



India's master batsman Sachin Tendulkar throws a ball as his teammate Cheteshwar Pujara looks on during a practice session at Sardar Patel Stadium in Ahmedabad yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Another revelation

Cricket

PTI, Johannesburg

Herschelle Gibbs has claimed in his controversial autobiography, "To the Point" that former South Africa captain Hansie Cronje had made an offer to the team to fix a match in India in 1996.

However, an one-time ace opener admitted that Cronje remained a man he would always admire.

In a chapter titled "The controversies", Gibbs recalled the night Cronje changed the face of the game forever.

"It was 6.30 am and knocking on my door was the Proteas team captain Hansie Cronje. We were touring India in 2000, and in Nagpur about to play our final ODI match against India. My roommate Henry Williams was in the shower when Hansie sat down on the bed.

He got straight to the point. I've got a mate here in India," he said, "and you can make some good money if you do what he's asking. He's offering

US\$15,000 if you go out for less than 20 in today's game."

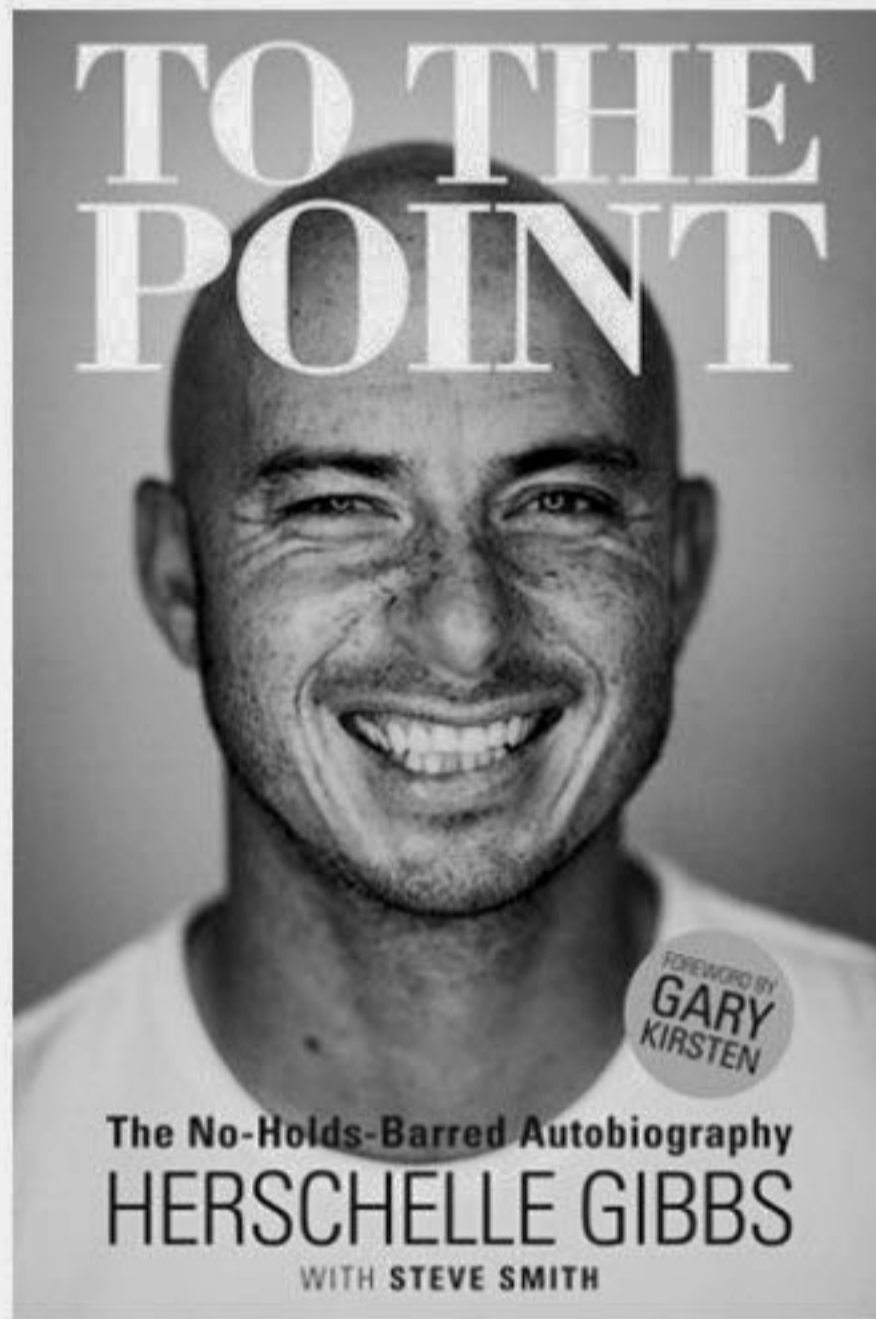
But it was not the first time that Cronje had approached his side about match-fixing, according to Gibbs.

"This had happened before," Gibbs wrote in his book which was released here on Monday.

"During a tour to India in 1996, we were due to play a benefit game for one of the (unnamed) Indian players it would be the last game of the tour. The night before the game, Hansie got the whole team together and dropped a real bombshell. 'I know a guy', he said, 'who is going to give us US\$250,000 if we lose this game.'"

Gibbs said the offer was tempting because the South Africans were probably going to lose the game anyway due to the team being below strength with six members of the side being sick.

"Of course the team decided against taking the bribe, but even so, it hadn't been an immediate and strong reaction to an activity totally abhorrent to the notion of sport. Instead we talked the offer over. We declined the offer. Sachin Tendulkar ended up getting a 100 in that game and, predictably, we lost."



The No-Holds-Barred Autobiography
HERSCHELLE GIBBS
WITH STEVE SMITH

MS urges ump

FROM PAGE 17

"That's a bit of a hassle for me, especially with the huge amount of money you have to spend to have the system in place.

"The moment it comes with a warranty, I am all for it. For now, they have to improve on the technology."

Cricket powerhouses India, currently the number one Test side in the world, have resisted the technology ever since their first brush with the system during their tour of Sri Lanka in 2008.

The Indians struggled with the referrals, getting only one right, while Sri Lanka successfully challenged 11 decisions.

The system used in Sri Lanka was Virtual Eye, while the broadcaster for India's home series, Neo Sports, uses Hawk-Eye, a rival technology.

Both technologies have been used extensively in countries such as South Africa and helped weed out some umpiring errors, though without always providing conclusive

evidence for touch-and-go decisions.

The technology is set to be used for the first time in an Ashes series, beginning in Australia later this month.

Some of India's players have expressed their support for the reviews but the majority, including star batsman Sachin Tendulkar, remain sceptical.

New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori said he would have preferred to have the technology in place for the three-Test series.

"I like the referral system," he said. "There are still a few hiccups with the technology, but I think it is good for the game if it is used consistently."

"Though the system requires to be perfected, it is a positive thing for the game."

The second Test will be played in Hyderabad from November 12-16 and the third in Nagpur from November 20-24. The Tests will be followed by five one-day internationals from November 28.

Spurs outclass Inter

FROM PAGE 17

While defeat ended the hosts' slim hopes, United now lead Group C by three points from Valencia with two games remaining and need only a point from Rangers in their next match to go through.

Spurs' fans meanwhile were treated to one of the most memorable nights in the club's history as Bale again proved the inspiration.

Although Rafael van der Vaart, Peter Crouch and Roman Pavlyuchenko got the goals, it was Bale who took centre-stage with a truly spell-binding display.

An 80th minute goal from Cameroonian superstar Samuel Eto'o had only a faint whiff of a consolation. The Premier League club are now top of Group A -- ahead of Inter on goal difference -- and look well set to reach the knockout stages.

With Lyon struggling badly in the French first division, coach Claude Puel has hung on to his job thanks only to his team's displays in Europe.

Javi Garcia lit up the Stadium of Light to give the

hosts a 3-0 lead at the interval, and a fourth came from Coentrao on 67 minutes.

Yoann Gourcuff, Bafetembi Gomis and Maxime Gonalon

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RESULTS	
Tottenham Hotspur (ENG) 3 (van der Vaart 18, Crouch 61, Pavlyuchenko 89)	Inter Milan (ITA) 1 (Eto'o 80)
Werder Bremen (GER) 0 FC Twente (NED) 2 (Chadli 81, De Jong 84)	Hapoel Tel-Aviv (ISR) 0 Schalke 04 (GER) 0
Benfica (POR) 4 (Alan Kardec 20, Coentrao 32, 67, Javi Garcia 43) Lyon (FRA) 3 (Gourcuff 75, Gomis 85, Gonalon 90+6)	Valencia (ESP) 3 (Soldado 32, 69, Costa 88) Rangers (SCO) 0
Bursaspor (TUR) 0 Manchester United (ENG) 3 (Fletcher 48, Obertan 73, Corriea 77)	FC Copenhagen (DEN) 1 (Claudemir 32)
Barcelona (ESP) 1 (Messi 31)	Rubin Kazan (RUS) 0 Panathinaikos

Julian

FROM PAGE 17

do is make sure they have good techniques, stay calm and execute the simple skills in the right situation. They are our bowling unit, the lower-order, and they are bowlers who will score runs," explained the effervescent Fountain.

"Whether they are batting together as bowlers or batting with a batsman at the other end, they know what they need to achieve," he added.

Nat'l b'ball

SPORTS REPORTER

Nine matches of the Citycell 24th National Basketball Championship were held at the Dhanmondi Wooden Floor Basketball Gymnasium yesterday.

Bangladesh Air Force beat Dhaka DSA 70-59, Narsingdi DSA crushed Gazipur DSA 79-19, BKSP defeated Satkhira DSA 78-22, Chittagong DSA outclassed Gazipur DSA 97-29, Narsingdi beat Kushtia DSA 81-42, Satkhira defeated Rangpur 69-66, BKSP crushed Mymensingh DSA 73-13, Dhaka DSA beat Comilla DSA 79-39 and Bangladesh Air Force defeated Chandpur DSA 49-40.

GM chess

SPORTS REPORTER

GM Ziaur Rahman and GM Niaz Murshed of Biman both lost their fifth round games of the Berger Six Seasons Grandmasters Chess Tournament at the Tulip Lounge of Uttara Club yesterday. Zia lost to Yee Soon Wei of Brunei while Niaz lost against FM Sayatan Das from India.

Zia played with black in Sicilian Defence mode. Wei continued with his Taimanov variation and beat Zia in the 42nd move. Niaz played with black piece and took French Defence against Classical system of Sayantan. Sayantan beat Niaz at in 50 move.

Still after the loss, Ziaur maintains his sole lead in the points table with 3.5 points followed by FM Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar of Destiny 2000 with 3 points.

Sagar drew with Bitan Banerjee of India, FM Abu Sufian Shakil of Biman drew with GM Vakhidov Tair of Uzbekistan and IM Sahaj Grover of India beat FM Mehdi Hasan Parag of Destiny 2000 in the other matches of the fifth round.

S Africa win a cliff-hanger

AFP, Dubai

Opener Hashim Amla hit a fighting century and paceman Morne Morkel took four wickets as South Africa pulled off a narrow two-run win over Pakistan in the third day-night international here on Tuesday.

South Africa, put into bat by Pakistan, owed it to the 27-year-old Amla who carried his bat through the innings with a resolute 119 and helped his team to a defendable 228-9 before surviving another scare by Pakistan who managed 226-9.

It was the bearded right-hander's sixth one-day hundred -- his fifth this year -- which brought South Africa back in the match after they struggled initially on a tricky Dubai Stadium pitch.

SCORES IN BRIEF SOUTH AFRICA: 228 for 9 (Amla 119 not out, De Villiers 19, Duminy 26, Morkel 19; Akhtar 3-39, Afridi 2-53, Hafeez 2-34)

PAKISTAN: 226 for 9 (Farhat 47, Shafiq 43, Fawad 59 not out, Riaz 21; Morkel 4-47)

Result: South Africa won by two runs.

Man-of-the-match: Hashim Amla.

Dav pleased

FROM PAGE 17

Whatmore also added that Mashrafe Bin Mortaza is simply 'unlucky' to get injured once again.

He will travel to Sylhet from Comilla and return to Dhaka on November 13.

Red-hot India meet NZ in 1st Test from today

Cricket

PTI, Ahmedabad

Fresh from their 2-0 triumph over Australia, a full-strength India go into a three-Test rubber against New Zealand here on Thursday with the focus on Sachin Tendulkar who just needs one more century to record an amazing feat of 50 Test tons.

The hosts, the world's number one ranked team, are on a phenomenal run in Test cricket, especially at home, and have lost only to South Africa (twice) since the beginning of 2008 on home soil.

India go into what is expected to be a lop-sided contest, with their tails up following the clean sweep against former world toppers Australia last month and a hat-trick of Test wins under their belt beginning with the triumph against South Africa at the Eden Gardens in February.

India have, significantly, won five of their last six Test matches at home while the Daniel Vettori-led Kiwis have arrived here from a humiliating 4-0 ODI series loss to Bangladesh in the latter's territory.

It would, therefore, need a superhuman effort from New Zealand to halt the rampaging Indian batting line-up, in which Tendulkar is also in prime form, from batting them out of the contest.

Tendulkar has been in red-hot form from the beginning of this year when India toured Bangladesh. His appetite for runs and centuries has only increased with advancing years.

The 37-year-old champion cricketer has accumulated a staggering 1,270 runs from his last nine Tests (15 innings), embellished by six three-figure knocks that includes two double hundreds, for a Bradmanesque average of 97.69, a feat that fetched him this year's ICC Cricketer of the Year honour.

He also scored his maiden double ton at the Motera ground here, in 1999 and against the same opposition.

The Indian fans will be hoping that his 50th Test century comes at Sardar Patel Stadium here.

While Tendulkar is the biggest threat with his ability to adapt to any situation and any format of the game, his protege Virender Sehwag also stands tall with his capacity to take the rival attack by the scruff and demoralise the bowling.

The return of VVS Laxman, who missed the previous match that India played at Bangalore against Australia because of a back problem, has bolstered the already strong batting which has even made light of the indifferent form of another mainstay Rahul Dravid since the tour to Sri Lanka.

Also returning to the Indian ranks to add meat to the side are opener Gautam Gambhir and lanky pace bowler Ishant Sharma who also missed the match at Bangalore.

The return of Gambhir and Dravid would mean the confinement to the bench of reserve opener Murali Vijay and rookie middle-order batsman Cheteshwar Pujara who made significant contributions in the team's seven-wicket victory against Australia in Bangalore.

Vijay scored his maiden century (139) and also got involved in a crucial 308-run stand with Tendulkar to help India overhaul Australia's huge first innings score and pave the way for the victory.

Pujara was promoted to one-drop in the order in the second innings and made a quick-fire 72 to help India get past the 200-plus fourth innings target.

However, both are expected to give way to the returning Gambhir and Laxman, who has played two key innings in his last two Tests.

The stylish Hyderabad made a classy 103 not out to guide India to a series-leveling win against Sri Lanka at Colombo before uncorking his gem -- 73 not out when shepherding the lower-order including Ishant Sharma -- to drag the team across the finishing line against Australia at Mohali with last man for

company. Dravid, who is two short of completing 200 catches in Tests, is not in prime form currently, but the Bangalore stalwart would take heart from his run-spree at this ground.

In the previous Test at this venue, he rescued India from a precarious 38 for against Sri Lanka last November with his back-to-the-wall 177. He also scored a double hundred and a half century when last playing against New Zealand at the Motera ground seven years ago.

With Dhoni and Suresh Raina also present to prop up the lower middle-order, the team's batting looks formidable, especially at home.

The visitors, on the contrary, are in disarray with even their opening combination not yet settled.

Vettori, in his 100th Test for his country, and the other tour selectors have to decide whether to play the hard-hitting Brendon McCullum as an opener or at No.3.

"I think he can set the tone opening or at number three," Vettori said before the match. Much like Sehwag does for India. He really sets the tone for the team and takes a lot of pressure off the rest of the batsmen. I think Brendon can do that role, whether it is opening or at number three", Vettori said.

INDIA (from): Mahendra Singh Dhoni (captain), Virender Sehwag, Gautam Gambhir, Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar, VVS Laxman, Suresh Raina, Harbhajan Singh, Zaheer Khan, Pragyan Ojha, Ishant Sharma, M Vijay, Cheteshwar Pujara, Amit Mishra and Sureshwar.

NEW ZEALAND (from): Daniel Vettori (captain), Ross Taylor, Brendon McCullum, Jesse Ryder, Martin Guppill, Gareth Hopkins, Kane Williamson, Chris Martin, Tim Southee, Tim McIntosh, Jeetan Patel, Brent Arnel, Bradley John Watling, Hamish Bennett and Andy McCay.



Former Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore arrives at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Miracles still

FROM PAGE 17

It got worse for Sri Lanka with Thisara Perera bowled by Mitchell Johnson for a duck, leaving the tourists flailing at 86 for six in the 19th over.

Sri Lanka's fortunes had divided losing four wickets in 22 balls.

Suraj Randiv was run out for 10 by a throw from the deep from substitute fielder Mitchell Starc and Nuwan Kulasekara became Doherty's fourth victim, lbw for a duck.

Then Malinga joined Mathews at the wicket in a seemingly hopeless cause only for one of international

cricket's great recoveries to get underway.

Mike Hussey had topscored with a fighting unbeaten 71 to steer Australia to 239 for eight off their 50 overs.

SCORES IN BRIEF AUSTRALIA: 239 for 8 (Hussey 71 not out, Haddin 49, Clarke 27, Marsh 31; Perera 5-46)

SRI LANKA: 243 for 9 (Sangakkara 49, Matthews 77 not out, Jayawardene 19, Malinga 56; Doherty 4-46)

Result: Sri Lanka won by 1 wicket.

Man-of-the-match: Angelo Mathews.

HIGHEST PARTNERSHIPS FOR 9TH WICKET

Partners	Runs	Against	Ground	Year
Mathews-Malinga	132	Aus	Melbourne	2010
Kapil Dev-Kirmani	126*	Zim	Kent	1983
Yadav-Pathan	118	NZ	Bulawayo	2005
Pollock-Odoyo	103	Asia XI	Bangalore	2007
Dhoni-Singh	101	WI	Kingston	2009
Plunkett-Solanki	100	Pak	Lahore	2005
Shakib-Mashrafe	97	Pak	Multan	2008
Modi-Karim	89	SL	Nairobi	1996
Mills-Southee	83	Ind	Christchurch	2009
Laeec-Dukanwala	80*	SA	Rawalpindi	1996

RUNS FROM THE BOTTOM IN 2010

Player	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	BF	SR
Mashrafe	11	9	1	108	22	13.50	111	97.29
Razzak	18	11	4	71	27	10.14	96	73.95
Shafiq	19	10	4	49	16	8.16	79	62.02
Shuvo	7	5	1	40	14*	10.00	56	71.42
Shahadat	3	3	1	21	16*	10.50	21	100.0

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Bed-frame piece

5 Cribbage scorer

8 News-paper page

12 Cab

13 The whole enchilada

14 Heming-way or Haydn

15 In the thick of

16 Carnival city

17 "— go brag!"

18 Pacific discoverer

20 Threaten

22 Squid squirt

23 Longing

24 Longest abbr. on many calendars

27 Nero and Napoleon

32 Eggs

33 Greek H

34 Debtor's letters

35 1974 John Carpenter movie

38 Chess soldier

39 Blackbird

40 Commotion

42 Hardly colorful

45 Lizard's place?

49 Blunder

50 Common soccer score

52 Cranny

53 Competent

54 Geological period

55 "Unforgettable" singer

56 Interpret

57 Kinsey topic

58 Odds' mates

DOWN

1 Impale

2 Dalai —

3 Botanical angle

4 Morsel

5 Pet bird, often

6 Actor

7 — onto (snatch)

8 Church key, e.g.

9 Irrational distrust

10 Grand-scale tale

11 Hamlet, e.g.

19 Broadcasting

21 CBS logo

24 Turf

25 A Gabor sister

26 Geometric curve

28 Urban transit letters

29 Seeming displacement, to astronomers

30 Tier

31 Baltimore newspaper

36 Stabbed

37 Sermon subject

38 Swoop and seize

41 Coiffure

42 Culture medium

43 Ear part

44 Individuals

46 Midday

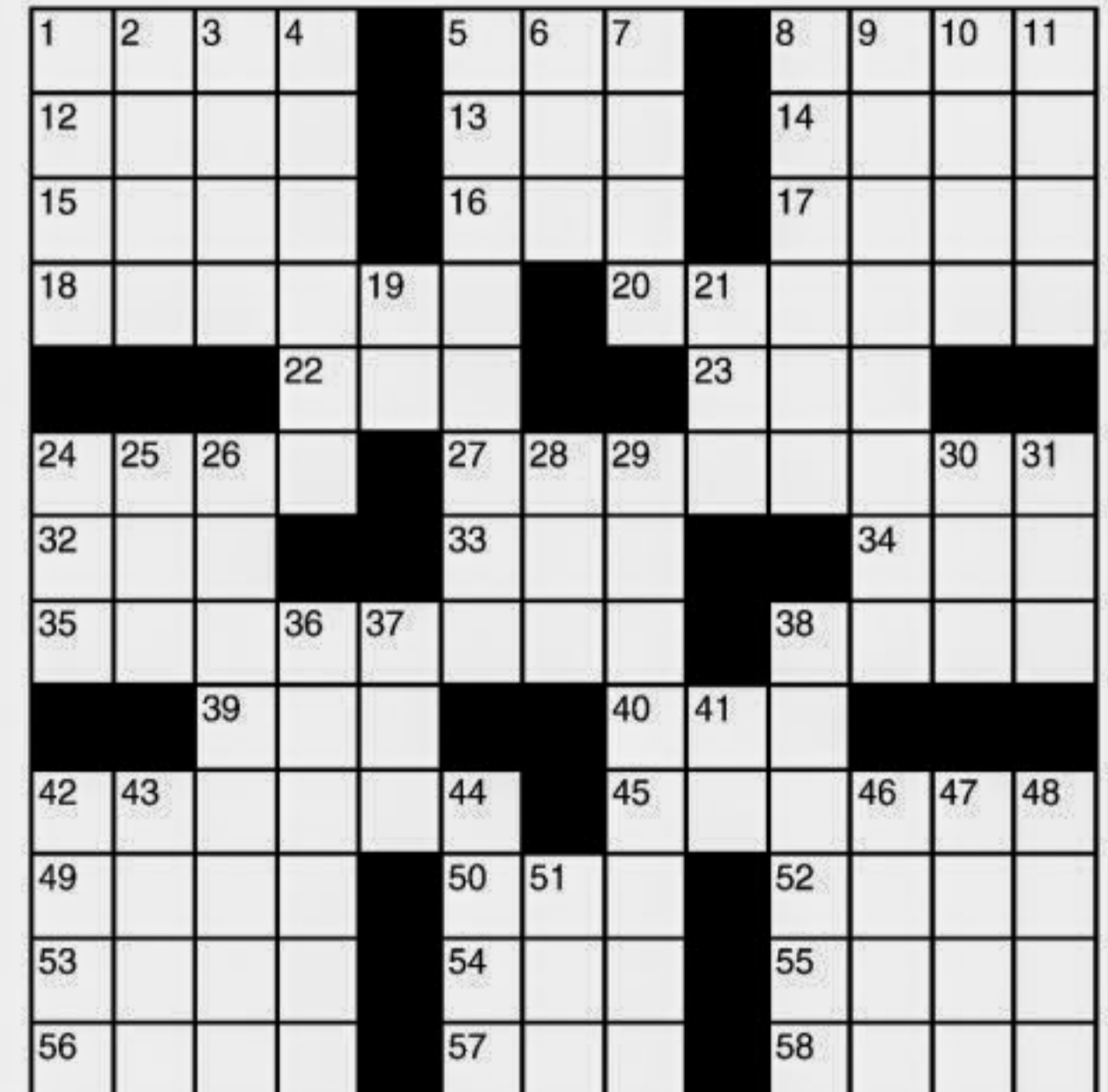
47 Olympian's prize

48 Supplements, with "out"

51 Rage

Solution time: 25 mins.

BALD ALP CELL
ERIE LEA HITYA
EINSTEIN TDES
SATIE GALOSH
RATS MIL
TREE REAM ODD
SUI ETEIO NOR
PEG LORD ASHY
HAS SEAS
LETTER CLARE
OLIO EITHEROR
BIEN AVE EGOS
EASE DYE POKS



CRYPTOQUIP

HLXSN ALRN KPPRCZVV RTZD
HEPUT DTDCTQU ZQT JXPHX
KPQ SQLXJLXF APVS PXTU:
RET AELAZFP CTTQU.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE A BLOODSUCKING ARACHNID BECAME CAUGHT IN SOME MIRE, ONE COULD CALL IT A TICK IN THE MUD.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals T