

Ban on Krabbe, others lifted



DARMSTADT, Germany, Apr 7: Germany's Athletics Federation (DLV) lifted sprinter Katrin Krabbe's four-year doping ban on Sunday, in a decision anti-doping campaigners criticised as a setback in the fight against drugs in sport, reports Reuter.

Double world sprint champion Krabbe and teammates Grit Breuer and Silke Moeller won an appeal to the DLV's independent legal commission against February's ban for manipulating urine samples during random tests in South Africa in January.

"The suspension for the doping infringement has been lifted," commission chairman Guenter Emig said after the commission deliberated for more than 3 1/2 hours on Sunday.

Citing irregularities in the testing procedure, he said: "There are holes in the chain of evidence... It has been proved that there were people present at the doping test who should not have been there."

The decision must still be ratified by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), the sport's ruling body, before the athletes can run in international events including the Barcelona Olympic Games in July.

IAAF general secretary Istvan Gyulai refused to speculate about how the IAAF might rule after they have received an official report from the DLV.

Speaking in Budapest, he said the IAAF had the authority to overrule the DLV decision.

EASTERN GERMANS HAPPY

Meanwhile, another report from Berlin said: Eastern Germans on Monday greeted the lifting of the doping ban on Katrin Krabbe as a rare triumph against high-handed West Germans but agreed it could discourage strict testing of suspect athletes in future, reports Reuter.

"A golden acquittal — Katrin's greatest victory" — crowed the East German tabloid Super, after a legal commission lifted the ban on Krabbe and two fellow East German sprinters imposed by the German Athletics Association (DLV).

East German media described the verdict as a resounding slap in the face for the DLV, whose disciplinary move was regarded by many East Germans as yet another West German plot to marginalise them in reunified Germany.

"The Krabbe affair had an East-West dimension. Small wonder that a sensitised East German asks whether there was more to this than met the eye," the Saechsische Zeitung daily of Dresden said.

"Was there a (West German) desire to squish one of eastern Germany's few bearers of hope — if only in sports? What would have happened if a good lawyer had not cracked open the DLV's chain of evidence?"

The post-unification success of German athletes reared in former communist East Germany's vaunted sport system is virtually the only beacon emanating from an eastern region plagued by mass unemployment and social decay.

"I think a factor in this doubtful affair was that Krabbe seemed so self-confident in German Swimming Federation rules.

Krabbe, commenting in the mass-circulation Bild newspaper, urged the DLV to accept the verdict: "The DLV should not try to persecute us. They have to live with me and vice versa."

Observers abroad asserted the Krabbe doping affair had ended in farce smearing the reputation of world athletics. "Krabbe — the great parody," the French sports daily L'Equipe declared.

It called Sunday's decision "baffling, bewildering and ridiculous" and said it was "one of the greatest slaps in the face inflicted on those who, under the aegis of the international Olympic Committee, agitate in favour of a healthy sport rid of this gangrene, this doping."

L'Equipe asked: "Are there now two categories of dope offenders? The ordinary, naive and docile ones who bow their heads and the privileged ones who protest their innocence, show their teeth and use a scalpel to dissect the procedures with the help of lawyers?"

"If so, the anti-doping fight might as well not exist."

New NSC secy
Sports Reporter
S M Ali Kabir has been appointed secretary of the National Sports Council with effect from April 1.

He replaces Akhtar Hossain Khan.

Meanwhile Akhtar Hossain Khan has been appointed Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

Meanwhile, the government has appointed Mohammad Enamul Haq, Inspector General of Police (IGP) as president of the Bangladesh Deaf Sports Federation replacing S A Hakim.

Imran hints at retirement
ISLAMABAD, Apr 7: Imran Khan, who led Pakistan to a historic World Cup victory last month, has indicated that his shoulder injury may force him to the sidelines soon, reports AFP.

"The post-imran era may come very soon as I have damaged my shoulder a lot while playing in Australia for about five weeks," said the 39-year-old cricket captain during a television interview Monday.

The legendary all-rounder, who injured his right shoulder during the pre-World Cup matches in Australia, said that would help Pakistan cricket was not personalities but proper cricketing institutions.

The Pakistan side are to start a five-Test tour of England, the World Cup runners-up, in early May.

Replying to a question about the criticism he received for not mentioning the team's effort in his speech after winning the trophy in Melbourne he said "the criticism is legitimate."

But, he added, that it was not a prepared speech and "I was overawed by emotions when I went on stage."

Henry preferred over Pringle
KINGSTON, Apr 7: Spinner Omar Henry was a surprise inclusion in South Africa's cricket team to face West

Indies at Sabina Park today in the first match of their best-of-three one-day international series, reports Reuter.

Henry, 40, the first non-white player to represent South Africa in unofficial Tests, was selected on Monday ahead of seamer Meyrick Pringle.

Coach Mike Procter said wicketkeeper David Richardson would have a late fitness test on a bruised foot.

TEAM: Kepler Wessels (captain), Andrew Hudson, Peter Kirsten, Adrian Kulper, Hansie Cronje, Jonty Rhodes, Omar Henry, David Richardson, Corrie Van Zyl, Richard Snell, Allan Donald.

Tendulkar signs for Yorkshire
NEW DELHI, Apr 7: Indian prodigy Sachin Tendulkar signed a one-year contract to play cricket for Yorkshire today on Saturday, becoming the English country's first overseas player, reports AFP.

Yorkshire Cricket Club chief executive Chris Massell flew to Bombay to sign up the brilliant 18-year-old batsman and got this signature in the suburb of Thann where Tendulkar celebrated with a blazing century in a charity match.

Tendulkar is a very talented player and he would be an asset to Yorkshire," the Press Trust of India (PTI) quoted Massell as saying.

Yorkshire approached Tendulkar, one of the world's finest young batsmen, after their original choice, Australian pace bowler Craig McDermott, withdrew with injury.

The teenaged sensation smashed eight sixes and eight fours in a match winning 103 not out off 49 balls in Saturday's charity match between two local elevens that featured several big names of Indian cricket.

Sabatini retains trophy



HILTON HEAD ISLAND, South Carolina, Apr 7: Top seed Gabriela Sabatini successfully defended her title at the Family Circle Cup tennis tournament on Sunday with a convincing 6-1, 6-4 win over fifth-seeded Spaniard Conchita Martinez, reports Reuter.

Sabatini, who is often at her best early in the clay court season, dominated the first set and used an aggressive net game to maintain control in the tougher second set.



GABRIELA SABATINI... at her best

"That made the difference," said Sabatini, who earned 110,000 dollars for her third title of the year. "Coming to the net was good because she could be very tough if she starts to take control of the match."

Martinez, ranked eighth in the world, came out missing with her big forehand and Sabatini took full advantage, mixing solid groundstrokes with drop volleys to take a 3-0 lead.

The third-ranked Argentine broke Martinez for a second time to take a 5-1 lead and then volleyed her way out of a break point before holding serve for the set.

But Sabatini confidently fought off a pair of break points in the second game and broke Martinez in the third with a forehand winner off a dropshot for a 2-1 lead.

Sabatini faltered for the first time from the service line in the sixth game when a double-fault enabled Martinez to level the set 3-3.

From then on, both players battled hard for every point, each fending off break opportunities in every game. Sabatini broke through for 5-4 with another carefully timed cross-court drop volley.

Martinez held three break points in the final game, but Sabatini saved herself each time and ended the contest on her first match point with her trademark shot of the match — a backhand drop volley.

Edberg outplays Evernden



TOKYO, Apr 7: Top-seeded Stefan Edberg, scoring with what he said was a changed serve, beat Kally Evernden of New Zealand 6-3, 6-4 Tuesday in the second round of the 1.19 million Japan Open Tennis Championships, reports AP.

In a first round match, 11th-seeded Jimmy Connors of the United States battled through a first-set tiebreaker and 13 deuces in the second set's second game before beating Byron Black of Zimbabwe 7-6 (7-5), 6-3.

"I'm moving better. I play well here (Tokyo) and this was a good match. I changed my serve and groundstrokes a bit. I was hitting the ball too close to my body, but I have found my game again," said Edberg, the defending champion.

The Swede, leading American Jim Courier 3,419 points to 3,397 in the race for the world No 1 ranking, added: "My main concern is to remain on top on Dec 31, 1992. It's going to be a race to the end of the year."

Courier, seeded second here, had a first-round bye. Edberg's was the only second round men's match played Tuesday.

Evernden, ranked 145th in the world, broke Edberg just once — in the second set's eighth game — in their 61-minute contest on the hard

court of Ariak Colosseum. Edberg wrapped up the match with three service winners in cold, windy conditions.

"It was a little bit like the grim Swedish weather," Edberg said.

The 39-year-old Connors clinched his match with two passing shots.

Connors said it was last year's Japan Open that started "me thinking I could come back and hit a few shots" after a layoff for wrist surgery.

"As far as winning matches — that started here. I could push and guide a few balls," he added.

In other first round matches, ninth-seeded Aaron Krickstein of the United States beat Swedish qualifier Henrik Holm 6-3, 6-2.

Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands, seeded 10th, beat Alex Antonitsch of Austria 6-3, 6-3 and 15th-seeded Wally Masur of Australia beat American qualifier David Pat 6-4, 6-3.

In women's singles, top-seeded Amy Frazier beat fellow American compatriot Kimberly Po 6-2, 6-4 in a first round match.

In second-round matches, second-seeded Sabine Appelmans of Belgium dined Japan's Yone Kamio 6-1, 6-2, Japan's Naoko Sawamoto defeated Isabelle Demongot of France 6-2, 6-4 and fifth-seeded Natalia Medvedeva of Ukraine beat Japan's Rika Hiraki 6-3, 6-1.

But sixth-seeded Yayuk Basuki of Indonesia and seventh-seeded Catarina Lindqvist of Sweden were eliminated.

Qualifier Wang Shi-ting of Taiwan shocked Basuki 6-4, 6-3 in the first round and Montique Javer of Britain beat Lindqvist 6-4, 7-5 in the second.

The men's singles winner receives dhs 144,000 and the women's champion dhs 27,000.

The tournament is sponsored by Suntory, a leading Japanese beverage maker.

No Olympic place for Bosnia-Herzegovina



MINSK, Belarus, Apr 7: International Olympic Committee president Juan Antonio Samaranch said Tuesday there was no chance of the breakaway Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina competing as an independent nation in the Summer Games, reports AP.

The European Community recognised the republic Monday as an independent state but Samaranch said there is not enough time for the IOC to take similar action for the Barcelona Olympics.

"It is too late for Barcelona," he said during a stop in Minsk, the fourth leg of his tour of six former Soviet republics.

Samaranch said the IOC had not received any application for membership from Bosnia-Herzegovina. "First of all, they must have a national Olympic committee, then ask for recognition and so on," he said.

"We will not push. We will wait and see, but I'm quite sure there's no time for Barcelona."

Samaranch said the situation differed from that of the former Yugoslav republics of Croatia and Slovenia, which were granted IOC recognition late last year in time for them to compete independently in the Albertville Winter Games.

"I don't know what this (EC) recognition means," he said. "Who are they recognising? I think it's not clear. There are three different communities — the Muslims, the Serbs and the Croats."

In any case, Samaranch said he didn't believe that Bosnia-Herzegovina had many Olympic athletes.

Yugoslavia, Croatia and Slovenia are expected to compete as separate teams in Barcelona.

Jacques Rogge, president of the Association of European National Olympic Committees, said he hopes a solution can be found to allow athletes from Bosnia-Herzegovina to take part in a type of unified team with Yugoslavia.

"The most important thing is for the athletes to be protected, for the athletes to participate," Rogge said.

Krickstein lifts title by defying doctors' advice

JOHANNESBURG, Apr 7: Aaron Krickstein ignored doctors' advice, and won the 300,000 dollar South African Open tennis tournament on Sunday by beating top-seeded Russian Alexander Volkov 6-4, 6-4, reports Reuter.

Doctors had advised American Krickstein, seeded fourth, to drop out because of a foot injury.

But he decided to play on and his 77-minute victory in the final kept intact his record of not dropping a set throughout the tournament, the first South African Open since 1985 to have the backing of the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP).

Volkov, 25, broke Krickstein's serve in the fifth game of the first set but made a string of errors in the next and surrendered his own service game.

The 24-year-old American, who dropped only 21 games throughout the week, broke again in the 10th game to take the set.

In the second set, there were six breaks of serve in the first seven games before Krickstein took control.

Spain's biggest squad for Barcelona

MADRID, Apr 7: Hosts Spain will send a record number of 810-member sports delegation to participate in the Barcelona Olympic Games in July, a sports official said here on Wednesday, reports Xinhua.

Joaquin Agulla, press official of the Spanish Olympic Committee, said 504 athletes (343 male and 161 female) will compete in 25 official sports. Fifty-six athletes (48 male and eight female) will take part in three demonstration sports.



KATRIN KRABBE... successful appeal



File photo of Krabbe (extreme right), Silke Moeller and Grit Breuer during their training stint in South Africa last January when the controversial dope tests were carried out.

public and earned so much money (it) offended West German perceptions that East Germans shouldn't be so high and mighty," an east Berlin woman said.

The Thueringer Allgemeine newspaper said: "We are still left with the (East-West) chasm dividing German sport." It cited what it called a cross contrast between Krabbe's four-year ban and the six-month suspension of a West German swimmer for doping.

The six-month ban, imposed last month on swimmer Sven Hackmann, is the toughest penalty allowed under

tence and said officials responsible for the athletes' banishment should resign to shore up the credibility of German sport.

But they agreed with dismayed DLV officials who warned Sunday's decision could blunt a mounting crusade for sharper anti-doping controls in world-class athletics.

"What is this acquittal worth? It's a nice invitation to dope," the Berliner Kurier tabloid said. "No one can condemn Katrin Krabbe. If there is doubt, she has to be exonerated."

IAAF awaits DLV report

PARIS, Apr 7: International Amateur Athletics Federation officials have been unable to make any clear statement on whether Katrin Krabbe can run in the Barcelona Olympics, reports AFP.

"We are waiting for the report from the German Federation and at this stage can make no further comment," an IAAF spokesman said yesterday.

Although she was cleared of drugs cheating by the German Athletics Federation (DLV) on Sunday, the double world sprint champion needs the go-ahead from the sport's governing body.

IAAF administrative chief Pierre Weiss had said from London earlier in the day he hoped they would be able to make a statement after IAAF president Primo Nebiolo and general secretary Istvan Gyulai had studied press reports.

IAAF rules say the sport's governing body can refer contentious cases to its arbitration panel if it believes IAAF member federations have reached incorrect conclusions.

That panel will hear the case of Butch Reynolds, the 400m world record holder, on May 4 in London. The ruling could affect Krabbe's chances of running in Barcelona.

Reynolds, barred from competing internationally after a positive drugs test at Monaco in August, 1990, has already won his legal battle with the American athletics authorities.

The IAAF council, or management committee, meets in Toronto on May 29-30 when a decision on Krabbe should be made if the sport's administrators have been unable to make up their minds before then.

Duke cagers retain NCAA title



MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota, Apr 7: Duke's experience outlasted Michigan's youthful exuberance on Monday as the Blue Devils recovered from a sluggish first half to beat the Wolverines 71-51 and become the first team in 19 years to win back-to-back NCAA championships, reports Reuter.

Christian Laettner had 19 points, 14 of them in the second half, and Grant Hill added 18 points and 10 rebounds for the Blue Devils. Duke point guard Bobby Hurley, who scored nine points and had seven assists, was named the tournament's most valuable player.

Fans who paid scalpers more than US dollar 2,500 for seats in the Metrodome did not get their money's worth early in the game.

It was more than two minutes before Duke's Thomas Hill hit the game's first basket, and both teams turned the ball over often. In the first 20 minutes Duke and Michigan combined for 22 turnovers.

Laettner had the most trouble. In the game's first nine minutes he committed six turnovers and made only one of six field goal attempts.

While Michigan outplayed Duke in the first half, the Blue Devils' aggressive man-to-man defence kept things close. The Wolverines entered the locker room with just a 31-30 half-time lead.

But Duke opened the second half with a 7-2 run, including a driving lay-up and a three-pointer from a rejuvenated Laettner and the Blue Devils never trailed again.

The Blue Devils became the first back-to-back champions since the UCLA dynasty that held the national collegiate title from 1967 to 1973.

Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski, building a dynasty of his own with six final four appearances in the past seven years, said he was proud of the way his team came back.

"We just played with much more emotion in the second half, and we didn't turn the ball over," he said.

Laettner said he was able to improve his play in the second half by playing smarter. "I was just making very bad decisions and not taking care of the ball," he said of his first-half performance.

Michigan coach Steve Fisher said his team was outclassed in the second half. "They had a great team that took a really good team to task down the stretch."

"They're a terrific team and my hat's off to them."

He said his players were bitterly disappointed at letting the game slip away.

"Our kids fought long and hard for 40 minutes, and they're crushed," Fisher said. "Maybe in the second half we pressured ourselves a little bit and took shots that were ill-advised."

Asked what he would tell his young players, Fisher said: "Cry. That's part of it. And feel awful. But be proud of what you've done."

Duke beat Indiana 81-78 and Michigan defeated Cincinnati 76-72 to reach the final.

FIH approves new hockey rules

BRUSSELS, Apr 7: Field hockey will follow ice hockey and have rolling substitutes, the International Hockey Federation announced here on Monday, reports Xinhua.

After a meeting of its rule-making body, the federation announced its major rule change which will come into effect after the Barcelona Olympic Games.

It has been decided to allow the unrestricted interchange of players within a team of 16 but with never more than 11 playing at one time.

In another move, officials are banning a new zig-zag stick, insisting on the traditional straight handle and curved head.

Meanwhile, the federation has increased its size to 109 with provisional membership granted at the weekend to federations from Russia, Belarus, Croatia, Slovenia and Bulgaria.

Perkins swims to yet another world record

CANBERRA, Apr 7: Kieren Perkins broke the world record for the men's 1,500 metres freestyle event by nearly two seconds at the Australian Olympic Games swimming trials on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Perkins clocked 14 minutes 48.40 seconds to slice 1.96 seconds off the previous mark of 14.50.36 set by German Joerg Hoffmann at the World Championships in Perth in January 1991.

Afterwards his coach, John Carey, said Perkins is capable of swimming five seconds faster at the Summer Olympics in Barcelona.

"Based on tonight's effort he's going to do an awesome swim in Barcelona," Carey said.

It was the 18-year-old Queensland swimmer's second world record in three days — he broke the 400 metres freestyle mark on Friday — and his fourth in two months.

In February he established records in the 800 metres freestyle and 1,500 metres short course freestyle events.

Perkins, who had set his sights on the records before the race, was three seconds inside world record time in his first 100 metres and stayed ahead of schedule throughout.

But he said he thought he had made a tactical mistake by going out too fast in the first few hundred metres. He felt he was struggling in mid-race.

Beijing's bid to run Sydney close

CANBERRA, Apr 7: Beijing will be the most formidable opponent for Sydney in the turn-of-the-century Olympic Games bid, Kevan Gosper, vice-president of the International Olympic Committee said, reports Xinhua.

Basketball fans pelt policemen

ANN ARBOR, Michigan, Apr 7: Thousands of University of Michigan basketball fans pelted police with bottles and other objects late Monday, after their team lost the national college championship, police said, reports AFP.

No arrests were made and Lieutenant Harold Tinsey, of the Ann Arbor police, told Cable News Network that one policeman had been injured by a flying object.

The disturbance occurred when police on horseback tried to disperse some 5,000 fans gathered outside the university campus here, shortly after Michigan lost 71-51 to Duke University in the championship final in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

When police in riot gear were called in, the fans began hurling bottles and rocks but were forced to retreat into a campus building by several volleys of teargas.

Hundreds of fans remained outside burning trash cans, destroying street signs and hurling objects until order was restored, police said.