

SL, EP tie tour tie

PORT ELIZABETH, South Africa, Dec 14: Sri Lanka's one-day tour match against Eastern Province ended in a tie Wednesday when last man Pramodya Wickramasinghe was run out off the last ball at the PPC Oval near Port Elizabeth, reports AFP.

What had looked likely to be an easy win for the tourists turned into a desperate scramble, with three wickets falling in the last over, bowled by South Africa A seamer Garnett Kruger, who finished with three for 23 off ten overs.

With Sri Lanka needing five to overhaul Eastern Province's total of 220 for seven, Kruger bowled Tillekeratne Dilshan with the first delivery of the final over.

Kaushya Weeraratne was run out trying to steal a bye to wicketkeeper Wayne Murray off the fifth ball and Wickramasinghe came in with one to tie and two to win.

Wickramasinghe hit the ball straight to Eastern Province captain Carl Bradfield at mid-off. The players raced through for a single and tried for a winning second run as Bradfield fumbled. But Bradfield recovered and threw to wicketkeeper Murray with Wickramasinghe well short.

It had looked an easy warm-up for the tourists, who play the first limited overs international against South Africa in Port Elizabeth Friday, when opening bowlers Chaminda Vaas and Wickramasinghe had the provincial team floundering at 26 for three in the 11th over.

But all-rounder Justin Kemp hit a thrilling 93 off 107 balls. Kemp and Carl Bradfield (82) put on 175 for the fourth wicket to enable the provincial team to make a reasonable total after winning the toss.

Eastern Province chose to bat first on a slow pitch on the ground in the black township of Zwede on the outskirts of Port Elizabeth.

Sri Lanka got off to a flying start as skipper Sanath Jayasuriya went on the attack, with 25 scored in the first three overs despite the loss of Romesh Kaluwitharana for one in the second over.

Jayasuriya made 69 off 92 balls but survived three chances.

Lions' African

From page 13 The batsman got settled, then stroke play will become easier as the ball comes out to the bat.

"Our batsmen like to play their shots and I believe that they should be thinking positively about the opportunity of batting on the South African wickets," said Whatmore. "Our pace attack will also enjoy the conditions."

South Africa will have to adapt quickly from playing Test cricket after completing a 2-0 series win over New Zealand Monday but their players are in form.

Ten of the 13-man South African one-day squad played in the Test series - while Andrew Hall, a one-day specialist who will open the batting in both the first two matches - hit an impressive 61 not out off 41 balls for the Nicky Oppenheimer XI in Sri Lanka's first match of the tour last week.

Fast bowler Allan Donald will have to pass a fitness test against New Zealand with a stomach muscle injury.

SQUADS

SOUTH AFRICA (from): Shaun Pollock (captain), Nicky Boje, Mark Boucher, Boeta Dippenaar, Allan Donald, Andrew Hall, Jacques Kallis, Gary Kirsten, Lance Klusener, Neil McKenzie, Makhaya Ntini, Jonty Rhodes, Roger Telemachus.

SRI LANKA (from): Sanath Jayasuriya (captain), Marvan Atapattu (vice-captain), Russel Arnold, Mahela Jayawardene, Avishka Gunawardene, Kumar Sangakkara, Tillekeratne Dilshan, Romesh Kaluwitharana, Muttiah Muralitharan, Upal Chandana, Chaminda Vaas, Nuwan Zoysa, Pramodya Wickramasinghe, Dilhara Fernando, Kaushalya Weeraratne, Muthumudalige Puspakumara.

Impres: Rudi Koertzen and Wilfiedricks (both South Africans).

Lara fit

From page 13 part-time off-spin after Windies' selectors stuck with their four fast bowlers.

The pace will be shared among Courtney Walsh, Marlon Black, Mervyn Dillon and Nixon McLean.

The Windies' pace battery were ineffective at their last Adelaide Oval Test in 1996-97, when the side fell to Australia by an innings and 163 runs.

Samuels, a right-hander from Jamaica, faces a daunting baptism in the Test arena, but captain Jimmy Adams has rated the teenager among the most talented players in the Caribbean.

SQUADS

WEST INDIES: Jimmy Adams (captain), Sherman Campbell (vice-captain), Daren Ganga, Wavell Hinds, Brian Lara, Marlon Samuel, Ridley Jacobs, Nixon McLean, Mervyn Dillon, Marlon Black, Courtney Walsh, Ramnaresh Sarwan (12th man).

AUSTRALIA: Adam Gilchrist (captain), Ricky Ponting (vice-captain), Andy Bichel, Jason Gillespie, Matthew Hayden, Justin Langer, Stuart MacGill, Glenn McGrath, Damien Martyn, Colin Miller, Michael Slater, Mark Waugh (12th man to be named).

Anand edges ahead

NEW DELHI, Dec 14: Indian Grand Master Vishwanathan Anand won the second game against Michael Adams of England to take a one-point lead in the semifinals of the FIDE World Chess Championship, reports AFP.

Russia's 17-year-old sensation Alexander Grischuk drew level against Spanish veteran Alexei Shirov in the other semifinal played on Wednesday night by winning the second game.

The winners of the four-game semifinals will clash for the title in the Iranian capital of Teheran later this month.

In the women's final, defending champion Xie Jun of China drew the second game against compatriot Gu Kangying to maintain a one-point lead.

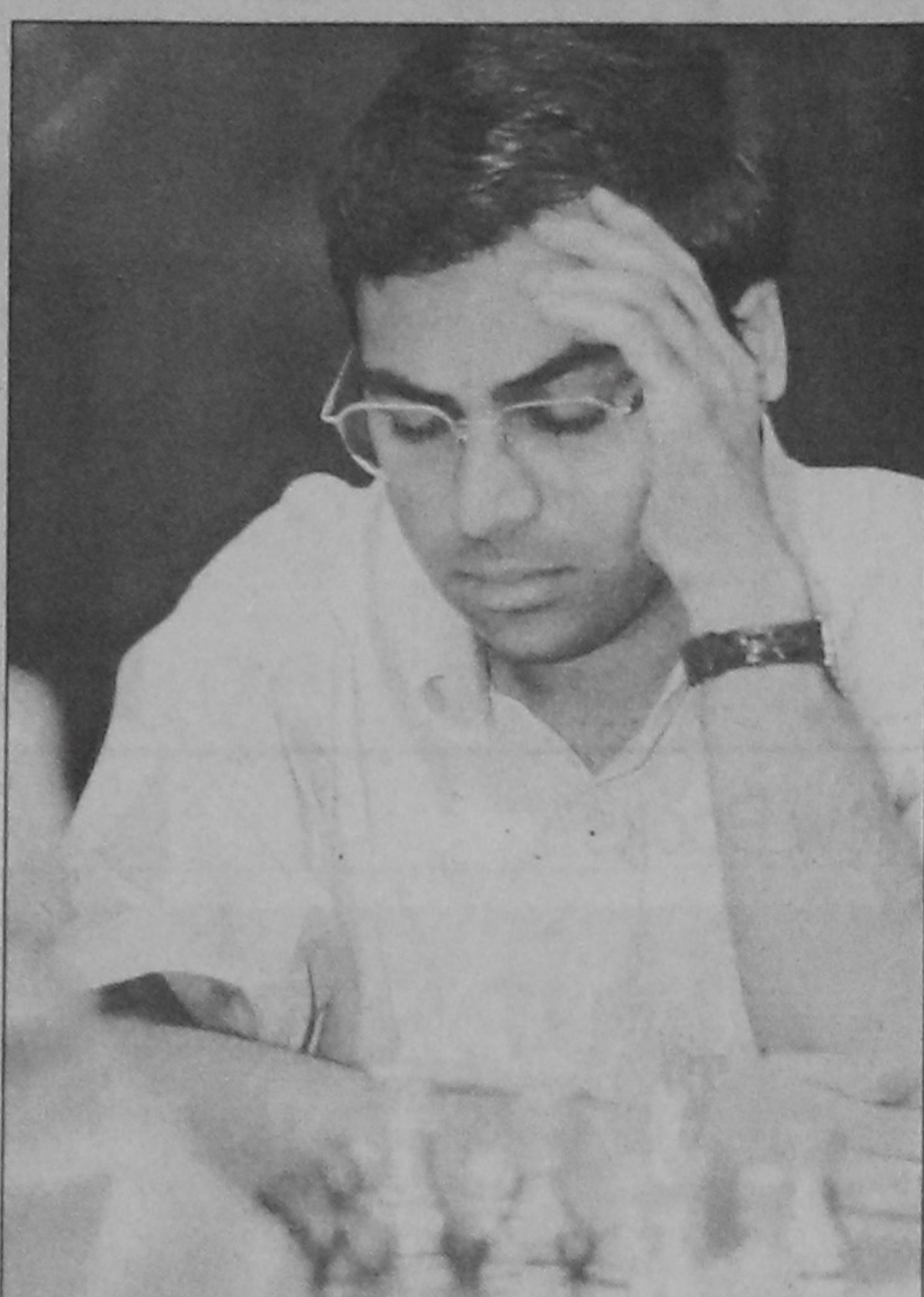
Xie needs a draw in one of the two remaining games to retain the title.

Anand defeated Adams in 36 moves, after the Englishman stumbled in the 24th move of the Ruy Lopez game.

The Grischuk-Shirov match, followed the seven-night variation of the so-called defence, lasted just 28 moves.

The 4.5-million-dollar event does not feature world champion Vladimir Kramnik and Garry Kasparov who are not recognised by the International Chess Federation (FIDE).

Also missing are former world champion Anatoly Karpov and temperamental American Gata Kamsky.



Indian Grand Master Vishwanathan Anand ponders his next move against English opponent Michael Adams during their semifinal engagement in the World Chess Championship on December 13.

Steve's tips for Adam

ADELAIDE, Dec 14: Injured captain Steve Waugh, who led Australia to a world record 12 successive Test wins, has advised Adam Gilchrist to be his own man when he takes over the reins in the third cricket Test against the West Indies starting here Friday, reports AFP.

"Steve said: 'Back yourself and go with your gut feeling on decisions,'" Gilchrist said Thursday.

"Obviously, using the experience around you will help out, but at the end of the day someone has to make the final decision, and for this game I have got that role, so I'll take in whatever I can, but I'll be accountable for what decisions are made."

Essentially, Steve's thoughts were: 'Make sure you go with what your thoughts are.'

Waugh is sidelined with a strained muscle in his left buttock. He is expected to be fit for the fourth Test, starting in Melbourne on Boxing Day (December 26).

Gilchrist, 29, the first Australian wicketkeeper in 32 years to lead his country, said he did not consider there were any special pressures facing himself or the team as they attempt to extend their winning run to 13 Tests and wrap up the current five-Test series 3-0.

"We have had a tremendous run and Steve has done a great job as captain, and I am thrilled to be given this challenge," he said.

"We will go out and play the same way, we have planned the same way and hopefully we will execute those plans in the same fashion."

"If we do that, we believe we are good enough to win a 13th time, but, having said that, we will expect a bit of a rebound from the West Indies."

"I made a statement earlier

in the week that you would not want to be the guy to end the consecutive victory run, but we don't intend for that to happen."

"Not at any stage have we in this run of victories, sat down and thought, 'We have to win this one to keep the run going.' We have simply said that we want to win every Test match we play."

"Winning has become a habit for this team, and it's a nice habit to have."

Gilchrist said he had also been advised by former Australian captain Richie Benaud to do the job his own way.

"He told me to do it my way, saying that if it doesn't work the other guys will certainly not be putting their hands up and saying it was their idea," he said.



STEVE WAUGH

Gilchrist said Waugh had obtained outstanding results in recent Tests after sending the opposition in when he won the toss.

"That's been the way it has gone because of our bowling line-up," he said. "He has been prepared to break with tradition and bowl first - and it has worked very well for us."

"But Steve assesses each game and that is not his set game plan and it will not be-

come my set game plan.

"We are not cut and dried on a decision here yet, and I certainly won't do it just because Steve has been doing it. I'll go on what I think in consultation with the vice-captain Ricky Ponting and the other guys."

Referring to champion West Indies batsman Brian Lara's return to form, with a double century earlier in the week, Gilchrist said: "They were first-class runs, but they were not Test cricket runs."

"Certainly Glenn McGrath and the other bowlers have had the wood on him in the earlier Tests, and we'll hold that in our mind - and I'm sure it will be in Brian's mind - when he walks out to bat."

Gilchrist discounted suggestions he could be overburdened by having the dual roles of captaincy and wicket-keeping, especially if he needed to stand up to the stumps for long periods while the spin bowlers were operating.

"The key to my game will be to make sure I have a clear mind before every ball is bowled, whether it is a spinner or fast bowler," he said.

"There is plenty of time between balls, or between overs, to think things through. It is very much the same when you are batting. You just have to clear your mind and focus on that delivery."

"It is a big responsibility and a great challenge, but one that I am thrilled to be able to take on."

"It is an opportunity to let others see whether I can cope with it. It's a great opportunity for me to work out if I can take on the responsibility and continue to contribute to the team in the manner I have so far in my career."

"If it is only one game, it will be tough to make a conclusive judgement after one match, and I hope people will realise that, whether it is a positive or negative result."

Gala online reported that she allegedly filed a complaint on Friday in a Miami court, Gala online reported, saying Becker had threatened to leave the country with their sons and begging the court to prevent him from doing so.

In the complaint, Barbara also requested that she be awarded money to care for herself and her children, but highlighting that she did not want a divorce.

Gala online reported that the three-time Wimbledon champion hurried to Florida on Sunday, because of his wife's legal action.

The report follows comments published in the latest print version of Gala, where the 33-year-old former model said she hoped her marriage to the former tennis star could be saved.

"I will not give up, and that also means that nothing is final yet," she was quoted as saying of their recent separation.

Barbara Becker said that she, Boris and their two children would be spending Christmas together, and that there was "still hope".

In the Gala print interview, she also dismissed rumours of new women in her husband's life, saying there were "none that are playing any role".

Bill newspaper suggested Boris Becker was having a love affair with the German hip-hop singer Sabrina Setthi. Britain's News of the World also reported that he has fathered an illegitimate child with Angela Ermakova, a young Russian woman.

Becker, who quit the pro tennis tour last year, announced the couple's separation right days ago, telling German newspapers on Sunday that the marriage had been something he "lost in the fifth set".

Modahl loses court battle

LONDON, Dec 14: Diane Modahl, the former Commonwealth 800 metres champion, lost today her case against the former governing body for British Athletics (IBAF) in London's High Court, reports Reuters.

The judgement rejected Modahl's argument that she did not receive a fair hearing following a positive drugs test in 1994. It rejected her claims that the disciplinary panel was biased against her.

In my 6-1/2 year struggle I have experienced success as well as setbacks, Modahl said. "The judgement makes it very clear that my guilt or innocence was not in question."

Modahl will appeal against the ruling. She was claiming 300,000 pounds (\$732,000) in damages and the same in costs.

Women's cricket English hopes dashed further

WELLINGTON, Dec 14: New Zealand triumphed over England by 93 runs at the women's World Cup cricket tournament in Christchurch today, reports Reuters.

The loss was another blow to England's slim semifinal hopes. They sit fifth on the points table behind South Africa.

Both teams have three wins but South Africa has a game in hand and a better run-rate.

Ireland picked up their first win of the tournament, beating the Netherlands by 41 runs in a bottom of the table clash.

Unbeaten Australia lead the series, followed by New Zealand and India.

Results: New Zealand vs England **NEW ZEALAND:** 238/8 (50 overs, Rebecca Rolis 65, Emily Drummond 53, Dawn Halden 2-48).

ENGLAND: 145/147 (50 overs, Arran Thompson 27, Melissa Revnard 20, Katrina Keenan 3-16).

New Zealand won by 93 runs.

Ireland vs Netherlands **IRELAND:** 232/6 (50 overs, Caitriona Beggs 66 not out, Anne Linehan 54, Sandra Kottman 2-38).

NETHERLANDS: 191/8 (50 overs, Rowan Milburn 71, Tessa van der Gun 43, Saibh Young 2-32).

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Match-fixing One nabbed in England

LONDON, Dec 14: British police investigating the alleged attempted bribery of former international cricketer Chris Lewis, arrested a 33-year-old London man on Wednesday, reports AFP.

The man, who has not been named, is helping police with their inquiries at a central London police station, the Metropolitan Police said.

Police were called in to investigate allegations of match-fixing on August 3 last year when a player contacted the England and Wales Cricket board (ECB).

It emerged that the player was former England all-rounder Lewis, who claimed he had been asked to approach players and offer them money in return for throwing a Test match.

The match in question was England's third Test against New Zealand in 1999 at Old Trafford, Manchester.

The players involved in the Test were reportedly unaware of the alleged attempted match-fixing.

It is understood the arrested man is not a player or cricket official.

Barbara wants to keep her sons

HAMBURG, Dec 14 (AFP): Boris Becker's wife, Barbara, has filed a complaint in the US courts to block her husband from leaving the country with their two sons, Gala magazine reported Wednesday in its online edition, says AFP.

Barbara Becker, who is currently on Florida's Fisher Island near Miami, where the couple owns a home, is attempting to prevent the tennis star from leaving the United States with Noah Gabriel, 6, and Elias Balthasar, 11, the magazine reported, citing "reliable sources".

She allegedly filed a complaint on Friday in a Miami court, Gala online reported, saying Becker had threatened to leave the country with their sons and begging the court to prevent him from doing so.

In the complaint, Barbara also requested that she be awarded money to care for herself and her children, but highlighting that she did not want a divorce.

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Hasibul

From page 13

Table with columns: Topshot, Extras, Total, Fall of wickets, Bowler, Al-Anim, Tariq, Hasan, Rana. Rows: O, M, R, W.



An AFP file photo of German tennis star Boris Becker and his wife Barbara.

World doubles C'ships Seeds sent packing

BANGALORE, Dec 14: The ATP World Doubles Championships got off to a stunning start in Bangalore Wednesday with the top three seeds crashing to embarrassing defeats, reports AFP.

Top seeded Rick Leach of the United States and Ellis Ferreira of South Africa were shocked by late entrants Simon Aspelin and Johan Landsberg of Sweden, who won 6-1, 3-6, 6-1.

Second seeds Paul Haarhuis and Sandon Stolle fell to local favourites Mahesh Bhupathy and Leander Paes 7-5, 6-4.

Completing the topsy-turvy opening to the 750,000-dollar event were Don Johnson of the United States and Piet Norval of South Africa, who brushed aside third-seeded Americans Alex O'Brien and Jared Palmer in straight sets 7-5, 7-6 (9/7).

In the day's fourth match, Australians Joshua Eagle and Andrew Florent shrugged off a spirited fightback from Jamie Ooms of Brazil and Daniel Orsanic of Argentina to win 6-1, 3-6, 6-4.

With all teams still having two more matches in the preliminary groups, the favourites are not out of contention yet.

Aspelin and Landsberg, ranked 16th in the world, were last-minute replacements for David Adams and John-Laffnie de Jager who pulled out be-

cause of a wrist injury to Jager.

But they showed no signs of nerves in their first world championships by outplaying Leach and Ferreira in the first and third sets after a momentary lapse of concentration in the second.

"To beat a great team like them is quite unbelievable," Aspelin said. "We got everything right, and they did not."

"But we have to ensure it was not a one-off thing. We have the potential to go far in this tournament."

Paes and Bhupathy, the former world champions, who slipped to 55 in the rankings this year, struck timely form to beat the world number three pair of Haarhuis and Stolle.

The Indians wrapped up the first set in 37 minutes after breaking veteran Dutchman Haarhuis' serve in the 11th game.

Haarhuis and his Australian partner Stolle lit back immediately to go 2-0 up in the second set, but Paes and Bhupathy fought off the threat by breaking Stolle in the fifth game.

Haarhuis and Stolle saved four match points before the Australian netted the fifth to give the Indians victory.

"We are back," Paes declared later. "I knew we had a good chance in the first match because it takes time to settle down."

"We were a little rusty at the

start, but then Mahesh hit some superb winners and the pressure was off."

Norval and Johnson, who have won three of their five finals this year, also said they were confident of winning against the fancied O'Brien and Palmer.

"They are one of the best teams in the world, but we were confident because we had beaten them at Stuttgart in straight sets a few months back," Norval said.

"That gave us hope that we could do it here. Hopefully we can now win one of our remaining two matches and enter the semi-finals."

Johnson said he and Norval were not the only ones who wanted the match to finish in straight sets.

"The crowd wanted us out of the court and we obliged them," the big American said, referring to the keenly awaited next match featuring the Indian pair.

Palmer and O'Brien said the match was closer than the scoreline suggested.

"Twice we were a point away from winning the second set," O'Brien said. "We were playing well and I think the result would have been different if the match had gone into the third set."

"But that's the way life goes. It's now up to us to win the next two matches and qualify."

Calling Phillippouss!

SYDNEY, Dec 14: Australia will have the best squad in the world next year if Mark Philippoussis makes himself available for Davis Cup, new team leaders John Fitzgerald and Wally Masur said Thursday, reports AFP.

It's a big if but the pair believe the enigmatic Philippoussis will agree to represent his country again.

The powerful world No.11, who has missed Cup ties in the past because of injury and fallout with outgoing captain John Newcombe and coach Tony Roche, will receive a phone call from Fitzgerald before Christmas to discuss his availability.

"The best team in the world, best team in the world on any surface," said Masur when asked how strong Australia would be with Philippoussis.

Agassi, Sauppras, I don't care - it's the best team in the world."

Masur said a softly-softly approach would be taken with Philippoussis, who beat Cedric

Poline to win Australia the Cup last year but missed last week's 3-1 loss to Spain.

"We've only just started the job so we've got to get to know the players and develop a relationship with them before we make any grandiose statements about who's in and who's out," he said.

There was some trouble when Pat made some comments after Wimbledon, that if Mark didn't want to be in the team they didn't want him in, and I had a chat with Pat last week.

"He said 'Look, we actually spent a bit of time with Mark during the indoor season, he watched some of our matches and we watched some of his.'"

"It seems to me there will come a time when Mark Philippoussis plays Davis Cup again but how we put a time and date on it, that's a hard thing to do."

Australia's strongest squad would rotate Rafter, Lleyton Hewitt and Philippoussis in singles, with the third playing doubles with either Todd Woodbridge or Sandon Stolle.

"Wally and I want to make it

clear that our door is open to all Australian players and we want them there," said Fitzgerald at the announcement of a 2.0 million dollar (1.08 million US) sponsorship deal between Tennis Australia and Cable and Wireless Optus.

"When I talk to Mark for the first time it will be to find out how he feels. You either want to play for Australia or you don't."

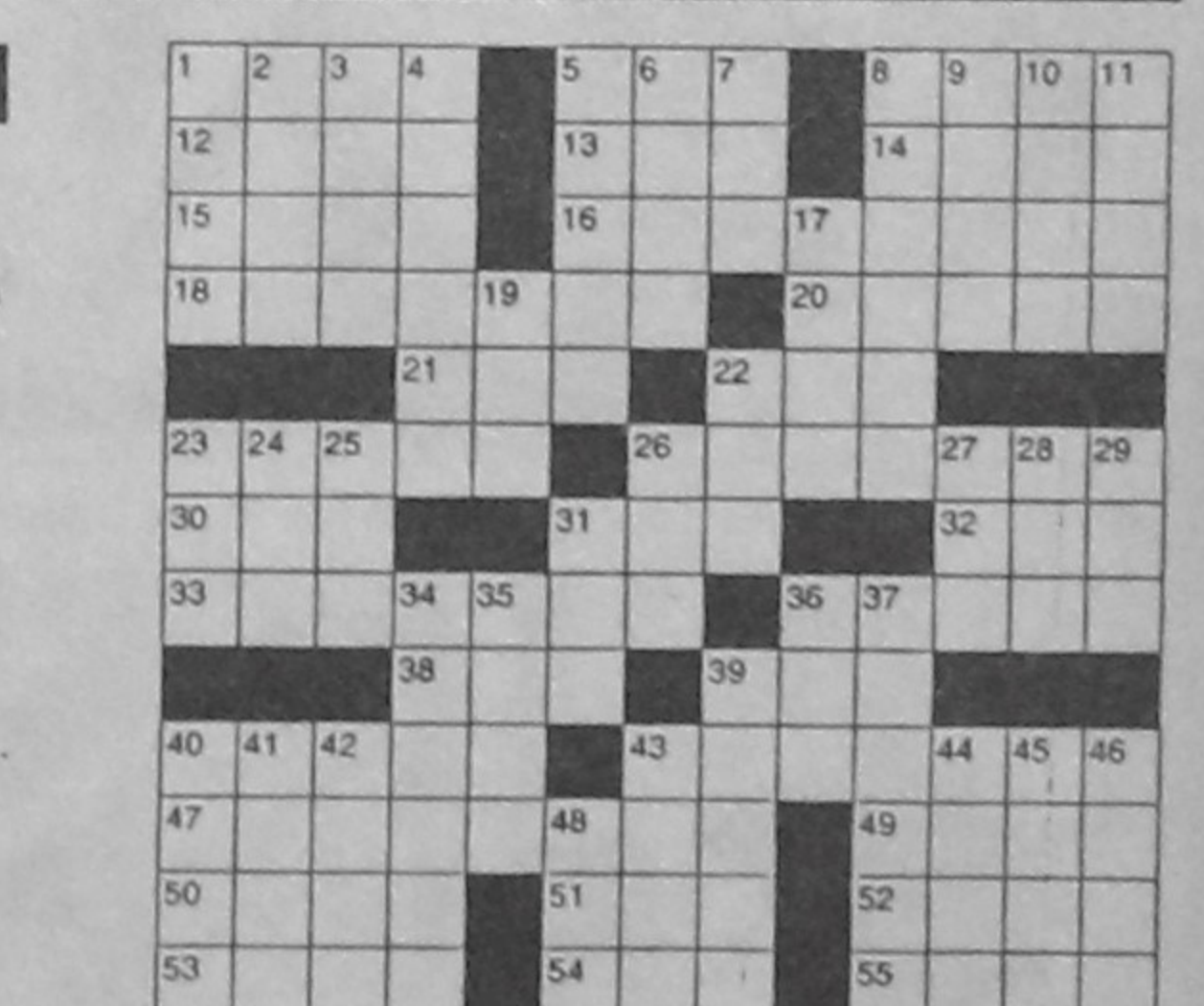
Philippoussis has been dogged by injuries in recent years, missing a number of tournaments as well as Davis Cup ties, and Fitzgerald said he couldn't be blamed for that.

"What you have to be aware of is that players are all different, they have different ages, different issues, different backgrounds, and they have different bodies and injury problems," he said.

"Some players are inclined to be more injured than others. It's up to the captain and coach to form a relationship with them so that you've got an open and honest relationship, mutual trust and you've got to be able to talk about things."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 40 Handed out hands 43 Mother of Richard I 47 Style 49 Peaceful flyer 50 Wellington of NFL lore 51 Definite article 52 Oklahoma city 53 - about (approx-) 54 Scuttle 55 Fishing equipment 56 Scurvy remedies 21 Frequently, in verse 22 Piscine rudder 23 Intimidate 26 Lament poetically 30 Sort 31 Whatever amount, e.g. 32 Garfield, e.g. 33 Boost 36 Informative symbol 38 Exploit 39 Spillover



DOWN 2 Ullulate 3 "Under-stood" 4 Sunday speech 5 Blood-hound's trail 6 Scott's 7 Citric cooler 8 Sore 9 Suds 10 Zits 11 Deteriorate 12 Rates 17 Ballet bend 19 Little new 23 Linguish 24 Every iota 25 Luau music-maker 26 Compass pt. 27 Afloat 28 Floor 29 Biblical verb suffix 31 Noshed 34 Crass 35 "The Thin Man" pool 36 "Holy cow!" 37 Evidence a pinprick 40 Show-room auto 41 Verbo 42 In plane language? 43 Canyon sound 44 Forbidden action 45 "Morphoses" poet 46 Cincinnati squad 48 Ultimo

CRYPTOQUIP

F H L G A F M L N H M Q L N O C D Z W T J D D O M N H T N G F H T, " C Q F M ' J M Q N Q D W T Z A ? " Yesterday's Cryptiquip: WHENEVER A RAVEN GETS DRY, I BELIEVE THAT IT GOES DIRECTLY TO A CROW BAR. Today's Cryptiquip Clue: F equals A

The Cryptiquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals Q, 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.