

First and last woman to win Olympic skeet

MOLLET DEL VALLES, July 29: Zhang Shan of China became the first, and probably last, woman to win an open Olympic skeet shooting competition Tuesday, reports AP.

The 24-year-old student didn't miss on 200 targets in the three-day match, establishing a new Olympic record and tying the world mark.

She went on to break 23 or 25 targets in the final round to capture the gold with a score of 223.

"As a woman shooter, to get first place means greater courage for women of China," Zhang said.

The International Shooting Union has decided to eliminate women from Olympic skeet after this year.

Juan Jorge Gihya Yarur of Peru won the silver in a shootout with Bruno Rossetti of Italy and Ioan Toman of Romania. Rossetti took the bronze. All three tied at 222.

China also took home the gold in the men's air pistol, Wang Yifu winning with a 684.8 score.



OLYMPIC SPECIAL



S Korean Lee hits gold in air rifle

MOLLET DEL VALLES, Spain, July 29: Lee Eun-chul of South Korea surprised himself Wednesday, winning the Olympic men's free air rifle competition with his best score ever, reports AP.

Part-timers test Pakistans

MARLOW, England, July 29: Pakistan recovered from 37 for five against the British part-time cricketers of the Minor Counties to make 226 in their first inning of a two-day match Wednesday, reports AP.

Zahid Fazal, with 93, and star bowler Waqar Younis with 57 from 68 balls saved Pakistan from further embarrassment after Dorset all-rounder Graeme Calway took three wickets in an over with the Pakistan total on 37.

Asif Mujtaba played on for 12. Naveed Anjum edged an away swinger to wicketkeeper Mark Humphries, and Motin Khan was deceived by an inswinger to lose his off stump. Calway, a 26-year-old school cricket coach, finished with four for 30 off 12 overs.

Zahid, dropped at square leg by Nick Adams off Calway's bowling when on 77, three times lifted Welsh slow left-arm Tony Smith out of the ground for sixes.

But he finally departed seven short of a century when Smith had his revenge with a catch on the boundary.

Waqar cracked 57 off only 68 deliveries as the last two Pakistan wickets added 94 runs to take it past 200.

Passion spoils the action

LONDON, July 29: A charity cricket match between teams representing India and Pakistan had to be abandoned last night after fighting broke out between rival fans, reports Reuter.

The floodlit game had been staged to raise funds for former Pakistan captain Imran Khan's cancer hospital in Lahore and both countries fielded top quality sides.

But after the fourth pitch invasion of the evening was followed by scuffles in the stands, the match was called off with Pakistan 152 for four chasing India's 220 for four with 7.4 overs still remaining.

The limited overs contest had to be reduced from 42 to 40 overs and then to 35 following numerous delays for pitch invasions and a 25-minute late start.

The near-capacity 16,500 crowd was warned over the public address system that the match would be called off and the announcer insisted that Imran, who was playing in the game, was desperate for order to return.

Earlier the crowd had been regally entertained with India's Sunil Gavaskar scoring 47 and Kapil Dev hitting a quick-fire 133 off 97 balls. His innings included seven sixes and 12 fours.

Kapil Dev then took three wickets in his first five overs for 27 runs. Pakistan, whose Test side is currently touring England, never looked likely to reach the target set them by India.

However Javed Miandad, who was left on 55 not out and Rameez Raja, who hit a six and eight fours for his 61, did their best against some tight bowling and enthusiastic fielding.

Fate's bazaar in Barcelona

BARCELONA, July 29: Destined finally to be crowned Olympic champions or jinxed never to win a major individual title?

Merlene Ottey, Sandra Farmer-Patrick and like Wyludda will find out in Barcelona when three of the biggest modern athletics mysteries are unravelled in the women's events, reports Reuter.

Few would dispute that these three are the best in their own particular business - Jamaican Ottey in the sprints, American Farmer-Patrick over 400 metres, hurdles and German Wyludda in the discus.

Yet, whether through misfortune or an inability to cope with the enormous pressures on topflight athletes, none has managed to land the big titles that seemed sure to go their way.

Why? Barcelona may provide the answers. Ottey's showdown with American number one Gwen Torrence for the right to be called the world's fastest woman should be one of the highlights of the entire programme.

Ottey has been dubbed 'The Bronze Queen' because her impressive collection of 10 world and Olympic medals includes eight of a bronze hue.

Only one is gold and that came when Jamaica won the 4X100 relay at last year's World Championships in Tokyo where Ottey started as clear favourite in the individual sprints after arriving with an unbeaten record in 56 100 metres flats.

But German Katrin Krabbe and Torrence both beat her in each race to turn her world

champion dreams into nightmares. Krabbe has chosen not to compete this time after her training was upset by a pro-



MERLENE OTTEY

tracted doping saga but Ottey, now 32, has to prove to herself that she can still beat the American and Russian Irina Privalova when it matters.

The Jamaican born Farmer-Patrick's exotic race outfits are as stunning as her sheer speed over the hurdles but she has yet to win a major medal for all her dominance of the distance.

Controversially disqualified at the US trials in 1988, she missed the Seoul Olympics and, three years later in Tokyo, hampered by injury, finished only fourth in the final.

Her main rival is world champion Tatyana Ledovskaya of the CIS, though Briton Sally Gunnell could have her say, too.

Wyludda missed the Seoul Olympics because she was the least experienced of a strong German team but then put together a run of 41 unbeaten competitions between 1989 and 1991. It ended in Tokyo when a big last throw by Tsvetanka Khristova of Bulgaria

left her with the silver. Xiao Yanling of China may be her most serious opponent in Barcelona.



HEIKE DRECHSLER

been a problem for entrenched champions such as Jackie Joyner-Kersey and Tatyana Dorovskikh.

Joyner-Kersey is reigning Olympic champion in the long jump and heptathlon and is looking for another double in Barcelona, though her contest with her eternal German rival Heike Drechsler on the runway promises to be fascinating.

Drechsler who leapt a wind assisted 7.63 metres this month, won't settle for silver this time.

The experienced middle distance Ukrainian runner Dorovskikh, Olympic and world champion over 3,000 metres and a bronze medalist over 1,500 in Seoul under her maiden name Samolenko, looks on course for a possible golden double in Spain.

The high jump should prove another showpiece with world champion Heike Henkel of Germany up against world record holder Stefka Kostadinova of Bulgaria.

Brolin steers Sweden to victory

BARCELONA, July 29: Two typically opportunistic goals by Tomas Brolin steered Sweden to a 4-0 victory over Morocco in a crucial Olympic soccer Group C match on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Italy-based Brolin looked jaded in Sweden's opening 0-0 draw with Paraguay but was at his influential best this time.

He scored Sweden's first and fourth goals in a win which leaves them well placed to qualify for the quarter-finals.

Hakan Mild and Jonny Roedlund added the other goals and Morocco's problems worsened when Mohammed el Badraoui was sent off in the 66th minute for a tackle from behind on Roedlund.

Ghana, under-17 world champions, were thwarted by Danish goalkeeper Nicls Jorgensen in Group D and had to settle for a 0-0 draw.

Jorgensen saved well from Maxwell Koadu and Samuel Kumah in the first half and denied Konadu again in the 75th minute with a superb stop.

Ghana were the more inventive throughout although Nii Lamptey, who plays for Anderlecht, was pulled off in the

second half after an ineffective game.



TOMAS BROLIN

The draw left Ghana on three points, one ahead of Denmark, with a match remaining.

MEXICO, DENMARK 1-1

Mexico drew level on two points with Denmark after their 1-1 draw with Australia in an uninspiring match. The Australians are bottom of the group and have little chance of making the last eight.

Zlatko Arambasic had boosted their hopes with a well-taken goal in the 19th minute after a fine run by Milan Blagojevic.

But Mexico upped the tempo a little in the second

half and Jorge Castaneda equalised with a curving shot from the edge of the penalty area.

PARAGUAY, ROK 0-0

Meanwhile, AP reports from Valencia: Paraguay had four shots on goal in the opening 12 minutes, including three by Jorge Campos, but had to settle for a scoreless draw with South Korea on Tuesday, their second goalless game of the Olympic soccer tournament.

Paraguay's Hugo Sosa hit the post in the 44th minute and Ruben Ruiz had to make a save on Gwak Kyung-keun's header in the 24th.

Korea earned eight corners, twice as many as Paraguay, but like their South American opponents, have yet to win in two games.

The draw left both with 0-2-0 records in Group C behind Sweden (1-1-0), but Korea was in second place on the basis of goals scored, one, from its 1-1 draw with Morocco in its opener.

Korea was to face Sweden in its first-round finale on Thursday while Paraguay faced Morocco. Only two teams advance from the group to the quarter-finals.

Burrell man to beat

BARCELONA, July 29: Leroy Burrell, world silver medalist and former world record holder, said confidently today he considered himself favourite for the Olympic 100 metres title, reports Reuter.



LEROY BURRELL

The 25-year-old American, who has been struggling with a back injury since finishing third in the US trials, told a news conference he had made

Everett injured

BARCELONA, July 29: American 400 metres champion Danny Everett, fastest man in the world this year, has injured his right Achilles tendon and it could keep him out of the Olympic Games, reports Reuter.

"I've got trouble with the right Achilles," Everett told a news conference. "I will have to make a decision that will be best for the American team."

"I have to find out how late I can take that decision. I don't want to go out there if I can't do my best."

Everett, who runs in the first round heats on Saturday, said US coaches through at the moment he would be able to run.

World 200 metres champion Michael Johnson said he could break the oldest world track record at the Games.

a full recovery. Asked if he thought he was the favourite for Saturday's final, Burrell replied: "Yes I do. I'm a bit more talented and I have more experience than any other athlete - besides Linford (Christie) of course."

Burrell's news conference was a classic illustration of the new commercial age in athletics.

He entered the room to a fanfare reminiscent of a world heavyweight title fight then watched while his sponsors showed a film promoting his new running shoe.

After the preliminaries were over Burrell then explained his comparatively poor performance at the US trials by saying he had been called back for a false start in the final.

"I was greatly hampered by a false start that was charged to me that I didn't really believe was a false start," Burrell said. "I believe I would have won that race in the trials."

Burrell said another factor had been the intense heat and stifling humidity in New Orleans.

Asked about the heat in Barcelona - which reached 41 degrees Celsius on Tuesday - Burrell replied: "Honestly it doesn't seem as bad here as in New Orleans."

"After New Orleans I began to focus more on taking a few vitamins to supplement my diet."

"I have been drinking a lot of water. I wasn't drinking as much water in New Orleans as I needed."

Burrell said he had been suffering from a back problem which had caused him to double up in pain after losing to Sante Monica Track Club team mate Carl Lewis in Sestriere, Italy, last week.

"I was working too hard and not taking enough rest and just being run down," he said. "I feel much better. I feel as good as I did two years ago."

The failure of the world champion and 1988 Olympic gold medalist Lewis to qualify for Barcelona did not concern Burrell.

He shrugged, "Carl isn't in the 100."

After Lewis it's 'bad boy' Barkley

BARCELONA, July 29: The IOC said today it will investigate a complaint that basketball 'bad boy' Charles Barkley is working as a journalist at the Olympic Games, reports Reuter.

International Olympic Committee spokeswoman Michele Verdier was asked at a news conference whether the IOC intended to take action against Barkley for writing a column during the Olympics for the 'USA Today' newspaper.

"I was not aware of this but I will refer it to the IOC legal affairs commission. The point will be followed up," she said. Six times gold medalist Carl Lewis has already been investigated by the IOC after he used a portable phone to relate his feelings to a newspaper during the opening ceremony. But Verdier said that case was now closed.

Wednesday's international edition of 'USA Today' carried a column by Barkley but said no piece was planned for Thursday and a decision about further articles was pending.

Lewis and Swiss swimmer Dano Halsall, who also used a portable phone to give commentary to a newspaper during the opening ceremony, were accused of breaking the Olympic charter by acting as journalists.

IAAF in no rush over Reynolds

BARCELONA, July 29: The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) will take no action against banned US sprinter Butch Reynolds before the end of the Olympic Games, IAAF president Primo Nebiolo said today, reports Reuter.

Reynolds was banned for two years testing positive for a steroid in Monte Carlo on August 12, 1989. He won a US Supreme Court injunction in June which allowed him to compete in the US trials but did not qualify for the Olympic 400 metres.

Nebiolo told reporters the Reynolds case would not be discussed at an IAAF Council meeting on Thursday but did not rule out further action.

Battle of the sexes

NEW YORK, July 29: Tennis stars Jimmy Connors and Martina Navratilova will renew the battle of the sexes for a 500,000 winner-take-all prize on September 25 in Las Vegas, reports Reuter.

The best-of-three-sets match between the two former world number one players, to be held at Caesars Palace's 14,000-seat outdoor stadium was announced on Tuesday in a telephone news conference.

"There will always be controversy whether women can compete against men," Connors said. "This is putting together two athletes who have excelled in their own sports and is an opportunity to have a good time."

In 1973 Billie Jean King beat Bobby Riggs, championing female athletes in a much-ballyhooed televised battle of the sexes in the Houston Astrodome.

But Navratilova said she is not carrying another banner of equality into this battle.

"In the '70s women needed that empowerment," Navratilova said. "I don't think they need that by winning. Women are empowered already."

Navratilova will be playing for another cause.

"It is serious money," said Navratilova, who like Connors is getting an undisclosed appearance fee.

Riggs played with a 25-year handicap against King.

Connors, who will turn 40 on September 2, will give away only five years to Navratilova, but will also play with the handicaps of being allowed just one serve per point and having to cover a court widened by half of each doubles ally.

"If we played straight up I know he would beat me," Navratilova, 35, said of the five time US Open Champions. "I think it is a fair enough handicap. If we played 10 matches, I think it would be five and five, and that is pretty fair."

Connors realises the handicap of covering a wider court means more wear and tear on his ageing body.

Americans show their uglier side

BARCELONA, Spain, July 29: Five days into the Olympics, and American athletes have: - shaved their heads in protest;

Schools chess

Sports Reporter

Twenty players with full two points each led the table in the seventh Bata schools chess competition after the completion of the second round of the eight-round Swiss league encounter at the National Sports Council chess room yesterday.

Five others with one and a half points each followed them. Ninety students representing 65 schools are taking part in the eight-day meet organised by the Bangladesh Chess Federation.

'Soccer show' tomorrow

Sports Reporter

An exhibition soccer 'lamasha' between the Football Players' Association (FPA) and the Bangladesh Movie Artists' Association (BMAA) to raise funds for the distressed players and actors will be held tomorrow Friday at 5:30 pm at the Dhaka Stadium.

This was disclosed at a press conference jointly organised by the FPA and BMAA at the National Sports Council conference room yesterday.

The match will be followed by a cultural show.

- blamed a slippery mat for a tumble; - run a foul of the rules against playing reporter; - called a coach a liar; - threatened to wear warmup suits that don't match; - and cursed at the crowd. No wonder the rest of the world loves Americans so.

Instead of basketball swimming and volleyball, the US athletes need events where ripping one another and tugging off nearly everyone bring some reward.

The Games were barely under way when Carl Lewis committed the first serious breach of protocol. After cutting deals to give his first-hand account of the games to two European publications, the sprinter slipped open a cellular telephone and reported live while marching in Saturday's opening ceremony, writes AP.

On Sunday, swimmer Jenny Thompson, the world record-holder at 100 metres, called for drug testing of the Chinese girl who beat her.

On Monday, the US volleyball team shaved their collective head after their win over Japan one day earlier was taken away.

The same day, gymnast Chris Waller wound up on his seat and blamed a slick mat for almost certainly ending the US team's chance for a medal.

Lewis wasn't the only athlete to dabble in journalism. Basketball star Charles Barkley offered Tuesday's USA Today

his first-person account of Monday night's game between the Dream Team and Croatia.

The International Olympic Committee, which forbids athletes from moonlighting as journalists, reprimanded Lewis and Barkley. Both said they would halt their extracurricular activity.

"I will definitely abide by the rules of the IOC," Lewis said. "We've clarified the situation and I don't see any problems."

But Barkley delivered a parting shot to the US Olympic Committee: "They shouldn't pick on every little thing we do. We should be given our due for being a great basketball team."

US Olympic Committee spokesman Mike Moran responded, "They must abide by the rules like any other US athlete."

Meanwhile, USA Today Olympic editor Janice Lloyd indicated the paper would probably drop Barkley's column.

The fans turned against Brakley on Sunday when the bulky athlete threw an elbow into the chest of a skinny player from Angola. "He hit me and I hit him" Barkley shrugged. "It's a ghetto thing. It's part of the physical play of the game."

Then in Monday's game against Croatia, Barkley was called for a technical foul for cursing at someone in the crowd.

In other sports, sprinter Danny Everett went public

Tuesday with charges, that American track coach Mel Rosen was lying. Seems Everett didn't like the way Rosen put together the lineup for the 1,600-meter relay team.

"Mel has changed his philosophy," Everett told reporters. "He's been lying to a lot of people."

Then Everett let slip that he might not be able to run because of an injured Achilles tendon.

And then there's the matter of what basketball star Michael Jordan will wear if the Dream Team, as expected, brings home the gold.

Under a deal with the US Olympic Committee, American athletes are supposed to wear 'Reebok warmup suits at medal ceremonies. But Jordan, who has endorsement deals with Nike, said, "There is no way in the world that I am wearing a suit made by Reebok."

The US Olympic Committee's Moran said no athlete will stand on the medal platform without the suit. "The money we're getting from Reebok for wearing the suit is going to assist thousands of athletes in training," he said. "The Dream Team apparently doesn't understand this."

Moran added that such disputes may hurt the image of the Dream Team.

"There has been a lot of attention in Europe on the wealth of the US athletes, which in the long run will not lead to necessarily positive things," he said.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a solution time of 26 mins and a Cryptoquip section at the bottom.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with numbers 1-45 indicating letter positions.

CRYPTOQUIP C U Q C M W G U A C S L X N Z Y J B W L N I Y J N I E S L E B Q B G J B N A X N Z X S Q C B M Q N C S Q E C Today's Cryptoquip clue: X equals W 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.