

BCCB prepares for cricket gala

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) has prepared a budget of approximately Taka 50 lakh for its planned programme of two one-day internationals between the West Indies and Sri Lanka in Dhaka in late October.

A press release issued yesterday said, the West Indies have already confirmed their participation in the two games, against the Lankans, scheduled for October 27 and 28. The Sri Lankan Board has also agreed to the tour which, for them involves an additional one-day game against Bangladesh on Oct 29.

The two-match Lanka-Windies series will offer a winner-take-all purse of 10,000 dollars while there will be a US 1000 dollar prize for the man-of-the-match in each game as well as another \$ 1500 for the man-of-the-series on either side.

The matches will be conducted by umpires to be brought from either India or Pakistan. Besides, there will also be a neutral referee - as per the decision of last month's ICC meeting in London - from either of the neighbouring countries.

The BCCB has already written to the Indian board for the services of an expert groundsman to prepare the pitch and he is due next week. The National Sports Council has already granted the BCCB permission to go ahead with the ground preparation, much to the chagrin of certain vested quarters who are pressing for shifting the Senior Division football league from its present venue at Mirpur Stadium to the Dhaka Stadium, which is essentially designed as a cricket stadium.

BCCB will provide the two teams air passage, free food and board, laundry charges and a daily pocket allowance of fifty dollars per person.

The West Indies will be coming to Dhaka direct from

Sharjah where they will be playing against India and Pakistan in the Sharjah Cup.

The names of the organising committee members will be announced soon. The Prime Minister may be made the chief patron.

Barring any last moment hitches, the BCCB programme may afford the cricket-mad Dhaka crowd a chance to see the mighty West Indians who last played here in a Test against Pakistan in 1958-59. It may also be our only chance to see the great Viv Richards in action before he calls it a day early next year after the World Cup.

Qatar invites Bangladesh

Bangladesh is likely to participate in the International Friendship Football Tournament to be held in Qatar sometime between November 12 and 25, reports UNB.

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has received an invitation from the Qatar Football Association, the organisers of the tournament, to take part in the meet, a BFF official said yesterday (Monday).

The official was hopeful of the Bangladesh team's participation in the tournament but said the final decision will be taken at the next BFF meeting.

The tournament organisers intimated BFF that three foreign teams-Iran, United Arab Emirate (UAE) and India-have already assured their participation in the tournament along with hosts Qatar.

All the participating teams will be provided with free air passage, accommodation, food and local transport by the organisers.

Each team will also be given a lump sum amount of 4,000 US dollars while the champions will get an additional cash bonus of 6,000 dollars.

Shooting meet

A-477 air rifle shooting competition, organised by the Bangladesh Shooting Federation, will be held at the national shooting range at Gulshan on August 30 and 31.

The competition will start on August 30 at 8 a. m. and conclude on August 31 at 11 a. m.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is likely to be the chief guest on the concluding day and distribute the prizes.

Soccer result

Sports Reporter

Mitali Jubo Sangha moved into the quarter-finals of the 2nd Shah Sports Cup football championship when they beat Sonali Surjo Club 6-5 in the tie-breaker yesterday at the Hazaribagh Park ground.

Both teams were locked 1-1 after the regulation time.

Mike Johnson eyes Mennea's record



TOKYO, Aug 26: America's quiet sprint hero Michael Johnson is poised to shatter the 12-year-old 200-meter world record here at the World Athletics Championships, reports AFP.

The unassuming 24-year-old, making a rare forecast, has warned, "I know that I can do something spectacular."

And with the new "super



MICHAEL JOHNSON

fast" track especially laid for the championships that could mean the 19.72 secs world record set by Italy's Pietro Mennea in the rarefied air of Mexico in 1979 could finally go.

Further proof Johnson, who normally lets his brasher 100m sprint team mates hog the publicity spotlight, was ready to break Mennea's record was the easy way he cruised through the opening heats.

In the second round he set a new championship record of 20.05, and the final 100 metres was spent looking around him to see what the rest of the field was doing.

"I felt really good. I am in really good shape," said

Johnson afterwards. The American is considered by many to have the ability to become the best 200 meter runner the world has ever seen. He is also a flyer - in the 400 metres.

Johnson has still to make up his mind which will eventually be his best.

"In the 200 meters I know what I am doing. I haven't mastered it yet but I have an idea what it takes to run a certain time," he explained recently.

Last year he knew enough to run a 19.95, and with coach Clyde Hart warning that his best is still to come, the world record is within his grasp.

But the Texan-born Johnson will not have it all his own way when he lines up for the 200 meter final on Tuesday.

Johnson, hot favourite to win the men's 200 metres, suffered a different problem when a shoelace came united in his first round heat.

But he comfortably won his heat in 20.52 seconds, the sixth best time. "I felt great and the shoelace didn't really bother me," he said.

"I didn't put in much effort and I got a 20.5. I hope that's an indication I'm in extremely good shape."

Johnson also confessed to another difficulty, his suspicion of Japanese food, admitting he has followed a fast food diet of chicken nuggets and French fries to avoid stomach upsets.

His best ever is 20.11 set last year, this season he has run a 20.12, the third fastest.

Medal table

TOKYO, Aug 26: Medals table after the third day of the World Athletics Championships on Monday (tabulate under gold, silver, bronze):

Soviet Union	4	5	4
United States	3	1	2
Finland	1	1	1
Kenya	1	1	1
China	1	0	0
Italy	1	0	0
Poland	1	0	0
Germany	0	1	2
Cuba	0	1	0
Japan	0	1	0
Sweden	0	1	0
Morocco	0	0	1
Romania	0	0	0



American Jackie-Joyner-Kersey favours her left side as she lauds after injuring her right foot at the take off of her fourth jump during the long jump finals at the 3rd World Athletics Championships in Tokyo on August 25. Joyner-Kersey won the gold medal by jumping 7.32 metres in her first jump.

Joyner-Kersey crashes out



TOKYO, Aug 26: Defending champion Jackie Joyner-Kersey crashed out of the heptathlon on the third day of the World Athletics Championships on Monday when she collapsed during the 200 metres, reports Reuter.

The 29-year-old American, who is also the Olympic gold medalist and world record holder, was leading comfortably with 3,130 points after three of the first day's four disciplines.

She appeared to be leading at the bend in the 200 metres when she started hopping on her left foot and collapsed to the track where she lay within



in agony. On Sunday Joyner-Kersey sprained her right ankle while successfully defending her long jump title.

Officials took her from the arena on a stretcher, watched by her brother Al Joyner and his wife Florence Griffith-Joyner, the Olympic 100 and 200 metres champion.

A Japanese doctor said Joyner-Kersey had strained a hamstring in her right leg.

"I don't know how serious it is," he said.

Griffith-Joyner went in to the treatment area to comfort her sister-in-law.

An earlier report said: Defending champion Joyner-Kersey feared for her heptathlon chances when she badly sprained an ankle while winning the gold medal in Sunday's women's long jump final.

But competing with a bandage on her right ankle in sweltering conditions, she showed no ill effects as she swept into the lead after the first two disciplines.

Her 2.96 second time in the 100 metres hurdles was the best among the 28 competitors and the followed by clearing 1.91 metres in the high jump, a height equalled only by German Sabine Braun.

By the end of the morning session, she had scored 2,249 points, a lead of 53 over nearest rival Braun.

Manager ups the ante

TOKYO, Aug 26: The world's two fastest men, Carl Lewis and Leroy Burrell, will not race against each other again this year unless someone makes an irresistible offer, their manager Joe Douglas said today, reports Reuter.

The two Americans both went under world record time in a sensational men's 100 metres final, widely hailed as the greatest sprint race ever, at the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo on Sunday.

Lewis retained his world title in a new record of 9.86 seconds with Burrell taking silver in 9.88, two-hundredths of a second inside the World record he set in June.

But asked whether they would meet again this year, Douglas said: "No, not unless someone opens up the vaults."

Sponsors offered almost half a million dollars this summer for a rematch between Lewis and disgraced Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson, their first race against each other since the 1988 Olympic final in Seoul.

The race, at Villeneuve D'Ascq in France in July, was regarded as flop. American Dennis Mitchell beat Lewis into second place with Johnson, who had been stripped of his Olympic title for dope taking, back in seventh place.

A Lewis-Burrell race after their incredible final in Tokyo would probably cost much more.

No less than six of the eight finalists broke the 10-second barrier, led by Lewis who stormed through the field to win in the last 20 metres.

A night to remember for all of them



TOKYO, Aug 26: It was an evening of superlatives. The world's greatest sprinter ran the fastest 100 metres watched by Japan's hottest sumo wrestler and athletics' most notorious villain, reports Reuter.

On a soft summer evening under a full moon on Sunday Carl Lewis clocked 9.86 seconds in the World Athletics Championships 100 metres final, slicing 0.04 of a second from the previous mark.

Occupying at least four seats in the stands was Hawaiian-born sumo wrestler Konishiki, who weighs in at a hefty 236 kilos.

Attracting almost as much attention from photographers and camera crews was Ben Johnson, whose bitter rivalry with Lewis ended in the sport's biggest scandal when he was positively doped tested at the Seoul Olympics.

Johnson made an unsuccessful if financially rewarding return to athletics this year after serving a two-year ban but he did not qualify for the Canadian sprint team, although he will run the 4x100 relay here.

Dressed in a voluminous white shirt, he was working as a commentator for Japanese television, an assignment which caused some hilarity among reporters who have strained for years to decipher his Jamaican Canadian accent.

The clash between Lewis and his younger teammate Leroy Burrell had been billed as the race of the championships and all the signs were propitious on Sunday.

Typhoon Gladys, which brought heavy rain and high winds to Tokyo last week at last relented and the evening was warm and still.

"Gladys dropped her little rain and went on about her business," Lewis said. Mother nature lost tonight.

The Emperor and Empress of Japan were also present but on Sunday-Lewis was king at the National Stadium. Japanese fans shouted "USA". The statutory victory lap was greeted with rapturous applause and the ovation was even more deafening when Lewis, second-placed Burrell and third-placed Dennis Mitchell appeared for the victory ceremony.

Nurutdinova denies Quirot



TOKYO, Aug 26: Lilia Nurutdinova of the Soviet Union snatched the gold medal from Cuban favourite Ana Quirot in a tight finish to the women's 800 metres at the World Athletics Championships on Monday, reports Reuter.

The 27-year-old European bronze medalist won a four-woman battle on the final straight, powering past Quirot and holding off the challenges of Romanian Ella Kovacs and Maria Mutola of Mozambique.

Quirot, who has dominated the event in recent years without winning a major gold, settled for silver and Kovacs fell over the finish line to get the bronze.

African champion Mutola stumbled over her, tripped and pushed Nurutdinova to the ground as she raised her arms to celebrate her victory.

Nurutdinova won in one minute 57.50 seconds with Quirot just 0.05 seconds behind and Kovacs finishing in 1: 57.58.

Mutola set a world junior record of 1: 57. 63 as the first four finished within 0.13 seconds of each other.

Kenny Harrison of the United States won the men's triple jump with his second effort of 17.78 metres, holding off European champion Leonid Voloshin of the Soviet Union by just three centimetres.

American Mike Conley took the bronze medal with 17.62 metres.

An elated Harrison did a two-footed leap on to the victory podium to celebrate his

win. Tatyana Dorovskikh made it a second Soviet victory on the track, winning the women's 3,000 metres with a perfectly judged race.

Dorovskikh, reigning World and Olympic champion under the name of Samolenko, tailed compatriot Elena Romanova round the final bend before bursting past to defend her title.

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Flo-Jo fancies Ottey mark

TOKYO, Aug 26: Even when she is only a spectator, Florence Griffith-Joyner can be a star attraction at the World Track and Field championships, reports AP.

It is nearly impossible to match her two-inch long multi-coloured fingernails and even harder to fill her shoes.

But in between autographs, pictures and interviews for Japanese television Monday, Griffith-Joyner, the Olympic champion and world record holder in both the 100 and 200 metres, speculated about how Merlene Ottey might do just that.

Ottey, the Jamaican sprinting sensation, has won finals at 100 metres since 1987 and 36 in a row at 200 since 1989.

She began her quest for a pair of golds by running the fastest time in the first two rounds of the 100 metres,

10.89 seconds. Ottey's chief rival, Katrin Krabbe of Germany, ran the second-best time, 10.91, in another heat.

"Merlene is running nice and relaxed right now," said

Griffith-Joyner, who set the world record of 10.49, at the 1988 U.S. Olympic Trials in Indianapolis.

Griffith-Joyner ran a 21.34,

which I have done in the past when others got a better start," Lewis said.

"There's no doubt at Seoul at the Olympics I did that and I did it in Rome as well (in the last World Championships)."

Both times Canadian Ben Johnson, later suspended for drug use, crushed Lewis after

sprinters. Experience and confidence also play major roles, said bronze medalist Dennis Mitchell, who completed the American sweep. "He seems very confident that the other athletes are going to slow down in the last 20 metres."

Lewis's height hampers him

'The ultimate sprinting machine'



TOKYO, Aug 26: The ultimate sprinting machine has finally run the perfect race, reports Reuter.

There were no flaws at all in the 100 metres Carl Lewis ran on Sunday to win the world title in world record time, his coach Tom Tellez said today.

"Carl's ability to maintain is phenomenal; he's a running machine," Tellez said of Lewis's immaculate 9.86 second run at the World Championships.

"I create a model in my head of what a sprinter is supposed to look like in a race and that was the model - the first one."

"There have been other times when he ran like that in semifinals but this was the first time in a final. I don't think he could have run a better race technically for a championship."

Lewis's steely composure and unyielding competitiveness, along with his keen knowledge of sprinting, put him a notch above other 100-metre runners, Tellez said.

"I thought at about 60 or 70 metres that he was going to win," Tellez told Reuter. "At that point I knew he was going to start rolling."

It was at this point too, rather than at the finish where he lost his composure badly by leaning, that former world record holder and training partner Leroy Burrell probably lost the race, added Tellez who coaches both runners.

"Leroy tried to pick it up too soon and he couldn't hold it, and Carl went right by him," he said.

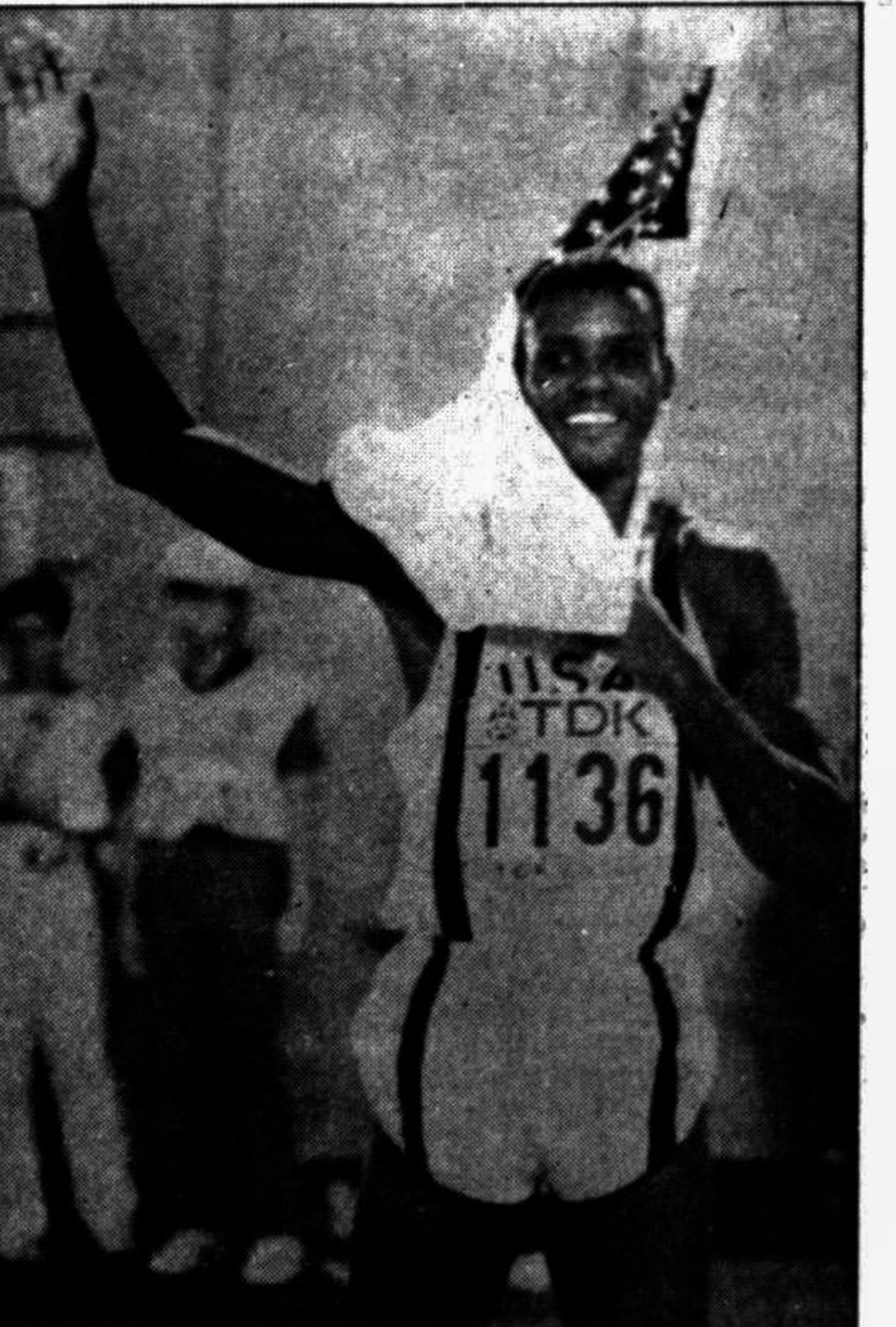
Never a fast starter Lewis was among the last to leave the blocks and he tailed Burrell by 0.09 seconds after 30 metres, reaction times show.

The next 60 metres produced a dramatic turn of events.

At 70 metres, Lewis trailed by a mere 0.02 seconds and at 90 metres he was ahead to stay as Burrell and the others began to tire.

While Lewis needed 5.61 seconds to cover the first half of the race he clocked a staggering 4.25 seconds for the last 50 metres.

"He's able to respond where many athletes just can't," Burrell said. "That's what separates him from a lot of the



Carl Lewis after his record feat in Tokyo on Sunday. -AFP photo

tremendous starts. In Rome if I had run my race I think I could have won it," Lewis said. "And in Seoul it would have been closer."

Now with Johnson sitting in the stands unable to muster the fast times of the drug-filled career, the 30-year-old Lewis is king again.

But is he the greatest track and field athlete of all time, Burrell said he was, and so did Mitchell.

Lewis is not so sure. "It's so judgmental," he said. "It's like rankings. I don't really know."