

U-17 WC soccer

Brazil beat Australia

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, Nov 12 (AP/Reuters): Defending champions Brazil beat Australia 2-1 Friday in their opening match in the under-17 World Soccer Championship here today.

Brazil went ahead 1-0 in the 30th minute on Marcos Roberto Marquinhos' goal, and took a 2-0 lead on an own goal in the 67th. Dylan MacAllister scored Australia's only goal in the 82nd minute.

BRIEF RESULTS

Summaries of FIFA Under-17 World Cup soccer championship first stage matches played today:

Group C:
Brazil 2
Australia 1
HT: 1-0
MU: 0
Germany 0

Remaining Group C matches:
Nov 14: Australia v Germany
Brazil v Mali
Nov 17: Germany v Brazil
Australia v Mali

(Two Group D matches to be played later)

Group A
Previous results
New Zealand 1 United States 2
Uruguay 1 Poland 1

Remaining Group A matches:
Nov 13: New Zealand v Uruguay
United States v Poland
Nov 16: Poland v New Zealand
United States v Uruguay

Group B
Previous results
Ghana 1 Spain 1
Mexico 4 Thailand 0

Remaining Group B matches:
Nov 13: Spain v Thailand
Ghana v Mexico
Nov 16: Thailand v Ghana
Spain v Mexico

Zoff for a potent attack

LECCE, Italy, Nov 12: Italy coach Dino Zoff is hoping to discover a winning formula here in Saturday's friendly against Belgium, one of his last experiments before the European championships, reports AFP.

Italy's four progress towards Euro 2000 ended with a miserable 0-0 draw in Minsk against Belarus and a place in the finals that was greeted with derision by the press.

Though the two problems are linked, Italy's woes are down to a sub-standard midfield and an attack which cannot repeat its weekend feats in the Serie A on international duty.

On Saturday, Zoff will try his only real option to break that deadlock by removing one of his prized defenders and fielding a three-man attack.

It's a luxury he can well afford in a friendly, but Zoff hopes that if the experiment is a success, he could also use it for real in next year's tournament in Holland and Belgium.

Touting it for the future, while at the same time defending his beloved 4-4-2, Zoff said: "It will be important to see how the experiment goes."

"For us, it could prove to be a valid alternative for the future. It's always important to have two systems of play available, without forgetting though that our main one has yielded excellent results."

The one detail that has yet to be fleshed out is just how he is going to play Juventus pair Alessandro Del Piero and Filippo Inzaghi with AS Roma playmaker Francesco Totti.

The triangle could be either pointed - with Inzaghi up front supported by Del Piero and Totti as joint playmakers - or inverted, with Totti scheming behind Del Piero and Inzaghi.

Zoff is looking for goals, yet the ever-cautious coach is not promising the champagne soccer that fans so desperately want to see.

"If you only look for aesthetically-pleasing football, there's the risk you might not get a result," he warned. "It's easy to talk about putting on a show, but first you have to overcome your opponents."

"We all know that Belgium are a very good team. I watched their game against England and they kept hold of the ball throughout the first half and had the English in trouble."

But along with the skills of the Belgians, Zoff must also cope with several key absences through injury - skipper Paolo Maldini, striker Christian Vieri, defender Alessandro Nesta and midfielder Antonio Conte.

Totti's ultimatum

ROME, Nov 12: Star playmaker Francesco Totti has warned AS Roma that he might walk out on the Serie A club if they fail to become a trophy-winning side, reports AFP.

Totti, 23, who has been playing for AS Roma teams since schoolboy level and was made captain last season, has a contract here until 2003.

But he warned the club: "More than anything else, I want to win. And I don't need to wait for 2003 to decide whether that will be possible with Roma. A year or two will be enough."

"Today, I can't say whether I'll stay or leave."

Born and brought up in Rome, Totti is a hero to the fans here. But now he claims to be motivated by medals, rather than money.

"You start to understand a lot of things as you grow up, and in football, you learn that money isn't the only thing that counts," he said.

"One day, when my career is at an end, I'd like to have a few victories to look back on. If that happens with Roma, so much the better. If not, I'll have to look for somewhere else."

The unexpected outburst will certainly set the antennae quivering at the likes of AC Milan, Inter and Juventus, all of whom were being linked with the gifted international on Thursday.

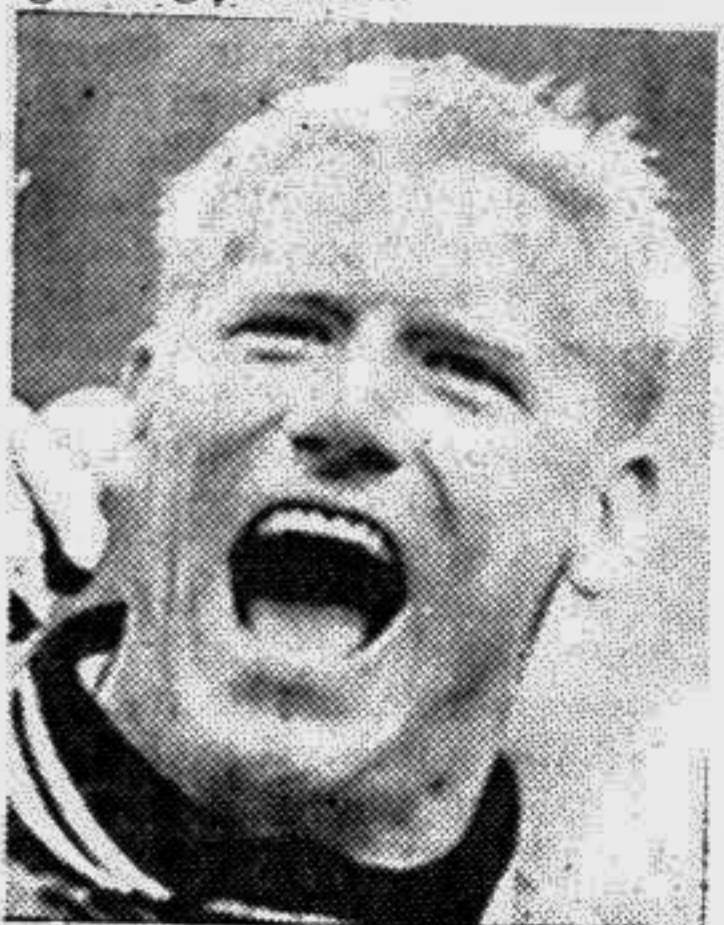
Denmark vs Israel

Schmeichel doubtful



earlier in the week.

While excitement for the game builds in Israel, with a packed house of 45,000 expected at the National Stadium in Tel Aviv, the Danes have remained composed in their preparations and have given the impression of remaining calm under the growing pressure.



PETER SCHMEICHEL
Schalke 04 striker Ebbe Sand was convinced his team will take something from the first leg before returning for Wednesday's second leg in Copenhagen.

"I am sure we will score at least once," Sand told the Danish press on Friday.

The Israelis, a strong team on their home turf, will be wary

of the Danes' faster and more physical style.

Israel coach Shlomo Scharf said: "On our day we can beat any team in the world, but if we play badly, we can lose to anybody."

Scharf will favour Hapoel-Haifa striker Amir Turgeeman ahead of Hapoel Tel Aviv's Ronen Harazi in the starting line-up after Harazi's knee appeared susceptible to injury during training.

Celtic midfielder Eyal Berkovic said on Friday that he was confident Israel could win. "This match is like a cup final, anything can happen, but I think we can win, although we must not concede any goals."

"even a 1-0 win will be good for us ahead of the return in Copenhagen," he said.

PROBABLE TEAMS

Israel: Dudu; Awat; Alon Hazan, Ran Ben-Shimon, Arif Benado, Alon Harazi, David Ansalet; Tal Banin, Yossi Abukis, Eyal Berkovic, Haim Revivo; Amir Turgeeman.

Denmark: Thomas Sorensen; Rene Henriksen, Jes Høgh, Jan Heintze, Thomas Helveg; Stig Tofting, Brian Steen Nielsen, Bjarne Goldbaek, Martin Jørgensen, Jon Dahl Tomasson, Ebbe Sand.

Referee: David Elleray (England).

Slovenia vs Ukraine

Outsiders not overawed



whether first choice goalkeeper Marko Simeunovic will start after missing the last three matches of his club Maribor with a thigh injury.

Mladen Dabancovic of Belgium's Lokeren, who is excellent in one-to-one confrontations, is likely to take his place. Things are not so good for



SHEVCHENKO
the visitors who have some problems at the back.

Captain Oleh Luzhny is a doubtful starter after suffering a groin strain in Arsenal's Champions League match against AIK Stockholm on November 2.

If Luzhny can not play, Spartak Moscow's versatile defender Dmitro Parfyonov is likely to take his spot on the right side of defence.

The outlook for injured Dynamo Kiev central defender

Olexander Holovko, however, is more optimistic.

"Holovko is getting better and has already resumed training," said Ukraine assistant coach Volodymyr Veremeyev.

The Kiev captain left the pitch with a knee injury in Sunday's Ukrainian premier division derby with city rivals CSKA.

Three charter flights brought the Ukraine squad and their supporters to Ljubljana early on Friday but coach Josef Sabo declined to attend the afternoon news conference scheduled for 1400 GMT.

"So far all visiting coaches have attended the pre-match news conferences with our coach, but the Ukraine coach rejected it at short notice," Slovenian soccer association spokesman Rok Sinkovec said.

"It is not fair thing to do, but shows the importance of the match."

PROBABLE TEAMS

Slovenia: Mladen Dabancovic; Marko Simeunovic, Aleksander Knavs, Darko Milanic, Zeljko Milinovic, Doni Novak, Amir Karic, Ales Ceh, Miran Pavlin, Zlatko Zahovic, Saso Udovic, Mladen Rudonja.

Ukraine: Olexander Shovkovsky, Oleh Luzhny or Dmitro Parfyonov, Olexander Holovko, Vladislav Vashchuk, Yuri Dmitriukin, Yuri Maximov, Serhiy Popov, Andriy Gusin, Serhiy Skachenko, Andriy Shevchenko, Serhiy Rebrov.

Referee: Urs Meier (Switzerland).

MLS playoff

Galaxy in final

PASADENA, California, Nov 12: Carlos Hermosillo scored his third goal in two playoff games in the 20th minute and the Los Angeles Galaxy beat Dallas 3-1 Thursday to reach the Major League Soccer final, reports AFP.

The Galaxy captured the Western Conference final two games to one and will play the Eastern Conference champion, D.C. United or Columbus, in the MLS Cup title match November 21 in Foxboro, Massachusetts.

Los Angeles, which lost the 1996 inaugural final to United, scored twice in the first 20 minutes to take command.

Defender Greg Vanney opened the scoring in the third minute on a penalty kick after Dallas midfielder Paul Brown committed a hand ball in the box.

In the 20th minute, Roy Myers finished a run through the middle by sliding the ball into the box. Clint Mathis missed the pass but Burn goalkeeper Mark Dodd gave up a rebound that Hermosillo kicked home.

Galaxy midfielder Mauricio Cienfuegos tapped in Ezra Hendrickson's pass in the 65th minute.

Dallas avoided a shutout on Jason Kreis' penalty kick in the 89th minute after Robin Fraser's hand ball. It was the only playoff goal for the MLS regular-season scoring leader.

Now Rivaldinho!

VIGO, Spain, Nov 12: Brazil's squad of superstars was upstaged at training this week by the latest quality Brazilian — the four-year-old son of Barcelona forward Rivaldo, reports Reuters.

Rivaldinho, as he has become known, is already famous in Spain thanks to a television advert for a chocolate drink, which sees him running rings round his father with the ball.

And the youngster once again managed to steal the show at training as he signed autographs, chatted to fans and even gave interviews to the excited Spanish press.

"It's good that he's well known," said Rivaldo senior. "But I'm not sure he should think about publicity all the time."

"He'll still have to go to school every day."

Seles won't Chase

STAMFORD, Connecticut, Nov 12: A nagging foot injury has forced former world number one Monica Seles to pull out of next week's season-ending Chase Championships, the WTA Tour announced Thursday, reports Reuters.

Seles has been sidelined since late September with a stress fracture in her right foot. She was scheduled to compete at this week's Advanta Championships in Philadelphia, but pulled out, fuelling speculation she would not compete next week in New York.

Seles, 25, also missed a good part of the summer hardcourt season with a left forearm injury. Her only tournament win of the year came at Amelia Island, Florida, in April. She reached the Australian Open and French Open semifinals and lost to eventual champion Serena Williams in the US Open quarterfinals.

Seles has 44 career titles, including nine Grand Slam championships. She won the season-ending tournament three straight years beginning in 1990 and lost to Steffi Graf in last year's quarterfinals.

Natives occupy Stockholm

STOCKHOLM, Nov 12: How Swede it is in the Stockholm Open!

A record-tying five Swedes made the quarterfinals on the Royal Tennis Hall's hardcourts on Thursday, reports AP.

Thomas Enqvist, a native Stockholm, top-seeded this year and a former two-time winner of the oldest indoor tournament on the ATP Tour, led the way as he beat Germany's Jens Knippschild 6-2, 6-4.

"Few tournaments have a place specially built for tennis," Enqvist said. "The fans get a close look on the game of tennis here. It's just great for the players and fans. Outdoors, there's not the same feeling."

The Royal Tennis Hall was built during World War II and the first arena built expressly for the sport that King Gustav V — known as "Mr G" — loved to play.

Bill Tilden played there. So did Rod Laver, Ken Rosewall, Arthur Ashe, Jimmy Connors, Bjorn Borg, Mats Wilander, Stefan Edberg and today's biggest names, led by Pete Sampras.

The last time five Swedes reached the quarterfinals was in 1987, when Edberg eventually prevailed. Edberg won two Stockholm Open titles, six Grand Slam tournaments and now is a member of the tournament committee.

The late-season surge — this is the final week before the season-ending ATP Tour Championships later this month in Hanover, Germany — came after a dismal year for Swedish tennis.

The once-powerful David Cup team, it was the world's best team in the last two decades — was relegated from the World Group for the first time in history. Only one Swede (Enqvist) made a Grand Slam tournament final, in the Australian Open.

Holyfield v Lewis: Boxing pride at stake

LAS VEGAS, Nevada, Nov 12: Lennox Lewis and Evander Holyfield carry nothing less than the future of boxing into the ring with them here Saturday for their world heavyweight title unification rematch, reports AFP.

Boxing's credibility sunk to a new low in March when Britain's Lewis landed three times as many blows as Holyfield and used superior size to an apparent tactical triumph, only to have judges rate the fight a draw.

Outrage followed an outcome that gave promoter Don King and three sanctioning bodies a profitable rematch that was

otherwise unlikely. Now even Holyfield knows he fights for redemption and an untarnished legacy.

"The only thing I can do is fight the best fight I can and I will," Holyfield said. "I may put on a performance that makes everybody forget what has happened this year. This may be one of my greatest fights."

A humiliating boxing year has included "Golden Boy" Oscar de la Hoya being booed for evasive tactics in a long-awaited battle of unbeaten he lost to Puerto Rico's Felix Trinidad.

International Boxing Federation president Bob Lee

was indicted a week ago for taking \$38,000 dollars in bribes to manipulate rankings so certain boxers had title bouts.

And Mike Tyson's year included four months in jail for assault, nearly breaking foe Francois Botha's arm and hitting Orin Norris after the end of the first round, leading to a no-contest ruling.

Boxing cannot take many more crippling blows and the men whose jobs depend on television viewer interest realise that all too well.

"These two fighters hold the weight of boxing on their shoulders," said Ross Greenburg, president of fight-financing telecaster HBO.

"Saturday is a night the sport of boxing and the heavy-weight division needs to go well," HBO network executive Lou D'Amico said. "What matters for the sport, what needs some help now, is what happens in that ring."

"A controversy-free, exciting fight would do wonders for the sport," Nevada State Athletic Commission chairman Marc Ratner said.

But it is too late for a public tired of trickery? Reports estimate 800,000 pay-per-view buys, one-third off March figures. And casinos here report wagering far below average for a fight of this magnitude.

"Boxing needs something," Holyfield said. "Boxing needs people to come together and make an agreement on what's best — fighters, TV, writers, managers, promoters."

World Boxing Council champion Lewis, who hopes to take Holyfield's World Boxing Association and IBF crowns, wants unified rankings instead of groups who favor some but ignore top contenders backed by rivals.

Just make it a better sport. Put all the belts together and make it one belt — clean up boxing so it's not as dodgy as it is," suggested Lewis. "It's going to help other boxers who come up when I'm gone."

Higher ticket prices should create a record, passing the 14 million dollars of 1997's Tyson-Holyfield rematch. But a record 12,000 seats and 6,000 were sold to English fans.

Lewis, 34, is nearly a 2-1 bettors favourite who enters with a 34-1 mark with one draw and 27 knockouts while his 37-year-old American foe enters what might be his farewell fight with a 36-3 mark with one draw and 25 knockouts. Holyfield plans to ponder retirement win, lose or draw.

Holyfield guaranteed a victory here Thursday after weighing in at 217 pounds, two more than in March.

Lewis weighed 242 pounds, four pounds lighter than the first fight, and scoffed at the assurance, comparing it to Holyfield's failed third-round knockout prediction from March.

"Last time he guaranteed a third-round knockout and you see what happened," Lewis said. "If he comes in to mix it up, he is going to get damaged."

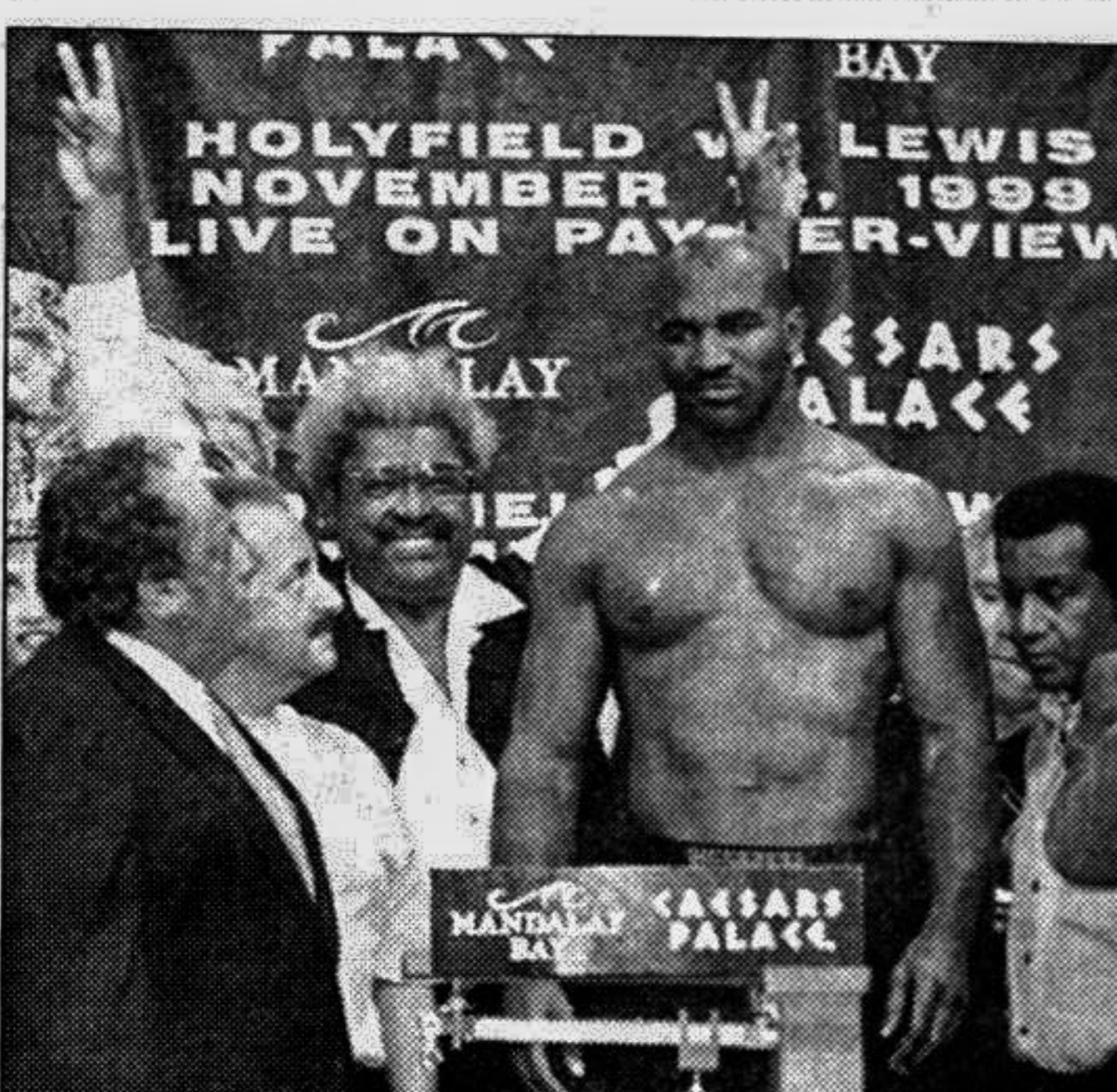
Veteran referee Mitch Halpern will be the third man in the ring while Nevada judges Chuck Giampa, Bill Graham and Jerry Roth — with a combined 220 world title fights — will score the fight. Roth was criticised for judging King-backed Trinidad a winner over de la Hoya here in September.

And Eugenia Williams, the IBF-appointed judge whose stunning verdict for Holyfield forced the rematch, will be in suburban Philadelphia with several fighters she trains and plans to watch a videotape of the fight.

Kafelnikov pulls thru

MOSCOW, Nov 12: Top seed and defending champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov criticised French umpire Francois Paturel after a testing 6-4, 7-5 win over David Prinosil of Germany in the 1 million dollar Kremlin Cup on Thursday, reports Reuters.

Kafelnikov, bidding for a third Kremlin Cup success, has now beaten Prinosil in all four of their encounters.



American Evander Holyfield weighs in at the Mandalay Bay Casino in Las Vegas on November 11. — AFP photo

TALE OF TAPE

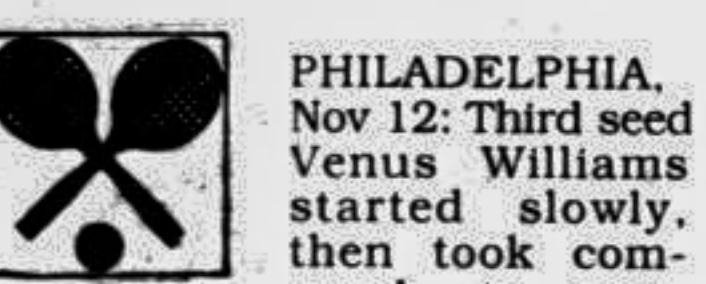
LAS VEGAS, Nov 12 (Reuters): The tale of the tape for Saturday's heavyweight championship fight between Lennox Lewis and Evander Holyfield:

	Lennox Lewis	Evander Holyfield
Age:	34	37
Weight:	242 pounds (109.7 kg)	217 (98.4 kg)
Height:	6'5" (1.95 metres)	6'2" (1.87 m)
Reach:	84" (214 cm)	77" (195 cm)
Chest (normal):	44" (112 cm)	43" (109 cm)
Chest (expanded):	46" (117 cm)	45" (114 cm)
Biceps:	17" (43 cm)	16" (40 cm)
Forearm:	15" (38 cm)	12" (30 cm)
Waist:	34" (86 cm)	32" (81 cm)
Thigh:	26" (66 cm)	22" (56 cm)
Calf:	18" (45.7 cm)	13" (33 cm)
Neck:	18 1/2" (46.9 cm)	19 1/2" (49.5 cm)
Wrist:	8" (20.3 cm)	7 1/2" (19 cm)
Fist:	12" (30.4 cm)	12 1/2" (31.7 cm)



Briton Lennox Lewis raises his arm while weighing in at the Mandalay Bay Casino in Las Vegas on November 11. — AFP photo

Venus, Sandrine in qtrs



"She was definitely hitting hard. But I was definitely volleying better. After the US Open I worked on my volley. I don't think I missed one tonight."

For Williams, who is taking classes in fashion design with her sister Serena, tennis has become a bit less of a priority, though she still hopes to play well at the Chase Championships next week.

"School is stressful," said Williams. "You realise that tennis is a real dream world. But there people are fighting for jobs and to make a place in the world. This is actually more difficult than tennis."

"But I want to win here. It only helps to have another title under your belt."

Fourth seed Nathalie Tauziat of France rallied from a 5-2 third-set deficit to beat American Jennifer Capriati 6-4, 3-6, 7-5. American Amy Frazier kept alive her slim hopes of qualifying for the Chase Championships by beat-

ing Justine Henin of Belgium 7-5, 6-4.

To make the 16-woman Chase field Frazier must upset world number one Martina Hingis in Friday night's quarterfinals.

Tauziat faces local favourite Lisa Raymond, who grew up just a few miles from the site, while second seed Lindsay Davenport plays fifth seed Julie Halard-Decugis of France.

The defeat assured 26th-ranked Capriati she would not qualify for the Chase. Yet she was anything but distraught after surrendering the final five games, during which she managed only four points.

"The way I look at it, it's not really a loss," said Capriati. "I've done well the last half of the year and I've had a great year."

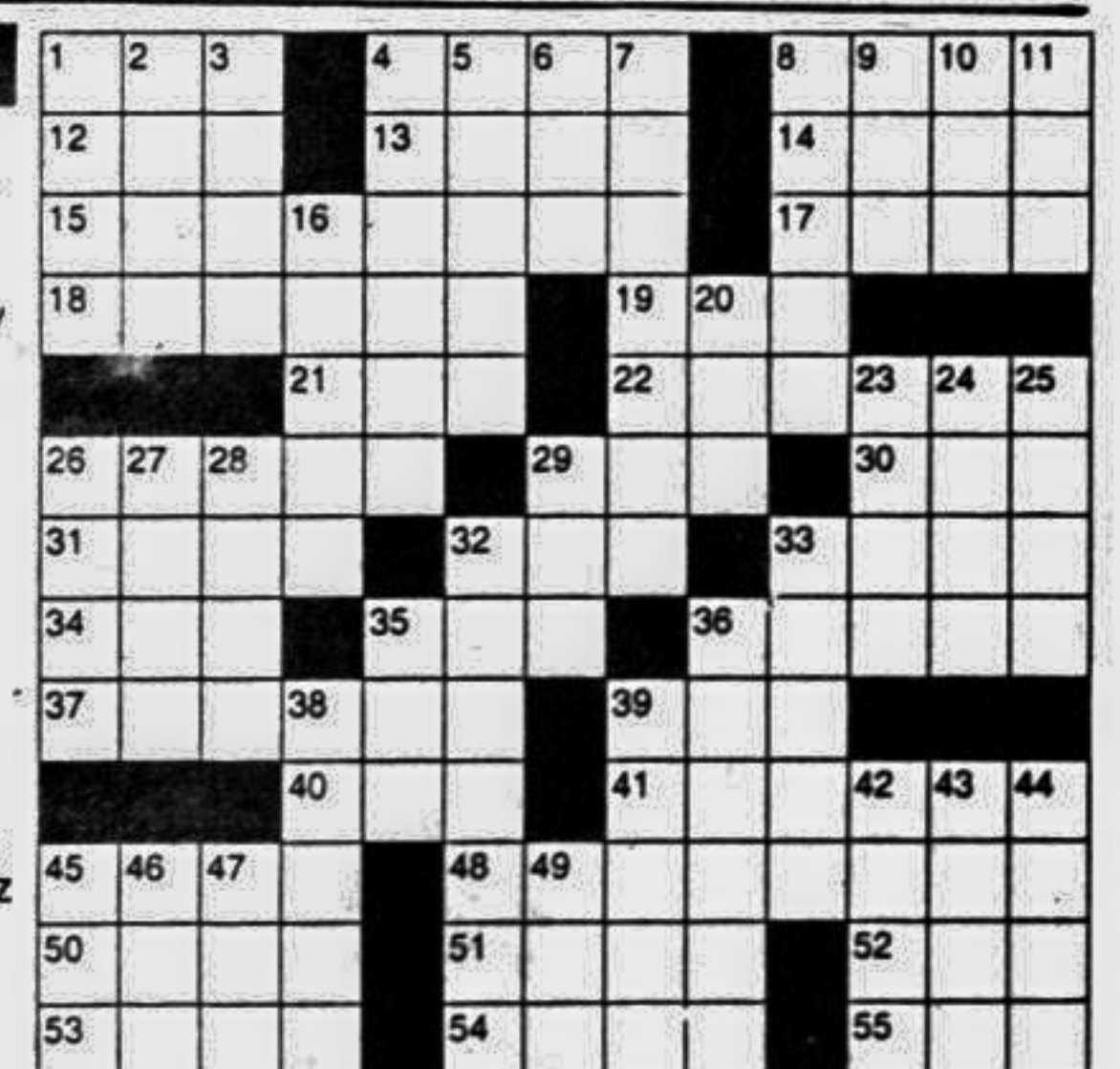
"Now I just want to do better next year. I really had no idea what to expect this year. I set some small goals and I went up, up, up from there."



Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov plays forehand against German David Prinosil at the Kremlin Cup in Moscow on Thursday. — AFP photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	36 Effrontery	DOWN	11 Vanna's companion
1 Squabble	37 Rook	1 Pool-room item	16 Dinette necessity
4 Puzzle pattern	39 Shell game	2 Muscat's land	20 Festive address
8 Big stinger	40 Skirmish	3 Sagacious	24 Fury
12 Parisian	41 Turkish city	4 Report card data	25 City on the Irish
13 Wedding shower?	45 Lech Walesa, e.g.	5 Step between "lather" and "repeat"	26 United nations and 27 Verdi opera
14 Inventor's inspiration	48 Hardy, as one's stomach	6 Floe material	28 Maddens played it
15 Flamenco clacker	50 Vicinity	7 Spots	32 Impaled
17 Nearest dough	51 Differently	8 First Best Picture Oscar winner	35 Peninsular st.
19 Early bird?	53 Secretary, for one	9 Summer-time quaff	36 Whoopee square
21 8 Across' cousin	54 Ante-lope's play-mate	10 Gender	38 Pinch
22 Cuban bigwig	55 Favorable vote		39 Old hat
26 \$50 payments, in Monopoly			42 Host
29 Eye affliction			43 Profligate
30 Easter entre			44 Novelist Selon
31 Milanese moolah			45 Tablet
32 — de deux			46 Tramcar contents
33 Barrels			47 —
34 — on a Grecian Urn			
35 Predicament			



CRYPTOQUIP

QH OXQNEH CXSARV QR

AD YR X AXNEDJ YGA

N CXUS'A UGNARV ODJ NA.

Yesterday's Cryptquip: DISGRUNTLED MINERS INSISTED THAT ILLUMINATED HELMETS MADE THEM LIGHTEADED.

Today's Cryptquip clue: C equals W

The Cryptquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals Q, it will equal Q throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.