Jubilo Iwata top J-League table

TOKYO. Apr 1: Two strikes by Naohiro Takahara led 1999 season champions Jubilo Iwata to a 3-1 win over Cerezo Osaka on Saturday and to the top of the 16-team J-League standings. reports AP.

Takahara scored with a header in the 59th minute and netted Iwata's third goal later. after Daisuke Oku put the team ahead 2-1.

Elsewhere, South Korean forward Yoo Sang-chul scored a late winner for Yokohama F Marinos to defeat the Kashima Antlers 3-2.

It was the first defeat for Kashima after four rounds of the first stage of the season that opened on March 11. Kashima were the overall champion team in 1996 and 1998.

Yoo's winner in the 89th minute was his second goal of

the game. For Kashima, former Brazilian World Cup winner Bebeto had his first goal for the club in the 30th minute.

Newcomer FC Tokyo, after starting the day atop the standings, lost to Kashiwa Revsol 3-2. Kashiwa's South Korean defender Hong Myung-bo fired home a cross from Tomonori Hirayama 15 minutes into extra time. Brazilian Alex, last season's Player of The Year, netted a 41. st -minute winner to give visiting Shim-zu S-Pulse a 1-0 victory over Gamba Osaka.

Euro elites seek damages

BERLIN, April 1: The 14strong group of Europe's top clubs (G14) are continuing to demand financial compensation for players released on international duty, according to Bayern Munich vice-president Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, reports AFP.

In an interview to be published in Saturday's Die Welt newspaper, the former German international said he did not consider FIFA statutes to be enshrined in concrete like the 10 commandments.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter told Thursday's edition of Spain's As newspaper that there would be no compensation to clubs and the players would continue to be released free of

According to Rummenigge FIFA secretary general Michel Zen-Ruffinen, had recently declared their could be some kind of compromise in the club v country player tug-of-wars.

Only Putin likes judo!

MOSCOW. Apr 1: Russian government ministers apparently prefer tennis to judo, despite acting President Vladimir Putin's addiction to the martial art, reports Reuters.

Putin said on Friday that judo, his favourite sport, had not yet caught the fancy of most

ministers. Most of them, he told reporters while attending a judo competition in the Urals city of Chelyabinsk, were more inter-

"For the moment, we get no peace from the tennis players," he said with a smile in comments broadcast on television.

ested in tennis.

Putin, elected president last Sunday on the first ballot of an early election, has cultivated an image as an athletic, can-do politician.

Tennis was the favourite sport of his predecessor, Boris Yeltsin, who resigned on New Year's Eve.

Putin attended the competition after touring a nuclear research and production centre near Chelyabinsk. He then left for the town Magnitogorsk, further south, where Russian media said he intended to go skiing at the weekend.

Serena may skip Family Circle Cup

COLUMBIA, South Carolina, Apr 1: The father of reigning US Open tennis champion Serena Williams on Friday said he is almost certain his daughter will honour a boycott of South Carolina and skip the Family Circle Cup tournament on the state's Hilton Head Island in April, reports AP.

The National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People has called for an economic boycott of the state as long as the Confederate flag, which it says is a symbol of slavery, flies over the State house. Flag defenders say it represents Southern heritage.

"Serena and I have had a discussion, and I believe that Serena is contemplating 100 per cent not playing in that tournament," Richard Williams said, adding that because she is 18 now, the ultimate decision is

Serena Williams was not immediately available for

comment. Richard Williams said his daughter, the first to commit to the 1 million dollar tournament, will take no further action to honour the boycott, but he said he is thinking of participating in a 120-mile (193-kilometre) march from Charleston to

Columbia that starts Sunday. Serena Williams said at a tournament in Florida earlier this week that she did not know about the boycott but said "I'm not going to support anything that's putting down my race."

Richard Williams said he talked to his daughter about the issue this week.



Australian tail-ender Glenn McGrath in Hamilton yesterday. - AFP photo

O'Connor's reprisal

"The conditions pretty much

Zealand. Apr 1 (Reuters/AFP): An entertaining day's ckets fall and 306 runs scored on the second day of Connor said.

the third Test between New Zealand and Australia in Hamilton on Saturday. were 58 for three in their second innings, 38 runs ahead after

bowling Australia out for 252, with Craig Spearman not out 29 and Nathan Astle not out two. Matt Horne continued his unlucky streak in the second

innings, run out without scoring with the total on three. Mathew Sinclair made his best score of the series, reaching

24 before being trapped lbw by Colin Miller. After scoring 214 on his debut against the West Indies in

December, Sinclair has made just 61 runs in total against Australia at an average of 10 per innings. Miller, bowling off-spin,

also dismissed Stephen Fleming for two, caught brilliantly down the leg side by Adam Gilchrist.

Fleming said New Zealand would start play on Sunday under pressure and needed to bat

through day three to get into a strong position.

Test figures with 5-51 in the

Apr 1 (Internet re-

port): South Afri-

can cricket capta-

in Hansie Cronje

could not hide the

disappointment of losing to

Pakistan in the Sharjah Cup

final on Friday night nor the

left blinking at cameras, an-

swering questions and signing

autographs at a packed Johan-

nesburg International Airport,

while the rest of the exhausted

Even the exuberant Her-

fatigue of trying to achieve that

A visibly weary Cronje was

Australian first innings.

Connor recorded his best ever

to the ground. There was a little bit of life in the wicket and the humidity in here in Hamilton helps you swing the ball," O'-O'Connor and all-rounder Chris Cairns took two wickets

suited my style of bowling down

each in the first 35 minutes on At close of play New Zealand Saturday morning, reducing the tourists to 29 for five. Damien Martyn, 89 not out,

anchored the Australian innings, with Adam Gilchrist's 75 the only other score of conse-Martyn hit 14 fours and a

six, while Gilchrist hit 16

boundaries in his 80 ball in-The pair added 119 together, hitting out around the park and scoring at a run a ball in the hour after lunch before

Gilchrist was caught in the New Zealand right arm pace bowler Daryl Tuffey was on the receiving end in his test debut, being hit for 75 runs off his nine overs despite nearly claiming the wicket of Mark

Waugh with his first ball. It caught the edge and bounced just in front of second

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard at close on the second day of the third and fi-Earlier, New Zealand left nal cricket Test between New Miller arm swing bowler Shayne O'- Zealand and Australia Satur- Warne

> NEW ZEALAND: First in- Jayaprakash (Ind) and Steve nings 232 (C. McMillan 79, C.

Cronje rues Sharjah loss

schelle Gibbs was in a subdued

mood as the combined effects of

tour, losing the Sharjah final

main upbeat and positive but

could not mask his disap-

pointment at having won the

test series 2-0 and then losing

both the one-day series and the

Pakistan, they were there for

the taking but we were not able

tosses deserves special credit.

to capitalise," Cronje said.

"We should have beaten

"This testy team we have

"I am concerned about the days."

Cronje tried his best to re-

coming off a harrowing Indian

and jetlag kicked in.

Sharjah Cup final.

team beat a hasty exit after ar- built in the past two years is

riving back from the United unbelievable and winning the

Arab Emirates on Saturday series 2-0 after losing both

Cairns 37; B. Lee 5-77, G. Mc-Grath 4-58)

AUSTRALIA: First innings (4 for 1 overnight) Hayden c Parore b O'Connor Slater lbw b O'Connor Warne lbw b O'Connor Langer b Cairns M. Waugh c Sinclair b Wiseman S. Waugh c Fleming b Cairns Martyn not out Gilchrist c Horne b Wiseman 75 Lee c McMillan b Cairns McGrath b O'Connor Miller c Tuffey b O'Connor Extras: (b-4; lb-6; nb-12) Total: (All out in 61.5 overs)

Fall of wickets: 1-3, 2-16, 3-17, 4-25, 5-29, 6-104, 7-223, 8-233, 9-248, 10-252 MR Bowler Cairns O'Connor Tuffey New Zealand: Second in-

Horne run out Spearman not out Sinclair lbw b Miller Fleming e Gilchrist b Miller Astle not out Extras: (nb-1) Total: (For 3 wkts in 33 overs)

Fall of wickets: 1-3, 2-49, 3-Bowler McGrath

Arani Umpires Dunne (NZ)

performances of the one-day

team and we will need to im-

prove to compete against Aus-

back of most of the players'

minds and that will serve as

extra motivation while the pos-

itives from the Test result will

between Australia and South

Africa blasts off at Kingsmead

the team will be ready.

April 12 and Cronje is confident

pitch so we will need to work on

that in a very short time. The

players will be practising as

well as resting in the next six

"We are expecting a bouncy

The six-match showdown

also be important to work on."

"The World Cup is still in the

tralia.

KINGSTON, Apr 1: Courtney Walsh will get a gift of land from the Government of Jamaica for becoming the leading bowler in Test cricket, reports

Jamaican PM's

gift to Walsh

Prime Minister Percival

Patterson made the announcement at a reception in Walsh's honour on Wednesday the Government would donate the land for the West Indies fast bowler all day. to build a home of his choice. Hundreds of people, includ-

ing the West Indies and Zimbabwe teams, along with Jamaica-born actress Sheryl Lee Ralph of television's Moesha, attended the function at Jamaica House, the Prime Minister's residence.

Walsh captured the wicket of Zimbabwe's Henry Olonga on Monday during the second cricket Test to take his tally of wickets to 435, one more than

India's Kapil Dev. A holder of Jamaica's fourth highest honour, the Order of Jamaica, Walsh also carries a diplomatic passport and the official designation of Ambassador at Large.

He thanked the Government, his teammates and the people of the Caribbean for their help and support over the years.

Gilchrist, the rescuer

HAMILTON, New Zealand, Apr 1 (AFP): Australian captain Steve Waugh joked earlier this week that Adam Gilchrist thought Test cricket was an easy game.

Heading into the third and final Test against New Zealand, Gilchrist had played eight Tests for eight wins, amassed over 500 runs and made 31 dismissals.

His stunning season introduction to Test cricket continued here Saturday with his team on their knees at 104 for six and 128 runs in arrears of New Zealand.

The buccaneering wicketkeeper launched into the Kiwi attack helping himself to 16 boundaries on the way to 75, joining fellow West Australian Damien Martyn (89 not out) in a match-turning 119-run stand.

Martyn took a back seat while Gilchrist whirled through an 80-ball knock which ensured Australia would again crawl out of a hole and post a first innings lead. It has been one of the two

spectacular debut Test seasons in the Australian team. Fast bowler Brett Lee has en-

joyed an exceptional introduction to Test cricket, taking 28 wickets at an average of 16.14 before he bowled in Saturday's second innings. Gilchrist's figures have been

just as impressive, averaging 57.18 with the bat while effecting 38 dismissals with the

He has passed 50 six times in his 13 Test innings -- and all as a No.7 batsman.

Saturday's rescue mission wasn't quite as heroic as the in-0 credible innings Gilchrist 2 played with Justin Langer in Hobart last November to lead Australia back from the dead to victory over Pakistan. He hit an unbeaten 149 that

day, not long after he had hit 89 on debut when he nudged world record holder Ian Healy out of the Test side.

Hingis' stalker arrested

MIAMI, April 1: A 45-yearold man arrested on Thursday at the Miami Open tennis tournament for allegedly stalking Martina Hingis was released Friday on 1,000 dollar bond, police said, reports Reuters.

A hearing was set for April 4. Hingi's coach and mother, Melanie Molitor, told police that the man, identified in the police report as Dubravko Rajcevic, had been following Hingis around, been seen at other tournaments and had been sending her letters. Rajcevic, who police said

carries an Australian passport, was spotted on the tournament grounds last Wednesday, issued a warning and escorted out. He returned to the

tournament on Thursday and was arrested and cited with two misdemeanor charges for trespassing and stalking. Hingis, who practised at the

facility on Friday under the watchful eye of a number of Dade County police officers, had no comment on the incident. Hingis will play chief rival Lindsay Davenport in the women's final today. In a local television

interview, Rajcevic said: "I'm not stalking Martina. I believe she feeds off my positive energy. She knows me well."

Tomba to get Olympic Order

LAUSANNE, Apr 1: Italian ski great Alberto Tomba is set to receive one of the International Olympic Committee's highest honors, reports AP. The IOC said Friday that

Tomba, winner of three Olympic gold medals and two silvers, has been awarded the Olympic Order "in recognition of his exceptional career and his contribution to the development of sport." The award will be presented

next Wednesday in Lausanne by IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch. The IOC described Tomba as "a symbolic figure in the ski

world and the idol of a whole

generation. The colorful "La Bomba" won gold medals in the slalom and giant slalom at the 1988 Calgary Olympics.

Sampras, Kuerten in final



Florida, April I Andre Agassi walked quickly to his changeover chair, picked up his racket bag.

through an exit. It was the best he had moved

brushed past autograph seekers

at the railing and disappeared

Hampered by a mild sprain in his right ankle. Agassi limped out the Ericsson Open Friday with a 6-1, 6-4 loss to Brazil's Gustavo Kuerten in the semifinals.

Agassi said the injury was partly his fault because of the physical demands from Wednesday when he needed 2 1/2 hours to beat Tim Henman in the quarterfinals.

"This isn't about making excuses," a glum Agassi said. "I'm the one who struggled in my last match."

Agassi-Pete Sampras showdown in Sunday's final. Sampras, seeded second.

slugged 16 aces and beat No. 14 from Hingis next week. Llevton Hewitt 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 in the other semifinal.

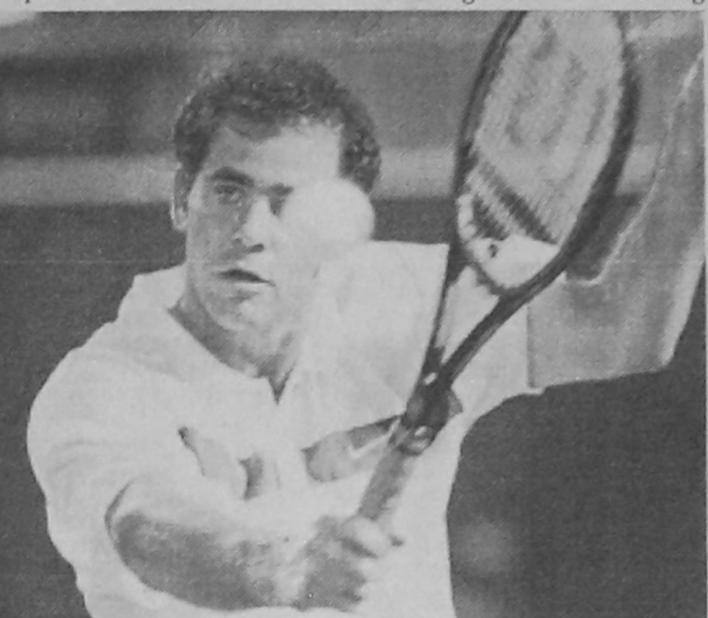
Andre on Sunday, there would have been a lot of electricity." Sampras said, "We all would have loved to have seen it. It's a unique matchup, and it's good for the game in this country. But you can't just pencil in Sampras and Agassi in the finals of these tournaments."

Sampras advanced to his first final this year. He's bidding for his third title at Key Biscayne and his first since 1994. Hewitt, a 19-year-old

Australian, lost for only the third time in 28 matches this

"I give him a lot of credit," Sampras said. "He's got all of the intangibles — the heart and the attitude - to be a champion."

In the women's final Saturday, Lindsay Davenport Kuerten's upset prevented an will try to beat Martina Hingis for the sixth time in a row. Davenport is already assured of reclaiming the No. 1 ranking



Pete Sampras slices a backhand during his Ericsson Open semifinal against Lleyton Hewitt of Australia.

- AFP photo

Agassi said his ankle should be fine in a few days, and he "Walking on court with expects to play in next weekend's Davis Cup match against the Czech Republic. But against Kuerten, Agassi said, the ankle hurt more than he

expected. "Pushing off was a big problem." he said. "It was getting worse quickly. Then I started really worrying about damage. I knew the only chance I had was to tape it up, but it wasn't good."

Agassi requested an injury timeout after the first set and had his ankle taped. He played better after that but still had trouble moving, especially to his right.

Struggling with his footwork on Kuerten's tricky second serve, Agassi never had a break point.

"Gustavo came in today and played solid," Agassi said. "I had no ability to do anything about it."

Kuerten, the 1997 French Open champion, needs one more win for his first hardcourt title and his first title in the United States, He's the No. 6 seed but came to Key Biscayne just 1-3 on hardcourts this year and was one point from losing his opening match to Arnaud Clement.

Since then the Brazilian nicknamed "Guga" has won 10 consecutive sets.

"I'm still not thinking that I'm really a hardcourt player,' Kuerten said. "I'm much more comfortable on clay still. But when I'm playing well and serving well on hardcourt, I can give trouble to good players." The international mix of

fans in South Florida has been supportive of Kuerten throughout the tournament. When he broke Agassi for 4-3 lead in the second set, the upset appeared inevitable and fans began waving Brazilian flags and chanting "Guga! Guga!"

"They really support me a lot," he said. "Not only Brazilians, but a lot of countries have support here, with people singing and screaming. That's nice for tennis."

Earlier in the evening Chris

Haremse's effort beat his

previous best of 77.71m, as well

as the 77.68m Commonwealth

record that Australia's Stuart

Rendell threw at Pietersburg

two weeks ago. But it was not

good enough for victory as

Alexandros Papadimitriou

touched down at 79,95m, beat-

ing the Greek national record

Katalin Divos of Hungary

Matthew Quinn surged to a

also had cause to celebrate after

throwing an SA open record

66,40m in the women's ham-

superb sea-level 10,19 second

100m victory - his best this sea-

son - against Nigeria's Sunday

Emmanuel (10.30), with compa-

triot Nnamdi Anusim claiming

ual improving scale, won the

women's 400m in an impressive

coastal 51,00 seconds, which is

just off her personal best of

his unbeaten streak with a

49.15 seconds 400m hurdles

victory, but he was pushed to

the line by American Torrence

Zellner who came in at 49.48

Corbett, South Africa's Olympic

hope in the javelin. Briton

Mick Hill won with 83,78m, but

South Africa's former world

champion failed to register a

Disaster struck for Marius

Llewellyn Herbert continued

50.99 seconds this season.

Heide Seyerling, on a grad-

by 12cm.

third in 10,30.

lenge of strong international

competition during the series,

hurled the hammer 77.92 me-

wealth and Africa record.

Johnson runs Africa's fastest hears that his race was for at Atlanta in 1996.



CAPE TOWN, Apr 1 (Internet report): World record-holder Michael Johnson was on fire in

the 400m at the final Engen Summer Series meeting in Cape Town on Friday night, but the electronic timing device kicked out to douse the race into a dismal non-event.

Johnson finished his South under the 43 seconds barrier for African early season buildup for the Sydney Olympics with a 43.9 second hand-timed victory before a vibrant crowd at Greenpoint Stadium.

Competing in his first 400m since setting his world record 43.18 seconds at the IAAF World Championships in Seville last August, Johnson's time rates unofficially as the quickest on African soil. The failure of the electronic timing device was an embarrassment for organisers - especially so when it went down in the event featuring the most valuable property in world track and

An electronic conversion would give Johnson 44.14 seconds, which, in theory, beats Innocent Egbunke's 44.17 seconds set in 1987.

Johnson's effort will unfortunately go unratified.

"It's shocking that this had to happen," said Arnaud Malherbe, who hit sharp form to beat South African champion Hendrik Mokganyetsi for the first time this season to claim second in 45.3 seconds.

"The hand-time means noth-

ing," said Malherbe, South

Africa's most experienced international competitor and captain of the national Commonwealth and world championship squads. "It could be inaccurate up to 0.5 seconds. I'm sure that my

run tonight would have been the first sub-45 second 400m by a South African at the coast. I'm really disappointed.

"Michael (Johnson) had to leave immediately for the airport, and I'm sure he will be world record 19.32 seconds was very disappointed when he set when he won the double-gold

41 Rip

45 1905

billed

Haggard

49 "Wheel of

woe

51 Plug of

52 Office

53 Apiary

54 Hockey

legend

Gordie

55 Bush

and

there

Clinton

tobacco

shape

Fortune"

8 Zilch, in 42 Slender-

ACROSS

1 Mimics

Xochi-

milco

12 Biblical

verb

13 Big head

14 Believe

- Not!"

region of

furniture

Georgia

Peach

23 Slangy

suffix

28 Green-

eyed

31 Eventual

aves

Wars"

lype

34 Sister

Sister"

sister

engine

developer ADORE

35 Steam

37 Shoal

mass

32"Star

monster

24 Wad

20 Restaurant dweller

15 Scads

16 Artsy

Paris

18 Steffi's

rival

21 The

5 -- relief

39 Descartes' 56 Ques.

conclusion comeback

shorebird 1 Leading

57 See to

DOWN

2 Ralph

3 007's

alma

mater

4 Comedy

6 Candle

count

7 Cushy

9 Whom

10 Finished

craft

both went 11 Clumsy

Solution time: 28 mins.

Yesterday's answer

Melanion

Lauren

trademark exes

5 Harps on caster

8 Light bite 336/6/44

defeated 38 Weill

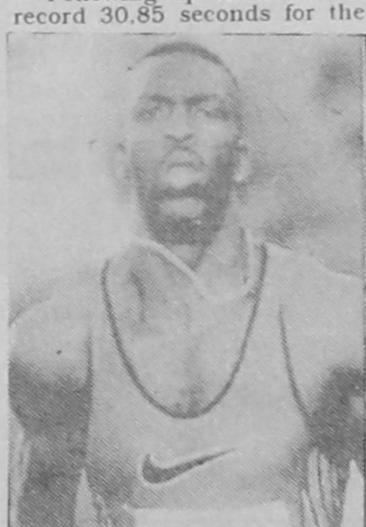
UTOPIA 43 Voom"

Johnson's form at this stage Haremse, rising to the chaldoes, however, signal that he is on course for a sensational de-

Olympic golds six months down tres to set a new Common-The 32-year-old Texan, who said that Sydney would be his final Olympics, returns to America where he will continue his build-up to attempt cutting

fence of his 200m and 400m

the 400m. Following up on his world



MICHAEL JOHNSON 300m in Pretoria last Friday. expectations of a challenge on his world record did not materialise on the slow Greenpoint synthetic track, despite ideal

stage shows that I'm getting into great shape," said Johnson afterwards. "It's great racing before South African crowds. They really spur me on. "It's a long season to go - I know that I can still do better

than this.

17 Confucian

principle

19 String

22 Swell

24 Prop for

Jack

25 One of

26 Across

ings?

29 Sports-

Scully

30 Tibetan

beast

36 He's near

the end

collabora-

40 Sea (Fr.)

Named

preceder

member

woman's

home?

alumna

struck

50 Corral

LE 48 Dumb-

Sue"

44 Brass

42"-

Benny

Frank's

the USA

27 Makes rul-

weather conditions. "The way I'm running at this

"I know that I can go under

the 43 second mark - but my

main aim is to win gold at the

Olympics," said Johnson whose

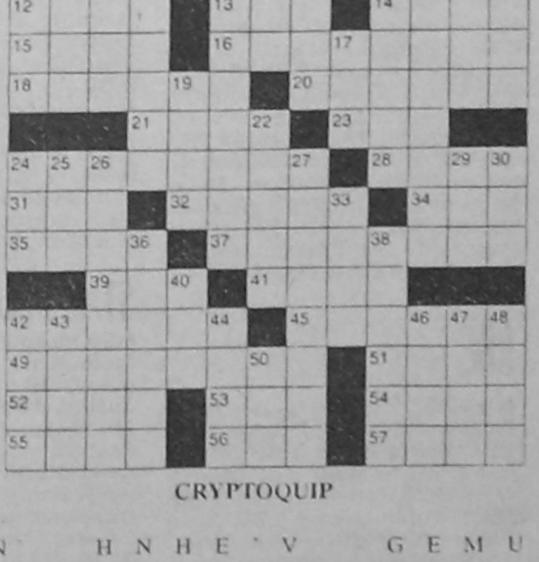
My right groin started troubling me in Pretoria last week," said a disappointed Corbett afterwards. "I thought I'd have a full go

single throw.

with my first throw, but I felt it pull painfully. I tried two more, but I couldn't get my foot-landing right.

Luckily it's not torn - I reckon I stopped just in time to save myself for treatment."

Brazilian Gustavo Kuerten is very happy after upsetting Andre Agassi in the Ericsson Open on March 31. - AFP photo



UXNWX AXMDRH LDIWXCAB, AM N RBV C QINBEH LNWGBV

Saturday's Cryptoquip: WHEN TWO MINING COMPANIES MERGE, THEY PROBABLY BECOME ALLOYS. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals D

47 "Laugh-In" 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.