

Lewis aims to leap past record

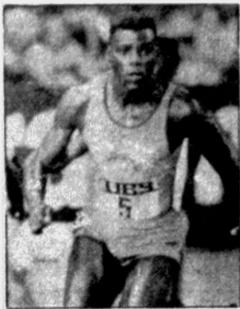
NEW YORK, Feb 18: After chasing the world long jump record for 10 years, finally surpassing it — and still not being No. 1 — Carl Lewis appears more intent on regaining the top spot, reports AP.

Lewis, the two-time Olympic gold medalist in the long jump, never had reached 29 feet (8.84 metres), no less Bob Beamon's world record distance of 29-2 1/2 (8.90 metres), until accomplishing it three times in the World Championships at Tokyo last year. One of his jumps was 29-2 3/4 (8.91 metres), one-quarter inch (0.63 centimetres) farther than Beamon's best at the 1968 Olympics but it was wind-aided, and would not have counted as a world record.

Meanwhile, Mike Powell got off a momentous legal jump of 29-4 1/2 (8.95 metres), shattering Beamon's 23-year-old world record and relegating Lewis to second place at the Championships — his first loss after winning 65 consecutive competitions over 10 years.

"Mike was more prepared than I was and got the big jump," Lewis said Monday from Houston. "I jumped as well as I could under the conditions. Since then, I've worked on

some things during the off-season. I'll be better prepared... I think I can jump 30 feet (9.14 meters)... if the conditions are right. Physically, there is no doubt I can jump that far. Of course, there are a lot of variables."



CARL LEWIS

Those variables include his physical and mental condition, the weather, the runway and the competition. Lewis is preparing for all contingencies.

Most specifically, he plans to compete more times this year than last. Competing only once prior to the World Championships — a half-inch (1.27 centimetres) victory over Powell with his final jump in the national championships —

was not enough. "This year, I think I will be able to jump farther than last year, because I'll be better prepared," Lewis said. This time, he will be more competitively fit. He already has jumped once, winning at 27-10 1/4 (8.49 meters), at Stockholm, Sweden, and will jump again indoors at the Mobil Championships Feb. 28 in New York's Madison Square Garden.

Outdoors, he plans to jump in the Houston invitational and possibly one other meet before the U.S. Olympic trials at New Orleans in late June.

It is uncertain whether Lewis will compete in the long jump at the Summer Games in Barcelona. He said he would enter the 100 meter and 200 meter dashes and the long jump at the trials. If he makes the team in all three events, he will compete in the 100 and either the 200 or long jump-plus the 400-meter relay.

Lewis won golds in the four events at the 1984 Los Angeles Games, and golds in the 100 and long jump at the 1988 Seoul Olympics. No track athlete has won three golds in the same event at the Olympics so the 100 would present Lewis with an opportunity to make history. (Only field event athletes have earned at least three golds in the same event)



Unified Team ice dancers Marina Klimova and Sergei Ponomarenko perform during the free dance portion of the programme in Albertville on Feb 17. The couple finished in the first place. —AFP photo

Russian pair makes history

ALBERTVILLE, France, Feb 18: A Russian couple, skating sensuously to Bach, edged the French favourites and defending world champions Monday night to win the gold medal in ice dancing, reports AP.

Marina Klimova and Sergei Ponomarenko held on to their first place standing with a brilliant free programme, sweeping all three portions of the competition. Isabelle and Paul Duchesnay, who have captivated France, were noticeably tense in performing a difficult and spectacular routine to the music from "West Side Story".

They finished second in the free skate, gaining the silver medal.

Another couple from the Unified Team of former Soviet athletes, Maria Usova and Alexander Zhulin, took the bronze medal.

Entering the competition in second place behind the Unified couple, the Duchesnays skated last, right after the leaders.

The over capacity audience

was jubilant at the end of the Duchesnays' "West Side Story" routine, but the judges narrowly decided it was second best. Four judges, from Britain, Finland, Hungary and France, had them first in the free dance. The Unified Team judge had them third.

Klimova Ponomarenko won the bronze medal in the 1984 Olympics and the silver in 1988.

The Duchesnays had moved up from third after the compulsory dance to second after Sunday night's original dance. But to win the gold, they would have needed to beat Klimova Ponomarenko by two places in the free dance.

The former Soviet Union had won all but one Olympics dance gold medal since the event joined the schedule in 1976. The only couple to break that string were Britain's Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean in 1984. Dean now is Isabelle Duchesnay's husband and the team's choreographer.

Klimova and Ponomarenko's programme began with 18 seconds of twists and lifts while one or the other — or both — were lying on the ice. It

progressed majestically, highlighted by several unusual lifts, including one where she was held upside down wrapped around his leg.

A half dozen other unique lifts and carries led to a furious finish in which Ponomarenko lifted his wife high, then helped her drop softly to the ice. After a long ovation, the Russians received marks ranging from 5.5 to 5.9. The 5.5 came from the French judge, who had given the couple low numbers all week. It was booed heartily by the spectators.

With no chance for the gold, the Duchesnays went out and skated superbly before their adopted countrymen — both grew up in Canada although Paul was born in France.

Their series of lifts and twists — plus a somersault by Paul and even one sequence where Isabelle lifts her brother twice — left them exhausted. They hugged for nearly a minute when the routine was done, while the fans saluted them with rhythmic clapping, foot stomping, flag waving and chants of "D00-SHA-NAY."

Krabbe's credibility under cloud

BERLIN, Feb 18: Sprint star Katrin Krabbe turned in suspect drug tests even before she won two World Championships in Tokyo last year, German sports officials confirmed Monday, reports AP.

But they denied covering up for one of their top athletes, although one former anti-doping official acknowledged that "mistakes were made."

East Germans Krabbe, Grit Breuer and Silke Meoller were suspended for four years on Saturday after second tests showed that their urine samples — though drug-free — had come from the same person.

Similar results were found in tests taken of Krabbe and Breuer back in July 1991, shortly before Krabbe won the 100-meter and 200-meter championships in Tokyo.

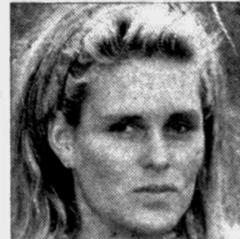
Breuer, 20, won silver in the 400 meters in Tokyo, while Meoller, 27, is a former 100 meters world champion.

Jaqn Kern, general secretary for the German Track Federation, said the 1991 tests from Krabbe, Breuer and track teammate Manuela Derr were negative and did not warrant disciplinary action. He said officials didn't take action until after follow-up tests of Krabbe, Breuer and Meoller were taken on Jan. 24 while they were training in South Africa.

The Rous, who was chief of the German Sports Federation's anti-doping

commission until last autumn, said this group informed track officials about the irregularities in the 1991 tests.

"I don't think there was an attempt to sweep things under the rug," he told the German Sports Information Service.



KATRIN KRABBE

"But mistakes were made."

Krabbe and the others have until March 15 to appeal their suspensions, and it's possible they could be stripped of their medals — just as Ben Johnson lost his gold at the 1988 Olympics.

The German Track Federation President, Helmut Meyer, said the International Amateur Athletic Federation would have to decide whether Krabbe and Breuer will lose their World Championships.

IAAF spokeswoman Jayne Pearce said in London the group is waiting for a final ruling from the German federation, which would presumably come after the appeal process

is exhausted.

Krabbe's trainer, Thomas Springstein, was also suspended. He, like Krabbe and Breuer, have denied they manipulated the tests. Moeller has made no public comment.

"It's as though I had taken a blow to the head," Krabbe said Monday in an interview with the Nordkurier, the newspaper in her hometown of Neubrandenburg. "I cannot grasp it and I can only say again and again, we are not guilty."

The suspensions sent shockwaves through a nation celebrating its dominance of the Winter Olympics in Albertville, a success largely attributable to former East German athletes.

Krabbe and the others were top medal hopefuls heading into the Summer Olympics in Barcelona, Spain.

Krabbe, Breuer and Meoller are products of former East Germany's sports programme which officials have said sanctioned the use of performance-enhancing drugs.

The suspensions triggered an outcry in former East Germany, where Krabbe is easily the most popular athlete. She has millions of dollars in endorsements and, with her cover girl looks, is a favorite of the German tabloids.

Klaus-Peter Bollek, mayor of Krabbe's hometown, said he suspected that jealousy and resentment by West German sports authorities may be behind the disciplining of Krabbe and the others.

Countdown to the Benson & Hedges World Cup — II

A. M. Chowdhury

All the nine competing teams are now warming up in Australia and New Zealand for the Fifth World Cup, named this time the Benson and Hedges Cup, one-day cricket's most prestigious trophy. Cricket lovers all over the world are looking forward to the grand extravaganza, which begins on Saturday, February 22 and the champion side shall hold the trophy in the evening of March 25.

The road to that glorious moment is definitely not going to be an easy and smooth one. Nail-biting moments and tension gripping right up to the last ball in quite a few encounters are natural expectations of the spectators and viewers all over the cricketing world. Who is going to be that proud skipper? That is the big question?

We shall try to analyse the prospects of each of the competing teams and attempt to answer the question; and this will be done as an exercise for pleasure and definitely not in the form of a prediction. Any keen follower of the game knows one certitude: in this game of glorious uncertainties, it is highly hazardous to make any prediction. This is especially true of one-day cricket: one hit-and-miss and, or, an out-of-the-ordinary performance by any bowler or batsman or even a fielder can turn a match topsy-turvy.

We may venture to divide the competing nations into two groups: the 'favourites', i.e., those who can be considered, judging from their past performances and present line-ups, to be among the last four in the semi-finals; and the 'under-dogs', who are likely to

form the group of nations having derived some satisfaction by having played in the tournament and are likely to go back home with some glorious moments to be cherished for the next four years and having learnt a lot for future application.

We may conveniently begin with the second group in which I shall place — hope I will be forgiven for my arbitrary but not illogical classification — Zimbabwe, South Africa, Sri Lanka and New Zealand. But I shall also emphasize one point at the outset: any of these four are capable of producing an upset or two in the first round matches, and should one of them make it to the last four the surprise will definitely be pleasant.

Zimbabwe, the non-Test playing ICC champion playing their third World Cup competition, is the most unlikely team to go beyond the first round. Lacking in quality and volume of international exposure, Zimbabwe do have a few batsmen from whom they can expect a respectable total, but their bowling lacks penetrative power. The mainstay of their batting will be their skipper Dave Houghton, who has played over 130 one-day games and has more than 3500 runs to his credit.

In the Fourth World Cup Houghton, with his outstanding innings of 141 from 138 balls, had nearly snatched a victory from New Zealand, chasing NZ's total of 243 they fell short by only 3 runs. Andy Pycroft, Kevin Arnott, Andy Flower and Andy Walker would provide support to their skipper in giving some respectability to their innings. But their bowling is likely to prove inadequate for top level

competition. Eddo Brandes with his pace and John Traicos with his guileful off-spin may pose some problems for the opposing batsmen. Other bowlers, of unknown and unproven quality, may have in store some surprises, but whether they will prove match-winners is doubtful.

Their fielding, which was considered to be of a high standard in the 1987 World Cup, may provide good back-up to the bowlers. It would be too much to expect them to win against the experienced test playing sides. At the same time, may I remind the readers, they did beat Australia in the preliminary round of the 1983 tournament and this defeat cost Australia a place in the semi-finals. Moreover, they had India reeling at 51 for 5 and Kapil Dev's career best innings of 175 save the day for India. Remember, India won the Cup in 1983.

The South African cricketers are expected to celebrate their come-back to the international arena with some success. Their 21 years of isolation is long enough to leave them in a state of quick heartbeats and it would take them some time to settle down and by the time they do so, it is likely the competition will be over for them. Their recent convincing victory against India in the Delhi match may serve as a morale-booster for them. In one of the warm-up matches Down Under, they even beat Pakistan. I shall not be surprised if the new-look team under the leadership of the experienced Kepler Wessels shock a few of the top contenders. Wessels' knowledge of the Australian conditions will be an advantage. Their batting line-up is fairly impressive: Kepler Wessels

shall have the support of Andrew Hudson, Adrian Kuper, Peter Kirsten, Hansie Cronje, Mark Rushmore and Jonty Rhodes.

Their bowling is going to be spearheaded by Alan Donald, reputed to be the fastest white bowler in the game, who shall have support from Richard Snell, Meyrick Pringle and Tertius Bosch. The all-round ability of Brian McMillan, a bowler of no mean quality, Peter Kirsten and Adrian Kuper may also come handy for Wessels.

The veteran spinner Omar Henry, if he finds a place for himself in the first eleven, may be Wessels' surprise for his opponents. Their fielding, already acclaimed to be of the top order, may be their plus point. South Africa, thus is the team to watch for surprises and some of the fancied sides may be in for shock, which may even jeopardise their possibility of securing a semi-final berth, and Kim Hughes' forecast about their reaching the last stage of the tournament may not be altogether a day-dream.

The Sri Lankans may also prove to be giant killers, though their chance of reaching the last stage is very slender. In the 1979 World Cup Sri Lanka, even before attaining Test status, beat India by 47 runs. In 1983 they shocked the New Zealanders by beating them by 3 wickets and thereby facilitated Pakistan's passage to the Semi-Finals. From the fourth World Cup the Sri Lankans returned empty-handed. Their present team have a few very talented players. In their skipper Aravinda de Silva they have a very hard hitting batsman; with his

diminutive stature and the ability to play shots square of the wickets, he possesses the capability of winning a match even single-handedly. Roshan Mahanama is now a much improved batsman and their best fielder. Sannath Jayasuriya is a very attractive batsman among the new finds; he averaged 79.3 in the four Test innings in the recently concluded Pakistan tour though his collection of only 34 runs in the five one-day matches do not do justice to his potentials. Arjuna Ranatunga, a veteran campaigner, has the ability to dictate terms with any attack on his day. Hashan Tillekeratne, the dashing wicket-keeper batsman, Asanka Gurusingha, the stylish left-hander, Chandika Hatturusingha and Aithula Samarasekhara are all capable of giving competent support. What they would need most is the determination to apply themselves. Their bowling, however, is just average.

Rumesh Ratnayake, Champaka Ramanayaka, Kapila Vijayagunawardhena and Premadasa Wickramasinghe are capable pacemen and on Australian wickets may pose problems for some of the best batsmen. Ruwan Kalpage, Aithula Samarasekhara and Arjuna Ranatunga are all-rounders, while Don Anurasiri is the only specialist spinner in the team. Their fielding is enthusiastic but often slippery.

New Zealand, after their recent thrashing at the hand of England (lost the one-dayers 0-3 and the tests 0-2), will be under tremendous mental pressure in the World Cup matches. The team, in some sort of a mess in the process of rebuilding, may not be a serious contender for the top positions, but it is not unlikely that they will lead among the

bottom four. Their strength is in their batting with Martin Crowe heading the line-up. In Andrew Jones the Kiwis have one of the leading batsmen in one-day cricket, in 54 matches he has 21 fifties to his credit.

Capable support can be expected from Rod Latham, John Wright, Ken Rutherford, Mark Greatbatch, Chris Harris, Dipak Patel, Ian Smith and Chris Cairns. Their bowling, in the absence of Sir Richard, does not look that impressive, but the inclusion of Murphy Su'a has added some strength to the pace department, which largely depends on Danny Morrison (yet to come to his own this season), Willie Watson and Chris Cairns. Rod Latham and Gavin Larsen could also be useful.

New Zealand will enjoy the home ground advantage, or it could be a disadvantage as well, to the maximum since they are going to play all their eight first round matches on home grounds. If Martin Crowe, a top quality batsman in present day international cricket, is highly doubtful he can be a threat to any attack. New Zealand shall have to work hard to lead the table among the last four; South Africa and Sri Lanka would definitely be serious contenders for the position. All three are capable of putting up an up-set result in any game and if one among the three succeed in edging out one of the top favourites and find a place in the last four it will definitely be a great surprise and, would you dispute if I say, a most pleasant one? Cricket followers love such surprises and that is why cricket is such a fascinating game. (Analysis of the top contenders shall follow tomorrow)

Boon for Jansher

CARDIFF, Feb 18: The injury which has put the world's greatest squash player, Jahangir Khan, in hospital in Karachi this week has immediately benefitted his nearest rival, Pakistani compatriot Jansher Khan, reports AFP.

Jahangir Khan's ricked back has not only delayed his tournament comeback and postponed his British Open build-up, but has also given Jansher Khan a better draw in one of the circuit's biggest events, the Leekes Welsh classic which begins here Wednesday.

The former world champion has now become to seed and may have an earlier semifinal tie against world number five Chris Robertson in the 85,000 pound tournament.

A redraw has become obligatory since the change of rules that followed the row over Jahangir's withdrawal from the 1990 World Open in Toulouse. On that occasion the draw was left bizarrely lopsided.

Jansher may not find it easy against Robertson, a member of Australia's world-title-winning team, because the Brisbane man will be playing before his adopted home crowd in Wales.

However, a good performance by the man from Epsawar could take him back to the top of the world rankings at the end of the month, as Jahangir will be allotted zero points for this event.

The latest news on the legend, who hopes to extend his record of British Open titles to 11 at Wembley in April, is

that Jahangir still hopes his back will be right for a comeback in Madrid next week for the Spanish Open.

Jahangir has not played a world circuit tournament for three months since injuring a leg at the Kiel Open, although he won an invitation event in Kuwait a week ago by beating world number three Chris Dittmar.

Meanwhile, Rodney Martin, who beat Jahangir in the World Open final in Adelaide in August, has not been on the circuit for four months, and expects to make his tournament comeback at Cardiff.

"It has been a long and very hard road to recovery," said manager Mike Walton of Martin's foot-ligament injury. "He couldn't rush or he risked getting more scar tissue."

"But we are hopeful he will play well from the start," added Walton, even though his player suffered an odd loss to England number 13 Danny Meddings in the British League last week.

BDR school sports

Sports Reporter

The two-day long inter-house annual sports meet of the Bangladesh Rifles High School began at the Pilkhana Sector field yesterday, says a press release.

Students from Shere Bangla Fazul Haq House, Doctor Muhammad Shahidullah House, Kazi Nazrul Islam House and Doctor Quadrat-e-Khuda House are taking part in 16 events of the competition.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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of pram | 33 Windy-
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| 18 Puff of air | 55 Bud or
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Yesterday's answer 8-19

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8-19 CRYPTOQUIP

W J H I M H E Q I J V M R G E * O L
P G G A Z G G A H W N H U J X X L
N H U H W R Q I J U I H M ' W
J Z G V M M R L O Q
Yesterday's Cryptiquip: TO IMPROVE BUSINESS, THE BICYCLE INDUSTRY HIRED A LIKEABLE SPOKES-MAN.

Today's Cryptiquip clue: M equals T
The Cryptiquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.