

Brothers make a stuttering start

Sports Reporter

Federation Cup champions Brothers Union began their 1991 Star First Division football league campaign in a positive manner when they defeated the soccer giants of the golden past, Dhaka Wanderers Club 3-2 at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

Although Wanderers, in their traditional black and white jersey, came back strongly in the second half after conceding a two-nil lead in first half their opponents in orange, from Gopibagh held the whiphand for the most part of the game.

Khandaker Waseem Iqbal, the gifted winger who, perhaps compromising with time, the noiseless minion prefers to play from an old fashioned wing half position, led his 'own' side from the front.

He rarely set on his irresistible gazelle motion down the right flank but still he had enough space and skill to manoeuvre and some of the younger players of the current national side should have covered their faces in shame.

Brothers skipper Manik worked in tandem with Waseem in the seventh minute after the kick-off to give Brothers the lead.

The Wanderers custodian came out to cut short a through from Manik, was stranded neither here nor

there as the mercurial forward, beating him in the race for the ball, slid it past into the net in style 1-0.

Three minutes later Waseem played a delightful one-two with Rupu, but the latter was foiled by the Wanderers defender for a corner.

Manik sent a freekick across the goalmouth a couple of minutes later but Dulal's feeble nod from a hand-shaking distance missed the mark.

Waseem dodged past two Wanderers defenders in the 27th minute in his own inimitable style, only to see his cross cleared for a corner.

Two minutes later Manik won a ball on the left but his fine minus went abegging as Uttam, who had muffed two chances in the first five minutes of the play, failed to correct from close.

Wanderers missed a fine chance to equalise when Mustakim's header off Yusuf's corner in the 35th minute went out with the goalkeeper in disarray.

Waseem again led a Brothers raid in the 40th minute with Manik doing the spade work. The forward, in a sudden burst of speed, left behind the Wanderers' defenders to latch on to a through from Manik but Waseem's intelligent overhead flick over the advancing goalkeeper dropped on the cross-piece to go out of play.

Brothers, however, made amends for this narrow miss two minutes later when the lanky Ahmed put clear by defence-splitting through pushed the ball home past an onrushing goalkeeper who made his second error of judgement of the day in tackling the wickedly laid through by the Brothers medio, 2-0.

Ahmed, known for his uncontrolled bursts, skied a fine through from Uttam five minutes after the resumption.

Pervez, the overlapping Brothers left-back served a fine cross in the following minute but none of his teammates were in position cast in on it.

Wanderers made their intention clear in the very next minute in a counter-attack when Belal rifled in a superb 25-yarder right-footer but the shot hit the inside edge of the post and came back in play with Ponir beaten all ends up.

Moin and Mosharruf teamed on the right flank to initiate a now more frequent Wanderers attack and Pervez of Brothers handballed inside the box in his attempt to clear and referee Mukul promptly directed to the dreaded spot.

Mustakim, who joined Wanderers from Mohammedan this year, converted the spot kick, giving no chance to Ponir 2-1.

After Manik and Uttam had missed two chances as the goal serving as a kick in the

margin as substitute Avijit's shot from yet another Akhtar cross was partially thwarted by Curzon (2-1).

Two minutes later Shahjahan latched on to a mid-field through but Curzon charged out in time to rob him of possession.

Adamjee, having found a chink on the left side of the Agran Bank defensive armour, carried out repeated sorties through right winger Akhtar.

His hard work was finally rewarded as Adamjee got the much desired and deserved equaliser six minutes from the final whistle.

Akhtar curled in a left footed inswinging corner and the ball, after few deflections, went to Avijit who was tearing in anticipation of something like this and with a first-time left-footed volley from the top of the box he scored a spectacular goal to put his side level 2-2.

Yellow cards: Babul and Anwar of Adamjee SCC.

TODAY'S MATCHES
Muktijoddha Sangsad vs Dhanmondi Club (3 pm)
PWD SC vs BJMC SC (5 pm)



OH, NO! Four Dhaka Ansars players watch the ball enter their net during yesterday's Green Delta First Division league match against Ajax Sports Club at the Hockey Stadium. Ajax won 3-0.

Rich rewards for Lankan heroes

COLOMBO, Jan 12: Sri Lankan athletes who bagged gold medals at the South Asia Federation (SAF) Games here last month are being offered much-needed training abroad, houses and cash awards, officials said today, reports AFP.

Private sector firms have offered generous sponsorship packages to athletes in a bid to prepare them for the Barcelona Olympic Games and the Asian Games in 1993, sports officials said.

Vijitha Amarasekara, who won a gold in the javelin, leaves for California Sunday on a three-year scholarship sponsored by a local company.

Damayanthi Darsha, the 16-year-old Colombo school girl who broke the South Asian record to win the 100 meter race in Colombo is to get a "total sponsorship" package from a local insurance company which will finance her entire family.

Sri Lanka's best swimmers, Deepika Channugam with seven golds and Julian Bolling with five, won 2,500 US dollars each from the local Coca Cola franchise holder for their performance at the SAF Games.

"Most of them have very modest means. These sponsorships will greatly help them to concentrate on sports," a sports official said.

Several athletes have also been offered jobs in the private sector while those in government service had been promoted after the record breaking performance at the Games.

Dhamika Manike, Sri Lanka's long distance runner, was given a house by the government after she came first in the 1,500m race.

Sri Lanka won 44 golds to push Pakistan to third place with its 28 golds and become second to India which took 64 golds.

All the Sri Lankan athletes who won golds were also given a colour television set and stereo each from the local singer company.

Ajax, Wanderers easy winners

Sports Reporter

Last year's runners-up Ajax Sports Club got the better of Dhaka Ansars 3-0 in the second tie of the 1991 Green Delta Insurance First Division hockey league yesterday at the Hockey Stadium.

The winners led the first session 1-0.

Iriteza Quader Guddu, who had scored four goals in the recently concluded Victory Day Shah Sports Cup tournament and jointly shared the highest scorers trophy with Jamman Lusat of Abahani Krira Chakra, once again stole the show.

Guddu put title aspirants Ajax in the lead in the 22nd minute of play by scoring a spectacular field goal (1-0).

Although Ajax scored a goal in the first half, they failed to convert from two penalty corners.

Md Sadeque, who had scored two goals for Ajax

against Bangladesh Ansars in the Group B final of the Victory Day Cup, doubled the margin in the 58th minute (2-0).

Guddu scored his second goal to complete the tally for Ajax in the 61st minute by converting a penalty corner (3-0).

Even after this the goal-hungry Ajax squad kept their pressure up but could not increase the margin.

As for Ansars, they tried their best to come back into the game and forced three penalty corners and a long corner but failed to convert any.

On the other hand, Ajax earned seven penalty corners, a clear sign of their supremacy over their opponents and a solitary corner.

Lal Mian of Ansars received a yellow card.

Earlier in the afternoon, Dhaka Wanderers Club players did with the stick what their booters could not do in their

league outing at the Mirpur Stadium.

Wanderers swamped Bachelors Sports Club 3-0.

All three goals were scored in the second session of the play.

Rubel put the black and whites a head in the 44th minute by scoring a field goal.

Siam doubled the margin for the Winners in the 63rd minute in a similar fashion.

Rashed netted the third one just before the final whistle to seal the fate of the match.

Wanderers earned four penalty corners while Bachelors, despite forcing four penalty corners and the identical number of corners, failed to convert any.

Azam of Bachelors invited the green card for boisterous play.

TODAY'S MATCHES
Sadharan Bima vs Azad SC (1:45 PM)
Martiner Youngs SC vs Police AC (3:15 PM)

Abahani-MSC clash today

Sports Reporter

The crucial Navana Premier Division cricket league match between Damal Summer and Victory Day cricket champions Abahani Krira Chakra and runners-up Mohammedan Sporting Club, the arch protagonists starts today at the Dhaka Stadium at 9.15.

The 45-overs-a-side contest is vital for both the title aspirants as they are jointly leading the points table with ten points from five outings each.

The rates of tickets have been fixed at Taka 10 for the galleries, Taka 100 for the VIP Gate No 1 and Taka 100 for Gate 3A.

In the other match of the day, Lalmitia Club play Warl Club at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Meanwhile, Ajax Club take on Club City in the Milnars First Division league encounter at the Mirpur City Club ground.

Cricket tourney

The 1992 Dantiyasha Golf Cup cricket competition under the auspices of Dantiyasha, a socio-cultural non-government organisation, will begin from January 20, said a press release yesterday.

Adamjee hold Agrani Bank

Sports Reporter

Adamjee Sports Club staged a gallant fight-back to share points with Agrani Bank after being down by two goals in the first match of the Star First Division football league yesterday at the Mirpur Stadium.

Agrani Bank shot into the lead as early as the fourth minute when outside right Gias's shot slipped out of Adamjee custodian Narayan's hands and striker Jamal lurking nearby slammed the loose ball home, (1-0).

Agrani Bank showed more imagination and purpose and had their opponents cornered right through the first half.

Shortly after this left winger Sattar missed an opportunity to double the margin when in a solo dash he dodged past a host of opponents but failed to beat a helpless goalkeeper.

Agrani Bank doubled the margin of their lead immediately after the breather. Jahangir got a ball in side the box and his shot hit an Adamjee defender and just when he was about to give up

the hope for the ball in the resultant melee, he found it landing right in front of him and the grateful striker gleefully accepted the godsend and hit a neat grounder which hit the side post before resting in the net 2-0.

With the Bank onslaughts continuing, on Adamjee defender fouled Sattar inside the box and Agrani Bank looked all set to wrap up the match.

But Jamal's misplaced and feeble grounder from the penalty was saved by Narayan and the gates for a dramatic reversal were opened.

Adamjee, inspired by an agile Akhtar on the right flank, started to launch relentless retaliatory assaults on the Bank citadel.

The nippy runner ran down the flank and swung in a cross in the 25th minute but his teammates failed to avail of the opportunity.

Five minutes later, he again sent a cross from the right but Curzon, the Bank custodian, came out in time to smother the more.

Agrani Bank wilted in the 33rd minute when the diminutive Badshah reduced the

margin as substitute Avijit's shot from yet another Akhtar cross was partially thwarted by Curzon (2-1).

Two minutes later Shahjahan latched on to a mid-field through but Curzon charged out in time to rob him of possession.

Adamjee, having found a chink on the left side of the Agrani Bank defensive armour, carried out repeated sorties through right winger Akhtar.

His hard work was finally rewarded as Adamjee got the much desired and deserved equaliser six minutes from the final whistle.

Akhtar curled in a left footed inswinging corner and the ball, after few deflections, went to Avijit who was tearing in anticipation of something like this and with a first-time left-footed volley from the top of the box he scored a spectacular goal to put his side level 2-2.

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CIS forms new governing body

MOSCOW, Jan 12: The old Soviet soccer federation handed over its powers to a new governing body on Saturday and said it would hold League and Cup competitions this season in the Commonwealth of Independent States, reports Reuters.

Tass news agency said 140 delegates agreed almost unanimously to form a new Commonwealth Association of Football Federations embracing eight of the 15 former Soviet republics.

Missing are the three Baltic states, Moldova, Georgia, Armenia and most significantly, Ukraine, which is starting its own league competition within the next few months.

Soviet federation boss Vyacheslav Kolosov, who becomes head of the new body, said the old Soviet National side would now perform as the Commonwealth of Independent States in the European Championship finals in Sweden this year.

"The Commonwealth team will include the best Commonwealth footballers as well as Ukrainians and those who play for foreign clubs," Kolosov said.

Ukraine, despite its decision to break away, has pledged to release players for the finals in Sweden.

The new Commonwealth league will be slimmer down from three former Soviet divisions to just one, and 22 teams will compete, the association

said. But controversy still surrounds the creation last Thursday of a rebel all-Russian football association which strongly opposes any Commonwealth championship, favouring a purely Russian league instead.

Its founding raises the danger of a split within the game's ruling bodies. Both the new Commonwealth Association and the Russian authorities have refused to recognise it.

The Commonwealth Association incorporates Russia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Also included are the rebel Russian-speaking Dnestr region of Moldova and the autonomous Georgian region of Abkhazia.

A medal there would make her the first Japanese woman medalist in any Winter

Ito still Japan's best

KOBE, Japan, Jan 12: Midori Ito, the 1989 world women's champion, won her eighth consecutive All Japan figure skating title Sunday after an almost perfect original programme but less spectacular free skating, reports AP.

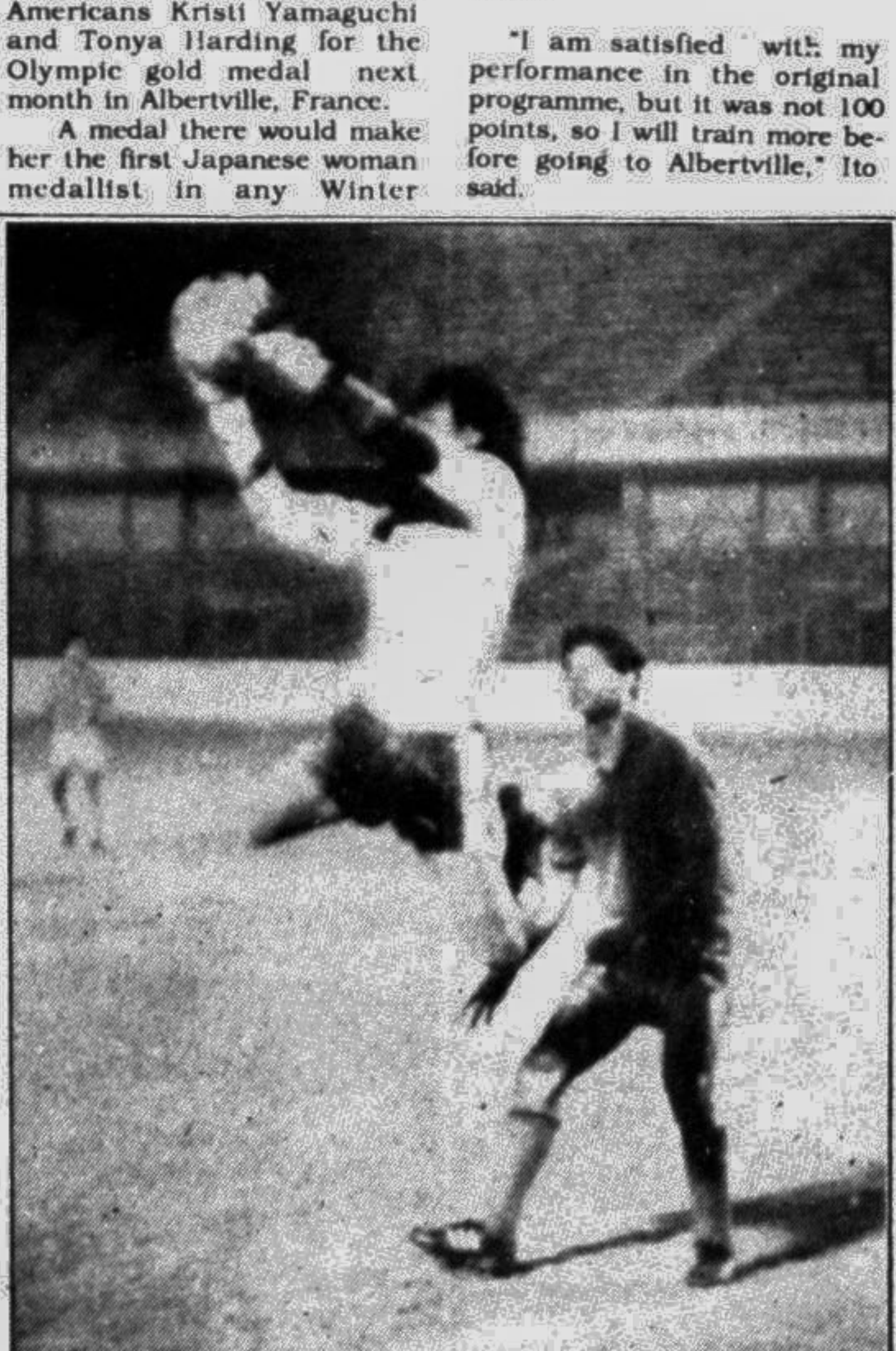
After a 1991 season plagued by illness and injury, Ito said she was looking forward to a battle with Americans Kristi Yamaguchi and Tonya Harding for the Olympic gold medal next month in Albertville, France.

A medal there would make her the first Japanese woman medalist in any Winter

Olympics. Ito was awarded five perfect 6.0s in the original programme on Saturday but received marks of 5.7 to 5.9 Sunday in the free skating, usually her favourite event.

The 22-year-old star jumper gave herself a grade of 9.5 on the original programme, and added she was not completely satisfied with her free skating, although she made no errors.

"I am satisfied with my performance in the original programme, but it was not 100 points, so I will train more before going to Albertville," Ito said.



Dhaka Wanderers goalkeeper Curzon clutches one safely to deny Waseem of Brothers in yesterday evening's Star First Division football league match at the Mirpur Stadium. Brothers won 3-2.

Spectators can watch Tyson trial

INDIANAPOLIS, Jan 12: The presiding judge in the Mike Tyson rape case has said that 17 people will receive passes for each morning and afternoon session of the trial, which starts Jan 27, reports AP.

The former heavyweight champion is accused of raping an 18-year-old contestant in the Miss Black America pageant here in July. Tyson was in the city to help promote Indians Black Expo.

Marion Superior Court Judge Patricia J. Gifford said Friday that people wanting passes for the trial will have to line up outside the City-County Building in the plaza off Washington Street.

Plans are to issue the passes at 8:30 am each morning, Gifford said. If the seats are not filled by 15 minutes after the session starts, they will be given to another person.

Gifford has set aside 25 courtroom seats for the media, six for family or associates of the defense and prosecution teams and two for court use.

Some 108 media organizations sought credentials for the trial. Those not obtaining courtroom spots may use a media viewing room in the basement of the City-County Building.

A closed-circuit video system will be installed in the courtroom so those in the media room may watch the proceedings.

The Indiana Supreme Court ruled Thursday that a video system was permissible under an exception to the general ban on television in courtrooms.

Also Friday, Gifford publicly released a motion that Tyson's defense attorneys filed Dec 31 under court seal. They asked the judge to dismiss Tyson's grand jury indictment on

grounds a prospective juror was excluded without legal basis. So, they said, the grand jury was not conducted under state law requirements.

Defense attorneys said Gifford had no statutory grounds to dismiss Bernard McCullough, identified as a black man. He was replaced, the attorneys said, with a white woman.

During jury selection, McCullough said he had some contact with two potential witnesses, the president of Indiana Black Expo and the organizer of the Miss Black America pageant.

However, he said, this contact would not affect his ability to be an impartial juror. The defense attorneys said Gifford did not say McCullough was dismissed because he would be biased, but to spare him from being in a position of questioning his beliefs about testimony of witnesses he knows.

Gifford set Jan 21 to rule on the motion.

Y'slavs say they'll play in Sweden

BELGRADE, Jan 12: A Yugoslav team will compete in this year's European soccer championship finals in spite of the fighting at home, a senior football official said on Saturday, reports Reuters.

"There has been speculation

about the possible replacement of our team with the Danish one, but this is nonsense," the international secretary of the Yugoslav federation, Dusan Marovic, told Reuters.

"We are okay according to all UEFA rules. Yugoslavia as Yugoslavia is still a member of the UN and FIFA and the attempts of some people to wipe

us from the map have nothing to do with the sport."

Marovic was reacting to remarks by UEFA president Lennart Johansson who was quoted as saying earlier this week that the conflict over the independence of Croatia would prevent a Yugoslav team taking part in the finals in Sweden.

If Yugoslavia do not compete in the finals, which start on June 10 Denmark would take their place after finishing second in the qualifying group.

"On the basis of the civil war there, and not least the shooting down of five EC peace monitors, I find it very hard to see how Yugoslavia can be among the participants in the European finals this summer," Johansson was quoted as saying in the Danish daily Berlingske Tidende.

But Marovic said there was nothing about the make-up of the Yugoslav team that could place in question its participation in the finals.

Croatia and Slovenia which declared independence from the Yugoslav federation last June have no players included in the Yugoslav team.

New book on sports

Sports Reporter

The publication ceremony of "Some Thoughts on Sports," a book written in English by M A Rashid, a former Secretary of the erstwhile National Sports Control Board and Director of the Bangladesh Krira Shikkhya Protisthan (BKSP), was held in the city yesterday.

In the hard-bound 202-page edition the author narrates his rich experience of the goings-on and problems of the country's sporting arena to which he has been privy from close quarters in the late 70s and 80s.

The book contains as many as 43 chapters on administration, planning and development, coaching and training,

selected games, sports personalities, national and international meets and other related subjects especially of the last two decades. The language of the book, according to the author, is to facilitate the foreigners to acquaint themselves with the peculiarities, problems and prospects of Bangladesh sports.

The publication ceremony was attended, among others, by Shamsul Huda Chowdhury, former Jatiya Sangsad Speaker, Mobarak Hossain Khan of Radio Bangladesh, noted sports writers and commentators and members of the media.

The book, fourth by the author, is priced at Taka 200.

Frenchman claims English title

BIRMINGHAM, England, Jan 12: Jean-Philippe Gatien became the first Frenchman to win the English Open table tennis title for almost 40 years after making a dramatic recovery at the National Indoor Arena here on Saturday, reports AFP.

His 18-21, 19-21, 21-12, 21-13, 21-4 final victory over Norwegian Wang Yansheng, in a field containing all three of Sweden's world title winning trio confirmed Gatien as a front-runner for Olympic medals this year.

However, he looked to be on the way out when Wang Yansheng, who has improved markedly since quitting Beijing three years ago, took a two-game lead.

Then the Paris-based world number five found an answer to the puzzling long pimples which Wang employed to great effect with blocks and counter-hits on his backhand side.

"I had a lot of difficulty, but

in the second game I got used to the pimples and tried to play more on his forehand," said Gatien.

"I was nervous when I went two games down, and knew I had to get a good start at each of the next three games."

Gatien managed that most spectacularly in the fifth and final game when he concluded an opening sequence of five points on his serve with six tremendous smashes.

That helped him to a runaway finish in which Wang good-humouredly played five shots in the last rally, exhibition-style, outside the barriers, to the crowd's delight.

Gatien's victory made him his country's first English Open winner since Michel Huguener in 1953.

Later Mirjam Hooman, who earlier beat defending champion Mika Hoshino, went on to become the first Dutch women's winner for 30 years.

Hooman won 21-13, 21-19, 18-21, 21-19 against Romania's Otilia Badescu, semifinal conqueror of the top-seeded China-born Canadian Geng Lijuan.

Armenia asks for IOC membership

MOSCOW, Jan 12: Armenia's Olympic Committee has officially asked for membership of the International Olympic Committee, reports AFP.

Armenia declared its independence last September, but is a member of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The republic's Olympic Committee president Levon Ter-Petrosian said, "We have sporting traditions dating back to antiquity."

Tass news agency reported that Ter-Petrosian had sent a letter to IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch requesting membership.