

Club Cup now from May 30



The Club Cup charity, football tournament, organised by Dhaka Metropolitan Football Club Association to raise funds for the cyclone victims, will now on from May 30 at the Dhaka Stadium.

The tournament was scheduled to begin from May 28 but due to the assassination of the former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, DMFCA president Mr Sultan said yesterday evening.

The three Calcutta clubs who earlier confirmed their participation, expressed their inability to come before the seven-day mourning declared by the Indian Government.

The top three Calcutta teams, East Bengal, Mohun Bagan and Calcutta Mohammedan

Sports Reporter

Sporting will now arrive in Dhaka on May 29.

The three leading Dhaka Clubs, Abahani Krira Chakra, Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting and Brothers Union have already called their players to join the training camp.

The organisers of the charity tournament disclosed that a negotiation with the Bangladesh Television is going on regarding the live telecast of the charity matches.

In another development, the Dhaka Football Players Welfare Association (DFFWA) in a press release has asked the club authorities to put back the tournament for at least a month.

The DFFWA in a statement cited that the players are physically unfit and they need time to be fully fit for the charity series since three Calcutta teams will be participating and lot of prestige will be at stake.

Another reliable BFF source claims that one of NSC's official is trying to provoke the players not to participate citing silly excuses so the tournament could not be held.

In these circumstances, one hopes that good shall prevail, because one have to remember, this tournament is being played for noble cause and everyone should come forward and try to contribute in whatever way they can.

Chelsea buys Tommy Boyd

LONDON, May 24: Chelsea paid Motherwell 800,000 pounds for their Scottish international defender Tommy Boyd on Tuesday — and the signing could pave the way of the departure of England defender Tony Dorigo, reports AFP.

At the same time Chelsea announced the signing of 25-year-old Boyd on a five-year contract they revealed that Dorigo had turned down new terms.

Managerless Chelsea captured Boyd in the face of competition from both Nottingham Forest and Leeds.

Boyd, who captained Motherwell to their Scottish Cup triumph against Dundee United on Saturday, and has five Scottish caps, said: I was impressed with what Chelsea had to offer — I thought it was the right decision to come to London.

"I thought it was the best time to leave Motherwell, having won a trophy. I wanted to further my career. I have been with them for seven years and felt it was time to move on."

Dorigo's contract expired at the end of the season and Chelsea managing director Colin Hutchinson said: "Tony has rejected our offer. He is now able to talk to other clubs while an offer is on the table."

"We have had an approach from Leeds to speak to him, but Leeds have not made an offer."

Hutchinson denied that European Cup winners' Cup winners Manchester United had also made a bid for the former Aston Villa full-back.

Chelsea are no nearer finding a successor to manager Bobby Campbell, who resigned last week.

Hutchinson said: "I couldn't say when a new manager will be appointed. That will be announced in due course."

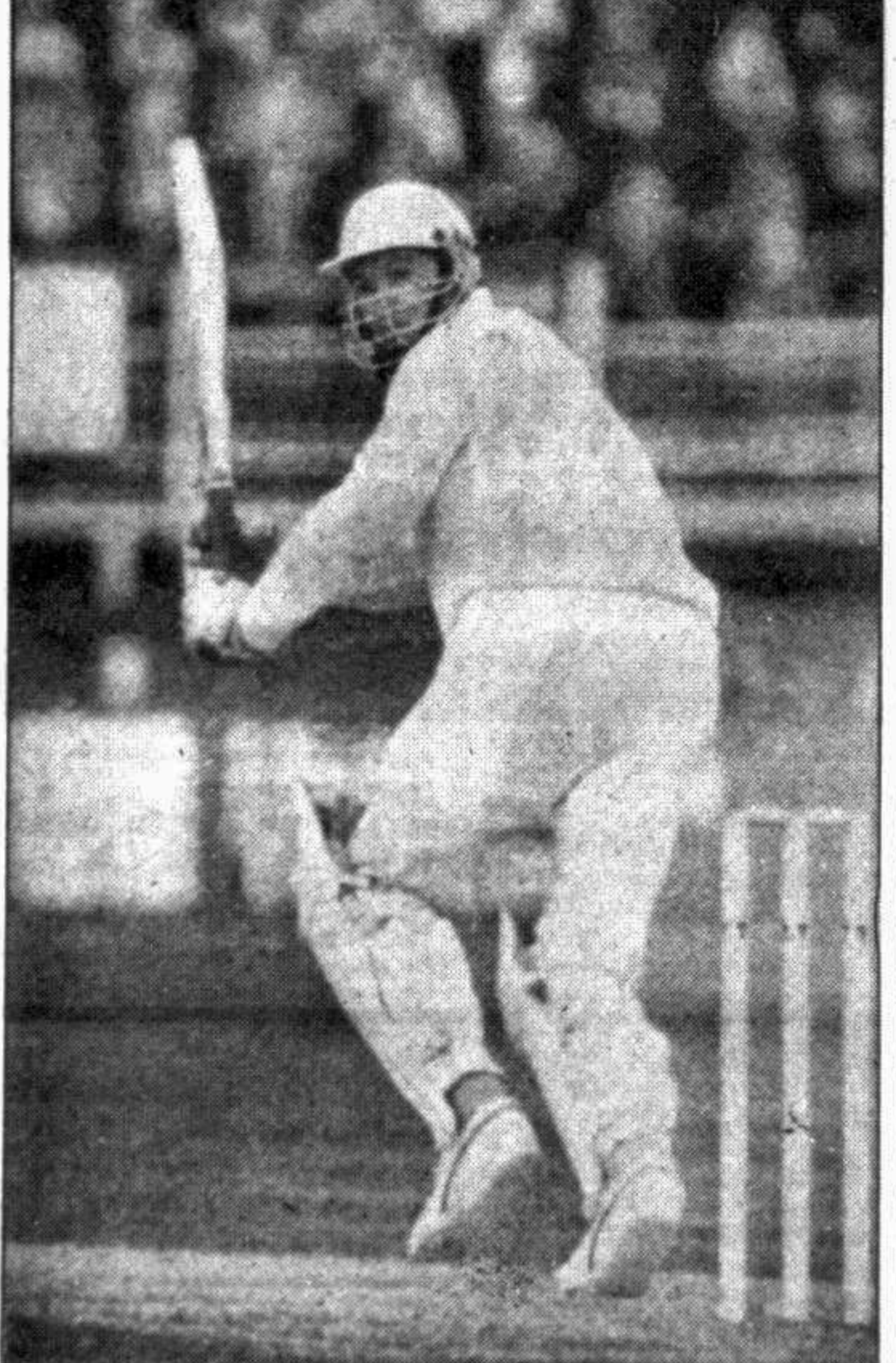
Honourable draw

LONDON, May 24: Cup kings Manchester United and Tottenham wound up the English First Division season with an honourable 1-1 draw yesterday reports Reuter.

A packed Old Trafford saluted both European Cup Winners' Cup heroes United and English FA Cup victors Tottenham.

But the game was an anticlimax for the near — 47,000 crowd. Pat Van Den Hauwe, Paul Allen, Nayim and, of course, Paul Gascoigne, were all missing from the Wembley team and Tottenham fell behind in the seventh minute.

The goal Produced another bitter memory for Terry Fenwick, who broke a leg against United 18 months ago. It was his first senior game since a second break in February and when Paul Ince drove in a shot from Denis Irwin's pass, the ball deflected off Fenwick to leave goalkeeper Erik Thorstvedt helpless.



Fails to impress: Gnaeme Hick is ready to swainson May 23 during one of his first English innings on his 25th birthday. Hick never really settled in and faced only 67 ball before being caught low by Richie Richardson off Malcolm Marshall for 14.

Botham doubtful for remaining one-dayers

Atherton steers England to victory



BIRMINGHAM, England, May 24: Opener Michael Atherton steered England to a dramatic one-wicket victory in the first one-day cricket international against West Indies today with an unbeaten 69, reports Reuter.

Atherton's resourceful innings, his top score in one-day internationals, formed the basis of England's 175 for nine with 5.2 of their 55 overs still remaining. England were also helped considerably by an extras total of 43, the highest ever in a limited-over international.

England, chasing West Indies' 173 for eight off 55 overs, resumed at 98 for four off 27 overs after bad light brought a premature close to Thursday's play.

Atherton, 35 not out overnight, and Ian Botham, who had scored one, took their fifth wicket partnership to 36 when play resumed today.

The Botham's comeback triumph turned to bitter disappointment when he pulled his right hamstring while taking a quick single.

After lengthy treatment he was England's most successful bowler on Thursday, resumed batting only to fall lbw for eight to Courtney Walsh off the very next ball. He must now be doubtful for the two remaining one-day internationals at Old Trafford on Saturday and Lord's on Monday.

Botham's departure sparked

a collapse as the late-order England batsmen, who each have a first-class century to their credit, failed to come to terms with the pace and movement of the West Indian bowlers.



MICHAEL ATHERTON — man of the match. Derek Pringle and Jack Russell made only one apiece before falling to catches at slip and behind the wicket respectively.

Phillip DeFreitas was also caught at slip for eight and Chris Lewis was out for a duck before Atherton found the partner he needed in last man Richard Illingworth.

Illingworth, who came in at 152 for nine, survived some atry shots outside the off-stump before ending the match in style with a cover-drive for four off spinner Carl

Hooper.

West Indies' captain Viv Richards used his main bowlers throughout the morning in an understandable attempt to capture wickets. They responded well with Malcolm Marshall turning in the best figures of two for 32 from his 11 overs before Richards was forced to resort to his part-timers.

An earlier report said, Botham, back in an England sweater for the first time in almost two years, took four for 45 as the West Indies were restricted to 173 for eight in their 55 overs.

The 35-year-old all-rounder then reappeared with the bat but had time to score only a single before play was halted with England on 98 for four from 27 overs, still requiring another 76 runs off 28 overs for victory.

England's star debutante Graeme Hick made just 14 before falling to a sharp catch at slip by Richie Richardson off Malcolm Marshall.

Zimbabwean-born Hick, stepping into the international arena at last, having served his seven-year qualification period, found the West Indian pace attack in full cry on an awkward pitch.

He lasted 67 minutes, facing 49 balls, but perished to a front foot prod which left England 41 for two in the 15th over.

Skipper Graham Gooch wet cheaply, lbw to Curtley Ambrose for a duck, and England were indebted to the steadiness of Michael Atherton.

SCOREBOARD

WEST Indies 173 for eight in 55 overs (1 Botham four for 45). England (overnight 98 for four)

Gooch lbw b Ambrose	69
Atherton not out	69
Hick c Richardson b Marshall	14
Lamb b Hooper	18
Fairbrother c Dujon b Hooper	4
Botham lbw b Walsh	8
Pringle c Richardson b Walsh	1
Russell c Dujon b Patterson	1
DeFreitas c Richardson b Marshall	8
Lewis c Richardson b Patterson	0
Illingworth not out	9
Extras (lb-9, w-18, nb-16)	43
Total (nine wickets -49.4 overs)	175
Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-41, 3-80, 4-87, 5-123, 6-126, 7-134, 8-147, 9-152.	

BOWLING

O	M	R	W
Ambrose	11	2	34
Patterson	11	2	38
Marshall	11	1	32
Walsh	11	0	34
Stimmons	3	0	10
Hooper	2	4	18

Result: England won by one wicket. Next one-day match: Saturday at Old Trafford.

Downton will call it a day

LONDON, May 24: Former England wicketkeeper Paul Downton announced on Thursday he was quitting first-



PAUL DOWNTON — quitting international cricket.

class cricket because of a serious eye injury suffered last year, reports Reuter.

Downton, who played 30 Tests, will finish his 14-year involvement in the English county game when Middlesex's current match with Sussex ends today.

The 34-year-old Downton was struck by a flying ball against Hampshire last season and has experienced problems seeing the ball behind the stumps in Middlesex's recent matches.

"I have been very vulnerable standing back to quick bowlers. I haven't dropped that many chances but enough to make me realise it won't work," he said.

Downton claimed 75 dismissals in Test cricket and scored 785 Tests runs at an average of 19.62.

Lopez KO's Hirano for WBC crown

SHIZUOKA, Japan, May 24: Mexico's Ricardo Lopez has stopped his Japanese challenger Kimio Hirano in the eighth round to retain his World Boxing Council strawweight title here, reports AFP.

Lopez, 23 put the Japanese champion on the floor with a series of powerful combination blows and American referee Rudy Ortega lost no time in stepping in and declaring Lopez the winner by a technical knockout, 1 min 42 sec into the round.

Lopez, who had never been beaten in his 26 professional fights, took command of the fight from the outset, consistently scoring with well timed jabs to the face of his opponent. He took the first seven rounds with ease, pounding the inexperienced 24-year-old Hirano, who ended the fight with swollen eyes and bleeding profusely from the nose.

Hirano, ranked seventh in the world by the WBC, gave the 5,500 partisan fans at the Kusanagi Gymnasium little to shout about, landing only one really effective punch, a hard left to the body, in the fifth round of the 12-round bout.

It was Lopez's first defense of the WBC's lightest 105 pound title that he had wrested from Japan's Hideyuki Ohishi following a fifth round technical knockout on October 25 last year. The Mexican now boasts and undefeated record of 27 wins, 20 of them inside the distance.

Hirano's record dropped to nine wins, including only one knockout, four losses and one draw.

Soviets hold Argentinians

MANCHESTER, England, May 24: World Cup finalists Argentina were held 1-1 by the Soviet Union in the second match of a triangular soccer tournament on Thursday, despite playing against only 10 men for the final 18 minutes, reports Reuter.

Defender Andrei Chernishkov was sent off for a professional foul on Argentine substitute Sergio Bertti who had raced clear in the middle of the field.

Argentine goalkeeper Sergio Goycochea saved a 35th minute penalty, tamely hit by

Igor Dobrovolsky, before his side went ahead in the final minutes of the first half.

David Bisconti curled a free kick into the penalty area and captain Oscar Ruggeri headed firmly home past Soviet goalkeeper Stanislav Cherchesov.

The Soviets equalised four minutes after halftime through a powerfully hit free kick from Igor Koyvanov and had their chances to snatch a winning goal.

The 23, 743 crowd, more than watched England's game against the Soviet Union at Wembley on Tuesday also witnessed a few cynical tackles with Argentina picking up

Solberg's successful comeback

OSLO, May 24: Norwegian javelin thrower Trine Solberg, who had a two-year ban from athletics lifted after a drug test was found to be erroneous, continued her comeback with the year's third best throw on Tuesday night, reports Reuter.

Solberg, who returned to competition recently after having a baby last year, threw 67.54 metres at an athletics meeting in Oslo's Bislett Stadium.

three yellow cards.

The result left England favourites to win the competition.

They beat the Soviet Union 3-1 and face Argentines in the final match on Saturday.

Kouros leads the pack in Melbourne

SYDNEY, May 24: Rebel Yiannis Kouros outran the official field in the Sydney-Melbourne ultra-marathon by 20 hours on Tuesday to drive home his protest over appearance money, reports Reuter.

Kouros, five-times winner, began behind the 23 official starters but arrived in Melbourne at the head of the field.

The Greek, who holds 70 world records for long-distance running, first entered and won the Sydney-Melbourne in 1985.

Three years ago sponsors, worried his domination would kill interest, persuaded him to start 12 hours behind the rest. He still won by over four hours.

Kouros, who fell out with sponsors over appearance money this year, decided to run the 1,028 km (638 mile) event for nothing.

French Open begins Monday

PARIS, May 24: Gamblers looking for a safe bet at the two-week French Open starting on Monday next week would be wiser to save their money, reports Reuter.

Frequent upsets this season have often made a mockery of the seedings, turning the art of prediction into a perilous process. And injuries to the likes of Ivan Lendl, Boris Becker and top Frenchman Guy Forget have clouded the crystal ball even more.

The 12 major ATP tournaments of the year so far have seen eight different winners.

In the 32 events in total—taking in the lesser world series tournaments—the top seeds have lost in the first round eight times and the second seeds 12 times.

The absence of local favourite Yannick Noah and one-time hero Bjorn Borg, the withdrawal of reigning champion Andres Gomez and an apparent agreement by Andre Agassi to tone down his jazzy outfits would all seem likely to

contribute to a rather colourless two weeks at Roland Garros.

But that too would be an unwisest prediction.

The red clay courts of Paris have witnessed many a thrilling battle featuring an unexpected protagonist lifted by the sense of occasion and the Grand Slam atmosphere.

American Michael Chang's tortuous five-setter against former world number one Lendl in the fourth round two years ago is a prime example. Chang, at 17, went on to become the youngest men's champion in history.

Last year saw two more teenaged giant-killers, in the shape of Sergi Bruguera and Yugoslavia's Goran Ivanisevic who knocked out top seeds Stefan Edberg and Becker respectively.

On current form, Bruguera could be the man to watch this year. Now 20, he has risen to a career-best ranking of fifth thanks to some excellent results on clay, his favourite surface.

Victory over Becker in the

final of the Monte Carlo Open last month, as well as appearances in the Barcelona Open final and in the last four of the Italian Open, have given the young Spaniard the perfect run-up to Roland Garros.

Not since 1972 when Andres Gimeno won, has the French Open men's trophy gone to a Spaniard and the nation can also look to Emilio Sanchez, Bruguera's rival both on and off court, who has won two clay court titles in the last six weeks.

Sanchez, who has been on bad terms with Bruguera since a row over Davis Cup places last year, has always done best in doubles until his recent wins in Barcelona and Rome.

While his Italian victory last Sunday owed much to an injury to Argentine opponent Alberto Mancini who was forced to retire in the third set, the cheery Sanchez has a special motivation in Paris — to emulate little sister Arantxa.

Two years ago, Emilio was present to witness Arantxa lift the women's trophy on the Roland Garros centre court and become the youngest female winner in the tournament's history with an exciting victory over Graf.

The mantle of youngest champion has since passed to last year's winner, Monica Seles, who will be involved in a three-way fight for the world's top ranking.

The 17-year-old Yugoslav is currently number one but either Graf or Argentine Gabriela Sabatini would have a chance of knocking her from her perch with victory here.

Sabatini won her first grand Slam title at the US Open last year and though she has never got beyond the semifinals of the French she has hit superb form on clay recently, winning the Italian Open two weeks ago with victory over Seles in the final.

Graf, twice champion at Roland Garros, has not won a Grand Slam event since the 1990 Australian Open.

World number four Martina Navratilova will again miss the French, preferring to concentrate on preparations for defending her Wimbledon title next month.

Databank to record hooligans

BONN, May 24: Germany's Soccer Federation (DFB) said on Thursday it would back government proposals to set up a databank of convicted hooligans after further trouble at an east German league match, reports Reuter.

"We are in favour of a list which could help keep trouble makers out of grounds," said DFB security committee official Hans Florin, adding the federation's weight to recent proposals by Interior Minister Wolfgang Schauble.

Schauble, whose portfolio

covers sport, has said he is determined to set up a databank.

"We must be able to set up this (hooligan) index," he said.

Germany has been hit by a wave of hooliganism this season, especially in the former communist east.

A lower division East German league match in Zwickau had to be abandoned in the 66th minute on Wednesday after 50 people in the 11,000-crowd ran on the pitch and attacked players and officials.

"I could not let the game go on any longer," referee Klaus Peschel said. "I broke it all up because I feared for the lives and limbs of the players and my colleagues."

The incident was the third time hooligans have forced a game in the east to be stopped.

Earlier this season Dynamo Dresden's European Cup quarter throwing objects on to the pitch.

Backley to the fore

LONDON, May 24: Javelin star Steve Backley was named on Tuesday captain of Britain's team for the world Student Games in Sheffield, reports AFP.

The 22-year-old Loughborough student will carry the British flag at the opening ceremony on July 14 and be the figurehead of a 300-strong team.

Backley, who will defend the title he won in Duisburg two years ago, said: "I'm honoured to be selected as captain and looking forward to the job."

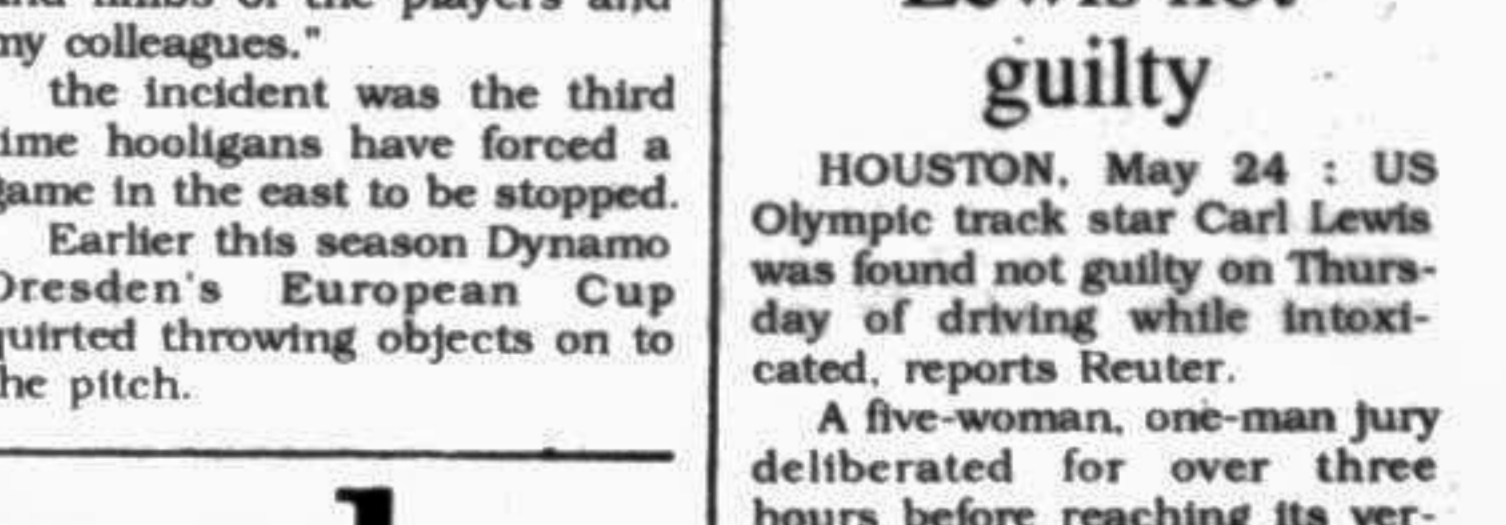
Lewis not guilty

HOUSTON, May 24: US Olympic track star Carl Lewis was found not guilty on Thursday of driving while intoxicated, reports Reuter.

A five-woman, one-man jury deliberated for over three hours before reaching its verdict.

The case stems from a January 11 incident in which Lewis, 29, was arrested after his car stuck a curb, blowing out two tires.

Lewis, winner of four Olympic gold medals in 1984 and two more at the 1988 Seoul Games, testified on Wednesday that he only had two drinks and that his car had mechanical problems.



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Tapie — avowed to do Marseille proud

PARIS, May 24: In just five years business man Bernard Tapie is on the verge of pulling off one of the most unlikely coups of his career—turning Marseille, the black sheep of French soccer, into European champions, reports Reuter.

Through soccer, Tapie, who found fame and fortune by rescuing struggling firms, restored some pride to Marseille, creating a success story in an infamous city. The team allowed him to revive the town's economy and to start a political career.

When he took over the club's presidency in 1986, the odds were stacked against him. He was a rich and trendy businessman from Paris, landing in a decaying port plagued by unemployment and a strong feeling of inferiority towards the capital.

Since World War Two, 12 local businessmen had sunk in achieving their lifetime dream of chairing L'Olympique de Marseille, L'Om.

Tapie's predecessor Jean Carriec, president from 1981 to 1986, committed suicide 10 months after resigning because of poor results and bankruptcy.

"I don't have the means to meet the demands of the club's fans," he wrote in his resignation letter.

The local press was merciless on their team, the town's one and only pride.

"I have killed two presidents," boasted a veteran soccer writer.

But Marseille's passion for their team — a 1989 poll showed L'Om was the population's main concern — was Tapie's main asset.

"Marseille has the passion and I have the money," he said when taking over.

On Tapie's arrival, the

40,000 fans gathering weekly in the Stade Velodrome had little to celebrate. Marseille had just finished 17th in the league, after four years in the Second Division.

L'Om was then seen as a great side from the past. Yugoslav striker Josip Skoblar, who led the team to their first French League and Cup double in 1972, scoring 44 goals, was still a living legend, 14 years later.

In 1986, the team was made of young local players dubbed "less minors" (the kids), coming mostly from the town's working class suburbs like most of their supporters, the "ultras."

The town with no future was plagued by its past and a picturesque imagery. For outsiders, Marseille was all about racism, gangster and lazy fishermen drinking past is in the old port.

He spent 42 million franc (10 million dollars) on Eng-

land's Chris Waddle, within two seasons the former Tottenham winger showed he was worth the investment, he became Marseille's hero and a hot favourite for the European player of the year award in 1991.

Such publicity attracted local and national firms to the Stade Velodrome where they built boxes for matches which have been turned into light shows with giant screens and fireworks.

Chairing L'Om also turned out to be an efficient political springboard.

"I'm not the mayor of Marseille, I'm the mayor of L'Om" former French interior minister Gaston Defferre, who led the municipality for more than 40 years used to say.

Tapie took a strong stance against racism facing extreme rightwing leader Jean-Marie Le Pen, very popular in Marseille,

in a TV talks show.

Two years after taking over the club's presidency, he was elected member of parliament in a Marseille area usually partial to Le Pen.

In five years, the Stade Velodrome which Tapie wants to replace with a 80,000 capacity stadium in one of the poorest parts of town, has become a melting pot for the different communities in Marseille. Many of the ultras are of north-African or Italian origin.

From a distance, they can now catch a glimpse of politicians or movie stars such as Yves Montand and Jean Paul Belmondo, recently converted to the Om craze. But long serving fans still recall the old days before Tapie back in 1985, when only 464 watched Om play Fortbach in a Second Division match.

I was there, claim thousands of veterans in the town's bars on a match day.



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