



PHOTO: REUTERS

Astana team rider Alexandre Vinokourov of Kazakhstan (R) leads the pack ahead of teammate Alberto Contador of Spain (C) and Saxo Bank team rider Andy Schleck of Luxembourg during the 14th stage of the Tour de France on Saturday.

Serena has surgery

AP, New York

Serena Williams needs surgery on her right foot after cutting it on a broken glass at a restaurant. The top-ranked women's player was injured last week and will miss three tournaments leading to the US Open, the WTA Tour said Saturday. Williams has withdrawn from tournaments in Istanbul, Cincinnati and Montreal. The tour website offered no details about what happened at the restaurant.

"I'm so upset I won't be able to play in the upcoming events because of this foot surgery," Williams said on the website. "Thank you for all of your support. I can't wait to get back on the courts."

A message left with her agent was not immediately returned. On Monday, World Team Tennis said Williams would miss the entire season. Her Washington Kastles team said she cut the bottom of her foot and needed stitches.

On July 10, Williams attended the wedding of Denver Nuggets star Carmelo Anthony in New York. In a photo, it appeared she had two bandages on the top of her right foot. Williams won her fourth Wimbledon crown and 13th major title in July. The Rogers Cup in Montreal begins Aug. 16, and the US Open starts Aug. 30.

After winning the Australian Open at the end of January, Williams was sidelined through April because of an injured left knee. She lost in the French Open quarterfinals in June before capturing Wimbledon.

Football

FROM PAGE 17

Mohammad Aslam, Sayeed Hasan Kanon, Hasanuzzaman Khan Bablu, Nakib, Roy and current national players like Zahid Hasan Emily and Aminul Haque played against a BAF Shaheen School and College Team where the former won 3-1.

The BFF Eleven will play their next matches against Willes Little Flower School Squad on July 20, Motiheel Govt. High School Squad on July 22, Khilgaon High School Squad on July 25 and Residential Model High School Squad on July 27.

Afridi eyes

FROM PAGE 17

Afridi rubbished speculation his Test retirement came after differences with Pakistan teammates.

"This team was unified and there were no problems, nothing. I took the decision in the best interest of the team and hope a youngster with a Test temperament takes my position."

"I also feel that there are other players who are not fit for the longer version of the game and my advice to them is to concentrate on the shorter forms," said Afridi, without naming names.

Afridi hopes a month's break will revive him for the two Twenty20 and five one-day internationals against World Twenty20 champions England which follow the Test series.

"I will be fresh for the limited over series which will be very tough because England have been doing very well in both ODIs and T20s, so if we could beat them it would be good for the progress of the team," said Afridi.

Pakistan's one-day squad is due to be announced next month.

Vinokourov wins stage, Schleck in overall lead



AFP, Revel

Alexandre Vinokourov scored his first victory on the Tour de France since completing a doping suspension after a gutsy attack late in the race's 13th stage from Rodez to Revel on Saturday.

Luxembourg's Andy Schleck, of Saxo Bank, retained the race leader's yellow jersey with his 31sec lead on main rival and reigning champion Alberto Contador intact ahead of Sunday's first stage in the Pyrenees.

Vinokourov, who only returned to racing last year, was delighted with his win after capping a late counter-attack to Italian Alessandro Ballan with a determined drive for the finish line.

It is his first victory on the race since 2005, when he won two stages as part of the T-Mobile team.

"For me, just to be at the Tour de France is a victory. So to win a stage makes me very happy," said Vinokourov, who served a two-year ban after being caught blood doping at the race in 2007.

"When I was racing as an amateur they used to tell me that winning a stage on the Tour is similar to winning the world championships. And that's true."

"So I'm very happy, not just me but for my team, my family and all the people in Kazakhstan."

Vinokourov attacked late on Friday's stage to Mende, where he had to drop his own ambitions after Astana teammate Contador countered a late attack by Spaniard Joaquin Rodriguez to overtake the Kazakh rider, eventually taking 10secs off Schleck.

This time, Vinokourov made no mistake. After former world champion Ballan had jumped out of the peloton with 8.7km remaining, the Kazakh joined a small group of riders in a bid to close the gap.

By the time he had crested the summit, Ballan had run out of juice. Vinokourov soloed past with ease, and employed impressive bike

handling skills on the rest of the downhill section to keep the peloton at bay.

The HTC-Columbia team of British sprinter Mark Cavendish had been hard at work all day helping to chase down a three-man breakaway, which was reeled in with 10km remaining.

But by then the American outfit had nothing left to offer.

The 1.9km-long Saint-Ferreol climb, just after the 10km to go banner, provided the perfect ramp for the late attacks which came and went, and ended their hopes of seeing Cavendish win a fourth stage on this year's race.

Cavendish went on to win the sprint for second, the Isle of Man rider thus adding precious points to his tally for the green jersey.

Despite missing out, he was quick to applaud Vinokourov's performance.

"At the end (of the stage) we weren't riding full gas," said Cavendish.

"I had to use my team the whole day so I didn't have anyone, but if any of the other sprint teams wanted to take it (chase) up maybe we could have got him back. But he did a very impressive ride."

"We didn't win the stage today... but it was an incredible ride by Vinokourov. He deserves that win."

Cavendish consoled himself by picking up 30 points to close the gap significantly to rivals Alessandro Petacchi and reigning champion and competition leader Thor Hushovd.

Once again Hushovd finished off the pace, the Norwegian crossing the line in eighth to collect 18pts. That proved insufficient for him to keep the lead of the points competition, now being led by Petacchi on 187pts, with Hushovd on 185 and Cavendish on 162.

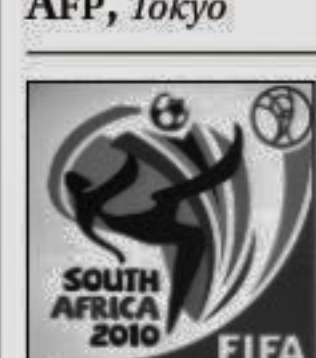
However, Cavendish is coy about his chances.

"It's just important to minimise my losses now. Thor's always there, Petacchi's there... we'll see what happens," he added.

Vinokourov added: "This victory is also very important for the team's motivation, especially with four days in the Pyrenees remaining."

Back from the brink

AFP, Tokyo



Gutsy Brazilian-born defender Marcus Tulio Tanaka, who helped Japan reach the World Cup last-16 round, says he has come back from the brink of retirement thanks to advice from his ailing father.

The 29-year-old rejoined his J-League club Nagoya Grampus on Thursday after spending some two weeks in Brazil to see his father Paulo Ryuji, 57, recover from a heart problem he suffered at home during the big tournament.

Tulio learned about his father's condition right after Japan beat Denmark 3-1 to reach the World Cup knockout stage for the first time on foreign soil.

But he stayed on in South Africa until the Blue Samurais finally lost 5-3 on penalties to Paraguay after a goalless 120 minutes on June 29, failing to clinch their first ever World Cup quarterfinal spot.

"I wanted to go home as soon as possible but I knew my father would say I should finish what I should do," Tulio told Japanese media. "When I saw my father suffering so much, I thought I would quit football and look after him."

"My father then got better and became able to speak again. He told me, 'You should not leave anything in a half-

hearted manner.' It made me feel like working hard all over again."

Tulio, who formed Japan's airtight defence with fellow centre back Yuji Nakazawa, has been a vocal presence on the pitch and has also scored eight goals in 43 matches for Japan since his international debut in 2006.

He scored Japan's only goal in their four straight pre-World Cup friendly defeats by Serbia, South Korea, England and Ivory Coast. Tulio gained instant fame when he clashed with and injured Ivory Coast star striker Didier Drogba.

Tulio's father, a teacher-turned-lawyer and a son of Japanese immigrants in rural Palmeira d'Oeste in Sao Paulo state, was reportedly seen saying on Brazilian television: "Tulio has not only realised my dream but also my family's dream."

Tulio came to Japan aged 16 in 1998 after he was scouted in Brazil to play for a high school near Tokyo.

After making his J-League debut with Sanfrecce Hiroshima in 2001, Tulio moved to Urawa Red Diamonds in 2004, helping the country's best-supported club win the AFC Champions League title in 2007. He signed with Nagoya in January.

Tulio acquired Japanese nationality in 2003 and has become the third Brazilian-born player to represent Japan at a World Cup, following Wagner Lopes in 1998 and

Alessandro Santos in 2002 and 2006.

But he was the first Brazilian of Japanese ancestry to stand on the big stage.

"I would quit if I couldn't play football full out. If I was half hearted, it would be insulting to football," Tulio said about his future.

Asked whether he would play in the next 2014 World Cup in his native Brazil, he said: "I'm too occupied with what I should do today. I don't even know what I will do tomorrow."

Stepanek, Vaidisova tie the knot

AP, Prague

Czech tennis players Radek Stepanek and Nicole Vaidisova have tied the knot in Prague.

They married Saturday in St. Vitus Cathedral, the country's biggest and most famous church.

Czech public radio reported that guests included ice hockey star Jaromir Jagr and tennis player Barbora Zahlavova Strycova, who reached her first WTA final at the Prague Open on Saturday.

The 31-year-old Stepanek ranked No. 29 missed most of the season with health problems. Vaidisova, who is 21 and a former top 10 player, retired this year after struggling with form.

Dilkhusha, Jurain win

SPORTS REPORTER

Dilkhusha SC and Jurain Janata Club won their respective matches in the Pubali Bank Premier Division Kabaddi League at the outer stadium court yesterday.

Dilkhusha recorded a massive 62-6 win over Jatrabari Faruk Smriti Sangsad while Jurain Janata registered a 61-33 victory over Matuail Milon Smriti Sangsad.

Ancelotti cools Torres talk

AFP, London

Chelsea coach Carlo Ancelotti appeared to rule out a move for Liverpool striker Fernando Torres on Saturday, after seeing his side beat Crystal Palace 1-0 in their first pre-season friendly.

Torres won the World Cup with Spain last weekend but endured a disappointing, injury-blighted campaign with Liverpool last season, prompting speculation he could be set to leave the club.

Chelsea and Manchester City have both been linked with a move for the former Atletico Madrid marksman, but Ancelotti said the Premier League champions were already well stocked in the striking department.

"I don't think we need other strikers," said Ancelotti.

"Nothing has changed because in the next few days (Didier) Drogba, (Nicolas) Anelka and (Salomon) Kalou come back, and we have (Daniel) Sturridge."

Ancelotti also dismissed speculation over a possible departure for England international left-back Ashley Cole, who has been linked with a move to join former Chelsea coach Jose Mourinho at Real Madrid.

"I didn't speak with him, I don't need to speak with him and he doesn't need to speak to me," said the Italian.

"He is a player of Chelsea, did a fantastic season for us and will be an important player for us next season. One hundred per cent."

Chelsea won 1-0 at second-division Palace, with Ghanaian midfielder Michael Essien marking his return from a seven-month absence through injury with the winning goal.

Rain, Lanka

FROM PAGE 17

Total: (For 2 wkts in 68 overs) 256
Fall of wickets: 1-55, 2-236
To bat: Samaraweera, Mathews, P Jayawardene, Malinga, Muralidaran, Herath, Welegedara

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Sharma	14	3	79	0
Mithun	13	2	41	1
Harbhajan	17	3	41	0
Ojha	17	1	66	0
Sehwag	7	0	23	1

INDIA: Dhoni, Gambhir, Sehwag, Dravid, Tendulkar, Laxman, Yuvraj, Harbhajan, Sharma, Ojha, Mithun
Toss: Sri Lanka.

Umpires: Daryl Harper and Rod Tucker.

Test C'ship on cards?



AGENCIES

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has hinted that a Test Championship might be conducted in 2013 in England to revive fans' interest in the five-day format which is struggling due to the growing popularity of Twenty20s.

ICC chief executive Haroon Lorgat said the governing body is looking at ways to revive the dwindling interest in the five-day game.

"There's real talk of a Test play-off in the not too distant future around 2012 or 2013," Lorgat told Radio Five Live Extra.

"There's a slot in 2013 that we think could work, where they would take the existing rankings table and the top four would progress into a semifinal and final."

"We have an open mind, we will structure the formats and events correctly so we are not sitting with the mindset that this is not negotiable. If that [the Champions Trophy] has to be replaced by the Test championship final, then

sobe it," Lorgat said.

An ICC sub-committee, comprising the governing body's general manager for cricket Dave Richardson and five member nation chief executives, presented a discussion paper to the board in Singapore last month.

Lorgat said while a final proposal will still take some time to materialise, he strongly believes the concept is closer to reality than ever before.

"There's a lot of work that has been done. It's not straightforward and I think we will see in the not too distant future some proposal on the table. The best way for me to describe it is a work in progress. There's a lot of good work that has been done."

"They've now been tasked with putting together a firmer proposal at the next chief executive's committee meeting. I'm encouraged with the progress we've made. I'm a lot more confident now. When I first got involved it was a foreign concept."

"I'm confident when I see a lot more of the Full Members are beginning to see the need for context and the need for generating more interest in Test cricket," he said.

A North-ern surprise



CRICINFO

When Shahid Afridi was asked after the Lord's Test what he thought of Marcus North's bowling, he screwed up his face, looked away and tried not to laugh. As compliments go, it could have been more convincing. North doesn't care. He described it as one of the highlights of his career to help Australia win a Test and earn a place on the bowling honour board at Lord's, alongside his batting colleague Shane Watson.

If that wasn't proof enough that the natural order had been turned upside-down, North's 6 for 55 was the best bowling by an Australian spinner in a Test innings at the home of cricket. Shane Warne couldn't match it, nor Clarrie Grimmett, nor Arthur Mailey, although none of them had the luxury of bowling to Pakistan at Lord's.

"I don't feel like I deserve that, to be honest," North said. "There have been some amazing bowlers over the years who have had some great bowling performances at Lord's. I certainly would like to have that six-for against England. But it was a great occasion to play at a neutral venue against Pakistan at Lord's."

Afridi's wicket was the ultimate bonus for a bowler -- from his fourth delivery he tried to launch North onto Cavendish Avenue, only to find the fielder at deep midwicket. It wasn't all luck for North and his dismissal of Umar Akmal, who cut to slip when he was surprised by turn and extra bounce from the rough outside off

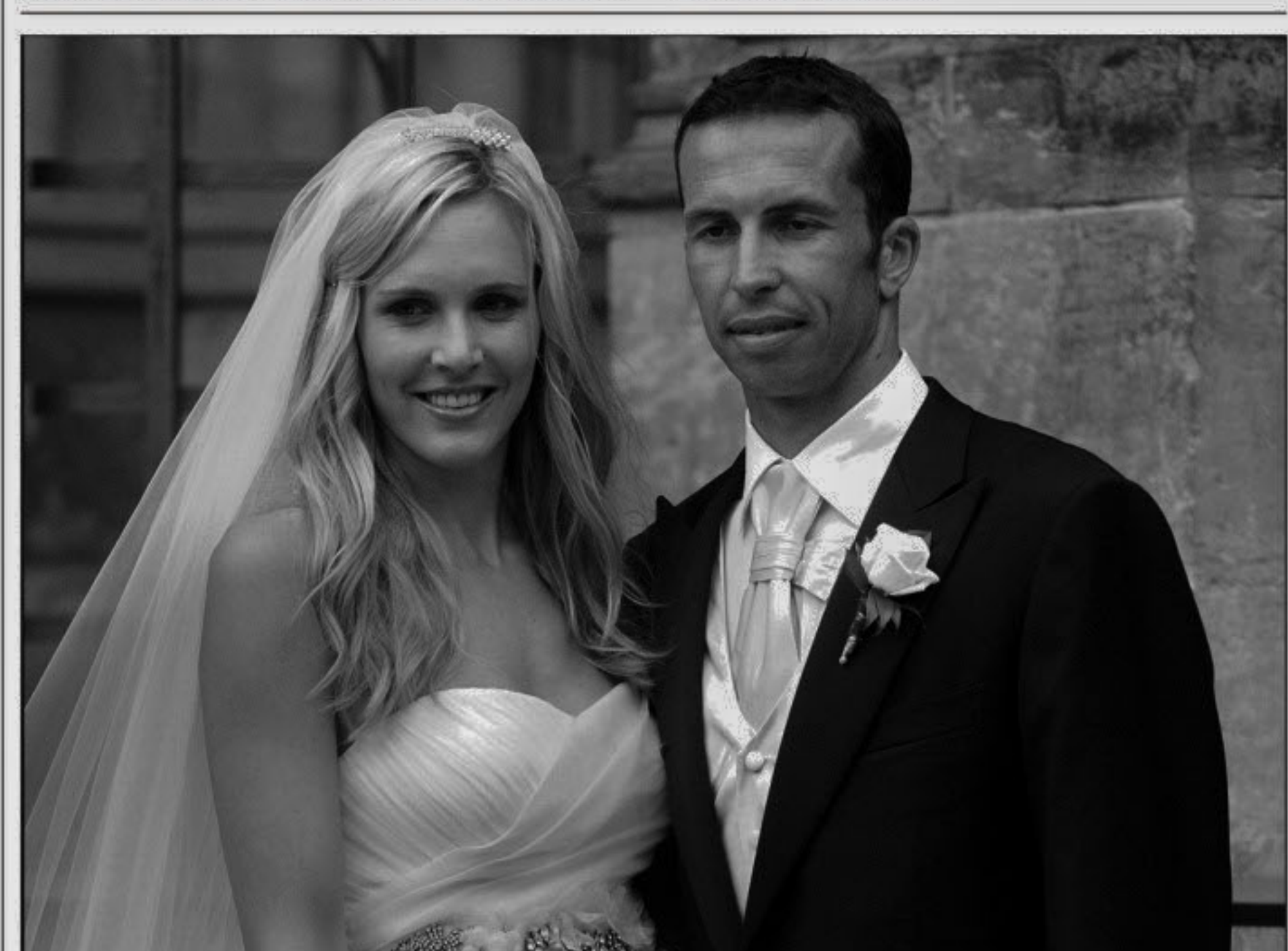


PHOTO: AFP

Czech tennis player Radek Stepanek and his wife former tennis player Nicole Vaidisova pose for photographs after their wedding in front of the Saint Vitus Cathedral at the Prague Castle in Prague on Saturday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Spring mo.
4 Polio vaccine pioneer
8 Part of a Super-man costume
12 Shelter
13 Entreaty
14 Blood-hound's clue
15 Broadcasting
17 Addict
18 Make beloved
19 Fourth after
21 Branch
22 Listening to cheesy music, maybe
26 Water pitchers
29 — out a living
30 Life story, briefly
31 Make small talk
32 Pirouette pivot
33 Locate

DOWN
1 Shaving cream additive
2 Teller's partner
3 Sent back (Abbr.)
4 "Oops! ... I Did It Again" singer
5 More than just startle
6 Main-lander's memento
7 Sing-along of a sort
8 Cold symptom
9 Billboards
10 "Ualalume" writer
11 Mess up
16 Core article
23 Last writes?
24 Scourge of serge
25 Extinct bird
26 Reverberate
27 Timely query?
28 Count counterpart
29 A really long time
32 Secure with a rope
33 Specialty
35 Conclude
36 Used a wood-shop machine
38 Hawkeye
39 Bizarre
42 Verve
43 Anger
44 Old World duck
45 Calendar hdg.
46 Fond du —
47 Freudian concept
49 Born

Solution time: 25 mins.

ADOS SLAB MOW
SOPH HALO APE
ELAINEMAY YUP
ALLIED LEAST
TO GREGG
AIDE ARE GUFF
MOI CAN EAR
PUSH MIT EZRA
MOTEL AX
ADAGE ALPACA
ROY MAYFLOWER
EWE PIER SACK
AND ORSO EYES

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CRYPTOQUIP

UJNP SOHYJTJNPSOE SPZRLPOU
ZOP LZWHTY Z SZGA JWPO
SLPOP H SLHTA SLPE'OP
CUHTY UHTP GZTYCZYP

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT MIGHT YOU CALL THE CHANCE TO EAT MEALS WITHOUT A CERTAIN GRAIN? A RICELESS OPPORTUNITY.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals R