that Ukraine would ask European governing body UEFA to move the tie to a neutral country.

Volodymyr Lashkul, a deputy chairman of the football federation, said on Friday the body had not asked UEFA to move the match from Moscow and would not do so.

"We have not sent any appeal to UEFA on moving the match and would not initiate this in the future," Lashkul said.

"A group of UEFA experts will visit Moscow in the near future, and only UEFA will make the final decision," he said. The Russian Football Union decided this week to impose extremely tight security measures at all domestic matches.

Russia, who are level with France on 18 points in their group, host leaders Ukraine (19 points) in the final qualification which will decide who goes to the Euro 2000 finals.

The French are at home to fourth-placed Iceland.

UEFA turns down AIK's claim

GENEVA, Sept 18: UEFA have rejected a protest by AIK Stockholm over a controversial goal in their midweek 2-1 Champions League defeat by Barcelona and suspended the Swedish club's English coach Stuart Baxter for one match, reports Reuters.

However the European soccer body said on Friday AIK had until midnight on September 20 to appeal.

UEFA also suspended Hertha Berlin defender Konstantinos Konstantidis for three matches for his Champions League red card against Galatasaray of Turkey while PSV Eindhoven midfielder Mark van Bommel earned a two game ban after he was sent off against Bayern Munich.

AIK had lodged a protest after French referee Alain Sars allowed a Barcelona goal, following a corner kick, to stand although it was scored while the home team were in the process of substituting two players.

The equalising goal came with just four minutes remaining in Tuesday's match and Barcelona went on to win three minutes into injury time. Baxter was shown a red card for his pitch-side protests after the disputed goal.

UEFA said in a statement that its control and disciplinary body had decided not to accept the protest.

It said Sars clarified that he had waited for AIK's Pontus Kamark to leave the pitch and for his replacement, Karl Corneliusson, to come on.

"He did not notice that the fourth official was indicating another substitution until he was on his way back to the centre circle after the Barcelona goal," it said.

"Law 5 of the laws of the game states clearly that the referee's decision is final, even if it is based on a misunderstanding," UEFA added.

The AIK head coach, Stuart Baxter, sent off for continuous abuse following Barcelona equaliser, has been suspended for one match.



Maria Mutola of Mozambique leads the pack in the 800 metres semifinal at the All Africa Games. — AFP photo

Nigerian boxer tests positive

Hosts set pool afire

JOHANNESBURG, Sept 18 (AP/Xinhua/Reuters): South African swimmer Mandy Loots has contributed six gold medals to put her country, with 61 golds, comfortably atop the medal table of the seventh All Africa Games.

Loots won the 200-metre butterfly Friday in 2:16.02, and the 200-metre backstroke in 2:21.22, both Games records. She helped South Africa to 30 of the 32 golds on offer in swimming.

Second in the standings is Nigeria, with 48 golds, and Egypt is third with 46.

In track action, Ethiopia's Gete Wami added the All Africa Games 10,000-metre title to her world cross-country championship and her World Athletics Championships 10,000-metre title. In a race of pedestrian pace, she injected a big surge after 24 minutes to break clear and win comfortably in 32:08.15 from compatriot Merima Hashim and Kenya's Leah Malot.

Earlier, Ibou Fave of Senegal won the 400-metre hurdles in 48.30 from Zimbabwe's Ken Harnden and Kenya's Erick Keter.

Mozambican star 800-metre runner Maria Mutola qualified comfortably for Saturday's final in 2:04.69.

Both South Africa's field hockey teams stand on the brink of qualification for the Sydney Olympic Games. Should the men beat Egypt in their gold medal match Saturday, and the women emerge victorious against Zimbabwe, they qualify automatically for the Olympic tournament.

In the medal matches for men's tennis, Ivory Coast upset South Africa 2-0 to win the gold medal. Valentin Sanon beat Louis Vosloo 1-6, 6-3, 6-4, while Claude N'Goran beat Jeff Coetzee 6-3, 2-6, 6-4. Mauritius beat Namibia 2-1 to claim the bronze.

In the under-23 soccer tournament, Cameroon will face Zambia in the gold medal match Sunday, after they defeated Uganda 1-0. South Africa, who lost 1-0 in extra time to Zambia, will play Uganda for the bronze medal.

About 5,000 athletes from 52

countries are participating in the All Africa Games, the continent's biggest sporting event. It ends on Sunday.

South African victories in the men's pole vault and the women's heptathlon put the hosts' haul of athletic golds at nine, followed by Nigeria's six.

In other events, Egypt won the men's freestyle wrestling under 85kg and under 130 kg class. Nigeria's Ibo Ozi took gold in the 69kg class and South Africa's Tionkie van Rensburg the 58kg category.

Cote d'Ivoire beat South Africa 2-0 to win the men's team tennis. Nigeria took a clean sweep in the table tennis

mixed doubles while Nigeria and Egypt ran up victories in taekwondo.

Meanwhile, a Nigerian boxer has been expelled from the All Africa Games after testing positive for a banned steroid.

The head of the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa's medical commission, James Sekajugo, said a urine test taken from lightweight Ostone Eneuwedia on Tuesday had tested positive for an steroid he named as 19-Norandosterone.

"Eneuwedia is disqualified from the boxing event... and he is suspended from participating in all further events at the Games," Sekajugo told reporters.

"This decision will be communicated to the Amateur International Boxing Association, which might impose further sanctions."

Eneuwedia was to have fought Ben Rabah of Tunisia in the lightweight final on Saturday.

Eneuwedia is the first athlete to be expelled from the Games for failing a drugs test.

MEDALS TABLE

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
South Africa	61	55	37	153
Nigeria	48	18	25	91
Egypt	46	54	32	132
Algeria	11	17	27	55
Tunisia	16	16	19	51
Cameroon	3	10	17	30
Kenya	7	7	12	26
Zimbabwe	1	9	11	21
Senegal	4	6	5	15
Mauritius	1	5	9	15
Madagascar	1	3	5	9
Gabon	1	3	4	8
Ethiopia	4	1	2	7
Ghana	2	1	4	7
Seychelles	0	1	6	7
Cote d'Ivoire	1	1	4	6
Lesotho	3	1	1	5
Angola	3	0	1	4
Swaziland	0	0	4	4
Niger	0	1	2	3
Botswana	0	2	1	3
Mali	0	0	2	2
Namibia	0	0	2	2
Cape Verde	0	0	2	2
Togo	0	0	1	1
Uganda	0	0	1	1
DR Congo	0	0	1	1
Central African Rep	0	0	1	1
Malawi	0	0	1	1

The other quarterfinals will be staged in Sousse and Yaounde on Sunday.



Gete Wami of Ethiopia celebrates after winning the 10000 metres race at the All Africa Games on September 17. — AFP photo

Chinese TT GP Liu clinches singles title

GUILIN, China, Sept 18: Last-minute substitute Liu Guozheng became the talk of the '99 China Grand Prix Table Tennis Championships as the unfancied Chinese paddler won the men's singles title here on Saturday, reports AFP.

Liu, entering the tournament as the understudy of injury-hit former world champion Kong Linhui, toughed out a 21-11, 17-21, 12-21, 21-15, 21-19 victory over South Korean Lee Chul-Seung in the final and pocketed 12,500 US dollars in prize money.

In the women's doubles unfancied Li Nan and Lin Ling from China topped this year's World Championships gold medalists Wang Nan and Li Ju 21-19, 16-21, 21-17 in 35 minutes.

The result completed a dismal day for world number one Wang Nan, who was bounced out of the women's singles final Saturday morning.

It was the first major title for Liu, and it came the hard way.

He took the biggest scalp of the tournament by eliminating his world champion teammate Liu Guoliang, in the third round, before overcoming another heavyweight compatriot Wang Linqin, ITTF Pro-Tour final winner, in the semifinals earlier Saturday.

"Today is a very important day in my career," said a jubilant Liu. "Finally I translated my training efforts into a major title."

Liu Guozheng revealed that he had an impressive record against Liu Guoliang in the training camp but lack of strong nerves at crucial moments often cost him in the big events.

But the absence of top European players, especially Sweden's Jan-Ove Waldner, Vladimir Samsonov of Belarus and Croatian Zoran Primorac, made Liu's triumph less convincing in a depleted men's singles field.

In the following men's doubles final, Chinese duo Wang Linqin and Yan Sen thrashed the South Korean pair Kim Taek-Soo and Oh Sang-Eun 21-15, 21-19 to take the gold.

Earlier, Chinese women's world number three Li Ju scored a walk-over victory over Chinese-born German Qianhong Gotsch, who quit the final due to a fever after a gutsy four-set win over world champion and top seed Wang Nan in the semifinals.

Cuba won't ban Sotomayor

HAVANA, Sept 18: Cuba, brushing aside exhortations from the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), said Friday it considered high jumper Javier Sotomayor innocent of doping charges and would not ban him, reports Reuters.

The Cuban Federation will not suspend him... the IAAF can take whatever decisions it likes," Alberto Juantorena, head of the Cuban Athletics Federation, said in comments quoted Friday by the official Communist party newspaper Gramma.

Juantorena was responding to a public reminder from the IAAF Thursday that Cuba should apply IAAF rules and ban Sotomayor, one of the communist-ruled island's best known sports stars, for failing a recent dope test.

Cuba's President Fidel Castro has launched a campaign to try to clear Sotomayor, who tested positive for cocaine after winning the gold medal at the summer Pan American Games in Winnipeg, Canada.

The Cuban high jump world record holder, who was deprived of his Games medal, says he is innocent.

The island's leadership and government are responding by him and have turned his case into an issue of national pride. They allege that Sotomayor and three Cuban weightlifters who also failed dope tests in Winnipeg were the victims of a plot by Cuba's enemies seeking to tarnish the island's reputation as a sporting power. The Cuban government also criticises the anti-doping laboratory at the Winnipeg Games.

Juantorena, himself a well-known former Olympic track champion, described Sotomayor as "a symbol of our sports and the victim of a conspiracy."

Italian sports boss' plan

ROME, Sept 18: The Italian sports minister Giovanna Melandri will ask the European Union to consider limiting the number of foreign players to five for each club, she said Friday after a meeting with the country's top football chiefs, reports AFP.

The minister made her remarks following a meeting with Italian football federation chief, Luciano Nizzola, national team boss Dino Zoff and under-21 coach Marco Tardelli, who believe the large number of foreigners playing in Serie A is damaging the prospects of the national team.

Madame Melandri said: "I will propose to the European Union the idea of limiting the number of foreign players to five in one team."

Zoff said: "If the European Union decides to limit the number of foreigners it will open lots of possibilities for our players."

Nizzola said: "We can not limit their acquisition because it would violate the law on the free movement of workers in the common market. But with an agreement by the 15 we could limit the number of players used. This would favour Italian on the field and also the national team."

Princess Cup from Tuesday



TOKYO, Sept 18: Lindsay Davenport, currently playing for the United States in the Fed Cup final on her home ground, will have a busy week to spearhead the Princess Cup tennis tournament to get underway Tuesday, reports AFP.

The 23-year-old Wimbledon champion from California is the top seed of the 520,000-dollar outdoor hardcourt tournament here, ahead of fellow American defending champion Monica Seles, the second seed.

Davenport hopes to salvage her disappointment at Flushing Meadows where she failed to defend the US Open title losing to her Fed Cup teammate Serena Williams in the semifinals.

But winning Wimbledon on the surface Davenport hates has already helped ease the pain of her disappointing year.

"It has been a magnificent year that I won Wimbledon," said Davenport, who has won four titles this season. "Other than that it has been okay. It hasn't been tremendous. Winning Wimbledon helped a lot."

Davenport, with three other top seeds, received a first-round bye before playing either American Corina Morariu or Anna Smashnova of Israel in the second round.

She was drawn in the same quarter with the Australian Open runner-up Amelie Mauresmo of France, fifth seed, and the same half with fourth seed Amanda Coetzer of South Africa and seventh seed Amy Frazier of the United States.

In the bottom half with Seles

were former Wimbledon champion Conchita Martinez of Spain, eighth seed, Julie Halard-Decugis of France, fourth seed, and Japan's Ai Sugiyama, sixth seed, who



LINDSAY DAVENPORT

plays Thai top player Tamarine Tanasugarn in the first round.

The field also included Wimbledon sensation Jelena Dokic of Australia, who shocked reigning world number one Martina Hingis of Switzerland in the first round before reaching the quarterfinals in July.

American 14-year-old prodigy Monica Seles will make a professional debut in Tokyo as a wild card entrant, forcing the WTA to change the rules prohibiting players 14 or less from playing on the tour.

Viele, being hailed as a super

star of the next generation, is a singer, a model and an actress who became the youngest champion of the Florida Open under-18 last season and has won 70 junior titles by the end of last year.

Viele will play American Jane Chi, while Dokic will challenge Martinez in the first round.

Kiefer, Bastl reach final

TASHKENT, Sept 18: Third seed Nicolas Kiefer overcame an indifferent start to beat Daniel Vacek of the Czech Republic 7-6, 6-2 in the semifinal of the President's Cup on Friday, reports Reuters.

Kiefer, who has dropped only one set on his way to the final, admitted to being "pretty bad" early on.

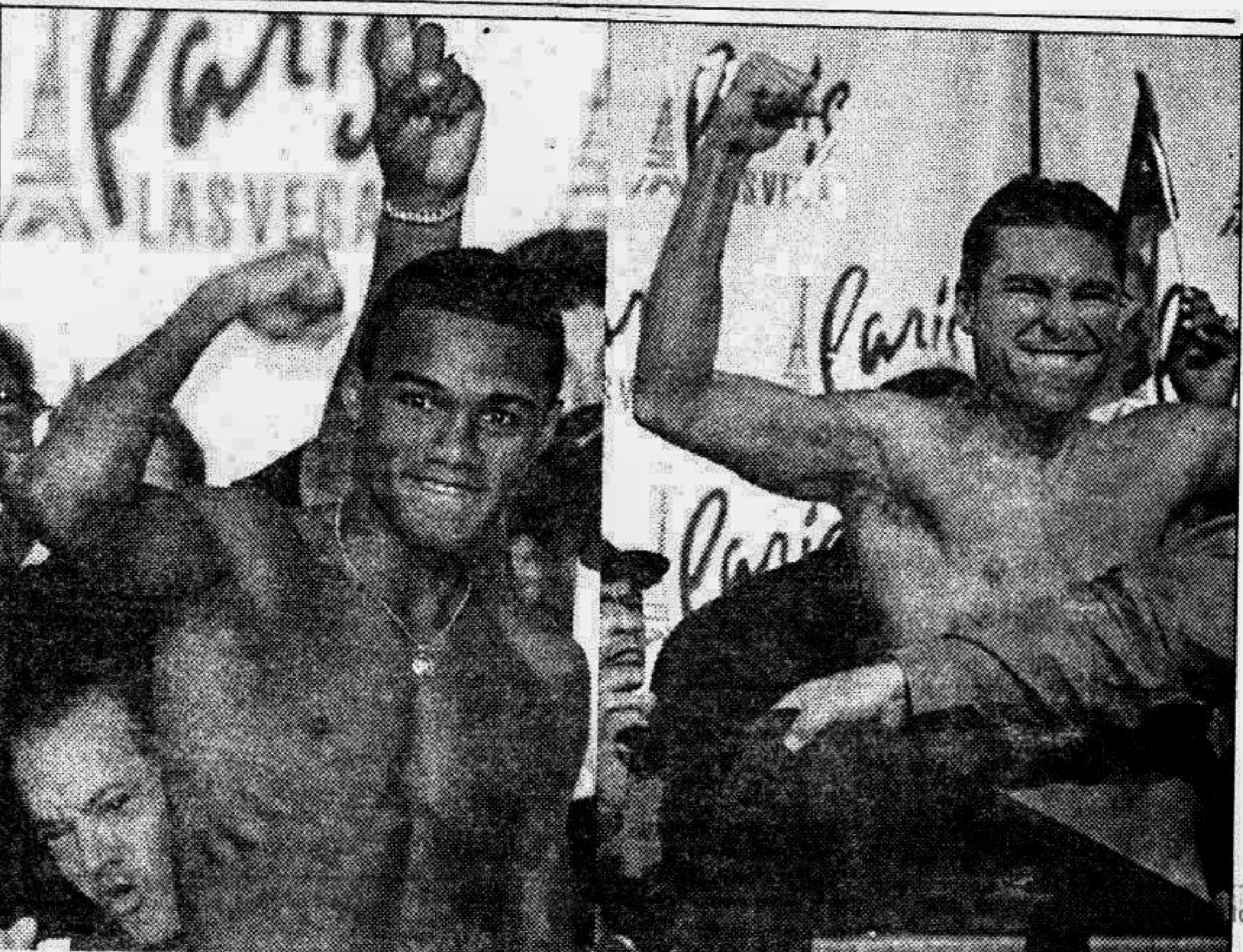
"But beginning from the tie-break I played confidently for the rest of the match."

Kiefer, the only seeded player to advance beyond the second round, will meet Swiss qualifier George Bastl today.

Bastl reached his first major final by beating Peter Wessels of the Netherlands 6-4, 6-3.

"This has been one of the best weeks in my entire tennis career," said Bastl, who has yet to drop a set in the tournament.

The 23-year-old American born Swiss, who began the week ranked 154th in the world, turned professional only 18 months ago after excelling in a different sport.



IBF welterweight champion Felix Trinidad of Puerto Rico (L) and challenger Oscar de la Hoya of the United States flex their muscles in Las Vegas on September 17. — AFP photo

Fighters weigh & wait



LAS VEGAS, Sept 18: To the shrieks and chants of duelling fans Friday, Oscar de la Hoya and Felix Trinidad weighed in for their scheduled 12-round welterweight title fight Saturday, reports Reuters.

Both men weighed the required 147 pounds (67 kg) but the muscular De La Hoya needed all the help he could get to make the weight and so, to the delight of his female fans, had to take off his undershorts to be weighed.

The World Boxing Council champion was, however, shielded by a blanket held by his handlers.

Trinidad, the International Boxing Federation champion from Puerto Rico, entered the Mandalay Bay arena first and was greeted with fans waving the Puerto Rican flag, ringing cow bells and cheering, "Tito, Tito, Tito" and "Rico, Rico, Rico."

The crowd of about 1,500 on Trinidad's side of the arena went crazy when he reached the stage, took off his shirt, stripped down to bikini undershorts with the colours of the Puerto Rican flag, his fans and raised both arms in the air.

Former middleweight

champion Marvin Hagler also drew cheers when he raised Trinidad's hand before he

Mallorca Open tennis results

PALMA DE MALLORCA, Spain, Sept 18: The two remaining seeds in the Mallorca Open, Alex Corretja and Dominik Hrbaty, will meet in today's semifinals after victories on Friday, reports Reuters.

Slovakian Hrbaty, seeded four, won the most exciting match of the day against the Austrian Markus Hippel, coming back after losing the first set to win 4-6, 7-5, 6-3.

He is now the only non-Spaniard left in the competition. Second-seeded Catalan Corretja had an easy passage with a 6-3, 6-2 win over Argentinian Hernan Gumeny.

The other semifinal will be between the unseeded Spaniards Julian Alonso and 19-year old Juan Carlos Ferrero, ranked 68th in the world.

Ferrero surprisingly sailed past the experienced Francisco Clavet 6-0, 6-3 while Alonso eliminated the tenacious Costa Rican Juan Antonio Marin in two long sets, 7-6, 7-5.

stepped on to the scale.

Trinidad's promoter, Don King, tried to make an issue of De La Hoya's weight by dramatically scrutinising the scale. But officials immediately stepped forward and indicated that he had made weight.

Then it was the turn of De La Hoya, the Mexican-American out of East Los Angeles, to churn up his fans, who outnumbered and out-cheered the other side.

The "Golden Boy" took the stage to the shrieks of his many female fans, who threw kisses to him, and he motioned with his hands to encourage his fans to cheer even more loudly.

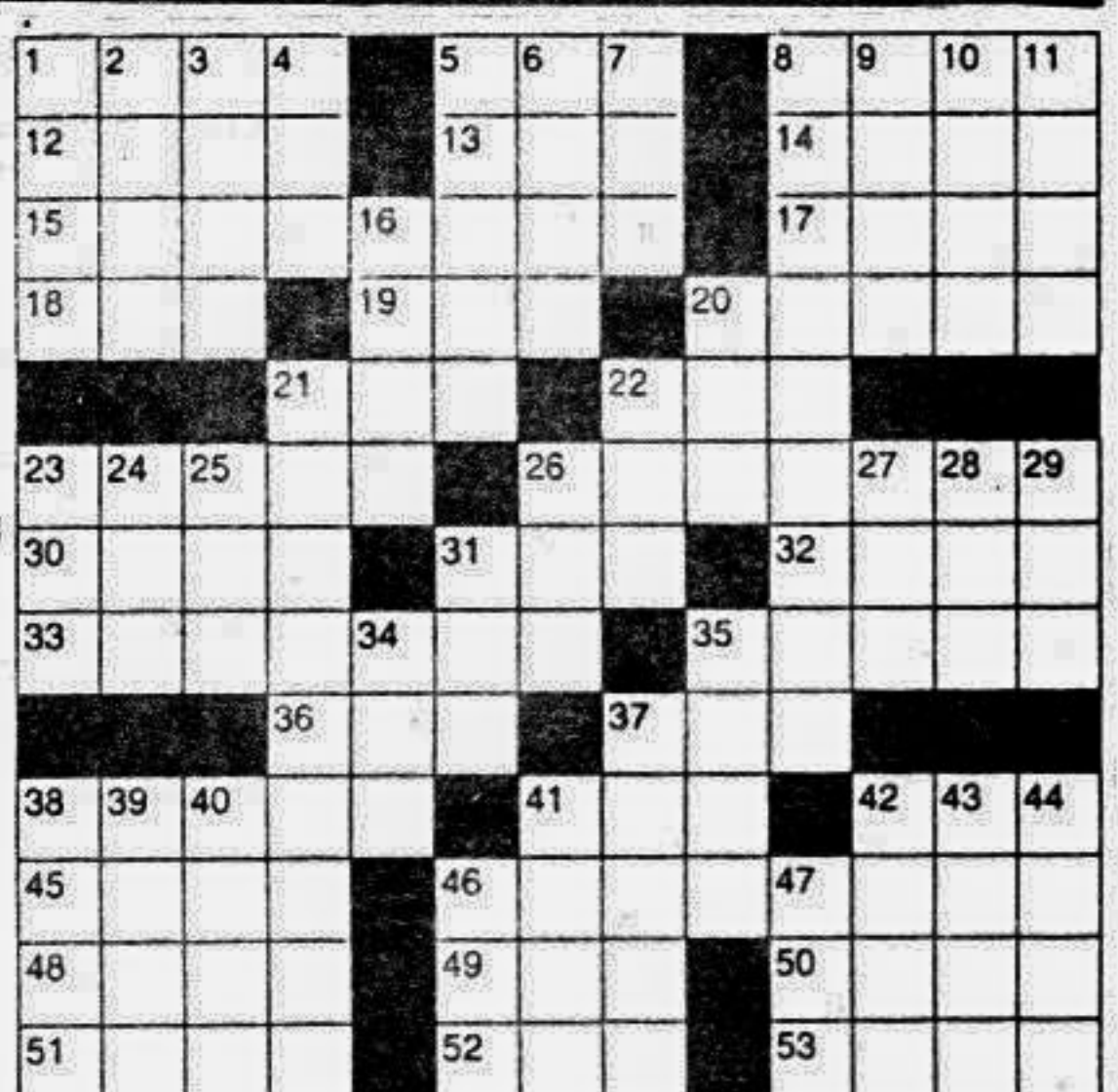
The fight between the undefeated 26-year-olds is essentially a "pick 'em" betting proposition. The winner will claim two-thirds of the welterweight title.

De La Hoya's promoter, Bob Arum, said that his fighter, originally guaranteed 15 million dollars now is certain with all the side deals for this fight to earn more than \$21 million and likely more.

Trinidad (35-0) and his father, who is also his trainer, will receive 10.5 million dollars. De La Hoya is 31-0.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	DOWN
1 One of the Three Bears	1 Goya subject
2 How — love them?	2 From square one
3 McNally's partner	3 Teeny bit
4 Indigo	4 Priestly vestment
5 B&B	5 Popsy's text
6 Ardent	6 Never again?
7 Deeply dark	7 Sketcher's milieu
8 Caesar costar	8 Ascot oval
9 Rovon-tial fear	9 Acknowledgo
10 Prior to	10 Pleasant e.g.
11 Winner in a Tribune headline	11 6/64
12 Deposit	12 Prospect
13 Ex-GI	13 Mad king of literature
14 Play-by-play augmentation	14 "True Grit" star
15 Mimicry specialist	15 Rosenkavalier
16 Tel —	16 B-52's biggest hit
17 Ashen	17 Solution time: 24 mins.
18 Emanation	18 RAIN ASS RAZE
19 Decided not to panel?	19 IBAR MAY UPON PERU PIN NEED
20 Temporary money	20 STING LOCO
21 Long sandwich	21 OOPS DIFFER
	22 BUFFALO ABTIDE
	23 TITHE PADDOLED
	24 STEERS GAL
	25 MAIL MUSIC
	26 JEOP NOB COMO
	27 AWOL GOB KNEW
	28 REEL SPY SITS
	29 Yesterday's answer



CRYPTOQUIP

L K E W C I G N K E G A Z I J

G A D G P G N W Z P A D G G K U I T N P

W Z J T C G K L T D U W D L P E Z G P ?

Yesterday's Cryptquip: THE NONPLUSED

WOODSMAN TOLD ME THAT HE WAS STUMPED.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: L equals W

The Cryptquip 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.