

KYUT STRIKES BRACE

L'pool lucky at derby

AFP, Liverpool



Dirk Kuyt displayed nerves of steel to earn Liverpool a dramatic victory over nine-man Everton as a controversial Merseyside derby ended in a 2-1 win for Rafa Benitez's men at Goodison Park on Saturday.

Benitez's side looked to be heading for defeat against their neighbours when Sami Hyypia's astonishing own goal gave the hosts a first half lead.

But Kuyt kept his cool from the penalty spot to equalise after skipper Steven Gerrard had been fouled by Tony Hibbert in the 54th minute. Everton were forced to play the final 38 minutes with 10 men after Hibbert was dismissed by referee Mark Clattenburg for his foul on Gerrard.

Yet David Moyes's side looked like holding out for a point before Kuyt won it from the penalty spot with virtually the last kick of an absorbing game after Phil Neville had handled a goal-bound shot by Lucas which earned the Everton

captain his marching orders.

The hosts had waited for this game since an ill-advised and graceless outburst from Benitez following February's goalless draw at Anfield.

Annoyed by what he saw as Everton's negativity, rather than focusing on his own team's impotence, Benitez made a reference to "small clubs", much to the fury of all at Goodison Park. The remarks have not been forgotten at Everton.

Stoking the fires ahead of the high stakes encounter, defender Alan Stubbs opted to pour scorn on Liverpool's title credentials, making pointed reference to Benitez's lavish pre-season spending.

With Everton having lost three of their previous four top-flight games and Liverpool's unconvincing form since losing pole position in the table last month, this was a game neither side dared lose and that was demonstrated in a high tempo first half which started slowly before ending with Everton deservedly ahead.

Fernando Torres's absence ensured Andriy Voronin got his first taste of a Merseyside derby and the

Ukraine striker went close to making an early breakthrough when his fifth minute shot, following excellent work by Yossi Benayoun, was spilled by Tim Howard.

The first sign of trouble for Liverpool arrived in the 24th minute when keeper Pepe Reina flapped at Leon Osman's cross before Victor Anichebe's header landed on the roof after an inswinging free-kick by Mikel Arteta nine minutes later.

Benitez's side failed to heed the warnings and in the 38th minute Goodison Park erupted when Hyypia gave his own keeper no chance while attempting a clearance. The Finland international, who was criticised for his performance in his side's previous outing against Tottenham, volleyed past a shocked Reina after Everton defender Joleon Lescott had flicked on a cross by Stubbs.

Liverpool were clearly shell-shocked and four minutes later their defence was again in tatters when Leon Osman narrowly failed to double Everton's lead following a super move involving Phil Neville and Lescott.

Yet the visitors were gifted an undeserved equaliser in the early stages of the second half when Gerrard was hauled down by Hibbert just as the England midfielder was about to shoot inside the area.

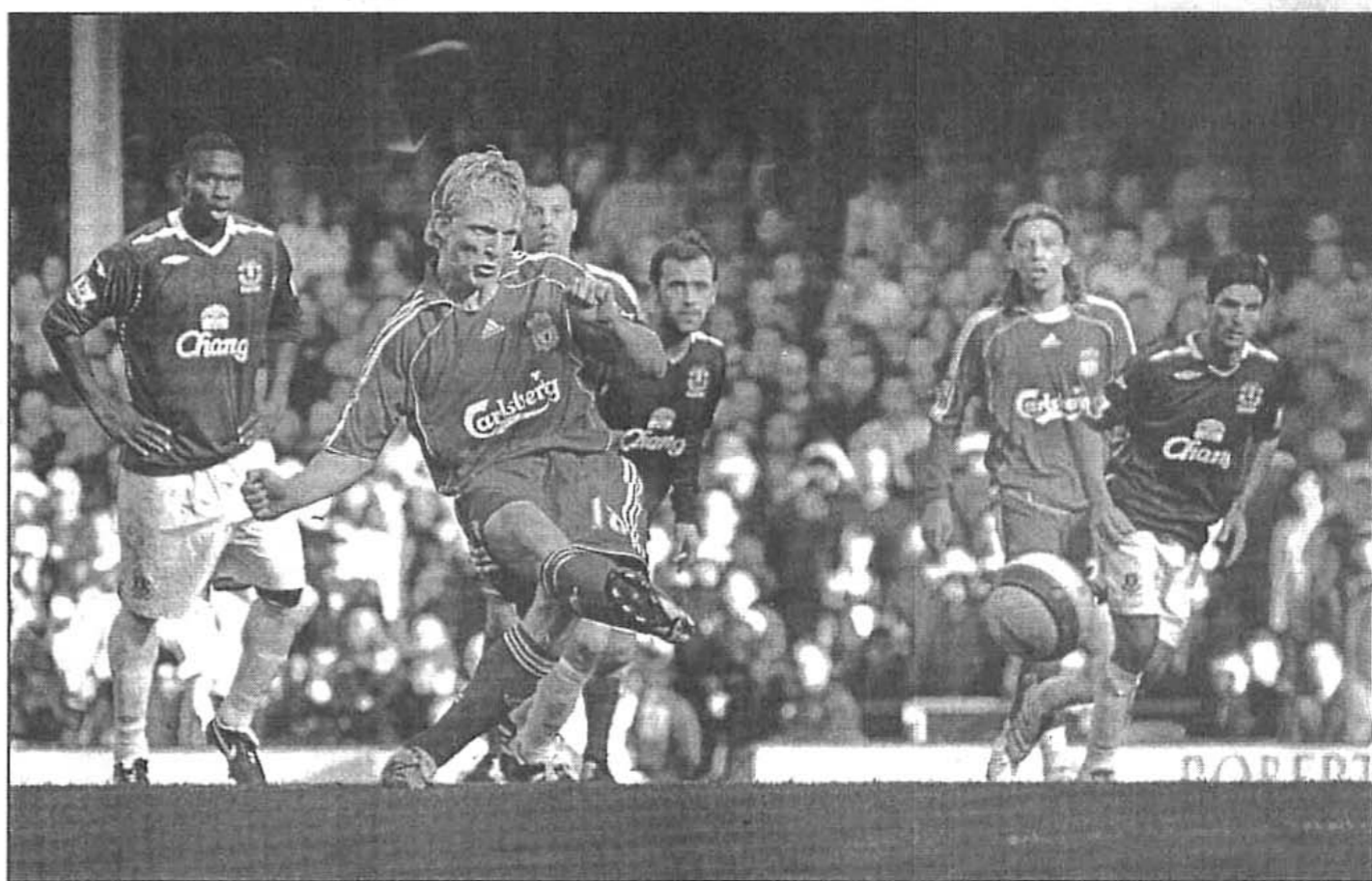
Kuyt kept his cool to send Howard the wrong way - the Dutch striker's first Premier League goal of the season.

Hibbert was ordered off by the referee - the 15th player to be handed his marching orders in 31 Merseyside derbies.

Voronin and Momo Sissoko then spurned glorious chances to win it for Liverpool before the most dramatic of finishes resulted in Everton finishing with nine men and Benitez's side snatching all three points.

Everton looked like holding out for a draw when Liverpool substitute Lucas let fly with a goal bound effort which beat Howard but was kept out by the hands of Neville.

Referee Clattenburg had no choice but to send Neville off and Kuyt stepped up to give Liverpool one of the most dramatic victories in Merseyside derby history.



Liverpool striker Dirk Kuyt strokes home his second penalty at the death to give his side a dramatic win over city rivals Everton during their Premier clash at Goodison Park on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP



Former Bangladesh wicketkeeper Rodney Marsh (L) talks to Bangladesh captain Mohammad Ashraful (R) while spinner Mohammad Rafique (2nd from R) and cricket board's working committee vice-chairman Lt Col M Abdul Latif Khan (red) listen during the former's visit to the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Drogba regrets outburst

AFP, London

Chelsea striker Didier Drogba said Saturday he regretted his outburst suggesting he wants to quit the Premier League club.

The Ivory Coast star shocked the Blues when he said he wanted to leave in an interview with France Football magazine.

But, in a massive climbdown, he now regrets making his views public.

Drogba said: "On reflection, I regret making the comments I made in a recent interview public at this time."

"I am a Chelsea player and will be 100 percent committed and supportive to my manager, my teammates and the club."

"I will not be discussing my future any further until I meet privately with the club at the end of the season."

Drogba, who scored 33 goals last season, had earlier claimed "something was broken" at Chelsea following Jose Mourinho's departure and revealed he wanted to follow the Portuguese coach out of Stamford Bridge.

New boss Avram Grant refused to make any comment on Drogba's controversial remarks at the club's pre-Middlesbrough media gathering on Friday - insisting he wanted to speak with the Ivory Coast forward first.

Tariq, Mashrafe

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to five points while Sylhet opened their account with three points.

BRIEF SCORES

KHULNA: 303-9 dec and 58-2 in 26 overs (Nazmus 3, Imrul 0, Habibul 22*, Tushar 29*; Sharif 1-8, Shahadat 1-17); Dhaka: First innings 174 all out in 67.5 overs (Javed 5, Mehraz 2, Anwar 8, Sharif 7, Ashraful 23, Shahriar 0, Nadif 8, Riyad 28*, Rafique 58, Mosharraf 16, Shahadat 0, Rafique 58, Riyad 28*, Ashraful 23; Mashrafe 4-36, Rasel 2-28, Razzak 3-44, Shakib 1-23).

CHITTAGONG: 176 all out and 34-0 in 16 overs (Tamin 17*, Salahuddin 16*); Barisal: First innings 274 all out in 92 overs (Shahriar 79, Hannan 7, Imran 2, Rokibul 21, Faruque 10, Raisul 2, Ararat 20, Shaheen 2, Talha 35, Sajidul 64*, Tariqul 5; Tariq 5-80, Ashiqur 2-63, Sabbir 1-53, Sajidul 1-20).

SYLHET: First innings 141 all out; Rajshahi: 229-8 in 98 overs (Islam 67, Zunaed 34, Forhad 0, Nayeem 20, Anisur 0, Rafique 6, Mashud 50*, Rahman 10, Shuvo 12, Delwar 16*, Tapash 2-45, Rezaul 1-35, Enamul 2-30, Kapali 1-30).

India end

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induced an inside edge just when the batsman was looking to rattle up a big score. Pathan ended up with figures of 2-34.

Left-arm spinner Murali Kartik, roped into the side at the last minute after his heroics in the last one-dayer against Australia here on Wednesday, finished wicketless while conceding 28 runs off his four overs.

Paceman Shanthakumaran Sreesanth (0-47) was even more expensive as he was flogged by the Australian batsmen all round the park.

India need to score at slightly more than eight runs an over if they are to end the series on a winning note. The Indians lost the preceding seven-match series to the visitors 4-2.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the one-off Twenty20 international between Australia and India at the Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai on Saturday:

AUSTRALIA
Gilchrist b RP Singh 12
Hayden b Harbhajan 17
Ponting b Pathan 76
Symonds run out 20
Hodge b Pathan 2
Clarke not out 25
Haddin not out 5
Extras: (lb-2, w-7) 9
Total: (For 5 wks in 20 overs) 166
Did not bat: Lee, Hilfenhaus, Bracken, Clark.
Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-60, 3-110, 4-116, 5-158.

Bowler O M R W
RP Singh 4 0 39 1
Sreesanth 4 0 47 2
Pathan 4 0 34 2
Harbhajan 4 0 17 1
Kartik 4 0 27 0

INDIA
Gambhir c Ponting b Hilfenhaus 63
Sehwag c Gilchrist b Lee 5
Yuvraj Singh not out 31
Dhoni not out 9
Extras: (lb-12, w-9, nb-3) 24
Total: (For 3 wks in 18.1 overs) 167
Did not bat: Sharma, Pathan, Kartik, Harbhajan, RP Singh, Sreesanth.

Fall of wickets: 1-20, 2-102, 3-143.
Bowler O M R W
Lee 3.1 0 35 1
Bracken 2 0 19 0
Hilfenhaus 4 0 28 1
Clark 4 0 33 0
Symonds 3 0 26 0
Clarke 2 0 14 1

Result: India won by seven wickets.
Man-of-the-match: Gautam Gambhir.

Toss: Australia.
Umpires: AM Saheba and SL Shastri.

TV umpire: GA Pratapkumar.
Match referee: BC Broad (England).

Marsh presents ICC academy



SPORTS REPORTER

Legendary Australian wicketkeeper Rodney Marsh made a presentation of the ICC Global Cricket Academy to Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) high-ups at its management office yesterday.

Marsh, director of coaching, is on a whirlwind tour of cricket nations to promote the academy which is expected to open next August on the premises of Dubai Sports City.

60-year-old Marsh, who arrived in Dhaka Friday evening, outlined the opportunities and facilities that are provided by the academy.

According to Marsh, there will be two international standard cricket grounds, each with a square of seven pitches, 48 outdoor net pitches which will allow proper run-ups for bowlers at both ends as well as the chance for wicketkeepers to hone their skills, six indoor pitches of varying pace with an area large enough for full-scale centre-wicket practice, state-of-the-art video analysis, medical and fitness facilities and five-star accommodation for attendees.

Wickets like those present in Australia, England and the sub-continent are going to be on offer.

"Apart from coaching and

umpiring courses, there will be employment opportunities in administrations, IT and other areas. We will advertise for these posts very soon," said Marsh, when he visited the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur along with board officials after the presentation in Gulshan.

"It is upto the cricket board to respond to this presentation and our offers that we have put forward," said Marsh, one-time holder of the highest dismissals record as a wicketkeeper.

BCB CEO Mahmud Rahman said Marsh will confirm the financial details of the academy by the next two months after which the board will mull over future tours to Dubai.

Being the most modern cricket academy in the world, it will be expensive and Rahman admitted that the expenses would be looked into before any tour is confirmed.

"It is very interesting and of the best quality. Nothing from our side has been confirmed as yet, but definitely we will look into it when-ever it opens," said Ahmed Sajjadul Alam Bobby while acknowledging the fact that once opened, it will be the complete cricket facility.

Marsh departed last night for Dubai from where he will travel to Lahore to make a similar presentation to Pakistan's cricket authorities.

Yousuf propels Pakistan

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to press home Pakistan's advantage.

Earlier, Pakistan's innings was built around a patient knock by Yousuf who repaired the innings with Malik during their 107-run stand for the fourth wicket.

Yousuf also added 60 for the third wicket with Yousif Khan (32) to repair the early loss of Kamran Akmal (nought) and Imran Nazir (two).

Yousuf hit paceman Kallis for his seventh boundary to complete his 13th one-day hundred off 129 balls.

In all, he hit nine boundaries before he was bowled by Morkel in the penultimate over.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the second one-day international between Pakistan and South Africa at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore on Saturday:

PAKISTAN
Nazir c Botha b Ntini 2

Akmal b Pollock 0
Yousif Khan run out 32
Yousuf b Morkel 117
Malik c Kemp b Langeveldt 56
Misbahul c Smith b Ntini 21
Afriidi c Langeveldt b Kallis 6
Tanveer not out 4
Rehman c Gibbs b Morkel 2
Extras: (lb-2, nb-4, w-14) 20
Total: (All out in 49.3 overs) 240
Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-4, 3-80, 4-94, 5-125, 6-140, 7-195, 8-212, 9-220.

Bowler O M R W
Pollock 10 1 29 1
Ntini 8 0 44 2
Langeveldt 9 0 47 2
Morkel 9 0 43 2
Botha 9 0 59 0
Kallis 5 0 37 1

SOUTH AFRICA
Smith c Akmal b Rehman 65
Gibbs lbw b Gul 0
Kallis c Yousif b Tanveer 0

De Villiers b Iftikhar 35
Kemp lbw b Iftikhar 8
Boucher c b Afriidi 14
Pollock b Gul 37
Morkel run out 31
Botha c Tanveer b Iftikhar 9
Langeveldt c Tanveer b Gul 12
Ntini not out 9
Extras: (lb-2, nb-4, w-14) 20
Total: (All out in 49.3 overs) 240
Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-4, 3-80, 4-94, 5-125, 6-140, 7-195, 8-212, 9-220.

Bowler O M R W
Gul 9.3 0 59 3
Iftikhar 10 1 43 3
Afriidi 10 0 41 1
Rehman 10 1 45 1

Result: Pakistan won by 25 runs.
Man-of-the-match: Mohammad Yousuf.

Toss: Pakistan
Umpires: Billy Bowden (NZL) and Asad Rauf (PAK)

TV umpire: Nadeem Ghouri (PAK)
Match Referee: Alan Hurst (AUS)

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP

Ghana happy with draw



AFP, Accra

Coach Claude le Roy is convinced Ghana will reach the 2008 African Nations Cup quarterfinals after being drawn in Group A with Guinea, Morocco and Namibia.

"I realise expectations are high among Ghanaians and we will surely go through to the knockout phase," the widely travelled Frenchman told local journalists.

"Let us not talk too much now. Rather let us do our talking on the field come January. A key factor is that our leading players avoid injuries while competing in various European leagues."

Ghana, Nations Cup winners four times, have built a formidable team around midfielders Stephen Appiah from Turkish club

Fenerbahce and Michael Essien of English Premiership outfit Chelsea.

Charismatic Le Roy led Democratic Republic of Congo to the 2006 Nations Cup quarterfinals before switching to the Black Stars, whose last African title came 25 years ago in Libya.

Ghana kick off the three-week tournament with a January 20 clash in Accra against unpredictable Guinea, whose French coach Robert Nouzaret is relishing the chance to humble the hosts.

"Facing Ghana will serve as a major motivation to my players. I'm delighted that we are involved in this match because it will make for a compelling start to the tournament," predicted Nouzaret.

Namibia Football Association president John Williams said his country will relish being outsiders in a biennial tournament won a record fifth time last year by hosts

Egypt.

"It is always good to be underdogs as all the pressure will be on Ghana, Morocco and Guinea. The 'Brave Warriors' are not coming to Ghana to make up the numbers, but to make an impact," warned Williams.

The largely desert south-west Africa country were shock qualifiers at the expense of DR Congo, snatching a last-minute winner in Ethiopia to grab top spot in a qualifying group by one point.

Nigeria coach and former Germany star Bert Vogts praised 2006 runners-up Ivory Coast and Mali after the trio came together in Group B, the group of death, which is completed by Benin.

"Ivory Coast and Mali are strong teams with talented players and cannot be overlooked when thinking of potential champions. I also have excellent players, but need

good preparations to discover the winning touch," he stressed.

Group C comprises defending champions Egypt, four-time winners Cameroon, Sudan and Zambia while Group D appears wide open with Tunisia, Senegal, South Africa and Angola chasing two knockout slots.

GROUPS

Group A
Seeding: 1. Ghana (hosts), 2. Morocco, 3. Guinea, 4. Namibia
Group B
Seeding: 1. Nigeria, 2. Ivory Coast, 3. Mali, 4. Benin
Group C
Seeding: 1. Egypt (holders), 2. Cameroon, 3. Zambia, 4. Sudan
Group D
Seeding: 1. Tunisia, 2. Senegal, 3. South Africa, 4. Angola

Security up in Mumbai



AFP, Mumbai

Unprecedented crowd control measures have been put in place for Australia's Twenty20 international against India here later on Saturday after recent incidents of boorish behaviour by spectators.

Mumbai police have installed nearly a dozen close circuit television cameras across the Brabourne stadium, venue for the one-off game, to monitor the crowd and spot culprits if there are any.

Security staff in plainclothes would also be deployed in various stands to keep a check and prevent any untoward incidents during the game which would be played under lights, police said.

Hard hitting all-rounder Andrew Symonds, Australia's only black player, was subjected to obscene monkey gestures during the last game of the seven-match series here on Wednesday which were captured in a photograph.

Symonds was also abused by monkey chants during the fourth game at Vadodara where the authorities initially denied any such incident.

However, after the Mumbai game, an embarrassed Board of

Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) vowed to crack down on culprits and promised stricter measures for the last encounter of an eventful series which Australia won 4-2.

With the International Cricket Council also cracking the whip on racism, the Indian and Australian boards issued a joint statement Wednesday, underlining that racism of any kind would not be tolerated in the game.

Australian captain Ricky Ponting said Friday it was unfortunate that so much talk had been going around the past few days for no fault of Symonds when all that the team wanted was some good games of cricket.

Symonds himself stressed that he would rather focus on cricket. Indian batsman Robin Uthappa also made a plea to fans to behave themselves but felt that so far things had not gone out of hand.

"People should not be racist and abide by the messages put up (by the authorities). They should follow the rules. But I will give them eight-and-a-half out of ten for good behaviour," he said Friday.

India, the defending world Twenty20 champions, have meanwhile roped in left-arm spinner Murali Kartik in the squad following his match-winning haul of 6-27 in the last one-dayer against Australia.

Barring Kartik, who replaces leg-spinner Piyush Chawla, the Indians have retained the World Cup winning squad.

It's Indian Oil Cup

PTI, Mumbai

The forthcoming five-match one-day cricket series between arch-rivals India and Pakistan is to be fought for the Indian Oil Cup.

The series would be the third major cricket title sponsorship by the public sector undertaking after the Asia Cup and tri-nation series hosted by Sri Lanka in 2004 and 2005 respectively, a company release said on Saturday.

The series commences at Guwahati on November 5 followed by matches at Mohali (November 8), Kanpur (November 11), Gwalior (November 15) and Jaipur (November 18).

Indian Oil was also the official sponsor (worldwide) of the International Cricket Council events, including the Champions Trophy held in India last year and the March-April World Cup in the West Indies, the release added.

Federer in semis

AFP, Madrid

Roger Federer fought to control the big game of Feliciano Lopez before eliminating the last Spaniard in contention at the Madrid Masters 7-6 (7/4), 6-4 on Friday in the quarterfinals.

The Swiss holder converted on one chance out of 11 against the cagey left-hander, who joined second seed Rafael Nadal in an exit as the lights went out for home hopes.

Tennis powerhouse Nadal could only laugh off a shoddy performance after suffering one of the worst defeats of his career to exit.

The world number two was humbled 6-1, 6-2 as Argentine David Nalbandian produced the best result of his own sorry season.

Federer had to play swashbuckling tennis to edge past Lopez, who took the one-hour-plus first set into a tiebreaker.

The top seed only managed to lift it with a return winner to claim the opener, then earned the long break of the contest for 5-4 in the second on a pass of the Spaniard.

The Swiss will face off Saturday against Nicolas Kiefer after the unseeded German upset Chilean fifth seed Fernando Gonzalez 7-6 (7/5), 6-2.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Unspoken 31 Actor's 1 John 11 Open-mouthed
"I dunno" 35 Full of 13 Carbon compound
6 Task 39 Pore-nate 2 Medal 18 Promise
11 Relaxed 40 Felon's flight 3 Scooted home
12 Make effervescent 42 Layered silicate 4 — 23 Prelude
14 January stone 43 Hearty 5 Bo 25 "Cor-tality"
15 Noble 44 Heavy admitted 27 Charged bit
companion? 44 Flat 6 Life, to 29 Holdup cause
16 Latin 101 46 Blunder 7 Got 31 Severe lawgiver
word 47 Gleason cohort 8 Bobby of 32 Oliver's ally
17 Compatriot 49 Fixed a hole 9 Flotten 33 Quite
18 Vacuum-tube 51 At a par-ticular 10 Ever-lasting, 34 Hip-hop cousin
type 52 Tondos 35 Sorrow 36 Frank
(Abbr.) place 54 Autocrats 37 Bits of hardware
20 Verse 53 Sorrow 38 Linear measures
22 Postal 54 Autocrats 39 Surroundings
Creed word 54 Autocrats 40 Presidential power
23 Christ-mas tree, often 54 Autocrats 41 Speaker's place
24 English composition 54 Autocrats 42 Zero
26 Not as normal 54 Autocrats 43 Genetic abbr.
28 Homer's neighbor 54 Autocrats 44
30 As well



CRYPTOQUIP

U A P N J Q W Z F I O A U V

R M U A P J U U D H U Z A P H F F W

K I A P X D J F F, W I M N I M F K U H W

Q W N H O J J O D H U R F I U I Q A P X.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A LEATHER ARTICLE NEEDS A HOLE PUNCHED IN IT, IS THAT AN AWL-INSPIRING SITUATION?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals S