

FedEx V-Day basketball

UNB, Dhaka
Bangladesh Army became Group-B champions in the FedEx Victory Day basketball beating Josephite Club 100-82 points at the Dhanmondi gymnasium yesterday.

The winners led the first half 50-34. Humayun caged 23, Iqbal and Mustafa 17 each for Army while Josephite's foreign recruit Abdullah boxed 22, along with Osman 23 and Bony 18.

Saints beat Bangladesh Police 99-81 after leading the first half 37-33 in the day's another match. Theu scored 29, Richard 22 and Scot 16 for the winners while Kahier caged 28, Asad 24 and Ishtiaq 21 for the losers.

The first semifinal between Bangladesh Navy and Bangladesh Rifles will take place at the same venue today while the second semifinal between Bangladesh Army and Dhumketu Club will be held on Monday.

The final will be held on January 30 at the same venue at 4pm. State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman will distribute prizes.

U-13 cricket

BSS, Dhaka

The fourth Under-13 cricket tournament begins today at the Kalabagan Kria Chakra Club ground under the auspices of the club.

Eighteen clubs from the capital and outside Dhaka are taking part in the tournament. Kalabagan Cricket Academy take on Cricket Coaching School in the opener.

New BSWA body elected

SPORTS REPORTER

Rezaur Rahman Sohag and Sarwar Hossain have been elected the president and general secretary respectively of the Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association (BSWA). The election of the executive



Rezaur Rahman Sarwar Hossain

council for the session 2002-2003 were held at the conference room of the National Sports Council on Friday.

The other office-bearers are: Syed Mazharul Parvez - sr. vice-president, Khairul Islam Shaheen - vice-president, Rana Hasan and Shafiqul Alam - joint secretaries, Md Zakaria Hossain - treasurer, Arif Sohel - organising secretary, Md Abul Baki - library secretary, Sahabuddin Shahab - office secretary.

Besides, 11 executive committee members were also elected.

India keep

FROM PAGE 13
a modest total on a batting pitch.

The tourists started well with a 42-run stand off 43 balls between openers Trescothick and Nick Knight (10) before losing their way.

The openers and Hussain all fell in the space of 19 runs.

Trescothick batted aggressively and hit five fours in his 34-ball knock before being caught behind just when he had begun to dominate the Indian attack.

Hussain fell to a poor shot, pulling straight to Harbhajan Singh at mid-on to give Bangar his maiden wicket in his opening over.

Holloake and Snape led a mini resurgence later in the innings, scoring 70 for the seventh wicket, the highest partnership of the innings and ensuring England would pass the 200 mark.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the third one-day international between England and India at the Chidambaram Stadium on Friday:

ENGLAND: 217 all out in 48 overs (M Vaughan 43, J Snape 38, B Hollioake 37, M Trescothick 36; A Agarkar 4-34, A Kumble 2-37)

INDIA: Tendulkar lbw b Snape 68, Sehwag c Trescothick b Snape 51, Laxman b Hoggard 26, Mongia c Foster b Hoggard 21, Badani c Foster b Gough 12, Bangar c Trescothick b Hoggard 1, Ratna not out 29, Agarkar not out 6, Extras: (lb-4, w-2, nb-1) 7, Total: (For 6 wks in 46.4 overs) 221

Fall of wickets: 1-107, 2-130, 3-165, 4-172, 5-174, 6-201

Bowler O M R W Gough 10 0 55 1 Hoggard 10 1 52 3 Flintoff 10 0 27 0 Hollioake 4 0 17 0 Snape 10 0 47 2 Collingwood 2 0 12 0 Vaughan 0.4 0 7 0

Result: India won by four wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Sachin Tendulkar.

Next match: Kanpur on Monday.



Australia's Adam Gilchrist is bowled by New Zealand fast bowler Shane Bond during Saturday's one-day in Adelaide.

Australia Bonded

AFP, Adelaide

An electrifying spell of pace bowling by Shane Bond propelled New Zealand to a third straight victory over Australia in a tri-nation one-day cricket clash at the Adelaide Oval Saturday night.

The Kiwis won by a huge 77 runs, routing the World Cup champions for 165 after New Zealand scored 242 for five wickets.

Bond, nicknamed the Canterbury Express, snapped up wonderful figures of 5-25 from 9.2 overs to win the man-of-the-match award.

But an angry Australian captain Steve Waugh clearly laid the blame for the result at his batsmen, criticising them for their lack of application.

"I don't mind losing if we're getting in there and fighting and scrapping," he said.

"But we're losing too easily, which is disappointing. It's just a matter of concentration and application."

"We have done it well in the past, but we're just not doing it now. However, I know we can turn it around."

New Zealand snatched a bonus point because of the big margin of their win and emerged from the one-sided match with five points.

Their win takes them to 17 points - eight ahead of Australia and nine in front of South Africa in the round-robin tournament.

The Black Caps, who beat Australia by the same 23-run margin

in Melbourne and Sydney, are now almost assured of a place in the best-of-three finals early next month.

Their opponents in the show-down will be decided by results in the remaining four qualifying encounters over the next eight days.

New Zealand and South Africa lock horns here Sunday.

Fleming said if his side beat South Africa they would look at resting players in their remaining two qualifying games.

"We'd like to put tomorrow away, put more points on the board and then think about that," he said.

"We've targeted this weekend as an important one. A finals berth is not quite just away yet, and we would just like to nail it."

In Saturday's match, the Kiwis played an invigorating brand of limited-overs cricket, outclassing their better-credentialed rivals at the batting crease, with the ball and in the field.

Australia nosedived to 26 for four wickets at the start of their innings, when Dion Nash struck with his sixth ball of the innings, jubilantly punching a simple return catch from an out of sorts Mark Waugh (0), who mistimed his shot.

Bond then scythed through the Australian middle order, snatching the wickets of Ricky Ponting (0), Damien Martyn (2) and Adam Gilchrist (21) in the space of 12 golden deliveries.

SCOREBOARD
Scorecard in the New Zealand-Australia tri-nation series one-day cricket match at the Adelaide Oval Saturday:

NEW ZEALAND: McCullum c Gilchrist b McGrath 0, Astle b McGrath 95, Vincent c Symonds b M Waugh 55

Result: New Zealand won by 77 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Shane Bond. Next match: New Zealand v South Africa, Jan 27.

Pak sans Akram in Sharjah

REUTERS/AFP, Karachi

An injured Wasim Akram was Friday left out of the Pakistan squad for their first ever neutral-venue series in the Tests against the West Indies starting next week in Sharjah.

"The selection committee was informed by a doctor that Akram's hamstring problem would take seven to eight days to heal fully so he was not considered for selection," chief selector Wasim Bari told AFP.

Akram bowled only 2.4 overs in the first Test against Bangladesh in Dhaka this month before pulling his hamstring.

But the 35-year-old, fifth on the all-time Test wicket-takers' list with 414 dismissals, refused to accept the injury meant his career was heading for a premature end.

"It's disappointing to miss a series but you can't do much when you are unfit," he told AFP.

"I will bowl in the nets and hope to get fit for the one-day series."

"Injuries are part and parcel of the game and fast bowlers get them most so its not a sign for any premature end."

Bari said Pakistan would review its squad for the three one-day matches after the two Tests against the West Indies and Akram remained in contention.

South Africa and Australia played in England in 1911 while Pakistan and Sri Lanka played the

"This squad is for the Test series so we may think of Akram for the one-day series, it's a matter of how quickly he recovers" Bari said.

Waqar Younis will lead the 15-member squad against the West Indies, a series shifted to Sharjah

final of the 1999-2000 Asian Test Championship at Dhaka, Bangladesh.

In the Pakistan squad to play the West Indies, opener Shadab Kabir has been dropped from the squad that toured Bangladesh, while lanky pacer Mohammad Zahid makes a comeback after being sidelined for three years due to back trouble.

Zahid took 11 wickets on debut against New Zealand in Rawalpindi in the 1996-97 season.

Zahid's last Touting was in 1998 when Pakistan met Australia in Peshawar in a match remembered for Australian skipper Mark Taylor's record-breaking knock of 335 runs.

Zahid last played for Pakistan in a 1998 one-day international in Toronto, Canada, before a crippling back injury forced him out of first class cricket for two years.

"To be honest, I was not expecting to be included in the Pakistan team now as this is the first season I am coming back after the injury," Zahid told Reuters.

SQUAD
Waqar Younis (captain), Inzamamul Haq (vice-captain), Taufiq Umer, Shahid Afridi, Younis Khan, Yousuf Youhana, Rashid Latif, Abdur Razaq, ShoaibAkhtar, Saqlain Mushtaq, Danish Kaneria, Mohammad Zahid, Naveed Latif, Faisal Iqbal and Mohammad Sami.

Coach: Mudassar Nazar. Manager: Yawar Saeed.

Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed, Governor, Bangladesh Bank distributing prizes among the winners of Bangladesh Bank Adarsha High School annual sports competition on Friday.

fault but survived it and one more when Hingis hit forehands long. Finally she held for 6-all with a forehand down the line.

Hingis gained one more match point in the tiebreaker with a backhand volley, but missed a backhand for 7-all.

Capriati then hit a winning forehand down the line, took the set when Hingis hit a backhand wide, and vigorously shook her fist several times.

The two traded early service breaks in the final set before Capriati won the last five games by pressing Hingis into errors.

She finished it with a spectacular lunging forehand crosscourt serve return.

Ctg thwart Dhaka

FROM PAGE 13
BARISAL: Second innings

Tinku c Emon b Hasibul Shaheen lbw b Hasibul Imran c Emon b Taposh Kiron hit wkt b Nahid Salim b Taposh Manju b Nahid

Kamal c Emon b Hasibul Sourav c Rajin b Nahid Sohel b Lulu Rahat c Tusher b Hasibul Saem not out

Extras: (b-14, lb-4, w-2) 20
Total: (All out in 63.2 overs) 136
Fall of wickets: 1-20, 2-21, 3-29, 4-44, 5-115, 6-116, 7-120, 8-134, 9-136

Bowler O M R W Hasibul 19 2 4 42 4 Taposh 12 5 17 2 Naveem 4 2 0 0 0 Alok 11 4 4 30 0 Imran 1 1 0 0 0 Tamna 4 0 9 0 0 Lulu 7 2 13 1 1 Nahid 5 0 5 3

Results: Sylhet won by 153 runs. Khulna v Rajshahi Venue: Cricket Garden, Rangpur. RAJSHAHI: First innings 332 all out in 132.2 overs (Hasanuzzaman 72, Nuruzzaman 47; Tushar 3-81)

KHULNA: First innings 203 all out in 101 overs (Raju 41, Shaon 38, Salim 38, Asadullah 32; Mustakim 5-25, Mustadir 3-50.)

RAJSHAHI: Second innings (over-ninth 88-3) Rafiqul b Tushar Bidyu c Asadullah b Niaz Nuruzzaman c & b Al-Amin Anisur c Shaon b Jamaluddin Sumon c & b Jhoru Hassanuzzaman not out Mostadir run out Mustakim not out Extras: (lb-2) 2

Total: (For 6 wks in 54 overs) 165
Fall of wickets: 1-16, 2-40, 3-101, 4-120, 5-128, 6-153

Bowler O M R W Al-Amin 14 0 36 1 Niaz 8 3 20 1 Tushar 7 0 21 0 Sohel 7 0 29 0 Jhoru 8 2 21 1 Jamal 7 2 7 1

KHULNA: Second innings Parvez c Biddyt b Sumon Shaon c Mustadir b Aminul jr Uzzal c sub b Mustadir Sohel b Ripon Jhoru b Ripon Biplob c Biddyt b Mustadir Salim b Mustakim Niaz b Mustadir Babu c Aminul jr b Mustadir Al-Amin not out Tusher not out Extras: (b-8) 8

Total: (For 9 wks in 65 overs) 113
Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-9, 3-39, 4-44, 5-64, 6-104, 7-106, 8-110, 9-113

Bowler O M R W Aminul jr 11 4 14 1 Sumon 8 4 8 1 Mustadir 19 9 31 4 Mustakim 12 3 27 1 Ripon 15 4 25 2

Result: Match drawn. Chittagong v Dhaka Venue: Mymensingh Stadium. CHITTAGONG: First innings 381 all out in 138 overs (Minhazul 210, Anis 32; Saiful 4-82)

DHAKA: First innings (overnight 303-8) Rashedul b Debabrata Pappu b Suja Jahangir c Arif b Suja Sajjad c Faisal b Sabbir Mosaddek c Arif b Suja Halim lbw b Debabrata Kadir c Arif b Suja Russell c Sabbir b Suja Saiful b Shafuddin Bikash c Arif b Debabrata Khokon not out Extras: (b-34, lb-5, nb-6, w-3) 48

Total: (All out in 128.5 overs) 325
Fall of wickets: 1-30, 2-32, 3-50, 4-111, 5-151, 6-228, 7-232, 8-298, 9-313

Bowler O M R W Debabrata 26 10 71 3 Shafuddin 28 5 83 1 Suja 43 20 69 5 Sabbir 31 8 63 1

CHITTAGONG: Second innings Hakim c Sazzad b Saiful Najim b Bikash Rabbi c and b Bikash Faisal retd hurt Minhaj retd hurt Jasim not out Arif not out Extras: (b-9, lb-3, n-4, w-7) 23

Total: (For 3 wks in 66 overs) 286
Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-3, 3-12

Bowler O M R W Saiful 12 2 43 1 Bikash 17 2 66 2 Rassel 13 2 48 0 Shipon 2 0 7 0 Khokon 3 1 6 0 Halimshah 12 0 63 0 Rubel 2 0 10 0 Jahangir 2 0 7 0 Pappu 1 0 3 0 Sazzad 2 0 1 0 Sumon 1 0 3 0

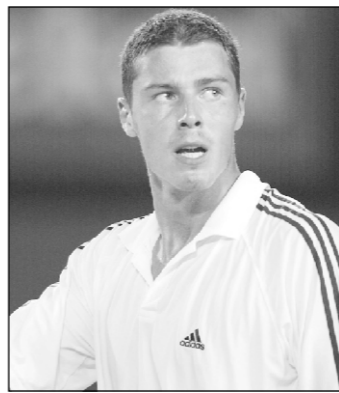
Result: Match drawn.

Fascinating finalists

Australian Open

REUTERS, Melbourne

It's probably not the dream match up the promoters had in mind at the start of the tournament but Sunday's Australian Open men's singles final between Marat Safin and Thomas Johansson could turn



MARAT SAFIN

out to be an unexpected classic. The championship decider was always going to be fought out by two unlikely finalists after a spate of shock results in the first saw the world's top six ranked players all eliminated before the third round - the first time that has happened at any Grand Slam.

Safin and Johansson look advantage of the weakened draw, emerging through the pack to set up a final between two players of contrasting form and personality.

Safin is all power and strength and he likes to blast his opponents off the court while Johansson is a tactician, who prefers to manoeuvre his rivals around and wear them down.

Safin gave the world a glimpse of his precocious talent when he thumped Pete Sampras in the 2000 US Open final to claim his first Grand Slam title but he hasn't made a major final since.

He has a reputation of a player who is easily frustrated and often loses his

concentration but he has shown a new maturity over the past fortnight that suggests he is ready to fulfil his enormous talent.

Injuries and over-confidence effected his form last year but Safin, who briefly held the number one ranking in 2000 - the youngest man in history to do so - believes he is back as a better and stronger player.

"I didn't expect many things last year so I just started preparing for this year,



THOMAS JOHANSSON

that was my goal because I couldn't finish number one in the world last year," Safin said.

"With the confidence you play much better but you have to be careful, it's quite dangerous. But I'm learning, I'm growing up."

Safin, seeded ninth, didn't drop a set in getting to the fourth round but things got tougher for him after that.

He beat Pete Sampras in a tough four-setter in the fourth set that could easily have gone to five then was taken all the way by Germany's Tommy Haas in the semifinals after he seemed to be heading towards defeat.

"I had no chance but I kept on fighting so that was very good. It's very positive for me to find my game at the right time and the right moment."

Johansson was taken to four sets in four of his first five matches and trailed two sets to one in his semifinal against Czech Jiri Novak.

But the Swedish 16th seed, who had never been past the quarter-finals of any grand slam before this, overcame a bad case of nerves to beat Novak in five sets and book himself a place in the final with Safin.

"I'm a little bit of an underdog but I'm going to try my best," Johansson said.

"I'm really, really surprised, because the way I've been playing before this tournament I didn't expect too much."

"But then after the first two rounds I've been feeling great on the court and I've been playing maybe my best tennis ever."

Safin, who celebrates his 22nd birthday on Sunday, has beaten Johansson twice in three matches and is the favourite to win the final but his biggest problem could be the weather.

The Russian hates playing in the heat but with temperatures of 35 degrees forecast for Sunday, he knows he is going to have a tough day against the ice-cool Swede.

"I'm just praying for rain, because I think he's a great player, and against him you have to stay there, you have to fight a lot and just take your chances," Safin said.

"Nobody likes to play against him because he is a very complete tennis player. He is a top-20 player and he's going to be top 10 and he deserves it."

Nestor, Knowles clinch doubles crown

AP, Melbourne

Canada's Daniel Nestor and Mark Knowles of the Bahamas collected their maiden Grand Slam title with victory Saturday in the Australian Open men's doubles final.

Their 7-6, 6-3 win over France Santoro and Michael Llodra of Brazil ended a run of four Grand Slam finals without success for Knowles and Nestor, seeded No 9 here.

Heartbroken Hingis

Australian Open

REUTERS, Melbourne

Martina Hingis wiped tears from her eyes as she sat, head bowed on Melbourne Park's Centre Court, having just surrendered what was

her best chance in three years to add to her total of five Grand Slam titles.

She had led by a set and 4-0 in the Australian Open final against defending champion Jennifer Capriati but ended up beaten 4-6, 7-6, 6-2.

Hingis held four match points in

the second set but Capriati saved them all.

"She just went for it, sometimes you can't be passive at those points ... next time I probably should take charge a bit and try to do something myself but mentally and physically I just wasn't up to it," Hingis said.

Hingis has been a finalist in Melbourne for the past six years but she has lost the last three, two in a row to Capriati.

That means 12 Grand Slams without success stretching back three long years to January 1999, when she won her third consecutive Australian title.

On and on the damning statistics rolled.

Capriati became only the second player in 46 years to survive a match point and go on to win the final, matching Mary Carter's 3-6, 6-2, 9-7 win over fellow Australian Theima Long in 1956.

Hingis won all of her Grand Slam titles as a teenager, the last in Melbourne when she was 18. Outside of Australia, she has failed to reach a Grand Slam final since the 1999 U.S. Open.

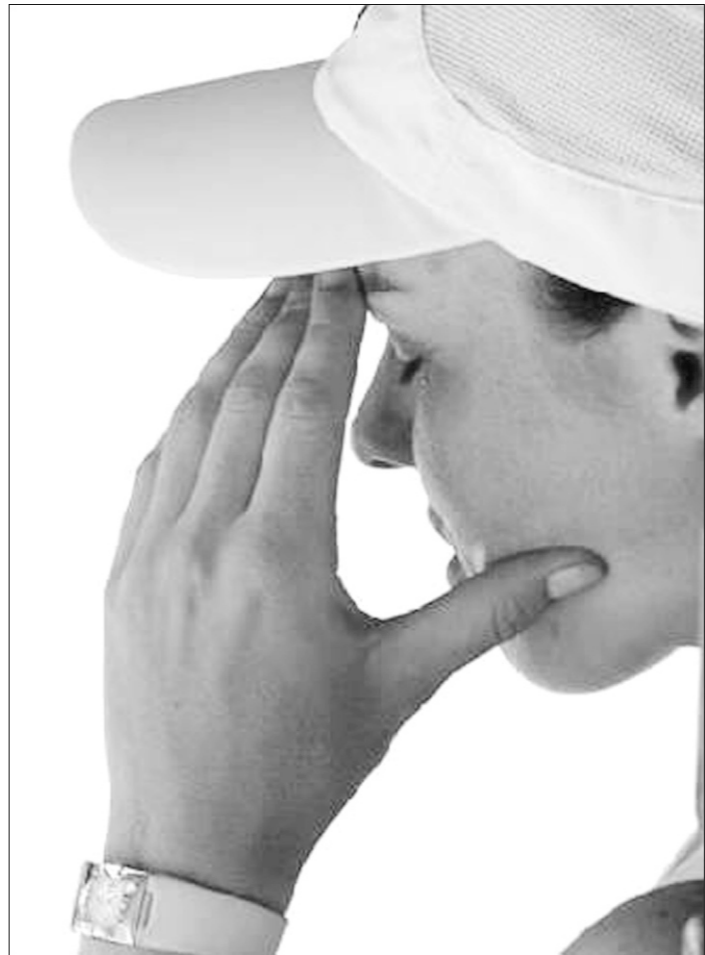
In 1997, at 16 years, three months and 26 days she won her first Australian crown to become the youngest Grand Slam title winner of the 20th century.

That year she went on to become the first player since Steffi Graf in 1993 to reach the finals of all four Grand Slams, winning the Australian, Wimbledon and U.S. titles but losing the French.

The question must now be asked. Can Hingis win another Grand Slam title?

"You can't expect everything to happen right away, it's not like you snap your fingers and you're going to win a grand slam," Hingis said.

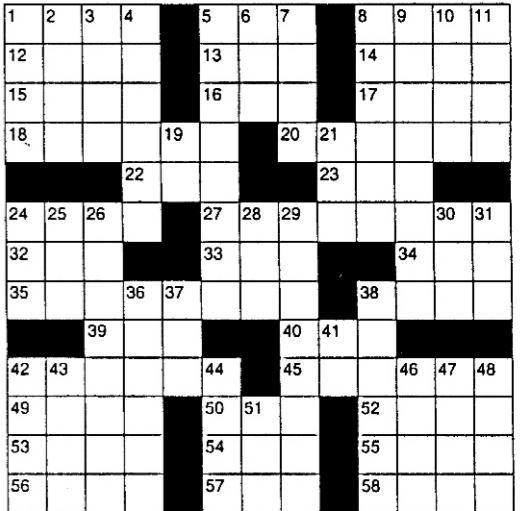
Hingis's struggle for another Grand Slam success has roughly coincided with the rise of power players like the Williams sisters and Capriati.



IT HURTS: Martina Hingis reflects on how she let the match slip away again to her Australian Open nemesis Jennifer Capriati yesterday. The Swiss Miss lost for second year in a row to the American world number one.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 35 1066 57 Young 19 Baseball 1 Metric battle site fellow pos. 38 Phoeni- 58 Enervates 21 "Long, Phony—" 5 Central cian DOWN 24 "Longue—" 8 Rasicals seaport 25 Mara- thoner 12 Bart 39 Plich 1 Pleased 26 Mara- apart Pippig 13 Expert 42 Treated 3 "Clueless" 26 Big 14 Racetrack mali- 4 Fabricated 28 Unit of work 15 More than 45 Well- being 5 Ancient mammal 16 Witneer 49 Elevator 50 Work with 6 Lemieux milieu 52 Paddock 7 Consider 30 Melody 17 City near Lille- hammer 8 O. Henry- esque 31 Ball 18 Flaw 53 Data 8 O. Henry- esque 36 Skin picture? 20 World Series home run leader 55 Barber-shop 10 Tablet 37 Dander 22 Space invader? 56 Monterrey thorn fruit 38 Hoists a glass to 41 Lindbergh book 23 Bestow, to Burns 42 Lacy undergarment 24 Displace 54 Antipol- lution org. 9 Very skillful 37 Dander 27 Tom Daschle, e.g. LITZA WEBB 43 Maine emblem 32 - glance 44 Affaire d'honneur 46 Trevi toss 47 Journey 33 Anglo-Saxon coin 55 Barber-shop 10 Tablet 37 Dander 48 Shortens a skirt 34 Position on the links 56 Monterrey thorn fruit 41 Lindbergh book 42 Lacy undergarment 43 Maine emblem 44 Affaire d'honneur 46 Trevi toss 47 Journey 48 Shortens a skirt 51 Resort



CRYPTOQUIP
S Y M H C C U S H T S C K J Z C
I G T S C F U A H K A I M Y A D A K Z .
O B C A K O D D , C U A G O K A
F M J I C A K B S C C A K Z .
Yesterday's Cryptogram: WHILE MAKING EVERYBODY MARTINIS, I HEARD THE BARTENDER ASKING, "OLIVE OR TWIST?"
Today's Cryptogram Clue: K equals R

The Cryptogram 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