

Same SA squad for Harare Test

BLOEMFONTEIN, South Africa, Nov 1: South Africa named an unchanged team for a return Test against Zimbabwe after beating the visitors by an innings and 13 runs at Springbok Park Monday, reports AFP.

The sides meet again in Harare, Zimbabwe, from November 11 to 15. Opening batsman Herschelle Gibbs, who missed the Bloemfontein Test because of a toe tendon injury, was not picked for Harare but instead will play for South Africa A against Sri Lanka A in Centurion from November 11 to 14. Selection convenor Rusudi Magriet said Gibbs was still recovering from injury and would not be playing for a combined Western Province and Boland team against England in Cape Town this weekend.

He could therefore not be considered for the Test match. SOUTH AFRICA: Hansie Cronje (captain), Adam Bacher, Boeta Dippenaar, Jacques Kallis, Daryll Cullinan, Jonty Rhodes, Lance Klusener, Shaun Pollock, Mark Boucher, Allan Donald, Paul Adams, Nicky Boje (12th man) SOUTH AFRICA A: Dale Benkenstein (captain), Mark Bryums, Herschelle Gibbs, Neil McKenzie, Ashwell Prince, Pieter Strydom, Nic Pothas, Shafiek Abrahams, David Terbrugge, Mornantau Hayward, Victor Mpitsang, Doug Watson (12th man)

Ntini no automatic choice

BLOEMFONTEIN, Nov 1 (Internet report): Cricketer Makhaya Ntini automatically became eligible to play for the South African team when his rape conviction was overturned in the Grahamstown High Court on Friday morning. But the 22-year-old fast bowler is not an automatic choice to reclaim his place in Hansie Cronje's side, which took to the field for the start of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Bloemfontein shortly after the appeal judgement was delivered.

United Cricket Board (UCB) managing director Ali Bacher said Ntini was eligible to play "at all levels of cricket", and would probably make his return to the first-class game for Border in the province's next Supersport Series match, starting on November 11.

National selection committee convenor Rusudi Magriet said the East London-based fast bowler would have to earn his position in a South African squad. "He'll have to play (for Border) first," Magriet said. "He hasn't proved for a while and he must prove his fitness and form. It's the same as if someone has been out injured."

Ntini, who earns just more than R19 000 a month in combined salary from the UCB and Border, will struggle to regain his place. He is unlikely to oust anyone of the likes of speed king Allan Donald or all-rounders Jacques Kallis, Lance Klusener and Shaun Pollock. Ntini also faces stiff competition from peripheral seamers David Terbrugge of Gauteng, Northern's Steve Elworthy and Greg Smith, Victor Mpitsang of Free State and Eastern Province's Nantie Hayward.

Red Stripe cricket

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Nov 1: Jamaica bowled out defending champions Guyana for 146 in a crucial Red Stripe Bowl cricket match at Sabina Park on Sunday, reports AP. Disciplined bowling led by fast bowling Jamaican captain Courtney Walsh, who captured four wickets, slowed the Guyanese.

Jamaica defeated Bermuda and the Windward Islands in their earlier matches and are already guaranteed a berth in the semifinals. Guyana never found the momentum needed to post a formidable score during their innings. Captain Shivnarine Chanderpaul compiled 46, but this was the only score of note. Even the experienced Chanderpaul had trouble against the Jamaican attack, hitting one six in his knock off 83 deliveries.

Neither Semple was the next-best of the Guyana batsmen, scoring 28 before he was bowled by off-spinner Nehemiah Perry. Walsh led the Jamaican bowling, but spinners Brian Murphy and Christopher Gayle claimed two wickets each.

Khulna soccer

KHULNA, Nov 1: Newsprint Club held Platinum Club to a 1-1 draw in the Senior Division football league match played here yesterday at the Khulna Stadium.

Both the goals were scored before the half-time. After the break, Newsprint had almost gone ahead but their forward missed a sure sitter. The rest of the play was a casual exchange as both the teams seemed to be satisfied sharing points.

Hakim memorial football

NARSINGDI, Nov 1: The final match of Abdul Hakim memorial football tournament was held at Hatirdia Sadat Ali High School playground in Mowhardi thana on October 28, reports BSS. In the match Kariptaka Club defeated Aral Club by three goals to nil.



Parma's Argentine playmaker Ariel Ortega (R) and Bari defender Michele Marcolini fight for the ball during their Serie A fixture at Parma on October 31. — AFP photo

Primera Liga

Vallecano back on top

MADRID, Nov 1: Rayo Vallecano won 2-1 at Valladolid Sunday to return to the top of the Primera Liga, reports AFP. Jose Ferron gave the newly-promoted outfit an 11th minute lead only for Victor to square the match for Valladolid after 69 minutes.

But young prospect Carlos Llorens grabbed what proved to be the winner with seven minutes remaining. It is Rayo's third stint at the summit this season - a position they have never reached previously in their 75-year history.

The club is noteworthy for another reason in that they have the only woman president - Maria Teresa Rivero - in any major European football league. They are also eclipsing city rivals Atletico and Real Madrid, the reigning world club champions.

Now Rayo have a two-point lead over Barcelona who had been top of the standings at the start of the weekend. And just to complete the perfect weekend for the unfashionable side, Celta Vigo, who also had a chance to go top had Rayo failed, were defeated at Alaves thanks to a solitary goal from veteran former Spanish international forward Julio Salinas.

Nigerian Finidi George scored the only goal in a home victory for Real Betis against Real Sociedad in the Basque side's first game under new coach Javier Clemente, the former national team boss who had a brief and unsuccessful stint at Real Betis last season.

Numanca beat Seville 2-0 while the matches between Santander and Real Mallorca, Espanyol and Real Zaragoza and Athletic Bilbao and Oviedo all finished 1-1. Barcelona and the other traditional giant of Spanish football Real Madrid had slumped to embarrassing defeats Saturday.

Defending champions Barcelona lost 2-1 at Deportivo La Coruna in a game that gave Rayo their opportunity to hit the heights Sunday.

Roy Makaay scored twice in the opening 15 minutes to give the hosts a two-goal cushion. 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.

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 Toshack.

Real got off to a fine start with an eighth-minute goal from Fernando Morientes. But Atletico hit back with a vengeance. Dutch striker Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, recruited from English Premiership side Leeds in the close season, outpaced a leaden-footed Real defence to square the match just five minutes later.

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. However, 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 11th - 10 points adrift of leaders Rayo. Valencia had to settle for a 1-1 draw at another newly promoted side Malaga.

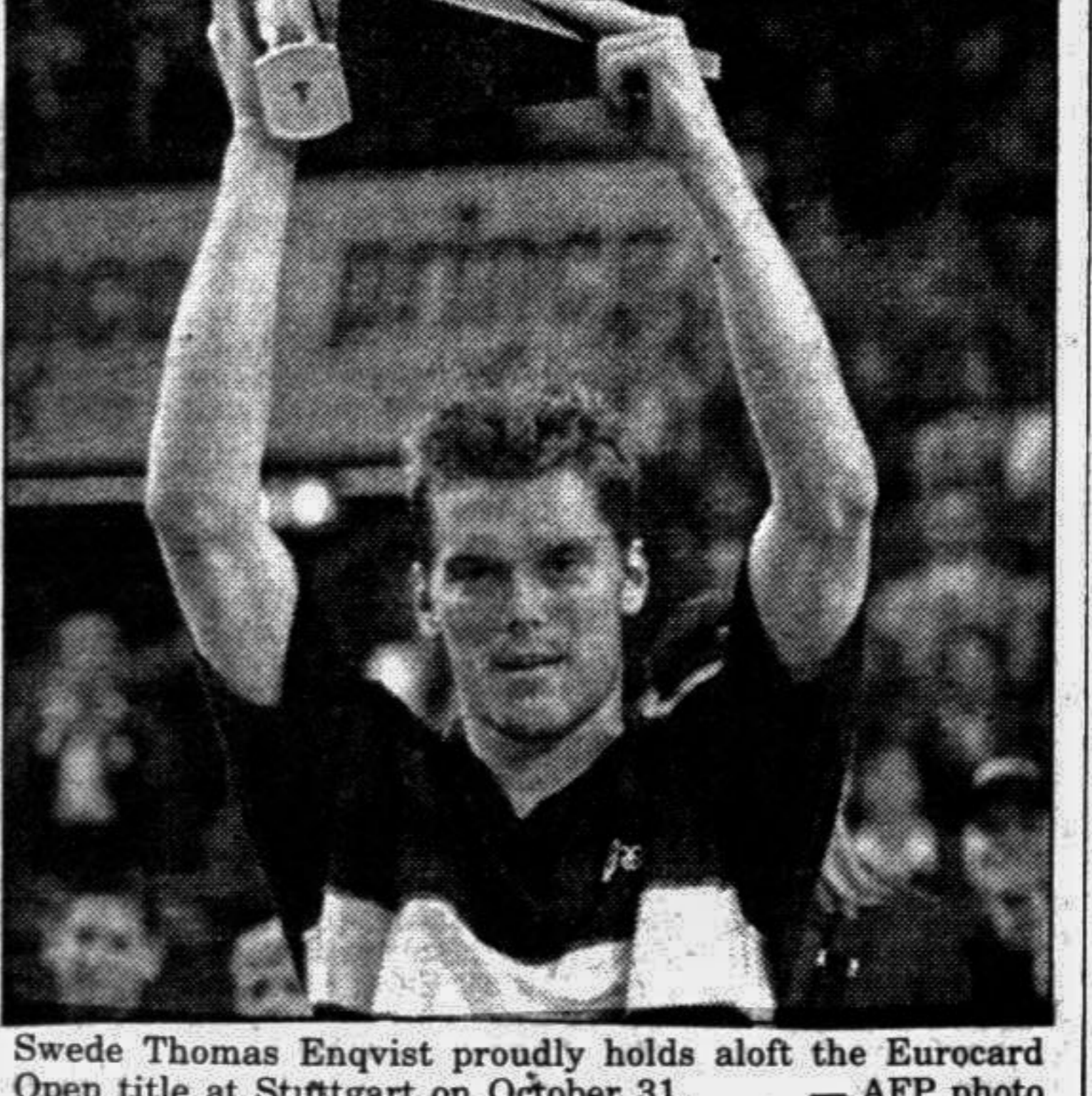
A 69th-minute goal from Argentinian striker Claudio Lopez was enough to secure a share of the spoils for the visitors after Edgar had given Malaga the lead.

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

STANDINGS Primera Liga table after matches played here Sunday (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points): Rayo Vallecano 10 7 1 2 14 9 22, Barcelona 10 6 2 2 24 11 20, Real Zaragoza 10 5 3 2 17 7 18, Deportivo La Coruna 10 5 3 2 18 12 18, Celta Vigo 10 6 0 4 11 10 18, Real Betis 10 5 1 4 9 13 16, Racing Santander 10 4 3 3 18 16 15, Espanyol 10 4 2 4 13 14 14, Alaves 10 4 2 4 9 10 14, Atletico Madrid 10 4 1 5 14 16 13, Real Madrid 10 2 6 2 18 17 12, Athletic Bilbao 10 3 3 4 13 17 12, Oviedo 10 3 3 4 9 13 12, Numanca 10 3 3 4 11 17 12, Valencia 10 3 2 5 13 12 11, Real Mallorca 10 3 2 5 13 15 11, Valladolid 10 3 2 5 10 14 11, La Coruna 10 2 3 5 15 19 9, Malaga 10 2 3 5 12 17 9, Real Sociedad 10 2 3 5 12 17 9, Seville 10 1 5 4 11 13 8

Krajicek never found top form on the Green Set carpet of the Hans-Martin Schleyer Hall, with Enqvist dominating from the start by winning the first two sets. By his standards, Krajicek has had a poor year, with only two titles (London indoors and Miami) and a 43-20 match record after his losing bout with Enqvist.

Enqvist, whose last title came in January, took an early grip on the match, breaking for a 4-0 lead on a stinging return winner after just 14 minutes on court.



Swede Thomas Enqvist proudly holds aloft the Eurocard Open title at Stuttgart on October 31. — AFP photo

Cole blasts 'untouchable' Shearer

LONDON, Nov 1: Manchester United striker Andy Cole hit out at England captain Alan Shearer in England's Sunday Mirror, saying he is an "untouchable" member of the national team even when playing badly, reports AFP.

Cole is threatening to walk out on England just as coach Kevin Keegan is about to name his squad for the two Euro 2000 play-offs against Scotland next week. Cole has won just five England caps and believes that a succession of strikers have not been given a fair chance because Shearer is England's "chosen son".

Cole made the claims in his book 'The Autobiography', which is being serialised by the Sunday Mirror. He said: "You are supposed to pick your best 11, not shape every possible strategy around the supposed Golden Boy. If you are having a bad patch you should be left out, but because he was Alan Shearer, famous striker and England captain, that appeared to be enough.

There must never be a rule for one, then different rules for the rest. It only allows discontent, accusations of favouritism and worse to creep into the dressing room." There were suggestions that Shearer would be axed from the England team during a dismal run in the Euro 2000 qualifying games.

Cole added: "If you are having a bad patch you should be left out. But because he was Alan Shearer, famous striker and England captain, that appeared to be enough.

A spate of goals for Newcastle since the arrival of Bobby Robson, and a hat-trick at Wembley against Luxembourg, appears to have cemented Shearer's place in the starting line-up. Cole, however, said the current situation had led to "frustration, dejection, and even the serious consideration of whether it's all worth the hassle.

"In the end, you start wondering whether you actually want to play for your country ever again," Cole said.

MELBOURNE, Australia, Nov 1: Former England international forward Peter Beardsley is being linked with a four-game guest appearance with Australian NSL club Melbourne Knights early next year, the club said Sunday, reports AFP.

Club spokesman Miro Miknut said the Knights were also negotiating deals with German legend Jurgen Klinsmann, French star Jean-Pierre Papin, former German skipper Lothar Matthaus and Everton's Slaven Bilic.

Miknut said the club wanted to broaden its support base from the traditional Croatian community and this was a way of achieving it. "We're hoping to sign Beardsley in the next two or three days and we are also negotiating with the management of the other players in a bid to bring them out as guests," Miknut said.

"We just missed out on signing Ian Rush, but the Beardsley deal should be signed up shortly and we have 200,000 dollars (\$131,000 US) put aside for this." Beardsley, 38, was a former star with Liverpool and Nationals for England. He has continued his playing career in England's lower divisions.

The Knights intend to play Beardsley in up to four games with his first outing in the round 16 NSL encounter against Adelaide Force on January 16, two days before his 39th birthday. Welsh striking great Ian Rush is making a guest stint with Sydney Olympic next month.

Pierce pierces Testud LINZ, Austria, Nov 1: Top seed Mary Pierce cruised past French compatriot Sandrine Testud 7-6, 1-1 to clinch the \$20,000-dollar WTA tournament for her first title of the year yesterday, reports Reuters.

Fifth seed Testud has yet to win a set against Pierce in four meetings, including two this year in Rome and Toronto. Both players held serve in the first set until Pierce took the tie-break 7-2 after 50 minutes.

Testud's form then wavered and Pierce was able to use her first match point to win after an hour and 26 minutes with a thundering forehand. The tournament had become an all-French affair from the semifinals when fourth seed Amelie Mauresmo lost to Pierce and Sarah Pitkowski was beaten by Testud.

In the quarter finals, Testud beat another Frenchwoman and winner in Moscow last week, Nathalie Tauziat.

Pavel, Esther victors at Frankfurt FRANKFURT, Nov 1: Pavel Loskutov of Estonia overcame windy conditions to win the Frankfurt Marathon on Sunday, while Esther Barmasai of Kenya took the women's race, reports AP.

Loskutov clocked a relatively slow two hours, 12.38 minutes through the streets of Germany's financial capital in a race with 8,500 participants.

French Sandrine Testud (L) applauds fellow countrywoman Mary Pierce after the latter won the WTA tournament in Linz, Vienna on October 31. — AFP photo

Onus on German quartet

PARIS, Nov 1: Bayer Leverkusen, Borussia Dortmund, Bayern Munich and Hertha Berlin play for German honour as they try to qualify in this week's final round of European Champions League matches, reports AFP.

Borussia Dortmund might have won the event in 1997 and Munich earned the runners-up spot last season, however this year both clubs have left it late to earn their second phase berth. On Tuesday, Dortmund travel to Portugal's Boavista in group C and Leverkusen host Slovenia's Maribor in group A and both need good results to qualify.

Then on Wednesday, Germany's Bayern Munich host Scotland's Glasgow Rangers in group F and England's Chelsea entertain Hertha Berlin in Group H. Club president Franz Beckenbauer suggested that if Bayern showed similar form against Glasgow as in their 2-1 loss to PSV Eindhoven last week, they would not be going much further.

"I can't explain our lethargic showing," said Beckenbauer. "We're really played how I think we should have done throughout in the final 20 minutes. Perhaps our players thought a draw would do."

"But the defeat changes nothing in essence - even before the match in Eindhoven we had to win the last match against Glasgow. So it's still in our own hands." Bayern Munich admittedly bounced back on Saturday with a 5-0 thrashing of VfL Wolfsburg and are top of the Bundesliga, on equal points

with second-placed Dortmund who drew 1-1 at SV Hamburg. 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-year-old Paraguayan Roque Santa Cruz, the world's most expensive teenager, also got on the scoresheet. The fifth goal was scored by Michael Wiesinger.

Hertha Berlin look set to go through on Wednesday as they and Chelsea only need to play out a draw to both go through from group H, regardless of the result between Turkish club Galatasaray and Italy's AC Milan.

With 11 of the 16 places in the second phase already taken, none have come from Germany, usually high-profile in the European competitions. In 1996, Munich won the UEFA Cup and Germany carried off the European championships. The following year, Dortmund won the European Cup and Schalke 04 took the UEFA Cup but since then they have failed to mount the winner's podium of a major European competition.

Dortmund's 1-1 draw with Dutch outfit Feyenoord last week means they are a point clear of the Dutch going into the final match. Feyenoord have home advantage against Rosengborg, who have already won the group.

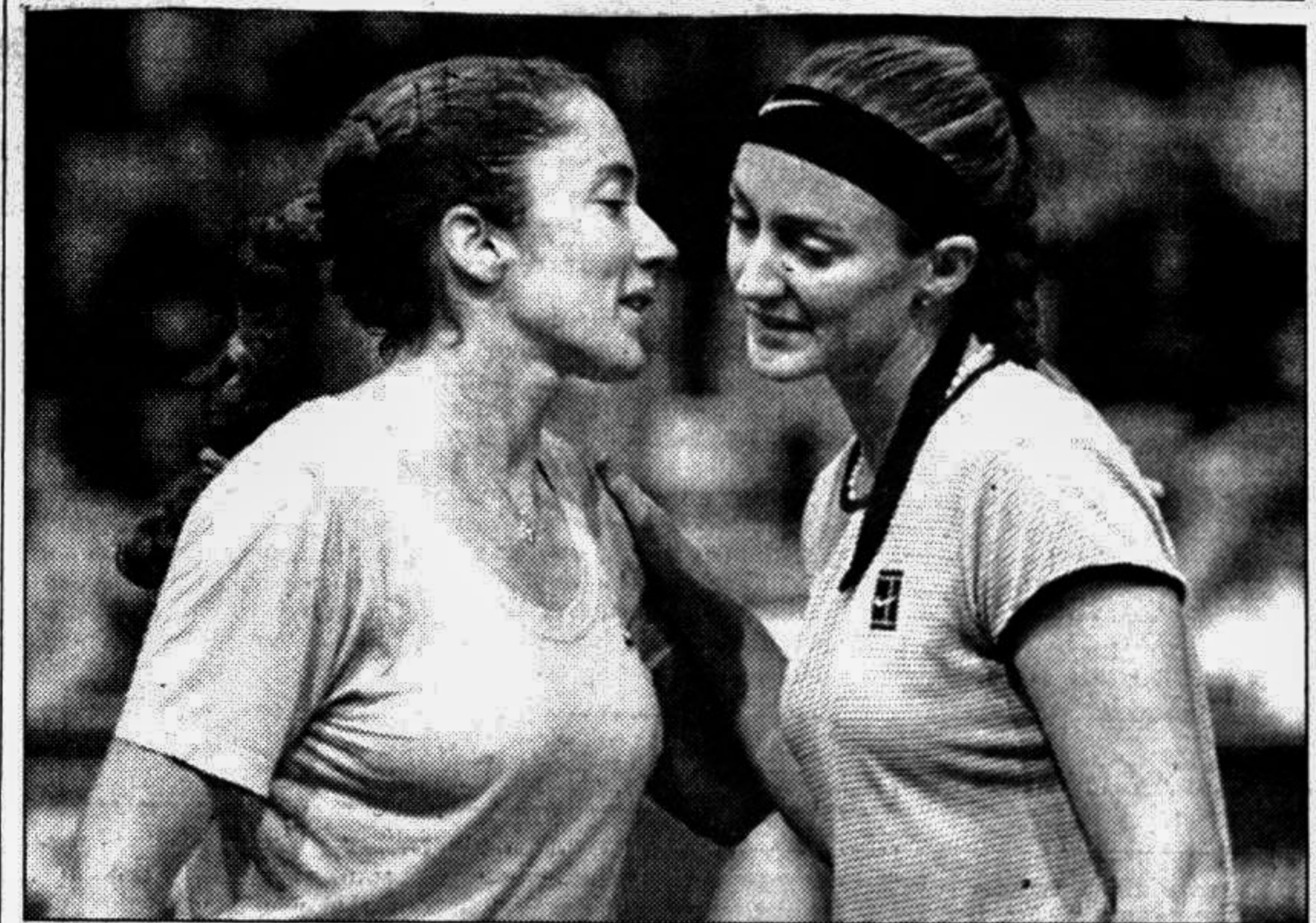
Bayern Leverkusen, who drew 1-1 with Lazio last week, do not have their destiny in their own hands. If Dynamo Kyiv beat Lazio, already top of the group, the Ukrainians will go through. Leverkusen drew 1-1 with 1860 Munich in the Bundesliga at the weekend and lie fourth a point behind leaders Bayern

Munich. Elsewhere in Tuesday's action matters are already settled. In group D, Marseille host Croatia Zagreb, who sacked coach Ossi Ardiles since last week's game, but the French club are already through.

Manchester United play Sturm Graz of Austria, but the English treble champions of English League, FA Cup and European Cup, are through following last week's 2-1 win over Croatia Zagreb.

Italy's Fiorentina host Barcelona of Spain in Group B but both are already through at the expense of Sweden's Solna and London club Arsenal.

European Champions League fixtures: TUESDAY Group A: Bayer Leverkusen (Ger) v Maribor (Slo) Dynamo Kyiv (Ukr) v Lazio (Ita) Group B: Aik Solna (Swe) v Arsenal (Eng) Fiorentina (Ita) v Barcelona (Spa) Group C: Boavista (Por) v Borussia Dortmund (Ger) Feyenoord (Ned) v Rosengborg (Nor) Group D: Manchester United (Eng) v Sturm Graz (Aut) Marseille (Fra) v Croatia Zagreb (Cro) WEDNESDAY Group E: Olympiakos (Gre) v Porto (Por) Molde (Nor) v Real Madrid (Spa) Group F: Bayern Munich (Ger) v Glasgow Rangers (Sco) Valencia (Spa) v PSV Eindhoven (Ned) Group G: Sparta Prague (Cze) v Spartak Moscow (Rus) Willen II (Ned) v Bordeaux (Fra) Group H: Chelsea (Eng) v Hertha Berlin (Ger) Galatasaray (Tur) v AC Milan (Ita)



French Sandrine Testud (L) applauds fellow countrywoman Mary Pierce after the latter won the WTA tournament in Linz, Vienna on October 31. — AFP photo

Lippi not losing heart

MILAN, Nov 1: Inter Milan coach Marcello Lippi was putting on a brave face here Sunday after his men dominated Italian league leaders Lazio, only to be gutted by a last-minute equaliser, reports AFP.

Inter gave probably their best display of the season on Saturday night, with Chilean Ivan Zamorano scoring, and then hitting the post before Lazio's Giuseppe Pancaro made it 1-1 in the 90th minute.

Inter were distraught at missing a chance to deliver a psychological blow to their rivals and lift their own morale after two defeats, including last week's last-minute derby loss to AC Milan.

"We're all very disappointed, because we had a great game," Lippi said. "In fact we've played two great games including the derby and we've only got one point to show for them."

"But Inter showed real personality and that's what I'm most interested in as we try to build the team. Let's not forget we were playing against a great

side who haven't lost an away game in a year. We went close to ending that run. I didn't see any scoring chances for Lazio before the goal and even that came from a free-kick decision which was highly debatable," he said.

"I have to compliment my team and hope I can have six or seven games with everybody available. Because we have a solid base to build from but also room for improvement."

Inter were without Brazilian striker Ronaldo, who was suspended after being sent off against Milan.

As for his team's title bid, Lippi added: "This scoreline is very harsh on us, but I think I can say that this season we're going to be up there with the rest of them. I'm convinced of it."

Lazio coach Sven Goran Eriksson had only one regret - not changing his team after the midweek Champions League tie against Bayer Leverkusen.

Comparing the two teams here he said: "Inter played better. They had us in difficulty. They are a great team. We started well and finished well - 10 minutes at the start and 10 minutes at the end."

As for in-between, he said: "A lot of mistakes, a lot of bad passes, too many long balls forward and too little movement off the ball."

"But on the other hand, we can't expect to qualify for the second round of the Champions League and then come and dictate the law at San Siro. We've got a good side, but we're not invincible."

As for his own performance, he told reporters: "My mistake was not to continue with the turnover of players. Usually, I change them and you criticise me and question me about it."

"This time I chose a lot of those who played against Bayer Leverkusen on Wednesday and that was a mistake. If I'd used fresh players, perhaps we wouldn't have suffered as much."

"Zamorano had scored and made it 2-0 instead of hitting the post, our evening would have been over."

"But I saw in the last quarter of an hour that our lads had real grit and character, and were determined not to lose. And then I started to hope."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer. Includes crossword grid and clues. ACROSS: 1 Head of st., 4 Dump from the payroll, 8 En-grossed Caesar!, 12 'Hail' Caesar!, 13 Je ne sais..., 14 Marooned one's home, 15 Natalie's dad, 16 Coffee vortell, 17 Active sort, 18 'Reach' singer, 21 Kues' followers, 22 Prove you're human?, 23 Assertion, 26 Saute, 27 Sodium chloride, to a pharmacist, 30 One of the King's minions, 31 '--- the season... alternative, 33 Pink-slip. DOWN: 1 Bunch o' cronies, 2 Office shape, 3 Presidential turn-down, 4 Fidget, 5 Emanations, 6 Scoop holder, 7 Mouths, 8 Equestrian, 9 Since, 10 Entreaty, 11 Sea bird, 12 Richard Pryor's footstep-following daughter, 13 Employee, 24 Negligent, 25 Reverential fear, 26 Little white lie, 27 Source source, 28 Uruguayans' year, 29 Rawls or Reed, 30 Latakia, e.g., 32 Skirt length, 34 -alai, 35 Signaled on a pager, 36 Tire pattern, 37 Franklin, for one, 38 Sheshire countess, 39 'Clair' de, 40 At an earlier time, 41 Presentation, 42 Pinches, 43 Actor, 44 Estrada, 45 Billions and billions. CRYPTOQUIP: A T P H B U E Y I R G J W U P H G B A A E R U G O A T G A T W O U G I Y G A W I B P W R W A G J G B B G. Yesterday's Cryptquip: A SIGN YOU'D CERTAINLY FIND ON THE HUNGRY FENCER'S DOOR: OUT TO LUNGE. Today's Cryptquip Clue: U equals R.