

# Ottey, Burrell dazzle in Berlin



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

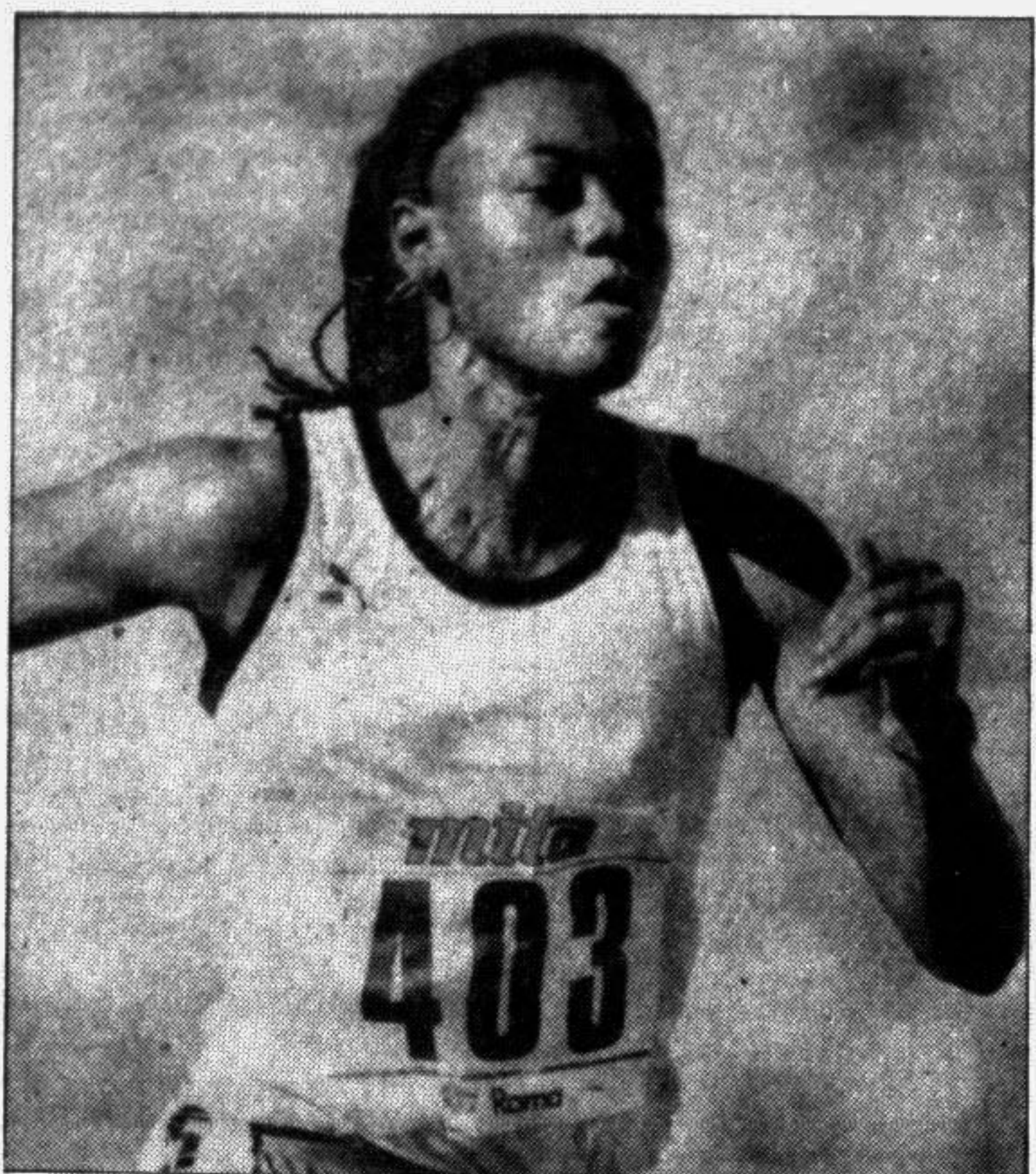
The Jamaican, who dominated women's sprinting in the early part of the season but could manage only two bronze medals in the individual events behind German double champion Katrin Krabbe at the recent Tokyo World Championships, cruised to victory in 10.84 seconds.

Ottey, 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 Ottey 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 OTTEY

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 McKean in the final 50 metres to win in one

minute 45.95 seconds.

Kenyan William Tanui was second in 1:45.96. McKean finished fourth.

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

a bad experience," Ottey 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 Narozhilenko 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, a 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 Schwarhoff (13.49). Pierce clocked 13.60.

## Soviets underline strength anew

INDIANAPOLIS, Sept 11: The Cold is over, the Soviet Union is threatening to break apart and communism is on the run, but Soviet domination of men's gymnastics is alive and well, with no visible sign of cracks in the armour, reports Reuter.

The Soviets captured their fourth straight gold medal at the World Gymnastics Championships here Tuesday, leaving their competition in the dust as they performed sensational routines with few mistakes in the optional competition.

"I'm very happy," said head coach Leonid Arkacv. "they showed everything they can do tonight. We were ready psychologically, as well as physically, for the competition."

The Soviets, who led Germany by almost four points after the compulsories, finished more than seven points ahead of China, which overtook Japan and Germany to win the silver medal. The Germans took the bronze, with Japan finishing fourth.

Individually, Soviet gymnasts finished one-two-three, with defending Goodwill Games all-around champion Vitaly Scherbo placing first with 117.175 combined points. Scherbo, along with 35 other gymnasts, will compete for the all-around title on Thursday.

If the political changes in the Soviet Union were having any effect on the country's sports programmes, it was not evident in Indianapolis, despite the fact that several members of the team are from republics they have made strides toward at least nominal independence from Moscow.

"Don't think it'll happen," said Valeri Liukin when asked if he thought this was the last time the Soviets would compete as a single, unified team.

Liukin, who hails from Alma Ata in Kazakhstan, said he thought the team would remain united regardless of the rapid changes overtaking the Soviet Union.

"What I think will happen is that there'll be one team," he said. "I hope there is, because we'll be stronger that way. If we compete separately, we will lose."

The Chinese, bronze medalists in 1989, entertained no thoughts of beating out the Soviets for the gold medal, but had little doubt about where



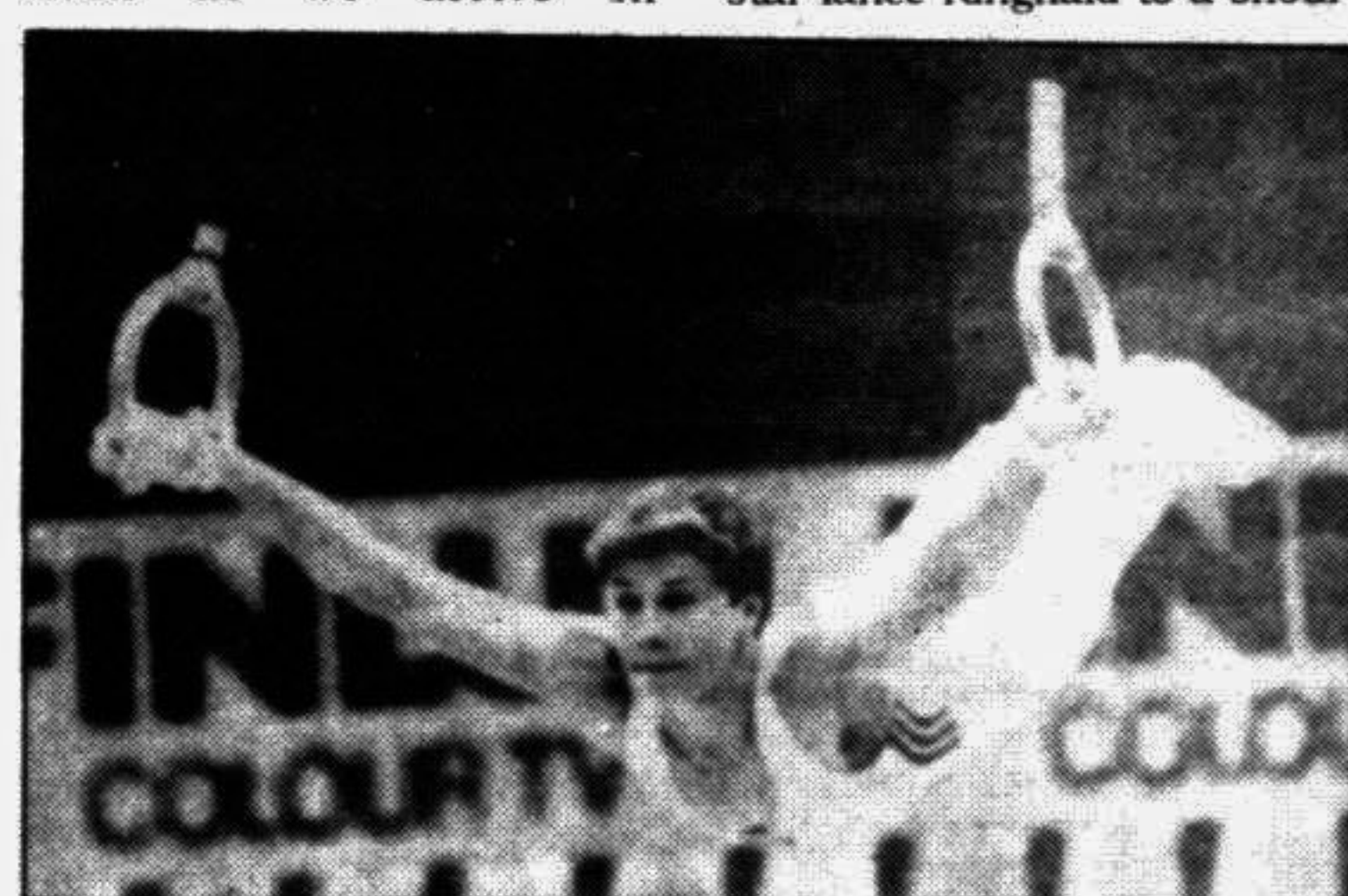
Igor Korobchinski (L) of Soviet Union, who finished fourth, seen with eighth-placed Li Jing of China.

they would finish the team competition.

"The silver medal was our goal, not the bronze," said head coach Gao Jiang. "We thought we'd win the silver as soon as we arrive in

Jing, adding, "So, I guess the person who laughs last, laughs the best."

The most valiant effort of the evening may have come from the Americans, who lost star lance Ringnald to a shoulder



VALERI LIUKIN

Indianapolis."

For all their confidence, the Chinese did not look like silver medalists after three of their gymnasts fell off the high bar, leaving them in fourth place after three of the six events.

But were as in the past the Chinese might have cracked under the pressure, this time they responded with nearly flawless rotations on the pommel horse and the rings to pass the Germans and Japanese.

"After our mistakes on the high bar, we made only one mistake the rest of the way," said top Chinese gymnast Li

der injury in the compulsories and were forced to compete with just five members of the team, leaving no room for errors.

Spurred on by the highly partisan crowd, the US squad performed solidly, but could not come up with the 9.800's and 9.900's that would have put them in contention for a medal.

Nevertheless, the fifth-place finish was the highest for the United States since 1983, when it finished fourth in Budapest, and the gymnasts were able to hold their heads

high.

"This team is very close. We're all good friends," said Scott Kewick, who had to carry the heaviest load in the absence of Ringnald. "We cared about what happened to the team, not just ourselves. We had the break we all kept going and tried to do a good job."

South Korea finished sixth, followed by Italy, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Switzerland and Britain. The top 12 teams qualified for next year's Barcelona Olympics.

The British qualified for the first time, edging out France by one tenth of a point for the final berth. France finished 13th and will be able to send only three gymnasts to Barcelona.

### RESULTS

Results from the World Gymnastics championships (men's optional) on Tuesday: Team competition, final standing (to 12 teams qualify for 1992 Barcelona Olympics).

1. Soviet Union	584.425
2. China	577.050
3. Germany	576.125
4. Japan	574.925
5. United States	569.725
6. South Korea	569.450
7. Italy	569.000
8. Hungary	565.475
9. Romania	565.425
10. Bulgaria	564.900
11. Switzerland	560.450
12. Britain	558.800
13. France	558.700
14. North Korea	558.575
15. Cuba	557.625

### INDIVIDUAL STANDINGS:

1. Vitaly Scherbo (Soviet Union)	117.175
2. Grigori Misutin (Soviet Union)	116.900
3. Valeri Liukin (Soviet Union)	116.825
4. Igor Korobchinski (Soviet Union)	116.700
5. Sylvio Kroll (Germany)	116.175
6. Andreas Wecker (Germany)	116.125
7. Valeri Belenki (Soviet Union)	116.075
8. Li Jing (China)	116.000
9. Yuri Chechi (Italy)	115.450
10. Yukio Iketa (Japan)	115.350
11. Li Xiaoxiang (China)	115.175
12. Alexei Voropaev (Soviet Union)	115.150
13. Li Chunyang (China)	115.100
14. Huang Huandong (China)	114.950
15. Zoltan Supla (Hungary)	114.750

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.

"I know I'm innocent," the former heavyweight champion said on arriving by commercial airliner from Las Vegas.

Tyson, 25, was to be fingerprinted, photographed and booked at Marion County jail on charges of rape, deviate conduct and confinement. Then, after posting \$30,000 dollar bail, he was to enter a plea in superior court.

"This will be handled like any other booking," prosecutor Jeffrey Modisett said.

The boxer was indicted by a special grand jury Monday on charges of raping a contestant in the Black Miss America beauty contest in his Indianapolis hotel room July 19. Tyson, who was in the city to make promotional appearances for the pageant and Indian Black Expo at the time, claimed the woman consented.

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



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 Commission 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 terrorised 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 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-per-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 Modisett told a news conference. "When she agreed, it was not her intention to have sex. When she refused, he advanced and forced her."

## Even women want the fight



NEW YORK, Sept 11: Women's groups and boxing officials on Tuesday rejected calls for Mike Tyson to be barred from fighting the heavyweight title in November because of his indictment for rape, reports Reuter.

Tyson, charged on Monday with raping a beauty contestant in Indianapolis in July, is scheduled to fight champion Evander Holyfield in Las Vegas on November 8.

Several US newspaper columnists called strongly for a postponement of the fight until Tyson, 25, is tried. If convicted he could go to prison for 63 years.

New York Post boxing columnist Mike Marley said Tyson, who lost his title in February 1990 to James "Buster" Douglas, had a chance to be a real hero by withdrawing until he is tried.

But the Nevada State Athletic Commission said it would not even hold hearings on whether to suspend Tyson's licence.

"No commissioner has come to me and asked me to call a meeting to consider a suspension," executive director Chuck Minker told Reuter.

He later issued a statement in which commission chairman, Dr James Nave, a Las Vegas veterinarian, said it would be inappropriate to suspend Tyson's licence and saying that the fighter is "innocent unless proven guilty and entitled to earn his living in the meantime."

Several women's groups and people connected to the fight, which could set a boxing

record with an expected 100 million dollars gross, agree.

"We haven't really dealt with it at all," Melody Bahan, president of the New York City chapter of the National Organisation for Women (NOW), told Reuter.

The underlying fact is that he is innocent until proven guilty. You can't preclude someone from earning a living before going to trial," Bahan said.

"The press is more interested than the public," said Naomi Millisor, president of the Nevada NOW chapter. "We're not going to do anything about it."

"Basically the man hasn't been convicted yet and while the indictment looks bad, he is

innocent until proven guilty. Life goes on. You still have to work. He just makes more money than most. If he is bothered by it (the indictment) and loses, that would be all right," Millisor added.

Tamara Raphael, spokeswoman for the National fund for a Feminist Majority said she did not know of any plans to demonstrate against the fight.

"We're concerned about the victim-survivor and that she doesn't get lost in the media hype," said Mary Betch Carter, president of the National Coalition against Sexual Assault.

"We want to make sure she gets all the support we can offer."

She would not reveal whether the 18-year-old alleged victim, who said Tyson attacked her in his hotel room, has been contacted by the group.

Kathy Duva, whose husband Dan is head of Main Events, the promoters of the fight.

"The job description for the number one heavyweight contender does not include role model and he's a terrible one. But it's up to a judge and jury to make him pay for this and not us," said Duva, whose family also manages Holyfield.

Rich Rose, who signed the fight for Caesar-Casino in Las Vegas, said the tickets, costing 200 to 1,200 dollars, were sold out in a record 14 days.

## Turmoil threatens Soviet gymnastics

INDIANAPOLIS, Sept 11: While the defending world and Olympic champion Soviet team builds substantial leads at the World Gymnastics Championships, officials are concerned that dramatic political changes back home could spell the end of Soviet dominance in the sport, reports Reuter.

"There are many questions now about gymnastics in the Soviet Union," Yuri Titov, president of the International Gymnastics Federation and a high-ranking official of the Soviet Olympic Committee told reporters. "I cannot speak for the future."

There is little doubt about the present as Soviet gymnasts continue to out-perform the competition in Indianapolis. Defending world all-around champions Igor Korobchinski and Svetlana Boguinskaya were leading their respective fields after the compulsory exercises and team golds appeared a virtual certainty.

But Titov said funding at all levels of the sport and the pool of available talent are being affected as his country struggles to hold itself together.

Titov said it remains to be seen how many republics will continue to contribute athletes to a Soviet team and suggested that changes could be so drastic that the Soviet team itself could be replaced by squads competing under the separate flags of republics.



SVETLANA BOGUINSKAYA

"Already there is pinching,"

Titov said of funding problems. "The government does not give the same money and now they

charge 40 per cent in taxes. It is not so attractive to be in gymnastics."

In past years the Soviet

central government funded a pool from which all sport groups from national teams to youth camps could support themselves.

As available funds shrink, less and less money filters down to the elementary levels.

"We have fewer practicing coaches and as a result fewer children," Titov said. "In three or four years we went from 700,000 beginners to maybe 300,000. It is a perestroika attack on sport."

Several Soviet gymnasts and officials have also expressed concern about the effect the political turmoil at home may be having on morale.

"I would say the physical condition of our team is sound," said Leonid Arkacv, head coach of the Soviet men's team. "The psychological condition may be suffering a little."

Still, Titov insists that financial concerns worry him more than a possible breakup of the country as far as gymnastic talent is concerned.

"Most of the best gymnasts, for instance, are not from the Baltic states," Titov said. "So a team and a system with financial support can stay strong for many years."

"But this system has many levels. From the early youth, the boys and girls have the best preparation, the best medicine, the best facilities available. Without this you cannot always win the gold medals."

## Galaxy of US stars on the horizon



NEW YORK, Sept 11: Jimmy Connors keeps talking about turning tennis over to younger players. He may not have to wait much longer, reports AP.

There is a rising crop of young American tennis players who have been advancing in the rankings for the last year or two and may be ready to break out the way Connors did almost 20 years ago.

Players such as Pete Sampras, last year's US Open champion, Jim Courier, who won this year's French Open, 1989 French Open champion Michael Chang and Andre Agassi, a frequent Grand Slam finalist, are all on the verge of breaking through the ranks of the elite tennis players, such as Boris Becker, Stefan Edberg and Ivan Lendl.

Up and coming players like David Wheaton, John McEnroe's younger brother Patrick, and Michigan residents Matt/Val Washington and Todd Martin are also beginning to attract attention.

Ken Rosewall of Australia was 39 years old and an aging champion when a 21-year-old Connors beat him in the finals of Wimbledon 1973.

Now Connors, who became the story of this year's US Open, finds himself in the same position as Rosewall. "It was time for somebody else to come in and take over," Connors said. "I was 20, 21 years old, time for me to push guys aside. Rosewall was playing unbelievable tennis, but it was time for somebody else to come."

"Now it is time for somebody else to take my place, but if they don't want it, I'm not

going to give it to them."

Agassi, 21 and seeded eighth, has been a finalist the last two French Opens and last year's US Open. He has won two tournaments this year, but was bounced out in the first round of the Open by former teen phenom Aaron Krickstein, 24, another Michigan product. Krickstein was later knocked off by Connors in five sets.

Chang won the French Open at 17, but has failed to repeat that performance. He frequently reaches the quarterfinals or semifinals of tournaments, but has yet to win one this year.

After a sluggish start this year, he has started returning to championship form, reaching the quarterfinals with a four-set victory over Wheaton.

"It's going to take some time, certainly to reach the

level of Becker and Edberg, and those guys are still more consistent than I am," Sampras said.

Wheaton believes he will meet his countryman frequently. "I think (Sampras) can win the tournament. He proved he could win it last year," Wheaton said.

Courier is a contrast to Sampras in his wisecracking, outspoken style. He has three tour wins this year, including the French Open and has been a semifinalist in his last three tournaments coming into the Open. He believes the media put an obituary on American tennis too quickly.

"I think you guys hype it a bit too much, a little premature," Courier said. "We were coming along well and had some of the top juniors in the world."



Mike Tyson and Evander Holyfield square off for photographs after their news conference in New York last week to promote their Nov. 8 fight.