



Pakistan's Waseem Firoze (R) dives to flick the ball into South Korea's goal during Friday's match in the Sultan Azlan Shah hockey meet in Ipoh. Pakistan won 8-0. —AFP photo

India lift Azlan Shah Cup

IPOH, Malaysia, Aug 3: India carved out a decisive 3-0 win over the Soviet Union today to lift the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup for field hockey after an unbeaten run in the six-nation tournament, reports AFP.

The victory for India, currently ranked 10th in the world, lifted New Delhi's hopes of making it to the Barcelona Olympics at qualifying rounds to be played in Auckland, New Zealand, in September.

"The victory is a great morale booster," said jubilant Indian coach Balkrishn Singh, a former Olympian. He said India was now ready to return

Pakistanis drub hosts 8-3

IPOH, Aug 3: Pakistan registered an 8-3 win over Malaysia to take second place in the six-nation Sultan Azlan Shah invitational field hockey championships here Saturday, reports AFP.

Pakistan led 2-1 at the interval.

The homesters were put under tremendous pressure by the fast moving Pakistanis from the start.

The Malaysians first cracked in the 11th minute when M. Khalid moved up from the defence and relayed the ball to Ajaz Ahmad to beat keeper Paul Lopez.

Hardly had the Malaysians recovered than Pakistan dealt another blow.

Skipper Shahbaz Ahmad accepted a long pass from Ajaz and pushed it to Shehbaz Jr to score in the 12th minute.

Malaysia tried hard to make a comeback, but the tight Pakistan defence gave no room

Holyfield to top 'em all

NEW YORK, Aug 3: Undisputed world heavyweight boxing champion Evander Holyfield is expected to top the list in earnings this year among the world's professional athletes, reports AFP.

Forbes Magazine, in its August 19 issue, estimated Holyfield's gross earnings for 1991 at a little more than 60 million dollars.

Former champion Mike Tyson, who faces Holyfield in November, is second with earnings estimated at 31.5 million dollars, followed by Chicago Bulls superstar Michael Jordan at 16 million dollars.

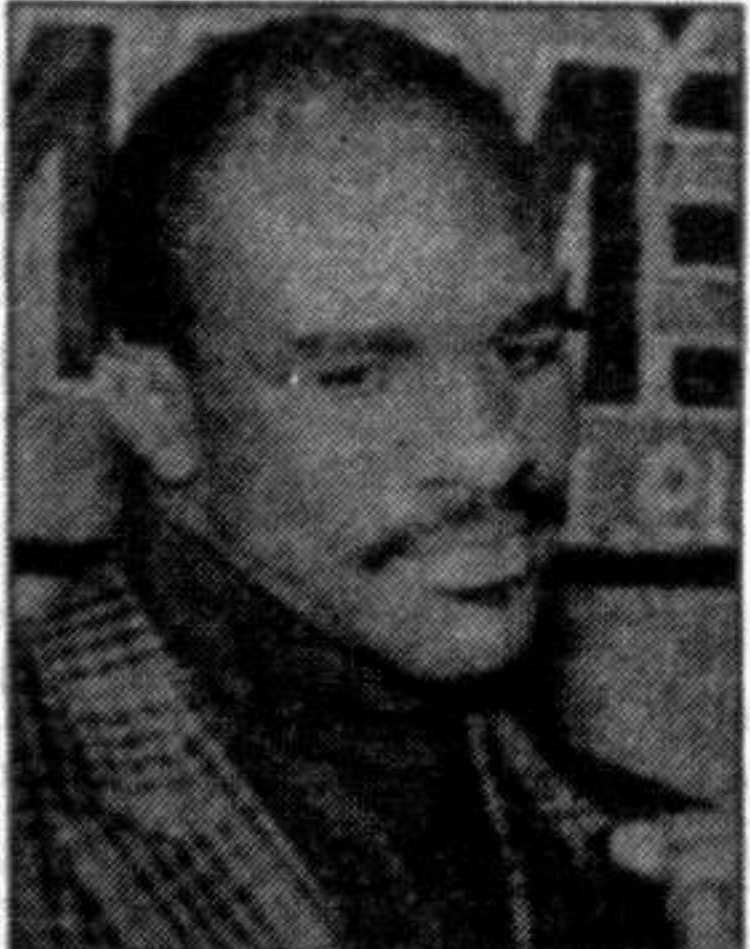
In Jordan's case, more than 13 million dollars comes from endorsements and other outside contracts. His salary is set at 2.8 million dollars.

Boxers comprise four of the top-10, with George Foreman earning little more than 14 million dollars and Canada's Donovan 'Razor' Ruddock pulling in some 10 million dollars.

WTA's top 20

Following are the top 20 women's singles players, according to latest rankings issued by the Women's Tennis Association in St Petersburg, USA:

1. Monica Seles (Yugoslavia);
2. Steffi Graf (Germany);
3. Gabriela Sabatini (Argentina);
4. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario (Spain);
5. Martina Navratilova (US);
6. Mary Joe Fernandez (US);
7. Conchita Martinez (Spain);
8. Jana Novotna (Czechoslovakia);
9. Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere (Switzerland);
10. Jennifer Capriati (US);
11. Zina Garrison (US);
12. Katerina Maleeva (Bulgaria);
13. Lella Meakhi (Soviet Union);
14. Nathalie Tauziat (France);
15. Helena Sukova (Czechoslovakia);
16. Barbara Paulus (Austria);
17. Anke Huber (Germany);
18. Judith Wiesner (Austria);
19. Amy Frazier (US);
20. Natalia Zvereva (Soviet Union).



EVANDER HOLYFIELD million dollars, followed by Chicago Bulls superstar Michael Jordan at 16 million dollars.

Fifth and sixth places went to formula one rivals Ayrton Senna of Brazil (13 million) and Alain Prost of France (11 million).

Golfing greats Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus occupy the eighth and 10th positions, respectively. Most of Palmer's 9.3 million dollars is derived from endorsements and course designing fees.

Tennis players did not crack the top-10, with world number one Monica Seles taking 12th place with estimated earnings of nearly eight million dollars. Sweden's Stefan Edberg is the top male at 7.4 million dollars, good for 14th.

Joe Montana, quarterback for the San Francisco 49ers, is the top-paid American football player at 7.5 million dollars, while Toronto Blue Jays' outfielder Joe Carter is baseball's richest man at 3.9 million dollars.

Turin's novel plan

TURIN, Italy, Aug 3: Turin has put forward a novel 'three-city' proposal designed to bring the Olympic Games to northern Italy in the year 2000, reports AFP.

The city's mayor Valerio Zazone has written to his counterpart in Milan, Paolo Pillitteri, suggesting that the two cities, along with the port of Genoa, should put in a joint bid for the Games.

Milan has already formally announced their intention to bid for the Games, and are preparing a dossier for the Italian National Olympic Committee.

Berlin remain favourites to host the turn-of-the-century Games.

Samaranch says 'No'

HAVANA, Aug 3: The president of the International Olympic Committee, Juan Antonio Samaranch, said today he would turn down any offer to be Secretary General of the United Nations to remain in his present post, reports Reuter.

Samaranch had been asked at a press conference about reports that he would be interested in replacing UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar who retires this year.

Samaranch, who is in Havana for the 11th Pan American Games which opened competition today, said: "I am very satisfied with the position I now have. Being president of the IOC has been my dream and I would not change it for any position in the world."

Tapie backs coach over Waddle

MARSEILLES, Aug 3: The millionaire chief of French champions Olympique Marseille, Bernard Tapie, is backing his coach over a controversial move to play England striker Chris Waddle in defence, reports AFP.

Waddle, whose goals and penetrating runs were key to Marseille's success last season, was left playing a link role between a back three and the midfield in Wednesday night's 2-0 win over Metz.

But in an interview with local daily Le Provençal on Saturday, Tapie claimed Waddle was free to play wherever he wanted — a statement not borne out though by the English ace.

"There is no problem with Waddle," Tapie said, and as for Yugoslav coach Tomislav Ivic. "For the moment I have only one reproach to make — that of not explaining things properly to people."

"If he had done so, he would have told everyone that Waddle is the only player in the team, really the only one, who has no orders to carry out."

"He is free — free to do what he thinks is right, and if he pulls back and plays on the defensive, it's because he decides to."

Tapie also reckoned that Waddle "is quite simply, not at his best. Among all of our players, he is the one who has the most difficulty with the heat."

"Waddle is not a robot — but come the end of August, he'll be his old self again. Like the rest of the team for that matter."

Waddle told the paper that as a professional, he was just "following orders", about where to play.

In France, Waddle has been linked with a possible move to the revamped Paris, St. Germain, and in Britain with his old club Newcastle United.

Martin dashes Dittmar dream

ADELAIDE, Aug 3: Rodney Martin clawed back from a game down Saturday to clinch his first appearance in a World Open squash final and end Chris Dittmar's ambition of a hometown triumph, reports AFP.

The technically-rich fifth seed, fresh from his three-game demolition of world No. 1 Jansher Khan on Friday night, dissolved the crushing expectations of victory that had shadowed Dittmar over the past few months.

Martin, who conceded the first 10 points, edged out the fourth-seeded Dittmar 5-15, 15-13, 17-14 and 15-13 in just more than an hour.

Martin, plagued by inconsistency in the past, pointed to pre-tournament help from a sports psychologist for getting him fully focussed for the World Open.

"I have seen a sports psychologist leading up to the tournament just to get a few hints of how to concentrate a bit more and not let things worry me," said the 25-year-old Martin.

"I play better when I don't get uptight and worry about a few decisions that may go against me."

Martin's psychologist, Ian Lynagh, is the father of Michael Lynagh, the world-record pointscorer Wallaby rugby union player.

Martin, one of the freer spirits on the international squash circuit, needed to be switched on after Dittmar playing that kind of squash for

you just hope he can't keep bolted away to a 10-0 start in the first game, but he kept cool.

"It was just a matter of hanging in. Chris was just playing too well at the start, and the whole match," Martin explained.

"Chris's length at the start was spot on. I just couldn't get in front of him, and my (length) was just too short, and he just dominated."

"My game picked up. I got better length in the second game and my drop (shots) started going off."

It was Martin's third straight win over the flame-headed left-hander — he bested Dittmar in five games at the German Open in March and followed up with another victory over the distance in the French Open in April.

Doubts over Dittmar's match toughness going into Saturday's semifinal materialised as Martin gradually got on terms and held the whip hand as the match progressed.

Dittmar, a four-time loser in the World Open finals, had relatively easier assignments in disposing of qualifier Brett Newton and Australian junior champion Craig Rowland in quick time before a hollow decision over injury-weakened Anthony Hill in Friday's quarter-finals.

All looked to be proceeding to plan in Saturday's semifinal when he reeled off the first 10 points, but the writing was on the wall when Martin began finding his delicate touch.

Despite Dittmar leading 13-12, Martin went on to level at 1-1 and then strung together the last three extra points to take the third game 17-14.

Dittmar was fighting for survival in the fourth and led 7-6 and 13-12 before an error into the tin and another Martin drop volley set up match ball.

"Even though the scores were close I felt I was struggling to grab control and surge ahead. It was always neck and neck and I also seemed to be that point or two behind," Dittmar lamented.

"That seemed to be the pattern of the match. I was playing catch up."



JAHANGIR KHAN

Jahangir on course

ADELAIDE, Aug 3: Jahangir Khan stayed on course to win his seventh World Open squash title after a comfortable 15-3, 14-15, 15-6, 15-4 semifinal victory over Australian third seed Chris Robertson on Saturday, reports Reuter.

The Pakistani world number two was rarely troubled as he set up an intriguing showdown with Australian Rodney Martin, a 5-15, 15-13, 17-14, 15-13 semifinal winner over compatriot Chris Dittmar, in Sunday's final.

Despite Martin's surprise victories over world number one Jansher Khan and Dittmar, Jahangir showed he was in the mood to seize another title.

Unleashing what Robertson described as a "volley barrage" he won the first eight points before wrapping up the first game in 11 minutes.

Robertson levelled in Game Two, electing to gamble on playing straight through when Jahangir was serving at 14-all, but the second seed quickly regained the initiative and took the following two games in 24 minutes.

Having returned to dominance this year by notching a record 10th successive British

Open crown, Jahangir insisted Martin would be no pushover.

"When he's on he can beat anybody," said the Pakistan.

But Jahangir can draw satisfaction from the fact he has beaten Martin in their three meetings this year, including the British Open semifinals last April.

Robertson said: "I think I'll make a cracking final, they're obviously the two form players of the tournament."

If fifth-seeded Martin triumphs he will become the first Australian to win the world championship since Geoff Hunt in 1980.

Botham strengthens his Test claim



LONDON, Aug 3: Ian Botham improved his chances of an England return on Friday but then admitted: "I don't worry about it any more," reports AFP.

The 35-year-old all-rounder scored 81 for Worcestershire against the game's meanest county attack at New Road.

But while the campaign for him to face West Indies at the Oval next Thursday is growing by the minute, Botham will not lose any sleep this weekend.

For after his superbly timed knock against Warwickshire he could not resist a typically flip comment.

"It will be a shame in some ways if I'm picked for the Test because the base are running in Alderney."

Botham's love of fishing is

well known. But most England supporters would prefer to see him tackling Vtv Richards' team next week.

"I don't know what I have to do to get in," he said. "After I was injured during the one-day internationals they told me to go away, get fit, score runs and take wickets. I've done that."

"Some things recently have mystified not only me but other players as well."

Botham was shocked by Chris Lewis's return ahead of him for the fourth Test at Edgbaston.

"Chris came in and did very well and I'm pleased for the lad," said Botham. "But I should think he was as surprised as anyone to be picked."

"And Dermot Reeve must wonder what he's done wrong after being made 12th man and then left out of the next match."

Botham also banged the drum for David Gower's recall next week.

"David's record speaks for itself," he said.

"I'm a bit mystified that someone who got two centuries in Australia last winter has not even been considered this summer."

At least Botham is guaranteed a good report Friday night from England observer Fred Titmus, who was sent to New Road by the selectors to provide a last minute condition report.

CRICKET CLIPPINGS

Moody at his brilliant best

LONDON, Aug 3: Australian Tom Moody hammered a career best double century for Worcestershire against his former country Warwickshire on Friday, reports Reuter.

Moody plundered 210, his 10th hundred of the season, as Worcestershire piled up 454 for eight declared on the first day of their three-day match with current county championship leaders Warwickshire. Warwickshire released Moody at the end of last season, retaining South African fast bowler Allan Donald when new restriction were placed on the number of overseas players with each county.

Donald quickly reduced Worcestershire to 25 for two on Friday, his pair of victims including out of form England batsman Graeme Hick who made just four.

But Moody when put the Warwickshire attack to the sword, his runs coming off 256 balls with 28 fours and three sixes.

Warwickshire closed on 36 for no wicket. Second placed Essex and Nottinghamshire, third, who trailed Warwickshire by 44 and 47 points respectively before the start of play are not currently involved in championship games. Both have a game in hand on the leaders.

Waqar, Akram rise to occasions

LONDON, Aug 3: Lancashire and Surrey, fourth and fifth but with two games in hand on Warwickshire, were again well served by their Pakistani pace bowlers, reports Reuter.

Surrey's Waqar Younis took six for 72 including a burst of four wickets in seven balls as Kent were bowled out for 358.

Mark Benson and Matthew Fleming both struck centuries as Kent cruised past 300 with just four wickets down before Waqar pegged them back.

Lancashire's Wasim Akram returned five for 91 as his side dismissed Yorkshire for 318. But Lancashire were struggling at 33 for two at the close.

Russell turns bowler

BRISTOL, England, Aug 3: Gloucestershire's England wicketkeeper Jack Russell turned bowler on Friday and captured the prize wicket of Richie Richardson as West Indies' latest three-day tour match petered out into a draw, reports Reuter.

Russell handed over his pads and gloves to Mark Alleyne and had Richardson, a century maker in the first innings, stumped by Alleyne for 48 with only his fifth delivery.

Carl Hooper hit an unbeaten 111, his fourth hundred of the tour, before West Indies declared their second innings at 261 for five, setting Gloucestershire an unrealistic target of 359 in two sessions.

Gloucestershire played out a draw with few alarms despite losing former England batsman Bill Athey who retired hurt after being hit on the elbow by a ball from Malcolm Marshall. The home side closed on 132 for four.

Goldsmith holds up Sri Lankans

DERBY, England, Aug 3: Derbyshire's Steve Goldsmith hit a career best 98 not out to hold up Sri Lanka after the tourists had taken the upper hand on the first day of their three-day cricket match on Friday, reports Reuter.

Sri Lanka reduced the home side to 141 for five before Goldsmith and Ewan McCray put on an unbroken 117 to take the score to 258 for five at the close.

Goldsmith made his runs off 268 balls while McCray batted 59 overs for just 31 runs against some accurate bowling by left-arm spinner Don Anurasiri and the Sri Lankan battery of medium-pacers.



Scene from yesterday's play in the Dr. Mannan memorial chess, now going on at the National Coaching Centre. —Star photo