

Sport

BERCELONA BRIEFS

IOC avoids controversy

ARCELONA, July 24: Olympic chiefs have put off a controversial rule-change that would give outsiders a say in choosing Games' host cities after apparent opposition from its rank-and-file members, reports Reuter.

IOC director-general Francois Carrard said the International Olympic Committee decided on Thursday to postpone a vote on a proposal by its executive board to bring other sports bodies into the selection process.

The selection of Olympic venues is traditionally the sole prerogative of the 90-odd IOC members.

Under the board's proposal, five Olympic sports federations and five National Olympic Committees would be given a vote alongside the members.

The proposal will now be discussed at the IOC's next full session in Lausanne, Switzerland, next June.

Carrard said he did not believe the IOC members would make substantial changes to the proposal but said they had made some "interesting suggestions". He declined to elaborate.

Becker's toothache

GERMAN tennis star Boris Becker, whose first Olympic appearance has been surrounded by controversy, was forced to delay his arrival at the Barcelona Games on Thursday because of a dental appointment, reports Reuter.

Becker, 24, did not arrive at Barcelona airport with his German teammates Michael Stich and Carl-Uwe Steeb.

Becker upset fellow members of the German Olympic squad when he said in a recent magazine interview that he was more interested in having coffee with other famous names like Carl Lewis than in winning medals for his country.

Stich also seemed to be treading on dangerous ground when he told reporters at the airport: "The most important thing for me here is to have fun. I am not that concerned about winning."

Scalpers scalped

MORE than 3,000 black market Olympic tickets have been seized in the past two days in a crackdown on touts, Barcelona police said on Thursday, reports Reuter.

They said scalpers had stood to make up to 1 million dollar profit by selling them at an average of five times their face value.

The tickets, including some to sell-out events such as the men's basketball finals, were snatched in raids on a travel agency, a hotel room and a rented office in Barcelona, a police spokesman said.

Some of the occupants were absent during the raids and it was not clear whether anyone had been held.

Games organisers asked police to crack down this week after newspaper reports that unlicensed ticket agencies were asking up to 3,000 dollar for seats at the basketball final, widely expected to feature the US Dream Team of NBA stars.

All tickets to the Olympics, which open on Saturday, are meant to be sold through branches of a major Spanish bank. Popular events such as the opening ceremony went months ago.

Police said 3,119 tickets were seized with a face value of 25 million pesetas (250,000 dollar). Documents taken with them showed the scalpers hoped to sell the tickets for a total 100 million pesetas (1 million dollar).

The spokesman said Games organisers and city authorities would decide whether the tickets could be put on official sale.

Its Thwala after 32 years

THE first South African to compete at the Olympics for 32 years will be Soweto boxer Abram Hkewafana Thwala, officials said on Thursday, reports Reuter.

A spokesman for the National Committee of South Africa said Thwala, 22, was born in the Johannesburg black township and works as a clerk at the Sasol petroleum plant.

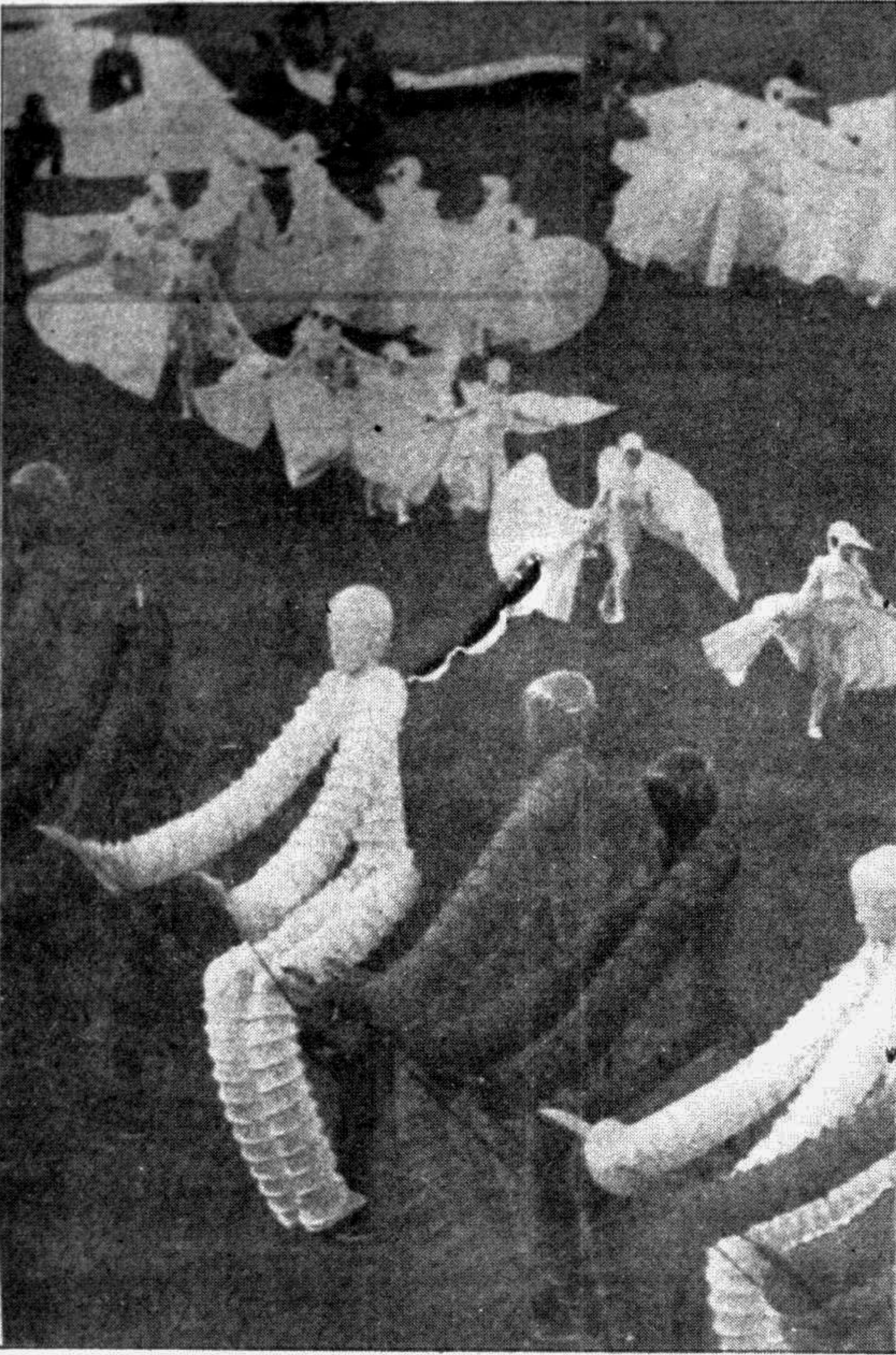
Thwala, a light-flyweight (48 kg) fighter, will step into the ring in Sunday's first boxing session.

The experience could prove overwhelming for the man who was South African junior national champion for four years running and senior national champion in 1989 and 1991.

"He's a very interesting lad who's single and also plays soccer," the spokesman said. "But he's young and has not really been exposed to the media at all."

Thwala will not know who he is fighting until the weight-in and draw are completed on Saturday morning.

The local organising committee detailed the fight agenda for the first five days of the tournament on Thursday.



Dancers perform the dress rehearsal on July 23 for the today's opening ceremonies of the 1992 Barcelona Summer Games. — AFP photo

Operatic arias at Olympic opening

ARCELONA, July 24: Spain's greatest opera singers expect a television audience of 3.5 billion people at Saturday's opening of the Barcelona Olympics — but they may have to mime their arias on the big night, reports Reuter.

Jose Carreras, musical director of the extravaganza that launches the biggest and richest Games ever staged, said on Thursday: "After tonight's dress rehearsal, the technicians will make up their minds. This is not 100 per cent decided. There are many technical complications."

He will be joined on stage for a 14-minute medley by Placido Domingo, Montserrat Caballe, Giacomo Aragall, Teresa Berganza and Juan Pons.

Carreras and Domingo joined forces with Italian tenor Luciano Pavarotti for an enormously successful three tenors concert at the World Cup soccer finals in Rome in 1990 that was seen by 100 million people worldwide on TV.

Asked why the Italian superstar had not been invited to join them in Barcelona, Carreras said the Olympic opening ceremony was designed as a showcase for Spanish singing talent.

"Mr Pavarotti is an extraordinary artist. We like him enormously as an artist and as a man. Unfortunately he was born in Modena," Carreras said at a press conference in the gilded halls of the Liceo Theatre where he made his debut aged 11.

Carreras, Domingo and Caballe all confessed they were fanatical football fans. But Caballe had one regret. "I just wish that former British soccer captain Gary Lineker was still playing for Barcelona."

All the singers stressed the vital bridge between sport and music because they both overcame language barriers.

Carreras said: "I see an extraordinary link between music and sport. They are the two things in life that manage to bring together totally different cultures."

Domingo agreed. "I think there is a clear parallel. Everyone understands them both. I think Saturday will be unforgettable."

The Olympic ceremony comes almost exactly four years after Carreras returned to the stage after conquering leukemia.

Doctors gave him a one in 10 chance of survival but he fought back after chemotherapy, radiation treatment and a bone marrow transplant done without anaesthetic to avoid damaging his vocal chords.

Reflecting on Saturday night's giant television audience, the 45-year-old singer said: "This is indeed a pinnacle in my career."

Barrowman has a score to settle

ARCELONA, July 24: Mike Barrowman has an Olympic score to settle after bitter disappointment at the Seoul Games, reports Reuter.

The American swimmer went to Seoul as favourite for the 200 metres breaststroke. He finished out of the medals, a well-beaten fourth.

"It's an out to say 'I'd like to do the best I can do.' Everybody says it but nobody believes it," Barrowman said on Thursday.

"I want to win as bad or maybe more than anybody else. This is my chance, my second chance. I had a chance the first time in 1988 and I was fourth. This time I want to go in with everything I possibly have."

Barrowman has lowered the 200 breaststroke world record five times since Seoul and has been beaten at the distance only once when he finished behind Roque Santos in this year's US Olympic trials.

He won the World Championship title in Perth 18 months ago with a clear-cut victory over formidable Hungarian Norbert Rozsa and British European champion Nick Gillingham but expects the toughest of races in Barcelona.

"This will be the hardest competition in the Olympic Games out of any sport, the 200 breaststroke, because eight of the 10 fastest people of all time in this race," he said.

"Certainly the biggest competition will be Gillingham of Britain, (Sergio) Lopez of Barcelona and the two Hungarians (Rozsa and Karoly Guttler)."

Lopez, who pipped Barrowman for the bronze be-



MIKE BARROWMAN

hind Hungarian Jozsef Szabo and Gillingham in Seoul, trains with Barrowman in the United States.

"There's a 25 per cent chance I'll wear it," he said.

Barrowman said the suit had possibilities but he had raced in it only once, at the end of June, when it had been too loose.

OLYMPIC QUOTES

ARCELONA, JULY 24: Here are some quotes by athletes and officials made Friday at the Summer Olympics:

Zola Pieterse, the former Zola Budd, who ran in the 1984 Games under a British passport to evade the ban on South Africa that was lifted for this Olympics:

"I'm proud to run for South Africa. This is a great moment, not only for sport but also for my country, because it signifies it has a future."

Zola Pieterse on competing barefoot:

"I feel more comfortable running barefoot, but I don't know what I'll do this time. I always decide five minutes before the start."

Canadian sprinter Charmaine Crooks:

"The Olympic Games are different from any other competition because your country's pride is at stake. If you win, your country wins, and if you lose, again, your country loses."

Canadian coach Paul Pocz on media attention on sprinter Ben Johnson, whose disqualification at the 1988 Games at Seoul was scandalous:

"We are trying for three (track) medals... I do not think it is fair to our relay team that so much attention be paid to Ben Johnson."

Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee, on his bid for re-election:

A marriage between sports and culture

BARCELONA, July 24: Some world champions sounded off Thursday, two days before the Games opening ceremony, and they seemed less than Olympian as they jostled, jockeyed for position and generally engaged in bickering, reports AP.

Sprinters? Jumpers? Decathletes?

No. These prima donnas were some of the world's most celebrated divas and tenors, all Spanish-born.

Their part in Saturday's spectacular opening ceremony is to provide millions of viewers with a taste of opera — 14 minutes Bizet's Carmen, a touch of Offenbach's Tales of Hoffmann, a dab of Puccini's La Boheme, a dash of Verdi's Aida.

Culture and sports; what could be better?

A divorce, judging by the feuding that broke out among the group at a news conference with tenors Placido Domingo, Jose Carreras and Jaime Aragall, soprano Montserrat Caballe, mezzo-soprano Terasa Berganza and baritone Juna Pons.

Berganza, seated alongside the other five in the ornate Barcelona Opera House, complained that she, Aragall and Pons had been relegated to a secondary place on the jacket of the performance recording being released on an RCA Victor Red Seal label.

The 72-minute release, recorded in Barcelona in January and February, includes the opening ceremonies medley and 12 longer arias. In the promotional material for the recording, only Domingo, Carreras and Aragall's portraits grace the front of the jacket. The other three appear faceless below the photos, under a "with" line.

The recording company, said Berganza, arranged the jacket cover without consulting the singers. She said the singers should have insisted on equal treatment when they signed their contract with RCA. "We forgot," she said.

Aragall, too, felt slighted. But he had an additional complaint. He got to sing solo only one aria.

Carreras, the ames' musical director, clearly was uncomfortable with the discord.

When asked why he had excluded another world-renowned Spanish tenor, Alfredo Kraus, from singing the medley, Carreras replied testily: "You are very aggressive."

He then added with ill-concealed sarcasm that Kraus had made clear that such popularization of classic opera would "make him a clown. And we did not want to insult him" by inviting him to participate.

"I cannot invite the king of Saudi Arabia to meal where pork is served," Carreras added, in an analogy that drew laughter from reporters and frowns from his fellow artists.

Garcia Navarro, the director of the Barcelona Symphony Orchestra accompanying the singers on the recording and at the Olympic ceremonies, also was miffed. Not only had his name been omitted altogether from the recording's front cover, so had his picture.

"I am the ugly duckling," said the dapper-looking musician.

But then he hid the singers, saying "too much adrenalin is being secreted" at the news conference instead of celebrating the joy of the talent in the recording.

Domingo, who stayed out of the fray, exulted in the unusual coupling of opera and Olympics. "Music and sports are intimately linked. Both are languages everyone can understand."

Berganza suggested a different link between the two. "I have accepted, in a very sporting way, the bottom billing on the recording cover," she said.

Michael Storr, an official of the recording company, assured everyone that the final cover of the release will feature all six in a photo of their performance.

But when you see the photo, keep this in mind: when the divas and tenors move their lips to the sound of the music at the opening ceremonies, they probably will be mouthing to the tune of the recording.

Given the vastly complex acoustics of the opening ceremonies being beamed live on worldwide telecasts, a live performance would provide poorer quality than a recording, said an official of the organising committee.

Today's Titans to duel in Barcelona

BARCELONA, July 24: Great Olympic duels of the past have included the 100 metres s down between Carl Lewis and Ben Johnson in Seoul and the gripping clashes between Seb Coe and Steve Ovett over 800 and 1,500 metres at the Moscow Games, reports Reuter.

Here are some head to heads at the Barcelona Games which should set the pulses racing:

Carl Lewis vs Mike Powell, long jump: Lewis won the 1984 and 1988 golds, fellow American Powell was second in Seoul. Powell broke world record which had stood since 1968 Olympics in 1991 Tokyo World Championships by jumping 8.95 metres. Lewis, unbeaten since 1981, was second. Powell has since jumped wind assisted 8.99. Lewis, with six Olympic gold medals to his name, qualified only for the long jump, failing in the 100 and 200 metres.

Merlene Ottey vs Gwen Torrence, 100 and 200 metres: Ottey is known to her fellow sprinters as the bronze queen as she has never won major title. At 32 this is the Jamaican's last chance of Olympic gold. Torrence is the top American, won silver behind the absent Katrin Krabbe at 100 and 200 in Tokyo.

Heike Drechsler vs Jackie Joyner-Kersey, long jump: American Joyner-Kersey is untouchable in the heptathlon but, after long jump victories in Seoul and the 1991 World Championships, will face a rejuvenated German opponent.

Drechsler this week jumped wind-assisted 7.63 metres, 11 cms beyond world record, and believes 7.70 is possible in Barcelona.

Liz McColgan vs Flana Meyer, 10,000 metres: Meyer is south Africa's best hope of a gold on its return to the Olympics after 32 years. McColgan won the 10,000 metres in Tokyo and took silver in Seoul. Be Bton also won the New York marathon this year but may have over raced in recent weeks.

US vs Britain, 4x400 metres relay: US could include all three medallists in individual event plus remarkable Michael Johnson, the best 200 metres runner in the world. Britain were unexpected winners in Tokyo but US out for revenge and to break the world record, held by the US. It was stood since 1968.

Svetlana Boginskaya vs Kim Zmeskal, gymnastics: American Zmeskal took Boginskaya's world all round title in Indianapolis last year prompting CIS charges the judging was biased. At this year's World Apparatus Championships in Paris, Zmeskal also took the floor title, which Boginskaya has held, and the beam. Boginskaya won only one silver.

Matt Biondi vs Tom Jager, 50 metres freestyle: The two American friends resume their longstanding duel in swimming's shortest event. Biondi won the Olympic title, Jager prevailed in the last two World Championships and holds the world record.

Men's 100 breaststroke: Could be the most fiercely contested event in the pool with world champion and world record holder Norbert Rozsa of Hungary the man to beat. Defending champion Adrian Morhouse, fellow Briton Nick Gillingham, American Nelson Diebel, Vasily Ivanov of the CIS and Hungary's Karoly Guttler could all win it.

Eric Griffin vs Rogelio Marcelo, boxing: Light flyweight Griffin tested positive for Marijuana in 1988 and missed the Seoul Games which Cuba boycotted. Griffin has beaten his great Cuban rival four times in four years, his most recent win in the final of the 1991 World Championships.

Lewis' sinus let him down

BARCELONA, July 24: Carl Lewis' illness before the US Olympic trials was much worse than previously disclosed, his coach said Friday, reports AP.

Lewis, the two-time Olympic 100-meter gold medalist and 1984 Olympic champion at 200 meters, failed to make the US team in either event, earning an individual place only in the long jump.

"He was very ill with a sinus infection that he was exposed to about a month before the trials," coach Tom Tellez said at a news conference. "He didn't tell me. He didn't complain."

After the trials, Lewis was examined by two doctors.

"They found he had an infection of the thyroid, the kidney and the liver," Tellez said. "He also had an allergy."

Samaranch smothers speculations

BARCELONA, July 24: Juan Antonio Samaranch received a standing ovation on Thursday when he told the International Olympic Committee that he was ready to stand again as its president when his term of office ends next year, reports Reuter.

The 72-year-old Spaniard, who has transformed the Olympic movement in 12 years at its helm, had promised to keep his intentions secret until after the Barcelona Games.

But IOC members said Samaranch was asked at the end of the IOC's 99th full session on Thursday if he was prepared to stay on and replied, unexpectedly: "Yes, I am ready."

"We all stood up and cheered. It was quite an emotional moment," one IOC member said.

Samaranch's decision to run again for another four-year term ends months of speculation among IOC members.

But a power struggle cannot be ruled out when elections are held for the most powerful position in world sport, probably in Monte Carlo next September.

Samaranch's decision follows a spate of British press attacks on his stewardship of the IOC, during which the name of Britain's Princess Anne was raised as a possible successor.

In an interview with the London Times earlier this week to dismiss denied, however, that she had any intention of running.

Any opposition to Samaranch is more likely to come from within the ranks of his own executive board.

Canadian Dick Pound and two IOC vice-presidents, Un-Yong Kim of South Korea and Kevin Gosper of Australia, are generally seen as the most likely contenders.

Samaranch's decision came on the day IOC members claimed victory over the United Nations in a row over a sporting embargo on Yugoslavia and celebrated being able to invite athletes from all six republics in the former Yugoslavia.

Samaranch, a former Spanish ambassador in Moscow, personally lobbied world leaders as part of the IOC campaign against the embargo to ensure that the Barcelona Games would be the first of his reign not to be hit by political absences.

Elected to an initial eight-year term at the 1980 Moscow Olympics, Samaranch has presided over Summer Games in Los Angeles, Seoul and now Barcelona.

During that time he has also been instrumental in laying to rest the Olympic tradition of amateurism. He was re-elected for a four-year term in 1989.



SAMARANCH

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Glasses: colloq.

6 Caravan carriers

12 Un-intelligent

13 Ms. Earhart

14 Less specific

15 Humble

16 Region

17 Incas-santly

19 Sales pitch?

20 Horne or Olin

22 Biblical verb ending

24 Wire unit

27 Hit bottom

29 Ban-shee's noise

32 Star pitcher?

35 Part-timer in the office

36 Nevada city

37 Babe

38 CIA fore-runner

40 Tennis

shots

42 Author Deighton

44 "Eh?"

46 Numerical prefix

50 Lawrence's bailiwick

52 Fearful

54 Firstborn

55 Tease

56 Boil

57 Logic

1 Practice pre-bout

2 Use a beeper

3 Same

4 "The Color of Money"

prop

5 Sing to

6 Arrived

7 "Moon-struck"

8 Not sml. or lge.

9 Party animal?

10 Actress

11 Glut

12 Eggs, to Caesar

18 Bland: colloq.

21 Santa's helper

23 See-saw's city

24 Become

Solution time: 24 mins.

EBB CHAR OKRA
NOR AERO MEAD
COASTERS EXPO
ETCHED EGG
ORS BOASTS
SOLOS HUB ORE
WHIT RID ROOT
AIR GEM CENTS
TOASTS AHA
POE BOCHCO
THAI ROASTERS
WART VISE MOL
OYEZ EDEN IWO

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12								13		
14								15		
16						17	18			19
			20	21				22	23	
24	25	26		27				28	29	30
32			33					34		
35						36				37
					38	39		40		41
42	43			44	45				46	47
50									52	53
54										55
56										57

CRYPTOQUIP

Y S L C L Q B J U W N I N T U J

X C B L Q M A S U A W M L S E

Y B M I A C U X N L T B B A

N Q L E N P U L

Today's Cryptoquip clue: L equals S

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.