

# Otley, Burrell dazzle in Berlin

BERLIN, Sept 11: Jamaican Merlene Otley shrugged off her World Championship disappointments to clock the second fastest 100 metres of the year at the Berlin Grand Prix athletics meeting on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

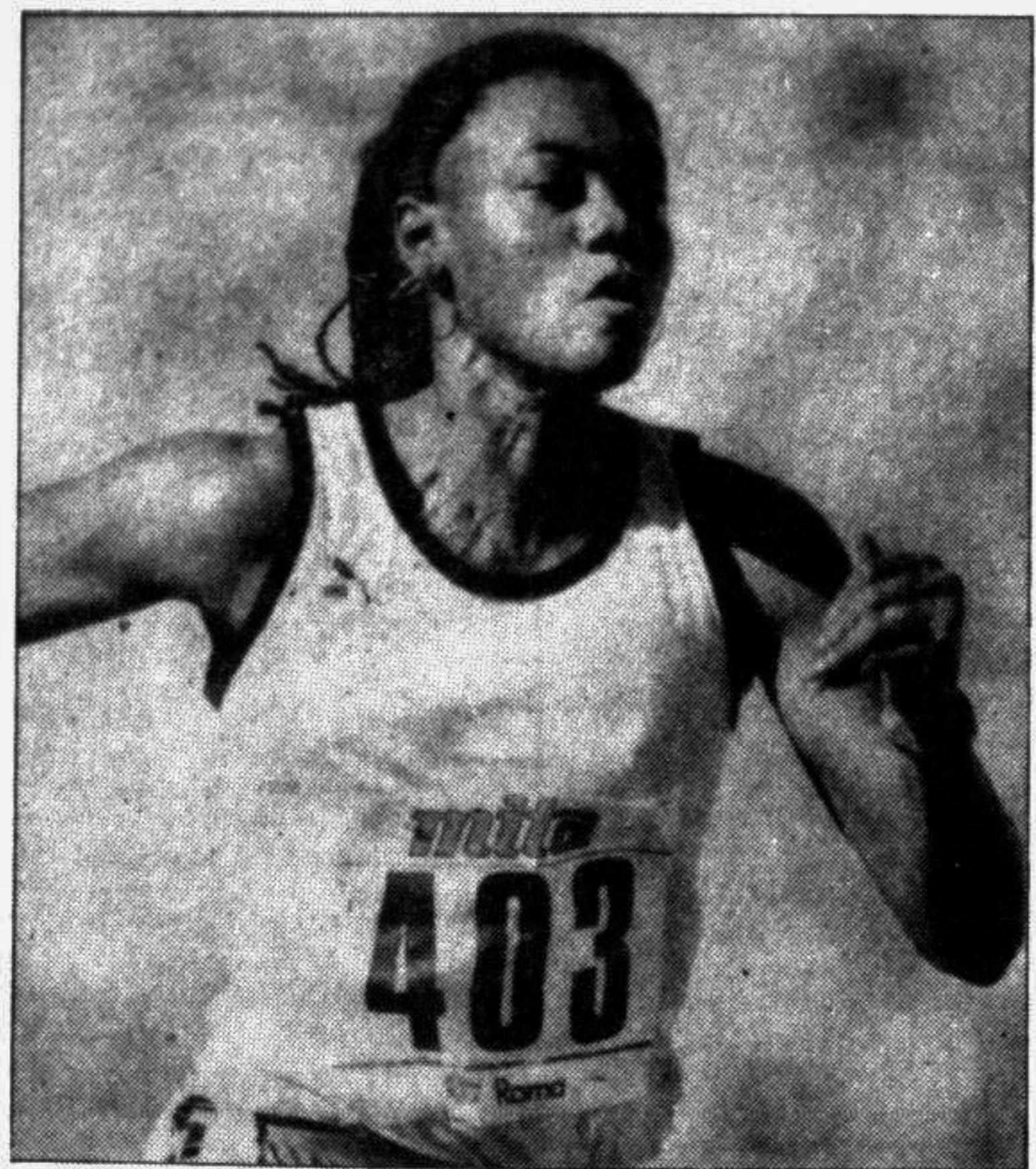
The Jamaican, who dominated women's sprinting in the early part of the season but could manage only two bronze medals in the individual events behind German double champion Katrin Krabbe at the recent Tokyo World Championships, cruised to victory in 10.84 seconds.

Otley, who ran the fastest 200 metres of the year in Cologne on Sunday, never looked in danger after 50 metres and finished ahead of American world silver medalist Gwen Torrence, who clocked 10.96.

Krabbe chose not to race Otley after Tokyo in a bid to gain a psychological boost in the crucial build-up to the Barcelona Olympics.

But the German, who planned to compete at 200-metres in the Olympic Stadium, was forced to watch another impressive performance from the Jamaican who has run the fastest 1991 time.

World 800 metres champion Billy Konchellah, who finished a surprise third in



MERLENE OTLEY

Sunday's Cologne Grand Prix, rediscovered his winning ways.

The Kenyan, who triumphed in Tokyo despite several years of illness, produced a devastating sprint past leading Scot Tom McLean in the final 50 metres to win in one

minute 45.95 seconds.

Kenyan William Tanui was second in 45.96. McLean finished fourth.

"I have never lost my form and I could run my own race today. So Tokyo has only been

a bad experience," Otley said.

"I was prepared to run against Katrin Krabbe but she chose the 200. If I had run both 100 and 200 she would have probably gone over 400."

American world silver medalist Leroy Burrell won his second 100 metres in three days to finish his season in a positive way.

After breaking the world record in June and beating Olympic champion Carl Lewis three times before Tokyo, Burrell may count himself unlucky to have come away from Japan with just a silver medal.

But he lifted himself in Berlin to win in 10.04 seconds ahead of Canadian Bruny Surin (10.23).

World champion Lyudmila Narozhnikova of the Soviet Union looked totally out of touch in the women's 100 metres hurdles at the end of a hard season.

She lost her stride pattern between the third and fourth hurdles and was forced to pull out of the race, won easily by world silver medalist Gail Devers-Roberts in 12.48 seconds, an US record.

In the men's 110 hurdles American world silver medalist Jack Pierce also lacked sharpness as he finished back in fifth place behind compatriot Tony Dees.

Dees won in 13.47 ahead of German Florian Schwarzhuber (13.49). Pierce clocked 13.60.

Nov 8 bout to go ahead, say promoters

## Tyson claims he's innocent

INDIANAPOLIS, Sept 11: Mike Tyson arrived here today to be booked on charges of raping an 18-year-old Miss Black America contestant and enter what he said would be a not guilty plea, reports AFP.



MIKE TYSON

champion Evander Holyfield November 8 in Las Vegas.

Despite demands by some women's rights activists that the bout be canceled, the Nevada Athletic Commissioner said Monday it should go forward. The World Boxing Council said Tuesday it was ratifying the fight, saying it considered him "innocent until it is shown otherwise."

Tyson has been the target of a string of allegations of assaults on women, including ex-wife Robin Givens who divorced Tyson in 1989, saying he had harassed her.

Tyson said that although the case had "dramatically affected my life" he was "not dwelling on it."

"I know that Mike is innocent, and I know we'll win this one," said Tyson's promoter Don King, who accompanied the boxer to Indianapolis.

The boxer was scheduled to fight, reigning heavyweight

had molested 10 of 23 contestants at the 1991 pageant.

In 1987, the year Tyson won the heavyweight title, he paid 105,000 dollars to settle an assault case.

Meanwhile, Promoters of Tyson's upcoming heavyweight boxing title fight with Evander Holyfield insisted on Tuesday the match was on despite Tyson's indictment.

Tyson was due in court in Indianapolis later in the week for arraignment. Officials said on Tuesday they did not know when we would make an appearance but trial in the case would not occur until long after the scheduled Tyson-Holyfield battle in Las Vegas on November 8.

"Nothing has changed. The fight is on," a spokeswoman for Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas told Reuter. The gambling emporium had already sold more than 15,000 tickets at prices as high as 1,200 dollars each for the match.

In addition the fight is expected to rake in millions of dollars on pay-for-view cable television, leading promoters to predict it could be the richest fight in boxing history with a gross of 100 million dollars or more.

Also in Las Vegas the Nevada State Athletic Commission said it has not been asked to strip Tyson of his licence — something it is empowered to do in cases of "moral turpitude".

Such a move would derail the fight, or force it to another

venue.

No fighter has ever had his licence suspended in Nevada on moral grounds "as far as we know," commission spokesman Chuck Minker told Reuter.

He said the commission could decide without being asked by an outside party to consider Tyson's moral standing but at the moment there are no plans for it to do so.

The commission is scheduled to meet early next month prior to a title fight in Reno, Nevada, he said.

Tyson has insisted he is innocent of the rape charge.

At a news conference in New York last week he also said nothing short of death would stop him from getting in the ring with Holyfield in an effort to regain the title he lost to James "Buster" Douglas in February 1990 in Tokyo.

Tyson, 25, was indicted on Monday by a six-member county grand jury. His alleged victim is an 18-year-old Rhode Island woman who told police she was driven to Tyson's hotel in his limousine and assaulted during the Miss Black America beauty pageant in Indianapolis in July.

"She thought the meeting was supposed to be a platonic relationship," Marion county state's attorney Jeffrey Modicetti told a news conference. "When she agreed, it was not her intention to have sex. When she refused, he advanced and forced her."

Rosie Jones, Miss Black America 1990, sued Tyson for 100 million dollars, alleging he had fondled her during the 1991 pageant. The pageant's owner also sued the boxer for 21 million dollars, claiming he

had harassed her.

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