Swedish soccer

#### Helsingborgs' 1st in 58 yrs

GOTEBORG, Sweden, Oct 31: Striker Arild Stavrum scored midway through the second half to give Helsingborgs IF a 1-0 victory over IFK Goteborg Saturday and their first Swedish soccer league champi-

onship in 58 years, reports AP.
Helsingborg, who also won
the Swedish Cup in 1941 and 1998, finished with a 17-3-6 record and one point ahead of AlK of Solna, Sweden's lone entry in the European Champions'

Stavrum, a Norwegian who reportedly is headed to Aherdeen in Scotland, scored the clincher in the 66th minute.

"This was a lot more fun than winning last year's scor-ing title," said Stavrum, who scored 11 goals this year, seven fewer than last season when Helsingborg finished second in the league standings.

More than 10,000 Helsingborg fans made the trip from southern Sweden to Goteborg for the season finale.

Helsingborg will play Parma of Italy in the return leg of the UEFA Cup at Olympia Stadium in Helsingborg on Thursday that could close out their sea-

Halmstad finished third in the standings with 48 points, five behind AIK.

Former two-time UEFA Cup champion IFK Goteborg, who only five years ago topped their European Champions' League group ahead of both Manchester United and FC Barcelona, had another disappointing season. finishing sixth.

Malmo FF, a 14-time league champions and who reached the European Champions' Cup final in 1979, was one of three teams relegated to the Second Division after a record 63 seasons in the top flight.

#### English Div One Unstoppable Man City

LONDON, Oct 31: Manchester City stretched their lead at the top of Division One to six points on Saturday after coming from behind to defeat bottom club Port Vale at Vale Park, reports AFP.

Veteran striker Martin Foyle put Vale ahead five minutes before the interval but a Mark Snijders own goal in the 72nd minute and Danny Granville's strike five minutes later ensured Joe Royle's side completed a quick double over Brian Horton's strugglers.

But fellow Lancashire side Blackburn Rovers endured a nightmare afternoon as they slumped to sixth bottom in the table after going down to improving Queens Park Rangers at Ewood Park.

Stuart Wardley's 40thminute opener and a late strike from Kevin Gallen piled the pressure on Rovers boss Brian Kidd, whose under-achievers are now 17 points behind leaders City.

Ipswich jumped up two places into second spot after overcoming Grimsby at Portman Road.

George Burley's side went ahead through Jamie Clapham in the 36th minute and Richard Naylor's left-foot strike on the hour made the points safe for the home side.

Birmingham City edged out Charlton at St Andrews with a Bryan Hughes' goal after 25 minutes proving the difference between the two high-riding

Norwich continued their good recent run when frustrating Fulham at Craven Cottage, who slipped to sixth in the table after their fourth game without

Kit Symons looked to have put Paul Bracewell's side on their way with a powerful header inside the opening 10 minutes but Iwan Roberts gave Bruce Rioch's side a share of the points, levelling the scores after 53 minutes.

Bolton left it very late to gain their first win under new boss Sam Allardyce but two goals in the last four minutes from substitutes Bob Taylor and Bo Hansen gave the Trotters the points against lowly Swindon at the Reebok Stadium.

Dave Bassett saw his Barnsley side increase the pressure on his former club Nottingham Forest at Oakwell.

Craig Hignett's 56th-minute penalty after he had been upended by Forest's Jon Olav Hjelde proved the difference between the two side and consigned David Platt's side to their fifth league away defeat of the season.

Huddersfield Town recorded only their second league win of the season on the road when coming out on top in the Yorkshire derby with Sheffield United at Bramall Lane.

John Dyson's 51st-minute header ensured former Blades boss Steve Bruce made a happy

return to Bramall Lane. Stockport had Chris Byrne to thank for a share of the

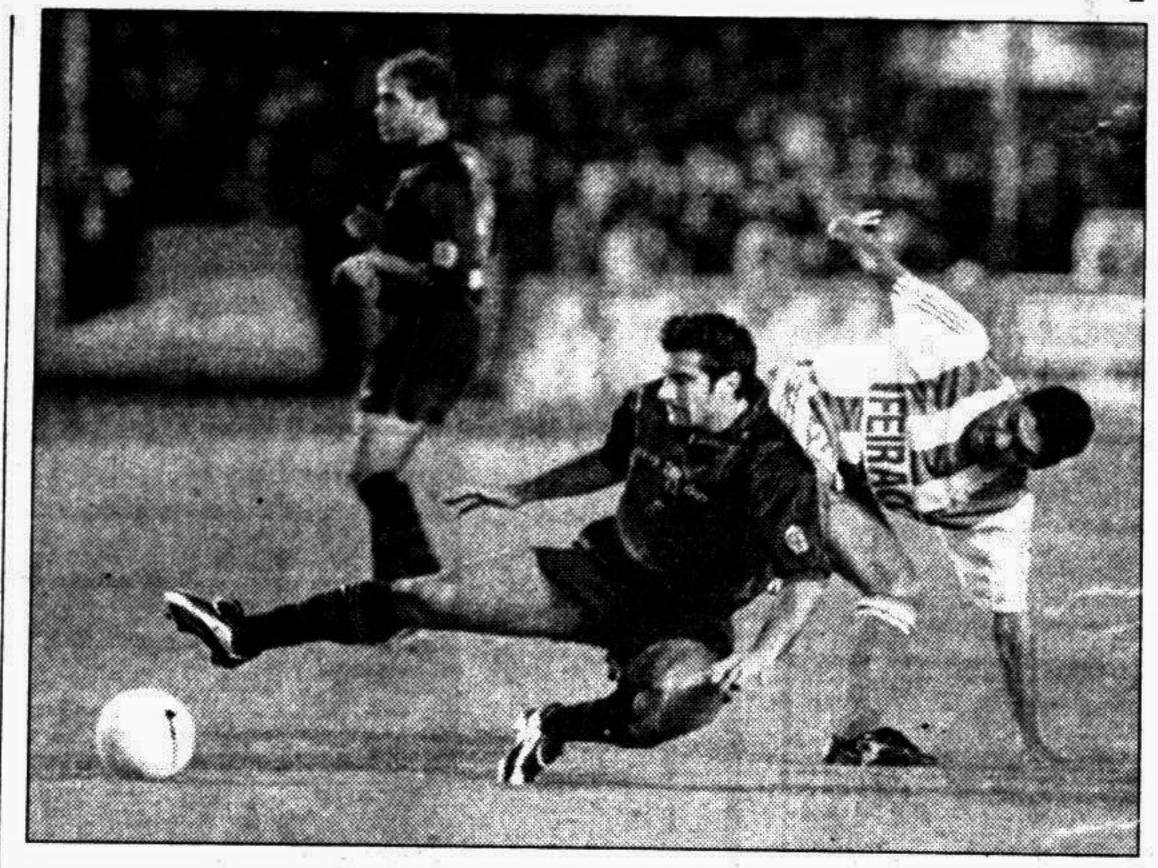
spoils after lowly Walsall seemed on course to cause an upset at Edgeley Park. The match was temporarily suspended early in the second

period when a fierce rain storm blew across the ground, and upon its resumption it was Walsall who had been blown off

course. County's unbeaten home league record looked in serious danger as they trailed to Michael Rickett's 71st-minute goal but Byrne's header two minutes from time gave them a point.

Tranmere eased their worries after coming out on top in the relegation battle with Crewe at Prenton Park.

Second-half goals from Clint Hill and Wayne Allison gave John Aldridge's side three vital points and moved them up four places in the table but the result saw Dario Gradi's side slip back into the bottom three.



Barcelona's Portuguese international Luis Figo (L) falls after being tackled by a Deportivo defender on October 30. - AFP photo

### Primera Liga Big two sent crashing



MADRID, Oct 31: The twin giants of Spanish football Barcelona and Real Madrid slumped to embarrassing defeats here Saturday.

reports AFP. Defending champions Barcelona lost 2-1 at Deportivo La Coruna and will lose the lead of the Primera Liga if Rayo Vallecano beat Valladolid Sunday. Should Rayo slip up

Alaves, could also take the top But Real's plight is far worse than that of their eternal rivals. They were humbled on home soil 3-1 by city rivals Atletico in the Madrid derby to further put pressure on the club's Welsh boss John

then Celta Vigo, who tackle

Real got off to a fine start with an eighth-minute goal from Fernando Morientes.

Toshack.

But Atletico hit back with a vengeance. Dutch striker Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, recruited from English Premiership side Leeds in the close season, outpaced a leadenfooted Real defence to square the match just five minutes

Then Jose Mari put Atletico. recovering well after a dreadful start to the season, in the lead after 30 minutes. Eight minutes later Hasselbaink bagged his second with a superb effort from the edge of the box.

That made the score 3-1 and there would be no further goals. Howver, Real keeper Albano Bizarri was sent off.

Toshack will be well aware that domestic form has been the yardstick by which his president Lorenzo Sanz has judged his coaches in recent years.

In 1998 Sanz fired German Jupp Heynckes days after winning the European Cup - Real's first triumph in Europe's premier club competition since their glory days in the 1950s and 1960s.

A poor domestic season was enough to seal the fate of Heynckes despite the euphoria surrounding the landmark win. And last season the man

Sanz brought in to replace Heynckes - Dutchman Guus Hiddink - was fired despite winning the world club championship for the meringues. Again Barca's domestic supremacy was too much for Sanz to stomach.

The derby defeat sees Real slump to 10th - eight points adrift of leaders Barca. Real may be the world champions but they are now only the third best team in Madrid if the Primera Liga table is an accurate guide.

Atletico and Real are both being eclipsed by newly-promoted Rayo Vallecano, who will again head the standings should they beat Valladolid Sunday

Rayo topped the table earlier this season for the first time in their 75-year history. The club is noteworthy for another reason in that they have the only woman president in any major European football league.

Rayo's opportunity to return to the summit comes because Barca crashed 2-1 at Deportivo La Coruna. Roy Makaay scored twice in the opening 15 minutes to give the hosts a two-goal

After 67 minutes Brazilian playmaker Rivaldo, overwhelming favourite to be named world player of the year, reduced arrears but the Catalan giants could not get the elusive equaliser.

Valencia had to settle for a 1 1 draw at another newly promoted side Malaga.

A 69th-minute goal from Argentinian striker Claudio Lopez was enough to secure a share of the spoils for the visitors after Edgar had given Malaga the lead.

Barcelona, Real Madrid and Valencia have all qualified for the next phase of the European Champions League.

#### Bundesliga

### Bayern blow Wolfsburg away



BERLIN, Oct 31: Defending champions Bayern Munich went top of the Bundesliga Saturday thanks

to a 5-0 home win over VfL Wolfsburg, reports AFP. That result was enough to see the Bavarian side leapfrog

Borussia Dortmund, who had to settle for a 1-1 draw at Hamburg while another side in the leading pack Bayer Leverkusen were held 1-1 at home by 1860 Munich.

Bayern are level on points with Dortmund but their superior goal difference puts them on top of the Bundesliga with Hamburg and Leverkusen a point behind the front pair.

Bayern's victory had a distinct Latin American flavour with Brazilian striker Giovane Elber bagging a hat-trick to take his personal haul for the season to seven while 18-yearold Paraguayan Roque Santa Cruz, the world's most expensive teenager, also got on the scoresheet. The fifth goal was scored by Michael Wiesinger.

The match will be a big lift for Bayern ahead of their Wednesday home showdown

#### Council workers face inquiry

GLASGOW, Oct 31: Glasgow City Council workers used internal phone lines to bypass hotline queues and buy tickets for the Scotland-England Et ro 2000 qualifier, an inquiry team revealed Saturday, reports AFP.

Glasgow City Council, the operators of the ticket line, confirmed "a number of tickets" had been sold to staff via internal phone lines.

The council's chief executive Jimmy Andrews said any tickets sales made via the interral phone system would be cancelled and the tickets returned to the Scottish Football Association (SFA) for resale. The council will press ahead

this weekend with an investigation to establish which employees operated the scam. The scam allegations poured

further embarrassment on both the council and the SFA who faced criticism because the hotline number crashed shortly after it opened due to the quantity of calls. A council spokeswoman said

the demand for tickets had been "unbelievable" and stressed that everything possible had been done to make the hotline work smoothly.

The first leg of the two-legged play-off is on November 13 in Glasgow with the return match on November 17. England v Scotland is the oldest fixture in international football and is usually a highly-charged affair.

with Scottish champions Rangers - a game on which their European Champions League hopes depend.

Borussia Dortmund went a goal behind in Hamburg thanks to a penalty converted by the home side's extrovert goalkeeper Hans-Jorg Butt after 61 minutes. But prolific Fredi Bobic salvaged a share of the spoils for the 1997 European

champions seven minutes later. Prolific striker Ulf Kirsten gave Leverkusen the advantage with a second-half penalty only for Bernhard Winkler to grab an equaliser on stoppage time

for 1860 Munich. At the bottom end of the table MSV Duisburg's 0-0 home draw with SSV Ulm leaves them still winless and four points adrift of the safety zone.

#### **STANDINGS**

German Bundesliga table after games played Friday and Saturday (played, won, drawn, lost, 15 20 19 10 16 9 16

goals for, against, points): Bayern Munich Borussia Dortmund SV Hamburg Bayer Leverkusen Schalke 04 13 10 Werder Bremen 22 13 Munich 1860 16 11 15 VfL Wolfsburg 19 15 Hansa Rostock 22 10 SC Freiburg 15 Hertha Berlin 14 16 VfB Stuttgart 12 11 Arminia Bielefeld 15 10 Kaiserslautern 12 20 SSV Ulm 16 10 Unterhaching 12 Eintracht Frankfurt 16 MSV Dusburg 16



Bayern Munich's Giovane Elber (L) and Wolfsburg's Brian O'Neil are locked in an aerial duel during their Bundesliga clash on October 30. — AFP photo

#### Frenchwomen to fight it out

VIENNA, Oct 31: Mary Pierce meets Sandrine Testud in the final of the 520,000-dollar WTA tournament here on Sunday af-ter both won their semifinal matches Saturday against fellow French players, reports

Top seed Pierce beat Amelie Mauresmo, seeded fourth, 7-5, 6-3 after Testud had dominated Sarah Pitkowski, winning 6-4, 6-2. Whoever wins the final will

claim their first tournament victory of the year. Pierce leads 4-0 in head-to-heads and played this year in Rome and Toronto. It is Pierce's fifth final this year and she is sixth in the world rankings but she has

been unable to take a winner's in 1999. First seed Testud, who has won two tournaments in her career. Palermo in 1997 and Filderstadt in 1998, said afterwards: "I'm very happy with my performances this week and I'm confident going into the final."

#### Wilander beats McEnroe

TOKYO, Oct 31: Mats Wilander relived his glory days with a victory over John McEnroe in a Champions' Tour tournament

here on Sunday, reports AFP. The Swede won a decisive tiebreak to claim his third tournament of the season after coming back from losing the

first set 6-1 to win 1-6, 6-3. Afterwards, Wilander recalled his first encounter with McEnroe -- a legendary Davis Cup clash that remains the longest match on record.

"We played for six hours and 36 minutes. It was about one month after I won the French Open for the first time in 1982. "I think he was ranked number one in the world, so that was my introduction to men's ten-

"To win the French Open was one thing, but to play against John in the Davis Cup for six and a half hours and I was losing as well ... I think it was the most important match in my career," said Wilander.

"It was the longest match ever in the men's tennis. I think it's in the Guinness Book of records," added Wilander, the winner of seven Grand Slam titles including three Australian and three French Open titles. Wilander joined the senior

tour last season and posted his first senior titles at St Petersburg. Russia and Atlanta in the McEnroe was happy to see

his old rival on form. "That's the best I've seen him in a long time. He's always been a smart player and I think it's good for the tour that he is playing better

"Because at the moment Bjorn (Borg) is struggling, he is picked up. injured, so we need someone else besides maybe myself and Jimmy (Connors), so it was good to see him coming and playing well again."

#### Samsonov lifts WC TT title

ZHONGSHAN, China, Oct 31: World number one Vladimir Samsonov lived up to his top ranking Sunday in the 1999 World Cup table tennis championship, beating Austrian Werner Schlager in the final in Zhongshan city, southern

China, reports AFP. Samsonov's intense concentration proved to be too much for the power and quickness of Schlager as the reigning European champion won easily 23-21, 21-15, 21-10.

Samsonov set the tone for the match and took the hard fought first set by stifling a brilliant four point streak by number 10 ranked Schlager, which tied the score at 20-20. After falling behind 20-21, the world number one reeled off three straight points of his own to take the crucial first set.

Schlager's quick back-hand smash and his continual and often successful efforts to bring Samsonov into a power game troubled the Belarussian as he eked out a slim 13-12 lead midway through the second set.

However, the world number one took four of the next five points for a 17-13 lead which proved to be the turning point of both the set and the match.

In the final set, Schlager's quickness and speed turned to frustrated mistakes as Samsonov's lead widened as his patient play assured that his returns remained in play.

Samsonov takes home 40,000 dollars for his work. while Schlager will have to be satisfied with a 21,000-dollar second place prize. Despite champion Chinese

players failing to appear on the final day of the four-day tournament, the noisy sellout crowd was in good form at the Xiaolan Stadium, cheering on the European finalists. During August's World Championships in the Nether-lands, the Chinese took all the

play that suggested China had returned to the top of world ping-pong. However, in Zhongshan, on-China's home turf, the European men have shown that China's domination two months ago is no longer the certainty it once was, setting the

gold and silver on offer in a dis-

Earlier, in a best of three consolation match, the powerful slams of Croatian Zoran Primorac proved to be too much for Swede Jorgen Persson as the world number four took the 15,000-dollar third place prize. winning 21-17, 21-18. For his four days of work,

stage for next year's 2000

Olympics in Sydney.

Persson took home the 10,000dollar fourth place prize in the 130,000 dollar tournament and a chance to improve on his world number nine ranking.



Frenchwoman Mary Pierce playing against compatriot Amelie Mauresmo at the WTA tourney in Vienna on October 30. - AFP photo

## Agassi intercepted



STUTTGART. Germany, Oct 31: Thomas Enqvist dealt top seed Andre Agassi a blow,

beating the world number one 6-3, 4-6, 6-0 Saturday to reach the final of the 2.45-million-dollar Eurocard Open, where he'll face two-time holder Richard Krajicek, reports AFP.

Krajicek from the Netherlands earned the chance to complete a hattrick of titles here, easily handling Britain's Greg Rusedski 6-4, 6-4 in their It was almost too easy for

Krajicek, who won what had

been expected to be a battle of

huge serves in just 65 minutes' at the Hans-Martin Schleyer Hall "It was a solid performance, said the winner, the 1995 and 1998 champion, who went into the contest trailing 3-5 in his career series against Rusedski.

He also played finals here in 1993 and 1997. "I don't think I played unbelievable, but it was a very good performance, one I'm happy

With girlfriend Steffi Graf looking on as usual this week now that their relationship has gone fully public, Agassi's game began lethargically against Enqvist, seeded 13th, and hardly

The 29-year-old American could never get going against his Scandinavian rival losing serve early in all three sets. But he recovered enough to win the second before falling behind again in the third, where Enqvist dominated.

In the final set. Enqvist led 3-0 as Agassi double-faulted in the third game for 0-40, saving two of the break points before netting a forehand.

The Swede recovered from 0-40 to stretch his margin to 4-0; Agassi dropped serve again on an Enqvist winner to the corner. Enqvist calmly served out the victory in under 90 minutes.

The Swede improved his mark against Agassi to four wins, two defeats in a rivalry which has seen only three matches in five years. "It was a lot of fun to play to-

day," said the winner. "It was

very important for me to beat Andre. Australian Open finalist Enqvist took the early lead. breaking Agassi in the second game as the American netted a backhand, and holding for a 3-0

margin The Swede, whose year started brightly with a title in Adelaide and then faded after losing the Melbourne final to Yevgeny Kafelnikov, swept up the set in 30 minutes.

Agassi was unusually cff-

form, losing on a mis-hit return long on set point. Enqvist struck six aces while Agassi's first-serve percentage hovered at below 40 percent. The Swede stayed steady to start the second set, breaking a

somewhat lethargic Agassi for

1-0 as the American world

number one netted another return. But Agassi got the break back in the fourth game to square the contest as Enqvist

put a forehand wrong. The semi-final was the fourth of the year for Krajicek, who also beat Rusedski in February indoors at Rotterdam in a final

"This is my time, I haven't played so well in the past few months, I'm hungry now," the winner said. "There is something good for me here, I don't know what exactly. But I'm playing well and I'm very

Krajicek, winner of only two titles in 1999, said his game has been improving as the week goes on at the Super 9. 'The only way I can have a good feeling about this year is to qualify for Hanover (eight-man season final).

"For me, getting in is very

important. It's not that I'm calculating every time I'm on the court, but it's been in the back of my mind during every match Rusedski said his troubles on court against Krajicek were

physical. This is a very pun-

ishing court on the body. I had a tough match (three sets) the day before (winning over third seed Todd Martin) Richard played very well. He took advantage of everything. I couldn't raise my game like I needed. I needed more

movement and I didn't have it today. Rusedski added that he absolutely does not care about his chances of reaching Hanover. He currently stands 13th in the

race for eight positions. "I don't care if I don't make it, it doesn't mean much to me \* this year. My goal is to get reach for the Grand Slams next year. "If someone told me I'd be tenth in the world (to end the season). I'd say 'fine, that's good.

Let's get ready for next year."

French First Division

# Auxerre in lead again



Auxerre went back top of the French First Division Saturday with a 2-I home victory

PARIS, Oct 31:

over Montpellier and were further boosted when reigning champions and title rivals Bordeaux had to settle for a 2-2 draw at Nancy, reports AFP. Paris St Germain's shock 3-1

defeat at the hands of bottom

club Le Havre completed a

memorable Saturday for

Auxerre, who also profited from Lyon's defeat by Sedan on Friday night. Auxerre had been forced to surrender the lead last weekend when their match with Monaco was postponed because of a wa-

But with several of their closest rivals faltering they showed no signs of rustiness as they eased to victory over Montpellier. It was Montpellier who made

terlogged pitch.

dom's

27 Tummy

muscles

Atalanta

briefly

29 Bait for

31 Zest

34 Lasso

37 Tittle

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DOWN

1 Fake

23 Chow or

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44 Require-

Solution time: 28 mins.

PANCREAS OLGA
OUT WEBSTER
BARBER LES
ITA DUB DEPTH
BOMBELL SARI
SMALL YIP NOD
OAK PLATTE

Yesterday's answer

PANATELIA

all the early running, however. Patrice Loko came close to scoring in the opening minutes and then Cyril Serredszum's left foot volley was turned by

Auxerre goalkeeper Fabien Cool onto the post. But after 22 minutes Auxerre

took the lead with their first real attack of the match. Stephane Carnot's deep cross found Steve Marlet, who outjumped above Montpellier's Franck Sylvestre and saw his powerful downward header squirm under the body of goalkeeper Stephane Cassard. Cassard redeemed himself

stop from Teamu Tainio after more good work from Marlet. In the second period the Burgundy side took charge of the game with Marlet again at the hub. The crucial second goal

on the half hour making a fine

came after 53 minutes. Released down the right Marlet outpaced the Montpellier defence, drew Cassard and slipped the ball to French World Cup winning striker Stephane Guivarc'h who scored one of the easiest goals of

his career. It was the ninth goal of the season for the former Newcastle and Rangers forward with only Monaco's David Trezeguet (10) ahead in the goalscoring charts.

striker Loko hooked the ball past Cool.

Bordeaux had to settle for a 2-2 draw at Nancy and were Cedric Mouret gave Nancy a

French international striker Sylvain Wiltord put the champions level with a first time finish shortly before the break but Samuel Wiart 16

Girondins.

was injured. Marseille boosted their campaign with a comprehensive 4-1 win at home to

Strasbourg. Early goals from French internationals Robert Pires (3) and Florian Maurice (20) estab-

CROSS	WORD	By Eugene	Sheffer	1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11
ACROSS	Tavern "CBS This Morning"  Speech 45 Make adjustments  Mined 47 Larry's pal find 48 Hors d'oeuvre yard item 4 Hypnotized 53 Valentine	2 Obey reveille 3 Actress Zellweger 4 Swedish car 5 Cans from class 6 Settle up 7 Unortho- dox sect 8 "Sail — Ship of State!" 9 Commo- tion 10 Band- leader Brown 11 Madrilen- ian Mrs. 17 Cruising	24 Carte preceder 25 OTB transaction 26 CanMex. connection 28 Feathery accessory 30 Paid player 31 Run up the phone bill 32 "— Lazy River" 33 Antonio Prohias character 36 California town 37 Making	12				13	Г			14				
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CRYPTOQUIP

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> HD UGELB ments 45 Env. abbr. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A PIANO TEACHER FORCEFULLY TOLD HER FIS! STUDENT, 46 Quiz answer "PRACTICE YOUR SCALES!" 48 "Eureka!"

ABEXBT'I

49 Apiece 50 Beatnik's 51 Prior to

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.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals G

With nine minutes left Montpellier narrowed the deficit when former France

lucky to get that first minute lead.

stored the advantage for the But Miguel Sanchez grabbed a facesaving equaliser for the

Wiltord had to do without his strike partner for club and country Lilian Laslandes who

lished the home side's supremacy.