

Lenzi pips Tan for diving gold

BARCELONA, July 29: American Mark Lenzi won the gold medal in the men's 3-metre springboard, outdiving Tan Liangde of China who earned his third consecutive Olympic silver in the event.



TAN LIANGDE

reports AP.

Dmitri Saoutine of the Unified Team held off a late charge by Kent Ferguson of the United States to take the bronze.

Lenzi took the lead on the seventh of 11 dives and led the rest of the way, finishing with 676.53 points. Liangde finished with 645.57. Saoutine had 627.78 points.

With the win, Lenzi succeeded his hero Greg Louganis as an Olympic diving champion as he easily won the 3-metre title.

Lenzi went into the final dive with a 34-point lead over Tan. When he received a score of 71.40 on a reverse 3 1/2 somersault tuck on his last dive, the gold was assured.

Lenzi, who was inspired to take up diving after watching Louganis at the 1984 Olympics, took the lead when Germany's Albin Killat angled into the water on an inward 2 1/2 somersault. The judges gave Killat, the leader at the point, just 40.50 points, a low score for a dive with a 3.0 degree of difficulty.

Lenzi responded to by earning 71.10 for a backward 2 1/2 somersault pike. That was enough to move him from third to first when Tan got just 60.30 points for a reverse 2 1/2 somersault.

Tan, a silver medalist in the 1984 and 1988 Olympics, remained in second after that round, while Killat fell to fourth. Saoutine slipped past the German into third.

Close call for CIS handballers

GRANOLLERS, Spain, July 29: Talant Doulichabaev scored his ninth goal on a fast break with 31 seconds remaining on Wednesday, completing the Unified Team's rally from a three-goal deficit to beat France 23-22 in men's Olympic handball, reports AP.

In other games, in Group A, Sweden routed South Korea 28-18 and Hungary topped Brazil 27-21. Germany played Romania, Egypt faced Spain and Czechoslovakia opposed Iceland in later games Wednesday.

Laszlo Marosi scored three goals in a 6 1/2 minute span, sparking an eight consecutive-goal run that broke a 12-12 tie and paced Hungary over Brazil.

Germany settle score with Britain

TERASSA, Spain, July 29: Germany, tipped to win the men's hockey gold medal, beat Olympic champions Britain 2-0 on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

The tightly-disciplined Germans kept control for long stretches of the match to gain some revenge for their defeat in the final of the Seoul Games.

Powerhouse defender and penalty corner specialist Carsten Fischer sprayed passes up to the forward line to help the Olympic runners-up in 1988 and 1984 pile the pressure on the British.

Fischer scored Germany's first goal with a cannonball shot from a penalty corner in the 17th minute. Michael Hilgers pounced on a Sven Menhartdt cross from the right wing later in the first half for Germany's second.

Britain, who have not beaten Germany since their 3-1 victory in the Seoul final, had their best chances late in the game. Veteran forward Sean Kerly forced a spectacular save from goalkeeper Michael Knauth in the dying minutes.

Germany and Australia lead the six teams in qualifying Group A with two wins from their two pool games so far. In Group B, the Netherlands and Pakistan have also won two.

BOVELANDER'S HAT-TRICK

Floris Bovelanders of the Netherlands reasserted his dominance from the penalty corner on Tuesday, scoring a hat-trick as the Netherlands



OLYMPIC SPECIAL



A sad swansong

BARCELONA, July 29: Gymnastics will suffer as a result of the break-up of the former Soviet Union, a Ukrainian competitor said shortly after winning a team gold medal with the CIS, reports Reuters.

Tatyana Lysenko, 17, said she was sorry members of the team which won the women's gymnastics Olympic team title would be going their separate ways.

"It's a shame for the training system that has been developed. We had all been training together, now we will be dispersed and the girls working in the group will be parted," Lysenko said after her team scooped the gold on Tuesday.

"It's such a shame, it's a pity," Lysenko said she had no thoughts about representing her individual republic, Ukraine, in future competitions.

"The main part for me is sport and not the country I represent," she said. "I shall try to perform at the best of my ability and not to be proud of my country whether it's the CIS or anything else."

The former Soviet republics are competing as a joint team for the last time this year and will take part as different republics in future.

"We won this gold medal as a team and as a result of enormous work as a unified squad," Lysenko said.

Octavian Belu, coach of Romania, who won the silver medal ahead of the United States, said the break-up of the Soviet Union would not necessarily improve his country's chances in the future.

The Soviet Union won gold in the team gymnastics at every Olympics it entered from 1952 onwards.

"We know there will be countries like Belarus and Ukraine competing in future. But they will work with the same Russian system and the same specialists and coaches."

"It's only a problem of selection. Each will have six girls against us and it may be difficult for us to get into finals."

"May be there will be a short breather for us and the Americans after these Games. Who knows? The future is open."

Belu said Romanian gymnastics had not suffered as much as many people had expected from the social upheavals that have taken place.

"We prepare the same routines with the same apparatus in the same hall," he said. "We now understand what sponsors mean and that we get more money for good results."

"The government and sports ministry help us but we have to stay on top because I think they will only help the top-level performers in future."

India meet Britain in today's crunch tie

BARCELONA, July 29: India take on defending champions Britain in a crunch game tomorrow that will decide which of them stays in the reckoning for a semi-final spot in Olympic men's hockey, reports AFP.

Both desperately need to salvage two points from the Group A match at Terrassa to retain any realistic hope of advancing to the last four.

Each have a win from matches against the tournament's minnows, Britain against Egypt and India against Australia.

Neither has looked potential semi-finalists in a group that has gold medal favourites Germany and top contenders Australia.

But British coach Norman Hughes refused to accept his side are outsiders.

"We are now in a position where we have to put India and Argentina away and at least take a point off Australia," Hughes said after defeat to Germany on Tuesday night.

He said he was very optimistic his side would even beat Australia and book a semifinal appointment.

Britain, who in Seoul four years ago upset Germany 3-1 in the final after losing a pool match 1-2, have looked less

than impressive this time.

The same Sunday that Australia swamped Argentina 7-0, Britain scraped out a 2-0 win over Olympic debutants Egypt.

Both goals came via Rob Hill penalty corners and their forwards, including Seoul hero Sean Kerly, never seriously threatened rival goalkeepers.

And India could only manage one goal against the Argentines Tuesday in an all-too-familiar tale of missed chances and poor shooting after creating openings.

So many chances went to waste — with Daryl D'Souza once having an open goal in front of him but still not managing to put the ball in — that crestfallen coach Balkishen Singh admitted to having felt let down by his own players.

Eight-time Olympic champions, the Asians are trying to regain their hockey prestige and seemed hugely rejuvenated after a successful May tour of Europe that included two wins over Britain.

Balkishen Singh then said his team would go to the Olympic last four and take it from there, but is offering no forecasts now.

"It all depends on how my players play against Britain," he said.

"I am taking one match at a time."

Germany settle score with Britain

beat Spain 3-2. The goals brought his personal tally to seven from two games — making him by far the highest goalscorer of the Olympics in Terrassa, a town near Barcelona.

After beating Britain, German coach Paul Lissack said "Australia are the strongest team we face in the group, but Britain are the most dangerous. It will be hard enough to get to the semi-finals."

British Coach Orma Hughes said: "Tonight's a disappointment, but we'll soon bounce back. In the first half, the



F BOVELANDER

quality of the German possession play made it hard for us to get in the game."

He noted that Britain lost to Germany in a pool match in Seoul on the way to winning the gold.

Also on Tuesday, Asian hockey giants India and Pakistan managed only 1-0 victories respectively against out-

siders Argentina and New Zealand.

The CIS pummeled Malaysia 7-3 after trailing at half time — the highest score of the tournament so far.

Australia thrashed Egypt 5-1 and reckoned they should have scored many more. "I'm disappointed. If we play like that against Germany, we'll get whipped," said Australian coach Frank Murray.

Meanwhile, Olympic hockey officials agreed on Tuesday to make a second review of a goal wrongly credited to Australian forward David Wansbrough in a 7-0 rout of Argentina on Sunday.

The Australian team says the goal — the first one in the Olympic hockey tournament — was scored by Lee Bodimead and not by Wansbrough as stated on the Official match report.

"I spoke to the technical delegate and he agreed to have another look," Australian manager Alan Berry said.

Earlier on Tuesday, a hockey judge upheld a decision that Wansbrough scored a hat-trick in the match after an Australian protest that he only scored twice.

Karolyi to quit after Games

BARCELONA, July 29: US gymnastics coach Bela Karolyi, who guided Nadia Comaneci and Mary Lou Retton to Olympic gold medals, announced Wednesday that he's retiring after the Summer Games, reports AP.

"This is my last competition," Karolyi said after watching his latest protégé, 16-year-old Kim Zmeskal, qualify for the women's all-round. "My



Tatiana Goutsou of the Unified Team flies over the bar during Tuesday's women's optional exercise. The Unified Team won the gold, Romania took silver and the USA the bronze.

Boguinskaya has the last laugh over US

BARCELONA, July 29: Svetlana Boguinskaya had one last laugh over the United States on Tuesday when she led the Commonwealth of Independent States to the Olympic gymnastics team gold medal, reports Reuters.

Boguinskaya, stung by criticism from American coach Bela Karolyi that she was past her best at 19, bounced back to the top step of the medals podium she occupied with the old Soviet Union in Seoul four years ago.

The United States, fighting uphill after world champion Kim Zmeskal fell from the beam at the start of Sunday's compulsory exercises, could manage only third place, behind Romania, who also took the silver medal in 1988.

The Soviet women won every Olympic team title between 1952 and 1988, except only for 1984, the year of the boycott.

After these Olympics, the CIS will break up and Boguinskaya, a former world all-round champion, is expected to retire.

But she proved that she could still produce world-class performances and scored nothing less than 9.862 on the four apparatus in Tuesday's optional exercises.

Shahannon Miller tried bravely to pull up the American team and was leading the individuals standings, which decide the qualifiers for the all-round final on Thursday, just a fraction of a point ahead of Boguinskaya.

But faced with the depth of talent in the CIS and Romanian teams, who each had four of their six women in the top 11, the Americans had to be content with the bronze medal — only their third team medal in history.

Cristina Bontas, recovered from an injury which kept her out of the World Apparatus Championships in April, was Romania's top scorer and shared the lead in the floor exercises with Boguinskaya.

The CIS finished with 395.666 points after the two-day competition. Romania had 395.079 and the Americans 394.704.

China, penalised 0.20 points after two of their team wore illegal leotards on Sunday, were fourth with host nation Spain enjoying their best result by finishing fifth.

The event had been billed as a needle match between Boguinskaya and the 16-year-old Zmeskal after a war of words at last year's World Championships in Indianapolis.

On that occasion, Zmeskal took the world all-round title from the Belarussian, provoking

accusations of biased judging. Boguinskaya refused to shake Zmeskal's hand on the podium.

When Boguinskaya failed to win a title at the World Apparatus Championships in Paris in April, where Zmeskal took gold on the beam and floor, Karolyi's words seemed to ring true.

But he had reckoned without the fighting spirit which had brought the elegant Boguinskaya 11 Olympic and world medals in the past five years.

On the Barcelona podium, Boguinskaya and Zmeskal exchanged a cursory handshake.

Zmeskal's problems on the beam mean she is out of Saturday's final on the apparatus. Only the top eight qualify, with a maximum of two per nation and both Miller and Betty Okino made it.

But Zmeskal should have

another showdown with Boguinskaya in the vault and floor finals and, along with Miller and Okino, should be one of

the three Americans among the 36-all-round finalists.

Zmeskal was pleased just to have made the all-round final after Sunday's fall.

"I had to come from behind," she said. "It was a very strong effort."

"Today was what I expected from her," said Karolyi, who coached Nadia Comaneci to Olympic all-round gold in 1976 before defecting from Romania.

"She is a strong girl, a sturdy personality. She made a great contribution to the medal position."

Boguinskaya was asked if she could now win the all-round gold, after placing third in Seoul.

"I don't like to peer into the future," she said. "I would be delighted to perform in a distinguished manner and I will try to do my very best."

Pocket Hercules does it again

BARCELONA, Spain, July 29: The man known as Pocket Hercules smiled and blew kisses to the fans after, crusing to an easy defense of his Olympic weightlifting title, reports AP.

It was certainly no labor for this Hercules.

Naim Suleymanoglu, who left Bulgaria to become a Turk six years ago, avenged a rare defeat and even tried to break one of his world records before holding on to his title in the featherweight (62-kilogram — 136.4-pound) division.

The 153-centimeter (5-foot) lifter who can support three times his body weight won by 15 kilograms (33 pounds) from a Bulgarian who beat him at the European championships in April.

This time Nikolai Peshalov won the silver while China's He Yinggiang collected the bronze.

Suleymanoglu, who set his world records at the Seoul Olympics four years ago, almost turned this competition into a one-man show.

By the time he made his first appearance for the snatch, the other eight lifters already had made their three lifts.

Suleymanoglu immediately lifted 5 kilograms (11 pounds) more than any of the other competitors, and then went in search of the world record.

He had 153 kilograms (336.6 pounds) put on the bar, just above the 152.5 kilograms (335.5 pounds) that is his world mark. The first time he only got it waist high instead of onto his shoulders.

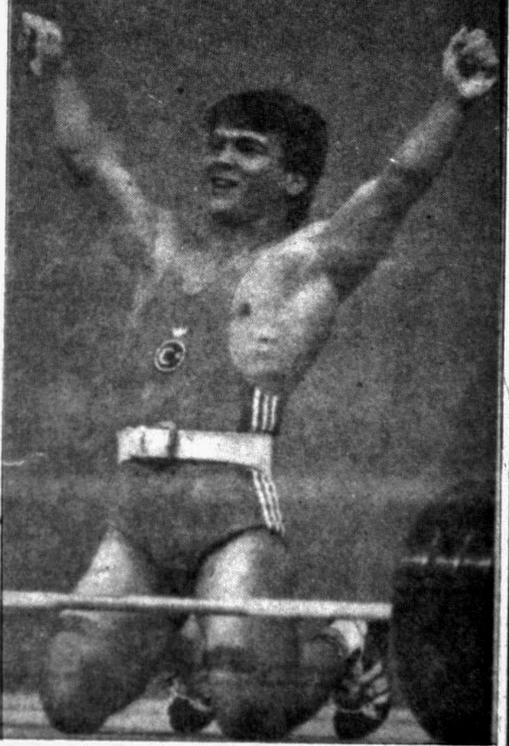
At first, he said, he delighted in beating Bulgarians.

"I felt that way in 1988, but now that doesn't matter at all," he said. "Now any opponent is the same for me."

Suleymanoglu's total was 320 kilograms (704 pounds). Peshalov had 305 (671). The Chinese He totaled 295 (649).

He tried one more weight, at 177.5 kilograms (390.5 pounds) and smiled in acknowledgement of the applause as he held the bar high. Then, even with one lift left, he decided that was enough.

"The world record might have gone but I decided not to try for that one," he said.



NAIM SULEYMANOGLU ... a true champion

Now Suleymanoglu, who is idolized in Turkey, will return to the same jubilant scenes that met him after he won in Seoul.

"That won't worry me, I am used to it," he said. "Now I am looking forward to the possibility of the world championships being held in

Istanbul."

Suleymanoglu became a Turk after walking out of the Bulgarian team at Melbourne, Australia, in December 1986.

Born into a Turkish family that lived in Bulgaria, he rebelled against the way Turks were treated there by the authorities.

"They want to experience the Olympic atmosphere at first hand — the interest in the sport is secondary."

Palacios said more than three million tickets had been sold out of a total of four million.

BARCELONA BRIDES

22 million US viewers

BARCELONA, July 29: (Reuters) More than 22 million people watched the Olympic opening ceremony on US television, well above expectations.

Michele Verdier, spokeswoman for International Olympic Committee, said on Tuesday the recorded programme on the opening ceremony was watched by 22.6 million viewers.

The officials broadcaster, NBC, had decided in advance that 19 million would be a "roaring success," she said.

Verdier added that six million people watched the three-hour opening ceremony on Spanish television including 90 per cent of viewers in Catalonia, a record.

USOC satisfied

THE US Olympic Committee will tell the International Olympic Committee today it is satisfied that newspaper articles written by Carl Lewis do not contravene the Olympic Charter.

Articles written under six-time Olympic champion Lewis's name have appeared in French and Italian newspapers.

"We have received the necessary assurances from Carl that we sought, on his role as a journalist," USOC public relations director Mike Moran told a news conference on Tuesday.

"We will report to the International Olympic Committee this afternoon that we don't consider it an issue."

Lewis used a portable phone to relate his feelings to a newspaper during Saturday's opening ceremony of the Barcelona Games and the IOC warned the US team to stop him acting as a journalist at the Games.

Rule 59 of the Olympic Charter states: Under no circumstances, through the duration of the Olympic Games, may any athlete, coach, official, press attache or any other accredited participant be accredited or act as a journalist or in any other media capacity."

Testosterone trick
A Spanish Olympic competitor, who showed a high level of the steroid testosterone in a routine doping test, has been cleared after a second test proved negative, officials said yesterday.

Alfredo Goyeneche, vice-president of the Spanish Olympic Committee, told a news conference the testosterone level was just within the legal limit in the initial test, but high enough to prompt a second analysis of the athlete's urine sample.

The second test on the unnamed athlete was negative, he said.

'Magic' mystery
MAGIC Johnson's return to the Olympic basketball tournament remained uncertain on Tuesday even though a medical check showed his knee injury was not serious.

Johnson had been helped off court on Monday. The US "Dream Team" added Croatia to their list of victims.

An examination revealed nothing more than a strained muscle in his right knee but American team officials were unable to say when he would be back in action.

Race without an end

OLYMPIC boardsailors went through one of sport's worst nightmares on Tuesday — the finishing line moved.

A line attached to the buoy marking the end of the race was caught in the propellers of a television boat. The buoy was dragged away to the other side of a judges' boat monitoring the finish.

Some puzzled competitors, unsure where to go, finished on the wrong side of the buoy. It was not clear if any would protest or be disqualified.

Soccer catches on

SPORTS fans who turned their noses up at Olympic soccer matches and preliminary athletics heats are now rushing to buy tickets to make sure they see something.

"Sales have gone up in the past few days. People just want to get whatever they can," Pedro Palacios, spokesman for the Olympics organising committee COOB '92 said today.

"They want to experience the Olympic atmosphere at first hand — the interest in the sport is secondary."

Palacios said more than three million tickets had been sold out of a total of four million.