



Indian skipper Pargat Singh is surrounded by his teammates as he holds aloft the Sultan Azlan Shah hockey trophy in Ipoh, Malaysia Aug 3. — AFP photo

Seles faces Capriati in Mazda final

CARLSBAD, Calif., Aug 4: Top-ranked Monika Seles advanced to the championship of the Mazda Classic with a 6-1, 6-2 victory over sixth-seeded Nathalie Tauziat on Saturday night, reports AP.

The final Sunday will match Seles against Jennifer Capriati, who earlier surged past second-seeded Conchita Martinez 6-4, 6-0 by winning the last nine games.

Seles, playing her first tour event since bypassing Wimbledon because of a sore leg, needs to win this tournament to keep the No. 1 ranking that she has held since March 11. The 17-year-old Yugoslav relied on a steady ground strokes against Tauziat, ranked 14th, of France, in reaching a tournament final for the 13th

consecutive time since October, 1990. Seles has won four titles in eight tries this year, including her last one June 8 at the French Open. The final will be a re-match between players who last met two weeks ago at an exhibition in Mahwah, N. J. where Capriati won 6-3, 7-5. "I learned from that match, no question," Seles said. "Jennifer has been playing great. I just have to play more of my game, to go for my shots. That's the key."

Gilbert edges Edberg to reach final

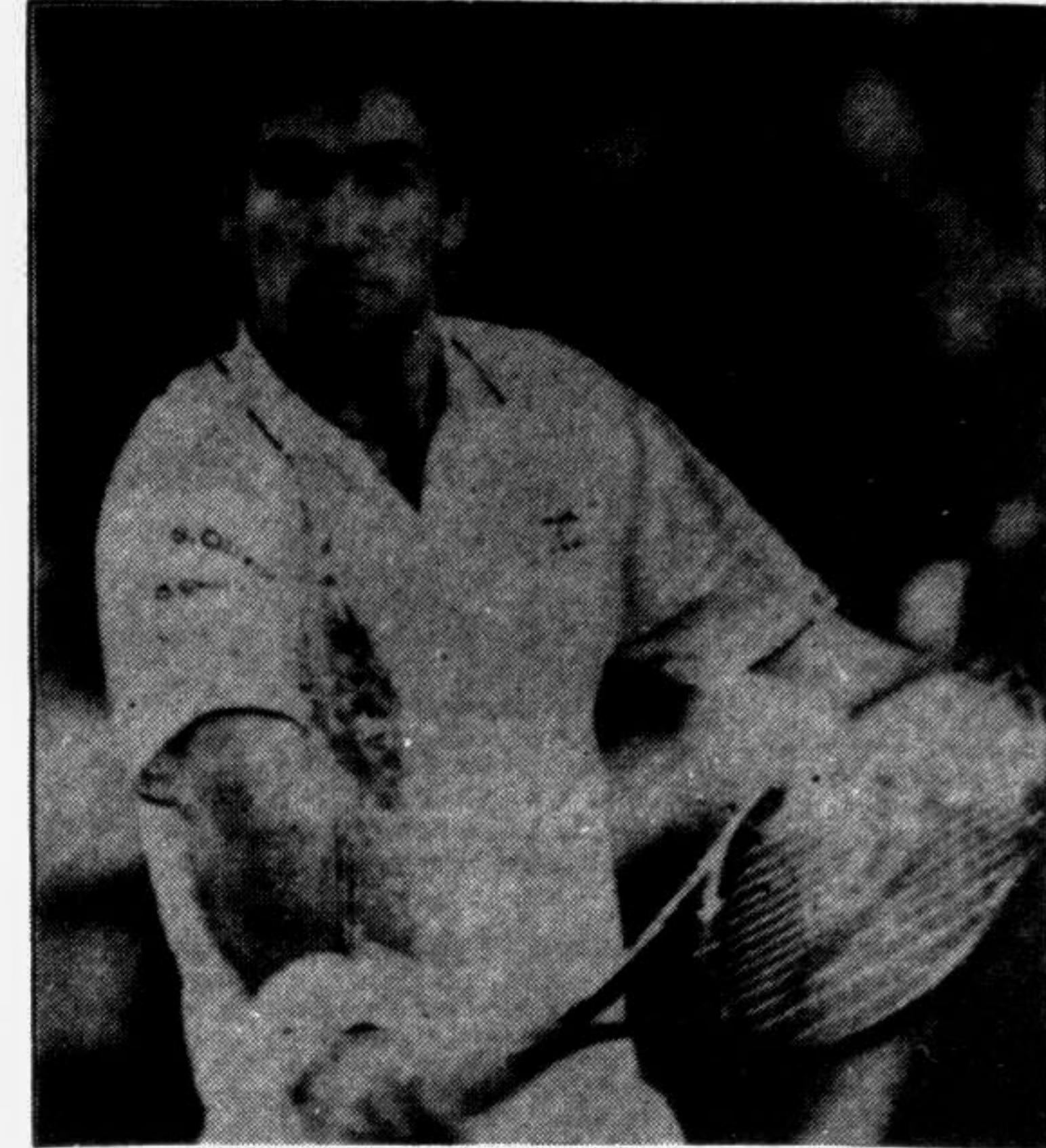
LOS ANGELES, Aug 4: Brad Gilbert scored his biggest win this season and advanced to only his second final of the year as he upset top-seeded Stefan Edberg at the Volvo Tennis tournament on Saturday, reports AP.

"After it was treated it was better, but I've been playing on clay, then grass and now hard court. It's very tough on your body."

all, then he came back with great forehands and then we're down to match point," Edberg said. "If I had gotten the break there it would have been different."

Gilbert, the fourth seed, beat an injured Edberg 7-6 (7-2), 6-7 (1-7), 6-4 and will face second seed Pete Sampras, a 6-3, 6-1 winner over Italy's Stefano Pescosolido. "It was good to win after eight months," Gilbert said. "It helps me a lot to play well. I wish I had put it away at 5-4. He played some great shots."

After winning the second



BRAD GILBERT

Earlier, play was stopped while Association of Tennis Professionals trainer Bob Norris treated Edberg's sore left knee. Edberg said the recurring injury kept from playing his best. "I had problems pushing off, which made me a little bit sour today," said Edberg, playing in his first tournament since Wimbledon. "I had problems pushing off with my forehand, too."

set, Edberg lost only two points and the score went to 4-4. But Gilbert got up a break and went on to the victory. "I had a few chances at four-

In the first set of the nearly three-hour match, Gilbert held on to his serve in the 11th game despite trailing 0-40. He fought back three triple-break

points and won the game on a service ace clocked at 100 mph (160kph) to advance to 6-5.

Sampras registered 10 aces, and Pescosolido was hurt by six double faults. "I've never seen anyone serve harder or faster," Pescosolido said through an interpreter.

Sampras has had an up and down year and said he would like to head into the US Open on the upswing. "Gilbert is playing good tennis," he said. "It would be nice to leave LA on top. I'm close to my goal but I won't celebrate or get down on myself if I lose."

Singles semifinal results on Saturday: Brad Gilbert, United States, (4) beat Stefan Edberg, Sweden, (1) 7-6 (7-2), 6-7 (1-7), 6-4.

Pete Sampras (2), United States, beat Stefano Pescosolido, Italy, 6-3, 6-1.

SA still divided on Tokyo participation

CAP TOWN, Aug 4: South African officials failed on Saturday to resolve differences over an invitation to this month's World Athletics Championships in Tokyo, reports Reuter.

Jannie Momborg, a former athletics official trying to mediate between groups at log-headers over the invitation, said no decisions had been made at an informal meeting at his home in Cape Town. In Port Elizabeth, Fanie Van Zyl, President of the South African Millers' club, told state-run television that delegates to another meeting remained divided on Saturday.

by declining, on a majority vote, the invitation to Tokyo from the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF). The IAAF felt South African political reforms justified the country's recognition and return to international arenas. In Port Elizabeth, the SAAAA met members of the radical South African Congress of Sport (SACOS) which wants the anti-apartheid sports boycott maintained until white rule is replaced by non-racial democracy. Van Zyl said he had insisted that South Africa should end its decades of isolation and might go to court over the issue. "We are going to Tokyo," he said in apparent defiance of the SAAAA. Momborg said he believed South Africa should wait until

next year's Olympics in Barcelona. "I'm not interested in short-term solutions. If any team competes outside South Africa it must be seen by all South Africans as their team and not just another white project," he said. Momborg, a liberal member of the white parliament who launched the career of middle-distance star Zola Budd, gathered athletics officials at his home for an informal meeting with African National Congress (ANC) mediator Steve Tshwete, who helped South African cricket achieve unity earlier this year. "I think Steve's message was that unity should take precedence over competition in Tokyo and that we should wait for next year," Momborg said.

Cubans canoe to 5 golds

HAVANA, Aug 4: Cuba is set to become a world canoeing power after surprising Canada and the United States by sweeping up five gold medals on Saturday's first day of the Pan American Games, reports Reuter.

lodge an official protest after officials assured them the Czechoslovak-built course would be cleared. Canada brought their B-team, with top canoeists tied up in training in Europe for the World Championships in Paris at the end of the month.

The Caribbean island's strong showing was led by Angel Perez who upset the world's second best paddler Mike Herbert of the United States to become the tournament's first triple gold medalist. "He surprised me with a world class race," said Herbert individual and doubles kayak silver medalist in last year's World Championships in Poznan, Poland.

"Mike was number two in the world, now he's number two in the hemisphere," said US coach Charles Dambach. Perez, a 20-year-old student with just six years experience in the sport, edged out Herbert by 0.82 seconds in the individual 500 metres kayak. With Cuban crowds cheering from the banks of the irrigation reservoir where the races are held 20 miles south-west of Havana, Perez also led Cuba to victory in the doubles and team events.

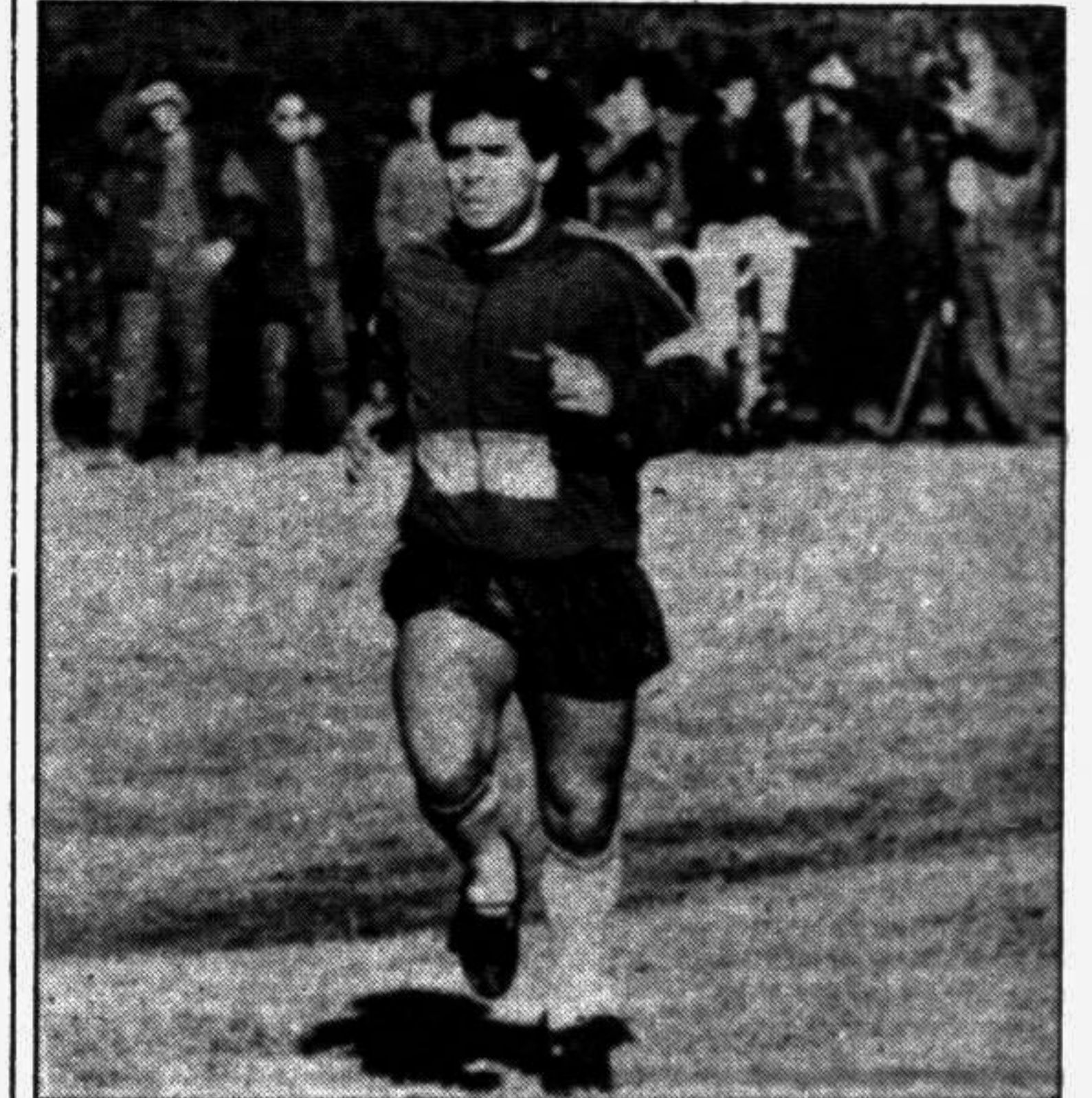
In an indication of how the Cubans have improved, they managed only one medal at the last Pan-American Games in Indianapolis in 1987.

The only sour note in a triumphant day for Cuba was a complaint by the Canadian team that Cuban boats were assisting their paddlers by pacing one race. But they did not

Maradona's hattrick

BUENOS AIRES, Aug 4: Diego Maradona scored a hat-trick but still ended up a loser on Saturday when he played his first full match since he was banned from the professional game for failing a dope test, reports Reuter. Maradona, whose presence attracted a 20,000 capacity crowd, shone in a team made up largely of actors. But they lost the charity game 5-4 to a side of former footballers.

The ex-Napoli captain said: "I'm going to dedicate myself completely to five-man indoor soccer. I'm going to play some matches here in Buenos Aires and then I plan to go on a tour in the provinces."



For his first goal, he chested the ball down before shooting home. The second was a header and the third a curling free-kick. A television poll on Friday suggested 75 per cent wanted him to return to professional soccer. Actor Ricardo Bauleo said: "Before Diego announced on Monday that he was playing we had sold less than 1,000 tickets." "By Friday we were sold out and the city's government promised to match every dollar we raised." Ticket sales raised 64,000 US dollars for a local hospital.

Backboard-busting US cagers crush Cubans

HAVANA, Aug 4: Under the glowering gaze of revolutionary hero Che Guevara, America's backboard-busting basketball team got off to a smashing start against Cuba in the Pan American Games, reports AP.

Thomas Hill, the smallest of three players from NCAA champion Duke, sent glass flying Saturday with his double-pump reverse dunk in warmups, a demolition job that brought roars of delight from the 15,000 fans packing the Sports City Coliseum.

into the air by excited fans. "I dedicate this victory to the people of Cuba and Fidel Castro." His father, Alfredo, said his son, a 29-year-old electronics technician and reservist in the Cuban armed forces, would give the gold medal to President Fidel Castro. As Cuba, a former 10,000-meter runner, entered the

track stadium for the final 400 meters, fans chanted "Cuba, Cuba, Cuba," — a joint exhortation for the runner and the country that helped the weary Cuba hold off Santana.

Keady chewed out Hill for his power dunk, which delayed the game about a half-hour. Keady said he had just told the team to take it easy dunking in warmups because the rims weren't breakaways, as they are in most US arenas. "I was shocked," Hill said of his feat. "That was the first time, I'm not that strong, but everybody thinks about doing it like Darryl Dawkins did. I just stood there because I couldn't believe I had done it."

In fact, it may not have been Hill's fault at all. The players noticed a slight crack in the backboard before warmups. When Hill hung from the rim after his dunk it may have put too much stress on the glass, causing it to shatter and send bits of glass raining down on the players.

But it was easier to dispose of the backboard than the quick Cuban team, which led most of the first half and cut a 14-point second-half deficit to two with 10 seconds left before falling 92-88. The US women's team didn't break anything more than the spirits of the Canadian team in posting an 87-70 victory to begin a quest for a third straight Pan-Am gold medal. It was the 42nd straight international victory for the women's team. Cuba, the man and the country, captured the first gold medal of the games. Alberto Cuba, at home on hilly terrain made more grueling by the intense heat and humidity, gave his countrymen an unexpected thrill by winning the closest marathon in Pan Am history. Cuba, competing in only his third marathon, finished in 2 hours, 19 minutes, 27 seconds — just two seconds ahead of Brazil's Jose Santana. "I thought the Mexicans were the favorites. I never thought I would win the race," Cuba said after being lofted



Cuban athletes run with the Pan American Games torch up 70th street in the Havana suburbs on July 30.

track stadium for the final 400 meters, fans chanted "Cuba, Cuba, Cuba," — a joint exhortation for the runner and the country that helped the weary Cuba hold off Santana. In the women's marathon, Olga Avalos of Mexico set a games record of 2:43:36, followed by Cubans Maribel Durruty (2:46:04) and Emperatriz Wilson (2:48:48). Cuba's Angel Perez won the gold in the men's 500-meter kayak race, with Mike Herbert of the United States second. Diver Kent Ferguson grabbed the first gold for the United States and teammate Mark Bradshaw added a silver in the men's 3-meter springboard. Debbie Doom of the United States threw a perfect game as the US women beat Netherlands Antilles 4-0 in women's softball. Doom, whose pitches have been clocked at 65 mph (100 kph), struck out 16 of 21 batters. American Bob Ginger nearly matched that as he threw a no-hitter in a 3-0 victory over Netherlands Antilles. The US basketball coach was relieved at the victory. "We had scouted Cuba enough to know they were very good", US coach Gene Keady of Purdue said. "They just killed us on the boards in the first half. The main thing was our kids were a little uptight, a little tentative, a little too ready as far as wanting to win."

Jimmy Jackson of Ohio State led the Americans with 2 points, and Duke's Christian Laettner scored 19. The United States has not won a major international men's title since 1986.

England international Chris Waddle, who had been given a defensive role in the French champions' last two matches by new trainer Tomislav Ivic, was restored to the attack alongside Pele and Papin. Auxerre lost 1-0 at Caen to drop from second to sixth place. France's Stephane Paille, who joined Caen after disappointing season with Portuguese side Porto, headed the winner in the 37th minute. Metz impressed by crushing Toulouse 4-0 to jump to third place, one point behind Marseille. Le Havre, who managed a 1-1 draw at Paris St German, and Caen also have six points after four matches. "This is our best match so far", said a delighted Ivic. "All the players gave all they had." Waddle, who showed glimpses of his old form, also had a huge smile on his face after the match. "We played like last year and that's exactly

Monaco menace Marseille

PARIS, Aug 4: Champions Marseille, fired by goals from marksmen Abedi Pele and Jean-Pierre Papin, went top of the French soccer league with a 2-1 victory at Rennes on Saturday, reports Reuter. But Marseille may lead for only 24 hours because Monaco runners-up last season, are just one point behind and play at Cannes today. Ghananian Pele thrust Marseille ahead after 34 minutes before Papin made it 2-0 with 15 minutes to go. Brazilian Baltazar scored for Rennes six minutes later.

eight new players to contest Marseille's supremacy, said he was unhappy with his team's sequence of draws. "There obviously is a physical problem because the players get tired after one hour. It could be due to training," he added.

SOCCER SCENARIO

Parker prepared to quit QPR

LONDON, Aug 4: England defender Paul Parker and international Keith Curle agreed to quit London and move north to Manchester on Saturday in transfers totalling 3.7 million pounds, reports AFP. Parker decided to leave Queen's Park Rangers for Manchester United in a 1.7 million-pound deal. Curle waved goodbye to Wimbledon in favour of a two million-pound switch to Manchester City. United manager Alex Ferguson beat off competition from Tottenham to sign the 27-year-old Parker, whose transfer will be finalised on Monday after a medical. "I'm delighted to have got Paul, who will be a great asset to us with his versatility," said Ferguson. Parker's arrival will also ease Ferguson's selection problems as United defend the European Cup Winners' Cup. New UEFA regulation mean only four foreign players can be included in 16-man squads for each tie and United already have seven on their staff. City will also complete the Curle transfer on Monday. They are then likely to enter the market as sellers by offloading winger Mark Ward to Everton for 900,000 pounds and ex-England striker Clive Allen to Luton for 300,000 pounds.

Paul Parker

US booters beat Wednesday

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania, Aug 4: The United States' World Cup booters beat English first division side Sheffield Wednesday in a friendly here, reports AFP. After a goalless first half, goals from Murray in the 52nd minute and a long shot from Quinn on the hour brought the 44,000 crowd to life.

MEDALS TABLE

The following is the medals table at the end of the first day of Games on Saturday:

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Cuba	6	3	2	11
Canada	2	2	2	6
Mexico	1	1	2	4
US	1	3	3	7
Brazil	-	1	-	1
Argentina	-	-	1	1