

Schillaci Juventus' hero

ROME, Sept 9: Juventus, eager to exorcise the nightmares of last season, went top of the Italian soccer league on Sunday thanks to striker Salvatore Schillaci, reports Reuter.

The Turin giants, past champions 22 times but without a place in Europe this season for the first time in 28 years, won 1-0 at Foggia with a goal from the Italian World Cup hero.

It was Juventus second league win in as many matches and followed a string of pre-season victories for a side revamped by coach Giovanni Trapattoni on his return to his old club.

Juventus are level on points at the top with AC Milan who beat Cagliari 1-0 at home thanks to a penalty converted by Dutch striker Marco Van Basten after just three minutes.



SALVATORE SCHILLACI

Trapattoni, who guided the club to six championships between 1976 and 1986, has made it clear nothing but the title will do this year.

Champions Sampdoria recovered from their surprise defeat at Cagliari last week by beating bottom - of the division Verona, reduced to 10 - men for the second half, 2-0 in Genoa.

They should have had more, however, and Italian international Gianluca Vialli missed a 20th minute penalty.

Sampdoria's first goal came after 10 minute when Veteran Brazilian midfielder Antonio Cerezo coolly netted a pass from Vialli, last year's leading First Division goal scorer.

Vialli made amends for his earlier miss by converting a fine pass from midfielder Giovanni Invernizzi in the second half.

Verona libero Alessandro Renica had been sent off five minutes before halftime for dissent. Verona have yet to score a goal or win a point this season.

The traditional grudge match in Rome between Roma and Fiorentina failed to live up to expectations, with the only goal coming just before the end when Inter's German international Lothar Matthaus converted a penalty.

There was a heavy police presence to prevent any repeat during the game of the violence which marred the start of the season last week in the match between Juventus and Fiorentina.

Another German international, Thomas Doll, laid on Ruben Sosa's goal which gave Lazio a 1-0 victory over Torino and put them into third place along side Inter, Parma and Napoli.

'Mother of all battles' on soccer field

BAGHDAD, Sept 9: Iraq has revived one of Saddam Hussein's favourite phrases "Mother of All Battles" — this time for a soccer tournament, reports Reuter.

The Iraqi leader has ordered cash prizes for the last four teams in a national soccer competition. The winners will collect 150,000 dinars (465,000 US dollars at the official exchange rate), the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said on Sunday.

"Four teams are currently competing in Umm Al-Ma' Areek (Mother of All Battles) tournament which began last Monday," INA said.

The Air Force Club was among the finalists but the Police team was eliminated after losing two matches, it said.

Before the Gulf War began in January, Saddam repeatedly said it would be the "Mother of All Battles." Six weeks later, after a bombing campaign and a 100-hour ground offensive, the U.S. led Allies had driven his troops out of Kuwait.

Bebeto is back with a bang

RIO DE JANEIRO, Sept 9: Striker Bebeto celebrated his return to the Brazil squad by scoring both goals as Vasco da Gama beat Iapetuna 2-1 in the Rio de Janeiro soccer championship at the weekend, reports Reuter.

Bebeto, included in the squad for Brazil's friendly international against Wales in Cardiff on Wednesday, saved Vasco from a humiliating home defeat after lowly Iapetuna had taken a first half lead through Ze Roberto.

The striker equalised in the 51st minute converting a penalty after defender Nabor had handled and then scored the winner in the last minute with a perfectly placed freekick.

Less than three months ago, Bebeto walked out on Brazil's South American championship squad saying the then coach Paulo Roberto Falcão had not given him a fair chance.

Schuster powers Atletico win

MADRID, Sept 9: Atletico Madrid's German midfielder Bernd Schuster played a major role in the 2-0 win at Real Mallorca on Sunday, lifting his team to the top of the Spanish League soccer table, reports Reuter.

Scoring one goal and helping create another Schuster paved the way for Atletico's first win at Mallorca for 30 years and maximum points after the first two games of the season.

The first goal came when a 76th minute freekick taken by Schuster bounced off Mallorca's defensive wall to be struck home by striker Manolo Sanchez. Schuster scored the second from a pass from

Manolo in the 89th minute.

Real Madrid were made to struggle for their 1-0 home win over Valladolid but broke the strangle hold in the 59th minute when midfielder Michel Gonzalez dribbled down the right and floated a centre for striker Emilio Butragueno.

Colombian goalkeeper Rene Higuita was unable to hold the header and Adolfo Aldana touched home the rebound.

On Saturday, champions Barcelona crashed to a 4-2 defeat at Seville where Chilean striker Ivan Zamorano played havoc with the visitors' defence in the first half.

Zamorano scored after 11 minutes and made the second for Ignacio Conte in the 39th, leaping high to nod on a cen-

German soccer

BONN, Sept 9: Striker Lothar Sippel scored a hatrick on Friday as Eintracht Frankfurt beat newly-promoted Stuttgart Kickers 6-1 to go top of the Bundesliga.

Papin, who scored twice in Czechoslovakia, was hurt in a collision with Toulouse's goalkeeper Robin Huck and had to the pitch after 37 minutes.

The French champions were without the injured Chris Waddle of England and defender Basile Doli.

"The match in Czechoslovakia was really hard and I knew it wouldn't be easy here tonight," said Marseille trainer Tomislav Ivic.

"Everybody was tired and you can't ask for too much under such conditions, especially when talented players such as Boli and Waddle are missing. But we've won and that's all that counts," he added.

Ivic also paid tribute to Steven. "Everybody knew he was a very good player and I think he proved it tonight," he said.

Jansher skips divorce hearing

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 9: World squash champion Jansher Khan failed to show up Monday for a hearing of divorce petition filed against him, reports AP.

The Muslim Religious Court in Tawau, 1,165 kilometers (725 miles) southeast of here, postponed the case because of Khan's absence, the national news agency Bernama reported.

Mrs. Rukhsana Soh, also known as Violet Al Pang, 23 has filed for divorce from Khan, custody of their 18-month-old son, Kamran Khan, and the return of her belongings.

Khan, 27, of Peshawar, Pakistan, married Rukhsana on May 26, 1989.

She claimed that their marriage encountered problems five months after they were married.

Steven justifies his cost

PARIS, Sept 9: England midfielder Trevor Steven scored his first goal for Marseille to help the French champions snatch a 2-0 home win over Toulouse in the French soccer league on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Substitute Daniel Xuereb opened the scoring with a header after 43 minute and Steven, who joined last month from Glasgow Rangers for a 50 million francs (about 8.3 million-dollar) transfer fee, made it 2-0 four minutes into the second half.

The win meant Marseille retained their second place and closed their gap on leaders Monaco to two points. Monaco had an easy 3-0 home win over Toulon on Saturday.

Marseille, who had eight



TREVOR STEVEN

players on the pitch in Bratislava when France beat Czechoslovakia, 2-1 in a European Championship match on Wednesday, looked relatively uninspired against a brave Toulouse side.

Ace striker Jean-Pierre

Soviet men to the fore

INDIANAPOLIS, Sept 9: The Soviet Union earned the top four spots in the men's compulsory exercises to give them a commanding lead in the world gymnastics championships on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Igor Korobchinski, Vitali Scherbo and Valeri Ljutkin picked up Sunday's highest individual scores to take over the all-around lead from compatriot Grigori Misutin, who led after Saturday's round.

The defending World and Olympic champion Soviets lead the competition with 291-825 points, just 3.875 points ahead of Germany, followed by Japan and China which are within a tenth of a point at third and fourth.

"We felt our team was the strongest one here," said Korobchinski, the defending world all-around champion.

"We are competing among ourselves the way we do in training," he said.

The United States suffered a major blow when its top gymnast Lance Ringnald tore a muscle in his right shoulder on the still rings and withdrew from the competition.

The loss means that the Americans, who fell from third place to fifth after the injury, will not have the option of dropping their lowest score on each event.

"We felt we had a good chance to get a medal in front of our home crowd" US coach Francis Allen said. "Nobody can catch the Soviets, but now the top three isn't as likely."

The competition has also been hampered by the diagnosis of two New Zealand gymnasts with measles, which officials fear might turn into an epidemic.

The International Gymnastics Federation had asked all

gymnasts and coaches to comply with immunisation requests.

An earlier AP report :American Bety Okino is breaking up the Soviet gymnastic bloc.

Using her elegant grace, Okino scored the highest mark on the balance beam in two days of competition at the World Championships.

Okino's mark of 9.925 Sunday propelled her into third place in the women's compulsory, behind Soviet Tatiana Lisenko and Romanian Lavinia Milosovic.

"I was a little more nervous because I've never been in a world championships," she said. "The US is expected to win a medal and I didn't want to let them down."

Her beam routine dazzled the crowd Sunday at the Hooster Dome, and earned hugs from US women's coach Bela Karolyi and his wife, Martha. Okino earned a 9.862 in the floor exercise and she outscored teammate Kim Zmeskal in three of the four events.

Zmeskal, who trains with Okino at Karolyi's Houston gym, set the pace Sunday. She was in third until Okino knocked her down three places after the final rotation.

Ahead of Zmeskal were Soviet Roza Galieva and Oksana Tchusovitina. Defending world champion Svetlana Boguniskata of the Soviet Union was showcased in today's final round of compulsories.

Zmeskal did a little bumping herself. The 15-year-old sent Soviet Natalia Kalintina, the all-around champion at the Goodwill Games, into seventh.

Nerves got Zmeskal hopping before her first routine or the vault, where a slight mis-step cost her a few one-hun-

dreds of a point.

"I was thinking, Oh my God, this is the world championships. That's the most nervous I've been in a while," said Zmeskal. "Whose best marks came on the beam (9.875) and floor exercise (9.837)."

"I wasn't nervous for beam or floor and those were my best events," she said.

Zmeskal packs power in her 4-foot 7 frame, while the leggy Okino resembles a rough-and-tumble ballerina.

While the American women put themselves in medal contention, the men suffered a major blow when 1988 Olympic Lance Ringnald withdrew with a dislocated shoulder.

Doctors determined Ringnald either strained or tore a chest muscle during the still rings event.

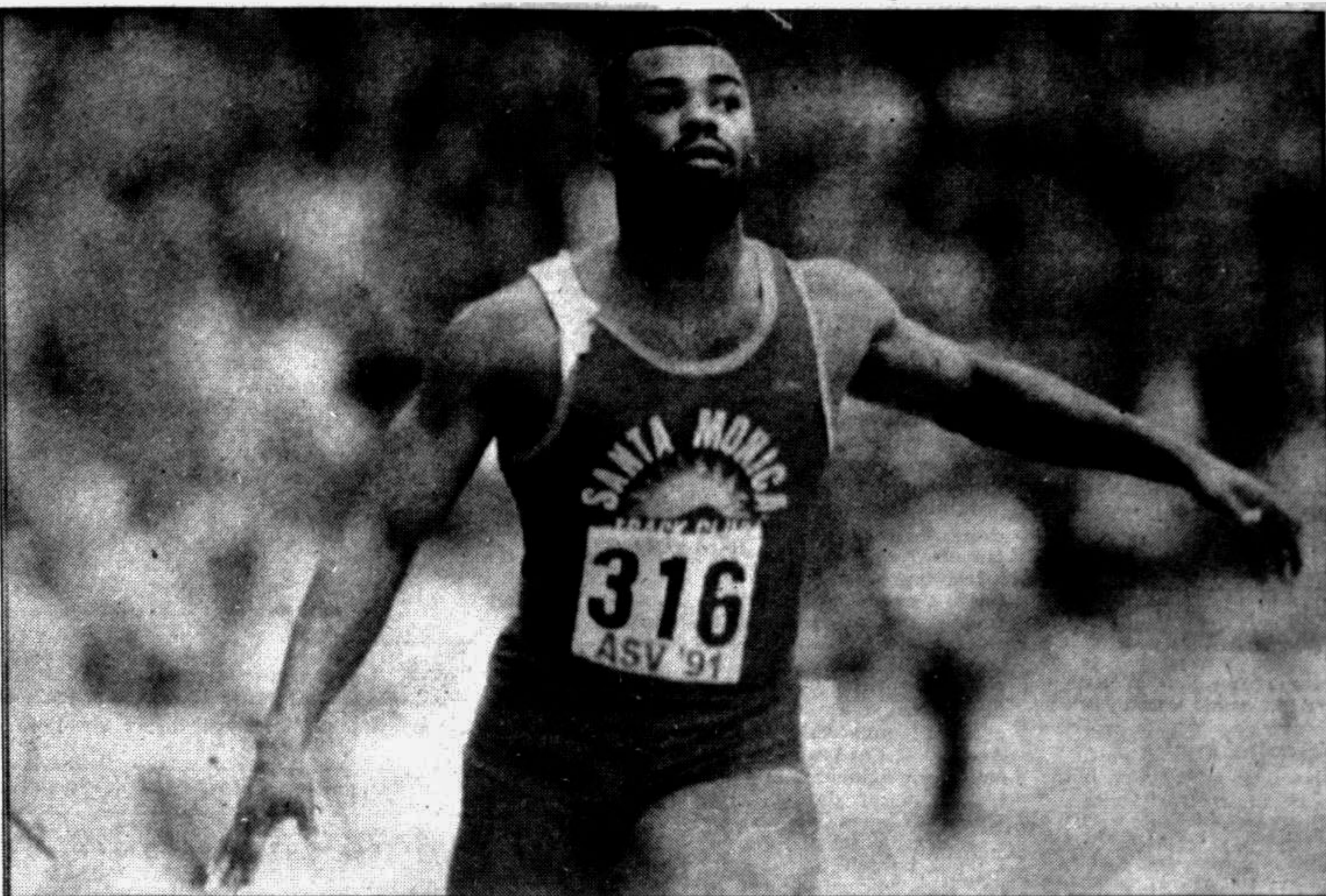
With Ringnald out, every score from the remaining five Americans will count. They were in fifth place, behind traditional powers the Soviet Union, Germany, Japan and China.

The scores from the compulsory and optional routines today and Tuesday are combined to determine the final team standings.

"We're going to go for the best team finish we can get," US men's coach Francis Allen said. "A team medal is still realistic, but it's going to be a little hard to accomplish."

They scored 291.825 points, followed by Germany with 287.875; Japan with 287.900; China with 287.875 and the US with 285.675.

The Soviet Union, which has won the team gold medal at the World Championships seven times since 1954, with reigning world champion Igor Korobchinski, Vitaly Scherbo, veteran Valeri Ljutkin and Grigori Misutin.



Leroy Burrell of the US crosses the finish line in the 100 metres men's race with a time of 10.3 seconds to win the event in Cologne Sunday. Andre Cason of the US finished second and Frankie Fredericks of Namibia came in third. — AFP photo

Krabbe shocked in Cologne

COLOGNE, Germany, Sept 9: Germany's double world sprint champion Katrin Krabbe suffered a surprise defeat over 100 metres at the Cologner Grand Prix athletics meeting on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Krabbe, who triumphed in both the 100 and 200 metres, at last month's World Championships in Tokyo, finished second behind American Gwen Torrence, the world silver medalist in Japan over both distances.



OTTEY...a winner again Despite coolish, overcast conditions which were poor for sprinting, the 21-year-old former East German made a superb start and looked to be in control after 70 metres.

Krabbe, three times a gold medalist in last year's European Championships and one of the last sporting products of the former communist state, won a record-equaling four medals in Tokyo after finishing third in both relays.

But while the tall, blonde-haired sprinter seems to be prepared perfectly for the major world occasions by her coach Thomas Springstein, she has failed to produce her best under the intense spotlight of competition in Germany this year.

Earlier in the season Krabbe suffered an embarrassing defeat by Nigerian Mary Onyiah on her home track in Neubrandenburg.

After the Tokyo Championships, Krabbe decided to stay away from her Jamaican rival Merlene Ottey—the world 100 and 200 bronze medalist—for the rest of the season to gain a psychological boost ahead of next year's Olympics.

But less than half an hour after Krabbe's defeat, Ottey powered to the fastest 200 metres time in the world this year when she won in 21.83 seconds.

The 31-year-old Ottey, who was bitterly disappointed by her two individual defeats in Tokyo after dominating women's sprinting all season, already had a solid lead as she came off the bend.

The Jamaican cruised down the final straight and crossed the line with metres to spare ahead of German Grit Breuer who finished in 22.45 with American Darnette Young third in 22.95. The time beat Ottey's previous best this year of 21.98.

The superb performance provided a sharp reminder to Krabbe that she is likely to have a battle on her hands in Barcelona as the two sprinters begin the countdown to the Olympics.

A delighted Ottey said afterwards she wanted to get a shot at the German at Tuesday's Berlin Grand Prix meeting.

"I'm glad to get the chance to show the people that I'm Merlene Ottey again," she said. "In Tokyo too many people tried to tell me how to relax,

who I should start and how I should do everything differently."

The next race is in Berlin. I'm ready to take on Krabbe and it doesn't matter whether it's 100 or 200."

Krabbe, who was immediately surrounded by photographers and autograph-hunters when she came into the stadium with her boyfriend before the meet began, said she had found it hard to concentrate on Sunday's race.

"After 11 races in Tokyo and all the fuss it's very difficult to motivate yourself," she said. "But I'm happy."



KRABBE...a debacle It is unlikely she will agree to a duel on home ground.

World record holder, who finished behind American teammates Andre Cason and Mike Marsh in Rieti, triumphed in 10.13 in the cool conditions.

Cason was second in 10.18 with Frankie Fredericks of Namibia, who was fifth in Tokyo, third in 10.19.

World champion Michael Johnson, who ran the fastest 200 metres in the world this year in Rieti, produced the second fastest time of the year in the 400 metres.

The 23-year-old American, who also has plans to prove his versatility by moving down to 100 metres soon, finished in 44.22 seconds ahead of compatriots Steve Lewis, who clocked 44.67, and world bronze medalist Danny Everett in 44.91.

Johnson is the only man to have run faster over 400 this year with a best time of 44.17.

Despite Krabbe's defeat which was received in almost stunned silence, he Cologne crowd were able to celebrate German Dieter Baumann's victory in the 3,000 metres, the final event of the meeting.

Baumann, who is based at nearby Leverkusen, won a fascinating last-lap battle with 5,000 metres World champion Yobes Ondieki to triumph in seven minutes 33.91 seconds, easily the fastest time in the world this year.

Sirma wins London race

LONDON, Sept 9: World Championships 3,000m bronze medalist Susan Sirma of Kenya beat a 4,000 strong field to win the Diet Coke Great London women's 10km road race here on Sunday in 32 minutes 10 seconds, reports AP.

She went into the lead in the final mile after Portugal's Olympic marathon champion Rosa Mota led for five miles before being struck by cramp.

Britain's 10km champion Andrea Wallace from Torbay was runner-up seven seconds behind the winner. Mota was fourth in 33:42.

Result: 1. S Sirma (Kenya) 32min 10sec. 2. A Wallace (Great Britain) 32:17. 3. O Bondarenko (USSR) 32:27.

Pakistan keep winning

BELFAST, Sept 9: Two first-half goals were enough to give Pakistan a third win from their three games against Ireland here on Sunday, reports AP.

Captain Shahbaz Ahmad produced a superb individual effort after just three minutes with inside forward Tahir Zaman adding the second 10 minutes from the break.

Ireland produced several short corners in the second half from which Neil Cooke forced goalkeeper Mansoor Ahmad to make several fine saves.

Star-studded field for Seiko tennis

TOKYO, Sept 9: Three of the world's top five men's tennis players will compete in the first million Seiko Super Tennis tournament to begin next month, organizers said Wednesday, reports AP.

Germany's Boris Becker, No. 1 in the world, Stefan Edberg of Sweden, No. 2, and Jim Courier of the United States, No. 5, are to participate in the tournament, they announced.

Other leading players include Americans Andre Agassi, David Wheaton and Michael Chang.

The men's singles winner earns \$122,700. The tournament is to begin on Oct. 7.



Action from the Jessore versus Chapni Nawabganj match on the opening day of the Karnaphuli Insurance women's handball tournament at the Dhanmandi Women's Sports Complex yesterday. Seven teams are taking part in the meet organised by the Bangladesh Women's Sports Federation.