

# OLYMPIC SPECIAL



And now there's a 'Floating Finn'

BARCELONA, July 27: The sports world is full of Flying Finns. There is Keke Rosberg, one-time Formula One world champion, Juha Kankkunen, Hannu Mikkola and Ari Vatanen the rally drivers, and a hole string of airborne ski jumpers led by Matti Nykanen. Just about any Finn that goes fast in any sport whatever, appropriate or not, is dubbed a Flying Finn, reports AP.

Now, there is Antti Kasvio, sort of a 'floating Finn.' He did more than float to the Olympic bronze medal in the men's 200m freestyle on Sunday, though.

In fact, he knocked a second and a half off his personal best to finish behind Russian Yevgeny Sadoviy and Swede Anders Holmertz in a race where the winner almost claimed a world record.

It was Finland's first Olympic swimming medal since 1920, when Arvo Aaltonen earned two bronze breaststroke medals. "I didn't know what was happening," said the softspoken 21-year-old who left school to train in Sweden last year to prepare for the Games.

"I saw about two guys ahead of me, and I came on really fast at the end."

When he abandons the water and flies home it will be a national hero. Rest assured this is one 'floating Finn' that won't sink without a trace.

## Golden girl Fu

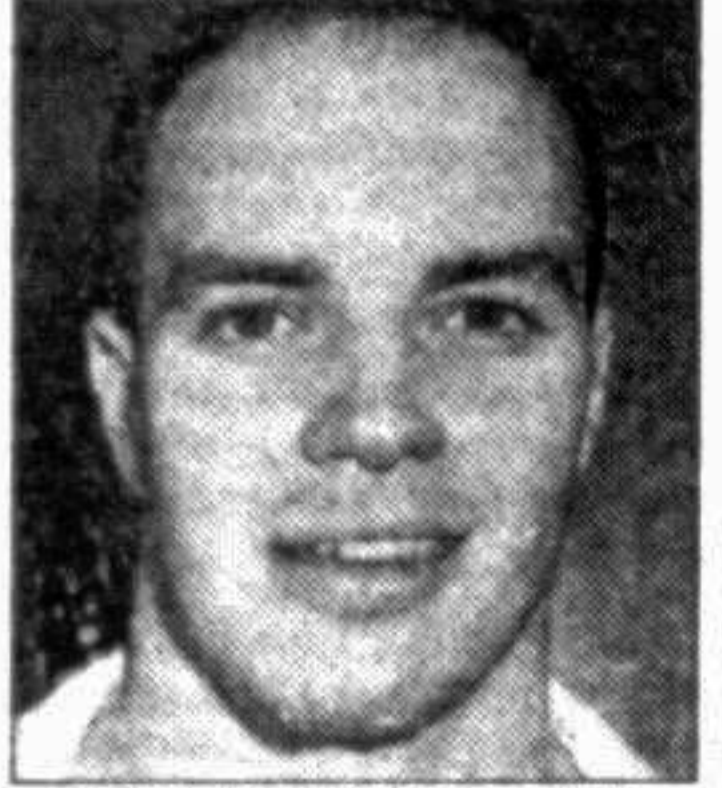
BARCELONA, July 27: Fu Mingxia, China's 13-year-old world champion, won the Olympic women's 10-metre platform diving gold medal here today with a total of 461.43 points, reports AP.

Elena Miroshina of the Unified Team won the silver on 411.63. Mary Ellen Clark, a 29-year-old American, was second before performing a poor seventh dive and finished third on 401.910.

## Rude realisation for Moorhouse

BARCELONA, July 27: Britain's Adrian Moorhouse retired from top level competition after being dethroned as Olympic 100 metre breaststroke champion on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Moorhouse told reporters he could not believe it when he looked round at the end of



ADRIAN MOORHOUSE

the final and saw he had trailed in last. American Nelson Dienbel won the gold medal.

"As far as my career at the top level is concerned I accept that it's now. This was my last major race," he said. Moorhouse set five world records and won four European titles as well as the gold medal in the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

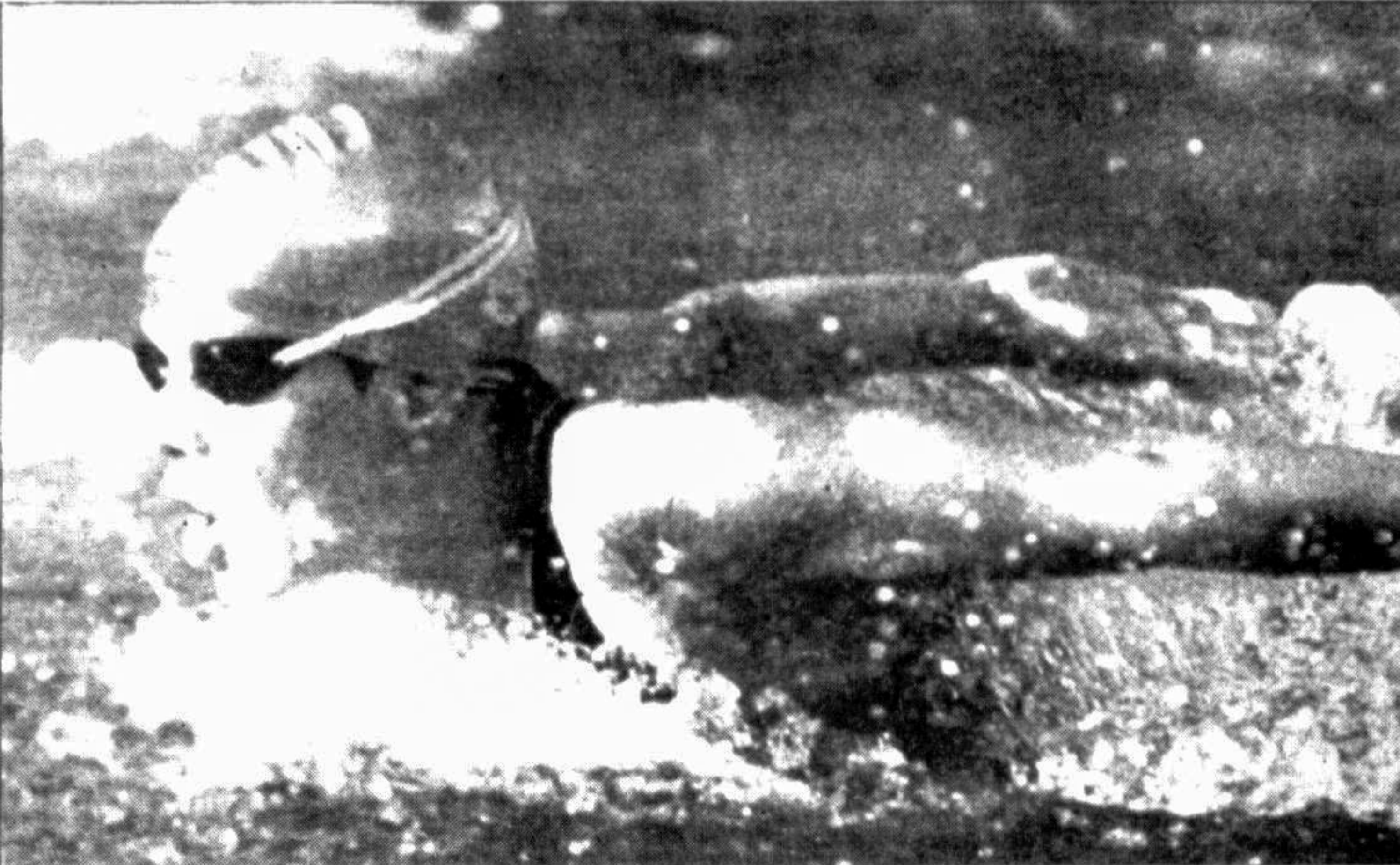
## Darnyi's gold

BARCELONA, July 27: Tamas Darnyi of Hungary won the 400-metre individual medley Monday in an Olympic record 4:14.23, reports AP.

Eric Namesnik of the United States won the silver in 4:15.57 and Luca Sacchi of Italy won the bronze in 4:16.34.

## Electricity tower sabotaged

PERPIGNAN, France, July 27: A tower supporting high-voltage wires supplying electricity to Spain was destroyed by an explosion probably meant to disrupt the Olympics in Barcelona, police said Sunday, reports AP.



Hungary's Kristina Eggerszegi winning the Olympic women's 400m medley gold medal on Sunday in a time of 4:36.54 secs. —AFP photo

## Eggerszegi, modest 'mouse' of the water

BARCELONA, July 27: Hungary's Olympic swimming champion Kristina Eggerszegi lives up to her nickname "The Mouse", reports Reuter.

The 17-year-old swimmer made a superb start to what could turn out to be a remarkable golden treble when she won the women's 400 individual medley on the opening day of the Unified Team won the gold medal Monday in the women's sport pistol event, reports AP.

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of action in the pool at the Barcelona Olympics on Sunday. But, despite being a favourite to add the 100 and 200 backstroke titles to her medals tally, the Hungarian

Eggerszegi is astonishingly modest for a swimmer who has a backstroke technique that many believe is close to perfection. Although she just pipped

age of 14 at the 1988 Seoul Games.

Eggerszegi, who also won Olympic silver in the 100 backstroke four years ago, is the reigning world champion and world record holder in both events and completed the treble with the medley at last year's European Championships in Athens.

The Budapest-based swimmer's victory in South Korea brought her great popularity in her homeland which has a reputation for producing world-class swimmers. She has often trained with the country's male medley star Tamas Darnyi.

But she kept her feet on the ground despite rising to prominence at such a young age — even for swimming.

Eggerszegi, who first started swimming when she was four, has only one extravagance in her life — a penchant for growing long finger nails.

Asked if they were a hindrance in the pool, the Hungarian said: "Quite the opposite, they help me grab more water."

## LATEST: Haislett wins 200m gold

BARCELONA, July 27: Nicole Haislett of the United States won the women's 200-metre freestyle gold medal Monday in 1:57.90, reports AP.

Franziska Van Almsick of Germany won the silver in 1:58.00, and Kerstin Kielgass of Germany won the bronze in 1:59.67.

China's Lin Li and American Summer Sanderson Sunday, the Hungarian clocked four minutes 36.54 seconds — a time beaten only by East German Petra Schneider at the 1982 World Championships in Guayaquil (4:36.10) and 1980 Olympics in Moscow (4:36.29).

The diminutive swimmer became the youngest person to win an Olympic gold medal when she beat off bigger and bulkier East German rivals to take the 200 backstroke at the

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## Diebel's biggest high sans drugs

BARCELONA, July 27: Nelson Diebel, once hooked on marijuana, achieved the biggest high of his life when he won the Olympic 100 metres breaststroke title on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Diebel overcame Hungarian world champion Norbert Rozsa and a host of record breakers and lifted US spirits after the unexpected defeat of teammate Jenny Thompson in the women's 100 freestyle.

Zhuang Yong overpowered Thompson to win China's first-ever Olympic swimming gold in the opening final of the six-day swimming programme in the Bernat Picornell pool.

Russian Evgeny Sadoviy missed the men's 200 freestyle world record by one-hundredth of a second but won the first CIS swimming gold, while Hungary's Krisztina Eggerszegi successfully completed the first leg of a three-tile tilt in an excellent women's 400 individual medley.

But Diebel celebrated loudest, punching the air after conquering world record holder Rozsa in an Olympic record one minute 1.50 seconds to snatch the 100 breaststroke.

"It's the most incredible experience. I was happy and sad," said the 21-year-old American, who walked on to the pool deck sporting a Stars-and-Stripes bandana to shield his shaven head from the fierce sun.

"It's over. It was a great rush to get gold. I wish I could do it over again. It's like a drug. It's the best high you could ever have."

"At trials I told myself no way could I possibly lose, and I won. I kept the same idea here and I won again."

Diebel, who broke both wrists in 1988 when he fell off a railing head-first fooling about near a diving pool, said meeting his coach Chris Martin had been his salvation from drugs.

"Swimming is the path by which my life was turned around," said Diebel, who confessed he was hooked on soft drugs from 12 to 16.

"I'm not proud of what I was. I'm glad I met someone

who could turn me round." The United States came out best from the day's four events, with gold for Diebel, silver for Thompson plus bronze for Summer Sanders in the 400 individual medley.

But Hungary and China were not far behind with a gold and silver apiece, courtesy of Eggerszegi and Rozsa and Zhuang and Lin Li, who was second in the 400 individual medley.

## BEATEN BRITONS

Defending champion Adrian Moorhouse was relegated to last place in the 100 breaststroke, one-hundredth of a second behind fellow Briton Nick Gillingham, who could not fulfil expectations as fastest man in the world this year but should have a better shot in the 200.

Sadoviy, who won the European 400 freestyle title in Athens last year, turned on a scorching finish to pass Swede Anders Holmertz at the death in the 200 freestyle.

Sadoviy, shaven-headed like Diebel, clocked 1:46.70 — 0.01 seconds outside the world mark set at the 1989 European Championships by Italy's Giorgio Lamberti, who failed to qualify for the event.

## China's men lead

BARCELONA, July 27: China placed first Monday in the compulsory event of the men's Olympic gymnastics competition with a score of 114.425, reports AP.

The United Team was second in the morning session at 114.300; Germany third at 114.200; Japan fourth at 114.175; and the United States fifth at 113.775.

## Karate, judo exams

Sports Reporter

The two-day long examinations for the training of the karate and judo coaches and dan will be held on July 31 and August 1 at the judo room of National Sports Council.

State Minister for Finance Mujibur Rahman will give away certificates as the chief guest on Aug 2.

All dan holders have been requested to take part in the function, says a Bangladesh Judo and Karate Federation press release.

## Shannon makes up for Zmeskal

BARCELONA, July 27: Its world champion stumbled, but another teenager seized the individual lead Sunday, keeping alive America's hopes of upsetting the heavily favoured Unified Team in Olympic women's gymnastics, reports AP.

The Unified Team heads into Tuesday's optional events to determine the team medals with a score of 197.507, a mere half-point better than the United States' 197.007 for the compulsory round.

Romania, the 1984 team champion when the then Soviet Union led a boycott of the Games in Los Angeles, was third with 196.982 points and very much in the gold medal picture. China was fourth with 195.769 points and host Spain fifth with 195.395.

## THOMPSON TRAILS

Zhuang, Olympic silver medalist in Seoul, lowered world record-holder Thompson's short-lived Olympic mark from the heats by 0.05 seconds to 54.64 in the final. Fourteen-year-old German Franziska van Almsick took the bronze.

Twenty next month, Zhuang said she had decided eight years ago to win an Olympic gold medal and had worked very hard, training six hours a day.

"When I was a little girl I liked the water, just when my mother put me in the bath," Zhuang said.

"I'm very happy to become a gold medalist." The swimmer from Shanghai also won gold at the World Championships when she took the 50 freestyle.

## EGERSZEGI EYES

### TREBLE

Eggerszegi, hot favourite to win the 100 and 200 backstroke golds and aiming to repeat the golden treble she achieved at last year's European Championships in Athens, just pipped Lin and Sanders in the 400 individual medley.

She won in 4:36.54 — a time beaten only by East German Petra Schneider at the 1982 World Championships in Guayaquil (4:36.10) and 1980 Olympics in Moscow (4:36.29).

"I was just thinking about swimming a personal best today, but somehow it was enough to win the gold medal," she said. Eggerszegi won the 200 backstroke gold and 100 backstroke silver in Seoul.

Shannon Miller, a 15-year-old American who already has won two meets on European soil this year, was the individual leader with 39.636.

For the Unified Team, 1988 Olympian and former world champion Svetlana Boguinskaya had 39.625. Hungary's Henrietta Onodi stood third with 39.624.

The stoic and unshakable Boguinskaya held the judges' favour until Miller took the final bow.

Boguinskaya's lowest score was a 9.850 on the vault, in which she won the gold in 1988 as an up-and-coming star of the former Soviet Union.

Her highs were a 9.975 on the floor and a 9.925 on the uneven bars. She added a 9.875 on the balance beam, where she opened the night with a deep breath and a perfect dismount.



He Xuemei of China performs her uneven bars routine wearing one of China's new Olympic uniforms. The team was penalised 0.2 points for what the International Gymnastics Federation deemed improper dress, showing too much of the thighs. —AFP photo

## Zhuang gives China the golden gloss

BARCELONA, July 27: Zhuang Young put the final gloss on China's status as a swimming power here Sunday — the gold gloss — with the country's first Olympic swimming gold, reports AP.

The world 50m freestyle champion beat world record-holder Jenny Thompson of the United States in the women's 100m freestyle with an Olympic record time of 54.64 seconds.

It was a moment she had been dreaming of for four years, since she stood on the podium in Seoul with a silver medal around her neck for the same event.

Even persistent whispers that China speeded up the progress of its swimming programme using drugs have not dimmed her joy in her achievement.

"I have heard the rumours about the doping," she said. "They accuse us, but I can tell you everything is false. I've been working since 1984 for gold."

She has been swimming for much longer, however, for a long as she can remember. "I just love water," she said in

explanation of her excellence in the gruelling sport.

"Even when I was a baby, when my parents put me in the bath I laughed."

She turns 20 on August 10, the day after Games end, and her time in the water is no longer spent playing. She spends six hours a day in the pool, in addition to her other training.

Since 1988 she has won the 100m free Pan Pacific title and Asian Games championship as well as the world 50m free title.

She says that she has not needed financial or other incentives to stay motivated.

"The system in my country is different," she said when asked if the gold medal would bring her any extra funds or perks. "In China, we race for the sake of competition."

However, she admitted she might pursue an easier path.

"I still don't know what I am going to do, but I would like to do something easier, something that I like, because for the last four years, my training has been very hard."

## Good day for German boxers

BARCELONA, July 27: Germans picked up two victories, an Italian lost and a member of the Unified Team got a message from a Cuban — "keep your hands up" — Monday in Olympic boxing, reports AP.

The victorious Germans on the afternoon programme were Mario Loch and Markus Beyer.

Loch, a silver-medallist at the 1991 European championships, won his 51-kilogram bout in the second round when Vichai Khadpo of Thailand could not continue because of a severe cut over his right eye.

Beyer had an easy time in his 71-kilogram bout, pounding out a decision over Stilio Figota of New Zealand.

In another 71-kilogram match, Gyorgy Mizsei of Hungary counterpunched his way to a 13-4 verdict over Fabrizio De Chiari of Italy.

## 'They can't play defence'

BARCELONA, July 27: Though his team had just lost by 68 points, Angola's coach insisted the Dream Team of American basketball pros can't play defence, reports AP.

One of the NBA's best defenders, Scottie Pippen, walked by as coach Victorino Cunha was telling reporters that what the Americans do is "play fast break and offence only."

"Did he say we don't play defence?" asked Pippen, who had five of the Americans' 30 steals in a 116-48 demolition.

"It's true," Cunha shot back, turning to follow the Chicago Bull forward. "They play defence in college, not in the NBA. Defence means stopping your man from driving to the basket and blocking the passing lanes."

"You don't play defence."

Even a 46-1 run by the Americans midway through the first half was a matter of poor Angolan shooting, he said, not good defence by the US squad.

The Angolans said the lopsided loss was about what they expected, and few expressed regrets after the game.

"I'm happy because I played against the best players in the world," said Nelson Timoteo Alves Sardinha, who fouled out after trying to guard Patrick Ewing and David Robinson. "I told my mother I took a picture with Magic Johnson after the game. It was the best game of my career."

**THE MEDALISTS Day 2**

Following are Sunday, July 26 medal winners in the XXV Olympic Games in Barcelona:

- CYCLING:**
- Men:**
- Road Race:**
- GOLD —** Germany (Bernd Dittert, Christian Meyer, Uwe Peschel, Michael Rich).
- SILVER —** Italy (Flavio Anastasia, Luca Colombo, Gianfranco Contri, Andrea Peron).
- BRONZE —** France (Herve Boussard, Didier Patvre-Pierret, Philippe Gaumont, Jean-Louis Hercl).
- Women:**
- Individual Road Race:**
- GOLD —** Kathryn Watt, Australia.
- SILVER —** Jeannie Longo-Ciprelli, France.
- BRONZE —** Monique Knol, Netherlands.
- SHOOTING:**
- Men:**
- Free Pistol:**
- GOLD —** Konstantine Koukachik, Unified Team.
- SILVER —** Wang Yifu, China.
- BRONZE —** Ragnar Skanaker, Swedn.
- Women:**
- Air Rifle:**
- GOLD —** Yeo Kab-Soon, South Korea.
- SILVER —** Vesela Nikolova Letcheva, Bulgaria.
- BRONZE —** Aranka Binder, Yugoslavia.
- SWIMMING:**
- Men:**
- 100 Metre Breaststroke:**
- GOLD —** Nelson Diebel, United States.
- SILVER —** Norbert Rozsa, Hungary.
- BRONZE —** Phillip Rogers, Australia.
- 200 Metre Freestyle:**
- GOLD —** Evgeny Sadoviy, Unified Team.
- SILVER —** Anders Holmertz, Sweden.
- BRONZE —** Antti Alexander Kasvio, Finland.
- Women:**
- 100 Metre Freestyle:**
- GOLD —** Zhuang Yong, China.
- SILVER —** Jenny Thompson, United States.
- BRONZE —** Franziska Van Almsick, Germany.
- 400 Metre Individual Medley:**
- GOLD —** Kristina Eggerszegi, Hungary.
- SILVER —** Lin Li, China.
- BRONZE —** Summer Sanders, United States.
- WEIGHTLIFTING:**
- 52 kg (115 Pounds):**
- GOLD —** Ivan Ivanov, Bulgaria.
- SILVER —** Lin Qisheng, China.
- BRONZE —** Traian Ciharcan, Romania.