

# Soviets bank on Boguinskaya

INDIANAPOLIS, Sept 10: Svetlana Boguinskaya, the ageing veteran of the Soviet gymnastics team, paced her squad to an early lead at the World Gymnastics championships on Monday, reports Reuter.

Boguinskaya, the defending world all-around champion, averaged better than 9.90 on four solid routines in the compulsory round.

At 18, which is considered geriatric by gymnastics standards, Boguinskaya scored 9.875 on the vault, 9.50 on the uneven bars and floor exercise and 9.937 on the balance beam to lead the Soviet to a team total of 197.371, 1.163 ahead of the host Americans in second place.

"I am satisfied with this day," said Boguinskaya, winner of five gold medals at last year's European Championships. "I count days like this as very meaningful."

The Soviet team leader had said she was pondering retirement after being beaten at the 1990 Goodwill Games in Seattle by compatriot Natalia

Kalina.

But Soviet team officials named her to compete in the last round in Indianapolis, an honour usually reserved for a team's best gymnast.

"Svetlana is a most consistent performer," said Aleksandr Aleksandrov, the team's head coach. "She differentiates herself well with the prescribed exercises since she has prepared them so well."

"That is why she competed in the last round."

The next three rounds will consist of routines of the gymnasts' own design. Despite Boguinskaya's elegant maturity, there is concern among Soviet coaches that the difficult skills required to excel in these rounds are beyond her capacity.

"As regards my age," Boguinskaya said, "it is still possible for an older woman to upgrade her difficulty without making compromises in what she does well. We'll see what the competition brings."

An earlier AP report said: Defending world champion

Svetlana Boguinskaya leads the Soviets as the top scorer in the compulsories. The 18-year-old flashed the form Monday that earned her four medals at the 1988 Olympics.

Going into the optionals, the Soviet women have 197.371 points. The United States, with what appears to be its best team since the Mary Lou Retton-led Olympic squad of 1984, is second with 196.208.

Romania and China also remain in the medal chase. Romania, the only country to beat the Soviets in the World Championships in the last decade, was third with 195.795 points, followed by China with 195.270.

Boguinskaya's performance, which included scores of 9.950 on the uneven bars and floor exercise and a 9.937 on the beam, took much of the shine from the impressive effort of 14-year-old American Shannon Miller.

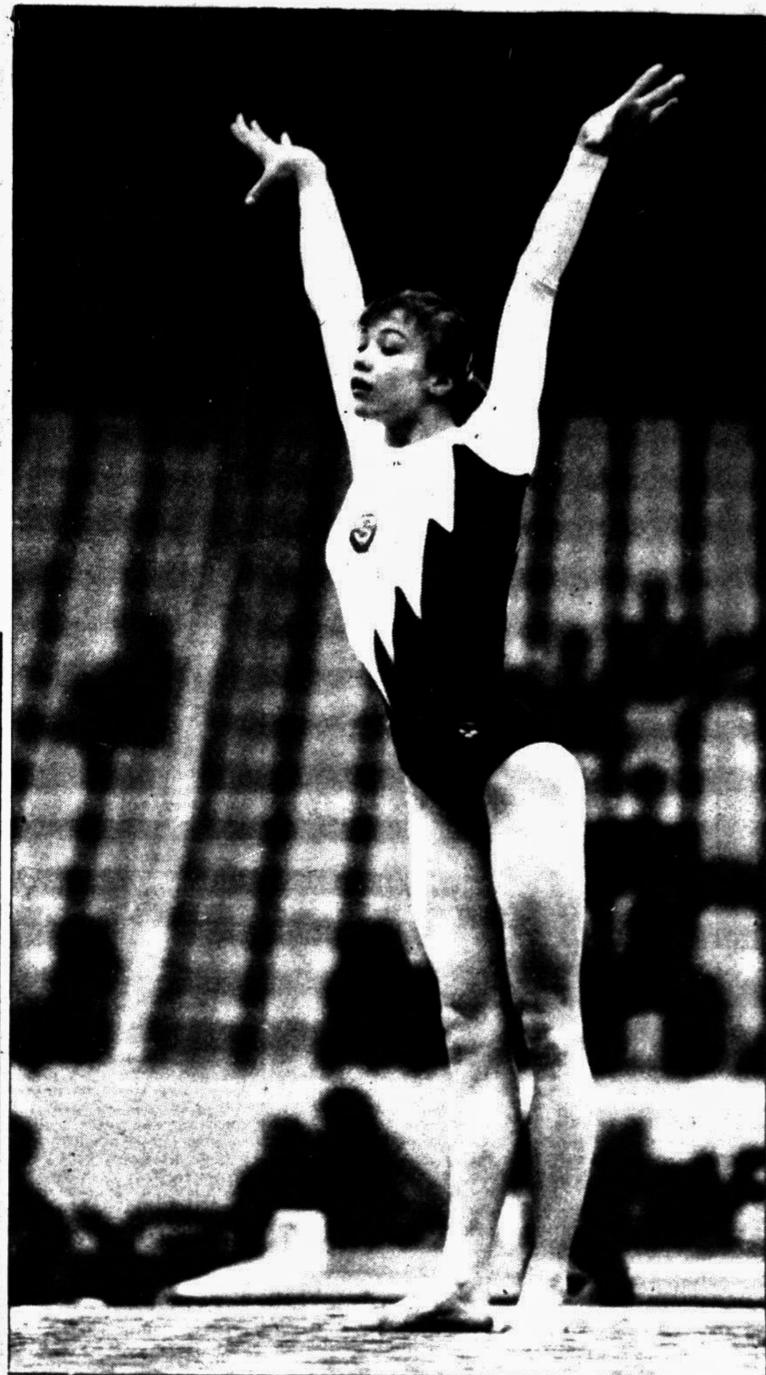
The 4-foot-9 (145-centimeter), 69-pounder (31-kilogram) gave it her best shot, scoring a

9.90 on the vault, a 9.937 on the balance beam, a 9.875 on the floor exercise and 9.850 on the uneven bars.

It was good enough to give Miller a tie for second place with Romanian standout Cristina Bontas going into the optionals.

Bo Yang of China was fourth and Henrietta Onodi of Hungary fifth. Four of the top 10 finishers in compulsories were Soviets. Other Americans included Betty Okino (9th), Kim Zmeskal (12th), Michelle Campi (16th), Kerry Strug (22nd) and Hilary Grivich (28th).

American coach Bela Karolyi, who prior to the start of the competition labelled the Soviets, "more vulnerable than ever before," remained confident. "I still have the feeling they are not that sturdy," Karolyi said. "In the past they swept everything and never finished compulsory competition without leading by three of four points. Now, they aren't that far away from us."



SVETLANA BOGUINSKAYA — the Soviet hope.

## Santa Monica refused

BRUSSELS, Sept 10: The organisers of Friday's Brussels Grand Prix athletics meeting have rejected a six-man Santa Monica Track Club team because they wanted too much money, reports Reuter.

Organiser Wilfried Meert said on Monday that Santa Monica manager Joe Douglas has asked for 102,000 dollars for a team of six American athletes, including 100 meters world silver medalist Leroy Burrell, to compete at the event.

World 100 metres record holder Carl Lewis was excluded.

Total costs for the group would have been around 125,000 dollars including plane tickets and hotel costs.

"Last year they only asked 75,000 dollars," Meert said.

He said Douglas had reacted angrily and had even threatened never to come to Brussels again after Meert's refusal to accept Santa Monica for the Brussels meeting.

Twenty-five world champions are due to take part.

One of the top events is likely to be the 1,500 metres which includes world champion Nourredine Moreel of Algeria. Meert said he had secured top pace-setters for the race.

Herman Jacquemyns, another organiser, said the committee would probably not insure themselves against a world record. The fee for such a record is normally 25,000 dollars.

"We have a cash reserve of around 15 million francs (428,000 dollars) from previous meetings. If someone breaks a record we could see it as an investment for the future ... it will attract more people next time round," he said.

"By refusing the Santa Monica Club we saved enough money to pay ourselves four world records," Meert said.

## Australia beat Spain 3-1

BARCELONA, Spain, Sept 10: Australia wound up their field hockey tour of Spain with a 3-1 win here on Tuesday and now head for Berlin where they defend the Champions' Trophy, reports AFP.

Graham Reed, with two goals, and David Wainwright scored against the Spaniards who replied through Ignacio Escude.

The Australians scored 15 and conceded five in four matches against Malaysia and Spain.

"Four matches in four days in hot weather was an ideal way of preparing," said Australian coach Alan Berry.

"It also gives us first-hand knowledge of what conditions will be like for next year's Olympics."

Australia play Pakistan on Saturday in their opening match in the Champions' Trophy.

## A struggle for US men

INDIANAPOLIS, Sept 10: Like any American team running short on depth, the US men's gymnastics squad is demanding little more from its sixth man, reports AP.

The Americans find themselves in fifth place and in a considerable bind going into Tuesday's optionals at the World Championships.

Lance Ringnald, a 1988 Olympian and the team's top gymnast, was forced out of the competition Sunday with a separated shoulder. With Ringnald out, every score posted by the remaining five Americans will count in the

optionals that will determine the final team standings and the 12 qualifiers for the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona. Under international rules, teams are allowed to enter six gymnasts and throw out the lowest score. Without that luxury, the US has decided to fall back on its hometown advantage.

"The crowd is going to be our sixth man," US coach Francis Allen said. "They're worth about a 9.876."

Even with the Hoosier Dome crowd behind the Americans, the US coaches agree it will be difficult to win a medal. With the gold all but locked up by the Soviets, Germany, China, Japan and the

United States are battling for the silver and bronze.

"We probably need to have the best day we've had in a long time," Allen said. "But we're going to go out and be aggressive. We can't afford to be conservative."

Going into the optionals, the Soviet Union has a nearly four-point lead over second-place Germany — 291.625 to 287.950. China fourth with 287.875 and the United States with 285.675.

The Soviet women also lead their team competition after the compulsories, with the Americans right behind.

## Karnaphuli handball

Bangladesh Ansars recorded their fourth consecutive victory in the Karnaphuli Insurance women's handball tournament being held at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports complex yesterday.

Ansars maintained their lead in the tourney after defeating Netrokona by 35-2 goals in the morning and Dhaka DSA by 31-4 goals in the afternoon.

Jessore DSA also won their respective matches on the day.

First they beat Bandarban by 15-8 in the morning and then defeated Rajshahi by 20-14 goals in the afternoon.

Besides, Dhaka DSA defeated Nawabganj by 27-9 and Bandarban beat Netrokona by 14-8 in the other matches of the day.

Eight matches will be held today (Wednesday).

## Moldavia for Barcelona Games

MOSCOW, Sept 10: The Soviet Republic of Moldavia, which declared its independence after the failed coup, wants to follow the Baltic example and apply to take part at next year's Olympic Games in Barcelona, reports AFP.

Sports official Emil Josanu has called on local sportsmen to refuse to compete in Soviet teams.

## Faridpur High lift inter-school title

FARIDPUR, Sept 10: Faridpur High School football team became district inter-school football champions beating Bhanga Pilot-High School team 3-0 in the final at the stadium here recently, reports BSS.

The first half ended goalless.

Kamal, Ratan and Muhtab scored one goal each for the winners.

Md. Abdur Rahim, Deputy Commissioner of Faridpur, distributed trophies among the winners.

## Pools converted into fishponds

MANILA, Sept 10: About 20 to the Philippines government-run swimming pools, used for national sports competitions, have been converted into fishponds, the head of the National Sports Commission said here today, reports AFP.

Cecil Hechanova said that most of the pools, which are used in annual youth sports competitions, had been turned into fishponds because most local government could not afford to maintain them.

"There is water. There is moss. There are fish inside. There is no maintenance whatsoever," he said.

Hechanova would not speculate who had put the fish inside the abandoned pools.

Press reports said the pools are now used to breed the hardy tilapia fish, a mainstay of Philippine dining tables.

Hechanova said this situation did not affect the national swimming team, which had access to three well-maintained Olympic size pools in the capital.

# Tearful day for Navratilova

FORT WORTH, Texas, Sept 10: Tennis star Martina Navratilova said in a tearful court session on Monday that she was threatened with a public airing of her lesbian affair with Judy Nelson unless she agreed to divide her multi-million-dollar estate with the Texas divorcee, reports Reuter.

Navratilova, looking tired after having competed over the weekend in the US Open tournament in New York, cried several times in the witness box.

She read from a letter in which Nelson's attorney listed the reasons she should avoid a trial, including loss of endorsements because of "morals" clauses in her contracts.

"If litigation is filed, the press here and abroad will have a field day," Navratilova said the letter, sent to her in the late spring, contended.

The emotional stress and strain on an ordinary individual would be devastating and seemingly catastrophic to an athlete attempting to perform," Navratilova quoted the letter.

"Aside from the emotional devastation that this lawsuit would have on both parties, is the effect that this litigation would have on the future Wimbledon singles title from American Ellsworth Vines in 1933 and was runner-up to Britains' Fred Perry the following year.

He also won the French Open and the third of four Australian titles in 1933, but missed out on the Grand Slam of major titles when exhausted and ill he faltered in a five-setter to Perry in the US Open final.

Crawford represented Australia in nine Davis Cup campaigns, only victorious once against the holders United States in 1939.



MARTINA NAVRATILOVA ... a heart-breaking episode that threatens her career.

earnings and income of both parties ... which would unquestionably be jeopardised for both by the public airing of their partnership," Nelson's attorney, Jerry Loftin, wrote.

Navratilova refused to settle and Nelson in June filed a lawsuit asking for half of the assets the tennis star accumulated after they moved in together July 10, 1984.

In her 1985 autobiography Navratilova wrote of how the two women met at a tennis tournament in Fort Worth. She noted that the first time Nelson accompanied her to Wimbledon, British tabloids made much of their friendship.

Nelson, the former wife of a Fort Worth doctor, contends Navratilova did not live up to the terms of a "non-marital cohabitation agreement" they signed and videotaped in 1986.

That agreement said the women made "the mutual promise of each partner to act as companion and homemaker to the other" and neither woman would owe the other support but would split what assets they had should they end their living arrangement.

Loftin said, "We're asking for half of the assets accumulated during the partnership. We're talking five (million) to 10 million. We're saying (Navratilova) doesn't want to abide by the agreement to turn over the property and money."

Navratilova's attorney, Mike McCurley, disagreed. "This is an attempt to disguise a palimony suit as a partnership suit," he said. "Obviously these folks have a very serious difference of opinion that will have to be dealt with legally."

Navratilova cried for several minutes on Monday while being questioned by Loftin. Eventually the hearing was recessed to allow her to regain her composure.

Under questioning, she acknowledged the agreement was made to divide the assets "in case we split up, which at the time we didn't think would ever happen." She said the intent was to "provide Judy with some money and to protect me."

Navratilova asked for the disqualification of Loftin from the case, saying he had represented her on more than a dozen occasions and therefore had inside information he could use to unfairly help Nelson. Monday's hearing was on that motion.

# Connors climbs to 66

NEW YORK, Sept 10: Jimmy Connors' exciting run to the US Open semifinals also sent the 39-year-old left-hander vaulting up the world rankings, reports AP.

Connors, who started the two-week tournament ranked 174th in the world, moved to No. 66 in the ATP Tour computer rankings released Monday. Because of his low ranking at the time, Connors needed a wild card from the U.S. Tennis Association to play in the US Open, where he delighted fans until being eliminated in Saturday's semifinals by Jim Courier.

By capturing their first US Open titles, Stefan Edberg and Monica Seles both regained the No. 1 spots.

Edberg, who beat Courier on Sunday, moved past Boris Becker, who dropped to No. 2, while Seles replaced Steffi Graf at the top of the women's Virginia Slims computer rankings.

Graf, who dropped to No. 2, lost in the semifinals to Martina Navratilova, who moved up from sixth to fourth.

Fifteen-year-old Jennifer Capriati, a semifinal victim of Seles, advanced from eighth to sixth place, her highest ranking ever.

WITHDRAWS

Meanwhile, Connors pulled out of the 300,000-dollar Bordeaux men's tennis tournament on Monday, 48 hours after his incredible foray at the U.S. Open.

Bordeaux tournament organisers said that Connors' agent Raymond Benton sent a fax informing them of the American's withdrawal because of a leg injury.

Connors — had been due to play his first round match Tuesday.

Four matches in four days in hot weather was an ideal way of preparing," said Australian coach Alan Berry.

"It also gives us first-hand knowledge of what conditions will be like for next year's Olympics."

Australia play Pakistan on Saturday in their opening match in the Champions' Trophy.

# Kuwaitis prove vitality

INDIANAPOLIS, Sept 10: Six months ago, Abdul Hussain Abrahem was fighting for survival in Kuwait city and Vladimir Novikov was training for certain gold medals on the Soviet National gymnastics team.

Now they are together as coach and pupil at the world gymnastics championships trying to make something respectable out of very little, reports Reuter.

Novikov, a gold medalist in the team event at the 1987 and 1989 World Championships and the 1988 Olympics, unknowingly lost his eligibility on the Soviet team when he took part in the

world professional gymnastics championships at Fairfax, Virginia, in March.

Abrahem nearly lost his life at about the same time when he and his brother set out to ambush three Iraqi soldiers who were on patrol in his neighbourhood during the occupation of Kuwait.

"My brother and I tried to fool them in our car by being friendly," Abrahem said. "We were going to shoot first. They shot first."

Abrahem's brother Mohammed was killed, but so were the Iraqis.

"It was a tragedy for my family, but we must pick up our life," he said.

The football camp of Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club for the forthcoming season will begin from Friday (September 13), according to a press release issued by the Club yesterday.

All the players of the Club have been requested to report to coach Kaikobad by 3 pm on Sept 13 with proper kits.

Meanwhile in another press release issued by Abaham Krita Chakra yesterday said the football camp of the club will start from tomorrow (Sept 12).

All the players have been requested to report to Salauddin—the coach of the club.

# Tyson indicted to rape charge

INDIANAPOLIS, Sept 10: Former world heavy-weight boxing champion Mike Tyson, noted for first-round knockouts, may be facing the fight of his life, not in the ring but in court after being indicted on a rape charge, reports Reuter.

The 25-year-old Black boxer was indicted by a six-member grand jury in Indianapolis Monday for allegedly assaulting an 18-year-old beauty pageant contestant.

The unidentified Rhode Island woman told investigators she was raped following a Miss Black America pageant in July after being driven to Tyson's hotel in his limousine.

"She thought the meeting was supposed to be a platonic relationship," prosecutor Jeffrey Modisett told a news conference. "When she agreed it was not her intention to have sex. When she refused, he advanced and forced her."

The Grand jury also indicted Tyson on deviate conduct and other charges. If found guilty, He could face a

prison sentence of more than 60 years.

Last month a former winner of the Black America pageant sued Tyson for 100 million dollars charging that he grabbed her buttocks. Two other suits have charged he fondled women's buttocks and the owner of the Miss Black America pageant has also sued Tyson, calling him a "serial buttocks fondler."

Tyson, who lost his title in February 1990 to James Buster Douglas in Tokyo, is scheduled to fight world champion Evander Holyfield in Las Vegas on November 8 in a bout some predict will be the biggest money-maker in boxing history with a gross of at least 100 million dollars.

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BOUT ON SCHEDULE

Organisers said earlier that, whatever the outcome of the grand jury deliberations, the bout — Tyson's first chance to regain the title — will go ahead on schedule.

Tyson told a news conference this month that he would only miss the Holyfield fight "if I die."

Modisett said he expected

prison sentence of from six to 20 years, two counts of criminal deviate conduct, which carries the same penalty per count, and one count of confinement — unlawful restraint — which carries a sentence of one to three years.

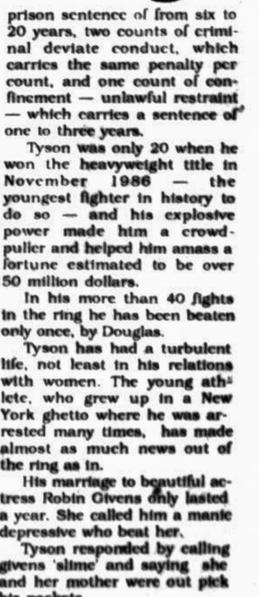
Tyson was only 20 when he won the heavyweight title in November 1986 — the youngest fighter in history to do so — and his explosive power made him a crowd-puller and helped him amass a fortune estimated to be over 50 million dollars.

In his more than 40 fights in the ring he has been beaten only once, by Douglas.

Tyson has had a turbulent life, not least in his relations with women. The young athlete, who grew up in a New York ghetto where he was arrested many times, has made almost as much news out of the ring as in.

His marriage to beautiful actress Robin Givens only lasted a year. She called him a maniac depressive who beat her.

Tyson responded by calling Givens 'slime' and saying she and her mother were out pick his pockets.



MIKE TYSON

## Aussie tennis great Jack Crawford dead

SYDNEY, Sept 10: One of Australia's tennis greats of the 1920's and 30's, Jack Crawford, died near here Tuesday after a long illness at the age of 83, reports AFP.

Crawford was believed to have been suffering from a brain tumour for several months.