

Slavs split Spurs' defence

PARIS, Sept 18: Tottenham Hotspur were the first to find out on Tuesday that the rest of Europe will not give English teams an easy ride in their return to continental competition, reports AFP.

I thought they faded in the last 15 minutes, something we will have to exploit in the second leg. But all credit to Hajduk for coming here and playing as well as they did in their situation.

inside a quarter of an hour and Stewart helped with a own goal before half time. Two Mihajlovic goals in the final quarter of an hour mean Portadown face an impossible second leg task.

national George Weah.

Goalkeeper Mark Kendall punched the ball away, and then pulled down Portuguese international Rui Barros. George Passi sent Kendall the wrong way from the penalty and a long period of concerted pressure followed.

After 26 minutes, former Welsh midfielder Alan Davies put Thornber in trouble with a back-pass which Barros seized on to stop a low shot beyond the goalkeeper's reach.

The Welsh Cup winners came back strongly to test Etori with shots from Swansea skipper Terry Connor and Davies.

Russell Coughlin also had a first-half shot desperately cleared by Roger Mendy. Christian McClean almost completed a remarkable revival though with a glancing header eight minutes from time which went just past the post.

Swansea manager Frank Burrows had mixed feelings about the performance.

"I was very disappointed when we gave away two bad goals through poor defending but we worked very hard and played a lot better showing tremendous spirit after the interval.

"It's going to be very difficult in the second leg in two weeks and I'll be looking at Page Four in the coaching manual and offering up a little prayer.

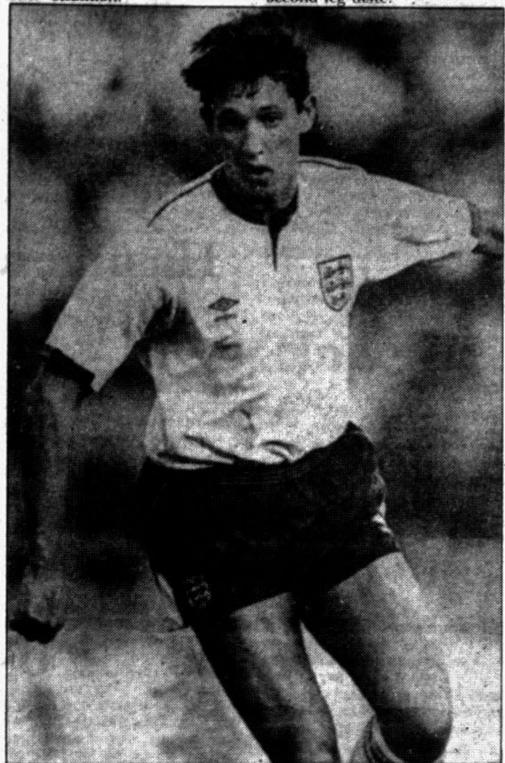
Monaco's coach Arseni Wenger criticised his side for failing to make the most of their chances.

Glenavon of Northern Ireland, who had not won in 12 European games spread over 34 years, broke their duck in the Cup winners' Cup tie against fellow part-timers Ives of Finland.

Midfielder Steve Conville scored from close range ten minutes from time to seal the win in Glenavon's 13th game in Europe.

They went behind after 12 minutes to Jarri Aaltonen, but Glenn Ferguson equalised at the far post after 32. Steve McBride fired in a penalty on the hour after Conville had been tripped.

Two Wolgan Funkel goals gave German champions Kaiserslautern a comfortable 2-0 lead from the first leg of their Champions Cup contest with Etar Ternovo of Bulgaria.



GARY LINEKER... failed to find the mark

Lineker was also impressed. He said, until they scored, we tried to play them at their own game and they were better at it.

"We've still got a chance. But we've got to play a bit differently and obviously a bit better."

European Champions Cup winners Red Star Belgrade were another team forced onto neutral territory but because of the bad behaviour of the team and fans rather than any war.

But even at Szeged in Hungary, Irish champions Portadown had no answer to the Yugoslav talents.

Tanja put Red Star ahead.

Spurs were the advanced party sent to Europe but were beaten by Hajduk Split from civil war torn Yugoslavia.

Nineteen-year old goalkeeper Ian Walker fended off assault after assault from the Split attack. Just one mistake ruined his European Cup Winners' first round first leg.

With the Yugoslav League in disarray and the Croatian championship held up by fighting in the republic, this was Split's first competitive match this season.

But even after travelling for more than 15 hours to get to the neutral ground at Linz in Austria, the Yugoslavs still went all out for a goal with their inspiration coming from Robert Jarni and 3,000 fans who also made the trip.

Walker saved brilliantly from a Gary Mabbutt miskick, saw Gudni Bergsson clear off the line and then could only watch as Goran Vucetic hit the bar.

He made other saves from Igor Stimac and Ante Misc as his defence was repeatedly bypassed by the skilful Slavs.

But in the 51st minute, Mario Novakovic shot speculatively from 30 yards and the ball rolled under the hapless teenager's body.

Gary Lineker, who went off with a sore back, hooked a shot wide Paul Stewart had an effort blocked, which, until Nayim fired wide near the end, was the sum total of Spurs attacking efforts.

Spurs coach Peter Shreeves put a brave face on events and would not blame Walker for the defeat.

He admitted, "It was not a vintage Spurs performance. But at 1-0 down we are still very much in the tie."

"Ian Walker had another outstanding game, and although he is disappointed with the goal he conceded it was his only mistake," insisted the manager.

"We looked jaded," said Shreeves. "Playing on Tuesday instead of Wednesday did us no favours."



Trian Ivanov (L) of Eta Tarnova apologises after fouling Oliver Schaeffer (lying) of German champions Kaiserslautern in their European Cup first round match at Kaiserslautern on Sept 17.

Political in-fighting may cost Berlin Games

BERLIN, Sept 18: A bitter row could cost Berlin, Germany's reunited capital and future seat of government, the chance of staging the Olympic Games in the year 2000, a senior sports official said on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Berlin's bid to host the world's most prestigious sports event is suffering from a lack of money, a poor marketing campaign, political in-fighting and growing opposition among the city's population.

"Any trouble could damage the application," said Hans Hansen, President of the DSB - German Sports Federation.

Berlin's credentials for hosting the Games come under scrutiny next week when the International Olympic Committee (IOC) executive board meets in the city.

Although the IOC will not

decide on where to host the games until 1993, officials are worried that Berlin's chances may be spoiled if members sense that the city is not committed to the project.

Berlin's radical left squatter community plans to demonstrate on Monday close to where the IOC is meeting. A police spokesman said he feared violence.

The city's bid has reawakened memories of the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, used by Hitler to present the Nazi master race.

"Not many know that the run with the Olympic torch was dreamed up by the Nazi propaganda ministry," said the radical Alternative List Party in a statement.

But the critics are not just among the radical left. Some politicians say the company set up by Berlin to coordinate its application has been incompetently managed.

"Failures, bad luck and mishaps are just piling up - and that's putting it mildly," Axel Hahn, a delegate of the Liberal Free Democrat party, told the Berlin parliament.

The city decided to apply for the games last year but has yet to reveal its strategy for holding them.

Its Olympic advertisements in the German press have been criticised for lack of imagination.

"Berlin needs a convincing bid," Hansen told German radio.

The city faces stiff competition for the event from Milan in Italy, the Chinese capital of Beijing, the British industrial city of Manchester and Sydney in Australia.

The tabloid super said on Thursday that Chancellor Helmut Kohl believed the games were "money thrown out of the window."

Larry Holmes wins again

ORLANDO, Florida, Sept 18

: Former heavyweight champion Larry Holmes continued his comeback bid by winning a 10-round unanimous decision over fellow American Art Card on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

The 41-year-old Holmes has now won all four of his fights since coming out of retirement to raise his record to 52-3.

Holmes looked overweight and sluggish, but nearly knocked out Card in the fourth round with a right uppercut. The matman from Cleveland got up off the canvas, however, and lasted the remainder of the fight.

The three judges scored the fight 100-90, 100-88 and 98-90 for Holmes, who has yet to face a serious challenger since returning to the ring.

The former champion said he was disappointed that he failed to score a knockout but added that he was happy with the end result.

"You get upset but then you count your blessing because we went 10 rounds and nobody got hurt and I came out victorious," he said.

Holmes refused to confirm published reports that he would meet George Foreman in a battle of over-40 former heavyweight champions in January.

"Until you guys start paying me the money that I'm worth, don't ask me to fight nobody that's going to give me a hard time," he told television interviewers.

IOC defers Helmick issue

BERLIN, Sept 18: The International Olympic Committee (IOC) on Tuesday deferred consideration of the case of

Robert Helmick, the US Olympic Committee (USOC) president who is under scrutiny over his private business deals, reports Reuter.

The USOC cleared Helmick earlier this month of charges that he had used his position as USOC president for personal profit.

Helmick, 54, who was appointed to the IOC Executive Board in 1989, came under investigation after reports that he had made at least 127,000 Dollars from clients with ties to the USOC or to Olympic sports.

The clients included Turner Broadcasting and the Saatchi and Saatchi advertising group.

The USOC found no evidence to support the charges but appointed former US Deputy Attorney General Arthur Burns as special coun-

sel to review Helmick's business records to ensure that full disclosure had been made.

After USOC announced its findings, Helmick apologised for any appearance of impropriety related to his business dealings and announced at the weekend that he would not stand for re-election as USOC president next year.

Olympic sources said Helmick, a former president of the International Swimming Federation, had explained the situation to the IOC Executive Board on Tuesday on the first day of a three-day meeting in Berlin.

The Board agreed to his request that the IOC defer the matter pending the outcome of further deliberations by the USOC.

Olympic sources said the Executive Board took the view that it was a domestic matter for the USOC, although Board members are known to be privately concerned at the way in which the issue could reflect on the IOC.

Helmick refused to comment on the matter.

Hendry upset in Dubai snooker

STOKE, England, Sept 18: Stephen Hendry's bid for a third successive triumph in the Dubai Duty Free classic ended almost before it had begun with a surprise 5-3 defeat by Australian Warren King here on Monday night, reports AFP.

Hendry, the world no. 1 and top seed for the 214,000 pound tournament, looked to be heading for a place in the last 32 when he coasted into a 3-1 lead at the mid-session interval of the qualifying round game.

But the 22-year-old Scot - a quarter-final loser in last week's Regal Scottish Masters - then lost the next four frames.

Hendry was visibly upset by the unexpected defeat.

"Warren played well, much better than me after the interval," he said.

Steve Davis, the world no.2, beat fellow Englishman Jon Birch 5-2.

Keen lobbying for '98 C'wealth Games

PORT MORESBY, Sept 18: Malaysia and the State of South Australia are using the ninth South Pacific Games here to lobby the island states to support AEC country's bid not host the 1998 Commonwealth Games.

South Australia's capital Adelaide, Kuala Lumpur and the Indian capital New Delhi are contenders for the Commonwealth Games, which bring together athletes from

members of the Commonwealth of Nations every four years.

Malaysian delegation spokesman Tajuddin said he would tell the 10 South Pacific nations in the Commonwealth that Kuala Lumpur deserves to host the 1998 event.

Tajuddin, Director of Service in the Ministry of Youth and Sport, said Malaysia had been lobbying in particular

Papua New Guinea and Western Samoa, the two South Pacific states to win medals at the 1990 Commonwealth Games in Auckland, New Zealand.

He said Malaysia was also talking to the smaller countries, such as the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Tonga.

South Australian Minister for Recreation and Sport, Kym Mayes, said his government is confident of full backing from

the governments of the South Pacific and we are getting good response, as no doubt the Malaysians are as well."

He said Adelaide has international standard facilities for most of sports and is spending another 14 million Australian dollars (11 million US) on new expansion.

Mayes said "South Australia has been campaigning in parts of Africa, Asia, Europe and the Caribbean

German handballers eye Olympic medal



Unification is bound to make the German women's handball team even more strong. —INP photo

BONN: A curious feeling, to be sure, for the team-handball sides representing the former GDR and the Federal Republic of Germany.

Only moments earlier, the women had faced each other at the World team handball championships in Seoul, Korea, to determine the winners of the bronze medal. Then, with the final whistle, they merged to become a single team, the match result lost in the significance of the moment. The unification of Germany made it possible.

The "little final" of Seoul marked the end of an era of German-German showdowns in team handball; champagne bottles were uncorked to mark the occasion. A new side is to emerge as a new era begins.

While political developments afforded the overall framework for the little celebration, the sports ambitions of a unified team were also of importance: Both teams, after all, had qualified - through their third and fourth places - for the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona.

The new national coach, Heinz Strauch, now has the enviable task of molding a 'very good' team out of these two good sides, although the personal side of it may not be so easy.

The sports objective of Strauch, previously the coach of the former GDR team, focuses on a silver medal in Barcelona, a suitable target in light of the third and fourth places in Seoul.

Some optimists are even counting secretly with an

Olympic gold. The team's work is cut out for them, though. Generating familiarity and confidence are the prime tasks of upcoming practice sessions Strauch will handle. Years of opposition and confrontation take time to undo.

The first step along this road, though, has been taken in Seoul by all the players. Their final match progressed without any complications whatsoever, one of the fairest matches at the Seoul championships. —INP

COVENTRY, Sept 18: Old swimmers never die, they simply crawl away, reports Reuter.

And, true to that age, they "crawled" in their hundreds - from hotshots in their 20s to veterans in their 80s - at the third biennial European Masters swimming and diving championships.

Some, eschewing crawl, chose backstroke, breaststroke or butterfly, and some swam the lot in four days competition earlier this month involving 1,200 participants from 19 nations.

Olympians spanning five decades and more - from Audrey Gathereole of 1936 Suki Brownson, aiming for her fourth Games in Barcelona 1992 - raced along with those who are barely household names even in their own households.

But an illustrious past is no guarantee for the present. Sergei Fesenko, Soviet 1980 Olympic 200 butterfly champion, suffered two defeats while ex-East German Antje Still won two backstroke events but had to settle for silver at her 1976 world-record distance of 200.

Fesenko and the Ukrainian Kiev team fared better than 10 top flight Russians who were not allowed to compete because their entry applications arrived too late.

We collected money all year

for this year but everything was in vain because of the authorities, said Moscow masters press attach Yaroslav Novitsky, the record-breaking aspirations of his squad shattered.

Germany provided for the biggest contingent from abroad - 230, with a quarter from the eastern former GDR, of about 500 from continental Europe and they also boasted the oldest competitor in 85-year-old springboard diver Paul Dahl.

Their national masters in August attracted between 1,100 and 1,200 competitors, an example of how the masters swimming boom is flourishing in clubs all over the world.

Competitive aspirations, concern for health and fitness, a need to fill a void when children grow up and leave home or simple sociability lead the aquatically - inclined back to the pool.

Masters swimming, a phenomenon of the last two decades, provides a stage for competition on fairly even terms with its divisions in five-year age bands, starting at 25.

Tony Jarvis, Britain's captain at the 1988 Olympics, won the 100 freestyle in a European record for the 45-49 age group and readily admits he adores competitions.

"It gives me the motivation to train. Number one for me is the competition but a very close second is that it's going to keep me fit and I'm going to enjoy life more. Jarvis, who has lived in Canada for most of

the last 18 years, said. The most delightful thing is to see my old chums 20 years on. The camaraderie is phenomenal. It's a bonus to swim fast and win medals."

John Gordon, who also swam for Britain in the 1960s, has set a string of European masters records over the years and won the 200 backstroke in the 45-49 break after his first-ever masters reverse over 100.

My aim is to keep fit, competition is secondary, said Gordon, who trains up to six times a week before a big meet with 3,000 metres a session and backs it up with weight training and 100 kilometres a week on the bike.

"It should be fun. I think it runs away with itself sometimes. Maybe we take it a little seriously but we're all competitive and want to do our best. I still get nervous before a race."

Graham Sykes, Britain's captain at the 1960 Rome Olympics, showed no sign of slowing up at 54, setting a European 50 backstroke record for the 50-53s in his last year in the category.

Despite the onset of the years, basic speeds haven't altered that much. I just can't go so far, he said.

Al Alvarez, 75, swam for his county Essex in his youth, ran and coached a club in the 1950s and was invigorated into masters swimming by his younger brother in 1985. "Fitness, friendship and improving his own times are

the big attraction. The best thing is beating a British record. The medals don't mean a damn thing - I've got 250 medals", he said.

"I train five days a week. I was doing 80 lengths (two km) a day but that to cut it back to 40. I was getting so damn tired."

More swimming would mean fewer pills swallowing - Hypochondriacs, he says: "I think we could close all the hospitals and change them into swimming pools."

Fellow Briton Bill Onkes provided an extraordinary example of veteran fitness when he marked his 60th birthday by swimming a mile (1.6 km) butterfly.

In masters swimming, advanced age is something to boast about, not to hide. The way-over-70s are incensed there is too little discrimination.

The World Championships have groups up to 90-plus. The European Swimming League (LEN), who ran these Championships, make 70 - plus the top category, though this looks likely to change.

At the other end of the age scale, 25-year-old Brownson swept five titles and relished her first masters competition while still coveting a British Olympic berth for Barcelona. "It's so much more fun. You haven't got to please anyone. It's up to you, she said. "It's so relaxed."