

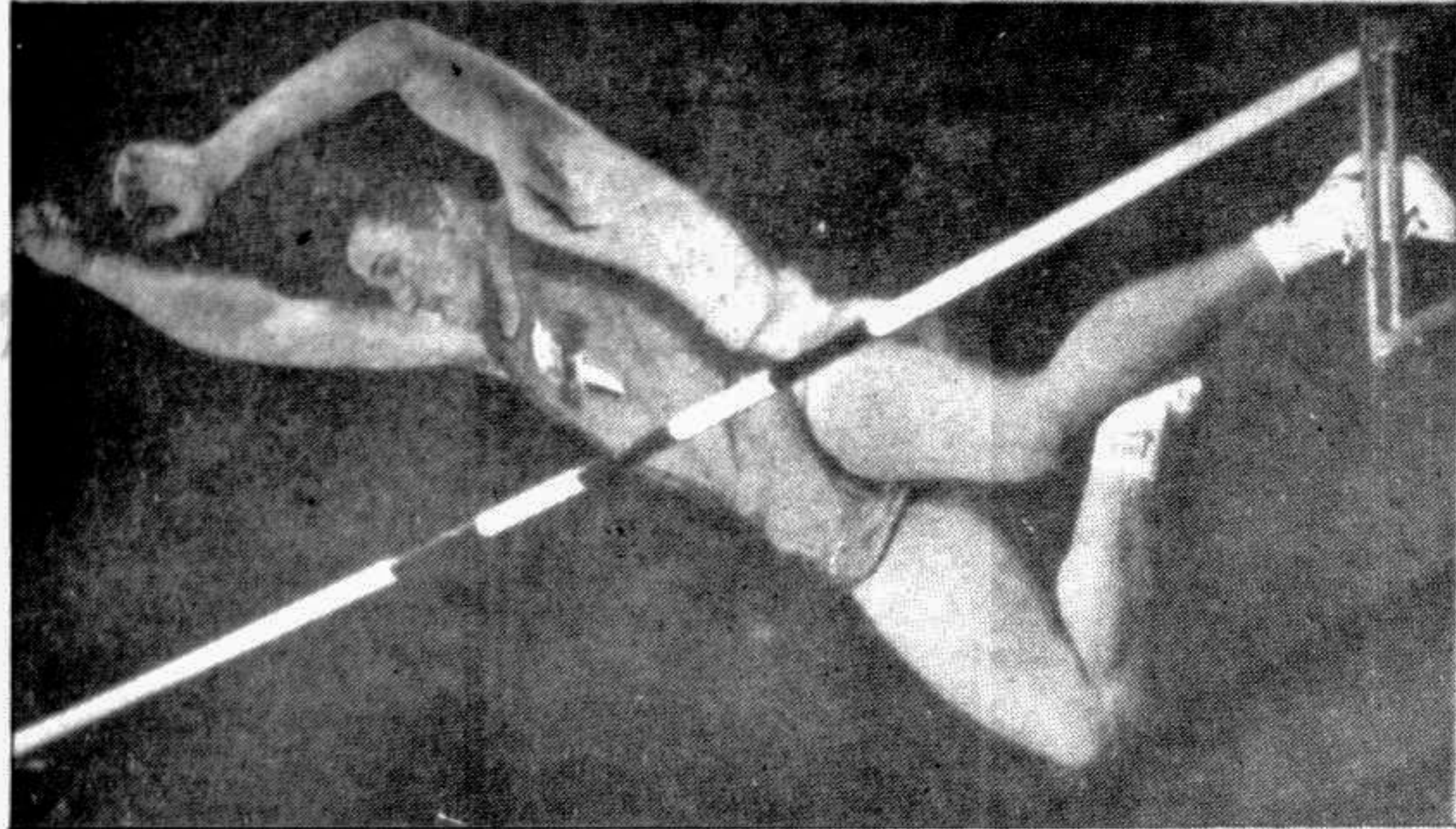
Bubka aims to leap beyond gold

BONN, July 15: Sergei Bubka seems able to break pole vault world records with the ease with which most men break open a can of beer, reports Reuter.

The 28-year-old Ukrainian, who last month took the 30th

line attached to the roof. Pole vaulting, the most spectacular field event, has always captured the attention of crowds at track and field meetings worldwide.

But Bubka's feats and dominance in the past few years have caught the imagination so much that he is often top of



Soaring over newer heights comes naturally to pole vaulter nonpareil Sergei Bubka. —Star file photo

world mark of his career when he cleared 6.11 metres, wants to have another crack at the record as well as retain his Olympic title in Barcelona.

"My main goal is the Olympics. Everything must be right because I want a gold medal and a world record in Barcelona," the Berlin based athlete said.

Bubka has always set his sights high, ever since he first started vaulting as a child over washing lines in the back garden in competitions against his older brother Vasily.

In those days Bubka used a rigid clothes prop to launch himself over the drying sheets. Now, with the latest high-tech equipment at his fingertips, Bubka would probably make it over a telephone

bill at many events. The vaulter has taken easily to his role of showman.

The former Soviet athlete was practising Western market-orientated economics a long time before they caught on with his fellow competitors in the old East European bloc after the collapse of communism.

From quite early on in his career, Bubka was allowed the privilege of competing abroad and pocketing appearance money. He was also able to detach himself from state funding and control his own financial affairs.

"I only have a few years as a pole vaulter but what happens afterwards?" he said. "I don't want to repeat the sad experience of many of our stars who

ended up as old iron after they retired — even with a pension in their pocket."

Bubka and his young family need not worry about their financial future. Athletics meetings promoters pay well for people who break world records. Bubka knows that record breaking is a big crowd

puller.

"I want to offer the crowd something. They have the right to top-class sporting performances and a world record is always something special," he said.

The three times world champion's performance at the Olympic Games will be for free, but it will probably mark his last appearance for the former Soviet Union, now in the guise of the "United Team of Commonwealth States".

The Ukraine, like many of the other ex-Soviet republics, is expected to seek sporting independence after the Games.

The Barcelona pole vault event will probably turn into another one man show since most of Bubka's rivals can rarely approach his perfor-

mances. Many of the other competitors are already in the shower when he normally enters the competition.

The Ukrainian is not one for nerves and has been known to take a nap during competition, asking a friend to wake him when the bar reaches a particular height.

Bubka, who won last year's World Championship with 5.95, believes he will need to vault only six metres, a height he first achieved outdoors in Paris back in July 1985, to win another Olympic crown.

These days, Bubka would probably be able to reach the height in a suit, shirt and tie.

Bubka leads the Ukrainian brigade

KIEV, Ukraine, July 15: Ukraine hope to capture Olympic medals in track and field, gymnastics and rowing, their national Olympic chairman said Tuesday as he introduced athletes heading to Spain, reports AP.

Valery Borzov, Ukraine's Sports Minister and a 1972 Olympic champion, said Ukrainian athletes also have a chance at winning such events as rhythmic gymnastics, canoeing-kayaking and equestrian sports.

Eighty-one athletes from the Unified Team of the Commonwealth of Independent States will represent Ukraine.

Among the Ukrainian athletes will be 23 who competed in the Olympic Games at Seoul in 1988, Borzov said. Leading the field is gold-medallist Sergei Bubka, the world record holder and the first pole vaulter ever to clear 6 metres (19 feet-8 1/4 inches).

Most of Ukraine's Olympic athletes — 18 — will compete in track and field events. Fourteen will be on the rowing team. All of the Ukrainians' uniforms will have patches depicting the blue and yellow national flag.

Prospective medallists promise to set Olympic pool on fire

BARCELONA, July 15: The proliferation of Olympic swimming talent seen in Seoul is set to continue in Barcelona, but America, a traditional pool powerhouse, is poised to reap the most gold, reports AFP.

PESSIMISTIC GERMANS

While swimmers from the former Soviet Union have had

international competition by the newly reunified Germany, but little progress has been made since then.

Admissions of doping haunt the former East German team,

can't see us winning anything," he said.

CONFIDENT US GIRLS

US women's coach Mark Schubert said the struggles of the German team may give other countries a psychological advantage. "In the past we seemed to let the East Germans intimidate us, but I don't see anyone intimidating this team," he said.

In Seoul, a record 22 countries won at least one Olympic medal, while the United States saw only two outstanding swimmers, Matt Biondi and Janet Evans, win individual golds.

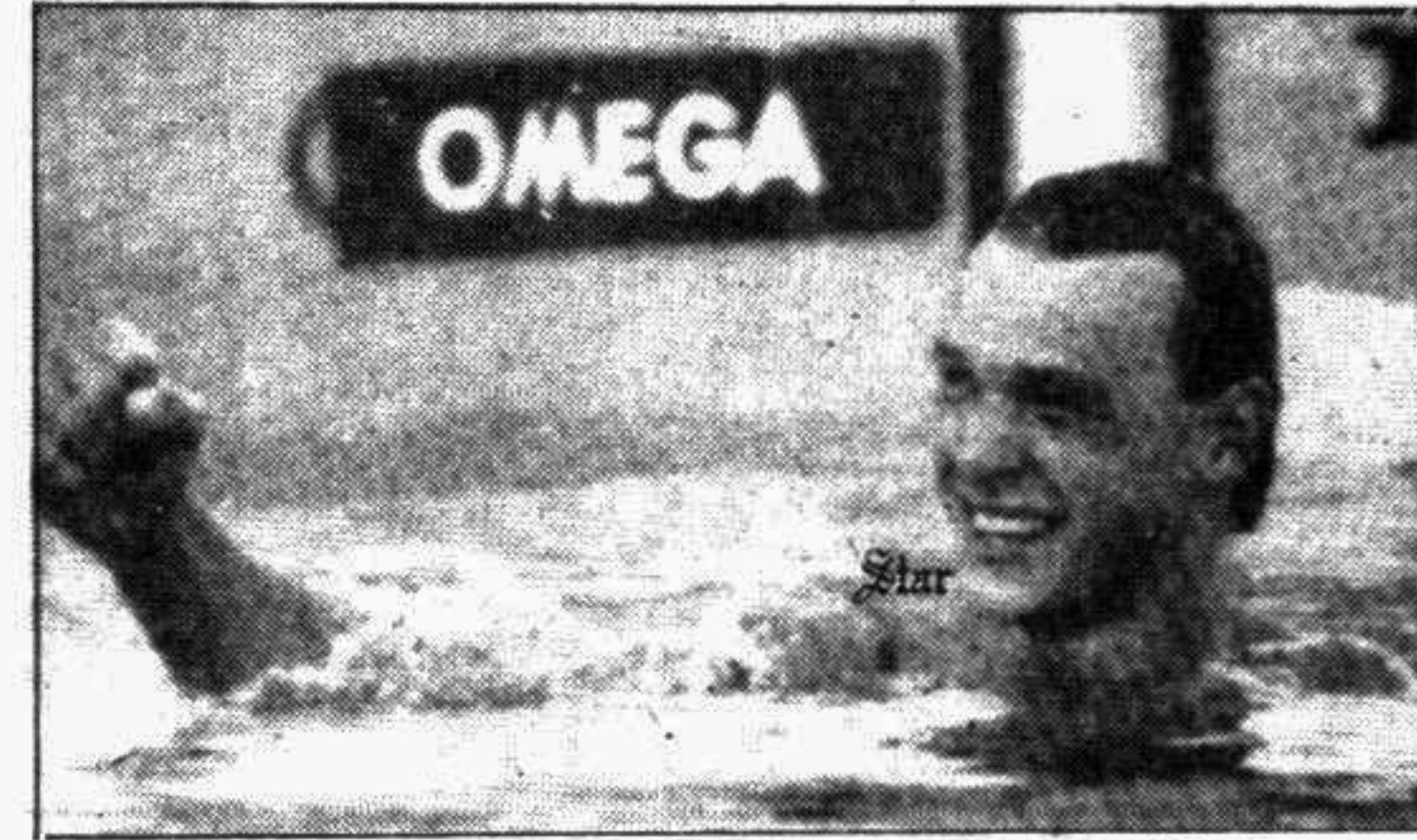
The break-up of the Soviet Union and the demise of the East German sports machine, coupled with the rise of new Olympic nations, may spread Games swimming glory, but the biggest beneficiary is likely to be the United States.



American superstar Janet Evans...better showing than Seoul?

"On the one hand, this kind of international diversity is good for swimming and is really what the Olympics are all about," said US team director Dennis Pursley.

"On the other hand, it's a little like a demolition derby: you have a hard time knowing where your competition will be coming from."



Hungary's Norbert Rozsa...100m breaststroke record-holder

Some things seem all but certain. Hungary's Tamas Darnyi, never defeated in international individual medley competition, will be back to defend his 200 and 400m titles.



HAYLEY LEWIS ANITA NALL

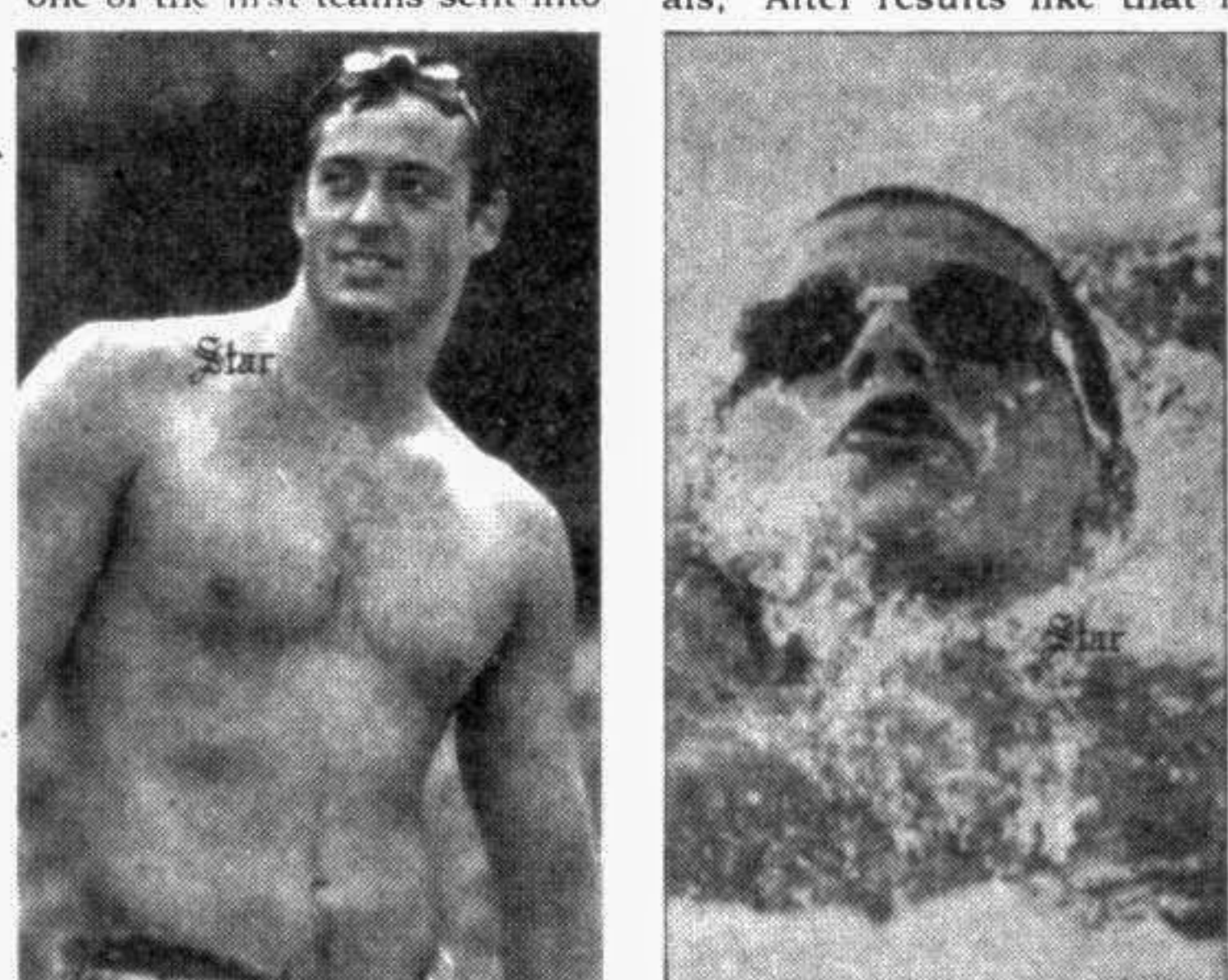
Since Seoul, Darnyi has won his second world titles in both events with world records at the 1991 championships in Perth, Australia.

The men's breaststroke competition will be fierce. America's 200m world record-holder Mike Barrowman is eager to expunge the memory of his fourth-place in Seoul, but he was beaten at the US Trials by training partner Roque Santos.

Australian Kieran Perkins, world record-holder in the 1500m freestyle with a time of 14:48.05, has qualified for the 200, 400 and 1,500m free, but says his main aim is to win the 1,500m world record time.

German men's coach Manfred Thiesmann was pessimistic after lackluster performances at the national trials. "After results like that I

American veteran Biondi will be the man to beat in the 50m and 100m freestyle. His main 50m competitor will be compatriot Tom Jager. In the 100m he must fend off France's Stephan Caron and Alexander Popov of the Unified Team.



MATT BIONDI TAMAS DARNYI

Hungary's Norbert Rozsa, the 100m world record holder, wants to add the Olympic title to his World Championship. But he was beaten at the Hungarian trials by Karoly Gutler in the 100 and 200m breaststroke.

Two rounds were played every day in this lowly rated tournament which featured 12 internationally-rated players.

Nine of the 15 US women will swim two or more events, and Pursley says the prospect of a medal for every one of them is not farfetched.

Evans, no longer the elfin 16-year-old who caught the imagination of Seoul spectators, is still dominant in the 400m and 800m freestyle.

The new darling of the pool is likely to be 15-year-old Anita Nall, who set a 200m breaststroke world record at the US trials.

The American women will face stiff competition from other quarters, however. Australia's strong women's line-up includes breaststrokers Linley Frame and Samantha Riley, one and two in the 100m breast at the 1991 Pan Pacific Games, and freestyler Hayley Lewis.

Hungary's Kristina Egerszegi is favoured in both backstroke races, while China's Qian Hong and Wang Xiaohang will be trying to repeat their one-two finish at the World Championships in the 100m butterfly.

Indian 84-member Olympic squad announced

NEW DELHI, July 15: India on Tuesday named an 84-member contingent for the Olympic Games in Barcelona, but its newly-rejuvenated hockey team will carry nearly all the country's medal hopes, reports AP.

The contingent includes a nine-member athletics squad cleared for the Games on condition that they all meet qualifying marks, and competitors have also been entered for the badminton, boxing, shooting, table tennis, lawn tennis, wrestling, archery, weightlifting, yachting and judo events.

Pargat Singh's hockey team, brimming with confidence after a successful European tour in May, is seen as the best medal bet. Hockey has brought India all its previous eight Olympic gold medals, the last in 1980.

Archer Limba Ram, who in a recent Beijing tournament led the world record over 30 metres, is seen as a dark horse, where he will compete along with teammates Lalrem Sanga and Dhulehand Damar.

Chess result

Sports Reporter

Almas-ur-Rahman finished in joint fourth/fifth position in the eleven-round R P Shukla chess tournament held in Lucknow from July 6 to 11.

Sanjeev Kumar clinched the title of the 75-player tournament.

Kenya's keen to maintain winning ways

KASARANI, Kenya, July 15: The Kenyan Academy of Running Excellence has set its sights on a challenging project for the summer holidays — "finish top of the class in six races at the Barcelona Olympics," reports Reuter.

Bitok — despite their surprise flop in national qualifying — plus the traditional crop of unknowns.

The star quartet were rescued by some post-trials re-reading of the rule book by the selectors.

But notable absentees are five times world cross-country champion and Seoul 5,000 metres winner John Ngugi and world 800 metres champion Billy Konchallah. Both fell to the new wave at the trials.

"Our country's mixture of track veterans with Olympic experience and the new generation of stars should be able

to continue Kenya's winning ways," head athletics coach Mike Kosgei predicted.

"Though this will be a very tough Olympics and we expect a cut-throat challenge, it may be Kenya's best yet," Kosgei said at the team's training camp outside Nairobi.

The world ought to just remember that this country still has a wealth of raw natural talent and the athletes train in high altitude, a combination that makes a winning tradition," he added. Any of the so-called unknowns could spring a gold.

Among Kenya's young generation of potential giant killers are world 10,000 metres silver medallist Richard Chelimo, William Tanui and Matthew Birir, an astonishingly graceful but fast steeplechaser.

Birir has consistently clocked under 8:13 in five races in Europe and at Kenya's trials.

Chelimo's time of 27:10.17



PAUL ERENG

four years ago, with four stunning victories from 800 to 5,000 metres. This time they want the 10,000 and marathon crowns too.

Their squad includes old boys like Paul Ereng, Moses Tanui, Moses Kiptanui and Paul

Krabbe not wanted in Zurich GP

ZURICH, July 15: Double world sprint champion Katrin Krabbe's invitation to next month's Zurich Grand Prix athletics meeting has been withdrawn despite the German's successful battle against a four year doping ban, reports Reuter.

"We do not want to make a big issue of this but I have told the German team manager that the invitations to Katrin Krabbe, Grit Breuer and Silke Moeller made last November are withdrawn," organiser Res Bruegger said on Tuesday. "I told him I felt it would be in everyone's interests if they did not appear in Zurich. He agreed."

The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) decided last month not to ban Krabbe and former East German teammates Breuer and Moeller for allegedly manipulating dope tests.

Krabbe later announced she would not be taking part in this month's Barcelona Olympics but planned to run in Grand Prix meetings after the Games.

Kosgei said that Ereng, the Seoul 800 metres gold medallist and world indoor record holder, Tanui and Kiptanui — 10,000 metres and 3,000 metres steeplechase winners respectively at the Tokyo World Championships last summer — were strong contenders.

"We have a duty to justify our inclusion in this team and gold is not beyond reach again," said Ereng, referring to his controversial inclusion in the team after he failed to win an automatic place at the trials.

He said he also expected Bitok — second fastest over 5,000 metres in 1992 — to make the medals bracket.

World 5,000 metres champion Yobes Ondieki is another top challenger and his time of 13 minutes 3.84 seconds at last week's Lausanne Grand Prix was the quickest in the world this year.

Tokyo marathon silver medallist Douglas Wakihuri and flamboyant Boston marathon winner Ibrahim Hussein are training in New Mexico for Barcelona together with Boniface Merande.

Kipkemboi said Ethiopia's Abebe Mekonnen was their only worry, adding that the absence of his world champion compatriot Belayneh Densimo gave Kenyans further comfort.



IBRAHIM HUSSEIN

last year made him the second fastest man ever in the event.

Birir's 19-year-old brother Jonah will line up in the 1,500 metres in his first major race and hopes he can emulate the sensational Seoul performance of compatriot Peter Rono.

Kenya's track supremacy will be strongly challenged by the Ethiopians, back in the Games after 12 years, and classy North Africans like Khalid Skah, Ibrahim Boutayeb and Noureddine Morceli.

"My athletes are good and disciplined. It is our year," said Ngussie Robe, Ethiopia's head coach for the last 20 years. His countrymen did not compete in Seoul because Marxist Dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam sympathised with North Korea.

Four years earlier, Ethiopia had boycotted Los Angeles.

Now, the impoverished Horn of Africa nation is set to rejoin its dashing Kenyan neighbours on centre-stage in the distance events.

"We have a comprehensive training programme and the Olympics should prove how well we are doing," said Ngussie.

Mekonnen part, Ethiopian hopes rest on 1991 Beijing marathon winner Engdash Dube and leading female distance runner Dearthat Tulu in the 10,000 metres.



Kurmitola Appollo Club earned promotion to Division One by virtue of a second place finish in the Division Two basketball league at the wooden-floor gymnasium yesterday. —Star photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Shopper's delight
 - 5 California's Big —
 - 8 Nautical greeting
 - 12 Gem stone
 - 13 Alfonso's queen
 - 14 Narrow country road
 - 15 Golfer's concern
 - 17 Peruvian Indian
 - 18 Command
 - 19 "Love Me —"
 - 21 Word from Charlie Brown
 - 24 Sea, in France
 - 25 U.S. newspaper publisher
 - 28 Minute part
 - 30 Simian
 - 33 Feather scarf
 - 34 Sphere of action
 - 35 Ending for bull or
- DOWN**
- 1 London district (equal to)
 - 3 Disembark
 - 4 Church officials
 - 5 Part of a min.
 - 6 Miss Merkel
 - 7 Absorbed
 - 8 Dress style
 - 9 Banister
 - 10 At one time
 - 11 Calendar's
 - 16 Bank acct.
 - 20 Jane Austen novel
 - 22 Weight allowance
 - 23 Tax
 - 25 Kimono sash
 - 26 Swindle
 - 27 Horse trainers
 - 29 Unique thing
 - 31 Luau delicacy
 - 32 Printer's units
 - 34 Feed the kitty
 - 38 The Wizard of Menlo Park
 - 40 Fragrant
 - 42 Peculiar
 - 43 Goose liver mix
 - 44 Winglike
 - 45 Norse god
 - 47 Alaska city
 - 48 Discharge
 - 49 Soaks flax
 - 52 Once called
 - 53 Inferior horse

Solution time: 21 mins.

ASTA	ELF	THUG
STAR	PEA	RENO
PYRENEES	ARID	
NEE	HELOTS	
SALAD	DINE	
ABAS	PROVENCE	
ARM	CLUNY	ORA
RABELAIS	ANET	
BOYD	GROWS	
STRATA	BID	
IRON	BORDEAUX	
PESO	LEA	NINA
SEISS	ERN	TROT

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			21	22	23		24			
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33			34						35	
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50				51	52	53				
54				55					56	
57				58					59	

CRYPTOQUIP

WPBRQ SRJDL PJQRT, LCXE
 PYYBSWCC OYWOA PYXDT
 AJEHRCP WB CYYHR RDTH.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: C equals L

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.