

Jackson misses world hurdles record

LONDON, July 11: American Michael Johnson was back to his best form here on Friday when he ran the third fastest 400m this year to win at the London Grand Prix meeting at the Crystal Palace, report agencies.

Johnson, the outstanding runner over 200m and 400m during the last two years, showed that he is over the hamstring injury, which prevented him from running in the Bissett Games in Oslo last weekend, by clocking 43.98 seconds, the fastest 400m ever seen in Britain.

In becoming only the seventh man to run under 44 sec, he easily beat a top class field which included Olympic champion Steve Lewis, second in 44.55 sec, and American teammate Andrew Valmon, third in 44.69 sec.

Johnson, who will only be running in the 200m in the Barcelona Olympics, has now come to terms with the fact he will not be attempting to win two individual Olympic golds in Spain.

"I've got no regrets now about missing out on the 400m in Barcelona," he said. "I've put it behind me now and I'm concentrating on the 200m. All the same I'm very satisfied with tonight's time."

Johnson was one of several impressive winners on a cool, overcast night. Britain's Colin Jackson, among the leading gold medal contenders in the 110m hurdles, narrowly defeated American Tony Dees in a European record time of 13.06 sec, .02 sec faster than the record he set two years ago.

The track clock erroneously flashed up a world record of 12.82 sec as the Welshman dipped just in front of Dees and although Jackson may have been disappointed that it was

not his actual time, the victory was ample reward.

"The time was not all that important tonight," he said. "It was important to run well and show the others what I was capable of."

European champion Linford Christie came back from his defeat by Nigerian Olapae Adeniken in Lausanne on Wednesday to win the 100m in a hand-timed 10.20 sec, just ahead of Brazilian Robson da

Bryan Stoddart, deputy managing director of Crystal Palace, said organisers had received a warning before the TSB meet from the City of London Anti-Apartheid Group.

"We had extra staff in the area where we expected them to come from and that proved right," Stoddart said. "They were escorted out of the ground and the police will probably ask us whether we wish to press charges. That is something we will have to consider."

Pieterse, formerly Zola Budd, became a British citizen in 1984 in order to compete in the Los Angeles Olympic Games. She was to have raced America's Mary Slaney Friday, eight years after they clashed in the 3,000-meter Olympic final, but Slaney withdrew Thursday with a virus.

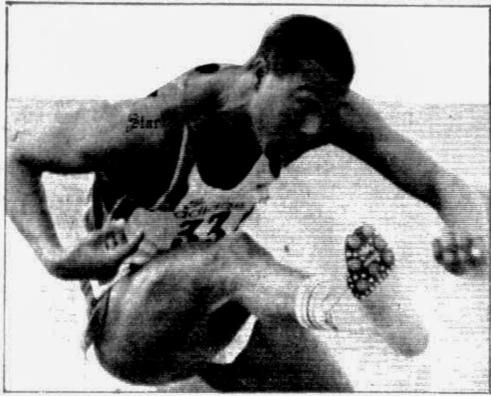
Anti-apartheid protests interrupted several track meets involving Budd in Britain in the mid-1980s, eventually hounding her back to South Africa.

Yvonne Murray gave the capacity 17,000 crowd another home victory to cheer, winning in 5min 43.48 sec, well clear of American Gwen Griffiths, who was second in 5:44.86.

The women's 3,000m, by contrast, was much closer, American Patti Sue Plummer finishing just a stride ahead of Sonia O'Sullivan in 8:42.52, .06 sec ahead of the Irish runner, who came storming through with a frantic burst in the last 20m.

Meanwhile, Britain's Steve Backley, who saw the world javelin record snatched from his grasp by Czech Jan Zeleny in Oslo last weekend, hit back with a victory over Viktor Zaitsev of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

However, Backley's winning throw of 87.72 m was well behind Zeleny's new world record of 94.74m.



COLIN JACKSON

Jackson's time of 13.06 seconds in the high hurdles was the fifth-fastest ever and was a new European, Commonwealth and British all-comers' record.

The capacity crowd of 17,000 at first thought Jackson set a new world record as the electronic timing system showed 12.83 - which would have bettered the United States' Roger Kingdom's 1989 record of 12.92.

But Jackson and Dees dipped at the line and passed under the electronic beam triggering the timing device. Track officials said the computerised system occasionally malfunctioned under similar circumstances.

Dees equalled his previous best of the year with a 13.08. Jack Pierce, another US Olympic team member, was third in 13.17.

Silva who was given the same time.

Britain completed a sprint double when John Regis ran a superb bend the 200m and never lost control of the race in the home straight to win in 20.29 sec.

DRAMATIC RACE

The most dramatic race of the night, though, was the women's 2,000m. The race marked Zola Budd-Pieterse's return to Britain after four years in her native South Africa and was marred when eight anti-apartheid demonstrators tried to disrupt the athletes on lap three of the five-lap event.

Security officials and police grabbed the six before they were able to interfere with the race, eventually won by Yvonne Murray after Pieterse pulled out 250 meters from the finish with calf trouble.

ETA's offer for Spanish govt

HERNANI, July 11: The Basque separatist organisation ETA Friday offered the Spanish government a two-month truce on the eve of the Olympic Games in exchange for negotiations in the future, reports AP.

The offer was received by the Basque newspaper Egin, which normally publishes the organisation's communiques, and was to be printed in Saturday's edition.

ETA, an acronym which stands for Basque homeland and liberty, seeks independence for the three-province Basque region. Since starting its campaign of violence 23 years ago, ETA has claimed responsibility for the deaths of 711 people.

In the communique, ETA said it "demonstrated a political will to create a climate of distension during two months, after which (the two parties) would initiate a series of official contacts in a third country."

The Spanish government issued no immediate reaction. But it has maintained it will not negotiate with ETA until it gives up violence.

In 1989, government representatives met with ETA emissaries in Algeria, but they were considered exploratory talks and were suspended following other ETA attacks.

The arrest March 29 of three alleged ETA leaders began a series of roundups in Spain, France and Uruguay, that led to the ultimate arrest of more than 25 other people.

ETA has said that it considers the Olympic Games, to run July 25 through August 9, a legitimate target.

Security is expected to be extremely heavy both at the Olympics and at the six-month Universal Exposition in Seville, to run April 20 through Oct. 12.



IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch formally opens the Olympic Village by cutting the ribbon as the mayor of Barcelona and president of the Olympic Organising Committee Pasquel Maragall watches the inaugural ceremony in Barcelona yesterday. — AFP photo

Samaranch's fine coup

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, July 11: The International Olympic Committee (IOC) said yesterday Yugoslav athletes would compete at this month's Barcelona Games despite a United Nations sporting embargo, reports Reuters.

IOC director-general Francois Carrard said Yugoslav Olympic chiefs had agreed to an IOC proposal under which the athletes will compete as the "Independent Team" under the Olympic flag. They will wear plain white uniforms without national insignia.

"They are coming to Barcelona," Carrard told Reuters. "We have received the official confirmation and they have accepted our conditions."

Yugoslavia's National Olympic Committee agreed to accept the IOC formula at a meeting in Belgrade earlier on Friday and said they would be giving the IOC a list of 110

athletes they wanted to send to the July 25-August 9 Games.

But their participation looked in doubt when hours after the meeting they had still not given the IOC written confirmation of their decision.

Under the formula, proposed by IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch on Wednesday, the athletes will compete as the "Independent Team" or "Ein" under the five-ringed Olympic flag. The Olympic anthem will be used in any medal ceremonies.

The decision came hours ahead of the opening of the Barcelona Olympic Village on Saturday.

Olympic hosts Spain had made it clear they would not let an official Yugoslav team enter the country in violation of a UN sporting embargo.

The UN Security Council imposed the embargo on Serbia and Montenegro, the only two remaining Yugoslav republics, on May 30 as part of a wide-ranging package of political and trading sanctions.

The athletes' participation marks a major diplomatic coup for Samaranch.

Carrard said the IOC had spent the last month working to ensure that the Yugoslav athletes did not miss out on the Games for political reasons.

"This was an intrusion of politics into sport which constituted a threat. We fought against it and we were very happy," Carrard said.

"We are happy to have succeeded because at first the odds did not look good," he added.

In an apparent reference to British Prime Minister John Major and other western leaders, Carrard said the IOC had won "support at the highest level in several countries."

After receiving Samaranch in London last week, Major wrote him an open letter from this week's G7 summit in Munich proposing a solution very similar to the one finally reached.

Aussies keen to restore swimming glory

SYDNEY, July 11: Australia will be bidding to restore swimming glory at the Barcelona Olympics spearheaded by their teenage superstar Kieren Perkins who has sparked in the pool this year with a string of world records, reports Reuters.

While Australia are almost certain to improve on their solitary swimming gold in Seoul, neighbouring New Zealand's best medal prospects will once again be sitting down — on horses, bicycles, in yachts and canoes.

Australia are now the strongest swimming nation after the United States and Germany, and are confident that any one of a string of swimmers from their 33-member team can strike gold.

Perkins, 18, a laid-back arts student, heads the swim challenge and has strong prospects of at least two gold medals after shattering the 400 and 1,500 metres freestyle world records in April.

Perkins's 1,500 metres swim in Spain against big German rival and world champion Joerg Hoffmann promises to be one of the great Olympic contests after his finger-length defeat at the World Championships in Perth last year.

The Australians, who are sending a record 295 athletes to Barcelona, believe at least 10 of their swimmers are medal prospects, among them Hayley Lewis, the 200 metres

freestyle world champion. Lewis, who won five gold medals at the 1990 Commonwealth Games, will compete in five events — 200 and 400 metres individual medley, 400 and 800 freestyle and 200 butterfly.



PERKINS... Aussie hope

"It's the biggest campaign by any of the Australian swimmers but Hayley's preparations are at the right stage and her mental attitude is right for her to go well," her coach Joe King said.

Australian Olympic officials also expect a strong medal challenge from breaststroke world champion Linley Frame, Susan O'Neill, Samantha Riley and Julie McDonald.

O'Neill has qualified for the 100 and 200 metres butterfly and 100 freestyle, Riley is faster than Frame this year over 100 breaststroke and McDonald features high in the world rankings at 400 and 800

freestyle. Frame won gold in the 100 breaststroke and silver in the 200 at the world Championships.

The golden years for Australian athletics remain a distant memory and at best the track and field team is expected to just exceed its performance at Seoul in 1988 when it won a gold and silver of Australia's 14 Olympic medals.

The best medal hopes this time are marathon runners Lisa Ondieki and Steve Monaghetti, walkers Kerry Junna-Saxby and Simon Baker, discus thrower Daniela Costian and high jumper Tim Forsyth.

Ondieki won the Commonwealth Games marathon in 1986 and 1990 and recent overseas performances indicate she is in top form. Monaghetti is a consistent performer on the world stage.

In Seoul, Australian cyclists won half the country's medals, although none was gold and could do well again.

Sprinter Gary Netwand and points racer Stephen McGlede are the best prospects. "They're both ranked number two in the world and must be right up there," said Martin Whiteley, executive director of the Australian Cycling Federation.

Hockey, where the women are reigning Olympic champions and the men have long been among the top three nations, are also strong Australian medal possibilities.

New Zealand's gold medal prospects for its largest-ever Olympics team of 213 competitors rest primarily on horseback.

Mark Todd, three-day event individual gold medalist in 1984 and 1988, has shown impressive early season form and is joined by current world champion Blyth Tait and the team itself, which won at the world Equestrian Games in 1990.

But New Zealand's canoeists look likely to struggle to repeat the gold medal winning feats of the last two games.

The team's grand old man, quadruple gold medalist Ian Ferguson, now 40, is perceived past his best at his fourth and last Games.

Only the team's newest member, John MacDonald in the K1, seems likely to press for gold.

Commentators say any of New Zealand's traditionally strong Olympic yachting team could challenge for medals in a notoriously fickle sport.

Boardsailing gold medalist Bruce Kendall and former America's Cup skipper Rod Davis in the soling class will be ones to watch.

Track prime trial cyclist Gary Anderson is seen as a medal hope, as is the New Zealand 100 km time trial team, which beat the fancies Australians in the 1990 Commonwealth Games.

Backstroke Anna Simcik, ranked in the world's top three, is New Zealand's best swimming gold medal hope.

Manager sacked for 'snooping'

BERLIN, July 11: Berlin said on Friday it had sacked a manager who compiled dossiers on International Olympic Committee (IOC) members in the hope of influencing them in the choice of venue for the 2000 Games, reports Reuters.

Marketing manager Nikolaus Fuchs is the second senior executive to be fired from the company coordinating Berlin's Olympic bid.

His dismissal is another blow to a campaign suffering from poor funding, lacklustre promotion and local opposition.

"Whoever snoops under the beds of IOC members hasn't got the right touch for our serious Olympic bid," Berlin Construction Minister Wolfgang Nagel said.

A spokesman for Olympia GmbH said the company's board decided to fire Fuchs for damaging the city's bid.

German television accused Berlin last week of compiling files on all 94 IOC members listing any perceived preferences or weaknesses.

The aim, said the television programme, was to bribe them when they decided next year where to site the 2000 Olympics.

While admitting it had carried out research on IOC members through some 80 interviews, Berlin denied that the information had ever been used.

Keshmiri denies doping

NEW YORK, July 11: Kamy Keshmiri, winner of the discus at the US Olympic trials and the collegiate record-holder, said Friday he has been notified by the Athletics Congress that he tested positive for drugs at a random, out-of-competition test, reports AP.

TAC, the national governing body for track and field, said it would not have any comment on the matter. It is customary for TAC not to announce positive drug tests until an athlete has exhausted his appeals process.

Keshmiri, in a telephone conversation from his Reno, Nev. home, said he was notified of the test results two days after winning the discus at the trials in New Orleans last month. The test, he said, was administered about mid-May. He did not identify the drug, for which he allegedly tested positive.

"I'm innocent," said the 23-year-old Keshmiri, a three-time national champion and three-time NCAA champion while at Nevada. "There was nothing in there. They know it."

"The tests were inconclusive. There was nothing in my urine. They're so wrong."

If Keshmiri is guilty, he would face a four-year ban, automatically knocking him out of this month's Barcelona Olympics.

In testing, two samples are looked at — an A sample and a B sample.

"There was something in the A they were not sure of," Keshmiri said. "To open the B sample, you have to have a witness. An eminent toxicologist was my witness."

"He said the reading came out... absolutely negative."

"If the A is positive, the B has to conclude the positive. The B did not conclude the A... by no means. There was nothing there."

Keshmiri said the sample of the test, which was conducted in Reno, was sent to Canada, rather than being read in Indianapolis, where TAC is located.

He also said, "they used six times the amount of urine they should have used. They ran it through until 3 o'clock in the morning. When you have a toxicologist who witnesses it all day and then they run it all through the night... what does that tell you?"

In that case, Keshmiri said, "They're out to get me."

That, he said, was, because he has been very outspoken against TAC and its policies. "I know that TAC and the

IAAF [International Amateur Athletic Federation, the world governing body for the sport] want me out [of the Olympics]," Keshmiri said. "They don't want me around."

The disagreements between Keshmiri and TAC have been so bitter, Keshmiri said, that last November he wrote a letter to Duffy Mahoney, a TAC official, telling him he was unhappy with the system and might compete for Iran, where his father was born.

"That triggered it," Keshmiri said.

Keshmiri said he has been tested 12 times in the past year and 38 times in the past four years, and never was positive. If Keshmiri is suspended, he said he probably would not fight it, because there would not be enough time before the Olympics begin on July 25.

Butch Reynolds, the 400 metre world record-holder and 1988 Olympic silver medalist, was suspended for two years after allegedly testing positive for steroids in a meet at Monte Carlo in August 1990. After taking his case to the Supreme Court and winning approval, he was finally permitted by the IAAF to compete in the trials.

"There has been a lot of uncertainty for me lately," Keshmiri said.

Cheating has been as old as the Games

BARCELONA, July 11: It will be no good looking to the gods for help in catching cheats at the Barcelona Olympics, reports AFP.

Even the mythical Greek figures who started the Games could not resist taking a short cut to glory. So why should be drug-filled, mechanically prepared modern athletes be any different.

Peoples, one of the Greek antiquity figures said to have started the Games in 1370 BC killed his main rival by sabotaging his wheels in a chariot race.

When the Romans took over Greece and the running of the Games, emperor Nero fell and failed to finish a chariot final. Strangely, he was still named winner by the judges.

Baron Pierre de Coubertin was meant to have instilled the play fair ethic in the games when they started again in Greece in 1896. Sports scandals were soon evident though.

Fred Lorz was the first big cheat of the modern Olympics. In the marathon at St Louis in 1904, the American hitched a ride on a car running board for 10 miles. Second placed Thomas Hicks admitted taking cocaine and strychnine during the race to boost his performance but still got the gold medal.

Lined tracks for running events were introduced after

an American, John Carpenter, was disqualified four years later in London for obstructing a British opponent in the 400 metres final.

The Olympic movement gave back medals won and taken away from American Indian Jim Thorpe in the decathlon in 1912 in Stockholm. He admitted having played professional minor league baseball and his title was stripped of him by the American Olympic Committee. It was given back to his family in 1982, 30 years after Thorpe's death.

The bulk of modern day cheats in the Olympics got clean away with their medals. Charges of professionalism against past bloc teams were often made, but the authorities could do little about it.

Drug tests were unheard for many decades. The death of a Danish cyclist Knut Jensen at the Rome Games in 1960, after taking drugs, was one of the first cases to come into the public.

Sex tests were introduced in 1968 after men were found to be competing as women, but the name Ben Johnson really brought home the drug problem, to the world.

Three days after running a staggering 9.79 sec final of the 100 metres at the Seoul Games in 1988, it was announced that the Canadian sprinter had failed a drug test. He had used the banned an-

abolic steroid Stanozolol and flew out of South Korea in disgrace — the 39th Olympic athlete to fail a drugs test since they had started in 1968.

Ironically, he will be back in action at Barcelona while Carl Lewis, who took over the gold medal and then the World Championship last year, did not make the US team.

Weightlifters and other athletes were also caught out Seoul and in subsequent events, but the hunt for sports cheats has been stuck up a dead end since Johnson.

Revelations by athletes from the formerly communist controlled Czechoslovakia, East Germany and other eastern Europe countries showed that the taking of steroids was widespread. They also outlined the increasingly sophisticated means used to mask drugs once the IOC started tests.

Blood tests will be the next big weapon for drugs busters but they will probably not start till the 1994 Lillehammer Winter Games.

Prince Alexandre de Merode, the head of the IOC medical commission and one of the leading advocates of a drug clampdown since 1968, is now trying to inject a new impetus going into the Barcelona Games.

Urine tests are now a fact of life for athletes and are more and more accurate and speedily reported. But the prince is far from happy.

"The Ben Johnson case caused a shock, but the consequences were not all that I expected," he said.

Portable AC banned in Games Village

BARCELONA, July 11: Barcelona Olympics organisers have banned portable air conditioning equipment in the Games Village even though the city will be at peak heat and humidity, reports AFP.

None of the apartments being used by competitors at the Games which start on July 25 have air conditioning.

According to Spanish Basketball Federation president Ernesto Segura de Luna, "the heat and humidity will be so intense during July and August that portable equipment will be crucial."

Jodi Carbonell, deputy director of the Games Village, insisted though that air conditioning would be banned.

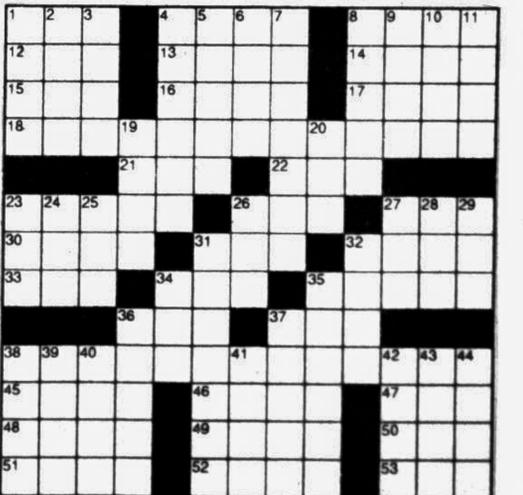
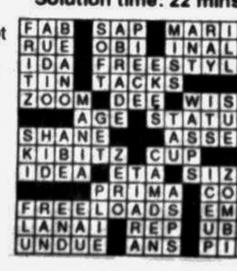
"Some of them need an installation that could damage the apartments and the portable machines need constant maintenance and so are not much good," he said.

The organisers have already turned down several federations who asked for permission to take conditioning equipment.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS
- 1 Modern recordings
 - 4 Part-timer
 - 8 Symbol of patriotism
 - 12 — jacet (epitaph)
 - 13 Admitting a draft
 - 14 City on the Truckee
 - 15 Eggs, to Caesar
 - 16 Cancun coin
 - 17 City near Cleveland
 - 18 It's down to the nanosecond
 - 21 Skill
 - 22 "The Lady —" (movie)
 - 23 White-water fleet
 - 26 Festive
 - 27 "Eureka!"
 - 30 Hand-lotion additive
 - 31 Enthusiast
 - 32 Cross-word diagram
 - 33 Humorist
 - 34 Ewing
- DOWN
- 1 Karate blow
 - 2 Swan, e.g.
 - 3 OR souvenir
 - 4 Long, slender candles
 - 5 Oust
 - 6 Spar
 - 7 Versatile Mrs.
 - 8 Bowling game division
 - 9 Jeans-maker
 - 10 In due time
 - 11 Vibrant disk
 - 19 Lot
 - 20 Wall climber
 - 23 Like sashimi
 - 24 In the manner of
 - 25 Navigation hindrance
 - 26 "My — Sal"
 - 27 Branch
 - 28 Waste no time
 - 29 Wood-working tool
 - 31 Vulcan or Hephaestus
 - 32 Player's game
 - 34 Shared by us
 - 35 Hose holder
 - 36 Saw red
 - 37 UN goal
 - 38 Crazes
 - 39 Mormon territory
 - 40 Heavy reading?
 - 41 Crib sheet?
 - 42 Send out
 - 43 Bake-sale item
 - 44 "— Drive By Night"

Solution time: 22 mins.



CRYPTOQUIP

X F X K Z J S I A P Q V G X Q Q X Q D Z K X
J I S P A F X W X J J V G W S C C
J D X W I S P G B.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: W equals G
The Cryptoquip 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.