Rajshahi v'ball

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, May 20: Bright Star Club and Nabarun Sangha won their respective matches of the Rajshahi First Division Hassan Imam-Ali Imam Pintu Smriti Volleyball League at Rajshahi Stadium today.

Bright Star defeated Jagarata Sangha by 3-0 (25-11, 25-18 and 25-10) sets in the first match.

Nabarun Sangha outplayed Ambagan Club by 3-0 (25-10, 25-8, 25-7) sets in the other match of the day.

Nabarun Sangha and Bright Star earned ten points each.

Bondhon Krira Chakra will meet Brothers Union and Modern Boxing Club will take on Colony Club tomorrow.

DIV II CRICKET

Jubo Cricket School became champions in the Rajshahi Second Division qualifying cricket league held at Rajshahi Stadium today.

Jubo Cricket beat Salbagan Cricket Club by five wickets.

Jubo Cricket won the toss and invited Salbagan to bat.

Salbagan made 94 for eight in allotted 22 overs.

In reply, Jubo Cricket School scored 97 runs losing five wickets in 19.3 overs.

In other match of the day, Friends Circle beat Friends Ideal Cricket School by four wickets.

Friends Ideal were bundled out for 99 in 18.3 overs.

In reply, Friends Circle collected 101 runs for six wickets in 19.3 overs.

Rawalpindi Express

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will put an enormous pressure on the broad shoulder of Inzamamul Haq, who can expect a helping hand from none but young all-rounder Abdur Razzak down the middle order.

Arshad Khan, who played in one-day series against Windies, will replace Saqlain. The tall off-spinner is certainly no match to the class of Saqlain, but he is very tidy with his line and length.

The only brave decision in the team was the inclusion of leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed, who has not been in his best of for yet.

The weeklong cricket carnival will be covered live by satellite sports channel Star Sports. The day-night tournament also offers a cash award of US 30,000 dollars for the winners and US 20,000 dollars for the runners-up.

Sri Lanka captained by Sanath Jayasuriya will be the first team to arrive in Dhaka on may 25. While India, who are yet to announced their final 14, will fly in the city on may 27.

The Pakistan squad: Moin Khan (captain), Wajahatullah Wasti, Shahid Afridi, Mohammad Wasim, Imran Nazir, Younis Khan, Inzamamul Haq, Abdur Razzak, Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Arshad Khan, Mushtaq Ahmed, Mohammad Akram and Sabbir Ahmed.

WI overtake

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just over three hours, dragged his flighted 122nd ball from Saqlain into his stumps about 55 minutes after lunch to be bowled.

Chanderpaul, who spent 51 minutes and 42 balls over nine, gloved a "snorter" from Razzaq to wicketkeeper Moin Khan, the Pakistan captain.

In the last period of the day, Pakistan were still not able to slow down the West Indies' juggernaut. Though they dubiously removed Adams and eventually got Hinds just before the close, they found their opponents unyielding.

Adams, with whom Hinds carried West Indies to tea, was adjudged caught at slip off Saqlain about half-hour after the break. Television replays showed umpire Rudi Koertzen might have erred in his decision and the left-hander drove well inside the line of the ball.

In recent times, West Indies have folded from such positions, but Sarwan, treated to a hero's welcome by a crowd to whom he has endeared himself when playing for his native Guyana in the regional first-class championship, gave good support to Hinds.

The two batted for 1 3/4 hours, added further substance to the total, and gave West Indies the lead in the final hour, with the 19-year-old Sarwan looking like a long-standing Test batsman and even playing a couple crunching pulls off Wasim and Razzaq.

It was becoming apparent however, Hinds was growing weary and, in the end, the pull shot which had brought him mixed results finally cost him his wicket, when he mistimed one at a short ball from Waqar and skied a catch to mid-on.

SCOREBOARD

Close of play scoreboard on the second day of the second Test between the West Indies and Pakistan at the Kensington Oval on Friday:

PAKISTAN: First innings 253 (Yousuf Youhana 115; Courtney Walsh 5-22)

WEST INDIES: First innings (overnight 2-0)

Campbell b Saqlain	58
Griffith c Moin b Waqar	4
Hinds c Inzamam b Waqar	165
Chanderpaul c Moin b Razzaq	9
Adams c Younis b Saqlain	8
Sarwan not out	28
Ambrose not out	0
Extras: (lb-5; nb-6)	11
Total: (For 5 wkts 88.4 overs)	283

Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-144, 3-176, 4-213, 5-282.

To bat: Ridley Jacobs, Nixon McLean, Reon King, Courtney Walsh.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
W Akram	18.4	4	55	0
Waqar	12	2	52	2
Mushtaq	13	1	53	0
Razzaq	16	3	50	1
Saqlain	29	5	68	2

England's Alec Stewart is about to play a cut-shot on the third day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. —AFP photo

Slow and steady Ostler

LONDON, May 20: Patience finally paid off for Dominic Ostler Friday when the Warwickshire batsman reached his first English County Championship century for almost five years against Essex, reports AFP.

Ostler's long wait continued all day Thursday when he was stuck on 93 and was confined to the pavilion by a washout.

As four of the Championship's five current matches moved into their third day, he made up for lost time and passed his hundred from 168 balls having hit 17 fours.

Ostler, in his benefit season, went on to 144 before falling caught behind off medium-pacer Danny Law.

His runs helped Warwickshire from an overnight 160 for two to five bonus points at 400 for eight declared.

A stand of 90 for the sixth wicket between captain Neil Smith (68 n.o.) and the in-form Dougie Brown (42) defying the best efforts of all-rounder Law who finished with five for 78.

Essex reached eight without loss before the close in the Division Two encounter.

Another man to make his mark despite the inclement weather was Worcestershire's Aussie Test paceman Glenn McGrath on Day Two against Sussex at Hove.

He finished with five for 54 as the hosts closed on 258 all out having resumed on 51 for one, and there were also three wickets for Stuart Lampitt on a day for the seamers.

Worcestershire lost openers Elliott Wilson and Ryan Driver, both lbw, on their way to 89 for two after a late finish on the south coast.

In Division One, Australian Darren Lehmann hit his third consecutive half-century for Yorkshire and was unbeaten on 59 at the close of another rain-hit day against Derbyshire at the Racecourse Ground where medium-pacer Matthew Cassar (4-52) added Gavin Hamilton's wicket to the three he took yesterday.

Left-hander Lehmann still has plenty of work to do on the final day tomorrow to carry Yorkshire from their 216 for seven past the hosts' 303 in another match that looks destined to end in a draw, barring any last-day collusion.

Aftab Habib (63 n.o.) once again displayed his credentials as one of the country's most talented middle-order batsmen, defying master leg-spinner Shane Warne (3-71) and helping Leicestershire to 212 for six against Hampshire at Grace Road.

Habib, discarded after a nervy time for England last summer but having shown his class during the A tour to New Zealand and in the early skirmishes this summer, would not be budged as Leicestershire progressed from 89 for three to 212 for six in reply to previously out-of-form Hampshire's decent first innings of 229.

Back in Division Two, Gloucestershire captain Mark Alleyne (122 n.o.) also had reason to smile through the rain.

He was unbeaten on 76 overnight and duly reached his century from 238 balls with 15 fours along the way to help his team from 144 for five to 212 for six and just three runs adrift of Nottinghamshire's total on a day of umpteen showers at Trent Bridge.

BRIEF SCORES

Division One

At Derby: Derbyshire 303 v Yorkshire 216-7 (D Lehmann 59 n.o., V Craven 58; M Cassar 4-52)

At Leicester: Hampshire 229 (A Aymes 74 no) v Leicestershire 212-6 (A Habib 63 n.o.)

Division Two

At Hove: Sussex 258 (G McGrath 5-54) v Worcestershire 89-2

At Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire 215 (G Welton 74; J Lewis 5-55) v Gloucestershire 212-6 (M Alleyne 122 n.o.)

At Edgbaston: Warwickshire 400-8 declared (D Ostler 144, N Smith 68 n.o.; D Law 5-78) v Essex 8-0

World Team Cup starts today

Last chance for Sampras

DUSSELDORF, May 20: Pete Sampras will get his last chance to prepare for Roland Garros when he leads the American team into the 1.9 million dollar World Team Cup, which begins at the Rochusclub in Dusseldorf on Sunday, reports AFP.

Two things will make Sampras vulnerable as he heads towards Paris and his 11th attempt to win the one Grand Slam title that has so far eluded him.

The first -- he has played few matches this year because of injury, and two -- he has not yet been able to fully master the art of playing clay court tennis.

Playing in Hamburg in his first clay court event since last year's French Open, he lost in the second round to Arnaud Di Pasquale and admitted he is still learning how to adapt his game to clay.

"If there's one thing I learned today (against Di Pasquale), it's that I need to play my game and still be aggressive," said Sampras. "I was staying back too much, even though I forced myself to come in and chip and charge. A lot of these clay courters love it when I stay back."

Losing so early wasn't the best of preparations for Paris, and Sampras is aware that he still has a lot of work to do. The World Team Cup provides the perfect opportunity, with the format allowing him a minimum of three singles matches to work himself into shape.

"I need to play a lot of sets and really work hard on the practise court," said the former world number one. "If you don't play for a while you lose that match shape, and that is what I need if I'm going to Paris. I need to get my legs into good shape."

With 500,000 dollars available for the winning team, Sampras is supported by Vince Spadea in singles and the doubles tandem of Alex O'Brien and Jared Palmer.

The United States are in the Red Group, and must play Sweden, Slovakia and host nation Germany.

The Blue Group consists of Russia, Australia, Spain and Chile. The teams in each group play each other on a round-robin basis, with each tie consisting of two singles matches and a doubles. The two winning teams advance to Saturday's final.

Sweden will provide a strong challenge, with current points race leader Magnus Norman and ninth placed Thomas Enqvist, backed up by the Nicklas Kulti and Mikael Tillstrom in doubles.

The Slovak team features the struggling Karol Kucera and rising star Dominik Hrbaty, who recently beat Andre Agassi in Rome. Jan Kroslak also plays.

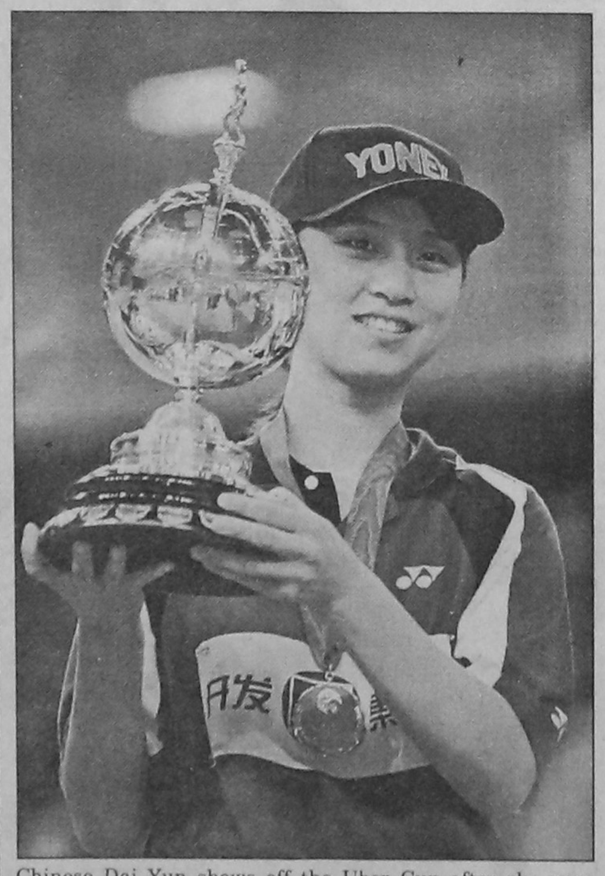
Germany are without the injured Nicolas Kiefer, and Tommy Haas is suffering a lack of confidence after first round defeats in both Rome and Hamburg. Rainer Schuttler and David Prinosil make up the remainder of the team.

The Blue Group is wide open, with Russia fielding the former number one but unpredictable Yevgeny Kafelnikov alongside the magical, but equally unpredictable Marat Safin. They are supported by Andrei Cherkasov and Andrei Chesnokov, who will not be expected to make much impact.

Australian success may depend on how well Patrick Rafter and Lleyton Hewitt adapt to the clay. Both prefer faster surfaces, and Rafter is also struggling to return after a long-term shoulder injury. Richard Fromberg and Sandon Stoile also play, probably in doubles, for the defending champions.

Spain, the acknowledged masters of clay, are missing their best players, Alex Corretja and Juan Carlos Ferrero, as well as former number one Carlos Moya. Instead, they will rely on Albert Costa and Felix Mantilla.

Chile are the wild card team, and are boosted by the presence of Marcelo Rios playing together with Nicolas Massu and Hermes Gamonal.



Chinese Dai Yun shows off the Uber Cup after she gave her country the winning point by beating Mette Sorensen of Denmark in the last match of the finals in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. —AFP photo

ECB chief afraid of mafia

LONDON, May 20: England cricket chief Lord MacLaurin said on Friday he feared that mafia-style organisations were infiltrating the game to fix matches, reports AP.

Speaking on BBC Radio, the chairman of the English Cricket Board (ECB) said he suspected that the criminal underworld could be the driving force behind cricket's corruption.

"It could be the case that as well as the players, it's also the administrators who need investigating," MacLaurin said.

"There's a lot of money sloshing around the game, not just in betting but also in television deals.

"My fear is there could be mafia-type organisations who are involved behind the scenes and that the international players are becoming pawns in a power game.

"I know it's an extraordinary idea but it could be the case that criminal mafia are infiltrating areas of cricket," MacLaurin said. "We just don't know how bad the situation is."

Since South African captain Hansie Cronje admitted receiving 15,000 dollars from a bookmaker in a betting scam, MacLaurin has been a leading figure in the fight against corruption in the game.

He persuaded the world's governing body, the International Cricket Council, to hold an emergency meeting at Lord's earlier this month to investigate match-fixing amid allegations that it was rife in Pakistan, India and England.

The ICC agreed several reforms, including a list of penalties ranging from five-year to life bans for anyone found guilty of being involved.

MacLaurin also convinced every member of the ICC executive committee to sign a declaration opening up their private and business accounts to scrutiny.

"It's possible that our own game in England has problems we don't know about. I've been in business long enough not to be naive about the world," MacLaurin said.

"Police inquiries are ongoing in this country into the match-fixing issue. I'd like to think the game is clean, but we have to be vigilant."

Mark to be a two-day Irish

DUBLIN, May 20: Australian star batsman Mark Waugh is planning to play for Ireland when they meet Zimbabwe next month.

"It's basically just to promote cricket in Ireland," Waugh told Ireland's RTE radio.

"Hopefully they will be in the next World Cup and I'd like to help them along the way there," he added.

Ireland are scheduled to play two one-day matches against Zimbabwe on 7 and 8 June. The matches coincide with a three-week coaching stint in Ireland for Mark Waugh.

Waugh is following in the footsteps of twin brother Steve, the Australian captain, who has previously guested for Ireland during a coaching stint.

Coached by New Zealander Ken Rutherford, Ireland's amateurs have their sights on qualification for the 2003 World Cup.

Uber Cup

China retain title

KUALA LUMPUR, May 20: Defending champions China romped to an easy 3-0 victory over Denmark to retain the Uber Cup badminton title today, reports Reuters.

Denmark, the European champions, were making their first appearance in the Uber Cup final since the Cup's inception in 1956.

But the Danish women, led by world number one Camilla Martin, had no answer as the powerful Chinese smashed their way to win the Cup for the seventh time.

World number two Gong Zhichao took the court first against Martin, who she has a 3-1 record against, and won 11-9, 11-5 in an upset to put her team ahead.

Ge Fei and Gu Jun, the world's top pair and unbeaten since 1994, widened the lead with a 15-2, 15-9 mauling of Helene Kirkegaard and Rikke Olsen.

Dai Yun, the world number three, then completed the whitewash with a thumping 11-8, 11-1 win over Mette Sorensen.

China's chief coach Li Yong Bo said he had been confident his team would win.

"Except for Camilla Martin, we were sure of winning the cup. We were prepared for Gong Zhichao to lose but once she won easily, we knew we would lift the cup," said Li.

Kuerten brings Norman down

HAMBURG, May 20: He will stay number one in the ATP Champions race but Magnus Norman came off decidedly second best Friday, bowing out of the 2.95 million-dollar Hamburg Masters Series as Brazilian fifth seed Gustavo Kuerten stunned the Swede 6-4, 6-2 to reach the semis, reports AFP.

Kuerten, roared on by his travelling band of fans clad in Brazil soccer shirts, hammered his third-seeded opponent to set up a match with Romanian qualifier Andrei Pavel, who beat Argentina's Mariano Zabaleta, the runner-up 12 months ago, in straight sets 7-5, 6-4.

Kuerten's win in 1hr 7min enabled him to avenge last week's final defeat by Norman in the Rome Masters Series.

"This result gives me particular satisfaction," he admitted.

Russian 12th seed Marat Safin also reached the last four when he defeated French fourth seed Cedric Pioline in three sets, 7-6, 4-6, 6-3 in 2hr 7min.

Safin will now play Chilean defending champion Marcelo Rios, who knocked out Spaniard Francisco Clavet 6-4, 6-3 in the final match on Centre Court.

Norman was visibly stunned by Kuerten's performance -- but said the result was also his own fault.

"It was 50 per cent he was too good, 50 percent I was too bad. I'm glad it happened today and not at the French Open," said Norman, who turns 24 in 10 days time.

"I was missing a lot of first serves. Even through I had breaks in both sets my serve was letting me down and I couldn't take advantage.

"Guga gave me no chance -- he was all over me."

Kuerten said he would not get carried away even though he looks to be the form player here.

"It was a good opportunity to beat Magnus today. I was very well prepared for this match. I was pretty strong on court and I think I see a chance to go through to the final."

Kuerten said there was no risk of his underestimating next opponent Pavel.

"He has surprised a lot of good players. I know his potential," said the Brazilian, who now assumes the mantle of joint favourite along with former world number one Rios who, after months of injury problems is now well on the way back.

Rios said after his match that he was now "moving very well, feeling much better - though I'm still only at 50 percent of my game."

He will need to find the other 50 percent in time to stop Kuerten in this mood.

Norman won the opening two games but Kuerten, four months younger and who has been troubled by recent back problems, then won three straight games to move ahead before a second break of the Swede's serve handed him the opening set.

Norman again made the early break -- this time for 2-1 -- in the second set but Kuerten broke back and then held as the pendulum swung definitively his way.

And after having the luxury of wasting a first match point he produced a drop shot to wrap up the match.

Safin drew first blood against Pioline by taking the first set tiebreak but the Frenchman levelled the tie by pocketing his only break point in the opening game of the second set.

Pioline, who had beaten the Russian dangerman in both of their previous two meetings, including a French Open five-setter two years ago, had a poor record here until this year, having not gone past the second round in four visits.

And his jinx returned to haunt him as he lost his momentum in the third, allowing Safin to get 3-0 ahead and then bludgeoning a forehand long on match point.

"I'm not disappointed as he played very well. He was very consistent every time he was in danger and he played some very good shots," Pioline said.

Safin, playing here for only the second time after a second round exit last year, won back to back tournaments in Barcelona and Mallorca less than a month ago and is shaping up as a fearsome force in the game on clay.

The Russian, now spending his time in Monte Carlo after long being based in Spain, gave much of the credit for his win to recently-appointed coach Andrei Chesnokov, a finalist here in 1993.

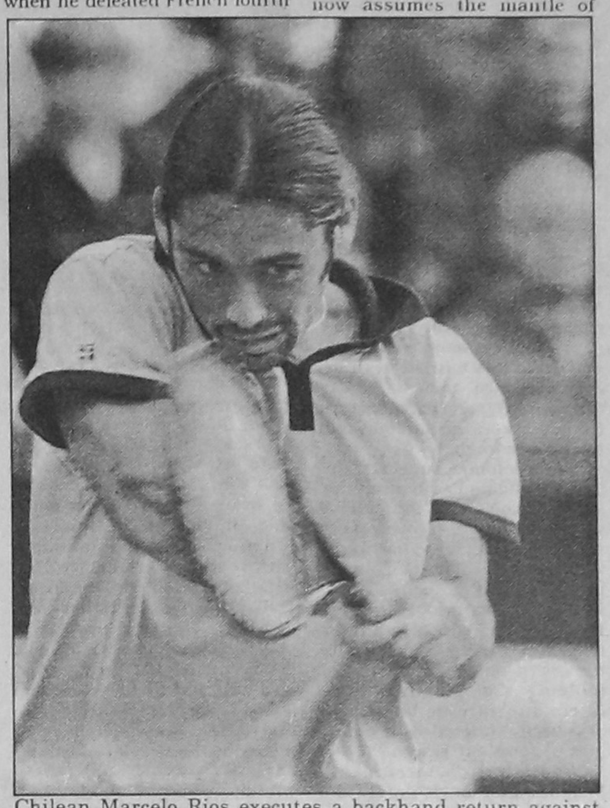
"He's a great guy and is easy to work with. He doesn't tell you every five seconds what to do," said Safin.

Safin almost let his fiery temper get the better of him as he tried to get ahead in the first set, smacking the net angrily with his racket.

"Sometimes you want to say a few bad words. We're not computers," said Safin sardonically.

Earlier, Pavel and Zabaleta, who had not previously met, both played some spectacular tennis but it was the Argentine's nerve which deserted him along with his serve as the Romanian took six out of 12 break points offered him to win in 1hr 51min.

Zabaleta had ousted British eighth seed Tim Henman in the previous round while Pavel beat Frenchman Arnaud Di Pasquale, the man who ended the hopes of top seed Pete Sampras.



Chilean Marcelo Rios executes a backhand return against Spaniard Francisco Clavet at the Masters Series in Hamburg on May 19. —AFP photo

Seles, Mauresmo in semis

ROME, May 20: Former winner Monica Seles and French hope Amelie Mauresmo booked their places in the Italian Open semifinals here on Friday -- but there was a shock exit for second seed Nathalie Tauziat, reports AFP.

Seles had to struggle to beat plucky Australian teenager Jelena Dokic 6-1, 3-6, 6-3 and now faces fellow American Corina Morariu for a place in the final of the 1.08 million-dollar tournament.

Mauresmo spurned four match points before scoring a 6-1, 5-7, 6-4 upset win over Spanish sixth seed Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario.

But her expected all-French battle in the semi-finals was ruled out when Colombian qualifier Fabiola Zuluaga defeated Tauziat 3-6, 6-0, 6-4 in a scrappy affair under floodlights.

Seles, a winner on her debut here in 1990 as a 16-year-old, made a barnstorming start against an opponent who only turned 17 last month but who ousted defending champion Venus Williams on Thursday night.

But it quickly became a thrilling battle between two former Yugoslavs -- Dokic's parents having emigrated to Australia in 1994, the same year as Seles was granted American citizenship.

The second set went with serve until Dokic, who reached the Wimbledon quarterfinals last year which included a stunning win over Martina Hingis, broke for 4-2 and served out to love with some extraordinary winners -- one of them a backhand into the right-hand corner which Seles had just vacated, completely wrongfooting the American.

Dokic was on a roll and an upset looked on the cards as she broke the former world number one for 2-1 in the third set.

Instead, the setback only prompted Seles to move up a gear and win four consecutive games, taking the match when Dokic finished a superb rally by ballooning a backhand from the back of the court.

"I started off playing really well and then I let Jelena in, and she started playing some amazing points at some key times," Seles said.

"I was very impressed with how she played under pressure. Whenever she was down, she served unbelievable.

"But she's one of the toughest fighters out there on the Tour. She's a hard-hitter. And if she's playing well, she's a very tough opponent."

Seles' next opponent, Morariu rallied from a set down to beat Italian wild card entrant Giulia Casoni 3-6, 6-4, 7-5 -- to the disappointment of the Centre-Court crowd.

Mauresmo's centre court tie turned into a near two-and-a-half hour marathon when the 12th seed missed a match point in the second set, and then needed four more chances in the final set to overcome the Spaniard.

Asked why she needed so much time to finish the job, Mauresmo said: "Because I couldn't make that match point in the second set. She fought very hard, as she always does, and I got a little bit tense.

"But I'm happy. I came through mentally in the third set to make it 6-4."

Mauresmo, who fell to Mary Pierce in the semifinals last year, reckons she has a better chance of reaching the final this time around.

CROSSWORD *By Eugene Sheffer*

ACROSS

1 Snitched
5 Perched
8 Neighbor of Nigeria
12 Cupid's forte
13 Abbott's first baseman
14 Angelic glow
15 Sharp birthrate increase
17 1982 Flock of Seagulls hit
18 "No seats" abbr.
19 Powell co-star
20 Bloodhound's clue
21 Half-pint
22 Elation
23 Woodshop machine
26 Toilod
30 See 42-Across
31 Humongous
32 Pac 10 Sch.
33 Overflowed
35 Sinuous
36 Accomplished
37 Navigation hindrance
38 Intrinsically
41 Brewery vat
42 With 30-Across, fronton sport
45 Oodles
46 Something simple
48 "Casablanca" heroine
49 Early bird
50 "Oh, woe!"
51 Antelope's playmate
52 Born
53 Fire: Prefix

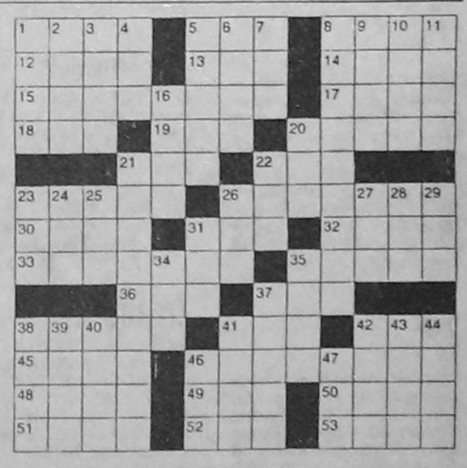
DOWN

1 Surveillance
2 Gen. Bradley
3 Timber wolf
4 Desiccate
5 Dive suddenly
6 "Hey, sailor!"
7 Jerry's pursuer
8 "Blondie" creator
9 Tortoise's opponent
10 Attorney Dershowitz
11 Admonition word
16 Despondent
20 Show despondency
21 Shirley Temple, e.g.
22 Binge
23 Musical notes
24 Jungfrau, e.g.
25 Skater Babilonia
26 Cap
27 GE merger co.
28 Wapiti
29 Rotation duration
31 Foundation
34 Commit perjury
35 Miller's "All My —"
37 Rich, chewy treat
38 Word stamped on a receipt
39 Model Macpherson
40 Climbed
41 Buster Brown's dog
42 Summer month
43 Miles away
44 In which case
46 Barbie's beau
47 Spigot

Solution time: 28 mins.

F	E	W		W	A	S		R	O	M	P
O	L	E	S		E	T	A		E	R	G	O
O	M	N	I		I	O	L		A	I	M	S
D	O	D	G	E		M	E	N	D			
			H	A	T		M	O	T	H	E	R
C	L	U	T	T	E	R		W	H	A	L	E
H	E	R	R		N	O	U		E	V	E	N
E	A	G	E	R		C	O	L	L	E	C	T
W	R	E	A	T	H		S	E	A			
			D	E	A	D		A	B	O	V	E
T	H	A	T		B	O	S		E	V	I	L
W	A	R	N		I	N	K		L	E	A	K
O	L	E	G		T	E	Y			R	L	S

yesterday's answer



CRYPTOQUIP

V I H E K N H Z Z A Q K P H U N H K V V D M H H V I H A D P V D U J H P Q E M H M I H I Q A Q J Q Z Z H V - Q P I H .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I THINK THAT THE BIG COOKING-OIL FACTORY ONLY DOES ITS BOTTLING ON FRY-DAYS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A 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.