READER'S REACTION

Trip down the memory lane

My attention has been drawn to the write-up "Trip Down the Memory Lane" by Hasan Masood published in your esteemed daily on June 27. The writer has missed some vital facts while undertaking the journey down the memory lane which needs to be corrected for making the record straight. Immediately after the liber-

ation of the county, cricket as an organised game faced possible extinction as it was being looked upon as a bourgeois game by the establishment. Although a Cricket Board was formed on paper but very little was done for the development of the game by those who now claim to be champion of cricket by virtue of being founder office bearer. At this juncture Reza-E-Karim held the mantle of cricket and set the ball rolling. Bangladesh Cricket Control Board was reconstituted in 1975 with late S.S Huda, Raisuddin Ahmed and Reza-E- Karim as president, general secretary and joint secretary respectively. The new Board took the challenge of recognising and rejuvenating cricket in Bangladesh in its true perspective and the claim of ICC membership gained momentum. The new Board started different tournaments including National Championship. The longer version was introduced in the semi-final and the final of the National Championship. In the meantime, Robin Marlar of the Sunday Times of London wrote an article captioned "Wither Cricket in Bangladesh." After going through the article, he was contacted for his assistance for ICC membership and he responded positively. In response to the application, the Secretary of ICC advised the Board to invite the MCC cricket team to visit Bangladesh and on the basis of their tour report Bangladesh's cases for membership will be considered. Accordingly, MCC was in-

that point of time the affairs of ICC used to be looked after by MCC. Bangladesh Cricket Board at that time did not have any fund and literally no assistance from the government or the NSC. BCCB was in real trouble in arranging the visit. Raisuddin Ahmed being a Senior Executive of the national airlines used his influence and persuaded Biman to provide air tickets to the MCC and Bangladesh team for international and domestic travels. So much so Biman operated special flight for ferrying the players from Ishwardi to Chittagong. BCCB for the first time organised three-day international cricket matches at Rajshahi, Jessore, Chittagong and Dhaka. Without the help of Bangladesh Bunan it was not possible for the Board to organise the MCC tour. For this act. Bangladesh Biman should get due recognition and credit. BCCB worked as a well-organised machine and staged all the marches at different venue smoothly with the active cooperation of the District Associations in spite of the limitations. Having satisfied with the performance of BCCB, the ICC on perusal of the report of the MCC granted Bangladesh the Associate Membership. The foundations of the cricket was at that time laid on a sound footing and progressive development over the following years under successive boards and that have led to the achievement of Test Status. Had the foundation not been laid the present supremo of cricket(!) could not have achieved anything, not to speak

vited to visit Bangladesh. At

Sultana Islam Baridhara, Dhaka

of Test status.

Zvereva fined LONDON, July 9: Natasha

Zvereva on Saturday picked up a 1,000-dollar fine for unsporting conduct after she made an obscene gesture to the crowd during Friday's doubles defeat alongside Anna Kournikova against the Williams sisters. reports AFP.

The Belarus star, 29, received a code violation following the 6-3, 7-6 (7/4) defeat at the hands of wildcard entrants Serena and Venus Williams, who will play Ai Sugiyama of Japan and Julie Halard-Decugis of France in Sunday's final.

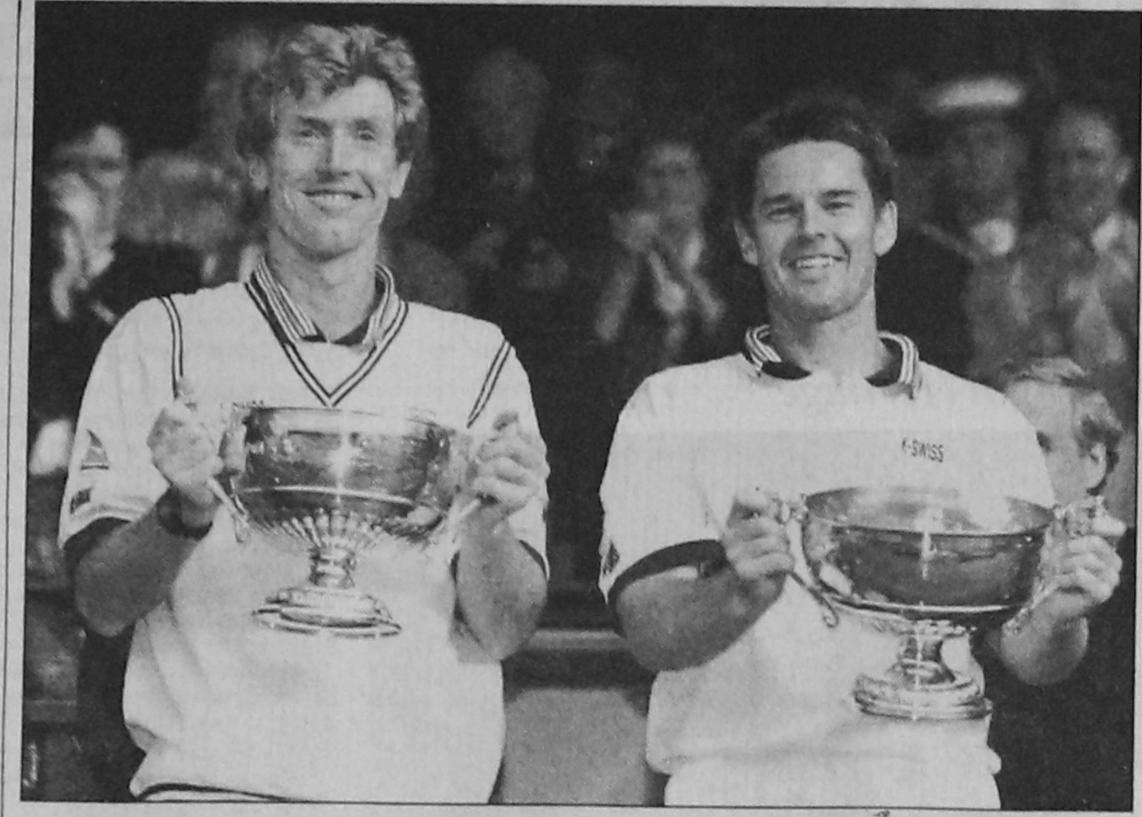
Philippoussis pulls out of Davis Cup

SYDNEY, July 9: Australia's Davis Cup defence has been thrown into confusion by the shock withdrawal of Mark Philippoussis just days before the semifinal in Brisbane against Brazil which starts on Friday, reports Reuters.

Philippoussis, who reached the quarterfinals at Wimbledon before losing to Andre Agassi, has returned home to Melbourne and has a knee injury. putting enormous pressure on

Wimbledon finalist Pat Rafter. Rafter, who was playing Pete Sampras in the final today, now faces having to fly back to Australia as soon as possible to prepare for the first day of Davis Cup singles alongside Lleyton Hewitt.

Australian Davis Cup captain John Newcombe had said he wanted to rest Rafter until the doubles match on Saturday. "It looks like Philippoussis has pulled out so I have to play on Friday," Rafter said at his news conference in London after beating Andre Agassi in five sets in the Wimbledon semifi-



THE INVINCIBLE WOODIES: Todd Woodbridge (R) and Mark Woodforde (L) hold their trophies after winning the Wimbledon doubles final on July 8. - AFP photo

Woodies' last waltz

LONDON, July 9: The pair that just can't stop winning

did it again on Saturday as the 'Woodies' picked up their sixth Wimbledon men's doubles crown, reports AFP.

Top seeds Mark Woodforde and Todd Woodbridge of Australia captured the title by ousting second seeds Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands and Australia's Sandon Stolle 6-3, 6-4, 6-1 in 1hr 37min.

The match had earlier been interrupted by rain with the Woodies leading 5-2 in the opening set.

Haarhuis and Stolle saved one championship point, but Stolle then netted a backhand volley to concede the match and the delighted Woodies embraced and then bowed to the crowd.

Woodforde asked for and got a ball from the match as a souvenir as he is retiring at the end of the year.

The pair were given a huge ovation as they lifted their silver bowl trophies after being announced and feted as the pair "affectionately known as the Woodies."

The Aussies cemented their position as the greatest pairing of all time by winning the French Open title last month and here they scored their fourth straight title success this season for what was also their 11th Grand Slam erown and record 60th overall as a team.

Should they also win the US Open this autumn they will equal compatriots John Newcombe and Tony Roche, who

won a record 12 doubles Slams. They are also hoping to emulate their Atlanta gold medal with another victory at the Olympic Games in Sydney.

better way to finish than by winning here. It was so dear to us to be able to stand there as winners and wave goodbye," said Woodforde.

"I think it makes it a heck of a lot easier to be able to say goodbye to a tournament which has meant so much to us." And he added: "I'm looking

forward to doing something at my own leisure. I've had a lot of enjoyment but I've played this game long enough. "There aren't any goals there any more after this year. There are no more carrots dangling in

Woodbridge was also delighted -- though his joy here has been tempered by his being dropped from the Australian Davis Cup squad to face Brazil in the semifinal on grass in Brisbane next week.

front of me.

"This was perfect," said Woodbridge, who partly dedicated his win to golfer Payne Stewart, killed last October in a freak air crash.

The Woodies went into Saturday's match on a 20-match winning streak which began at ingly lost heart. Hamburg in May and prior to won six eyents this year -- Ade- nal.

laide, Sydney, Miami, Hamburg, Roland Garros and Queen's.

The Aussies first played together at New Haven in 1990 and this will be their last year as a combination as left-hander Woodforde is retiring.

Once they had taken the "There couldn't have been a opening set it was all over bar the shouting as the pair, who co-starred in Australia's Davis Cup success last December, broke for 4-3 in the second set against the same opponents whom they put to the sword in Paris four weeks ago.

Two quickfire breaks in the third set put them on the path to glory with both players pulling out some stunning shots, no more so than when Woodforde produced a brilliant return to secure the opening break at the start of the third set.

That followed hot on the heels of what looked to be an impossibly low volley from Woodbridge late in the second set which just crept over the tape on the Stolle serve, although Stolle finally brought his serve through.

But the Woodies, keen to make up for losing the 1998 final to Haarhuis and Jacco Eltingh after five straight titles, were not to be denied this time and steamed through the third set as their opponents increas-

For Stolle it was a cruel blow Wimbledon, they had aiready as he lost his 10th straight fi-



An AFP archive photo of American Althea Gibson, the first coloured player to ever win the coveted Wimbledon women's singles title.

WIMBLEDON NOTEBOOK

WIMBLEDON, England, July 9 (AP): Venus Williams may not go to the Olympics if her sister, Serena, isn't chosen.

Venus Williams, Lindsay Davenport and Monica Seles will receive invitations to play next week based on their WTA rankings. Captain Billie Jean King gets the fourth pick.

Asked if she would play if Serena weren't picked, Venus said she'd have to consult.

have to talk to Serena to see tributed his success to being an how she felt. Being in the Australian. "They're tough to Olympics is great. We'd have the beat," said Roche. "You want an opportunity to win two golds, or Australian in the trenches with I would at least. But if Serena you." wasn't happy, I don't think I would go.

"But really, I want to."

UPSET MARTINA Venus' father Richard Williams held up various handwritten signs during Saturday's final.

"The British fans are the best in the world," said one. "Hello Mrs. Williams. I love and miss you," said another, aimed at his wife, Oracene, who was reported watching in the United States.

Nine-time champion Martina Navratilova wasn't

amused. "In a Wimbledon final or any match, really, where one of his daughters is playing somebody else, I don't think there's a place for it. It's not fair to the

opposition," she said. Asked about it, Venus replied: "Everybody has their own opinion.

ON RAFTER

Australian tennis greats John Newcombe and Tony Roche think they know the keys that got Pat Rafter to Sunday's final against Pete Sampras

under," said Newcombe, putting his hands over his stomach. "When he gets into the battle, it's like: you're going to have to

kill me to beat me. Roche, who has served as "I don't know," she said. "I Rafter's de facto coach, at-

ROYAL BOX

The Royal Box was jammed for Saturday's Davenport vs. Williams final. Among the notables were former prime minister Margaret Thatcher and her husband Denis; Virginia Wade, the last British woman to win singles (1977); NBC Sports chief Dick Ebersol; Ken Duberstein, a former White House chief of Staff; former Wimbledon champion Rosie Casals: Betty Boothroyd, Speaker of Britain's House of Commons; former Wimbledon champion Stan Smith.

NEW COACH

David Felgate, criticized for as the match starts," said Marhis coaching of Briton Tim tin Rowley, chief forecaster for Henman, has come to his own the Met Office.

an old chestnut," Felgate said. smartly. There's a good possi-Tim's happy with what he's bility it won't be completely got, I'm happy with what I'm washed out. But they should be doing and if I didn't think I was ready with the covers and put doing a good job I would walk them on smartly,

"The sad thing is, nobody ever walks up in the changing room and confronts me or Tim or asks the questions. They just go on air and get paid their "He's got this great fire down money at this time of the year and then walk away."

JAPANESE PRESENCE

· There could be history made on Sunday when Venus and Serena Williams take on Julie Halard-Decugis of France and Ai Sugiyama of Japan in the women's doubles final on Centre Court.

Sugiyama is trying to become only the second Japanese to win a Grand Slam Title. The only other was in 1975

when Kazuko Sawamatsu of Japan and American Anne Kiyomura defeated Francoise Durr and Betty Stove in the Wimbledon doubles final.

RAINY FINAL Look for Sunday's final be-

tween Pete Sampras and Pat Rafter to be a wet on The Met Office, Britain's Na-

tional weather service, is calling for "at least a 70 per cent chance" of rain at the time of the 2 pm (1300 GMT) start. There is a high probability of heavy showers going through

But being showers, they "I get sick and tired of it. It's will move through fairly

Dreams sometimes come true



England, July 9 (AP): So sure she would win Wimbledon. Venus Williams dashed out and bought her champions

promise to herself, her way to push herself to fulfill her childhood dreams and her father's prophecy when she was

dinner ball gown before she left

Venus and Serena Williams were raised to be champions. and on Saturday the big sister claimed the Wimbledon silver salver - the aptly named "Venus Rosewater Dish" - for a family trophy case that already has the little sister's 1999 US Open cup.

It's the first time in tennis history two sisters have each won a Grand Slam champi-

"We're breaking records and we're moving forward," Venus Williams said. "I always expected to win Grand Slams. This was meant to be.'

When the moment she had foreseen arrived, when she had beaten defending champion Lindsay Davenport 6-3, 7-6, Williams hopped up and down giddily, then scampered up the steps from Centre Court to hug Serena and their father and coach, Richard.

Serena and Richard fought back tears. Venus simply glowed

When the vivacious 20-yearold returned to the court for the

Pete turns to acupuncture

SINGAPORE, July 9: Pete Sampras resorted to acupuncture at a London clinic to relieve a serious injury that threatened his bid for a seventh Wimbledon singles title, the Sunday Times in Singapore said, reports AFP.

When Sampras steps into court Sunday for the finals against Australian Pat Rafter he would have had eight sessions with Beijing-born acupuncturist Sun Yu-Juan, it

Sun, 38, who moved to London eight years ago after practising traditional Chinese medicine and acupuncture, said it was former Wimbledon champion Pat Cash who mged Sampras to see her.

"Pete told me it was I'at whe had recommended him to me " Sun told the daily in London. "The acupuncture treatment for Pete has worked wonderfully Sampras sought treatment

for acute tendentious above his left ankle, the report said. Each session lasted up to 45 minutes. "It has really worked wonders -- otherwise Pete wouldn't be going back there time and time again," said a member of Sampras' entourage.

A grateful Sampras offered Sun and her husband tickets to Sunday's match with seating next to his girlfriend, the report

"When he plays the final, I will go with my husband," said Cash, the 1987 champion

told the daily: "If Pete wins the Wimbledon title on Sunday, he owes me a beer.

Lindsay had her chance

WIMBLEDON, July 9 (AP): Outhit and often caught flat-footed by Venus Williams in the Wimbledon women's final, Lindsay Davenport was still just two points away from turning the match around.

Leading 6-5 and love-30, with Williams serving and admitting she was "feeling pressure and rushing," Davenport was in a spot to block — or at least slow — the match of tennis history.

"A few shots here and there and I could have pulled that set out," said the defending champion. "Who knows what would have happened? She was getting a little tight serving."

But Williams won four straight points - one with thumping ace - as Davenport struck groundstrokes long and

wide to force the tiebreaker "I tried really hard to get back into it ... but it didn't fall into place today," she said.

Davenport, 24, leaves for a week's vacation in Hawaii as one of Wimbledon's best-liked and least recognized champi-

Her first defeat after winning three Grand Slam finals is also a loss for the coffee bars in Wimbledon village, just a fiveminute walk from the All England Club, where she strolled almost unnoticed during the fortnight for a regular morning latte.

Davenport lost because she was slower and less athletic than Williams and because her serve deserted her. She had no aces and won only 29 points on her serve. Williams had three aces and won 40 points on

Davenport had five double faults, high by her standards, although Williams had two more. "Sometime you just don't

serve that well. I was just out of rhythm, maybe," Davenport said. "I don't know. I wish I knew, I would have figured it out then. Davenport played with her left thigh taped. She's been 30 Ref

nursing various injuries for

months and suggested she deserved an award for simply making the final. "It kind of seemed to be the story of the whole tournament - just not playing my best but | 35 Pigeon playing well enough to win."

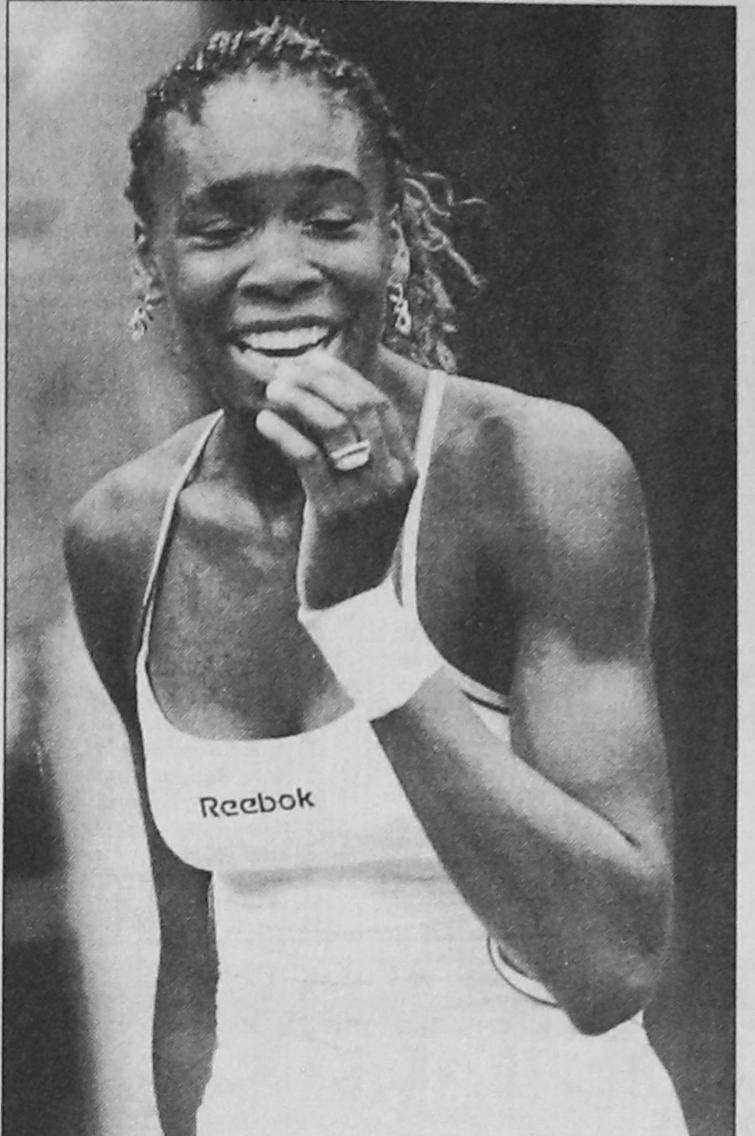
once did in ballet classes, laughing and waving her arms. Her utter joy carried over to a

crowd that laughed with her. seeing something special: the blossoming of a young woman It was her way of making a who could dominate tennis for years along with her sister, and the triumph of the first black woman champion at Wimble-

trophy presentation, she don since Althea Gibson in twirled in half-circles as she 1957 and 1958.

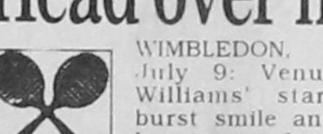
here," Williams said after ac-Everyone knew they were Duchess of Kent. "It's strange. I Slam. When I wake up. it's a nightmare. Now that I've got it. I don't have to wake up like that any more."

Gazing at the huge sterling



TEARS OF JOY: American Venus Williams is overcome with emotion after upsetting defending champion Lindsay Davenport in the women's singles final on July 8. Williams won 6-3, 7-6.

Head over heels for Venus



her joyous leap ran every newspaper in Britain and centuries of being biased." on Sunday reports AP Under the headline "Venus" same theme. in Orbit," The Sunday Times used a nearly full page photo of sisters ... will now change the Williams doing a pirouette on world, change the perception of Centre Court after beating Lind- snobbery that still clings like

and smiling and taking snapshots of the moment. "Not only by her colour and her power and her extraordi- umph of the human spirit." And nary athleticism, but also by the unrestrained whoops of joy

.. The message was loud and clear, tennis is a game for everybody," the newspaper said. "Planet Venus" said The Sunday Express —

Venus" was how The Independent on Sunday put it.

headline feast "Venus de Smilo." read The News of the World.

"Venus over the Moon," said

The Sunday Mirror. The Sunday Express: "Venus had joy exploding from every There was also fascination with Williams' roots in Comp-

ton, California, a blighted

community better known for crime and gang violence than genteel tennis clubs. "An epic journey from Compton to dreamland," said The Sunday Express. "Golden crown for girl of the

ghetto," said The Sunday "Mean streets of America take over the manicured lawns of SW19," said The Independent, playing off the postal code (SW19) for this lush, green Lon-

Henry's 37 Humdinger DOWN

43 Money

46 Extra

50 "... some

kind of

51 Inamorata

Stop"

play-

wright

Jannings

55 Sis' kin

56 Actor

57 Minus

part

spacewalk ADO CU

54 "Bus

back

36 Sml., -, 59 Hawk

CROSSWORD

Catherines 38 Distort

8 Counterfeit 41 Bruce's

5 Adversary 39 Addressee

ACROSS

1 One of

12 Hodge-

podge

13 Proscribe

source

15 Claudia

Taylor

Johnson

17 Advantage

18 Talk a

blue

19 One

21 Non-

24 Poorly

25 Guys'

28 Tackle

box

item

33 NASA

34 1965

Sophia

Loren

movie

talk

streak?

vacillates

clerical

partners

14 Poi

don suburb.

Williams, the second black woman to win Wimbledon folburst smile and lowing Althea Gibson (1957-58). admitted after her victory it was impossible to "change years the Sunday Times lift on the

"To imply that the Williams say Davenport in Saturday's fi- the ivy to Wimbledon's facade is nal - arms extended, feet off the faintly ridiculous."

ground with fans applauding Sunday Express columnist Bob McKenzie called the jour ney from Compton to Wimbledon "interplanetary" and "a trihe saluted Richard Williams. the 58-year-old father of Venus and Serena, who moved the family from Compton in pursuit of tennis dreams.

Richard Williams stepped aside on Saturday not wanting "Welcome to the age of to overshadow his daughter, although several newspapers can-The British tabloids had a tured him holding up handwrit-ten signs from the players box

during the match. was invited!" one of his signs

"One could only guess at the thoughts crowding the head of a man who took his daughters from a Los Angeles ghetto to pursue a dream. The emotion touched all unless they were as sullen as the gray clouds over-

But the greatest achievement of all? One paper suggested it was Venus Williams upstaging Ms. Wimbledon herself - 19year-old Russian blonde Anna Kournikova.

"Anna who?" wrote The Sunday Mirror. "After a final week dominated by those all-smiling, all-American siblings, the All Eng-

land Club has forgotten all

about that young blonde girl.'

concorn

quished

(Abbr.)

27 Spotted

love

32 "Wham!"

34 Boorish

sort

31 Larry's pal

laterally

singing

partner

potentia

43 Deck

part

44 Feminine

suffix

45 Exile

isle

47 Cupola

48 Malefi-

cence

49 Farmer's

homa?

52 Parenthe

sis, e.g.

53 Meadow

grazer

22 Mideast

23 Relin-

By Eugene Sheffer

1 D.C. figures nation

oughta be 25 Jewel

5 Hoover and beetles

8 Heck of a 38 Inches

9 Gambler's 40 Hall's

the boys 29 Rochester's

3 Take the 26 Thorough-

2 What

there

"A" train

4 Missouri

6 Rowboat

need

team-

mates

bargain

alde?

16 Bikini part

10 Desire

58 Blackjack 11 Active one 42 Has

Solution time: 27 mins.

TOMPETTY PISA

Yesterday's answer

7 Tackles'

nine

image of the goddess Venus and "It's really great because I've other mythological figures, plus worked so hard all my life to be the names of past champions. Williams said. "It's better than

cepting the trophy from the the men's cup in my opinion." She earned the trophy and a always dream I win a Grand 690,000 dollar winner's cheque by beating three of the best players in the games: Martina Hingis, Serena and Davenport all only a few months after coming back from a six-month layoff due to tendinitis in both

> She showed in this tournahealthy, but vastly improved from her first visit to a Grand Slam final at the 1997 US Open,

when she lost to Hingis. "You knew eventually she was going to win a Grand Slam." Davenport said. "It's nice to see the monkey get off her back. Both Serena and Venus are going to win more Grand Slam titles. Venus is going to be a lot tougher to beat now that she has this first one under her belt."

Yet more than merely hammering shots, Williams showed she has developed a deft touch on drop shots and a sense of creativity on the court as she exploited Davenport's lack of

"It's tough when your opponent is hitting the ball so hard, on the lines," Davenport said. "That tends to make (the ailments) a little worse. It was just really hard to combat the power that she was giving me and try and run down enough balls on the grass."

Williams saw in the victory justification for all her efforts throughout her life.

"I had a lot of sacrifices, I had a lot of injuries, and I had a lot of tough losses, too," she said. 'But I didn't let that get to me. I kept working hard and I kept believing."

She believed so much she bought the ball gown just before leaving Florida three weeks "I was scrambling around the mall, finding a dress," she

because if I didn't win. I wouldn't get to wear this wonderful dress. I picked it up the day we left. Serena bought a gown, too, thinking she might win her second Grand Slam title. Now they both can dress up for the

said. "It was an extra incentive

sisters are in the women's dou-They have alleady won two Inm doubles titles together and will try for a third against Ar Sugiyama and Julie-Halard-Decugis. They've also

champions dinner, since the

won two Grand Slam mixed doubles titles apiece. "We're racking them up now."

Venus said. At the heart of Venus and Serena's self-confidence is a sense that anything is possible. that any goal can be achieved with enough hard work.

Richard Williams, who grew up picking cotton in Louisiana. knew nothing about tennis when he set out to make his daughters champions. He bought a book on the game, studied pictures of the proper strokes, read advice in magazines and set about to teach Venus and Serena on public courts when they were little more than toddlers in Compton, California, near Los Ange-

When Venus was about 9, he took her to Chris Evert's house in Florida and asked if she could look at her trophies, including the three Evert won at

Wimbledon. "Her father came and took numerous pictures of her." Ev-"It's Venus' Party and no one | ert recalled Saturday. "She was just thrilled to be able to touch a Wimbledon trophy."

> watched Zina Garrison become the first black woman to reach the Wimbledon final since Gibson. This time Garrison watched Venus, sitting near Serena at courtside. The 72-year-old Gibson, who lives in East Orange, New Jer-

> sey, was too ill to travel to

About that time, Venus

Wimbledon but was very much on Williams' mind. "I knew she was watching when Serena won the US Open. Williams said. "She said that she was happy that she got to see another black person win it in her lifetime. So now I think it's really a privilege for me to win this Wimbledon while she's

22 23 25 | 26 | 27 47 48 49 43 44 51 52 53

still alive.

CRYPTOQUIP

DEOMU VNT HMM VTMM VNT LMHYU UPZMM FHMTFKHY, "XE HDHA!

AEO LEPT KT!"

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DO YOU THINK THAT A POLITE SNAKE COULD VERY APTLY BE DUBBED A CIVIL SERPENT Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals L

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 tha puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe

give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.