Powell rewrites history



With one explosive leap on Friday, Mike Powell rewrote the

record books in the greatest long jump competition in the history of athletics, reports Reuter.

Powell's 8.95 metres wining jump in the men's final at the World Athletic Championships erased what has become the most famous record of them

It also ended Carl Lewis's 10-year unbeaten streak and gave the third World Championships its latest, greatest and most unexpected

superstar. Bob Beamon's mark of 8.90 metres set at the 1968 Mexico Olympics seemed barely credible at the time.

As the years rolled by it gained added lustre, a golden memory from an era when flower power was at its height and the youth of American were on the streets protesting against the Vietnam War.

"If Bob had't jumped that far in 1968, it wouldn't be such a big deal right now," Powell reflected on Friday night as he struggled to comprehend the

enormity of his achievement. "It took so long to break it. All I can say to him is thank you the next time to see him. I will shake his hand and say

Beamon's jump, immortalised in a famous photo which catches the American seemingly in flight, was the culmination of a series of uniquely avourable conditions.

An athlete of wonderful natural gifts, Beamon had the twin advantage of high altitude and a following wind of exactly the legal limit of two metres a sec-

His jump was well beyond the operational level of the measuring device and a steel tape had to be hurriedly found before the result could be announced.

The gasp and the instant applause when it was an-

nounced that Beamon had broken the frevious world record by an incredible 55 cm were echoed at Tokyo's National Stadium on Friday.

But at first they were for Lewis, who soared 8.91 metres with his fourth attempt.

in the air.

his victory run.

he got hugged."

competitor.

nine metres."

leased him and continued on

Powell explained. "I was just

looking for somebody to hug. I

was just happy and I wanted to

share it with somebody - so

of the contest although Powell

still feared Lewis, the ultimate

come from behind, deep down

I felt he could come and jump

runway and flew 8.84 meters,

good enough for silver but not

good enough to keep his title.

conditions. "I'm pretty used to

last year at the tender age of

13, Capriati created a sensa-

tion on the circuit by going to

the semifinals of the French

Open, reaching the fourth

round of Wimbledon and the

US Open and winning her first

This summer she stunned

the tennis world at Wimbledon

by knocking out nine-time

champion Martina Navratilova

won two tournaments, one at

the expense of Seles in the fi-

nal Capriati was a wide-eyed

teenager at her first Open. One

of her personal highlights, she

says, was meeting movie heart

This time around is a little

"Last year was my first time

and I enjoyed it all. I was in

awe of everything," said

Capriati, whose Open ended

with a loss to Graf in the fourth

round. "This year I'm trying to

be more focused and a little

she had a chance to win but

ning a Grand Slam title would

be more down the road," she

Capriati said she thought

"I always thought that win-

Sukova, US Open runner-up

1986, briefly threatened to

mount a late comeback when

she held triple break point in

the fifth game while trailing 4-

1. But Druie, behind crisp

passing shots and confident

Since then, Capriati has

After turning professional

the heat," she said.

title in Puerto Rico.

in the quarter-finals.

throb Tom Cruise.

different.

more mellow."

did not expect to.

That was effectively the end

"I always thought he could

Lewis sprinted down the

He still put together two le-

"I didn't say anything ."

Joy was quickly replaced by disappointment as Lewis the wind reading of 2.9 metres. But it was this jump which motivated Powell, who had looked close to the nine-metre mark with his fourth attempt which was ruled a foul after he overstepped the mark.

That's what gave me the incentive and adrenaline to jump as far as I did," Powell

In hot, sultry weather, with the swirling wind suddenly still, Powell gathered his strength and hurtled down the

He launched in a gravity-defying leap and flew past the market denoting Beamon's record.

gal jumps in excess of 8.80 The stadium went quiet, metres, a distance previously then erupted in Pandemonium

achieved only by Beamon and as the result was flashed on Soviet Robert Emmiyan, who failed to qualify for the final Powell went wild, racing down the track, into the in-

here. field and waving his right arm In a not particularly gracious tribute to Powell, Lewis A board judge stood in his was at pains to point out that way. Powell grabbed the starthe loser had put together the tled official in a bear hug, regreatest series of jumps in his-

"Mike had that one great

jump", Lewis said. Whereas Lewis, the world 100 metres record holder, relies on speed; Powell depends on strength and aggression.

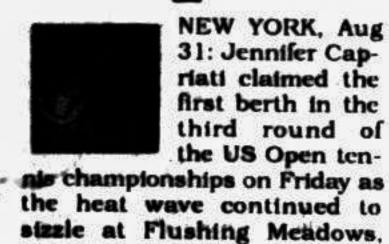
He conceded that he was not as fast as Lewis or thirdplaced compatriot Larry Myricks but said he had been building up his strength since last November.

"It was the perfect situation, the perfect track at a big meet," he said.

"I have always felt I could do what I needed to do to break the world record.

"It was the realisation of a dream. I have been dreaming about this for the last seven to eight years, " he said.

Capriati beats both Hy and the heat she was not bothered by the



reports Reuter. Strength-Sapping, hazy heat and air thick with humidity once again settled heavily over

the National Tennis Centre. The seventh-seeded Capriati, in a reprise of her second-round match here last year, used her powerful ground strokes to defeat Patricia Hy of Canada 6-1, 6-4 and beat the heat by taking just one hour to advance.

On Thursday, when oncourt temperatures soared above 100 degrees (38 C), four men's players were forced to retire before completing their matches.

Only one, Christian Bergstrom of Sweden, defaulted specifically because of heat illness, but fatigue from playing in the horrid conditions could have been a factor in the other injuries.

Capriati, heading towards an eagerly anticipated date with defending champion Gabriela Sabatini in the quarter-finals, lost her service only once to liv, who made the secend set close by coming to net against the American teenager.

Coacii

former finalist Helena Sukova

of Czechoslovakia to reach the

round of 16 at the US Open

tennis championships on

NEW YORK, Aug

31: Briton Jo Du-

rie gave her golf-

loving coach the

day off, then pro-

ceeded to upset

NEW YORK, Aug

Chang's speed

topspin lobs were

too much for

John McEnroe

and '

here Saturday as the four-time

former US Open champion was

Meadow after a five-set late

night battle on the Stadium

first time in three years, saved

Chang, unseeded for the

Court, reports AFP.

packing from Flushing

Michael

timely

"I knew if I stayed back she could run me all over the court," said the 26-year-old lly, who fell to Capriati in the

same round last year, 6-3, 6-1. Hy, who took Steffi Graf to of play," said the Cambodianborn Hy. "She takes the ball so early, like Monica (Seles). But Monica does not hit hard all the time. Jennifer does."

"I've gone three sets with



Jennifer Capriati of US leans into a return to Patricia Hy of Canada on August 30 in the US Open. Capriati won 6-1, 6--AFP photo

three sets in this summer's Federation Cup, said the 15 year-old Capriati was her toughest opponent.

Friday, reports Reuter.

"Jennifer has her own style

Steffi and played them all but Jennifer is the hardest for me. She makes you rush your

shots."

said. "Winning now would be a Capriati, a Floridian, said shock." nach misses 11110000

Durie posted one of foul vance 6-4, 2-1. upsets in the women's draw at "I was surprised to get two expected form fell apart on hectic fifth day at the year's ff nal Grand Slam event. Durie, ranked 107 place below the 15th- seedel

breaks out of the first three games. That was a real bonus because then I just had to hold my serve," said Durie, who was delighted with her best Grand Slam showing of the

Sukova in the third set to ad-

The 31-year-old Durie, who reached the semifinals at the Open in 1983, said the match was not the most inspiring tennis she had ever played, but was thrilled to find herself in the fourth round where she will next face American teen sensation Jennifer Capriati.

"It was a better match last vear." she said of her 1-6, 7-6, 7-6 1990 first round loss to Sukova here. "But I won the bloody thing so I don't mind," she added with a laugh.

"I'm just so pleased to have won a string of matches, which I haven't done for a long time,'

The six-foot tall (1-83m) London resident said her coach, Alan Jones, had missed her big upset win way out on Court 18 on the outskirts of the National Tennis Centre because he was out playing golf -

Durie said Jones had an opportunity to play Pine Valley in nearby New Jersey, which is considered one of the best golf



The Dhaka kabaddi league final between Mirpur JS and Sonali Bank in progress yesterday at Outer Stadium kabaddi court. Mirpur won 14-8.

Tyson testifies

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana, Aug 31: Former world heavyweight champion Mike Tyson testified on Friday before a grand jury investigating charges that he raped an 18year-old beauty pageant contestant earlier this summer, reports Reuter.

Tyson, wearing a dark pinstriped suit and accompanied by promoter Don King, refused to comment on the proceedings as he left the courthouse, but paused to sign a few auto-

Testifying along with Tyson. who spent two to three hours on the stand, was Dale Edwards, Cleveland policeman who was acting as Tyson's bodyguard at the time of the alleged assault in July.

Tyson, who is scheduled to fight Evander Holyfield for the world heavyweight title in November, was accused of rape by one of the contestants at the Indiana Black Expo in July. She said she was driven to has hotel, where he assaulted her.

The six-member country grand jury has heard from 20 witnesses to date and officials said more will be called next week in view of Tyson's testi-

mony. suit of being a " Serial buttocks fondler" as a result of one incident in which he allegedly mistreated women.

Kenyans suffer double blow

TOKYO, Aug 31: The Kenyan team at the World Athletics Championships suffered a double blow today when two runners, including favourite Douglas Wakithuri, were forced to withdraw from Sunday's men's marathon, reports Reuter.

Close call for Stich Bulgaria both' fell to

Liz McColgan holds up her shoes after winning gold in women's 10,000m event with a time

Friday but four women's seeds were not so fortunate at the US Open tennis championships, reports Reuter. Stich, who looked wobbly going into the final set in broiling heat at the National Tennis couldn't even move."

of 31:14.31 in the World Athletics Championships on August 30.

Centre, somehow summoned the strength to overcome determined American Malivai Washington 5-7, 7-5, 6-2, 4-6, 6-3 to reach the round of 16. On another day of oppressive heat and humidity with court-side temperatures sizzling at 120 degrees Fahrenheit (49 Celsius), major

cracks developed in the women's draw. Fifth-seeded American Mary Joe Fernandez, a semifinalist here last year, and 11th-

NEW YORK, Aug

31: Wimbledon

champion Micha-

el Stich survived

a scrious scare on

the steamy Louis

Armstrong Stadium court on

Czechoslovaks.

Radka Zrubakova routed Fernandez, a semifinalist this year at both the Australian Open and Wimbledon, 6-1, 6-2, while Regina Rajchrtova ousted Maleeva 2-6, 6-3, 6-3.

"It was the biggest win of my career," said the 20-yearold Zrubakova. "I didn't make any mistakes at all. A lot of the time she seemed so tired she

Defending women's champion Gabriela Sabatini, second seed Monica Seles and seventh-seeded Jenniser Capriati advanced in straight sets, but as the debilitating day wore on two other seeds, Czechoslovak Helena Sukova, a 1986 finalist and Soviet Leila Mcskhi, joined the upset list.

Second seed Stefan Edberg and fifth seed Ivan Lendl, a three-time Open champion, both needed four sets to advance. Edberg escaped big trouble by overcoming a 5-0 deficit in his first-set tie-break against American Jim Grabb.

Washington, a second-year pro who has proven himself a dangerous opponent at this year's Grand Slams, threatened to be as lethal to Stich as the

As in every other Grand Slam of 1991 it took five sets to dismiss the dangerous, 22year-old Washington.

Stich, the third seed stopped him for a second time. The German prevailed 6-4 in the fifth set of his first-round match against the stubborn American at the Australian

Open.
The German took the upper hand by blasting a forehand winner down the line to break for a 3.2 advantage in the final setWashington fought off Stich's first match point from 15-40 in the ninth game with an overhand smash but watched the German rifle a forehand cross-court passing shot that landed untouched for a winner.

A Distant View ----

SRI LANKA YET TO COME OF AGE

there.

The expected thing happened at Lord's on the fifth day, only threc minutes after

delayed teabreak, in the one-off Test match between England and Sri Lanka. England won the Test by 137 runs. Sri Lanka's dream of winning a Test match in England would have to wait for the future.

The performance of the tourists in the country matches in the short tour before the Test clearly demonstrated the weakness of their bowling: they could only dismiss 54 batsmen of the possible 100 in ten innings. Their batting had been enterprising and some bright spots are

England, after their Oval success against the West Indians, was expected to win rather comfortably; but in all fairness, the victory was not that easy. At the end of the first innings, England's lead being only 58, their superiority did not look that overwhelming. But once Gooch, with a brilliant knock of 174, ably supported by Stewart (43) and Smith (63 not out), had taken the Sri Lankan bowling to heavy task in the second innings and had taken the England total to 364 for 3 it looked certain that, barring intervention from the weather. England would coast home without much difficulty.

The Sri Lankans were set a rather an impossible target of 423 to win the match. This figure has never been achieved in Test Cricket in the Fourth innings. Only India and England have done it twice in the history of Test cricket, and on both occasions the target was slightly over 400 but definitely below 423.

When Sri Lanka took the field at Lord's they must have had the inspiring memory of the 1984 drawn match here

- A M CHOWDHURY against England. When they were obliged to field, having lost the toss, inspiration played a major part in their efforts in being able to restrict England's first innings total to a moderate 282. Rumesh Ratnavake bowled with sustained accuracy and returned his career best figures of 27-4-5 -69 , Ramanayaka with 2 for 75 and Anurasiri with 2 for 42 playing a supportive role. The spin of Anurasiri kept the England batsmen at bay and skipper Aravinda de Silva must have regretted his decision of not playing Madurashinghi instead of Vijaya Gunawardene, who proved absolutely ineffective and could only be used for 10+2 overs in the two innings

seeded Katerina Maleeva of

for 35+13 runs. England's hero in the first innings was Alec Stewart who, coming in at No. 3 with 70 on the board, carried his bat through remaining unbeaten with 113. Capitalising on his Test recall at the Oval he went on with added courage and conviction and produced a superb innings, which won him England's player-of-the-match award. Gooch (38) and Ifugh Morris(42) made a good start. But the middle order did not flourish; only Botham chipped in with 22.

Sri Lanka had about an hour's batting on the second day and finished the day on 75 for 2. In the last 60 minutes they collected 70 runs and offered the Lord's crowd a very sumptuous feast of batting at its best. The 'chef' of the feast was none other than the Sri Lankan captain Aravinda de Silva, who cracked seven four in his exhibarating innings of 42, which lasted for only 35 minutes.

He came to the crease on 22 for 2 and choosing aggression to be the answer, produced some superb shots and one pull off DeFraitas was of such a grand quality that it was

adjudged as the 'Champagne moment' of the match. But next morning he was out to the second ball of the second over, the first he faced, and that was the end of the flickering of the lighting, which had raised expectations of Sri Lankan supporters sky high. The innings then gradually succumbed to the good consistent swing bowling of Defreitas,

Only Rumesh Ratnayaka, coming in at No.8 chanced his arms with determined courage and reached the total of 52 and thereby earned the distinction of becoming the first Sri Lankan to take 5 wickets and score a half century in a Test match, a distinction which earned him the prize for the Sri Lankan player -ofthe-match.

Young opening batsman Haturusinghe played with patience and showed great promise. He was ninth out after making 66.

Sri Lanka folded up their first innings for 224: a deficit of 58. For this deficit they could blame only their approach to the game rather than anything else. They always looked reaching the England total, but did not. The failures of Gurusinha and Mahanama, their two experienced batsmen, were to a great extent

demoralising. With a slender lead of 58 England began their second innings. The first wicket fell at 78; Gooch and Stewart (43) consolidated and the two led England to the invincible position of a lead of 422.

Many an experienced side has saved Test matches from even worse situations; the most recent example being that of the Indians at the Oval last year where Tendulkar scored a brilliant century and Prabhakar remained unbeaten with 70-odd runs.

But the Lankans are yet to mature to that standard. The

way they batted it appeared drawing the match was not on their 'menu'. They never tried to graft and stay at the wicket and wait for the clock hands reaching the bails-off time. They played their natural game, playing positive cricket and this was acclaimed by all as a 'refreshing attitude' to the game. They were all out for 285 in which Jayasuriya's 66 was the brightest knock.

Graham Gooch and Robin Smith had a tremendously successful summer. Gooch reached the milestone of seven thousand Test runs (7028 to be exact) at Lord's, including his 15th Test ton. His total accumulation this summer of 692, in 6 Tests (11 innings) at an average of 69.20 is highly creditable. Smith's figures of 483 in 5 Tests (9 innings) at an average of 80.5 look pretty impressive. The much improved DeFraitas ended up with 30 wickets conceding 572 runs at an average of 19.07, and was definitely England's edge over the oppo-

The Sri Lankans go back to their emerald island still cherishing the dream of a win in a Test match played abroad. But they have many a heartening spots to feel encouraged. De Silva has a long innings ahead of him (at present he stands at 1539 runs in 40 innings at an average of 40.50); the performances Haturusinghe and Jayasuriya also promise lot. Their fielding was of a quite high standard. Their weakness in bowling was clearly exposed and it is in this department they must concentrate for improvement.

This short tour of England and the only Test have given them much needed exposure. More of it and we all wish it. won't be long before they come of age. They were beaten at Lord's, but definitely not hu-

his best for last as he won 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 (7-1), 2-6, 6-3 in a match that lasted four hours and 33 minutes. "Overall, it was a very close match," Chang said. "I can say it's very good to be able to the end, it was difficult and the crowd was trying to get John back in it. McEnroe, seeded 16th, had beaten Chang in all four previous encounters, but this time was ultimately outmatched by the former French Open champion, who frustrated his serve-and-volley tactics with blistering passing shots and lobs. "He certainly used it (the lob) quite well today," McEnroe said. "It's a smart shot to hit against someone who is attacking a lot."

Chang even came up with 1.1 aces, three of which were to the final game of the match, which ended appropriately with McEnroe helplessly watching a backhand lob sail

over his head. That's something I'm going to have to keep in mind," Chang said of the lob, which won him 13 points.

The first two sets of the match saw dramatic reversals of fortune as first McEnroe then Chang took 4-2 leads on to end up losing the set. In the third set, Chang k 5-3, but McEnroe broke bad in the 10th game, aided by questionable baseline call.

Chang lobs too fast for McEnroe Chang, who averaged only 46 per cent on first serve suddenly started producing big serves at the end of the third set, holding with an ace in the 12th game and then adding two more in the tiebreaker,

Czechoslovak at 121 in the

world, thoroughly dominated

with relative ease, bringing th. crowd to its feet anticipation of a great finish.

passing shot and taking 4.2 lead when McEnroe hit a volley long.

winner on game point The ninth game.

including one clocked at 112

"I don't get that many accs/-Chang said, adding: "But the, sure came at the right time. McEnroe, 13 years olde, than Chang, won the fourth st.

Chang saved a pair of break points in the third game of the final set, then got the crycial service break in the fixth game, getting to 15-40 with a

McEnroe erased two match. points in the eighth game and set the stage for the Hramatic final game with a

ominously for Chang when his first serve was called wide by the line judge but then overruled by chair umpire Steve Ullrich and declared an

McEnroe, who had been unusually subdued all night, suddenly launched into a tirade, screaming at Ullrich: "Words cannot possibly describe how low you are," for

which he received no warning. McEnroe won the next two points, but Chang served an ace to get to 30-30, only to lose the following point and present McEnroe with a break

Again Chang produced an ace, but had to fight off one more break point before lofting the final ball over

McEnroe's balding head. "I was just trying to get my first serve in, because if I missed, I was afraid John would be all over my second

volleys, ran off five consecutive points to hold for 5-1.

with her permission.

