

Europeanising cricket!

LONDON, June 18: With many Continentals already jolly good at speaking English, Britain is making a new effort to ease cultural differences in the European Community: introducing cricket, reports AP.

Undeterred by the fact that many a Spaniard, Portuguese or Greek may scarcely have heard of the English passion, Britain has slotted a European cricket competition into the schedule for its six-month presidency of the community. It takes over July 1.

True to the tradition of a game once known for gentlemanly manners, England is holding back its full might. But the winners of the 10-nation European Cricketer Cup will get to play at Lord's, the north London ground that is the home to England's cricket team. They will face a team - called a side - chosen from the famed Marylebone Cricket Club.

"It won't, let's say, be a full cricket Test side or anything like that... But it will be a fully representative MCC side," explained Christopher Bazalgette, organiser of the July 12-17 competition near Sheffield, in north England.

The aim of the competition is to encourage the spread of cricket throughout Europe," he added in an interview.

Seven of the 12 community nations, France, Belgium, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Italy and Greece, have entered, along with three would-be members, Austria, Switzerland and Malta.

The competition, the brainchild of a cricketering bible, Cricketer International Journal, was first played in 1990 before being taken over as part of the official community programme by Britain.

Some countries, Bazalgette acknowledged, will be getting a bit of help from resident expatriates in their national teams - Indians, Pakistanis, Australians or others from the world's top cricketering nations. All were once part of the British Empire.

He added, "However, the Italian side is 90 per cent Italian and the Greek side is 100 per cent Greek."

Waqar decimates England



Pakistan were 31 without loss in reply to England's first innings total of 255 all out at close of play on the first day of the second cricket Test at Lord's yesterday, according to BBC monitored in Dhaka last night.

Rameez Raja was batting on 20 and Aamir Sohail on 10. A fine late burst by paceman Waqar Younis who finished with five for 91 helped Pakistan dismiss England an hour and a half after tea after England had threatened to put the Pakistani attack to the sword in the first session of play.

England skipper Graham Gooch won the toss and elected to bat. Gooch and his vice captain Alec Stewart gave England an ideal start by putting on 108 without loss at lunch. Pakistan's famed pace attack was unable to bother the openers on an easy-paced wicket. Akram was wayward during a nine-over spell, giving Gooch and Stewart numerous scoring opportunities down the leg side.

Gooch, who was 57 not out at lunch, passed Wally Hammond's aggregate of 7,249 runs. Only Geoff Boycott, David Gower and Colin Cowdrey have scored more Test runs for England.

But soon after lunch left-arm paceman Waseem Akram gave Pakistan the much-needed breakthrough when he bowled the England skipper for 69, made with the help of 13 boundaries. Joining Stewart with the total on 123, Graeme Hick didn't last long, being caught off the bowling of Waqar Younis for 13, giving the speedster the first of his five wickets.

Younis then bowled Allan Lamb for 30, Ian Botham for two, trapped Chris Lewis leg before for 2, and had Philip DeFreitas caught by Inzamam-ul-Haq for three.

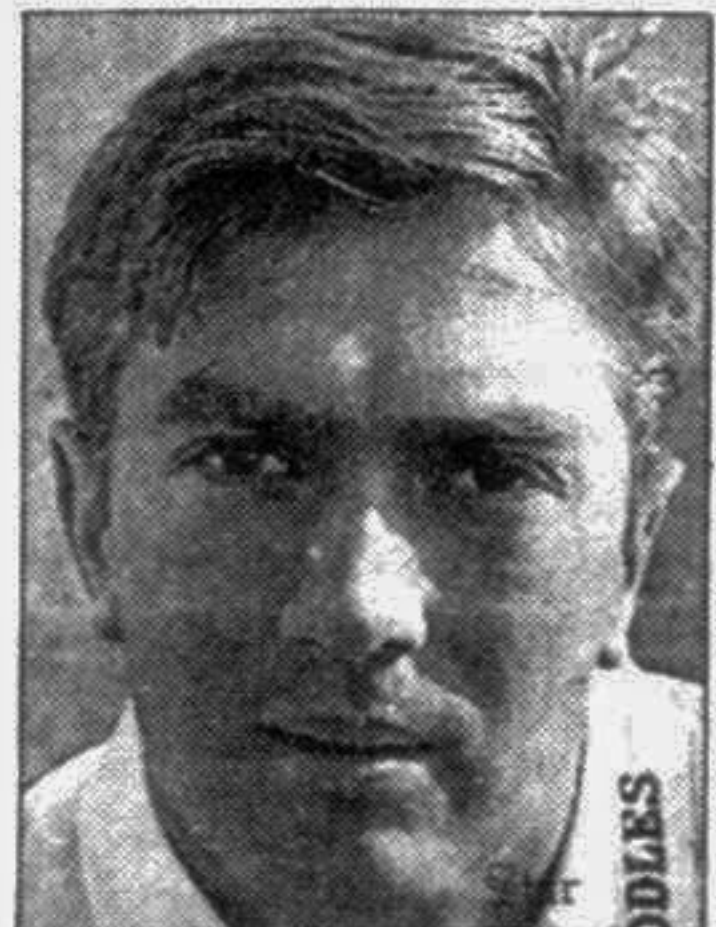
The tally took Younis's Tests wickets total to 77, more than half of which he has taken single-handed. He has

Sports Reporter

bowled 24 and had leg before decisions against 22. Akram also picked up Robin Smith's wicket for nine for figures of two for 49 while



WAQAR ... 5 for 91



IAN SALISBURY ... debut

Mushtaq took his first wicket when Test newcomer Ian Salisbury hit the wicket on four. The leg-spinner then trapped Devon Malcolm leg before for a duck to finish with two for 57.

England selectors had

gambled on five specialist batsmen and five bowlers for the Test, the first time since England's at-home 4-0 Ashes series defeat to Australia in 1989 that England have not used six specialist batsmen.

England gave Ian Salisbury his first Test cap, including him as one of five front-line bowlers.

Salisbury is the first leg-spinner to play for England since Robin Hobbs faced Pakistan at Headingley in 1971.

Fast bowler Devon Malcolm made his return to the Test team after a year, as England omitted all-rounder Derek Pringle and seamer Tim Munton from the original squad of 13.

For Pakistan, Waseem Akram returned after injury in place of Ataur Rehman.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the first day of the second cricket Test between England and Pakistan at Lord's on Thursday:

ENGLAND: First innings Gooch b Akram 69 Stewart c Miandad b Mujtaba 74

Hick c Miandad b Waqar 13 Smith c sub b Akram 9

Lamb b Waqar 30 Botham b Waqar 2

Lewis lbw b Waqar 2 Russell not out 22

DeFreitas c Inzamam b Waqar 3

Salisbury hit-wkt b Mushtaq 4 Malcolm lbw b Mushtaq 0

Extras: (b-6, lb-12, nb-9) 25

Total: 255

Fall of wickets: 1-123, 2-153, 3-172, 4-197, 5-213, 6-221, 7-232, 8-242, 9-247.

Bowling O M R W Waseem Akram 19 5 49 2 Aaqib Javed 14 3 40 0 Waqar Younis 21 4 91 5 Mushtaq Ahmed 19.1 5 47 2 Asif Mujtaba 3 3 0 1

PAKISTAN: First innings Aamir Sohail not out 10 Rameez Raja not out 20

Extra: 1

Total: (0 wkt) 31

Bowling O M R W DeFreitas 4 2 11 0 Malcolm 3 0 20 0

Middleton first to a 1000 runs

LONDON, June 18: Hampshire batsman Tony Middleton became the first player to reach 1,000 runs in the Current English county cricket season during his



MIDDLETON... milestone

side's match at Leicester on Wednesday reports Reuter.

Middleton, 28, completed the 16 runs he needed to reach the traditional landmark in the final over before lunch, edging out his closest rivals Nick Speak of Lancashire and Tim Curtis, Worcestershire's ex-Test opening batsman.

Tendulkar misses ton

LONDON, June 18: Indian teenager Sachin Tendulkar top scored with 93 as Yorkshire had country cricket champions Essex struggling to avoid defeat after the second day of their three-day match at Headingley on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

After conceding a first-innings lead of 138, Essex were reeling at 11 for three in their second innings at the close.

Although beginning the day on as lightly precarious 44 for three, Yorkshire rapidly took command, mainly through the exciting stroke-play of Tendulkar.

He hit a six and 12 fours from the 174 balls he faced before falling leg-before to John Stephenson.

Yorkshire slid to 262 for eight against some tight bowling by Stephenson and left-arm spinner John Childs but tailenders Craig White (69) and Jeremy Batty (49) joined in an enterprising stand of 92 in 18 overs to take the home side to 361.

Essex's position became desperate as Paul Prichard, Stephenson and Nasser Hussain fell in the first six overs of their second innings. Mark Robinson taking two of the wickets.

Worcestershire were on the verge of registering their first championship win of the season after forcing Glamorgan to follow on 257 in arrears at New Road.

Mosharrarf for US

Sports Reporter Mosharrarf Hossain Khan the former swimming ace, leaves Dhaka for the USA today to take part in the fourth World Masters' swimming competition to be held in Indiana from June 25 to July 5.

Mosharrarf had participated in the second World Masters meet in Denmark winning three golds and four silvers, said a Swimming Federation press release.

Body-building nationals today

Sports Reporter The fourteenth national body-building competition will be held today at 5 pm at the National Sports Council gymnasium.

Organised by the Bangladesh Amateur Body Building Federation, the meet is being sponsored by Shah Sports, a local sports goods dealer.

Superb Swedes sweep into semis



STOCKHOLM, June 18: Sweden swept into the European Championship semifinals with a

magical second half performance against outclassed England on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

The hosts suffered shock reverse when David Platt fired England ahead in the fourth minute but turned disaster into triumph by a 2-1 margin.

On a memorable and emotional night for Scandinavian soccer which saw outsiders Denmark join their neighbours in the last four, Sweden showed a level of both passion and skill England could never hope to match.

Defender Jan Eriksson stunned England within six minutes of the restart when he headed Sweden's equaliser and his second goal of the tournament past a flailing Chris Woods from a Stefan Schwarz corner.

And the dynamic Tomas Brodin cemented his place as a hero in the hearts of Swedish fans with a stunning goal eight minutes from time after a one-two with Martin Dahling.

The home crowd exploded with excitement as their hero finished off a hopelessly over-run English side that had looked in the first half like resurrecting their miserable championship.

The early goal by Platt put England firmly in the driving seat for a time. But they wilted under Swedish determination in the second after conceding the equaliser and never looked like fighting their way back in a toughly contested match which saw five players booked.

LINEKER'S DECLINE

England's poor championship was epitomised in the 62nd minute when top striker Gary Lineker was substituted after going six games without scoring and falling one short of Bobby Charlton's record of 49 international goals.

Lineker's substitution marked the end of an illustrious international career.

Danes, not Frenchmen, in semis

MALMO, Sweden, June 18: Substitute Lars Elstrup sent 10,000 Danish fans delirious with joy when he hit a late winner to give Denmark a 2-1 victory over France on Wednesday and an unexpected place in the European Championship semifinals, reports Reuter.

Denmark, called to Sweden as 11th hour replacements for banned Yugoslavia, had not scored a goal in their first two Group One matches.

But there were only a few brief moments of doubt about their victory and no question about the stylish way they achieved it in Malmo, a short ferry trip from the Danish capital Copenhagen.

From the seventh minute when midfielder Henrik Larsen sent a virtual home crowd wild with excitement by giving the Danes an early lead, France were on the ropes.

The French, who had started out as group favourites, were outplayed, over-run and demoralised by a team playing the same kind of captivating soccer shown by the Danish side which reached the 1984 semifinals in France.

France played better in the second half and grabbed an equaliser when European player-of-the-year Jean-Pierre Papin was given space in the box for the one and only time in the match.

The goal, Papin and France's second of the tournament, would have carried France through as runners-up to Sweden but the Danes refused to give up.

Elstrup, who had come on only 10 minutes earlier for midfielder Brian Laudrup, stole into the area as striker Flemming Povlsen went clear on the right and met his low cross perfectly, jabbing it past French keeper Bruno Martini.

Danish trainer Richard Moeller Nielsen said: "I'm happy, we're all very happy. I want to thank the French because it was a good game and it takes two teams to play a good game."

"We were the underdogs of this group but I always had faith in my players and they proved me right."

French team boss Michel Platini made a brief statement before leaving the post-match news conference.

"I want to thank all the players for the last three years I've spent with them," he said. "They've kept me thrilled all that time."

"We can't blame them. This is the first match they've lost in the European Championship."

England, crippled by injuries throughout the finals, sent out an attacking lineup after 0-0 draws in their previous two-group games.

Had Lincker connected

as first Eriksson went close when his header from another Schwarzw corner scraped over the bar, then Ekstrom hammered a shot into the side netting and Brodin brought a diving save from Woods.

The only disappointment on a historic night for the Swedes, whose last semifinal appearance in a major tournament was also on home soil in the 1958 World Cup, was the booking of corner specialist Schewanz and defender Patrik Andersson. They will both miss the semifinal after collecting their second yellow cards of the tournament.

Joachim Bjorklund was also booked, as were England's Neil Webb and Daley.

Swedish coach Tommy Svensson said: "We've shown Europe that Sweden has a football team, too. The second half was the best I've seen a Swedish national team play."

"First we must enjoy this victory. Whoever we'll meet in the semifinals we will be the underdogs and they will be the favourites, but we've had very good results here at Rasunda and we intend to make the best of the rest."

Sweden, as Group One winners, play their semifinal in Stockholm on Sunday.

Svensson picked out Schwarz as the best player on the pitch and lamented the loss of his key player for the semifinal.

England manager Graham Taylor said: "If they continue to play this way they will be a very difficult opponent in the semifinals."

Taylor said the game reflected a dilemma for English football. "We have been caught between two styles of playing, the English and the more refined continental style, and we have ended up playing neither."

"We were beaten by a team playing a direct style of football that we see every weekend in English football grounds and we couldn't cope with it."

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Sao Paulo lift Libertadores Cup

SAO PAULO, June 18: Sao Paulo won the Copa Libertadores (the South American club championship) for the first time in their history here Wednesday night when they beat Newell's Old Boys of Argentina in a penalty shoot-out, reports AP.

Kasparov takes a break

MANILA, June 18: Champion Garry Kasparov took a rest from the World Chess Olympiad on Wednesday after scoring five straight victories and leading Russia to a commanding lead in the 112-nation competition, reports Reuter.

Kasparov was to have played Zurab Azmaiparashvili in the ninth round match between Russia and Georgia but the champion ceded his place to a teammate, saying it would not feel good playing the Georgian Grandmaster, who is one of his seconds in world title matches.

Russia lead the Olympiad with 25.5 points after eight rounds of the 14-round competition. Georgia is tied for second place at 21 points with Armenia and the Netherlands.

"It would not be convenient to play against one of my seconds," Kasparov told reporters, referring to Azmaiparashvili, who acted as one of his analysts in his three title matches with fellow Russian Anatoly Karpov.

"Some of my seconds are playing in teams from the former Soviet Union. We have several very strong teams in this Olympiad," Kasparov said.

Kasparov's place at the first board was taken by Sergey Dolmatov.

At the resumption of adjourned eights round games, Irina Chelushkina defeated the

German Brigitte Burchardt on the second board to give Ukraine a 2.5 - 0.5 victory over Germany in the women's competition.

Ukraine lead the women's division with 18.5 points while China and Georgia are tied for

Krabbe's nerves let her down

BONN, June 18: Double world sprint champion Katrin Krabbe will not compete at the German national championships in Munich this weekend because of a nervous disorder, her athletics club said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

But the club will still apply for her and teammate Grit Breuer, who will also not compete in Munich, to be considered for the German Olympic team.

The Munich Championships are officially the final qualifying meeting before the German Athletics Federation (DLV) names its team for the Barcelona Games.

"After a consultation with the doctor treating her and with her trainer (Thomas Springstein), the Neubrandenburg athletes Krabbe and Breuer will not run at the German Championships," the Neubrandenburg Athletics Club said in a statement.

The SID sports news agency quoted Krabbe as saying: "I just can't make it with my nerves."

English hooligans do it again

STOCKHOLM, June 18: A group of 40 England football supporters went on the rampage after their side's 2-1 defeat by Sweden in the European Championship on Wednesday, wrecking vendors' stalls and pursuing Swedish fans outside the ground, reports Reuter.

A group of six English youths beat up a Swedish skin head against a kebab fast-food stall then ran off leaving their victim bleeding, witnesses of the incident at the Rasunda Stadium in Solna near Stockholm said.

Solna police spokeswoman Gun Anderson said more than 40 people had been seized and detained at least temporarily before and after the match at Rasunda Stadium.

British officials in Sweden said altogether 120 English fans had been detained.

A no-win situation for Holyfield

LAS VEGAS, June 18: The situation is a familiar one for Evander Holyfield.

The undisputed heavyweight champion, who has never lost, is in a no-win predicament.

"If he beats me they'll say he beat an old man," said 42-year-old Larry Holmes, who will challenge the 29-year-old Holyfield Friday night at Caesars Palace, reports AP.

The bouquets tossed at Holyfield often have been full of thorns.

"Who did Evander Holyfield beat," said Holmes, echoing a question asked by many boxing fans.

"A fat guy in Buster Douglas, an old man in George Foreman, (Bert) Cooper, and now he's fighting an old man again," said Holmes, answering himself.

Holyfield wouldn't beat Tyson, about his critics. "I didn't pull out of the fight; my rib wasn't hurt," Holyfield said Wednesday, referring to the injury that forced Tyson to pull out of a bout scheduled for last Nov 8. Tyson now is serving a three to six-year prison sen-

tence on a conviction for rape. "I'll be around in 1996," Holyfield said.

As for Friday night's fight against a man who was the world's premier heavyweight from 1978 to 1985, Holyfield said:

"I didn't want to go into another fight against an old boxer where I come out of it with only a win. I have already fought George Foreman, and just because he lasted 12 rounds people thought he was the greatest thing at 42."

"If I put him (Holmes) out in the first round, 'He's an old man,' they'll say. If it goes 12, 'Holyfield doesn't have enough to take him out.'"

He agreed to fight the winner of the Holmes-Ray Mercer fight because, "I took it for granted Mercer would win. I gave my word I'd fight the winner."

So Holmes won a 12-round decision, and Holyfield found himself in another no-win scenario.

"I don't well on the situation and let it frustrate me," Holyfield said. "It's not a situation I like. All I can do is just keep on winning. You've just got to be yourself."

can be a writer's nightmare because there's not much to write about.

He does think that much of what has been written about him has had a lot to do with his image of a fighter toiling in the shadow of others.

"People read that Holyfield doesn't get respect," he said. "They don't hear me say, 'I don't get respect. It's implied that I don't get respect.'"

"I'm happy with who I am, and when it's over I'll go on with my life without missing a beat."

He'll also come out of the fight Friday night with \$16 million, which make his total purses for his heavyweight title, win over Douglas and three defenses over \$150 million.

That kind of money takes a lot of sting out of criticism. Holyfield was a 4-1 favourite to boost his record to 28-0 by winning his third defense of the title he won by knocking out Douglas in the third round Oct 25, 1990.

HOW THEY LINE UP EVANDER HOLYFIELD—Age 29... born at Atmore (Alabama) Lives in Atlanta (Georgia)

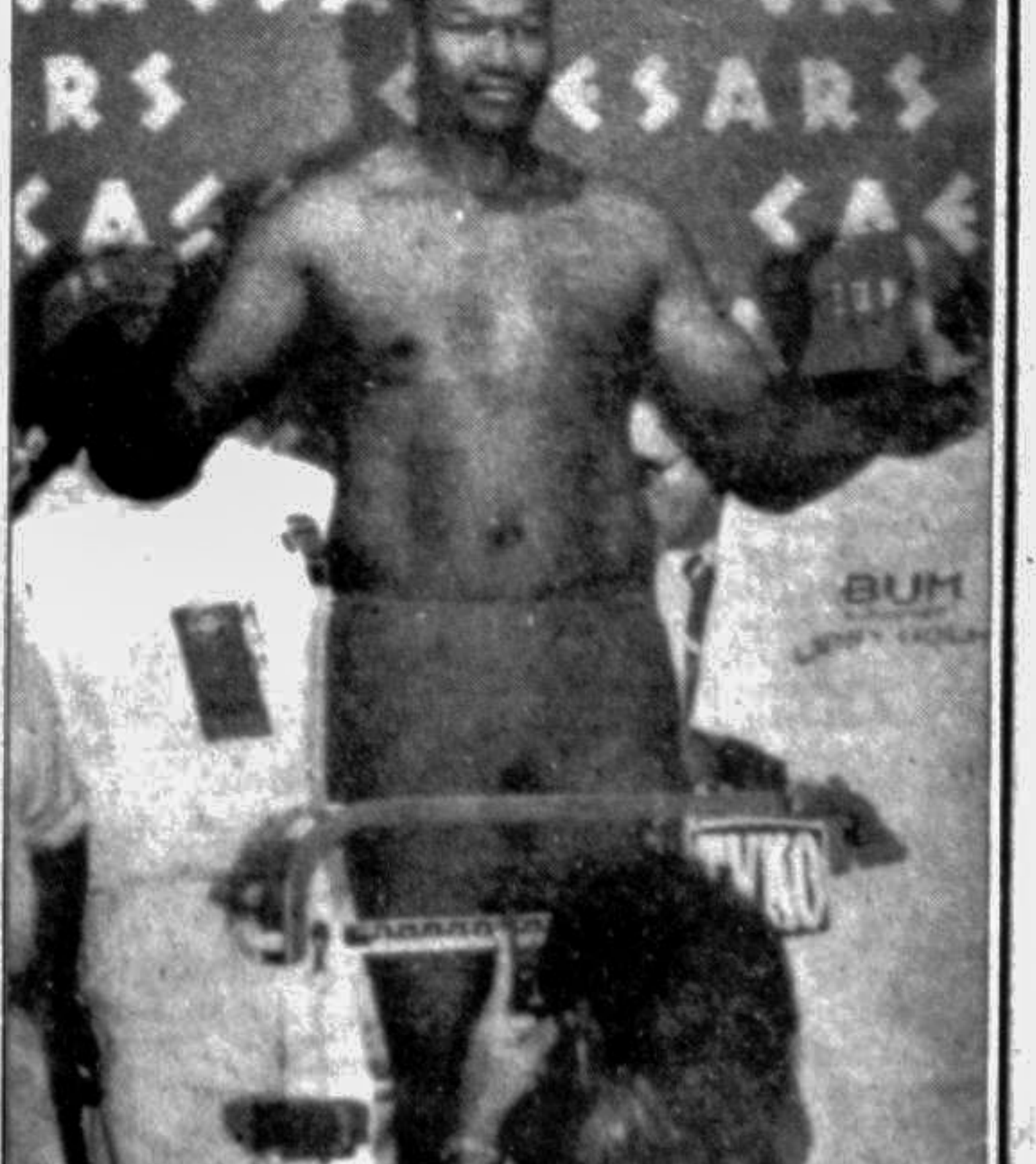
Height 1.86m... Weight 95 kg Professional debut 1984 Record: 27 fights - 27 wins (22 inside the limit) Became WBA/IBF Light-Heavyweight Champion in 1986 when he outpointed compatriot Dwight Qawi and then added the WBC title in 1988 by stopping Carlos de Leon of Puerto Rico. Took the full World Heavyweight title by stopping James "Buster" Douglas in 1990. Successfully defended against George Foreman in 1991.

Last fight: 7th round stoppage of compatriot Bert Cooper.

LARRY HOLMES—Age 42... born at Cuthbert (Georgia) Lives in Easton (Pennsylvania) Height 1.91... Weight 105 kilos

Professional debut 1973 Record: 54 wins - 3 defeats Became WBC World Champion in 1978 and was unbeaten in 19 world title fights, until losing to Michael Spinks in 1985.

Last fight: Points victory over fellow-American Ray Mercer.



Larry Holmes gives the thumbs up signal after weighing in at 233 lbs at Caesars Palace Hotel in Las Vegas on June 17. — AFP photo

STAR TV Friday PRIME SPORTS 00:00 hrs Grand Prix Sailing Lure of the Wild 01:00 Trans World Sport 02:00 Prime Bodies 02:30 Best of 1992 World Cup Cricket 05:00 Motorcycling Grand Prix 1992 08:00 On Pit Road 08:30 Talking Baseball 09:00 This Week in NASCAR 10:00 Prime Bodies 10:30 Adventures 11:00 Sports Over the Edge 12:00 Australian Touring Cars 14:00 Cloughie: The Brian Clough Story 16:00 Motorcycling Grand Prix 1992 Highlights 16:30 Billiards 17:00 National Hockey League: Stanley Cup 20:00 Boxing 22:00 Snooker (Please deduct 2 hours from above timings for Bangladesh Standard Time)

EVANDER HOLYFIELD... EVANDER HOLYFIELD... EVANDER HOLYFIELD... Evander Holyfield smiles as he weighs in at 210 lbs at Caesars Palace Hotel in Las Vegas on June 17. Holyfield will fight Larry Holmes on June 19 for the World Heavyweight Championship. — AFP photo