

# Seles back on top

LOS ANGELES, Aug 13: Tenth-seeded Yayuk Basuki of Indonesia defeated Germany's Claudia Porwick 2-6, 6-2, 6-4 in the first round of the \$50,000 dollar Virginia Slims of Los Angeles women's tennis tournament on Monday, reports Reuter.

Top-seeded Monica Seles of Yugoslavia who regained the world's number one computer ranking on Monday from Germany's Steffi Graf due to the system's complicated mathematics, faces South African Elna Reinach in the second round. The top eight seeds received first round byes in the 56-player, hard court tournament.

Second seeded Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina, who retired from her semifinal match at the Canadian Open last week due to a blister, is scheduled to start against the winner of the match between South African Ros Fairbank-Nideffer and American Patricia Hy.

South African Amanda Coetzer upset 14th-seeded Regina Rajchrtova of Czechoslovakia 6-4, 7-5 in a first round match.

Three British players were beaten in the first round, as Reinach eliminated Clare Wood 5-7, 6-1, 6-3 and both Monique Javier and Sara Gomer were beaten in straight sets.

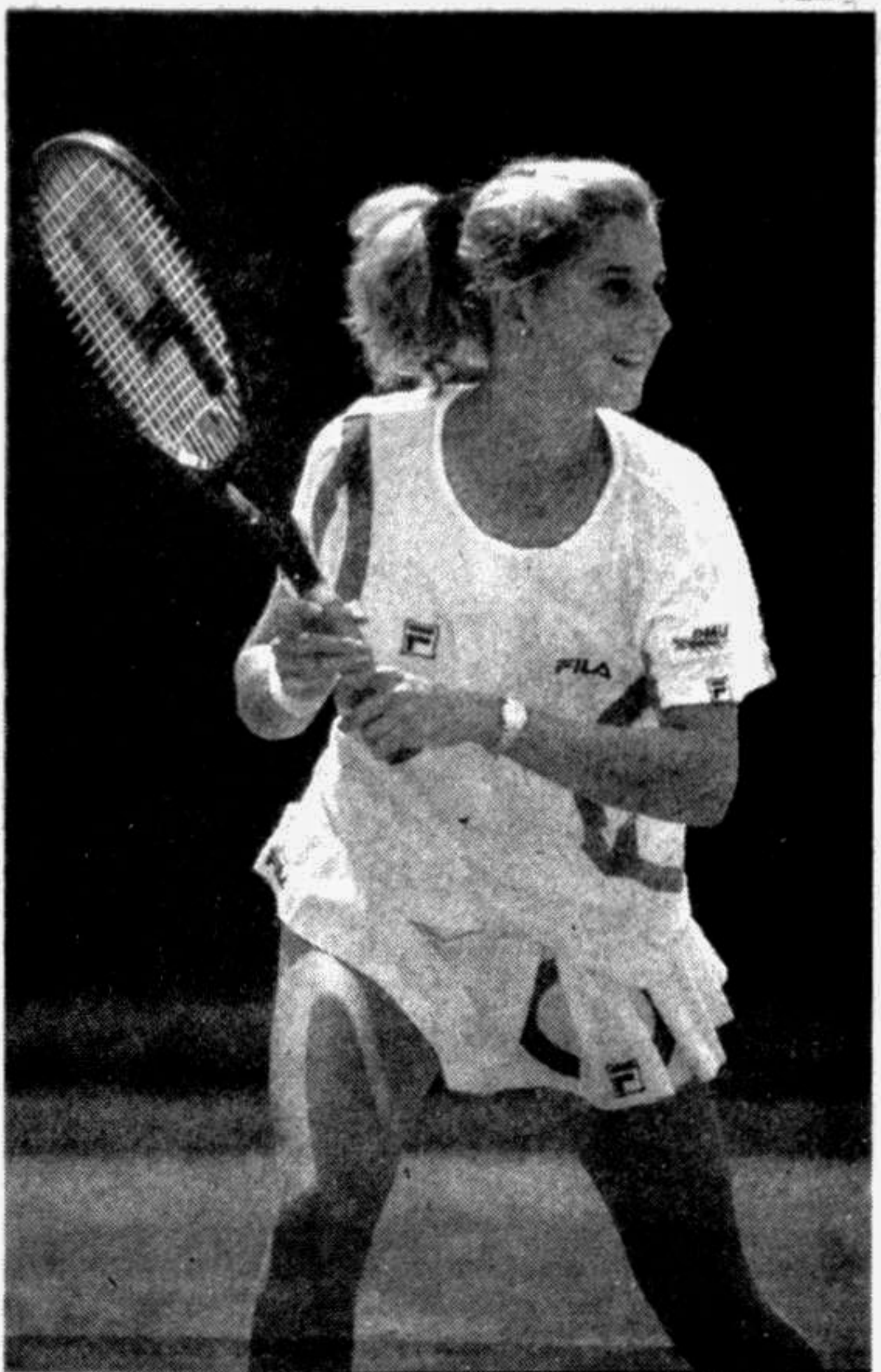
Basuki, who has won two tournaments and increased her ranking from number 273 to number 39 this year, squandered a 5-0 third set lead against the 90th ranked Porwick but hit two opportune forehand service return winners at 5-4 to close out the 90-minute match.

"I was missing some close ones in the third set and I said, 'Come on. You have a lot of confidence. Go for it,' and it worked," Basuki said.

## TOP 20 PLAYERS

The following are the top 20 women's singles players, according to rankings issued by the Women's Tennis Association on Monday:

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. Jennifer Capriati (US)
8. Conchita Martinez (Spain)
9. Jana Novotna (Czechoslovakia)
10. Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere (Switzerland)
11. Zina Garrison (US)



MONICA SELES ... back at the top as No.1

- |                                    |                                    |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 12. Katerina Maleeva (Bulgaria)    | 16. Anke Huber (Germany)           |
| 13. Leila Meskhi (Soviet Union)    | 17. Barbara Paulus (Austria)       |
| 14. Nathalie Tauziat (France)      | 18. Judith Wiesner (Austria)       |
| 15. Helena Sukova (Czechoslovakia) | 19. Amy Frazier (US)               |
|                                    | 20. Natalia Zvereva (Soviet Union) |

## Top money earners

ST PETERSBURG, Florida, Aug 13: Leading money winners this year in women's tennis, according to the Women's Tennis Association on Monday, reports Reuter.

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| 1. Monica Seles (Yugoslavia)                | 967,758 Dollars; |
| 2. Gabriela Sabatini (Argentina)            | 828,671;         |
| 3. Steffi Graf (Germany)                    | 807,336;         |
| 4. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario (Spain)          | 523,627;         |
| 5. Jana Novotna (Czechoslovakia)            | 469,094;         |
| 6. Mary Joe Fernandez (US)                  | 434,622;         |
| 7. Martina Navratilova (US)                 | 373,536;         |
| 8. Natalia Zvereva (Soviet Union)           | 305,402;         |
| 9. Gigi Fernandez (US)                      | 264,953;         |
| 10. Jennifer Capriati (US)                  | 264,917;         |
| 11. Larisa Savchenko (Soviet union)         | 230,340;         |
| 12. Helena Sukova (Czechoslovakia)          | 222,136;         |
| 13. Zina Garrison (US)                      | 206,483;         |
| 14. Nathalie Tauziat (France)               | 168,204;         |
| 15. Conchita Martinez (Spain)               | 166,365;         |
| 16. Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere (Switzerland) | 132,328;         |
| 17. Lori McNeil (US)                        | 132,240;         |
| 18. Patty Fendick (US)                      | 130,948;         |
| 19. Elizabeth Smylie (Australia)            | 125,932;         |
| 20. Leila Meskhi (Soviet Union)             | 125,667;         |

## Sampdoria's woes

ROME, Aug 13: Italy's two leading soccer teams, Sampdoria and Inter Milan, have run into problems even before their domestic season kicks off, reports Reuter.

Champions Sampdoria crashed to a 4-1 defeat against Ajax in the Netherlands on Sunday and had two players sent off, taking their tally of dismissals to five in just three pre-season games.

Sampdoria also had a man sent off in a 1-1 draw against Arsenal in London a week ago and two against Dutch champion PSV Eindhoven who beat them 2-1 on Friday.

"Our legs gave out, our minds clouded," Sampdoria's Italy forward Roberto Mancini said.

UEFA Cup champions Inter have struggled in intense summer heat to comply with hectic programme of friendlies involving a great deal of travelling.

They drew 1-1 in Cagliari on Saturday in their fifth match in nine days.

Before that they lost 2-1 away to Germany's Stuttgart, won 7-0 at semi-professional Recanese on the Adriatic coast and then struggled to beat second Division Udinese 3-2 and promoted Verona 1-0 in north east Italy.

Local rivals AC Milan have their troubles too. Their embarrassment of playing riches was highlighted recently when World Cup midfielder Roberto Donadoni said he played better when Dutch star Ruud Gullit was not also in the side.

## American matmen reign supreme

HAVANA, Aug 13: Led by Brad Penrith's upset of a Cuban world champion, the United States won seven freestyle wrestling gold medals at the Pan American Games on Monday, reports AP.

Penrith beat Alejandro Puerto 6-4 to spark the big night for the Americans. It was the first major international meet for Penrith, 27-year-old graduate of the University of Iowa.

Four years after giving up drinking rather than quit wrestling, Penrith stunned the rowdy crowd at Mariposa Stadium.

"You hate to lose," an exhausted Penrith said after the 125 1-2-pound (57 kilogram) match. "It's hard to explain... I just had a fear of losing."

John Smith, America's most accomplished wrestler and a gold medalist Monday, called Penrith's improbable victory "the most phenomenal performance by any wrestler here."

"And it might be the most phenomenal performance by an American wrestler in the last two or three years," Smith added.

## Nicaraguan coach knocks umpire

HAVANA, Aug 13: A Nicaraguan baseball coach knocked an umpire to the ground Monday after being ejected for arguing a called third strike during Nicaragua's 5-4 loss to the United States, reports AP.

Nicaraguan coach Trinidad Vallejos shoved Canadian home plate umpire Bernie McGuire in the back following the call against catcher Genaro Llanes, which ended the seventh inning with the tying run on third.

## McEnroe moves up

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana, Aug 13: Twelfth-seeded Patrick McEnroe had a strong start to the one million

-dollars US hardcourt championships on Monday, but it is a strong finish the rising American star is eyeing, reports Reuter.



Conchita Martinez and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain with the Federation Cup that they won beating the US 2-1 in the final on July 27.

# The secret of Cuba's success

HAVANA, Aug 13: Rieger Ramirez's long climb to Cuba's first diving gold in the Pan-American Games started with a radio announcement a decade ago, reports AFP.

"I was six years old when my family heard on the radio about a selection test for young divers. They took me along and I was picked out," said the 16-year-old who caused a major upset in defeating experienced Mexican and US divers to win the 10-metre platform in what was his first major competition.

Ramirez's win was another unexpected victory here for Cuba and its communist-style sports system. With six days of competition left, the Cubans had won 113 gold medals compared to 75 in the whole of the 1987 Games at Indianapolis.

"There is no mystery, nothing supernatural" in Cuba's success wrote columnist Gilberto Dihigo in the official Games daily, Eco Panamericano.

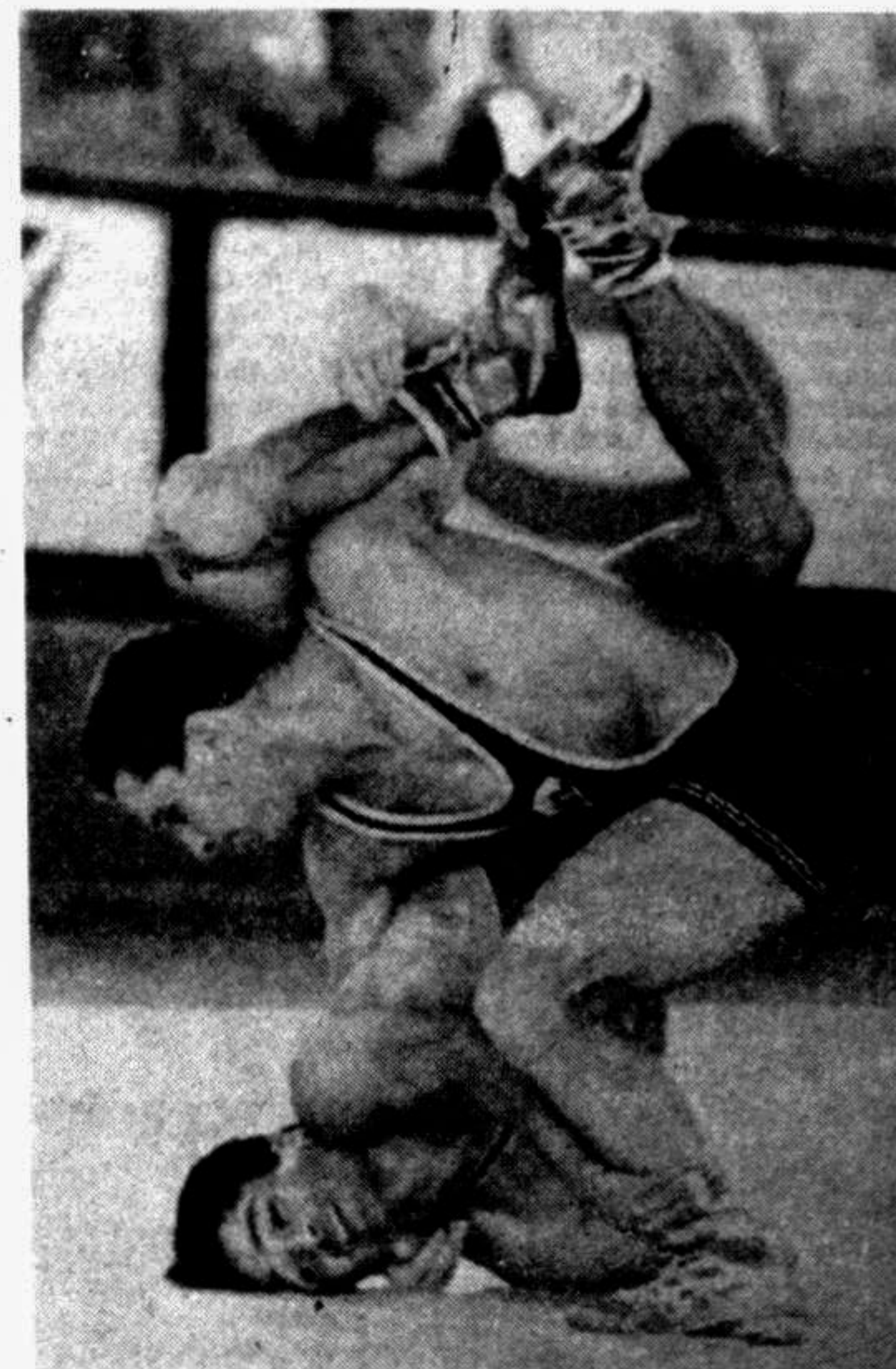
"It is the result of the effort made by the Cuban government in connection with sports."

But Cuba's success is also a reflection of the weakness of the US teams here, particularly in track and field.

As Ramirez's experience shows, Cuba singles out promising athletes early and sends some to special schools many study physical education.

Ramirez said that those who compete in international events get a monthly stipend of 50 pesos, about 50 US dollars at the official exchange rate. The average salary in Cuba where health care is free and many people get subsidised housing and food is around 200 pesos.

The stocky, diminutive diver said that athletes were



Mexico's Jorge Olvera is held down to the mat by Canada's Robert Dawson (L) during the Pan-Am Games freestyle wrestling on August 12. Dawson won the 57-kilo event with a total of 3.5 points.

arrangements were made to match up studies and training requirements. Lency Montelier, who won the women's 400-metres hurdles, said she had been training for the Games for a year. "I was singled out in 1985 as a good runner and sent to a

special junior high school for sports," she said.

She is now studying physical education and had two study periods and two training sessions a day.

Ramirez, who is in middle school and also studying physical education, said he had two two-hour training sessions daily.

The island has no shortage of physical education instructors. Officials say there are 25,000 people teaching physical education in junior and high schools and another 11,000 people with degrees in the same subject.

Sport figures strongly in the school curriculum.

In his column, Dihigo noted that more than 2,000 sports facilities had been built in the country's primary schools in the past five years mainly in the rural areas, and that the amount of people using school sports centres had doubled since 1986.

The facilities built for the Games, including and Olympic-type main stadium, a swimming and diving complex, and a cycling track, will help with the training of future medal winners.

Ramirez expects Cuba to produce more diving medalists now that they can train inside. "We had to train outdoors and sometimes it was cold and the temperature of the water was not very pleasant," he said.

Asked about Cuba's success here, officials stress the emphasis which the government has put on health care, particularly in the rural areas.

The best-known current product of the Cuban system is national idol Javier Sotomayor, who holds the world high-jump record at 2M44 and who won the high jump here.

"I want to be like Sotomayor," said Ramirez as he began his life as a champion.

# US swimmers rule the pool

HAVANA, Aug 13: The United States swimming team took all five gold medals in Pan American Games swimming Monday and US wrestlers won seven in a last-gasp attempt to narrow their country's gold-medal gap with Cuba, reports AP.

Ashley Tappin, a tall, slender 16-year-old who cut through the water like a shark, set the pace in the first swimming race of the games. She led teammate Megan Oesting, 18, to a gold-silver finish in the 100-meter freestyle that set three Pan Am milestones.

It was the 100th 1-2 finish by the United States in the 40-year history of Pan Am swimming, the 200th and 201st medals by women, and the 399th and 400 medals overall by US swimmers.

The two teams came out waving American flags, the only flagbearers in their group. They established the tone for the youthful team that lasted the whole evening — and might just last through Saturday's final races.

## Tokyo meet new ballgame for Burrell

MALMO, Sweden, Aug 13: Leroy Burrell has held the world 100 metre record since June 14 and has a 3-0 edge over US teammates Carl Lewis in head-to-head meetings in that distance this season, reports AP.

But he's not over-confident as he prepares for his first World Championships. The meet starts in Tokyo Aug 24.

"It's nice to go into the worlds with a winning streak, but anybody can beat me," Burrell says. "There are so many good sprinters out there. It's a totally different race. There are so many more factors involved. Anything can happen. Everybody will be extremely motivated."

Burrell, who also qualified for the 200 in Tokyo, beat Lewis in back-to-back 100s last week in this southern Swedish city and in Zurich, Switzerland.

It would be a confidence booster for most sprinters, beating perhaps the most experienced sprinter in history three straight times before the most important race of your career.

"But it doesn't necessarily mean that," Burrell says. "The Worlds is so much bigger than Grand Prix meets." It's not a confidence booster if you haven't been through it before.

"I haven't been to a world championship yet, so I don't really know what's going to happen. I just hope that I can go there and run as fast as I can. If that happens there is a really good probability that I win."

Winning is something Burrell has done a lot in the past two seasons. Last year, he

"Everyone — the wrestlers, the baseball team, the drivers, the trainers — is saying, 'I'm glad the swimmers are here. We need more gold,'" said Tappin, who won in 56.51 seconds.

If any prof was needed that the American swimmers weren't just boasting when they predicted a near sweep in the pool — despite the absence of the best in the US preparing for the Pan Pacific Games in 10 days and racing in Florida this week — Tappin and Oesting offered it.

"If I had made the Pan-Pac team, I would have declined it to come here," said Tappin. "This team is a lot more fun. People are a lot more relaxed. We get serious when we need to, but we don't overdo."

"The United States has a lot of depth," said Oesting. "The time between our first and sixth person is maybe a second."

Despite the intense rivalry between the United States and Cuba, all the swimmers who won said they were touched by the cheers they received on the medal stand from the Cuban crowd.

"It was definitely a moment," Tappin said. "You're

there, and the crowd's going crazy, and you're, like, 'Wow. They're doing this for a United States person.'"

The five golds in the pool and the seven in wrestling cut the US gold deficit with Cuba to 113-98 late Monday's action. The United States led in overall medals 263-218.

Hans Dersch, 23, took the second gold and the 200th by an American male swimmer as he won the 100-meter breaststroke in 1:02:57, just ahead of Puerto Rico's Todd Torres. Jeff Commings, 17, won the bronze.

"I was expecting to go a bit faster, but I can't complain," Dersch said. "The last lap was a bit of a struggle. We've been here three or four days, and it was real hard to stay focused. But this is a swim meet not a vacation."

Amy Shaw, 19, made it 3-for-3 in golds with a victory in the 400 meter individual medley. Her 4:50:39 clocking easily beat Canada's Joanne Malar. Brandy Wood, 17, won the bronze.

Shaw took the lead early and held it through the first few laps. Malar passed her on the backstroke and led slightly going into the breast-

stroke laps. But Shaw caught up and passed her by the first turn on the breaststroke. Then pulled away to win.

"The US is always after getting all the gold medals, but we were more motivated seeing how well Cuba was doing," said Shaw, who called the crowd "spectacular."

Eric Diehl, 18, won the men's 200 freestyle by a touch against Gustavo Borges of Brazil, clocking a Pan Am record 1:49:67. Cubans finally got a chance to whistle and shout for one of their own. Rene Saez, who won the bronze. Cuba had won only one silver and two bronzes in the 10 previous Pan Am Games.

"The last 50 (meters), when you're breathing to the left and see the American flag, you can't lose," said Diehl, who broke the Pan Am record by .22 seconds.

The fifth US gold was a record-shattering team affair in the women's 4X200 freestyle relay. The Americans — Natalie Norberg, Barb Metz, Jane Skillman and Lisa Jacob — set a Pan Am mark with 8:11:47, nearly two seconds faster than the previous record.

"It's not a matter of enough or not enough," he says. "You have to be prepared no matter if you have 50 races or six races for the world championships. That's really where the focus is."

## Lewis, who returned to Houston from a European tour in July to recover from the flu and tight hamstrings, ran his sixth 100 of the year at Zurich. He is not expected to run any more before the Worlds.

Lewis, the only sprinter to win two Olympic and one world Championship 100-meter gold medal, thinks he will be ready for Tokyo.

"I haven't run a good 100 this season and I'm counting the nationals," says Lewis, who had a 9.92 behind Burrell in New York two months ago.

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Lewis, as usual, has been able to close his races very well. But his starts were less impressive in the European races.

Burrell, who credits a lot of box drills for making him more explosive out of the blocks, also has been inconsistent at the start in his recent races.

"Sometimes I hit the gun. Sometimes I'm out last," he says. Ben Johnson, who used to be extremely fast out of the blocks, will not be competing in any individual race in Tokyo, having finished fourth in the Canadian trials after struggling all season long as a drug-free sprinter.

Burrell won't miss Johnson, who was banned two years after testing positive for steroids in the 1988 Olympics.

Santa Monica Track Club speedster kept on winning. He improved the winning times in his last four 100-meter races before clocking a world record 9.90 in the US Championships in New York.

Burrell may have the edge on Lewis now, but "you just



LEROY BURRELL.... gunning for records