

'Don't rename it'

ADELAIDE, Aug 31 (AFP): It was not a happy 92nd birthday for cricket legend Sir Donald Bradman.

As family and close friends gathered at his Adelaide home last Sunday to celebrate, it is believed Sir Donald voiced disgust at the recent kerfuffle surrounding his name.

Last year, when he sanctioned the renaming of Burbridge Road to Sir Donald Bradman Drive, cricket's greatest batsman didn't anticipate becoming the centre of controversy.

Now, with businesses clamouring to change their titles to include the new name of the road in Adelaide's west, Bradman and his family have had enough and they want the renaming scrapped, Australian Associated Press reported.

But West Torrens City Council says it's too late — the renaming was gazetted on August 3, road signs have been completed and about 2000 businesses and residents have been informed that the change takes effect next January 1.

Signs of trouble emerged for the Bradman family when a cafe owner on the road moved to change her business name to Bradman's Cafe Restaurant. The Bradman Foundation, the charitable organisation that holds rights to the Bradman name and operates various activities on his behalf, threatened legal action.

After subsequent media attention, a host of businesses along Burbridge Road served notice of their intention to alter their names — including one sex shop which wants to rename itself Erotica on Bradman.

West Torrens Mayor John Trainer sympathised with the Bradman family but believed it was impossible to reverse the road's name change.

"It's most unfortunate that after having originally given their consent, it has caused a lot of concern to the Bradman family," Trainer said Thursday.

"Now the commercial activity has apparently caused quite a bit of distress."

The Bradman family and the Bradman Foundation would not comment Thursday.

New record for Packer

UNDATED (Internet report): Media magnate and legendary gambler Kerry Packer is reputed to have lost 20 million USD in three days of gambling in Nevada.

The amount lost by Packer, whose Nine television network broadcasts cricket extensively, exceeds even his disastrous 16.5 million USD loss over three weeks in London at Crockford's casino last September.

Not that this is anything for him to lose sleep over: Packer's fortune has been estimated at 8.2 billion USD by Australian Business Review Weekly. There is also an upside: he recently won 15 million USD at the Las Vegas MGM Mirage, which then banned him. In addition, he is so vigorously courted by some casinos that much of the money he loses is effectively the casino's in the first place.

Packer's gambling is on such a big scale that he is capable of affecting a casino's value on the New York Stock Exchange.

Gatting fired

LONDON, Aug 31: Mike Gatting, who brought home the Ashes as England captain in 1986/87, has been sacked as Middlesex's director of coaching, the club announced, reports AFP.

Gatting, along with club coach Ian Gould, both of whom first played for Middlesex in 1975, will leave at the end of the current season.

The 43-year-old Gatting retired from playing in 1998 and immediately walked into the coaching job at the club which has endured a torrid time in the past two years since his appointment.

Middlesex are currently adrift at the bottom of the County Championship's Division Two.

In a brief statement the club paid tribute to the loyal service of both coaches and thanked them for all their hard work.

Gatting's country record was one of the finest of all post-war careers. He averaged 50 an innings in championship cricket, though he was unable to match that in Tests.

Nevertheless he played 79 Tests from 1977-95, 23 of them as captain, and led England to victory in Australia in 1986/87.

France friendly England lose Phillips

LONDON, Aug 31: Striker Kevin Phillips on Thursday pulled out of the England squad ahead of Saturday's friendly against France due to injury — leaving coach Kevin Keegan with only three forwards at his disposal, reports AFP.

The Sunderland forward has been troubled by a sore shoulder all week and has been unable to take part in any training sessions.

He returned to his home in the North East late Wednesday as it was concluded that he was not fit enough to travel to Paris — taking the number of withdrawals from the original 24-man party to five.

That leaves Michael Owen, Andy Cole and teenager Alan Smith — who was called into the squad earlier this week as an emergency replacement for Emile Heskey — as the only fit strikers left in the England party.



Frank de Boer, the Dutch international playmaker, poses for photographers with the jersey of his new club Glasgow Rangers on at the Ibrox Stadium on August 30. — AFP photo

Ronald de Boer now Rangers'

GLASGOW, Aug 31: Barcelona's Dutch midfielder Ronald de Boer on Wednesday agreed personal terms on a four-year contract with Glasgow giants Rangers, reports AFP.

Rangers have not yet confirmed the size of the transfer fee but Scottish sources have estimated it to be close to 6 million pounds (nine million dollars).

De Boer, 30, told his website www.icom.com: "My agent Rob Jansen has just completed talks with Rangers and I've agreed

personal terms on a four-year contract.

"I'm about to undergo a medical, which is always a little nerve-racking, but I've been fairly injury-free so everything should be OK on that score."

"Apparently there are a few minor issues to be sorted out between the clubs but I fully expect to become a Rangers player."

"I'm already looking forward to linking up with my new team-mates but first I have to meet up with the Dutch national squad in good time for our match with the Republic of Ireland at the weekend. I'll be flying out later today."

The Ibrox club's spending

spree does not look like ending there with Rangers also holding talks with Wimbledon striker John Hartson over a proposed 7 million pound (10.5 million dollar) move.

Hartson, 25, trained with the Wales squad at Ninian Park on Wednesday morning ahead of Saturday's World Cup qualifier against Holland in Amsterdam.

But his agent Jonathan Barnett is believed to be en route to Glasgow to continue negotiations.

Hartson was on the verge of joining Tottenham last March but the move broke down when he failed a medical.

Bogarde joins Chelsea

LONDON, Aug 31: Dutch international defender Winston Bogarde joined English Premiership club Chelsea on Thursday after being released by Spanish giants Barcelona, reports AFP.

The 29-year-old Bogarde, who arrived in Spain in 1998, was allowed to leave on a free transfer despite being under contract with Barca until 2001.

Bogarde, who can play as a central defender or full-back, has signed a four-year contract.

He announced the move on his personal website, saying: "My ultimate dream came true this morning — a move to England with Chelsea."

"I have signed a four-year deal and join them on a free transfer from Barcelona."

In a busy day of transfer dealings at Stamford Bridge, Brazilian defender Emerson Thome joined Sunderland in a 4.5 million pound (6.75 million dollar) deal.

Thome, who was signed by Chelsea last December, failed to secure a regular first-team place and decided to move on.

He joined Chelsea for 2.5 million pounds (3.75 million dollars) eight months ago from Sheffield Wednesday and made 21 appearances for the London club.

Lazio won't get Zenden

ROME, Aug 31: Italian Serie A side Lazio have failed in their bid to sign Barcelona's Dutch international Bonaventura Zenden, Sergio Cragnotti president of the Roman side said Wednesday, reports AFP.

"The transfer has fallen through for good, it's a pity. I was hoping like Eriksson (Sven Goran) and I was optimistic," said Cragnotti.

Lazio coach Eriksson had been keen to acquire the services of the midfielder, who recently picked up a right calf injury during a friendly against Malaga.

Negotiations had looked on the point of reaching a favourable conclusion, but were scuppered following differences between Barca president Joan Gaspart and new coach Serra Ferrer.

Ferrer did not want to lose the 24-year-old player he believes is crucial to the team's lineup.

Zenden has always said that he would only leave the Catalan side for a move to Rome, and is under contract with Barca until June 30 2004.

Kaiser against captain Bearhoff

COLOGNE, Germany, Aug 31: Franz Beckenbauer has praised coach Rudi Voller for the good work he has done in the last few weeks rejuvenating the German national team but says he has made a major mistake in keeping Oliver Bierhoff as captain, reports AFP.

Beckenbauer, who is vice-president of the German Football Federation (DFB), says Bierhoff does not have enough lobby within the team because he plays abroad for Italian side AC Milan.

Bierhoff is also having trouble winning back his place in the side after a lengthy calf muscle injury and will only start on the bench Saturday in Germany's World Cup qualifier against Greece.

Beckenbauer has suggested goalkeeper Oliver Kahn and defender Jens Nowotny as possible replacements as captain.

Chirac honours 'Les Bleus'

PARIS, Aug 31: French president Jacques Chirac poured praise on his nation's football team Thursday as he hosted a lunch in celebration of the World Cup and European Championship winning squad, reports AFP.

On July 2 at Rotterdam, the French team were crowned worthy European champions. What they accomplished is an incredible achievement. For Les Bleus to give France two consecutive championships which has never been done before makes them the best football team on the planet," beamed Chirac.

Chirac also paid tribute to veterans Didier Deschamps and Laurent Blanc who will leave the international stage Saturday following the match against England as well as coach Roger Lemerre and the player's wives whom he said "boosted the morale" of the players.

Kluivert worry for the Dutch

THE HAGUE, Aug 31: Holland's star striker Patrick Kluivert has picked up a foot injury in training and is now in doubt to play Saturday in the 2002 World Cup qualifying clash against the Republic of Ireland, Dutch news agency ANP reported Thursday, reports AFP.

Coach Louis van Gaal announced he would not know until Friday whether the Barcelona marksman would be fit for the crucial opening round match to be played in Amsterdam.

Van Gaal is already without key players, Jaap Stam of Manchester United and Barcelona duo, Marc Overmars and Bonaventura Zenden.

AFP FOOTBALL BRIEFS

UNDATED, Aug 31: AFP football briefs on Thursday:

INTERNET PELE
SAO PAULO: Brazilian football legend Pele on Wednesday joined the cyber war by launching his own sports website.

The Pele.net site was created at a cost of 20 million dollars by Pele's Sports and Marketing group in conjunction with the Zip.net organisation.

Luis Esteve Pereira, in charge of the site, said that it would act as the World Cup winner's official website as well as containing sports news, but the former star would not write regularly for it.

"We will only use Pele for important events such as the Olympics and World Cup," he said.

The site will be up and running in Portuguese later this week and in English and Spanish from October 31, to mark Pele's 60th birthday.

At the launch Pele used the occasion to criticise Brazil's under-fire soccer coach Wanderley Luxemburgo and the country's president Fernando Henrique Cardoso.

"I respect Luxemburgo as a coach (...) but it's bad to constantly change players for matches," said Pele.

While Pele criticized President Cardoso for his ratification earlier this month of a Pele Law proposal.

Pele no longer wants his name to be associated with the sports law which he helped initiate during his time as his country's sports minister between 1994 and 1997.

The new law is aimed at modernizing legislation concerning the existence of clubs and the running of national championships.

But Pele does not want to be associated with it as it has changed so much from his original idea.

"Businesses are starting to invest in football but this makeshift measure is hampering investment," he said.

MONUMENT IN HONOUR OF GALATASARAY

ANKARA: An Istanbul municipality erected Wednesday a monument to immortalize the victory of Turkish giants Galatasaray in the UEFA Cup, the first Turkish win in a European tournament, Anatolia news agency reported.

The bronze monument, built on a boulevard in Bahcelievler district on the city's European side, was eight meters long and had a diameter of three meters.

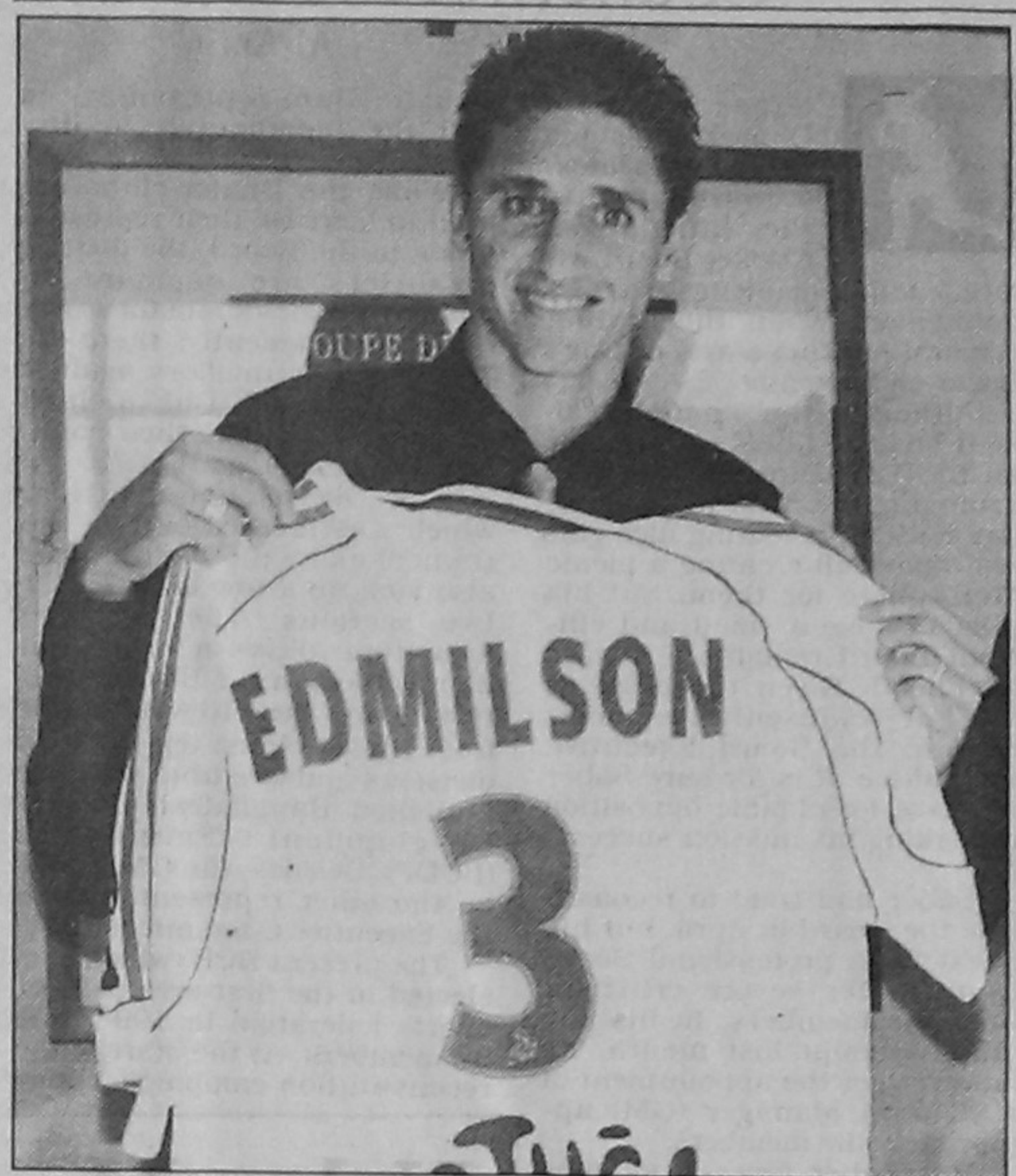
It depicted a lion, Galatasaray's symbol, grasping the UEFA Cup in its paws with jubilating players in the bottom part, Anatolia said.

The monument was named "UEFA Cup 2000," while the site was dubbed "The UEFA square."

Galatasaray were rendered national heroes in soccer-mad Turkey when they beat English Premiership side Arsenal 4-1 on penalties in the final of the UEFA Cup on May 17.

The Istanbul side also won the European Super Cup last Friday defeating European champions Real Madrid of Spain 2-1 with a golden-goal winner in extra-time.

Bahcelievler municipality officials said they had asked Galatasaray managers to fix a date for the formal inauguration of the monument, Anatolia reported.



French First Division side Olympique Lyon's new signing Brazilian international Edmilson showing his number 3 shirt at Lyon's headquarters on August 30. — AFP photo

As good as it gets



NEW YORK, Aug 31 (AFP): Michael Chang has no regrets for tennis dreams left unfulfilled as he rises from a slump and tries to regain top form here at the US Open.

The 28-year-old American, ranked 25th, has advanced to a second-round match at the 15 million-dollar Grand Slam event against 30-year-old compatriot Todd Martin, last year's US Open runner-up who is now 32nd in the ratings.

Chang won his first ATP title in more than two years in July at Los Angeles and proclaimed: "Things are coming along, heading in the right direction."

Chang has never reached world number one, settling for second best, and his only Grand Slam title came at age 17 at the

1989 French Open. His best hardcourt Slam showings were 1996 finals losses at the US and Australian Opens.

"There are still things I would like to accomplish tennis-wise," Chang said. "If I were to retire tomorrow, I would feel I've had a pretty darn good career, nothing I need to be ashamed about or have regrets. I don't feel that way at all."

While top seed Andre Agassi and 13-time Slam winner Pete Sampras have had to focus on tennis to improve, Chang has found too much work produces poorer results.

"I get to a point where I need to let go a little, sometimes not try so hard," he said. "If anything I try too hard. Maybe in the long run that sometimes hurts me."

"The times I'm consumed by

tennis, where I focus so much upon tennis, are the times when I do the worst. It's important to be balanced. That's physical, mental and spiritual. That's when I play my best."

Agassi sees the years of physical punishment Chang's speedy style has inflicted upon the Asian-American's body and compares it to the trials of past number one Jim Courier, who rose to prominence alongside Chang and Agassi.

"Those are two examples of guys that are just more beat up than these days," Agassi said.

"Courier's legs weren't responding. He was always in great shape but he didn't feel like he was moving well. The work, the miles he put on his body — I think it's the same with Michael."

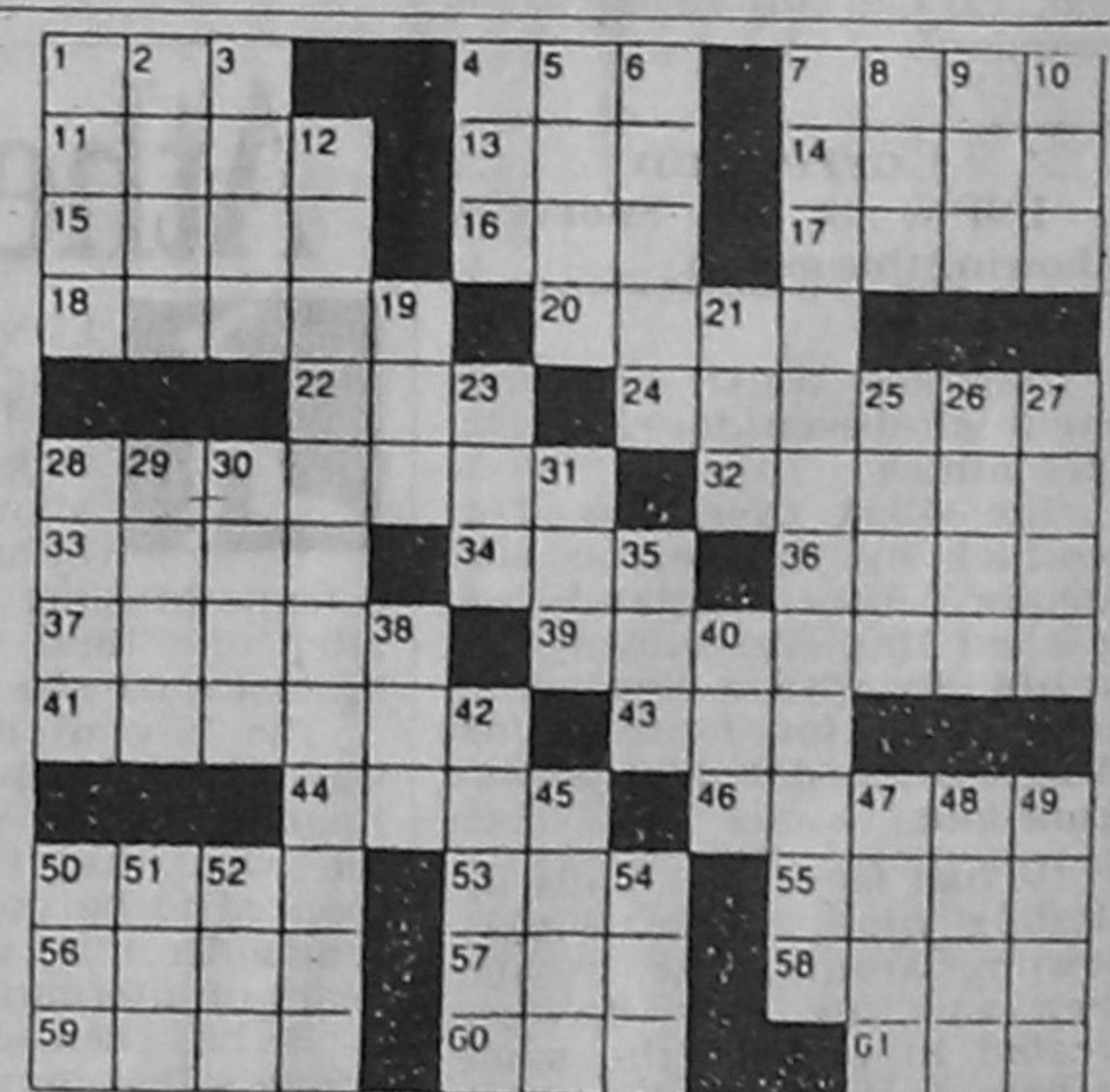


Winners in the Prime Bank Women's Open table tennis championship along with the guests and officials during the closing-ceremony at the Sultana Kamal Women's Sports Complex yesterday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 "Hagar" cartoonist
4 Hobbit's height
7 Toulse
11 Applications
13 Favoring
14 "— take arms against
15 Carte
16 As well
17 Lustrous black
18 Showy flower
20 React to pain
22 Navigation aid
24 Re children
28 Don't move
32 Chain of hills
33 Fonteyn's frill
34 Domino spot
36 Merriment
37 — fell swoop
39 Mid-May honorees

DOWN
2 "Golcha" 21 Melody
3 Gambling 23 Litter
4 game member
5 Sirm-wind 25 Incredibly
6 Weaver's apparatus 26 Antiquing equipment
7 Shepherd-Willis series 27 Sediment
8 Fancy vase 28 Swizzle
9 Pigs' home 29 Albacore
10 Footwear 30 Like — of bricks
11 Unification 31 Cratchit lad
12 Church prop 32 Burst
13 Rid one-self of 33 Shoe width
14 Shrink bark 34 AAA job
15 Commotion 35 Shop prop
16 Jacob's first wife 36 Lab rat's challenge
17 Culmination 37 Michael Jackson album
18 Wish otherwise 38 51
19 Call — day 52
20 Billie Joe's chronicle 54



CRYPTOQUIP

S U T E U T J G K Z S B F Z B
B F N E Z K N Z C Z D M K B
B F N G U T C F M T B B F D N V
D K V T J J U V F U J N K
Saturday's Cryptquip: WHEN BARBERS GO ON VACATION, I BET THEY WILL GENERALLY TRAVEL ON CLIPPER SHIPS.
Today's Cryptquip Clue: J equals L

The Cryptquip 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.

yesterday's answer