# Holyfield survives knockdown before battering Cooper



24 : Evander Holyfield survived the first knockdown of his pro-

fessional career Saturday night to batter and bloody a relentless Bert Cooper before finally stopping him in the seventh round to retain his world hevyweight title, reports

Holyfield landed about 20 blows to the head of a seemingly defenseless Cooper before referee Mills Lane stepped in to stop it at 2: 58 of the seventh round.

Cooper, a 32-1 underdog, wasn't expected to give Holyfield much of a fight, but the journeyman who took the bout on a week's notice ended up giving the champion the toughest fight of his professional career.

Cooper was bleeding from the mouth and a cut over his right eye and offered no resistance when Lane moved in to stop the fight after a series of punches, including a halfdozen crunching right upper-

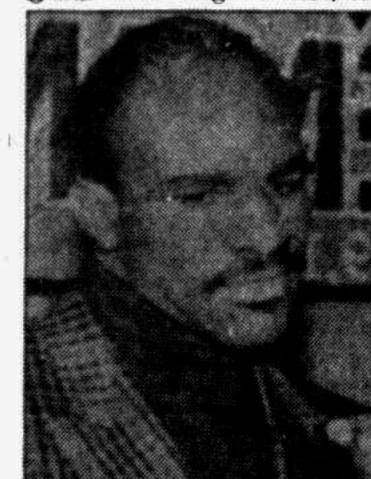
"He was in bad shape. He was in really bad shape." Lane

A Cooper cornerman rushed over to the referee and said, "Thanks, Mills" for stopping the bout.

The end came after a brutal and intense fight in which Cooper far surpassed the expectations most had of him as a stand-in who had taken the fight on a week's notice.

Both fighters went down, with Cooper going down from a left hook to the midsection in the first round and Holyfield taking an 8-count after Cooper connected with two smashing right hands in the third.

"I wasn't hurt badly," Holyfield said." He hit me with a good shot. . . . I had everything together, but when you get hit with a good shot, it's



not like you have your body to

"Being in good condition is when you get hit with a good shot and come back."

Holyfield never actually fell to the canvas, but was draped in the ropes as Lane gave him as 8-count. When the action resumed, Holyfield appeared unsure of himself while Cooper bombed away. Holyfield managed to stay on his feet and last the remainder of the round.

EVANDER HOLYFIELD

"He didn't give up,"

Holyfield said. "I give him a lot of credit."

Cooper, trying to pull an upset similar to James "Buster" Douglas' shocking defeat of Mike Tyson 21 months ago, pressed the fight throughout and landed effectively with left hooks to the body and rights to the head.

But Holyfield threw more punches, landed more often and turned the fight around by finding an effective right uppercut he landed seemingly at will in the late rounds.

Holyfield was well ahead on points after six rounds, leading by 4,5 and 6 on the three cards. Punch Statistics showed Holyfield's dominance. He landed 275 punches to 126 for

"I was in shape, I felt good," said Cooper, whose cuts left his corner of the ring a bloody mess. "I know I hurt him."

Holyfield was defending two-thirds of the undisputed title he won by knocking Douglas out 13 months ago. It was the second defense for Holyfield, who had gone 217 days since he defended the title against George foreman. It was his longest layoff as a pro.

Holyfield, 27-0 with 22 knockouts, had been scheduled to fight Tyson on Nov. 8 in a widely anticipated bout that would have been boxing's richest ever and would have earned him a minimum purse of dirs 30 million. But Tyson suffered a rib in-

jury three weeks before the fight and Holyfield then signed

to fight Francesco Damiani in a bout before his hometown fans in Atlanta.

Damiani, however, turned an ankle a week ago, and Cooper, a journeyman who had been stopped previously by three top 10 fighters, became the most unlikely replacement.

The bout was sanctioned by the IBF and WBA as a title fight, but the WBC said it would declare its title vacant if cooper had won.

Holyfield, who weighed 210 pounds (95 kilograms), earned dirs 6 million while Cooper, 215 pounds (97 kilograms), was paid dirs 750,000 for his shot at the heavyweight title.

In the third, Cooper landed two rights to the head that knocked Holyfield off balance and into the ropes, his knees wobbly and his eyes glazed.

Holyfield managed to last the third round, and seemed to have regained his legs and his faculties in the fourth. In the fifth, Holyfield landed 8-10 right uppercuts midway through that rocked Cooper and seemingly had him out on Cooper appeared ready to

turn and quit at one time, but seconds later the fight was stopped because Holyfield's right glove was cut. Both fighters got a 2 1/2 -minute rest while a new glove was put on.

"I need to rest and get myself back mentally," Holyfield said. "He had a lot to gain, coming out and taking the fight on short notice."

And he almost gained it all.

# Cooper hanker's for Frazier's love for Mike Tyson against the 26-



24: The biggest fight of Bert Cooper's life on Saturday was also about love, about

of one day getting it back from his idol, the man who first taught him how to fight, reports Reuter.

But now that man, former heavyweight champion Joe Frazier "Acts like he don't even

Frazier's reason for treating life, a gospel of living, which Frazier embraces with the zeal of a fundamentalist preacher.

No drugs, no drinking, no

known in the 1985s as the "hunger capital of America."

Cooper, who fought undisputed heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield on Saturday as a 22-1 underdog, violated those rules.

It is strong testimony to Frazier's affection for Cooper that he got a second chance from the former champion. "Pop looked on Bert almost

as a member of the family," said Frazier's son Marvis, himself a former fighter. "He treated him better than me. Well, almost."

But Cooper committed the cardinal sin according to the book of Frazier.

The young heavyweight who adopted Frazier's nickname, "Smokin" and even fought sometimes — like him, always moving forward throwing storms of punches, quit on his stool after the second round two years ago against George

Cooper sealed Frazier's eternal shunning of him by testing positive for cocaine after the fight.

against Foreman was so awful that Arizona boxing officials withheld his 17,500-dollar purse.

By his own admission, Cooper had spent the days before the fight "Partying with these older women. They just picked me up in the bar, man, you know, I didn't sleep for three days." A talk with himself in the

mirror and a touch of religion led him to a stay in a drug rehabilitation clinic. Then Cooper changed managers and trainers and moved from frantic Philadelphia to sleepy Salem, Virginia.

Cooper has worked to turn his life and career around and to reach out to Frazier.

"I try to speak to him. It hurts.... I always tell Marvis to give my love to his dad." Cooper said.

Since his embarrassing performance against Foreman. Cooper, 26-7, has won six of his eight fights, not exactly a world-class record deserving a title fight.

But when Italian Francesco Cooper's performance Damiani, who was a substitute

O Holyfield for a November 8 fight, pulled out of Saturday's fight with a bad ankle, Cooper jumped at "his dream come true. But despite the loss he is

hoping that just may be the original "Smokin" Joe Frazier will at least say hello. "Pop knows that Bert can

win," Marvis said on Thursday night. "Deep in his heart, l think he wants him to win." Cooper talks about how Frazier treated "me like a dog"

and how he is "ignorant," a

phrase which Muhammad Ali used on Frazier to upset him when they had their monumental ring wars. But there is a sense that Cooper makes those remarks

as a way of protecting himself against the hurt of losing Frazier's love, his respect. "He tried to live himself through me, but he didn't live right. But I love him," Cooper

"I got something to prove to Joe. And I'm gonna do just that," Cooper promised on the eve of his fight.

# Monica Seles returns a shot against Gabriela Sabatini in the semifinal of the Virginia Slims

Championships in New York on Nov 23. Seles advanced to the final where she meets Martina Navratilova. - AFP photo Tokyo.

# Soviets sceptical about Winter Olympics prospects

MOSCOW, Nov 24 : The head of the Soviet National Olympic Committee said Thursday he was pessimistic about the prospects for the Soviet team at the 1992 Winter Olympics in Albertville. France, reports AP.

"We don't have a very optimistic forecast on the forthcoming Winter Olympies, because it depends not on us, but on our rivals ... as we cannot compete against (say) Germans in those sports, in which they are traditionally strong," Vitaly Smirnov told a news conference.

in Helsinki, Finland.

team at the Winter Olympics will include 350 athletes and officials, while in Barcelona the

forecast for the Barcelona the Soviet team would get 52 bronze.

He also predicted that the unified German team will come in second with 40 gold, 29 silvers and 45 bronze medals. He thought the United States would only be able to finish third in Barcelona with 33 gold, 25 silver and 33 bronze medals.

Perszke of Poland won the Kawaguchiko Marathon for the third consecutive time Sunday, beating 11,063 runners, reports AP.

kilometers (26 miles, 385 yards) in 2 hours, 18 minutes, 9 seconds.

The 21-year-old Argentine

looked helpless for most of the

one-sided after as she watched

balls whiz past he. And she was

never able to break out the at-

tacking game that brought her

"I didn't have a chance to

"It's been a long time since

The way she played today, I

Navratilova served ex-

She seized control of the

Navratilova won 12 of the

the US Open crown last year.



NEW YORK, Nov

third seed Gabriela Sabatini 6-1. 6-1 on Saturday to reach the final of Virginia the championships where she will face five-time winner Martina Navratilova, reports Reuter.

With her crushing 47minute semifinals victory in the three-million-dollar season finale. Seles completed an amazing streak by reaching 16 finals in 16 tournaments she

through an entire year without losing prior to the final, accomplishing the feat in 1987 and again in 1989.

Navratilova reached her 12th championships final by eliminating eighth seed Jana Novotna 6-1, 6-4, in 55 minutes. Novotna had upset second seed Graf to reach the semifinals.

seed, who last won this event in 1986, is now just one won shy of breaking the all-time titles mark of 157 she shares with retired star Chris Evert.

The 17-year-old Seles beat Navratilova decisively in this year's US Open final.

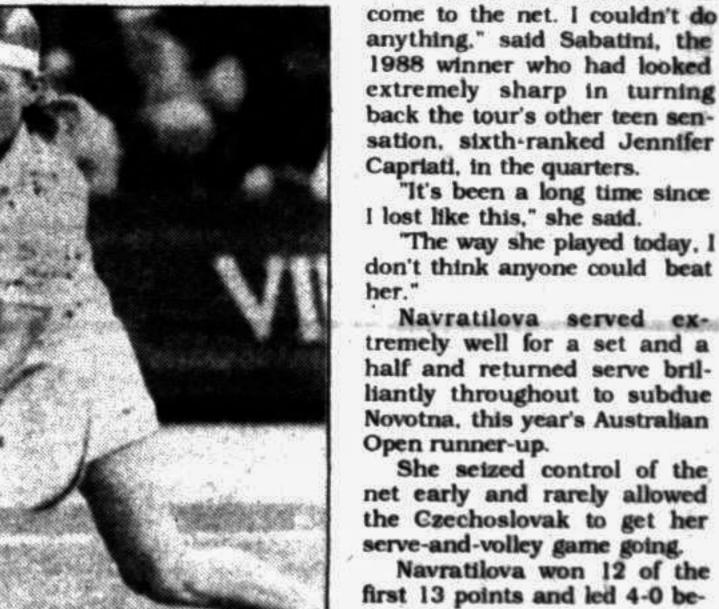
playing her best tennis of the year since then. The nine-time Seles in Oakland two weeks "Martina is in great form," said Seles, winner of nine ti-

Wimbledon champion, now in

her fifth successive final, beat

tles this year, including the Australian, French and US

Seles, who claimed to be tired after a tough win over Mary Joe Fernandez on Friday, put on an awesome display in a match that was in no way reminiscent of the epic five-set struggle she won in last year's final against Sabatini.



Martina Navratilova hits a forehand stroke to Jana Novotna during their semifinal match of the Virginia Slims Championships in New York on Nov 23. Navratilova advanced to the finals, beating Novotna 6-1, 6-4.

-AFP photo

Opens. "It's just incredible when you think how old Martina is and she's playing so

A packed Madison Square Garden crowd, solidly behind the third seed, was unable to get Sabatini into the match.

fore Novotna won her lone game of the first set. The fourth seed surrendered just three points on her serve in the opening set and began the second in similar

second game for a 3-0 lead. From 3-1 the last six games were all service breaks. But although Navratilova faltered tinued to jump all over

fashion, holding at love twice

and breaking Novotna in the

from the service line, she con-Novotna's delivery and broke her for the seventh time in the match to end it. "I played so well in the first set, I had to come down a lit-

tle," said Navratilova, who missed last year's tournament due to knee surgery. "In the second set I didn't have enough on my serve and she got grooved, but I returned great. "I'm psyched to be in the

final," the former world number one said.

# Germans publish dope test results

FRANKFURT, Germany, Nov 24 : One per cent of the dope tests carried on German athletes last year proved positive, and the 15 offenders will be punished, sports officials said here on Saturday, reports AFP.

The figures were revealed

by Hans Evers, head of the anti-drugs commission of the (DSB).

athletics association had also carried out its own tests, but he did not have the results. He added that as from

Testing Authority (TUEV).

## Aquino opens SEA Games MANILA, Nov 24: Phtlippinc Vietnam. A 10th member.

President Corazon Aquino opened the 16th Southeast Asian Games in rain-drenched Manila on Sunday, ushering in a two-week contest for sporting supremacy among nine countries in the region, re-

ports AFP. declare the 16th Southeast Asian Games open, "She told more than 3,000 athletes and officials at the soggy Rizal Memorial track and field stadium. "Let this be the celebration of Southeast Asia's will to excellence." The biennial event pits

Indonesia, the region's powerhouse and defending champions, against Brunei, Burma, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and

Boxer charged SYDNEY, Australia, Nov 24 Tim Austin, a member of the US boxing team at the world amateur championships, is

scheduled to appear in court

Monday on an assault charge

reports AP. Austin, 20, of Cincinnati was accused of hitting a woman from an escort service carly Saturday morning at the hotel where the US team is

He was released on \$500 after being charged

Paul Konnor, corporate counsel for US Boxing, said team officials are cooperating with Sydney police and that an investigation is continuing.

# Torino fined

GENEVA, Nov 23 : UEFA's appeals board on Saturday lifted a home stadium ban on Torino for their fans' misbehaviour and fined the Italian Club 1,20,000 Swiss francs (75,000 dollars) instead, reports Reuter.

plinary committee handed out the punishment last week be-Bhutto scored the solitary cause Torino fans fought with police and destroyed scatting Jamalpur Prottaysha Club at the away leg of their UEFA Cup second-round tie against Samity in "Kha" group final Boavista of Portugal on November 6.

Cambodia, is not taking part

After a morning of heavy rains, the clouds parted in mid-afternoon to enable Filipino sprinter Lydia De Vega, golfer Gerard Cantada and past Filipino basketball great Carlos Loyzaga to light the Games cauldron.

The four-hour opening ceremony began with a skydiving exhibition, a parade of athletes, officials and the Games mascot Kiko Labuyo,a wild rooster, and a cultural pageant showcasing Filipino culture.

More than 300 gold medals are at stake in 29 competitive events plus three demonstration sports which will start

Indonesia and Malaysia have among the world's top bad-Olympics, while Thailand and world record in the 50 meters.

minton players, and Indonesia is also fielding a member of the silver medal- winning women's team in the Seoul the Philippines have world class boxers, and Singapore is

The Games are being held in the wake of major natural calamities in the Philippines the devastating cruption of the Mount Pinatubo volcano, which killed more than 700 people, and flash floods unleashed by typhoon Thelma which claimed 7,000 lives.

# fielding swimmer Ang Peng Siong, who once held the

# Random drug tests likely in SEA games

MANILA, Nov 24 : The specter of a steroid powered Ben Johnson is haunting small regional contests like the Southeast Asian Games, reports Reuter.

Ahead of Sunday's opening of the nine-nation games, Malaysia called on Southeast Asian nations to come up with a more aggressive policy on drug testing for athletes.

"We, here in Southeast Asia are aware of the prevailing scenario in sports that whatever comes from the west may soon reach the east, and this is the drug menace, Dr P S Nathan, a member of the Malaysian Olympic Committee, said during a meeting of Southeast Asian Games (SEAG) officials in Manila

A handful of athletes were caught taking steroids in the last SEAG in 1989 in Malaysia but doctors administering tests at the 16th SEAG in Mantla are concerned the number may rise.

These things come from someone. The coaches say take this, we have to win, Celso Febella-Bate, a doctor who chairs the doping control panel in the Games, said in an interview. "The price of winning is so commercially lucrative and the

price of losing can be finan-

Brunet, which won a solitary gold medal in Kuala Lumpur, is reportedly putting up 50,000 dollars for any of its athletes who win a gold medal. A silver medalist will earn 30,000 dollars and a bronze winner 20,000 dollars, athletes said.

Thailand will give 100,000 bath (4,000 dollars) to every gold medal winner. Malaysia is handing out 150,000 ringgit (about 55,000 dollars). The Philippines will give 50,000 pesos (1,800 dollars). Indonesia is finalising its own cash-incentive scheme for medal winners.

Sports officials said the temptation to cheat can be overwhelming.

The money at stake does not even approach the 10 milfion dollars estimated lost by Johnson in commercial endorsements when he was caught using steroids in his world-breaking performance in the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

small, 0.01 or 0.02 seconds, Fabella-Bate said. Urine samples in the games

winning the gold medal is so

in the presence of the athlete.

athletes establishing new Southeast Asian records likewise being tested. Dopining experts are also worried about the possibility of athletes using designer drugs or the human growth hormone

sending out air tickets to "... boxing referees from arou Asia to the problem-plagued

Philippine Amateur Boxing Association chief Gemiliano Lopez said the association was sending tickets to referees in Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Pakistan because the games organising committee had failed to do so.

the referees to arrive before the start of the bouts on Wednesday. "We want an honest and fair tournament, that's why we're

Last-minute hitches dogged cash-strapped organisers bat tling to get venues ready for

countries will compete. Labourers worked feverishly to prepare the venues. The velodrome where cy cling events will be held is be-

Earlier, engineers repaired leaks in the swimming pool. Press official Horacio Paredes told reporters on Saturday the Game would go

"It's about time that the country had fun after a string of calamities," Paredes said, referring to the typhoons, floods, volcante eruptions and an earthquake that have hit the Philippines in the past year and a half. More than 300 gold medals

are at stake in 32 events

although the 103 gold medals it won in Kuala Lumpur in 1989 may be cut to just over

"Indonesia's target in this event is to defend its position as the top medal-winner," said Surono, chairman of the Indonesian Sports Committee.

The Indonesian medals effort will be led by their worldrated badminton players, who include Ardy Wiranata, 21, and Susi Susanti, 20, both 1991 all-England champions. A three-way battle for sec-

ond best will be fought between Malaysia, Thailand and the host country. Singapore, Vietnam and Burma are counting on their athletes in swimming, track

and filed, and shooting to win

their share of gold medals. Laos and Brunei, the oilrich kingdom which is reported to have promised 50,000 dollars to any of its athletes who win a gold, will scramble for the remaining medals.

World records appear unthreatened because standards in Southeast Asia are far lower than those of Asian powers Japan, China and the two Koreas, much less the world. Except for in badminton,

the rest of the world, sports

Smirnov said it was unanimously decided Thursday at a meeting of the Olympic Committees of the Soviet republies that they will be the largest Sovict teams since the Soviet Union first participated in the Olympic games in 1952

Smirnov said the Soviet number could reach 860. When asked about his

Summer Games, Smirnov was more optimistic. He predicted gold medals, 44 silver and 44

Marathon result TOKYO, Nov 24 : Wieslow

Perszke covered 42.195

Japan's Reiko Hirosawa captured the women's division in 2:53:49 on the course around Lake Kawaguchi, northwest of

# Another Seles-Navratilova final



24: Top seed and defending champion Monica Seles overwhelmed

Slims

has played this year. Only Steffi Graf has gone

Earlier on Saturday,

The 35-year-old fourth

But Navratilova has been

to cry foul," Lopez said.

3,000 athletes from nine

ing painted after the ejection of squatters earlier this month. A diving board that arrived from Germany over the weekend is still being installed

ahead despite the problems.

spread over 26 venues around Indonesia is expected to dominate competition.

officials said.

archery, boxing, bowling and billiards, the best in Southeast Asia are far behind the best of

German Sports Federation Evers said that Germany's

January 1, 1992, the checks are to be carried out by a Berlin-based Company German control GMBH, which is jointly owned by the Finance Ministry and the Vehicle

# the unlikely challenger's hope

see me," Cooper says. the 25-year-old Cooper like an empty chair are rooted in an extremely rigid code of behaviour which allows for few second chances. It is a way of

carousing and always, give everything you have in the ring. Don't even learn to spell the word quit, is the word according to Frazier, who learned something about harshness working the fields behind a mule as a boy in South Carolina's Beaufort country,

Lewis maintains

unbeaten record

European heavyweight

champion Lennox Lewis of

ATLANTA, Georgia, Nov 24:

Britain kept his unbeaten record intact by knocking down American Tyrell Biggs three times in the third round on Saturday, reports Reuter. Referee Frank Santore of the United States stepped in and stopped the fight at two minutes 47 seconds of the

round, under the three-

knockdown rule, that rule requires the fight stopped when one man goes down three times in a round. Lewis dropped Biggs with a right cross the first time in the third round and after Biggs got up at the count of nine

immediately decked him again

against the ropes, but spun

Biggs tried to cover up

with another right.

into the middle of the ring and Lewis caught him again with a right hand to send the American sprawling. Lewis won the first round handily, catching Biggs late in the round with two strong right hands to the head. Biggs did not take advantage of

counter-punch the Briton. Lewis opened up a cut on Biggs's lip and his nose began to bleed a bit in the second round. But Biggs landed more blows in the round than he had in the first round, catching Lewis with a good right

uppercut and a left hook. But

appeared to be weary from the

earlier punches and Lewis

18-0 and Biggs dropped to 19-

In the third round, Biggs

Lewis raised his record to

Lewis was not hurt.

moved in for the kill.

goal in the second half.

tomorrow (Monday).

will face Nilphamari Khelwar

numerous opportunities to

Jamalpur soccer JAMALPUR, Nov 24: Dhaka Konika Sangskritik Sangha beat Netrakona District Eleven by 1-0 goal in Shahid Smriti Gold Cup football tournament at Dewanganj High School ground Saturday, reports UNB.

UEFA's control and disci-

this year.

Athletes are not intelligent. The pressure is on to break records. The difference in

> will be taken to Australia, with results expected in less than a week. If the first sample tests positive for banned drugs, the second sample will be tested

Two urine samples will be taken at random from every athlete in the games, with all

because they do not have the tests to detect these. An earlier report Saturday said: Hours before the start of the 16th Southeast Asian Games in Manila on Sunday. sports officials were hurriedly

International Amteur Boxing Association head Anwar Chowdhury said he expected

opting for neutral referees .... We don't want our opponents the November 25 to December 5 games, in which nearly