#### UEFA Cup tickets go on sale

COPENHAGEN, Apr 25 (AFP): Premiership club Arsenal and Turkish giants Galatasaray were told yesterday that 9,000 tickets for their UEFA Cup final in Copenhagen next month have already been put on general sale in Denmark. the Press Association reported on Monday.

The news is set to spark fresh fears of trouble between English and Turkish support-

Two Leeds United supporters were stabbed to death before the semifinal first-leg against Galatasaray last month, and there was more trouble in the return meeting two weeks later.

Although Arsenal hope to receive up to 16,000 tickets for the final on May 17 and are planning a thorough screening of fans who buy them from Highbury, both clubs have now been told by UEFA that there is no chance of any extra allocation.

Arsenal vice-chairman David Dein admitted: "There is no point in making any protest. There is nothing we can do about it.

"All we can do is make sure as far as possible that our supporters go there safe and wellbehaved, and we are confident that this will be the case."

UEFA will keep back 3.000 tickets for their own officials and VIPs in the 40,000-capacity Parken Stadium but have earmarked another 9,000 tickets for sale to Danish fans and a further 3,000 for the international market.

The obvious fear is that some of those could get into the hands of trouble-makers looking for a sequel on the streets of Copenhagen to the tragedies in Istanbul.

Arsenal's allocation when they last played in the Parken Stadium - when they bear Parma 1-0 in the final of the 1994 European Cup Winners' Cup — was a similar 12,000. But on the night the stadium was almost completely dominated by their supporters.

It was clear that fans from London had made a special prematch trip to the Danish capital to buy tickets that were on general sale or on the black market.

Now the fear is that large numbers could be snapped up by members of the large Turkish communities in nearby Germanho sent an eight-man delegation to discuss security arrangements at a UEFA meeting in Denmark the day after the Gunners came through their semi-final in Lens, are planning more "high-profile" meetings with Turkish representatives, UEFA, their own local police and the Football Association at Highbury on Wednes-

But they have accepted that the ticketing arrangements are already in place and in fact already on sale in Copenhagen.

### Argentine thugs win as usual!

BUENOS AIRES, Apr 25: Ten Argentinian footballers were injured and one of those has had his life endangered, after being assaulted by around 100 football fans who invaded the pitch during a third division promotion match, it was reported Monday, says AFP.

The incidents occurred during the 1-1 draw between Excursionistas and Comunicaciones and the small detachment of police present were unable to prevent the trouble. Hooligans, known in Ar-

gentina as "Barrabravas", invaded the pitch and assaulted

the Comunicaciones players. Comunicaciones midfielder Adrian Barrionuevo was hospitalised and is said to be in a serious condition with head injuries after being kicked in the head as he lay on the pitch. The intervention of Excursionistas players may have saved him from even worse injuries.

Television pictures showed that the pitched battle went on for some 10 minutes while fans had apparently free rein to assault footballers.

#### Mary remains below Venus

MIAMI, Apr 25: France's fourth-rated Mary Pierce won her first title of the year but could only close the gap with number three Venus Williams in the latest WTA rankings released here Monday, reports

Pierce, who won at Hilton Head, needs another 300 ranking points to catch the injured American, who is out with tendinitis in both wrists.

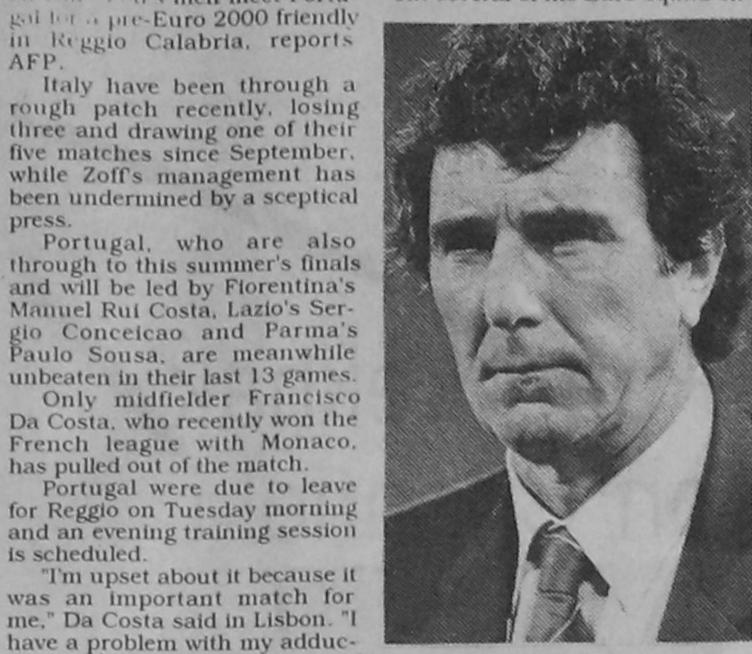
American Lindsay Davenport kept her top ranking by the same 27-point margin over Swiss teen Martina Hingis.

The top 15 were unchanged, with Hilton Head runner-up Arantxa Sanchez moving within 10 points of ninth-rated

Frenchwoman Julie Decugis for the closest the top. Player Davenport Hingis V Williams Pierce Tauziat S Williams Seles Martinez Halard-Decugis Sanchez-Vicario Testud Schett	Points 6073 6046 3279 2980 2549 2489 2365 2227 1986 1976 1867	and show the quality of team - we're all delighted a it.  "The fans always play a part. In the years I've been they've been fantastic and
		result in front of our home i
		and show the quality of
		The fans always play a g
		part. In the years I've been I
Schett	1729	they we been fantastic and
Capriati	1677	showed their quality again
Kournikova	1581	day and it's just great to l
Huber	1535	Yorke added: "It was alv
Likhovtseva	1463	going to be difficult coming
Mauresmo	1443	season like last season be
Cortzer	1398	someone said we were goin
Van Roost	1352	win the League again - we
Dechy	1255	tainly would have taken it.

# Italy strive to find form

It's going to be a balanced, attack and midfield. Italy will be hoping to re-discover top-quality tournament and some of their lost sparkle on Wed-However, Zoff will be withnesday night when Dino Zett's men meet Portuout several of his Euro squad on



DINO ZOFF

for two months and thereby out Wednesday - centre-forward Christian Vieri, one of France injured Zoff will have to pull a It's not an inspiring start to 98's top scorers with five goals. new matchwinner out of the fellow striker Alessandro Del hat Piero, midfielder Diego Fuser all injured.

bottom of the class," he told re- midfielders in line, or four with Norway in Oslo on June 2.

a playmaker operating between

"We'll start out with three Italy have every chance of doing men at the back because, apart from Lazio and a few small teams, everyone plays like that

these days," Zoff said. "This side has more potential with five men in the middle or as four-plus-one," he added. The "one" in this case should be Udinese revelation Stefano Fiore.

If Fiore gets the nod, Zoff will probably put three Juventus players behind him: Gianluca Zambrotta and Gianluca Pessotto on the flanks, plus right-half Antonio Conte, with AC Milan's Demetrio Albertini as left-half.

Fiorentina's Francesco Toldo is tipped for a rare start in goal, protected by Fabio Cannavaro, Alessandro Nesta and Ciro Ferrara, standing in for Maldini.

Along with a performance to lift team morale, Zoff is also after a system - or a player - to deliver goals. His recurring nightmare is that Vieri will miss the championships altogether.

No-one has come even near to Vieri in recent years and if the inter Milan ace should stay

Portugal are Italy's penultiand skipper Paolo Maldini are mate opponents before Euro 2000. The squad should be an-Filippo Inzaghi and Marco nounced on May 16, two days Delvecchio are tipped to start up after the Serie A season ends, front, supported either by five and head for a friendly against

### Opportunity for Bierhoff coaching duties to Argentine



KAISERSLAUTE RN. Germany. Apr .15: Germany capmin Oliver Bierhoff will be eager

to end a worrying goal drought when the troubled European champions take on Switzerland in a crucial warmup on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

has pulled out of the match.

tors high up on the left leg and if

they tear. I will be out of action

Italy's final run-in to the

championships, and Zoff has

dismissed any idea that his

team are among the bookies'

as favourites, but neither are we

"We're not going to Euro 2000

is scheduled.

of Euro 2000."

All eyes will be on the AC Milan striker when the Germans, needing to bounce back after a series of uninspired performances, play their last game before head coach Erich Ribbeck names his squad for the forthcoming European championship on May 31.

"I have a chance to answer critics," said Bierhoff, who has gone 843 minutes without a goal in the Serie A and has not scored for his country since September last year. "I have always been under pressure and it's not getting any better." Bierhoff, who scored both Germany's goals in their 2-1 defeat of the Czech Republic in the Euro 96 final at Wembley. said he was aware that he might lose his place in the first team if

he kept struggling. "I have always said that being the captain did not guarantee me a place in the starting line-up," he said. Like Bierhoff. goalkeeper Jens Lehmann will have a point to make on the Kaiserslautern pitch in a match staged to mark the centenary of the German Football Federation (DFB).

The Borussia Dortmund keeper will replace first choice Oliver Kalın, who has asked to be rested to concentrate on the tough matches awaiting his Bayern Munich side.

Lehmann made unwanted headlines when a blunder from him led to Bayern's goal in Dortmund's 1-0 defeat to the defending champions on Sunday which left the Ruhr Valley club facing a fight against rele-

Two-goal hero

Dwight Yorke

Old Trafford lans

as Manchester

United celebrated winning their

sixth Premiership title in eight

years with a 3-2 triumph over

Watford, who did not play Mon-

day, were relegated thanks to

Bradford's 1-0 win over Sunder-

land. That result sets up a ti-

tanic relegation tussle between

Bradford and Wimbledon with

the London side now only two

in the 10th minute when charg-

ing down Ed de Goey's attempted

strongly, Dan Petrescu grabbing

a 23rd-minute equaliser and

tors ahead in the 36th minute.

Gianfranco Zola firing the visi-

six minutes before the interval.

what turned out to be the win-

ner, from close range in the

68th minute to put United 16

Yorke said: "It's been a bril-

liant season for us and to get a

result in front of our home fans

and show the quality of the

team - we're all delighted about

they've been fantastic and they

showed their quality again to-

day and it's just great to be a

Yorke added: "It was always

going to be difficult coming off a

season like last season but if

someone said we were going to

win the League again - we cer-

"The fans always play a great part. In the years I've been here

Yorke put the Reds in front

But Chelsea hit back was at the match.

Sir Alex Ferguson's side were rolled a risky backpass to de

not to be denied, however, and Goey, but as the Chelsea keeper

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer levelled tried to clear the danger, Yorke

Yorke added his second, and the ball rebounded off the

points clear of their rivals.

clearance.

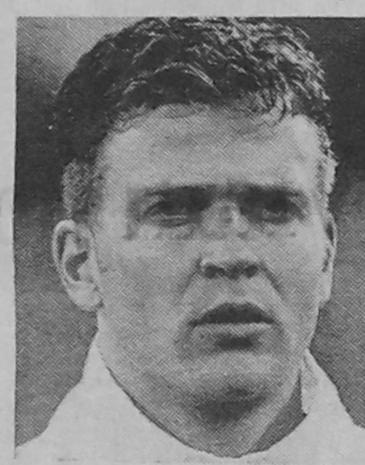
At the other end of the table

Chelsea, reports AFP.

"It is good for Lehmann to be with us," said Ribbeck. "He can leave the worries he has with his club behind for a while and putting in a good performance for Germany can only boost his confidence.

Ribbeck, who has been under fire ever since he was appointed in the wake of Germany's poor showing at the 1998 World Cup finals, has built his squad around Bundesliga leaders Bayer Leverkusen.

Tired of constant criticism, the German coach decided to leave out Bayern Munich's Jens Jeremies for Wednesday's



OLIVER BIERHOFF

match after the midfielder had described the state of the national team as "miserable" in a newspaper interview.

is still expected to make it into the European championship

qualify for Euro 2000, will be without striker Kubilay Tuerkyilmaz, nursing a sore

It will be the last outing of Rev. caretaker manager Hans-Peter Zaugg, who will hand over the

Yorke spoils Chelsea's plan

know where are priorities lie.

To win the League again is

tremendous and all credit to the

Saturday's 3-1 win at

Southampton, over 61,000

unbeaten at home in the Premie

spip all season, will not be pre-

sented with the trophy until

their final home match against

Tottenham on May 6. It did not

due to complete his record 19-

million-pound (30-million-dol-

lar) move from Dutch club PSV

Eindhoven in the next 48 hours

for United and 21st of the

nipped in to block his kick and

problems for the United defend-

Chelsea drawing level in the

the ball fell kindly for the Ro-

Gouw at the near-post.

gled cross to Petrescu.

manian international to fire an

Flo and Petrescu were in-

strumental in Chelsea taking a

36th-minute lead. Norwegian

striker Flo easily outjumped

Mickael Silvestre to head back

Bernard Lambourde's long au-

The midfielder looked up be-

fore curling a pinpoint ball to

the feet of Zola, whose volley

season in the 10th minute

striker into the net.

Yorke scored his 50th goal

Brazilian Emerson Thome

Tore-Andre Flo was causing

Ruud van Nistelrooy, who is

quell the celebrations.

the champions' homecoming.

packed Old Trafford to witness

Even the fact that United.

Enzo Trossero on July 1. The match will be a special

occasion for Swiss midfielder | bans. Ciriaco Sforza, who plays his club football for Kaiserslautern.

Playing Switzerland is nothing new to Germany, who have met their neighbours 46 times already -- more often than any other opponents.

It was against the Swiss team that Germany played their first international after World War II, in 1950 (1-0), and their first match after German unification, in 1990 (4-0).

Germany have won 33 meetings, drawn five and lost eight. They have not lost since a 3-1 defeat in 1956 in Frankfurt. Veteran libero Lothar

Matthaeus, set to extend his world record number of international appearances to 146, said he believed Germany had shown signs of improvement in their previous match, a 1-1 draw with Croatia last month in Zagreb. "In Croatia we made a first

step in the right direction after a string of weak matches," said the 39-year-old, now with New York-New Jersey MetroStars. We must make the second

step against Switzerland. We still have plenty of work to do and we don't have that much time left."

PROBABLE TEAMS

**GERMANY**: Jens Lehmann; Markus Babbel, Lothar Matthaeus, Jens Nowotny, Michael Ballack, Christian Ziege, Dietmar Hamann, Dar-So useful is Jeremies that he jusz Wosz, Mehmet Scholl,

Oliver Bierfoff, Michael Preetz. SWITZERLAND: Pascal Zuberbuehler; Giuseppe Maz-Switzerland, who failed to zarelli, Stephane Henchoz, Patrick Mueller, Bernt Haas, Mario Cantaluppi, Ciriaco Sforza, Johann Vogel, Murat Yakin, David Sesa, Alexandre

Referee: Morgan Noman

The lead lasted less than

three minutes, however, before

Solskjaer, who had just been

booked for a less severe foul

United. Giggs found the Norwe-

gian in space on the left and he

fired in a low shot that wrong-

"This is one of the trophies bounced into the ground and

After clinching the title in than Yorke's, equalised for

footed de Goey.

we always set out to win - we over the United keeper.

### Qayyum report

**ICC** wants

KARACHI, Apr 25 (Reuters): Pakistani cricket officials have been asked to submit a muchdelayed report on match-fixing to a special meeting of the International Cricket Council (ICC) next week, local media reported today.

"The instructions have come directly from ICC president Jagmohan Dalmiya," The Dawn newspaper said.

The report by Justice Malik Mohammad Qayyum, which examined the question of corruption in the Pakistani game, was submitted to the government last October.

Its contents have not been made public nor has it been acted upon by either the government or the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).

The ICC emergency meeting. to be held in London, has been called over a mounting corruption controversy.

South African cricket chief All Bacher alleged last week that two matches in last year's World Cup had been fixed. His comments followed the sacking of South African captain Hansie Cronje, who admitted taking up to 15,000 dollars from a bookmaker in January.

The News newspaper said the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) had been sent a letter "making it clear to them that their representative should bring the Justice Qayyum findings with him for submission and consideration (at the meeting)."

Qayyum said earlier this month that he was convinced some Pakistani players had been involved in match-fixing and that he was disappointed the report had not been acted

"I am convinced that some of the Pakistan players are involved in match-fixing. They deliberately threw a few games. Qayvum said. "I have recommended sev-

eral punitive actions against those players, including life Qayyum examined more

than 75 witnesses in his twoyear investigation before submitting his report to Pakistan President Rafiq Tarar, who is also patron of the PCB.

The judge has refused to disclose the names of the players alleged to be involved in match fixing and said he could not remember how many players he had recommended be disciplined.

### 2 more nabbed in Turkey

ISTANBUL, Apr 25: Turkish police have detained two more men in connection with the fatal stabbing of two Leeds United fans earlier this month, a British consular official said on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

The pair were suspected of providing money for knives to the gang of youths who are accused of carrying out the killings, the official said.

A Turkish prosecutor has charged four men with the murder of Britons Christopher Loftus and Kevin Speight on April 5, the eve of a UEFA Cup semifinal soccer match between Leeds United and Galatasaray in Istanbul

Another 14 were charged with assault leading to

### WTA's top 20

ST PETERSBURG, Florida,

Apr 25 (Reuters): Top 20 money winners this year in women's tennis, according to WTA Tour: 1. Davenport 2. Hingis 3. Pierce 4. Seles 5. Martinez 6. Testud Kournikova 8. Serena 9. Halard-Decugis 10. Arantxa 11. Capriati 12. Ai Sugiyama 13. Likhovtseva 14. Tauziat 15. Raymond 158.812 16. Schett

17. Coetzer

18. Stubbs

20. Morariu

19. Rubin

## money earners

\$1,075,655 1.036,039 431.667 296,750 293,339 264.836 235,984 221,956 207,443 206.454 181,017 180,943 178,970 177,358 174,776

146.81

143,263

139,733

ACROSS

Connery.

5 Spaces

undone

12 Jason's

13 Censor

14 Get -

for effort

15 Expensive

property

and such

18 Candy

19 Metallic

21 Symbol

22 Bart's

dad

24 Cribbage

needs

27 Support-

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31 Livy's "I

love"

32 Versatile

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tion

36 Zodiac

sign

37 Stench

Informa-

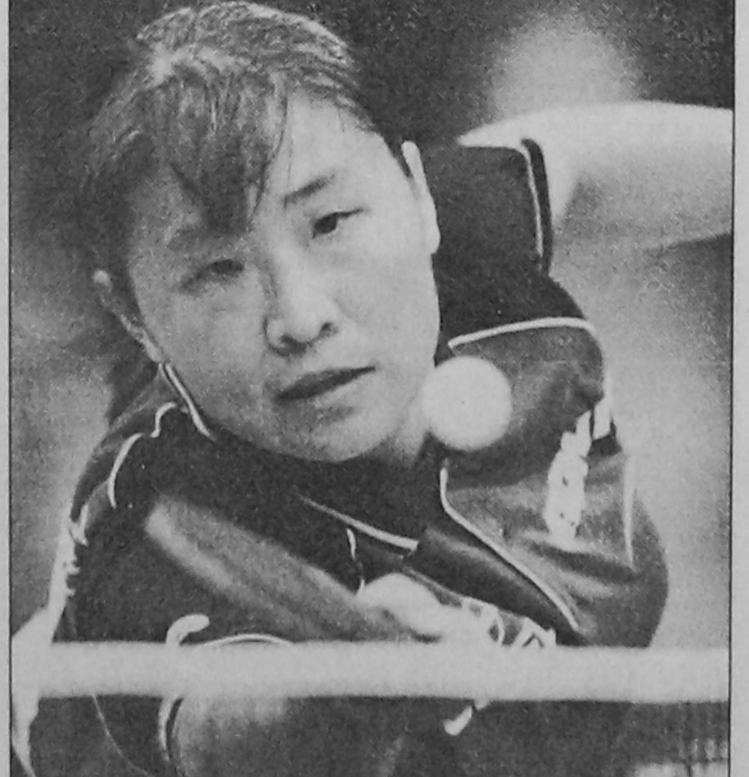
34 Fonteyn's MIC

33 Ice,

9 Wish

1 Sean

136.74





Italian soccer superstar Roberto Baggio (L) shakes hands with Bosnian leader Alija Izetbegovic in capital Sarajevo yesterday. Baggio is in the Balkan country to play for a FIFA World Star team against the Bosnian national squad today. -AFP photo

# India upend Thailand



Apr 25: Nirupama India to a stunning 2-1 victory over fourth seeds Thailand on the first day of the Fed Cup tennis Asia Oceania Group One tournament on Tuesday, reports AFP.

Jayaram-Sai Jayalakshmy put India one up by beating Napaporn Tongsalee 6-4, 6-2 before Thai ace Tamarine Tanasugarn evened the best-of-three battle by beating Vaidyanathan

But Vaidyanathan, teaming up with Manisha Malhotra in the deciding doubles, saved two set points in the first set tiebreaker and went on to edge past Tamarine and Benjamas Sangaram 7-6, 6-2.

went into the match. thinking that my singles match is going to be tough, it's not an easy one at all. I believed in myself, but she was just better than me, there was nothing I could do," said Vaidyanathan.

"The doubles was what mattered. We had an absolutely open mind. I was playing well and my partner really supported and played really aggressive tennis, so I'm happy that

India's captain Nandan Bal said: "We were very confident. because both my singles players fects from her maternity leave have been playing very well the as she won two matches to lead last two weeks on the tour. Once we won the first singles today. I New Zealand. knew it was going into the dou-

"Nirupama and Manisha have played together for almost three years now, they know Prakusya outclassed Hudson each other, and they know they can take on anybody. When we got the first singles win. I was confident to beat Thailand," he

Tamarine praised the Indi- Tong Ka-po and Olivia Graver-Vaidyanathan led ans teamwork. aux in the deciding doubles.

"It was their day today, they took their chances and they didn't give us any.

"For our doubles, we don't downed Fiji 3-0 in Pool A, while really have a chance to practice a lot, so I think today it was a very good practice match. I think it's gonna be better next match.'

Top seeds Japan had a rest day in the five-team Pool A round robin with Thailand. while second seeds China, third seeds Taiwan, and Indonesia all chalked up two singles wins to secure victories in the six-team Pool B.

Li Na breezed past Choi Jin-Young 6-3, 6-3, and Yi Jingqian whipped Cho Yoon-Jeong 6-3, 6-1 as China defeated South Korea

Taiwan's former number one player Wang Shi-ting, who is going to retire "soon" and play only doubles, watched her teammates Tai Lan-lan and Janet Lee scored comfortable singles victories to beat Singa-

6-1 6-2 and Lee trounced Yik-Hui Leow 6-1, 6-0 before Wang and Lee whitewashed Leow and Simin Liu 6-0, 6-0.

Yayuk Basuki showed no ill-eff-Indonesia to a 3-0 victory over Basuki defeat of Rewa hudson -- 6-0, 6-1 -- was followed by

Wynne Prakusya's 6-2, 7-6 win over Leanne Baker. Basuki and and Shelley Stephens 6-4, 6-2. Kazakhstan struggled to beat Hong Kong 2-1 thanks to a 4-6.

6-3. 6-4 victory by Alissa Velts

Romania

Pool B.

and Valeriya Khazova over

lizbekistan defeated Pacific

Oceania 2-1 and Malaysia

seconds seeds the Philippines

beat Jordan 3-0. Tajikistan

outplayed Syria 3-0 and Sri

Lanka defeated Pakistan 2-1 in

In Group Two, top seeds

soccer scam

BUCHAREST, Apr 25: Footballers of Romanian Second Division side Drobeta Turnu Severin have accused club officials of persuading them to throw a league match, the national football federation (FRF) said on Tuesday.

Seventeen of the club's footballers filed written complaints to the FRF who have launched Tai overpowered Tina Jacob an inquiry, according to the same source.

The players are saving that one hour before Saturday's match against Chimica Tir-Asian Games champion naveni, the club's sporting director went into the changing rooms and asked them to lose

> When they refused, the players claim, the official decided to send on a junior team which lost the match 2-0. Chimica Tirnaveni needed a victory to avoid being relegated to the third division.

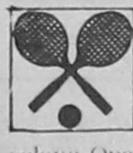
Sources close to various coaches told AFP that the practice of match-fixing was rife throughout the second division.

Mantilla's victory over

"The back is better than it

has been and if I carry on like

# Mantilla sails, Costa fails



BARCELONA Apr advantage of that. It's no big Clement of France. 25: Felix Mantilla made light of a troublesome back injury to begin the defence of his Barcolona Open title with a breezy

6-1, 6-3 victory over Dutchman Sjeng Schalken yesterday, reports Reuters. The Barcelona-born player, who is unseeded this year, took just 74 minutes to set up an en-

ticing second round clash with

number three seed Nicolas Lapentti of Ecuador. champion Albert Costa, the 1997 winner and number 10 seed, suffered a surprise exit on day one, going down 7-6, 6-4 to

Sargsian. was just decentred out there," admitted the Spaniard, who blamed the defeat partly on in the first match on court, as Schalken started to strike the high pollen count in coming back from 2-5 down in the ball a lot more cleanly and Barcelona.

unseeded Armenian Sargis

and felt weak in the legs. I don't cent. He just managed to take through against Arnaud served out the match.

study

hian

podge

56 "Wind

Willows"

character

48-Across 40 Frenzied

terpart

43 Family

45 Director

table,

49 Bullring

bravo

50 Help

for short

Kazan

treat

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterday's answer

48 15-

Costa was one of three seeded Schalken was straightforward

players to fall on the opening enough but nevertheless a relief day of the clay court event, fol- for the defending champion. lowing Frenchman Sebastian who had been worried by his in-Grosjean and Mariano Zabaleta jury of Argentina out of the compe-Grosjean, seeded 14, fell 6-3.

6-4 to Spanish qualifier Salvador Navarro, while number Russia's Marat Safin Dutchman Richard Krajicek,

who won the event in 1994. Sweden's Mikael Tillstrom, while Tommy Haas of Germany, seeded nine, overcame a spirited challenge from Argentine Gaston Etlis 7-5, 4-6, 6-4. Francisco Clavet, at 31 the

oldest man in the tournament. won an all-Spanish encounter the first set to beat Alberto Mar-"I was slow around the court tin 7-6, 6-3.

this it won't be a problem." he "I feel strong mentally and 12 seed Zabeleta lost 6-4, 6-4 to this could be a running point for "The clash with Lapentti will

be a tough one, so I don't want to But another Spanish former went through 7-6, 7-6 against look any further forward than that. He's in excellent form at the moment." Mantilla, looking at home on the centre court where he beat Karim Alami in last year's

> final, raced into a 5-0 lead before taking the first set 6-1. The second was a lot closer he stayed with Mantilla to 3-4.

But a superb Mantilla fore-Top seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov hand down the line, taken at want to make excuses but I've has a bye through to the second full tilt by the Spaniard. set been suffering from some aller- round in which he will face Car- him up for the break he needed gies and I wasn't a hundred per los Moya, if the Spaniard gets in the second at 5-3 and he

#### By Eugene Sheffer CROSSWORD DOWN 24 First 38 -- the Lady nervel" 1 Enervates before 40 Greek 2 Animal's Betty consonant stomach 3 Storybook 25 Ostrich's 41 Primary 22 | 23 beast course of cousin 26 Kin 4 Fare. 29 30 of "Lose 43 Washes often 47 Coach 5 Solidifies a Turn" 6 Oklahoma 27 Unable to Parseg continue 7 Snapshot eating 29 Heretofore partner power 9 \$200 30"-17"- Impos- 51 Boxing 44 45 46 41 42 Rosenpurchase legend 10 Golden 52 Hodgekavelier" Rule word 35 Concern 11 Uncomplifor Scully 53 Tennis and 16 Sch. org. Mulder Nastase 37 Put one for sodium 54 Actress 20 Journey Gretchen over on segment 55 Ohio nine 22 Enhance- 39 Shady CRYPTOQUIP ment for recess

23 Sandwich 41 Sir's coun- K A P T K R 42 Woody's REVRNQYU: "K'H MPHYIPUX

> MEPAC RVCM!" Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN APES SNACK, THEY ALMOST ALWAYS CHOOSE CHOCOLATE

CHIMP COOKIES. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals D

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.



Germany's Qianhong Gotsch in action against Croatian Andrea Bakula at the European Table Tennis Championships in Bremen on April 24. Gotsch won 2-0 to give the hosts lead in the semifinals over Croatia. -AFP photo